



Happy Birthday for Bingo at Halls Head Bowling Club

At a meeting on 13 July 1999 attended by:

Marlene Groves
Alf Kenney
Mavis Moore
Jill Longva
Alan Gracie

Jack Groves
John Goodin
Bob Stewart
Ian Howell

Sylvia Kenney
Mick Carter
Don Longva
Beryl Pearce

It was decided to start bingo at Halls Head Bowling club as a means to subsidise replacement of bowling greens. On Friday 13 August 1999, Jack Groves called 'eyes down' for the first time with an overwhelming audience of 120 players.

This activity has become an incredible volunteering effort by Club members to continue almost every week of the year and I believe enjoyment for those who come along and play the game. At one time the controlling Authorities would not give the Club a licence because the Club house facility, being a transportable unit with only one escape door, did not comply with minimum facility standards.

The content of this story was partly compiled by Don Longva (Life Member) who presented a speech at a ten-year anniversary dinner. The continuation of the story is in appreciation of all of those volunteers over the last twenty years.

The greens have been refurbished, in fact all of the greens have been replaced a number of times and we have even added greens. None of which would be possible without the financial security of bingo.

The first Committee was:

Alf and Sylvia Kenney,
John and Evelyn Ehlers

Jack and Marlene Groves,
Peter and Mary Chalmers.

Jack Groves, alias Mr. Bingo, (you would hope his finger might be pointing at you when it is 'high roller') is still as busy as ever, being the high roller caller for the last fifteen years and still shuffles chairs and tables with John Fowler on Thursday morning (with others) in preparation for the big night.





Bingo Directors have seen Alf Kenny for the first two years, Alan Baird took us through the next four years, Graham Norwell was in charge for the following five years before John Fowler put his hand up in 2011 to carry us for the last nine years.

If you do not have someone reliable holding the purse strings, we should probably all go home. Ian Howell was in control of the treasury for the first three years before Greg Morris volunteered for the position for the last seventeen years.

For an event like this there is always a back-room organisation to do the little things that amount to a lot on the night. Evelyn Ehlers may have started on the 'first committee' but together with their own conscientious group now compile the hundreds of 'breakout' tickets required for the night. The group can consist of any combination of Lorraine, Elva, Lyn, Marg, Griz, Jan or others. They talk a lot but do a fantastic job.



Bingo started on a Friday night and then went to Saturday before changing again to Thursday on 8 January 2004. High roller came into existence on 12 February 2004 and our first high roller queen was Marlene Groves taking home \$550.00. This was from an attendance of 131 patrons. By 2008 high roller had grown to \$1,000.00 with 200 patrons through the door.

Our support crew of volunteers has grown over the years from twenty-nine in 2007 to 85 on the current 'pay roll' roster system. Around sixteen people are required each Thursday night including: Caller, call back, payout, book sales, flyer sales, bingo ticket sales, raffle ticket sales, kitchen duties, office management and of course 'The Overall Administrator'



Of course, we must also thank the people who come along each week to play the game. Emily Pinnell still comes along on most Thursday nights for her game of bingo. Emily has been attending Halls Head bingo for that long she claims to own half of the building. One way or another we appreciate every one of the players who come along each week to support our game.

Other pre-planning duties include: bingo book preparation, table and chair arranging and general setup for caller & display TV's, audio equipment control, food preparation and of course equipment and food ordering and supply. That is not forgetting the most important person, the Bingo Director, who oversees all of the above and arranges the rosters so everything runs like clockwork on the night. Finally, there is the clean-up after to return the Club to its normal pristine condition.

A great number of people have come and gone over the years. A good reason why Halls Head Bingo has been so successful is the longevity of key personnel. Mister Bingo (Jack Groves) still controls the microphone during high roller. He has been calling from day one. Greg Morris has been game treasurer for seventeen years and licence holder for nine years. John Fowler has been Bingo Director for the last nine years. Some of the other prominent contributors are Graham Norwell director for nine years, Alan and Joan Baird Director for four years, Ruth Norwell licence holder for eight years.

Kevin Lobb - Just one of the Call Backers