



CONSTANTIA BOWLING CLUB

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FALCON MAY 2017

It is a bit after the event as I was away but **Keith Ingram** sent me the follow article for members.

“ARMY DAY”

Robbie Robertson memorial bowls day was a fun filled day of bowls, I trust enjoyed by all. We managed to raise R51,500.00 on the day for the benefit of Robertson House, for which they are tremendously grateful. This is made up of donations from some of John & my Corporate contacts (unfortunately they are getting fewer), the raffle table, the whisky raffle, the swindle boards, the auction and from some very generous members of our club.

Many thanks to all the Constantia members and some member's wives, who assisted John & I in all of the arrangements for the day. Our sincere thanks to all of you who so willingly contributed to the success of the day. Without you the day would not be possible. John & I trust that with your able assistance we will be able to hold this function for years to come. Robertson House is home to up to 20 Paraplegics of all races who require 24hr monitoring and our donation assists them tremendously in their day to day running costs.

John Stamper asked to have his report on the Constantia Classic Cheese and Wine Party included.

THE CLASSIC CHEESE AND WINE PARTY

The annual Classic Cheese and Wine Evening was held on 7 April 2017. This evening was sponsored by Personal Trust, with Gavin Ashwell in attendance.

We broke all previous records by selling 220 tickets to Club and VOB members and their friends.

The Draw for the lucky ticket holders was done and the wnniers were:

1st Prize: One case of Teachers Whisky **S.Hossek** (5 Thirtiers group)

2nd Prize: R1000 Voucher from Pick & Pay Plumstead **Felicia Pillay**

3rd Prize: One case of Craighall Red Wine **Louisa Veitch**

4th Prize: One case of Porcupine Ridge White Wine: **Peter Jerome**

5th Prize: R300 Voucher from Pick & Pay, Plumstead: **Chris Nurrish**

After the excitement of this Draw, the important draw for the Easter Fours was done by **Alan Lofthouse**.

The Raffle table was laden with lovely prizes and so, those who had not been winners of the big Draw, had a chance to take something home. Many thanks to the companies and club members who generously provided prizes.

The event was well attended with 150 people who enjoyed the wines on offer and the marvellous cheese table, laden with a delicious selection of cheese, pâtés, crudités, fruits, breads and crackers which Lyn Clark had organised and set out.

Thanks again to all our sponsors, and to the Classic team of **Alan Lofthouse, Nicky Parker, Lyn and Roy Clark, and John Stamper**, the auctioneer!

John Stamper has provided me with his report on the Tournament itself:

THE CONSTANTIA EASTER CLASSIC TOURNAMENT

The Tournament, sponsored by Perfect Delivery, which was held on 15 & 16 April this year attracted bowlers from as far away as Namibia, as well as a team from Worcester, and many local clubs, with 6 teams from our own club participating. The weather played its part to make the event probably the most successful Easter Classic held.

The 136 participants were treated to fantastic greens - special thanks for Terry Hepworth and his Greens Staff.

The competing players were highly complementary in their comments about how the event was managed – Well done and many thanks to **Alan Lofthouse** for all his efforts!

The Tournament was won by a team skipped by Daniel Loubser, with Robin Gibbs, Neil Stofberg and Nick Marais.

Lyn Clark did an outstanding job with her team of kitchen staff and members who helped throughout the two days. Thank you to them all and especially to Lyn, for sacrificing your own chance to play in the competition and for providing everyone with such a high standard of delicious food and tasty snacks.

The Raffle Table and Swindle Boards were extremely popular – thank you to **Barbara Pringle and Adriana Brown** who did a fantastic job in raising over R9000 for the Club.

The Bar takings exceeded all expectation all due to the hard work of **Nicky Parker** and his assistants, **Keith Van Swelm and Keith Ingram** who at times were run off their feet! Thank you to them all. **Roy Clark** ably assisted me in auctioning as many items as possible to raise extra funds too. Thanks, Roy for your help, and well done.

To all the members who contributed towards the day, in various ways, your Classic Committee appreciated your contributions to making this event such a great success.

We, as a Club, and especially the Classic Committee, are extremely grateful to all those companies who donated so generously towards the event and again, thank you to Perfect Delivery for being the main Sponsor. Please do support these companies as they have supported our Club.

BAREFOOT BOWLS

If you have been down to the club on a Friday afternoon lately you will have noticed a green full of very casual young people having fun. These jovial folks dressed very casually, not necessarily barefoot, are there as a response to our outreach to the local community to come and enjoy an evening of bowls at our club. Many are enjoying themselves so much that they continue playing into the dark.

So far seven have signed up as new playing members and more applications are expected in the next fortnight. Not only does this reflect the success of the outreach but it also serves to bring down the age profile at the club. Our Barefoot Bowls initiative leaders are **Peter and Linda Cottrell** who have been ably assisted by **Ian Rohrbart and Philip Meredith**. We are very proud of the contribution that you are making to bowls development at the club.

We cannot leave everything to the Cotties. It is now expected that other members will take these new members under their wing in a kind of mentorship role. Invite them into your team when playing in club or local tournaments. Even an afternoon of Tabs will do. The forthcoming winter Snowball will be a good opportunity as well. Speak to Peter or Linda who will happily make an introduction of a new member to you.

THE WINDS OF CHANGE

The winds of change and opportunities are blowing through the clubhouse. We need a few fresh new members on the Exco, with new ideas and energies. Some of us will be standing down at the end of July.

Chris Nurrish will shortly be calling for nominations for Exco members as well as any constructive proposals for consideration at the AGM. We also vote for Selection Committee members at the AGM. It is time for you to give this some thought and to discuss this with other members. Please watch the notice board.

We also need able and willing members to serve on the many sub-committees. Consider where you can make a useful contribution.

The above are the words of our President, **Peter Brown** who will be retiring at this year's AGM. I had the privilege of serving on the Exco for two of Peter's three years as President. He put up his hand to take on the job without an extensive background in bowls or bowls administration, but despite this he put his heart and soul into the job and served our Club with distinction. His calm manner coupled with a natural ability to manage people and situations, achieved a great deal in circumstances that were often difficult and frustrating. We must all hope that the sterling ground work he led, to try and build a working relationship with the municipality ahead of the renegotiation of our Lease at the end of 2019, will ultimately achieve an acceptable result.

This has without doubt been the year of distinction on the green for our Ladies Section, they have shown themselves to be the best team in Western Province by some margin. Since 2010-11 when

the separate positions of Lady and Men's President were merged, all the subsequent six Presidents have been men, as have the other two key administrative offices of Secretary & Financial Controller. As has quite rightly been pointed out to me once or twice since I started to publish the Falcon the Ladies Section is now a major force within the Club and not to be either underestimated or ignored. So, is it now the right time for a Thatcher, Merkel, Meir or perhaps better still a Michelle Obama to emerge from our powerful Ladies Section and take on the Presidency of our Club? I for one would like to see that happen.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

This has certainly been a season to remember for **Flo George**. Having won the WP Open singles, she then, along with **Cheryl Saunders, Laurie Keevy-Venter and Colleen Marshall**, won the WP Ladies mid-week and reached the quarter finals of the All Cape. To give you some idea of the bowling strength of our Ladies we provided three of the semi-finalists in the WP mid-week. Well done to all concerned.

In the Men's mid-week **Roy Clark** and his team reached the semi-final losing narrowly to a side from Goodwood.

CONSTANTIA MID-WEEK

Our Personal Trust International sponsored Mid-week tournament starts on Friday 19th May 2017, and at the time of writing this publication we have 34 entries out of a maximum of 36 that we can accommodate. What we would like now are a few raffle prizes to be donated by members to avoid us having to buy prizes out of our entrance fees. I thank you in advance of your generosity? John Stamper has helped me a lot to boost the entry numbers and I thank him on behalf of the Club for his perseverance.

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONALS

The Ladies Nationals are being held in Cape Town this year and we are one of the Clubs selected to host rounds of the singles and fours up to the quarter/semi-final stage after which the subsequent matches will be played at Durbanville. The fours take place on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th May and the singles on Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th May 2017. All matches to start at 9-30am We have **Taz Bright, Linda Elliott, Colleen Marshall, Laurie Keever-Venter and Cheryl Saunders** playing singles at our green so it would be nice if as many members as possible come along to support them. Peter Brown is looking for volunteer markers for the two singles days. This only needs to cover the first round matches after which those players who are knocked out are expected to act as markers for subsequent matches. Will volunteers please call Peter on 021 761 1087 or 0828072677.

With apologies in advance to any members with close ties to countries on mainline Europe I saw the following report re alert levels for terrorism:

In light of the recent events in Korea, the French government announced yesterday that it has raised its terror alert level from "Run" to "Hide." The only two higher levels in France are "Collaborate" and "Surrender." The rise was precipitated by a recent fire that destroyed France's white flag factory, effectively paralyzing the country's military capability.

The English are also feeling the pinch in relation to recent events in Korea and have therefore raised their security... level from "Miffed" to "Peeved." Soon, though, security levels may be raised yet again to "Irritated" or even "A Bit Cross." The English have not been "A Bit Cross" since the blitz in 1940 when tea supplies nearly ran out. Terrorists have been re-categorised from "Tiresome" to "A Bloody Nuisance." The last time the English issued a "Bloody Nuisance" warning level was in 1588, when threatened by the Spanish Armada.

The Scots have raised their threat level from "F*ck Off" to "Let's get the B*st*rds." They don't have any other levels. This is the reason they have been used on the front line of the British army for the last 300 years.

Italy has increased the alert level from "Shout Loudly and Excitedly" to "Elaborate Military Posturing." Two more levels remain: "Ineffective Combat Operations" and "Change Sides."

The Germans have increased their alert state from "Disdainful Arrogance" to "Dress in Uniform and Sing Marching Songs." They also have two higher levels: "Invade a Neighbour" and "Lose."

Belgians, on the other hand, are all on holiday as usual; the only threat they are worried about is NATO pulling out of Brussels.

The Spanish are all excited to see their new submarines ready to deploy. These beautifully designed subs have glass bottoms so the new Spanish navy can get a really good look at the old Spanish navy.

Australia, meanwhile, has raised its security level from "No worries" to "She'll be alright, Mate." Two more escalation levels remain: "Crikey! I think we'll need to cancel the barbie this weekend!" and "The barbie is cancelled." So far, no situation has ever warranted use of this final escalation level

John Perryman

Editor