



RSA

2023 ANNUAL REPORT YEAR BOOK

EAST COAST BAYS

Returned and Services
Association (Inc)

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
of East Coast Bays Returned &
Services Association (Inc)
PO Box 35014, Browns Bay



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- OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE 2023/2024 -

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OFFICE HOURS
(Office located at Browns Bay Bowling Club)

Welfare and Membership Wednesdays 10am to 1pm
 Account/Financial queries Please phone office to make appointment time.

If you need any assistance, please phone the RSA Office on 478-8033 (answer phone is always recording and checked regularly). If you have any urgent Welfare matters, please phone Graeme Rodgers 027 295 9101.

WEEKLY EVENTS

TUESDAY

10:00 am INDOOR BOWLS

WEDNESDAY

6.00 pm NORTH HARBOUR SPECIAL OLYMPICS – INDOOR BOWLS

THURSDAY

10:00 am INDOOR BOWLS
 7:00 pm HOUSIE
 5.30 – 7.30 MEALS – Bowl to Jack Bistro

FRIDAY

4:00 pm CLUB NIGHT
 6:00 pm ODE

Monthly Moments - Meetings

(Guest Speakers) 3rd Wednesday of the Month at 10.00 am

The Clyde Bar, Browns Bay **(Returned & Service Members Catchup)**
 3rd Thursday of month 6pm

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1938-40	N. ARMITAGE	1970-74	A. ANDREW
1940-41	G. WEMYSS	1974-75	R.G. WINDYBANK
1941-42	W. GREGORY	1975-77	W. REEVES
1942-44	W. KNOWLES	1977-79	F.E. BUTLER
1944-45	A. PARK	1979-80	F. HYSLOP
1945-47	G. WEMYSS	1980-85	T.M. HOBBS
1947-48	K. MCDERMOTT	1985-93	R.G. WALKER
1948-49	M. DONOVAN	1993-95	G. SPEARY
1949-50	G. PEARCE	1995-98	J.J.T. LINKLATER
1950-52	J.O. STONE	1998-01	J. FLEMING
1952-54	M. DONOVAN	2001-04	T.R. HOSKIN
1954-55	T. HALL	2004-05	J.J.T. LINKLATER
1955-56	J. BARTELS	2005-06	T.R. HOSKIN
1956-58	I. PIRRETT	2006-09	G J OCKLESTON
1958-59	M. DONOVAN	2009-10	J FLEMING
1959-62	I. PIRRETT	2010-13	G J OCKLESTON
1962-63	S.G. GOSDEN	2013-16	N. PANTRY
1963-64	I. PIRRETT	2016-18	K J KAY
1964-65	T. HALL	2018-19	A MARTIN
1965-66	C. WILLIAMSON	2019-21	J.R.F. MARTIN
1966-67	T. HALL	2021-22	J.R.F. MARTIN
1967-68	R. LOVEGROVE	2022-23	A.J.F. MARTIN

– PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023 –

Dear Members,

Well, as I sit here writing my annual yearly update, I still can't believe that daylight savings is less than a week away and another year is nearly upon us. I am not sure if it is just me, but the days seem to be flying past or it is just a sign of our busy lives that we don't take time to sit back and sometimes reflect on everything that is going on around us. It is also finally nice to see the actual sun and the birds happily singing away probably like most of us and I am not going to tempt fate here, that the weather is on the change and like you all I am hoping for a nice summer ahead.

Given I have only just returned after being in Southern England and Northern France for the last 3 months. I just want to say a massive thank you for the support and dedication of the committee and volunteers that I could at least leave the ECB RSA in safe hands for this amount of time without any major issues at all. We have a very dedicated team that somewhat go unnoticed to you all and they all give many hours of unpaid volunteering work behind the scenes to keep the ECB RSA in the forefront of the community. The ECB RSA is very much recognized by both the National RSA and Auckland District RSA as having a very strong model for success which I am always delighted to hear when I am at various National or District AGM's.

You all see from time to time in the papers or general word of mouth reports that many of the RSA's are struggling financially or more importantly have dwindling membership levels. I am still yet to see a clear roadmap or path that will successfully address these issues by the National RSA, but I know they have been very concerned about this for several years now. I can reassure you all that the ECB RSA because of our own financial investments we have made we have a very bright future ahead. I don't normally dwell on our past because I like to always look forward but yes not having a club does in fact give us a secured financial future as we are probably one of the only RSAs in the country that does have a clear financial roadmap ahead.

As I eluded to earlier in my 3 months away in Southern England and Northern France, I managed to go on a bit of a pilgrimage to both Arras and the Somme battlefields. This to me was a personal journey at finding my Great Uncles grave (J. E. Brown) at the Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery in Arras to also seeing the many cemeteries around the Somme area.

On one of our final days, we managed to visit Caterpillar Valley Cemetery and the former grave of a New Zealander who was laid to rest in the tomb of the unknown warrior at the National War Memorial in Wellington on 11th November 2004. It was an experience that I will never forget and made me reflect on many areas of my own life including many personal decisions I make.

Visiting all the cemeteries that I did I do I personally believe this is why not just the ECB RSA, but all RSA's need to have a secured future so we can all remember those that

so galantly gave away their lives for the freedom we have today. Having such events as Anzac Day to even laying a wreath for Armistice Day keeps this memory alive. The ECB RSA will always have and play an active part in the local community, and I can assure you that it's not just my focus, but I also speak on behalf of the committee that we are very much committed to a long and successful future ahead in the East Coast Bays area.

Ali Martin
ECB RSA President



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023

Where did the last year go? it only feels like yesterday that I wrote the AGM Report.

Since our last AGM, we just did not stop, we hosted another well attended Christmas Luncheon for our Returned Veterans over the age of 75. We were very lucky to have Sir Wayne Shelford (Buck), who took the time out of his busy schedule to attend as our guest. It was very memorable, and he was very interactive and informative towards our members, a great time was had by all.

We also were part of the Browns Bay Christmas Parade, thank you to our Volunteers, Cadet Units and NZMVC for letting us decorate your Military Vehicles, once again a most enjoyable and fun time.

We also showed our support and presence to the Cadet Units and Vanguard Military School at their end of year Presentations, it is certainly a pleasure interacting with you during the year also.

I am so proud of our Poppy Team, Members, you should be too, thank you for all your hard work, it definitely paid off, as we excelled in collections once again. You are making a difference for our Veterans.

I had a look at my last year's report in regard to ANZAC Day "Bring on ANZAC Day 2023 and may the North Shore Combined Dawn Parade and Service, and the ANZAC Day Memorial Parade & Service, be the biggest ones that we have ever had!" Well, what can I say, IT WAS!!, there was a massive attendance at both, it was inspiring to see so many people, who took the time to "Remember Them".

To our Volunteers, Poppy Team, Driving Team, Welfare Team, our various Functions Teams, Executive Members and our President, Ali, your continued dedication and compassion you put into our ECB RSA to keep the wheels rolling, is truly heartwarming.

If you would like to be part of any of our Teams, please get in touch with us. You will enjoy the Comradship that we all have together.

Members, finally I would like to Thank you for your support, and as the years go by, we will grow our ECB RSA into the future, we will not be left behind. Each and every one of you are valued and please don't be shy, come down on our weekly Friday Club night or our Monthly Moments held on the 3rd Wednesday of every Month. Take care, check in on each other, stay in touch, and always take the time to smell the roses in between.

Donna Stewart - ECB RSA Vice President



2 Inverness Road, Browns Bay
North Shore City Auckland

PH (09) 478 8057

FAX (09) 479 4838

– WELFARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES REPORT 2022 –

First, a huge thanks to Andy Peters for his years of service in the role of Local Support Adviser and welfare. Andy is taking a well-earned break and his experience and knowledge behind the scenes is a valuable resource to myself in the LSA role.



Support Services for Servicemen.

The Veteran Affairs is making a huge effort to improve their services which has been sadly lacking for various reasons. They have had workshops around the country to allow veterans and those with qualifying service to liaise directly with their staff face to face. Recently a new online system has been put in place to enable veterans to check their eligibility: [Check your eligibility | Veterans' Affairs \(veteransaffairs.mil.nz\)](https://veteransaffairs.mil.nz)

This link has streamlined the eligibility for VA assistance as it is a complex piece of legislation.

There are also new links for The Veterans Independence Programme and Social Rehabilitation programmes. The website is very easy to navigate through and easy to understand what is available and how to go about requesting support.

There are other community services available as provided by the Area Health services and also WINZ assistance in various forms. Assistance from these providers relies on the Veteran's/Service man's medical and social situation and is often best addressed directly or by family members on their behalf.

My focus as the succeeding Local Support Adviser has been to ensure that our Veterans and Servicemen are aware of what is available to them and guide them in the right direction for assistance. Our National body of the NZRSA has been active in attempting to provide a much better service for Veterans and Service members.

Transport

A huge thanks to Anthea Avery who takes the calls and arranges volunteer drivers to take our members (Service and Associate) to their medical appointments and return. Behind the scenes we are most indebted to those volunteers who do the driving. You are an unseen and most valued component of our RSA. Your time is most appreciated in assisting our members to attend their medical appointments, often out of the normal time frame of after 10am.

Equipment

We still have two mobility scooters in good condition to those that may need one. Also, we have wheelchairs and mobility frames available. They are only a phone call away.

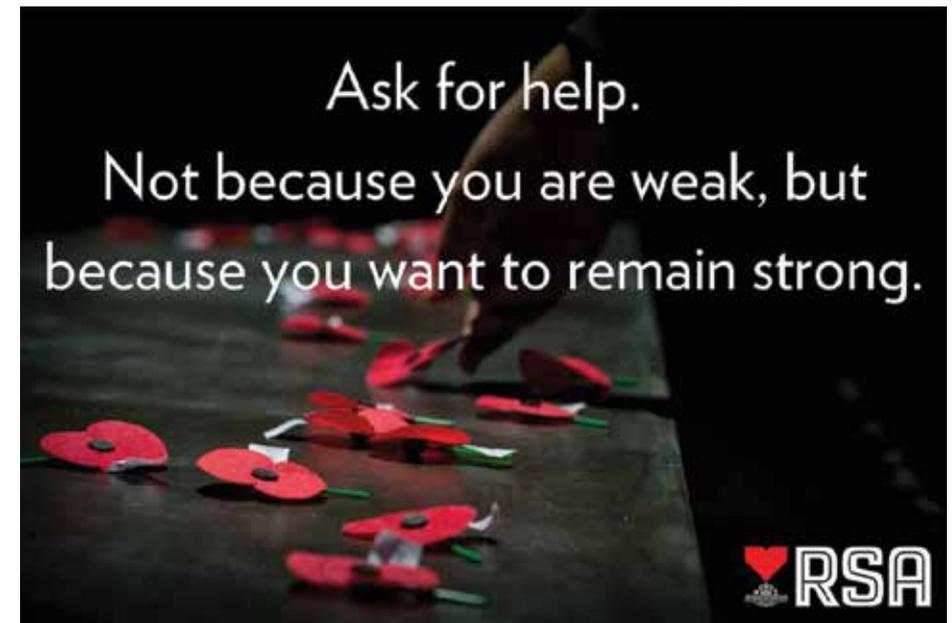
Commemoration

Attendance at the funerals of our members is a priority. This year there has been very few to attend, as we find that many families are not aware of the tributes, we can provide in honouring their military service. However, some servicemen, or their family elect not to have an RSA presence, and only wish a private family service. It is always an honour to provide the traditional servicemen's farewell on their passing i.e., the playing of the Last Post, reciting The Ode, and the playing of the Reveille. Part of this tradition is the importance of having the correct Ensign draped on the casket and medals displayed in the correct position if so wished.

We are only a phone call or email away.

Graeme Rodgers JP

Local Support Advisor East Coast Bays RSA.



LAST POST

(In alphabetical order, not date of death)
October 2022 to September 2023

BAYLIS	N	455856	HAY	K M	4312698
BOOTH	V B	75513	HELLIER	M W	328351
BROCKELSBY	K	326698	HIGGINS	P F	14170089
BURDEN	G H	1582328/196797	JAMESON	M M	M37386
CHOLMONDELEY-SMITH	D R	Merchant Navy	LYNN	J J	R322520
COWDERY	M R	809759	MANN	J L	19142712
DOWNEY	T	23154624	PATTILLO	E G	452189
FISHER	G I	KX761432	PAYNTER	C E	Home Guard
FLEMING	J	23830920	PETERSEN	E K	SADF
GRAHAM	H S	19420	STEWART	J	354822
HAWKINS	P S	SND585	WILLIAMSON	S R	425989

We honour those members who have recently passed on.
The President and Executive Committee and members offer their sincere condolences to the families for their loss.

May Your Loved One's Rest in Peace



POPPY DAY/ANZAC DAY

Poppy Day 2023

The Executive Committee and I are delighted to announce that we have collected just over \$40,000. This is, as always, an amazing achievement because there are multiple factors each year that we seem to deal with but once again the East Coast Bays Community has been very supportive. This figure is based on the combination of Poppy boxes we place in shops and businesses locally from April 1st and the actual Poppy appeal weekend which this year was April 21st – 23rd Without all our volunteers, Poppy appeal would not be possible, so thank you all once again. If you would like to volunteer for the 2024 Poppy appeal, please call into the RSA office as each year we need new volunteers to help us out. We also acknowledge the great support from our Army, Airforce, and Navy Cadets together with students from Vanguard Military School.

I would like to say a special thank you to Julie who is a member of the ECB RSA committee. Julie has been the key member of the committee for several years now that organises both the admin of the office and arranges and meticulously plans out the Poppy appeal so that it runs as smoothly as it does. From the late nights and early morning to counting of the donated monies with our other amazing volunteers. The endless trips to and from the office to the multiple trips to the bank over the long and busy Poppy appeal weekend thank you Julie for all that you do.

Julie would like to extend special thanks to her Poppy Team of Colin Milne and Eileen Mills-Newman for their amazing support and contribution to this year's Poppy appeal.

ANZAC Day 2023

This year we were finally able to hold our annual Anzac Day Dawn and Civic parades and services in full without cancellations, the fear of COVID and having low turnout numbers. Both services and the parades are always a memorable occasion and this year the high numbers in attendance were justification of why we should keep the memory of Anzac Day alive not just in the community but in each one of us.

This year I think was the biggest number of people in attendance for a good 10 years or so and those that marched including myself felt a great sense of pride from the support that we had from everyone. It also made me very proud to see the huge turnout for the Civic parade and service and just to see the many schools, youth groups and the young members of the community marching made me feel that the East Coast Bays Dawn and Civic parades are a very much important part of our calendar each year and will be for years to come.

I would like to especially thank our main ECB RSA organiser of ANZAC Day, Donna Stewart who is also our very own Vice President. Donna does need a very special

mention for the long hours she volunteers, the multiple Auckland Council meetings and correspondences she has with them, plus the multiple emails and letters that go out to the schools, youth groups and bands, just to name a few to help make everything run smoothly. Thank you so much Donna you are an inspiring person who lives and breathes the RSA and is a leading figure in the ECB RSA with keeping the Anzac Day message alive.

Finally, a special thank you for the support over the years to the Browns Bay Brewing Company and the Clyde pub. Both made us feel very welcome on ANZAC Day and have been very supportive of the Community and the after-event planning to make the day go as well as it possibly can. A final thanks to John and Pauline of the Clyde who have always been especially supportive on ANZAC Day and the ECB RSA in general. Good luck for the future and hopefully you can now have a well-deserved break away from hospitality as it has been a very difficult stop start few years for you both.

Alisdair Martin - President



Poppy Day Volunteers
Top: Brian Wilson
Right: Andrew McMeechan



2022 RETURNED VETERANS' 75+ LUNCHEON

A big thank you to all our senior Returned members who attended our recent Veteran's Christmas luncheon. After some time, for a lot of you, it was so good to see you all and put names to faces. The day was a great success and I hope you all enjoyed mixing with one another, our guest speaker Sir Wayne Shelford and the lovely food served. I would especially like to thank all who helped on the day. Our fantastic committee who all rallied around and some special volunteer members who looked after our guests, Eileen Mills-Newman, Wayne Hanna and Almarie Harvey. Also many thanks to invited Veterans, Colin Milne, Brian Wilson, and Jim Bremner who helped transport some of our members, and our lovely Anthea, our welfare driver for collecting Buck Shelford, bet you enjoyed that Anthea!

Unfortunately this year all Cadet forces were away at Camp and were unable to assist us on the day. It is reassuring to know that we as a committee and with great volunteer help, we can achieve great things.

Julie Windybank
ECB RSA Executive Committee



Above: Members enjoying lunch



Above: ECB RSA President Ali Martin, Veteran Ron Taylor,
Guest Sir Buck Shelford, Auckland District President Graham Gibson.

Right: Ron Taylor, Returned Veteran, turned 102 this month.

Below: Happy Volunteers



VANGUARD MILITARY PRESENTATION

The Vanguard Military Academy end of year pass out was a pleasure to watch, the cadets looked very smart in their uniforms and the parade drill was to a very high standard. During the presentations you came to realise the effort that the staff put into training the cadets and how the cadets embraced the ethos of the academy. The education levels, team work and discipline that were on display only reinforces how the academy is preparing these young adults to be confident and successful for the next chapter of their lives.
Kind Regards

John Wright (Shiner)
ECB RSA Executive Committee

No 6 (North Shore) SQUADRON ATC PRESENTATION

On the 5th of December Mr Geoff Ockleston and myself were invited to attend the Graduation/Prize giving Parade at No 6 (North Shore) Squadron Air Training Corps. Other invited guests included the Auckland Regional Warrant Officer Cadet, and Auckland Regional Cadet Wing Commander. The Cadets put on a fantastic display of drill and had a very good turnout for dress and bearing. Numerous prizes were awarded and the majority were presented by the Auckland Regional Cadet Wing Commander. Mr Geoff Ockleston was invited to present the East Coast Bays RSA Sponsored Prize and scholarship, and then also had the chance to address the parade where he congratulated all the prize winners and those on parade as well as reflecting on his time in Cadets and the benefits of Cadet Training. A highlight for the evening was seeing the Auckland Regional Warrant Officer Cadet assist the Unit Commander to Promote a new Unit Warrant Officer Cadet. In all it was a lovely night with beautiful weather and a very warm and welcoming environment for all invited Guests, Committee Members and Parents, after the parade we went into the squadron for a supper and coffee.

Will Culley
ECB RSA Executive Committee



BROWNS BAY SANTA PARADE

For those of you who were there, you would have seen the huge amount of people, and the fun and festive atmosphere. Trust me, we as a Committee had fun too, being part of the Santa Parade. Again, this year NZMVC turned up with two Willy Jeeps and a Dodge, (Thank you Paul, John and Harry) you guys are the best. With the help from the Executive and ECBRSA members, (Thanks heaps) we turned their Military Vehicles into Christmas bling complete with tinsel and a Santa Bear. Thank you also to North Shore Army Cadets CDT M Zeng and CDTSGT J Bound, together with your Squadron Leader Pete Gilliland, and helping us to (hand out) lollies to the Crowd. I really hope that your presence may have inspired some of the children in the crowd to join a Cadet Unit. All in all, your ECB RSA was part of a grand amount of floats and people, that all helped to bring the Christmas Cheer to the Community.

Donna Stewart
ECB RSA Vice President



Browns Bay Santa Parade



East Coast Bays RSA Trust

Our welfare vehicle –
Toyota Yaris, kindly donated by the estate of

John Charles Mackay 10017147

Thank you, Sir



WOMEN'S SECTION 2023

The Women's Section is still currently in recess, but they are looking at reviewing this in the very near future and any information on this will be emailed to the members via our monthly newsletters.

8 BALL SECTION

Since last year, 8 Ball has been in recess. If any members are interested in starting up again, please contact our office. About 14 members used to play on a Wednesday night, occasionally playing doubles and a minimum of 4 games. Start time was 7.30pm and a \$2 charge per night. The tables are also available for members anytime during the day.

MONTHLY MEMBERS MOMENTS

At the end of last year, 2022 we were meeting on the third Wednesday of the month 10am. in the bowling club rooms. One of our speakers was Lane Smytheman who spoke about communications. The storm in January 2023 put an end to those meetings so we moved to the Pavilion behind the bowling greens. Meetings have taken a more informal aspect. We have been listening to our own members talking about their experiences, starting with the Floods. Topics have been varied but usually everyone has something to contribute. One of the latest meetings we were able to hear Andy Peters tell us about his trip from the North Cape to the Bluff.

The Welfare Group meetings are still on the same day of the month (the third Wednesday 10am). It is a most enjoyable, social, and educational get-together (morning tea provided). Come and associate with a very friendly group who will listen to you. If you have anyone you feel could talk to us, please let us know in advance with the topic they would talk about.

Thank you to Julie who has kept us going through trying times.

Barbara Ellis



HOUSIE REPORT

Thursday night Housie at 7.30 is running well with a good turnout of regular attendees. There is usually a raffle and snacks and meals are enjoyed from the kitchen. We must thank Lionel our caller, and Paulina for making it a fun night and Karl for looking after the finances.

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY INDOOR BOWLS CLUB

Another year has flown by, they go so quickly these days. We have had another good year and a bonus Covid free, with member numbers about the same.

We had three members retire from bowling and well into their nineties, Ken and Pam Cackett plus Melva Holmes and we have had a couple of new bowlers join us.

At our AGM all the members wished to continue with the same committee of Jeff Lynes (President), Robin Brown (Vice President), Yolanda Noakes (Secretary), Ann Baucke (Tuesday Treasurer) and Jenny McIsaac (Thursday Treasurer). Our \$2.00 per game pays for our mid-winter and Christmas lunches etc, which are enjoyed by all. We have been lucky with the flooding repairs and there has been little disruption, thanks to Peter Sheehan, Browns Bay Bowling Club. Let's hope for another good year.

Jeff Lynes – President

ECB RSA Indoor Bowls

09 473 5101



NORTH SHORE CADET FORCES



You probably only notice them on Poppy Day and Anzac Day when they assist our RSA with the Poppy collection and parade with us at the beach on Anzac Day, but the boys and girls of the three Cadet Forces have had a long association with us down through the years. Most of our older members will have been cadets in their younger days, when cadet training at school was compulsory for boys, in fact Cadet Units are perhaps our oldest surviving youth organisation. Otago Boys High School unit was formed in 1864 and what is the reason for this existence? (What do they do) and their attachment to the New Zealand Defence force and, by association, the RSA.

Are they part of the Territorial Force who are part time soldiers? no they are not, they are just too young at 12 – 18 years old, but in those uncertain days when a country may need to be able to defend itself, military training for boys was considered necessary.

In time every secondary school in the country had its Cadet Unit where boys were introduced to basic military training. Many of those boys were later to lose their lives on the battle fields of France. After WW1 it became clear that NZ needed a Navy to safeguard our trade routes. The Sea Cadet Corps was formed by the Navy League to provide trained seamen where and when needed at sea.

In 1941 because of the high attraction rate of airmen in the air battle for Europe, it was decided to give school age boys an introduction to the Air Force in the expectation that many would choose the Air Force when called up for service. At the end of WW2 when the military was being run down from its wartime strength, the world was still a hostile place and British Forces were still deployed all around the world, there was still an ongoing need for trained manpower in the three services. National Service was retained and so were the Cadet Forces.

It is a different world today so apart from those unchanging military skills, Cadet training has had to modernise to attract recruits and adopt to new technology while retaining those outdoor activities that are just as much fun as they always were, but Cadets will also acquire a range of skills in several subjects relevant to their service, from a basic level to the more advanced. They will face many challenges but will develop self-discipline and pride in themselves and their unit that will serve them well in their later life as adults.

I know of two senior naval officers who began their naval career as Sea Cadets and of course, Sir Peter Blake was a Devonport Sea Cadet.

Geoff Ockleston - ECB RSA Patron

NORTH SHORE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

North Shore Special Olympics are a dedicated group of intellectually disabled people of all ages, about 24 strong, who meet in the Bowling Club on a Wednesday evening for an hour of competition in indoor bowls with prizegiving each night.

Four times each year, teams are selected to travel to compete against other clubs from the Upper North Island for which trophies are awarded and each player receives a ribbon.

Competition is fierce, playing to the best of their ability, hoping to win the gold ribbon. Special Olympics is similar to the Para Olympics where competitors have a physical disability. Intellectual disability is hard to quantify, so we just play to standard bowling rules, albeit with a reasonably liberal interpretation of the rules.

Since its inception in the 1960s, Special Olympics has gone around the world to bring indoor bowls to people who would otherwise never get the opportunity to compete in a sporting activity.

It was Eunice Kennedy, the sister of John F Kennedy (former President of USA) who had a sister who although being physically fit and active had an intellectual disability. Eunice became her carer and discovered that there were many people like her and came up with the idea of providing sporting competition for them.

Others followed and eventually a sports day was organised in the Yankee Stadium, and it just grew from there and now is a worldwide competition in all sports known as the Special Olympics.

Our team members also compete in other sports like basketball, swimming, and athletics.

On our club night, we usually have at least 20 players and maybe ten carers at the Bowling Club and for some, perhaps it is their big night out and they really enjoy it.

For this we must thank the carers and drivers who bring the players to the club and the volunteers who give their time and effort to organise, prepare for and control the games. Their reward is to see the enjoyment that the players get from their game's night on Wednesdays.



Geoff Ockleston – ECB RSA Patron





Top: Army Cadets
 Top Right: Poppy Day Volunteer Will Culley
 Above Left: Sea Cadets,
 Above Right: Vanguard Military School,
 Left: Air Cadets

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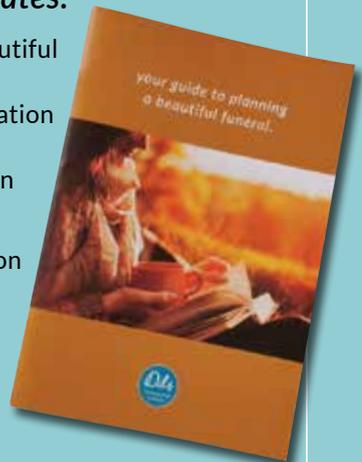
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