

EDITORIAL:-

The Gold Coast Tweed District Bowls Association currently has 23 affiliated local clubs within the district geographically located from Beenleigh to the north, Kingscliff to the south and out to Beaudesert in the west with a male membership of approximately 4,500, with the possibility of 1 other club joining in the near future our numbers will increase slightly. Within these clubs we have a number of junior and senior representatives at District, Zone, State and National level and some medal winners from the recently held Commonwealth Games and we are of the belief and knowledge that there are some that will follow in the footsteps of the likes of Kelvin Kerkow (Queensland Hall of Fame), Brett Wilkie, Nathan Rice, Anthony Kiepe, Mark Casey and others.

We also believe that it is because of these players that this District is sometimes envied by other Districts within our State. Because of our proximity to the New South Wales border, the Gold Coast Tweed District is recognised as the most progressive and successful District within Bowls Queensland and is the body for administration of the game of lawn bowls in the district of the Gold Coast Tweed area and affiliated clubs of Northern New South Wales.

The objects of our association are to provide for the encouragement, conduct, promotion, control and management of the game of lawn bowls and all related matters throughout the District and to do all things necessary or desirable in the interest of the game and to also control, manage and conduct bowls competitions.

When referring to competitions it is a known fact that the Gold Coast Tweed District conducts and control what is recognised as the Worlds' Longest Running Winter Bowls Carnival. This year 2011 will be the 62nd consecutive year of the Carnival with approximately 2,500 bowlers from all States of Australia, The Defence Forces, New Zealand, Asia, Canada, Japan participating.

Apart from the Winter Carnival some of our local clubs will schedule a number of prestige events that will run concurrently with the Carnival and bowlers who fail to make it through to the next round often participate in these local events for further prize money.

The Winter Carnival was introduced in December 1949 by the then District, " South District Bowling Association" at a meeting it was decided that the Association advertise and conduct an Open Bowls Carnival with Pairs and Fours events during the winter of 1950. They were quick to see the potential of such a Carnival and it was advertised in Sydney and Melbourne.

The first Carnival year entries closed with 48 Fours teams and 100 Pairs teams – totalling 392 Bowlers. As the years progressed so too did the entries. In 1960 entries closed at 192 Fours teams and 400 Pairs teams. In 1964 Singles were introduced and by 1973 entries had grown even further and it became evident just how important the carnival was in attracting tourists and was recognised by the local Bowls Clubs and business leaders as a major promotion, business aid and economy boost for the Gold Coast Tweed area.

Over the next 20 years the number of entries would fluctuate and as a result a number of new events were introduced to help boost the number of bowlers participating in the Carnival.

As I have already stated this is the longest running Carnival in the World, it is a major attraction for visitors to the Gold Coast Tweed during our beautiful winter sunshine months. It is estimated that they will spend many millions of dollars during their extended stay on the Coast on Accommodation, Restaurants, Theme Parks, Entertainment, Food, Clothing, Sight Seeing and the hiring of motor vehicles and Bikes and other assorted expenditure.

Tourism was one of the main reasons for commencing the Carnival to encourage bowlers from the Southern States, Northern New South Wales, New Zealand and other Countries of the world to play bowls in the warmth of our winter sun. The other reason was to help foster many relationships and friendly fellowship amongst the bowlers of the world and to this day many relationships that were instigated many years ago are still in place. Many friendly reunions are held during the Winter Carnival and many a story is told with laughter, a sight that must be witnessed to appreciate these wonderful times of the past.

This year as our Winter Carnival committee commence to formulate a program of events many changes have been made to help attract more bowlers to our Coast. Along with the Gold Coast City Council, Gold Coast Tourism, Warner Village Theme Parks and a number of valued sponsoring local clubs we are hopeful that the 62nd Winter Carnival will be amongst one of the best for some time. With a one up payment per event and **NO MORE TO PAY** we are confident this will satisfy and attract more bowlers to the event.

For more details and the history and events of the Gold Coast Tweed District Winter Carnival you can visit our website at www.gctbowls.org.au or email us at gctbowls@better.net.au

On a more personal note I am pleased to inform you that as President of this Association I could not ask for a better team of people to work with, the experience and knowledge of the people who sit with me at the board table makes my task of leading this association into the next decade a very pleasant period of time and one that I look forward too.

H.G. THOMPSON

President & Winter Carnival Chairman/Director.