

A Short History of Lavalla Bowling Club

In 1963 the idea of having a licensed club for Marist Brothers ex-students and friends in the Parramatta area was proposed by Rev. Brother Alman, the Director and Headmaster of Parramatta Marist Brothers at the time.

Brother's idea was to associate it with the Parramatta Marist Football Club and so the first meeting, concerning what is now "Lavalla" Bowling Club, was organised by the Parramatta Marist Football Club. At that time Noel Pettiford was the President, Ron Massey-Reid the Secretary, Bill Shiel the Assistant Secretary and Albert Nolan the Treasurer.

The meeting was held at Jack Scullin's property in Argyle Street, Parramatta. Arthur Drew, a prominent Rugby League man in this area, and a Director of the Parramatta Leagues Club, presided at the meeting, which declared itself in favour of commencing a licensed club that could be a centre for people interested in the Catholic Schools of the district. Jack Scullin's property was inspected that night to see if it would be a suitable purchase.

Brother Alman then organised the first Board of Directors selected from various occupations in the community. The Board consisted of:— Dr. George Malouf (President), R. Massey-Reid (Secretary), Noel Pettiford, Bernie Mullane, Ned Barnes, Joe Keegan and Jim Clough (M.L.A.). The Board held its meetings in the Brothers' Monastery at Parramatta, and, we are told, through the winter months, Br. Alman warmed their hearts with encouraging supplies of rum and milk.

It was soon obvious from legal advice that at this particular time there would be no chance of obtaining a licence for another Football Club in the Parramatta area; however, it might be possible to obtain one for a Bowling Club — Thus "Lavalla" was born (Called after the French town which saw the commencement of the Marist Brothers.)

Now began the arduous task of raising debentures for the Club. Brother Alman, with other Brothers and the Directors, worked night after night visiting parents of

the boys and well known supporters of the school asking them to stand behind him in this task.

Eventually a property was selected at the corner of Rifle Range Road and Windsor Road. Ron Massey-Reid had to retire owing to pressure of work and Keith Bramble became the Secretary. Keith had the most difficult task of organising the debentures, purchasing the property, obtaining the required



TWO PRESIDENTS (LAVALLA BOWLING CLUB)
Ned Barnes and Foundation President, Dr. G. Malouf.

number of members, and in particular having the books so well kept that they would satisfy any scrutiny by the licensing court. Thanks to the wise leadership given by the President, Dr. George Malouf, and the excellent work of the Secretary/Treasurer, Keith Bramble, the licensing court, after a very tiring day for Keith and Bevan Grove (Bowls Secretary), granted the licence.

"Fait Accompli". All was ready to build the Club house and prepare for opening. And that grand opening took place on September 17th, 1967. It was a day of great joy for those who had worked so hard and those who had supported the venture so magnanimously. The Board of Directors on this occasion consisted of:— Dr. George Malouf (President), Keith Bramble (Secretary / Treasurer), Joe Keegan, Ned Barnes, Jack

Boyle, Noel Pettiford; with Bevan Grove as Bowls Secretary.

The Bowlers of Lavalla have carried on the Marist spirit of keen sportsmanship, and have been very successful in the seven years of operation. In 1968 they entered one Pennants' team in the Number Seven Division; today they are represented in the Number 2, 5, and 6 Pennant Teams. In 1970 they were runners-up in the Number 6 Pennants Division to Fairfield Diggers. In 1971 they won the Parramatta Group Secretary's Fours. In 1972 they won the Orange Blossom Hills District Competition. In 1975 our first Bowls Secretary, Bevan Grove (now a member of St. John's, Lakemba, owing to change of residential address) won the State Reserve Singles and John Newey and Roy

Rogers were runners-up in the Group Pairs. All will agree that this is a tremendous effort for a small club.

In the social field "Lavalla" has endeavoured to provide as many festivities as possible for its members. Often the Auditorium rings with joy, friendship and conviviality from the members and their visitors. Many of the Catholic Schools Parents and Friends' Associations make use of the Club for social evenings.

Lavalla is a progressive club; it looks towards the future. It was one of the first Clubs in New South Wales to allow eighteen year olds to become members and as a result many young ex-pupils of the school have joined. What an excellent place for them to keep in touch with their friends. The building is due to be enlarged as soon as funds are available.

The present Board consists of:— Ned Barnes (President), Peter Rapp (Secretary), Bob Budin, Ted Church, John Head, Bruce Kingston, John Nolan, John Roberts, Bill Shiel. Peter Rapp became Secretary in 1968; he deserves a special word of thanks for what he has done for "Lavalla".

The schools appreciate the many times the Club comes to their assistance. The furniture in the Chapel was donated by the Club. A very enjoyable Centenary Bowls carnival was held in July and on June 14th the Club most generously entertained Brothers who had come for the Centenary Mass.

But the greatest contribution the Club makes to Catholic education is that it provides a place where ex-students and parents can enjoy each others company in a relaxed, friendly and Christian atmosphere.



TWO GRAND MEN
Noel Pettiford and Brother Campion.

THE JAMES HARDY BURSARY

A surprise presentation at the O.B.U. was made anonymously of an investment of \$25,000 in the name of the Trustees of the Marist Brothers. Returns from the investment are to be used to assist schooling for those in need. A committee is to be set up to assist the Headmaster in deciding how this can be of greatest help. This is a tremendous centenary gift and assistance in a form that is very practical and of great encouragement to the school and all its teachers and helpers. A very big thank you from the Brothers and a promise of frequent remembrance in their prayers.

BROTHER ANSELM

*Rugged individualist from Morpeth,
he found the Marist rule a hoe for weeds,
windbreak where true self might grow.
With humour all he met could understand,
he jollied friends too sorry for themselves.
Never a theory man, he sought advice,
built schools and laughed off praise.
No boring visitor, he kept his knocks
for doors where sadness fell,
found time for one in Long Bay jail
who'd been unwise
and when his hands fell slack,
friends in hundreds gathered round
and sang sad songs.* (By Br. Xavier Kelly)