

## Synthetic debate rolls positively on

A highly informative and productive members information meeting was held at the club on Sunday January 13. The bottom line with a synthetic green is not about bowls, but about money – in short, money to ensure the long term viability of the club. Without an injection of more income (especially during the winter months) the club will continue to have a delicate financial future. If members don't like the idea of a synthetic green, or they feel it is too expensive and we shouldn't go into debt to get one, or if you believe like some, we have missed the boat and there are already too many synthetic greens (plus the indoor centre) in the market place – then what is the alternative solution?

The answer is clearly NOT just to continually increase the subscriptions of current members. – we need 'new money' from other sources, as well as potentially an increase in overall membership numbers.

The outcome of the information meeting was that it was desirable that the club commence promotion of a winter competition on one of the grass greens immediately and that the success of the winter bowls be then evaluated October/November this year. In addition to this a survey be undertaken to try and determine the likely support of winter bowls (grass or synthetic) and that funding applications be sent to the State Government & Federal Government for a proposed synthetic green. The issue is that without a funding grant of perhaps \$60-80,000 the club is unlikely to ever support such an initiative. If the club applies and is knocked back, we are not likely to proceed. If however, we are successful, we still have the option of declining the offer of funding - if members vote not to proceed following further evaluation and debate.

Likewise, one of the key factors will be to determine from Hobart City Council our long term lease status (beyond the next 15 years) and also whether they would be guarantor of any loan that be required.

Winter bowls has been attempted by Derwent City in the past with minimal success, but it is imperative that we get the word out to bowlers everywhere of the opportunities this year at our club—and ensure it works!

## Keeping score with ANZ



*Derwent City Club members Marie and Neil Eizsele are pictured alongside one of the two the new ANZ sponsored scoreboards that arrived late last month. The new boards have the flexibility for use as pennant scoreboards, club championships or other special events.*

The club committee raised the issue of the synthetic green and it has followed the matter through on behalf of members to its logical conclusion by preparing a thorough business report— it is now the decision of the members whether it actually proceeds with the concept. It would be easy for members to simply throw it out (if that is their wish), but to not consider an alternative solution would put the club right back to square one.

Try and avoid sitting on the fence and criticising others who come up with new ideas for the club - take part in the decision making process and play a part in the future of *your* club.

*By Mike McHugo, Former Club President*

# Derwent City Juniors Excel

Derwent City obviously has a bright future, if the final of the Southern Bowls Junior Singles is any indication. Competing in the final were none other than **Josh Mabb** and **Daniel Baker** - both of Derwent City.

To add further weight to the future claim, Derwent City's **Josh Baker** also reached the semi-final in the same event, so three of the top four juniors in the south are Derwent City bowlers.



Josh Mabb

The final was an enthralling affair with 16 year old **Josh Mabb** jumping out of the blocks to an early lead. Josh has been leading in Division 2 reserve pennant bowls (but seems destined to play at a higher level) while 17 year old Daniel is a regular in Division 1 so on paper Daniel looked the likely winner.

However, bowls isn't played on paper and while Daniel struggled on the day to adapt to the conditions, Josh it seems could do no wrong with draw shots or run shots, and came out a comfortable and deserving winner on the day.

**Footnote:** The Southern Junior Fours Final was held at Derwent City on Sunday the 13th of January with the successful team comprising **Mikayla Baker**, **Ben Lee** (New Norfolk), **Josh Baker** and **Daniel Baker**. Well done !

## Winners galore

The Christmas raffle raised some much needed funds for Derwent City last month and the respective winners were:

**1st Prize - Phil Wheatley** (2 night accommodation package at Swansea Cottages & Sherbourne Lodge. Valued at \$600 donated by Mike McHugo)

**2nd Prize - Heather Evans** (Original water colour painting donated by Diane Cashion valued at \$300)

**3rd Prize - Bob Staddon** (Hamper of Christmas food and beverages)

**4th Prize - Neil Eiszele** (Carton Boags Beer—sponsors of the club)

**5th Prize - Ian Callinan** (Beach tote bag)  
Special thanks to the sponsors, 'donators' and all those who worked so hard coordinating the raffle and selling the tickets.

## Speedy recovery

**Phil Wheatley** was unfortunately involved in a terrible car accident near Oatlands on Monday. We wish Phil a speedy recovery on behalf of all members.

## Derwent City Prestige Pairs



The 2007 Boags Sponsored Prestige Pairs, the club's biggest event on the bowls calendar was won this year by **Roy Nunn** (Rosny Park) and **Stephen Graf** (Claremont), Runners up were **Tony Vince** (Sandy Bay) and **Shane Young** (DC), 3rd - **Pete Williams & Phil Hobbs** (DC) 4th - **Tim Douce & Hector Douce** (Devonport) 5th - **Sol Cooper & Robert McMullen** (Sandy Bay)

All three greens were full for the two days (27-28 Dec), the greens were superb and it was extremely hot throughout. Special thanks to all the volunteers, in particular Coordinator **Merv Read** for making the event so successful.