

Racing club is bowled over

BRIEFLY

JORJA ORREAL

THE Brisbane Racing Club (BRC) will soon take over the running of the Hamilton Bowls Club (HBC), which is located on land owned by the BRC.

HBC chairman John Cole said members overwhelmingly voted in favour of the acquisition, which will see the club renamed the Brisbane Racing Sports and Social Club once licensing arrangements with the Office of Liquor and Gaming are confirmed.

He said the club explored all avenues and more than 75 per cent of members at a meeting on February 21 voted in favour of the plans.

"It's very positive - now the club is assured to have bowling facilities for the next 80 years," he said.

"We are very happy that the Brisbane Racing Sports and Social Club will conserve the rich heritage that HBC has developed over the years."

BRC chairman Kevin Dixon said the union was to build community relationships "through the provision of ongoing sport and recreation facilities for the surrounding community".

"It was always our intention that the Concept Master Plan would embrace and transform some of the local



History lesson: Hamilton Bowls Club chairman John Cole and Brisbane Racing Club CEO Stephen Ferguson.

area's most iconic places, such as the HBC, and this is the first step towards the bowls club's transformation," he said.

BRC CEO Stephen Ferguson said longer term plans included moving the facility to a spot on Nudgee

Rd that overlooked both Doomben and Eagle Farm racecourses.

"We plan to build a new, more modern, licensed club house of our own, and include HBC as part of that, which will certainly be the best in Brisbane, and maybe

even in southeast Queensland," he said. "It's better than having two sub-optimum premises. It's good for everyone."

Mr Ferguson said one of the planned improvements for the new facility was the inclusion of synthetic inter-

national bowling greens, which would eliminate pricey maintenance costs.

HBC members will automatically receive membership to the new sporting club and BRC members will also receive social club membership.

TRIO SOUGHT

POLICE are seeking help over a stealing offence in Fortitude Valley on October 23 last year. Three men entered a supermarket in a shopping complex and it is believed a large quantity of jewellery and a significant sum of cash were stolen from the store. The first man is described as about 170cm tall with a dark complexion; the second man is about 180cm tall of Asian appearance; and the third man is described as being Caucasian and about 180cm tall. Anyone with information can phone Crime Stoppers anonymously on 1800 333 000.

PRICES UP

HOUSING affordability dropped by 18.4 per cent in the December 2009 quarter because of higher house prices, increased interest rates and the winding-down of the first-home buyers boost, according to the latest HIA-CBA First-Home Buyer Affordability Report.

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