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# Behind the Kitty By BANKER

**A**N invitation to a stranger to have a cup of tea gave the Melbourne Bowling Club one of its most genial members and best workers in John A. Dando.

A retired bank officer, John had travelled round most of Australia, and was contemplating joining a bowling club when he looked in at Melbourne—and remained.

John claims to be the oldest living St. Kilda footballer. He was rover and wing player from 1896 to 1900, under captain Reg Alwyn.

Players of the day were Proudfoot, Pannam, "the fastest wingman in the game," and "Daddy" Syme.

"In those days," says John, "the trainer, Bill Plummer, was paid 5/ a week, and any other help was voluntary. Arthur Conquest used to assist in rubbing down the players."

Then, in a hushed voice, John tells the story of how, in 1898, Geelong kicked 23—26 to St. Kilda's 0—1.

John is a good storyteller, a fair bowler, and a first-class worker for the club, where he has been a member for 13

years.



Jack Hewitt, of Minyip, has dual interests.

Jack is president of both bowling and football clubs in that town.

As one of those responsible for the appearance of Jack Graham as football coach this season, he expects football to equal bowls in success and popularity this season.

The bowlers' success can be understood with such players as Arch McGilp, E. L. Jenkins, and S. V. Henderson in their ranks.



Bowling is booming in country centres.

BEULAH Bowling and Croquet Club is preparing a new green to adjoin its present seven-rink playing surface. This will give it one of the best properties in the north.

With 93 men and 65 women



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**JOHN DANDO**

members. **WARRACKNABEAL** is the largest club in the eastern Wimmera. It has a 15-rink green, which is in constant use. The president is Dr. J. J. Searby.

A band of voluntary workers is installing a new lighting system on the **MURTOA** green to make it one of the best illuminated in the Wimmera association.



**Clubs should take steps to prevent regularly defaulting players from entering open tournaments.**

One club secretary pointed out recently that the absence of one or more units in any type of competition could upset the programme to the extent of causing a new draw to be made.

Clubs which hold open tournaments could unite to set down a uniform procedure for defaulters.



**The R.V.B.A. council must soon consider the annual controversy of zoning versus open draw for pennant competitions.**

Each of the five metropolitan groups of clubs is preparing a recommendation to the council on that subject.

Council members can expect a headache in their attempt to find a solution to the problem.