

The Falcon: April 2018

Developments

Council: Four or five years ago the Council arranged for the cutting down of the trees and poisoning of the stumps along the eastern border of our greens. These trees were giving too much shade in winter, retarding the grass growth. A follow up to this involved removal of the roots and levelling of the area. A shortage of funds in the budget led to the project being placed on a "to do" list. Since then we have continued on a regular basis to remind Council of the "unfinished business". We can now record that the roots have been removed and paving of the parking area is being done.

Council had also promised to replace the gate adjacent to our new borehole facility. This is also being done right now. We wish to express our thanks to Gavin Esterhuizen, Candice Bossr and David Dunn of CTCC for their influence in seeing that these projects were carried out.

In-house: Thanks once again to our sponsors, two new sliding windows in the Clubhouse have been installed overlooking B green.

Flag

Since the last issue of the Falcon, the Flag season has come, for Constantia, to a disappointing close. The best performing team has been the 4th team, playing in the 3rd Division. Their performance justified the selectors' decision to enter a 4th team, thus giving a number of new bowlers valuable Flag experience.

Selectors' Review

A comprehensive report on the past Flag season has just been received from the Selectors. This will be included in next months' issue of The Falcon.

What its all about

This is an extract from an email sent at the conclusion of Flag to one of the Skips.

"While our team did not do very well, I so enjoyed playing the whole season under your guidance, and I am sure the rest of the team felt the same. You have a lovely manner and never seem to get upset when you go up to the mat and the rest of the team is nowhere. This last Flag season was probably my most enjoyable purely because of your leadership and attitude."

WPBA matters

At the recent WP Council meeting, it was decided that the make-up of Flag teams for the 2019 season will follow that of the Muter teams. That means there will only be 8 players to a team, instead of the 12. How this will affect promotion and relegation is not clear at the moment. It would also appear that the splitting of a division into two sections will be discontinued. This will increase the number of Divisions in Flag.

WP Competitions

All WP competitions, with the exception of the Champion of Champions and the Novices Singles have been cancelled for this season. This is due to the fact that the drought conditions resulted in too few greens being available to adequately host the competitions.

Club competitions

Congratulations to Darryll Edwards for winning the Ladies Club Singles. In the final she beat Flo George 21-9

The Open Men's' Singles has reached the semi-final stage.

Events

From Heather comes the following:

"A huge big THANK YOU to all who attended the "Family Day" on 21st March. Without your support the day would not have been the huge success that it was. Really special thanks must go to Hilary Jonson who took over the running of the day at VERY short notice. Without Hilary, the day could have been a disaster! Thanks also to Lyn Liebenberg and Colleen Marshall for handing out bowls and registering players and to John Stamper for the donation of prizes. All feedback has been extremely positive and those who participated were probably part of a world first in the game of "Back to Front Bowls!" Upcoming Events include a Trivia Evening (13th April), another Fun Day on May 1st, and a Donkey Derby on the eve of the Durban July.

Also scheduled is this year's Photo Competition. Following the success of the 2017 "Baby Competition" and the enormous interest this generated, I'll be launching a "Match the Pairs" competition in May. The format this year will be to match Parents to Children or Grandparents to Grandchildren. Start looking for your photos in

order to enter! I'll need a photo of yourself (a more or less recent one!) as well as a photo of the "child" you will be matched to. This can be a recent or an old photo – whatever will get the rest of the club guessing!! The Grand Finale and Reveal is being planned (date to be confirmed). I'd like to appeal for volunteers to assist with the Donkey Derby which will be held on Friday 6th of July. I especially require the services of someone with some experience or knowledge of the horse betting industry. Also required is a volunteer or volunteers to make 6 racing bibs for the jockeys (someone with sewing skills?) Finally, if anyone has any experience of running such an event – please make yourself known to me!

As always – watch the Events Notice Board and your Inbox for more information!"

And, as always, Heather, thanks for all the fun ideas.

Heather has also asked for us to include this letter of thanks from St. Joseph's Home.

Good Day Heather

We wish to thank you most sincerely for selecting to support St Joseph's Home. Thank you for the variety of stuff you donated to our kids. I can assure you that we add great value to your kind donation.

It is our mission to give the children at St Joseph's the best possible care and it is only with your help that we are able to continue to fulfil this important task. Thank you for being part of our dreams and vision to improve the lives of the children in our care, giving them a second chance at childhood.

Personal Trust Cheese and Wine

Make a note of the date; Friday 8 June. Tickets at R50 pp from Roy Clark or John Stamper. I need not remind you that events organized by this team are top-quality. Add to that the fact that prizes, with a case of whisky as the first prize, are also on offer.

Bridge

From the middle of this month, our Clubhouse will be the venue for the twice-weekly activities of the Silver Valley Bridge Club. They will meet on Monday and Friday mornings. This is in accordance with our policy to maximize the utilization of our facilities without infringing on normal Club activities.

Autumn Trips

The Personal Trust Midweek Trips commences on 18 April. This is being run by John Stamper and Geoff Perrow. The popularity of this event is

confirmed by the fact that the competition is already fully subscribed (38 teams).

Missing Jacks

It used to be pens and pencils that enjoyed a limited life span at our Club. Now its jacks. We need 19 jacks for the upcoming Midweek Competition. At last count we had 16. If you took one back home in error after a practice session, please let us have it back.

Sunday Trips

In a praiseworthy attempt to revive Sunday bowls at the Club, Graeme McCleod and Graham Barker have conspired to arrange a Trips Competition over three Sundays, starting on 8 April. 12 teams have confirmed their participation.

Depending on the success of this initiative, the concept can be expanded later in the year to include more teams.

Greens

Two Tuesdays back, we got feet on the B Green for the first time. The picture on the last page shows those who took part in the initiation of the green. Comments were generally favourable, with the speed of the green being surprisingly good. We closed it the following day as the surface was a bit sensitive, but it will come into play again on Tuesday 10 April.

Etiquette

Some further points on bowls etiquette.

If you need to leave the rink during play for any reason, it is courteous to obtain your opponent's consent. Courtesy also requires that you let your Skip know what you're doing.

If you are unhappy with your Skip's call (changing your hand etc), communicate your concern (there may be a short bowl that looks like its in the way) but do not argue. Disagreeing with the Skip shows a lack of confidence in his/her tactical ability and this can affect team harmony.

It is a courteous gesture for the Second of the team playing first, to place his Third's bowl on or next to the mat.

Avoid carrying on running commentaries as each bowl makes its way to the head. It is considered unsporting behaviour to comment negatively on your opponents' bowls – as well as your own team's?

Speeding up play.

We referred in the previous Falcon to ways of speeding up play. A number of members have asked us to repeat item 3, as it is still being practised by too many of our players.

3. Those walking down to the other end should walk clear of the centre line and as quickly as possible, thus allowing the jack to be thrown.

Membership

On Saturday afternoon (24 March) there was a great turnout of 55 players, with the emphasis being on integrating all our new bowlers into the Club. Maureen McLeod welcomed all the new bowlers, many of whom had already been taken up in Flag and Muter teams. The established bowlers were asked to ensure that those new to bowls were not abandoned on the sidelines but absorbed into all local events.

Comment (from members)

A wise old Lead was heard to remark that a courteous Skip would refrain from tossing the mat behind the players bags at the completion of an end. This is not fair to the ladies or older men who have to scramble over the bags to retrieve the mat.

John McMillan

When you find it difficult to carry two or three heavy bowls down to the green, and you can't lift

your woods without some help, and tea time can't come fast enough, and you're wondering whether its time to call it a day, think of John McMillan, and you cannot help being inspired. Early next year, John will turn 90. Born in London, he served in the Royal Navy. In 1967 he came to South Africa. He took up bowls at Constantia 27 years ago. I do not exaggerate when I tell you that he still plays a great game of bowls. He has an impressive array of "scalps" on his belt. Equally relevant is that he is such a pleasure to play with. While he had indicated a preference for playing in the Friendly League, when the Selectors asked him to Skip one of the Flag teams, he obliged, being one of the successful "Fighting Fourths". Keep going, John.

And finally ...

With the cost of living rising dramatically, perhaps the following needs to be trundled out again. "A bargain is something you don't need at a price you can't resist". "Materialism is buying things that we don't need with money that we don't have, to impress people that don't matter".

