



CONSTANTIA BOWLING CLUB

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FALCON DECEMBER 2014

November has seen significant achievements for our Club and its members. On the bowling front **Alan Lofthouse** and **Geoff Perrow** won the Western Province pairs, and this was after Alan was a beaten finalist in the WP triples earlier in the month. Not bad for a sexagenarian & a septuagenarian, the tablets must be working. Also in the men's pairs **Peter Harvey & Ian Saunders** plus **Neels Kotze & Tony Wilson** both reached the round of the last 16. I mentioned in last month's Falcon that **Moira Stanley**, **Lynda Nurrish**, **Joan Wedderburn-Clark** and **Petal Jones** were in the semi-final of the Sully Cup, trying to retain the trophy for Constantia. Well they made it through to the final but were beaten by a strong side from Durbanville. In the Ladies Pairs **Linda Nurrish** reached the last 16 and **Darryll Edwards** partnered by **Cheryl Saunders** plus **Moira Stanley** and **Linda Stringer** both reached the semi-final. Congratulations to all those players for the credit they have brought to our Club.

Congratulations are also given to the following members who have been selected by Western Province to represent them in two tournaments to be held in Worcester:

Men's Worcester Triangular tournament to be held on 13th & 14th December 2014:

Open Side **Neels Kotze**

B Side **Gary Roach**

Senior Side **Alan Lofthouse & Philip Finkelstein**

Ladies Inter-District tournament to be held in March 2015:

Open Side **Moira Stanley & Darryll Edwards**

B Side **Lynda Nurrish & Linda Stringer**

Senior Side **Flo George**.

Good luck and good bowling to all of those selected players.

We are fast approaching that time of year when Flag and Muter sides are being selected. In the past endless discussions are provoked once the selected teams are announced and as long as those discussions remain positive that's a healthy situation. It is when they become negative that problems arise and in extreme circumstances can result in members leaving our Club, often moving from the frying pan into the fire. Having played bowls for 35 years and having sat on many selection committees I thought I would use (or misuse) my position as Editor to express my own personal view of how the selection process works best.

Firstly the Selection Committee has to operate in an open way and be prepared to give honest answers about the decisions they reach to any member who asks for an explanation for a particular decision. It is better if these questions are fielded by the convenor, however if the committee operates in a structured way with each member in turn giving their opinion and the convenor summing up the collective opinions, then the process by which the decisions were made is clear and can be communicated by any selector to a member if asked. Members should be very selective in asking questions of the committee because if too many questions come from one source then that person is likely to be asked to make his or her self available to do the job. In my opinion the critical task of any selection committee is to gain the trust of the members and that is best achieved by individual selectors thinking very carefully before selecting themselves to play in teams where their inclusion is marginal. Once members believe in the integrity of their selectors few questions or problems will arise because it is generally understood that it is a difficult and subjective job to sit in judgement of your peers.

There are some fringe competitions that require selection but for our Selectors the Flag and Muter are their main task. There are any number of competitions throughout the season which members can enter in whatever groupings they choose but it is only the 9 Flag and 7 Muter games covering mid-January to late March where the Club asks members to put their Club first and themselves second. This would not appear to be too much to ask and with good team spirit and a collective will, we have the players to win the Premier Division of both competitions.

Below are further changes/adjustments to members contact details in our Club Handbook, please make the necessary alterations in your book:

Heather Cawood email address is heather.c@vodamail.co.za
Antonie Wilson email address is wilsonantonie@gmail.com
Joan Hitchins email address is joanhitchins@hotmail.co.za
Hector Minott email address is hector.minott@gmail.com

Ann & Mike Blacker have moved to PO Box 26, 7979 Noordhoek and their new home telephone number is 021 789 0041.

Maureen McLeod has loaded all members contact details onto her mobile phone and tells me that if any member with a phone compatible to hers requires the data transferred onto their phone then Maureen is happy to help and this would save a lot of input time.

From 27th February to 27th March 2015, on Friday evenings at 17h30 we are starting a Business League Action Bowls at Constantia and invitations to participate have been sent out. The formula is as follows:

Dress: You decide but it would be good to see you in your corporate colours

Shoes: Barefoot or flat shoes

Team: 3 people who are non-bowlers

Spectators: Yes please – bring family, friends, or colleagues to support you

Refreshments: Snacks included for players (Light meal will be also available for guests and players to buy on the night)

Entry fee: R90 per team per night (that's only R30 per player for the game and a plate of snacks!!)

Participating teams will (at no additional cost) be able to display their advertising banners around the green, and in the parking area.

Each week while relaxing in the clubhouse after the game, one team will have 3 minutes to market their business to the rest of the teams and to our club members and their guests.

All teams have the opportunity to display brochures and marketing material around the clubhouse.

Our thanks go to **Linda Elliott, Linda Stringer and Peter Cottrell** for their work in launching this new event.

The revised Jack Muller day will take place on 16th December 2014 (National Holiday) the format will be Triples, with three games of 15 ends. The ends will be split into 3 sets of 5 with 1 point per end, 2 points per set and 4 points for the game making 25 in all. We have received entries from 28 teams but should you still wish to enter please contact **Alan Lofthouse**, Geoff **Perrow** or myself. The entry fee is R300-00 per team and generous festive prizes will be given to the three teams scoring the most points on the day.

On the administrative side we have concluded and signed an Agreement of Association with K-Way VOB for a twelve month period that started on 1st November 2014. In short this allows them:-

Usage of our clubhouse facilities after their club runs, committee meetings, social functions, cloakrooms, storage (the back room in the flat), signage and notice boards

We held a cocktail party on 25th November to bring the two committees together and this initial contact of the full committees reinforced our belief that the arrangement we have concluded will be very beneficial to both clubs.

CBC members have been requested to extend a warm hand of welcome and hospitality to the runners.

The Men's notice board has been moved into their cloakroom. The poster of the Club Members of 2014 has been moved across the doorway. This provides the VOB club their own notice board and wall space.

Our problem with non-compliance to the Fire and Safety Regulations issued by the Fire Dept have now all been addressed. We have received a post inspection letter from the Fire & Safety Dept confirming that we have met the requirements and are now compliant.

The windows in the Men's toilets have been replaced with aluminium windows.

The bar has enjoyed a favourable spurt in takings with a VOB event, the Steak Evening and Flag Day so much needed revenue is being generated.

GREENS REPORT: DECEMBER 2014

Renovation:

The renovation of C Green is now complete. We have just less than two weeks to get it ready for Jack Muller Day on 16th December!

Availability:

A Green: For the rest of the week 1st to 7th December, we will continue to play and practice in a North-South direction to allow some bare patches on Rink 6 to cover over.

B Green: Will be groomed and cut to accommodate Tabs play this week on Wednesday and Saturday.

C Green: Ready for play on 16 December!

Feedback:

We continue to encourage constructive criticism of our greens in an attempt to improve their quality. They will be slow as we have opted to cut at 4mm until the grass cover is complete. We are also aware of the effect that the denser grasses on A Green are having on the line of the bowl. Our only remedy, on a Heinz green such as this, is to continue to groom the thicker mat aggressively twice a week.

Requests:

1. Practice; We will continue to switch the directions in order to avoid specific rinks being over-used.
2. Tabs: It will help if members, during Tabs, move the mat up and down the rink.

After many months, our Green keeper Henri's wife will be joining him in a few weeks time from the DRC. Henri has secured accommodation for the two of them but, other than a bed, has little else in the way of furnishings. If you have a spare something (linen, table, chair etc) which you are happy to pass on, please let Trevor Cleghorn or Terry Hepworth know.

During the month of November our newly upgraded web site www.constantibowlingclub.co.za received a total of 5500 hits from over 350 unique visitors, which is gratifying given the efforts we have made to improve the content.

On behalf of your Executive Committee we wish all our members a very happy Christmas and a healthy, safe and prosperous New Year.

John Perryman