

The Falcon: September 2017

Club Opening

This will take place on Saturday 30 September at 1400. In the absence of Ian Kilbride, Rayvin Rademeyer, as a senior Executive of our major sponsors Warwick Wealth, will deliver the first bowl of the new season.

WPBA Executive will be represented by Colin Swan. After a few speeches and the customary Spider, we will play through until approximately 1630 when we will adjourn for snacks and drinks.

A friendly reminder that Club Colours should be worn on the day.

Men's' Mini Meeting

On Saturday 16 September, prior to the afternoon's Snowball event, about 40 of the Playing Members (men) gathered to discuss participation in Flag and Friendly Leagues in the coming season.

The meeting was chaired by the Convener of Selectors, Eddie Curtis, who asked Alan Lofthouse to address the gathering. Alan asked for the support of the members in halting the gradual erosion of the numbers of members prepared to participate in Flag. The reasons for so many moving away from Flag was queried. A fair amount of comment was generated by this question. Alan fielded many of the questions and queries and also suggested ways in which the Selectors and the Club could resolve some of concerns.

Graham Barker, on behalf of the Selectors, outlined their plans for running the training sessions that they had introduced last year, and encouraged members to avail themselves again of this facility.

This year the Selection Committee will select both the Flag and Friendly sides. They also agreed to cater for the needs of those not accommodated in either Flag or Friendly games on a Saturday afternoon.

Snowball

The last of the popular Saturday Snowballs will take place on Saturday 23 September. Alan, assisted by Nicky Parker, goes to a lot of trouble each week to put teams together, arrange the draw, collect the monies, fine a few delinquents, sort out the prizes and organise the snacks. I am disappointed that their efforts have not resulted in bigger fields. However, this has not detracted from the fun we have had and our appreciation for their efforts. Thanks once again, Alan and Nicky.

Trivia evening

On Friday 15 September, Heather Cawood masterminded another of her popular Trivia evenings. This was my first experience of one of these events. Not only was it great fun but the professional way in which she puts the evening together was really impressive. The attendance was good but I anticipate it will get even better. I am not prepared to name the winners as I, and my team, are poor losers! Incidentally, on the music side, I know who the hell is Alice, but who the hell is Theuns Jordaan?

Greens

We are on track with the poisoning of B Green and, depending on the success of the exercise, should commence the planting of the new grass in November.

Fertilising and irrigation of A and C greens has started and this should result in the slight slowing down in the speed of these greens until we begin grooming again.

As our programme over the next two months involves rebuilding or topdressing some of our banks, we would ask for the members support in keeping off these sensitive areas.

Conveners of events need to be aware that, for probably two weeks from 13 November onwards, we will have only one reasonable green in action as we carry out minor scarification etc.

Tuesday Sixes

This event, sponsored by Warwick Wealth, got off to a cheerful start this past Tuesday. It will run over 7 weeks and members are reminded it is not too late to join in as one needs only 4 scores to qualify for the prize money.

WPBA matters

Clubs have been circulated with the following notification:

Alcohol, Tobacco and Cellular phones. Smoking (including artificial devices or e cigarettes such as Twisp), Alcohol, Cellphones and hand held TV devices will not be permitted within 2 metres of the green when play is in progress. This applies to all National and WP Competitions.

We also believe that Joel Roebert has relinquished his position of Match Secretary at WPBA. On behalf of our Club, we thank him for the sterling service rendered over the past few years.

Kleptomania

Somewhere in our midst lurks a member with a fetish – wait for it – for ballpoint pens. By now I reckon he/she has an impressive collection. It does not help if the pen is attached to a piece of string, engraved with “Do not remove” or hidden above the Tabs cupboard. Its lifespan at the Club is shorter than a packet of biltong in the dog-friendly Hepworth household!

The great invasion

Many Clubs surround their greens with trees and shrubs that add beauty to the surrounds and provide shade for spectators. Bad idea! Recent attempts to spike A green revealed roots from a Ficus tree in the corner nearest to Virgin Active extending to the middle of the green. 100 mm in diameter near the middle of the green and close to 500 mm just off the green where, with the help of Henri, Victor, some casuals and the City Council, the roots were cut and a preventative “Bio Barrier” inserted. The roots of these trees have been enjoying “free board and lodging” for far too long! This discovery has prompted us to

look at the effect of other trees in close proximity such as the Brazilian Peppers.

Membership

We promised that we would continue to remind members of their responsibility to introduce new bowlers to this wonderful game of ours. With Snowball about to close down, the emphasis can now swing to Friday afternoons where we do our best to offer both bounce games and roll-up sessions. Grab a newbie and bring them to the Club on a Friday.

New members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to our Club: Alison, Candice and Sid Goncalves, Sarah Smith, Steve Sergeant, Trevor Kieswetter, Patrick McLaughlin, Robert and Mary-Ann Kelly.

From other Clubs we welcome Tony Kandan, Haydn Mozley and Stephen Wagner.

Achievements

We are proud to announce that Linda Stringer has been invited to participate in the South African Masters to be held at Wingate Park from 9 to 11 February 2018.

Spring Midweek

With only two greens available and a number of members from other Clubs interested, we suggest you get your teams of four in as soon as possible. This event starts on 11 October and runs for five afternoons

Muter and Ladies Days

Owing to the holding of WP Trials over the weekend 11/12 November, our Muter Day has been cancelled. Ladies Day has now been planned for Friday 8 December.

100 Club

The 100 Club, run by Darryll, kicks off again this month. R200 for 10 months or R20 a month puts you in line for a prize.

Smokers

This is a further desperate appeal to all the smokers in our Club to make use of the ashtrays provided and not to throw their stompies in the flower pots or gardens. We will try to provide some form of receptacle outside the side door close to the tennis courts.

Gardens

Thanks to the Harvey Havenga's continued interest in and care of the gardens, our roses particularly should be quite spectacular this year. So think of him and his efforts when you come to the end of your cigarette!

Congratulations

To Pat and Margie Schluter on celebrating their 60 th wedding anniversary last week. There's a lovely picture of the two of them in this week's Constantiaberg Bulletin but why are you standing on a chair, Pat?

Useful bowling hints

In theory, on a perfect green the initial **direction** of delivery is the same for all lengths. In practice, it is recommended that you take slightly more grass on long ends. This is because the playing area near the ditch (the 3 metre area) is more trodden and therefore slicker than the rest of the green. The bowl will thus turn more and run faster in this area.

And finally ...

Clare Valley Vintners in South Australia are primarily known for their Pinot Blanc, Pinot Noir and Pinot Grigio wines. They have now developed a new hybrid grape that acts as an anti-diuretic. It is guaranteed to reduce the number of visits older people make to the bathroom each night. It is being marketed as – believe it or not - PINOT MORE!