

On Duty

by John Thornton

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The sun is out, the sky is blue,
There's not a breath of wind,
Its Wednesday here in Inverloch,
So all the bowlers grinned,

Their lunches packed and bowls shoes on,
Just happy little souls,
Off they go with hopes held high,
To "mufti" social bowls.

Meanwhile, at the clubhouse,
The phone is running hot,
The message bank is flashing,
My stomach's in a knot,

The sheet of names is growing,
The phone calls never stop,
"Can you put my name down?",
"How many have you got?"

In walked Robbie Howard,
His anxiety was high,
"Did you get a bread stick?",
"No" was my reply,

"Oh well, I'd better get one",
"I'll leave you with the rest",
"Take the names, put out the mats",
"Just try to do your best".

10 o'clock and things get tense,
I've got to get this right,
Preparing all the scorecards,
With teams of Black and White,

36 means triples,
No more phone calls please,
Bugger there's another one,
Now it's 'fours and threes',

Time to take the money,
Some names to re-arrange,
In comes Rhonda Davies,
With her handbag full of change.

It's getting near eleven,
I bet Pat Sheedy's late,
"We're still 2 bowlers missing,
Can someone check the gate!"

Finally the games are played,
I'm sure they're having fun,
My bowling needs improvement,
But I'm not the only one.

Time to gather scorecards,
To see who's won the day,
Looks like Mike Yates got it,
Not again! they say.

The room is getting noisy,
I'll really have to yell,
They're never gonna hear me,
Can someone ring the bell!

Let "Onions" do the raffle,
Well, his voice is very loud,
Shouting out the numbers,
He loves to tease the crowd.

The winners take their prizes,
God knows it's not a lot,
Harry's got his camera,
To take a candid shot.

I didn't win a brass razoo,
Which really is a pity,
But there you go, it's bloody tough,
Being on the Match Committee!

Time to count the money,
And write the winners down,
I'm glad nobody noticed,
That the flag was upside down.

Well thankfully it's over,
At least I am still sane,
Until I'm back on duty,
And have to do it all again.