



Roll Up

The Blockhouse Bay Bowls Monthly Bulletin
Sent to all members with a registered e-mail address



Christmas Dinner 2011

**At the Clubrooms on
Saturday 10th December
From 6.30 PM
\$35 per ticket**

**Make a table booking when you buy
your tickets at the "Sports Bar".**

**Enjoy Live Entertainment with
'Johnnie Rae'**

Consume a Sumptuous Meal

**A Carvery
Hot Selection
Dessert**

President's Comment

The Club is ticking along nicely at the moment, but with the usual little problems that come up most years.

Our interclub teams have had good success with three out of five men's teams winning their divisions. The remaining four teams (5 men's and 2 women's) did a good job and certainly did not disgrace themselves. At the time of writing

we are in the middle of the National Open Tournament where we have had a number of teams qualify. It is hard to even qualify for this event so we must be proud of our representatives.

Activity in our Club has really picked up lately and although the "Mates in Bowls" has had a small attendance the quality has been there with two full members and two social members joining up.

I would like to congratulate Bill DeGraaf and his mates who have volunteered to run the two game Hong Kong Pairs on a Friday afternoon. This, along with the "Grants Corner to Corner", competition followed by an under \$10 meal from the Club Bistro with the entertainment that we have from time to time has made our Friday "CLUB NIGHT" a roaring success.

The signs at our front boundary are attracting good enquiries for hall hire.

Financially the Club is going quite nicely. The gaming machine turnover is picking up again and the bar turnover for the last four weeks is up 23.5% on the same weeks last year.

We need your support to keep this going and ask you to talk to your friends, bring them along to try out "Mates in Bowls", sample our Friday Bistro, and take part in the "Grants Corner to Corner". The corner to corner is open to all and a bottle of Grants is the prize to be won each Friday night.

We cannot continue to handle this expansion without more help for members. Laurie Stothard is employed for 40 hrs a week and so far has averaged far more than this. While we did not find a Club Treasurer at the last AGM it would be nice if a member, either male or female, could step up and take on this important role. You need not be qualified as our accountancy firm will guide you as you progress. With the unexpected death of Ray Nola we are now short of a convener for the Men's

match committee. Ron Harris is trying to handle this as well as his other duties and has become overcommitted. Ron and I are willing to help anyone who is prepared to take up the challenge. This is urgent.

We have a very busy time ahead of us with the Christmas dinner on the 10th of December, the two day Portage Cup on the 26 and 27th of December and several days of National Championships to cater for straight after the Portage Cup. Our usual catering team will be on holiday so I am willing to cater for the Portage Cup, but I will need at least one and hopefully two people each day to assist. Please let me know if you can help.

This will most likely be the last news letter before Christmas so I would like to take this opportunity to wish you good bowling, a Merry Christmas and a great New Year.

Barrie Smith – President

Retirement Villages When & Why ??

With so many of our members moving into a retirement village I decided to take the time to discover just what is special and what is so attractive about living in a retirement village. I must confess that I had a very enjoyable morning talking to the sales executive representing Metlifecare. I was given a grand tour of Pinesong and all the facilities on offer. Denise Easden is also responsible for their Powley and Crestwood villages. She is a dedicated and selfless sales lady.

Pinesong it seems is an outstanding Village with over 300 villas and apartments to let. It is so popular that a waiting list is compiled to take care of potential buyers. Denise believes that Pinesong has its own special character which is largely due to the friendly and outgoing nature of the West Aucklanders who are the main occupants.

The first thing that struck me was the “ghost-town” feel when I arrived at 9.00 AM for my appointment. Life does not start at Pinesong until after 10.00AM.

Anyhow, we completed the grand tour, the villa I could occupy after the major upgrade is completed, the hot swimming pool, the gym (no-one using it), the bowling green, the library and its lounge, the main lounge dining room and the

bar. A full-time physiotherapist and a registered nurse are among the staff employed to run the show. All very nice, in fact, I began to think I was booking into “Club Med”.

So how much was this going to cost me and did I want to leave all my other “toys and pastimes” behind to take on this endless “club life” at Pinesong where I could relax completely and leave all the worries of repairs and maintenance to someone else.

To get my “Occupational Right Agreement” (License to Occupy), I would have to pay \$540 to \$560,000 for a two bedroom apartment and from \$455 to \$495,000 for a fully restored villa. When I finally depart for one reason or another after three years you get your money back less 30%.

In the meantime you pay your own gas and electricity bill, your own telephone account and your own insurance for personal property. For most of us this will cost about \$3500 per annum.

For the privilege of occupying a residence at Pinesong I would pay a “management fee” to cover all the operating costs including a share of their rates and insurance. Currently the charge is \$635 per month or \$7620 per annum. All up including my own expenses I would pay \$11,120 per annum to occupy my space. In contrast, and living without the Club Med bit, I expect to pay \$6800 for all the equivalent expenses listed. A difference of \$4320 or an additional 60% to live at Pinesong. The real “crunch” for me came when I asked about the security of my investment, bearing in mind that I have already agreed to forgo 30% when I leave. Well, Denise shuffled her papers and asked me to discuss this point with my lawyer. It seems to me that as an occupier you are an unsecured creditor of Metlifecare. In the unlikely event of Medlifecare going bankrupt my ranking in the list of creditors would place me well down the list. The sales literature does make a reference to an independent “Statutory Supervisor” for

each village to such events. Similar “speak” was written into all the Finance company literature, but that all came to nought when the “crash occurred”. In short the receiver could still throw me out unless I am prepared to buy my way back in from the new owners or buy the villa or apartment outright presuming it is offered for sale. If I cannot afford either then I leave and rent elsewhere. (Maybe I would pick up a few cents in the dollar from the receivers in respect of my original investment)

I am intrigued when other competing villages start the heavy advertising campaigns you often hear about. It is even more interesting when Hillsborough Heights offer a brand new Suzuki Swift motorcar in the garage as part of the package. Will there ever be a surplus of ORA (License to Occupy) residences on the market? On the other hand, Kensington Park in Orewa has been marketing apartments in similar style and size to Pinesong for outright purchase. Each block has twelve units and each block has its own “Corporate Management” structure, You buy a unit outright for \$750,000 including two carparks in the basement. Other developers are doing the same so this in itself could indicate a shift in occupier preferences.

Frankly I have so many “toys and pastimes” I could not survive in any retirement village. My wife would be totally frustrated without her vegetable garden, and where would I park my second car and my boat?

It will be some time before I revisit a retirement village.

Ed.

Footnote -

The NZ Herald Published reports on the Metlifecare annual shareholders meeting on 26th and 27th October. While these reports said nothing adverse it was interesting to note that shareholders are not receiving dividends as these have been suspended indefinitely. The shares in Metlifecare are currently trading at \$2.36 per share despite having an asset backing of \$4.00 per share.

A Sergeant's Mess

Is our Club is lacking a good Sergeant Major? It is a sad day when our committee find themselves having to pay contractors to do work in and around the clubrooms while perfectly

capable male members make little or no contribution at all. Sure there are a few stalwarts who do the “Monday Boys” weekly chores. There are a few who do other regular tasks such as clearing and counting the money from the “Poker Machines”.

When it comes to painting the exterior of the clubhouse or removing a couple of interior partitions; we employ and pay contractors to do the work.

Our ladies are not like this. Just ask them to turn on an afternoon tea for members or provide a lunch for the mostly male tournaments and it just happens without any fuss or questions. They must have a very capable “Sergeant” or do such chores just come naturally to women who have organised their households every day of their lives.

We have many able bodied male members who are equally willing to help, **if asked**.

So we obviously need a “sergeant” with the ability to ask for and insist on volunteers doing some “work” around the place. Don't tell me the days are gone when Club members cannot get together and do these basic things.

To remove two partitions and dump the rubbish into a waste bin is not beyond six men with some supervision. Clean up the mess and then call in a tradesman to finish off the job.

While on the subject, why do we leave all the match and tournament work to one or two regulars. Why not draw up a roster of “Duty Managers” to be on the premises in turn for a full day at a time to run competitions and welcome our visitors?

Come on you guys, “**Front Up**” Ed.

Club Captain

The last month has been very busy for the Club and will continue to be until our Christmas break.

The great news is that everyone is in good health with plenty of enthusiasm on the Greens. The Grants Whiskey competition on Friday nights is very popular and attracting lots of interest, ‘fun and banter’.

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We would like to welcome two new social members, Marilyn Swanson and Todd Dawkins, and two new Bowling Club members, Michael Adolph and Kaye Martin. Mike Adolf is the identical twin brother of Terry Adolf who is already a playing member. Mike intends to start playing after he retires in January next year.

The NZ Nationals running from 10th to 18th November at the Henderson Club have been creating a lot of interest with several of our own players getting involved with varying degrees of success. Some of the early elimination games were played at our own Club. All of our markers were given great credit by the umpires as were our greens. They were rated as the best anyone has played on. Congratulations to Warwick and Andrew.

From now to the Christmas break there will be good competitions including our Christmas Ham Tournament on Wednesday 14th December – drawn Triples!!!. The Portage Cup two day Triples commences on December 26th (Boxing Day).

I would like to express my Christmas Greeting to all members, both playing and social, and thank you for all the support given to our great Club.

Have a Happy Christmas and a great New Year.

Dave O'Brien

Tournaments

The following is a summary of upcoming events.

Firstly on Wednesday 4th December open Triples will be played starting at 9.30AM. Prizes will be Christmas Fare i.e. Hams etc.

On Wednesday 14th December there will be a single entry Drawn Triples also starting at 9.30AM. The entry fee is \$5.00 with Christmas Fare for prizes. Bring your own lunch, \$5.00 entry fee. Entries close at 5.00PM on Saturday 10th December

On Boxing Day 26th December and the following day the 27th The Portage Cup Triples will be played. Play commences at 9.00AM both days. Entry forms are available for the Portage Cup on the shelf below the whiteboard in the lounge. Please note that although entries close up to the prior evening all entry fees should be

paid with each entry to assist preparation and to avoid any confusion on the day.

Please support these events.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

George Weller

Auckland Saturday Interclub and National 7's

As usual Blockhouse Bay teams were entered to play in Saturday Interclub. The interclub competition is run in October and completed by early November.

We have a keen following of male participants and were able to enter five teams of nine players. Such was our standard of play that we won three of the divisions. The teams who won will be promoted to play in a higher division next season.

Our teams were:-

Premiere Division

Pairs – W Frederikson, L Stothard

Triples – J Gearney, T Holdsworth, D Gearney

Fours – G Growcott, R Brown, P Hurle, N Thompson.

Second Division – Winning Team

Pairs – S Hird, D McNamara.

Triples – D Vague, T Corlett, G McFarlane.

Fours – A Smith, R Keen, G Rich, G Wallace.

Division Five – Winning Team

Pairs – B DeGraaf, K Al Darra

Triples – B Keen, G Trainer, L Wilson

Fours – R Kerr, H Collier, P Gooding J Leckner.

Division Seven

Pairs – T Setepthano, K Goffin.

Triples – V Snowden, P Ramaekers, T Adolf

Fours – K Sweeney, R Dawson, L Wilson, A Jelley.

Division Eight – Winning Team

Pairs – R Hall, G Eddy.

Triples – R Synnott, D O'Brien, L Lovic.

Fours – T Lynsay, S McGuire, R Pye D Tonkin.

National Interclub 7's

Three Men's teams entered.

Team 1 (1st Div)

Singles – T Holdsworth.

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Pairs – W Frederikson, L Stothard.
Fours – G Growcott, R Brown, P Hurle, K Al Darra
Team 2 (2nd Div) – Runners Up
Singles – N Thompson.
Pairs – G Geaney, D Geaney.
Fours – D Vague, R Keen, S Hird, G Mc Farlane.
Team 3 (2nd Div)
Singles – D McNamara.
Pairs – B Keen, T Corlett
Fours – A Smith, R Keen, G Rich, H Collier.

The Ladies entered two teams into the Interclub competition.

The Premier Division. Gold Team players were:

Pairs. Enid Kerr, Marion Vague.

Triples. Diana Smith, Valmae Megson, Patricia Trainer.

Fours. Marie VanEijk, Vivienne Ferguson, Jean Jelly, Deborah Garside.

They achieved third place and retain their status in the Premier Division.

The second team

Division Two. Silver Team Players were:

Pairs. Helen Lister, Diana Lay,

Triples. Gael Smith, Lucy Waterhouse, Greta Gooding.

Fours. Jennifer McKay, Vilma Dickson, Marie Edmondson, Priscilla Maher.

National Interclub (7's)

Division One. Players were:

Singles. Enid Kerr

Pairs. Diana Smith, Marion Vague.

Fours. Helen Lister, Gael Smith, Greta Gooding, Marie VanEijk.

The teams played well against some stiff opposition.

Enjoyable experiences were had by all.

Hunt Cup

The winners were:-

J Leckner (S), P Trainer, S Tunnard

Runners up:-

K Goffin (S), V Dickson, P Stavrianos

NZ Open

Several members of our Club entered the NZ Open Tournament which was held at the Henderson Club from the 10th to 18th November

Singles

Greg Ruaporo survived to last eight

Laurie Stothard survived to last sixteen.

Also entered was Warwick Frederikson who passed the qualifying stage.

Pairs

Warwick Frederikson and Nick Thompson passed the qualifying stage

Triples

Two teams entered from BHB Bowls.

Team 1 – Warwick Frederikson (S), Allan Smith, George Wallace.

Played up to the final sixteen teams level and were beaten in an extra game play-off.

Team 2 – Tony Holdsworth (S), Tony Orange, Ray Keen. Achieved the qualifying level.

TV Coverage

Sky Sport 3 will have full replay coverage of each of the finals starting on Tuesday 22nd November at 7.30PM for the following five weeks.

Men's Match Committee

Both Handicap and Veteran Singles still need another full day to complete due to weather conditions on earlier days.

The Handicap Pairs are down to the last four teams and next day for this is Sunday 29th November.

As all the allocated days for the Veteran Singles have been used the next available day will be Wednesday 30th November. Please note this date is not printed in the Club Book.

The Handicap Singles will now be played on Saturday 3rd December and if not finalised will be completed on the morning of Saturday 10th December.

Ron Harris

Women's Match Committee

The season has begun well and I am ably assisted by Pat Trainer, Dorothy Sloper, Lucy Waterhouse and Deborah Garside.

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The first competition of Progressive 4's was well and truly rained off and has yet to be re-scheduled.

Graded 4's was won by Diana Smith, Lucy Waterhouse, Greta Gooding and Marion Vague. Runners up - Enid Kerr, Pat Trainer, Margaret Goffin and Deirdre Kane.

Handicap Pairs won by Helen Lister and Deborah Garside, with Vilma Dickson and Diane Lay Runners up.

Champ Triples are a work in progress with 3 teams remaining in the competition.

Ron Harris and I have been writing, re-writing and re-re-writing the Conditions of Play and Special Conditions of Play, so you will be forewarned of requirements when names are put forward for competition. There will be no excuses for not knowing the laws for the event you have entered.

The turnouts for Saturday roll-ups have been impressive by the number present.

Enjoy the forthcoming summer season.

Gay Dawson - Women's Match Convenor.

Greens Report

We are well into the season now and everything is on track. Our visitors for the New Zealand open were very happy with the greens and I qualified as a player from Blockhouse Bay too. So I was very happy with them. They are running at good speed and slowly getting faster as the summer progresses.

We have been asked to keep the speed at around 16.5 and 17.5 for the nationals. If they were left to their own natural progression they would get faster than that. So I am going to have to fiddle around a bit. If I make a mistake and get them a bit slow, it won't last more than a day or two. Unfortunately it is not an exact science.

The only problem worth mentioning is the raised plinth on B green. The soil will keep sinking over the summer. We add soil and break up the ground a bit so sometimes you won't see it and other times you will.

Happy bowling.

Warwick and Andrew

Gold Coast Bowling Visit

This has become an annual event organised by Bill and Vivienne Ferguson.

The following is a summary of this year's trip from a contributor who wishes to remain anonymous.

What Goes On Tour Stays On Tour

No names will be used to protect the guilty.

Ten players and supporters descended on Broad Beach on the Gold Coast in Queensland to devastate their Winter Tournament. Great form was shown in the preliminary roll-ups.

The mixed triples performed well but lost out in their section on differential. M O'K was the best performed in the Singles Knockout round by progressing to the second round. One jolly player was sent home when he complained about his room-mate snoring!!!

The tour director was called back to Auckland when his so called business trip was cancelled. Then the dreaded "lurgy" confined our social director to bed for half of the trip. Another player was reprimanded for attempting to remove barramundi from the motel fish pond.

The Team actually performed better on the social circuit. Our erotic dance duo were spoken to by security stall when they finished spread-eagled on the dance floor. They are now considering offers of "gigs" at other Bowling Clubs.

The team coach was caught with two bottles of wine by Customs x-ray at Brisbane Airport. He then spent over two hours trying to recover his duty-free purchases left at NZ Customs on his way out. Then, on arriving home he was forced to return to the Airport to try and recover his bowls that were allegedly still circulating on the baggage carousel.

Although there were no prizes won, there were no other incidents worth mentioning and so trips like this one should never be missed.

Test Your Knowledge

If a player plays out of turn and the bowl disturbs the head, what options does the opposing skip have?

The answer is on the last page.

Wicked Wicks

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Miscalculation

A blonde is watching the news with her husband when the newscaster says: "Two Brazilian men die in a skydiving accident." The blonde starts crying and says to her husband, sobbing "That's horrible!!! So many men dying that way!" Confused, he says, "Yes dear, it is sad, but they were skydiving, and there is always that risk involved."

After a few minutes, the blonde, still sobbing, says, "How many is a Brazilian?"

Another Blind Man's Bluff

Barrie Smith is now carrying a "white stick" like the one Allister Grace uses. The way the average age is increasing in our Club it won't be long before we can form a team of bowlers who are all carrying "white sticks".

Barrie put on a tam-o-shanter and said no one would recognise him. Ray McClaren thought that he should also take a deep breath if he really did not want to be recognized

Scotch Mist

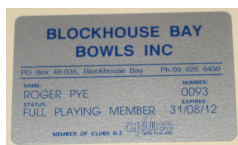
The next time Helen Lister wants to spend ten minutes discussing with her no 2 whether she should send her bowl down on the left hand or the right hand of the green, don't worry about it.

After she delivers her bowl, either way, it is more than likely to be "Scotch Missed".

At What Cost

How often do you use the "membership card" which you receive each year after you have paid your subscription.

What do you do I drop mine in a drawer and throw it away months later.



with yours? drawer and twelve

Why not dispense with it altogether and save the cost for better things?

Travel Sickness

Se McGuire has just returned from a four month whirlwind World SKIing Tour. (Spending his Kids Inheritance)

Now his brain is so confused that when he has played twice at interclub competition he thinks he has completed four matches on the day.

A Quantum Leap

Those of us who play in our Club's Invitation Tournaments will have noticed a vast difference

in the standard of the lunch provided now that Margaret Schipper is involved.

Her skill and ability is entirely due to her nine years of experience running the Foodstuffs cafeteria at head office in Roma Rd Mt Roskill.

At Foodstuffs she had three helpers and provided a full range of meals from roast dinners to hot scones every working day for over 150 staff including Khyber Hardware and Gilmours Wholesale. She even takes our corned-beef home to cook it to perfection.

We don't know just how lucky we are.

Just a Shortfall

Just beware when standing on the 'bank' of your rink. Three of our male members have taken a 'fall' of late.

Kevin Sweeney thought his number was up when he tripped over the number on the end of his green and fell flat on his face.

Sid Tunnard went hunting for the Hunt Cup and smashed a hole in his head on a bench before he got started.

Robyn Cross was so 'stuffed' after the Hunt Cup that he went to lie down on the green and smashed his 'lifter' to pieces in the process.

Time Out

When the electronic "time clock" broke down recently it was quickly replaced by the original wooden faced clock complete with wooden hands.

Geoff Edwards then struggled to come to grips with the fact that the hands on this clock did not seem to be moving forward as he expected they should.

Obituary – Ray Nola

Who in the Club could have imagined that Ray Nola would depart from our midst and fade away in hospital on 3rd October. Although, he did in fact admit on one occasion to having already suffered seven heart repair jobs.

Nevertheless he was our very own "lovable rogue" and we all learnt how to respect him. He did not suffer fools gladly.

It always takes a funeral service to get all the background and history of most people.

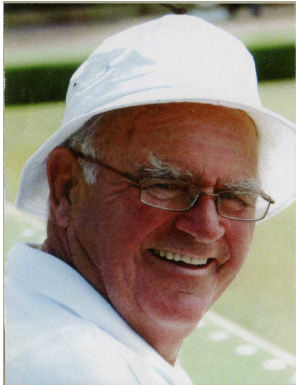
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Over 400 people attended his funeral service at the Bowling Club.

Just his build was enough to make one accept that he would have been a good wrestler. In fact he represented NZ in Japan in 1963



where he won a medal in the light heavy-weight class. He also coached this sport in West Auckland where many young men benefited from his training.

Who would have guessed that he was also a JP and Chairman of the former Waitemata Electric

Power Board. Major changes, imposed by Government, were pressed through during his tenure as chairman. In fact in 1990 he was awarded a medal for "Community Service". Ray was always ready to assist by running Club competitions or by getting behind the bar to help out.

We will all miss his presence and remember him as one of our strong characters for many years to come.

Public Relations in Full Swing

Have you noticed the two-pronged effort going into attracting new members to play Bowls. Firstly there is the Mates-In-Bowls promotion. This program is driven by Auckland Central Bowls and is therefore an Auckland wide combined Bowling Clubs drive to attract new members.

So every Thursday for six weeks commencing on 20th October our Club like all others in Auckland is set-up to attract anyone who would like to try out the game with next to no financial outlay on gear or bowls. For \$10.00 and playing in teams of three, members of the public "have a go" with a bit of guidance from experienced members. A BBQ and social evening follows.

Secondly, we have sent out letter-box drops and placed a story in the Central Leader and the Laingholm Round-about stating how wonderful we are as a "New Era Bowling Club". The story sings the praises of our excellent facilities and how friendly we all are; especially at welcoming new members.

Now you know that we all know what to do when new members arrive on the scene. Finally, we are also participating in a national "Grants Whisky Corner to Corner" bowling competition.

The competition is structured as follows.

Weekly Games

First five starts 31st Oct for five Fridays

Second five start 30th January for five Fridays

Current winners are Graeme Eddy and Bill Ferguson

Club Finals

5th March

Regional Finals

March 17,24, 31. (Venue TBA)

National Final

14th April (Venue TBA)

There are a set of rules to follow for the corner to corner competition. There is no "jack" and the mat is placed at two meters from the opposite corner. A Grants flyer will explain the rest. There is no entry fee and the weekly winner receives a 700ml bottle of Grants Whisky.

Clearly there is plenty going on to attract new and existing members to enjoy life at the Club. There are no excuses, just get along to the Club and have a good time.

PC Printer Inks

Do you want a really cheap and efficient way to buy replacement ink for your printer? Thanks to Vic Snowden who alerted me to the Venus Ink Company, I am now buying ink for \$4.50 per cartridge instead of \$18.00 or \$25.00 if I buy the genuine Epson article.

Just dial up www.inkvenus.co.nz and explore your way to opening an account and your order will arrive within two days.

New Zealand Immigration Test

Mujibar was trying to get into New Zealand legally through the Immigration Dept.

The Immigration Officer said, "Mujibar, you have passed all the tests, except there is one more test. Unless you pass it you cannot enter New Zealand." Mujibar said, "I am to be ready." The officer said, "Make a sentence using the words, Yellow, Pink and Green."

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Mujibar thought for a few minutes and says, "Mister Officer, I am ready. The telephone goes green, green, green, and I pink it up, and say, 'Yellow, this is Mujibar.'"

Mujibar now lives in a neighbourhood near you, and works at Telecom on the Help Desk.

Smart Investment

So here's one for all the investors in the Club.

Young Chuck moved to Texas and bought a donkey from a farmer for \$100.

The farmer agreed to deliver the donkey the next day.

The next day the farmer drove up and said, "Sorry Chuck, but I have some bad news, the donkey died."

Chuck replied, "Well, then just give me my money back."

The farmer said, "Can't do that. I went and spent it already."

Chuck said, "OK, then, just bring me the dead donkey."

The farmer asked, "What ya gonna do with a dead donkey?"

Chuck said, "I'm going to raffle him off."

The farmer said "You can't raffle off a dead donkey!"

Chuck said, "Sure I can. Watch me. I just won't tell anybody he's dead."

A month later, the farmer met up with Chuck and asked, "What happened with that dead donkey?"

Chuck said, "I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at two dollars apiece and made a profit of \$898.00."

The farmer said, "Didn't anyone complain?"

Chuck said, "Just the guy who won. So I gave him his two dollars back."

Chuck now works for Kiwi Bank

Quiz Answer

1. He/She can leave the disturbed head as it is and have their team play two bowls consecutively to get back to the proper order of play.
2. Replace the head to its former position, return the bowl and go back to the correct order of play.
3. Declare the end dead.

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