

Through the ages

1942 - 2017

1942

February 13

Double Bay Bowling Club Limited formed.

The club was built on land which was owned by The Metropolitan Water Board which wanted to set up a sewerage disintegration plant on the site, but Woollahra Council objected. Instead Council offered to buy the land. The Water Board agreed on condition that it was used for recreational purposes only. Purchase price £1500. The area was then leased to Double Bay Bowling Club for £17/2/6.

July 4

Club officially opened by His Worship the Mayor of Woollahra, Keith Manion, in the presence of the President of the Royal NSW Bowling Association, Percy Pidgeon.

July 17

Initial club meeting with a first year membership of 46, made up of 39 full members and seven social members.

1943

March 20

First President's Day.

Woollahra Council paid for the planting of the first green and there was no money available to build a clubhouse. Woollahra Council then bought the adjacent property which had a small cottage on it at Glendon Road for £1100. The property was used as a club house until a new one was built in 1954. The cottage then became the residence for the greenkeeper.

1944

TO

1948

Double Bay Bowling Club entered its first teams in the Pennant competition competing in Grade 3 and Grade 4.

1947: The Lewis Cohen memorial garden was named in his honour and a permanent plaque erected between the driveway and the number one green.

Lewis had erected a retaining wall at the site with his own money supervising the planting of the garden, which still exists today.

1948: Double Bay Bowling Club purchased the land, the greens with the adjoining clubhouse property from Woollahra Council for £8500.

1954

September 18

New clubhouse costing £27,000 was opened.

The greens initially were Bent grass, which over a period of time were changed to Greenlees Park Couch, which provided a much harder playing surface.

Water supply was a problem. In the early days the club had an arrangement with the Water Board to dam the water in the storm water canal and with the aid of a pump was able to water the greens.

Double Bay Bowling Club commissioned, from a photograph, a painting of Double Bay, as it was in 1871, by Archibald prize winner, Arthur Murch. The painting was hung over the clubhouse mantelpiece.

1961

TO

1965

A monthly newsletter was produced for several years.

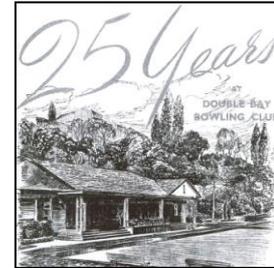
1965: Sir William Mckell, Patron from 1951 to 1969, a former Governor General of Australia, presented the club with a painting by Joshua Smith of the copy of "Armada in Sight".

This depicted Admiral Drake playing a game of bowls in 1588 before setting out to destroy the Spanish Armada.

1967

July 16 Double Bay Bowling Club celebrated the

25th Anniversary



Wentworth Women's Bowling Club approached Double Bay Bowling Club to lease the land at the Southern end of the Kiaora Road property. The plan was to have one green and to build a clubhouse, but the Double Bay committee rejected the proposal. The membership peaked at 351, of which 240 were full members.

1973

TO

1979

Double Bay Bowling Club had four Extraordinary General Meetings to discuss admitting a women's membership. Finally on April 20, 1978, a 75% majority was obtained to allow women to join the club.

Double Bay Women's Club was formed on May 22, 1978 with 50 Foundation Members, a membership which escalated to 125 within a few months. On its 30th Birthday in May, 2008, the centre attraction was the letter written by the first President, Nan Childs which confirmed the momentous decision of 1978.



The historic photo of Double Bay Women's Club's first day bowling in 1978

The Women's Club was officially opened on February 6, 1979 by the President of NSW Women's Bowling Association, Dorothy Ogle, together with the Mayor of Woollahra, Alderman Brenda (Dutchie) Backhouse, who was to become the Club's second president and after whom the non-Pennant Player Trophy is named.

1979: Woollahra Council approved the rezoning of the piece of land at the southern end of the property alongside the third green. Double Bay Bowling Club accepted a developer's \$540,000 offer to purchase the land to build 12 townhouses. Some of the funds were used to renovate the clubhouse & the rest was invested. On February 6, 1979, Double Bay Women's Club was officially opened.

1980

To

1990

The Water Board undertook major works to the Double Bay - Bellevue Hill area to alleviate storm water disposal. As a result the storm water canal was widened from 3 metres to 7 metres.

The access bridge to the club across the canal was lost and the Water Board wanted Double Bay Bowling Club to pay \$60,000 to build a new bridge. After much negotiating the Water Board accepted payment of \$10,000. The canal water was now polluted and could not be used to water the greens.

A bore hole was sunk at the west end of the Double Bay Bowling Club property at a cost of \$15,125 to provide a constant water supply and to save money.

The club had a staff of 10 people - a full time manager, kitchen, bar and office staff as well as a greenkeeper and assistants.

Due to rising labour costs and a downturn in membership staff numbers were reduced to three part timers. Members volunteered to keep the club active.

1984: The designer of the Women's District badge and flag, Shirley Shreiber, became Women's President in 1984. She was followed by the highly respected Wendy Salmon (pictured right), the first woman to be appointed as a Director of the Double Bay Bowling Club.



1987: Discussions began with Rose Bay Bowling Club regarding an amalgamation. These discussions continued until 1989 when Double Bay Bowling Club finally obtained a unanimous membership decision to amalgamate.

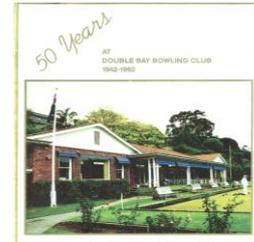
The project was aborted when Rose Bay Bowling Club could not get the necessary 75% approval from its members.

1990: The Women's Bowling Club started its newsletter called "On the Green".

1992

July 4 Double Bay Bowling Club celebrated the

50th Anniversary



2000

OCTOBER 7

Amalgamation with Rose Bay Bowling Club confirmed with the signing of the agreement at a celebratory dinner in the Double Bay Club house by Double Bay chairman, Leon Portrate and the Rose Bay Bowling Club chairman and Life Member, Gerald Weinberg (pictured).

The merger with Rose Bay Bowling Club came about when its club house building project was abandoned due to local council objections and other problems in selling a portion of its land for property development. However, Rose Bay sold the property to the Cranbrook School.

Under the terms of the Double Bay-Rose Bay amalgamation, this asset was transferred to Double Bay Bowling Club. The initial payment of \$3 million was paid to Double Bay Bowling Club on September 17, 2001. On September each year thereafter for four years, the sum of \$1 million was paid, making a total payment of \$7 million. Double Bay Bowling Club was then financially secure.

The merger resulted in a membership of 200 men and 105 women, plus 11 Life Members.



2004

March 29

The club's No. 3 playing area, the Jack Jarman Green, became the first synthetic bowling surface in the local area and was officially opened by the President of the Royal NSW Bowling Association, Ned London.

2005

October 17

At the 62nd Annual General Meeting Chairman, Leon Portrate (left), steps down and is honoured with Life Membership. John Rosen (right) is elected Chairman.



**EDDIE
FINGRET
and
ALAN
ROSENBERG**

January 5

A \$30,000 renovation to the men's clubhouse washroom and toilet facility is announced.

**STATE
SENIOR
PAIRS
WINNERS**

April 15

The appointment of high profile NSW state bowler, James Cook, as the club's Development officer and Administrator. It was the first time within Zone 11 that a full-time professional was responsible for the code's local development.

2006

April 2

Problems with the surface of the synthetic green compelled the club to have the carpet re-laid in a bid to eradicate "inconsistencies" in some sections.

October 22

At the 64th Annual General Meeting, long time club officials at Rose Bay Bowling Club and Double Bay Bowling Club, Treasurer, Barry Isenberg (left) and Men's Club president, Eddie Fingret (right) were made Life Members.



2007

March 26

Following members' concerns at the underfoot heat generated by the combination of sun and the synthetic surface, plus the inconsistent running surface and an unsatisfactory drainage system, the Board of Management decided to return the No. 3 green to a grass surface as part of its "duty of care" to its membership.

Work began on laying a Tifeagle grass green on July 27.



2008

February 11

The successful restoration of the Jack Jarman Green to a grass surface was completed in time for the 2008 Pennant season.

May 22

Double Bay Women's Club celebrated its 30th anniversary with a bowls session and a champagne dinner and show in the clubhouse.



November 19

James Cook leaves the employ of Double Bay Bowling Club.

November 30

A meeting of more than 100 members vote to go ahead with plans for a \$1 million redevelopment of the clubhouse as part of a strategy to secure the Club's future. Website established as www.doublebaybowlingclub.com.au

2009

December 20

The membership was again called to confirm the development plans because the DA approved by Woollahra Council included additions which were not known to, or approved by the membership at the November 30, 2008, meeting.

The project was expected to cost 50% more than originally quoted to the membership. Meetings were held between the building consultant's architect and Double Bay's four member-architects to discuss amendments to the project, resulting in new plans being drawn for presentation to Double Bay's Board of Management.

In a secret ballot, the membership voted almost two-to-one in favour of the Board continuing with the project which had received Woollahra Council's Development Application (DA) approval on October 19, 2009.

2010

July 4

A report that Double Bay Bowling Club had been approached to join with the Hakoah Social Club in its multi-million dollar social and sporting development on the White City property, prompted the membership to seek a three month delay on the start of the clubhouse renovation plan.

In a 90-minute meeting, attended by 115 members, it was decided by show-of-hands that, whilst the membership is still in favour of the clubhouse renovations plan, the board be asked to delay its start for three months.

**ARNOLD
JAVEN
and
GERALD
WEINBERG**

**WORLD
MASTERS
GAMES
WINNERS**

October 24

At the 68th Annual General Meeting the membership unanimously decided to postpone for "an extended period" the planned renovations to the clubhouse.

John Rosen, who was in his sixth year as Chairman of the Board, was honoured with Life Membership.

2011

December 17

The board of management released documents showing the early details of its negotiations towards a possible merger with the Hakoah Club. It listed concerns such as financial security, autonomy to control the bowling club within the complex and bowling club membership as well as the need for at least three or possibly four greens. At the same time Double Bay members were invited to inspect Hakoah's White City site.



March 14

Chairman John Rosen in a letter to the membership reported that the board has been working very hard in the hope that it can present to members a recommendation to either accept or decline the offer to move to the Hakoah Club's White City site. He emphasised that it will be members who will make the decision to sell the Double Bay property and move to White City.

July 13

The Double Bay Board of Management reported it had informed the Hakoah Club that it will not proceed with the proposed amalgamation of the two clubs at White City.

The amalgamation process has been going on for 12 months and the Board unanimously agreed that, for a number of reasons, it would not be possible for the board to recommend to the members for a merger with the Hakoah Club.

September 12

The Clubhouse renovation project was returned to the agenda with refined plans including upgrades to the bar area, the boardroom and the refurbishing of clubhouse furniture, carpet and fittings.

October 30

At the 69th Annual General Meeting the membership by a four-vote margin resolved to revive talks on the amalgamation with the Hakoah Club. calling on the board to seek the services of three prominent businessmen David Gonski, Brian Schwartz and David Balkin (pictured l-r) who could mediate between the bowling club and Hakoah. The trio would then call a General Meeting of members to advise of its recommendations after which members would vote on whether to proceed with discussions with Hakoah.



November 17

At a meeting between the Board and the three business men it was agreed that no progress had been made regarding Double Bay's concerns of an amalgamation with the Hakoah Club.

The Board informed the membership in writing that it had unanimously determined that, as currently constituted it is not prepared to continue with the amalgamation.

It added that if a majority of members are of the opinion that they wish to continue with negotiations with Hakoah then, the Board would have no option than to resign to allow the members to elect a new Board, whose members are prepared to continue along the amalgamation path.

2012

June 25

Upgrade of the two uni-sex outdoor toilets announced at the same time as well as upgraded the sun protection shades along the western side of the three greens.



**BRANDON
CONWAY
JACK
KAMPEL**

**STATE
SENIOR
PAIRS
WINNERS**

October 28

The 70th Annual General Meeting announced a major refurbishment to the clubhouse including replacing the carpet, installing new tables and chairs and upgrade the veranda area. The project replaced the major renovation plans of 2009.

Leon Portrate was named Club Patron.

2013

January 7

The Board announced the upgrade of No. 1 Green with improved drainage and laying of Tifeagle grass grown especially for Double Bay Bowling Club.

February 3

A General Meeting of members voted to rescind the motion (of December 20, 2009) which gave the Board approval to proceed with the \$1.47 million clubhouse rebuilding project.

**RAY
JANKLOWITZ**

**STATE
SENIOR
SINGLES
WINNER**

August 19

Clubhouse renovations complete with carpet laid, new tables and chairs installed in main area and renovated bar and gaming areas available to the membership.



October 27 John Rosen ends a nine-year term as Chairman of the Double Bay Bowling Club Board of Management. He is succeeded by Barry Lazarus.

2014

May 3

The sudden death of long-time club official, Eddie Fingret, at the age of 81, brought with it an end of an era for Double Bay Bowling Club.

He was Double Bay's Inaugural Men's Club President following the merger with Rose Bay in 2001 and the webmaster of the Double Bay website.

August 7

The Board moves to replace the club's Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted when the club was incorporated in 1944.

The proposed new Constitution under the provisions of the Registered Clubs Act, 1976 (NSW) to be presented at the 73rd Annual General Meeting. Copies of the proposed Constitution were available to the membership prior to the AGM.

October 5

The 72nd Annual General Meeting made four changes to the Board of Management including the change in the secretariat where Jack Rosen, the incumbent for eight years, failed to win re-election. The Board appointed newly elected member Peter Wyner to the post.

The membership adopted the new Constitution of Double Bay Bowling Club.

November 17

From December 1, 2014 green fees were increased from \$10 to \$12.

2015

March 23 Eleven members became certified to assist in bar and other duties by completing the Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) course. Five also took the programme required under the Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG) Act.

It became mandatory for The Secretary of the Registered Club to complete RSA and RCG courses and, show proof of previous learning to qualify for the appointed position as well as pass State and Federal clearance checks.

July 3

The Club conforms to the Smoke Free Environment Act which affects licensed premises and declares Double Bay Bowling Club a Smoke-Free area. No smoking on the greens was later added to the club's listed areas, but a garden area was assigned for bowlers who smoke during play.

July 20

Member's Register continues to grow. A new dynamic website was developed in-house featuring Monday and Wednesday competition results and the latest *Double Bay Watch*, the internal weekly newsletter. Wi-Fi Internet link was made available to members and visitors.

September 24

Leon Portrate, the club's most respected and esteemed members passed away at the age of 86.

September 29

Woollahra Council took "temporary custody" of the historic artwork *Double Bay 1883* by celebrated artist and Archibald Prize winner, Arthur Murch. The painting was part of the Double Bay Bowling Club's clubhouse decor for more than 60 years. It was handed to Woollahra Council Mayor, Toni Zeltzer (right), and Deputy Mayor Greg Levenston by Chairman Barry Lazarus (second right) and secretary, Peter Wyner (second from left).



November 1

The 73rd annual meeting is informed that the Board is considering the redevelopment of its adjoining domestic property which adjoins the club at 42 Glendon Road, Double Bay, and houses the greenkeeper and family. The Board will seek Woollahra Council's removal of the restrictive covenant on the property (Lot 9 DP 32788), and creation of a new covenant on the title which will allow a residential development.

2016

January 6 The Board announced that Club barman, Graham Armstrong, who served members for almost two decades, had left Double Bay Bowling Club's employ.

Woollahra Council introduces restricted parking on 30 vehicle spaces in front of Double Bay Bowling Club on the eastern side of Kiaora Road following extended negotiations between Council and Club' secretary, Peter Wyner. The restrictions apply Monday-to-Saturday six-hour time limit from 8 am.

April 4 Steve Edelmuth who is involved in catering and event management, administration and logistics is appointed the club's General Manager.

2016

May 30

The club introduces a \$12 green fee disc which is purchased from the bar prior to playing.

July 11

Double Bay hosts a team of 42 visiting bowlers from New Zealand.

July 28

David Ossher, who was thought to be Australia's oldest accredited lawn bowling coach, passed away at the age of 94. He was accredited as a coach at the age of 92.

October 23

The 74th Annual Report revealed that Woollahra Council has removed the restrictive covenant on the Double Bay owned lot at 42 Glendon Road, Double Bay, (Lot 9 DP 32788), which will allow the club to proceed with a proposal to build two townhouses on that site.

Development Application lodged with Woollahra Council.

Once the DA is granted, and the project is completed, the club will have substantial income generating positive cash flow to secure the club's financial future.

November 4

Paul Isenberg, who served the Double Bay management for 12 of the previous 15 years, passed away at the age of 80.



2017

THE WAY AHEAD

Our proactive Management is determined to attract the community at large to showcase the Club, to be informative and offer the best facilities to members and visitors.

Ideas are being developed to this end and implemented as deemed appropriate to ensure Double Bay Bowling Club continues to thrive and remains **"The Place to be"**, both as a premier bowls club and as a prestigious function venue.

DOUBLE BAY WATCH, now on the club's weekly website, was first published as a monthly print newsletter for the Men's Club in February, 2004.

It became a full colour publication in mid-2006. In March, 2008, it added the Women's Club's *ON THE GREEN* bulletin to its pages.

Double Bay Watch became a weekly publication in 2010 and by 2011 it was also available as a link on the Double Bay Bowling Club website.

In more recent times *Double Bay Watch* is emailed to the club's membership as well being updated weekly onto the website.

Mike Golland, who was the PR officer at Rose Bay Bowling Club, founded *Double Bay Watch* and has written, edited, designed and produced every edition.

He was honoured with Double Bay Bowling Club Life Membership in 2014

