

The Falcon: February 2018

Introduction

The biggest news, announced by Neels two Fridays ago, is that a local developer is keen to convert our existing Clubhouse into a multi-purpose Cultural and Sports facility. It is only in the conceptual stage right now and much water will flow under the bridge before it becomes a reality. However, there is much merit in the proposal, as it could provide Constantia with a venue suitable for concerts, exhibitions et al while allowing the Bowls and Running Clubs to continue to function unimpeded. The Club's name will not be affected by the proposed development.

VOB Support

We wish to thank our Clubhouse partners, VOB, for their generosity in contributing to a number of projects. They have recently donated R10 000 to the installation of TVs and DSTV, and a further R10 000 to the provision of an indoor braai facility. Your support is much appreciated.

Flag and Muter

The Muter teams have got off to a reasonable start to the season but will have to perform much better if they wish to emulate last season's outstanding accomplishments.

Not so good regarding the Flag teams, where none of our teams are occupying positions higher than halfway in their respective leagues! But there are still 5 games to be played, so here's hoping!

Saturday Tabs

A reminder that Bergvliet Bowling Club has offered to accommodate our members in their afternoon tabs on Saturdays 17 and 24 February.

WP Competitions

Congratulations to the following members who performed well in the Mixed Pairs:

Liz Hudson and Carl Marshall; Darryll Edwards and John Blight (last 32)

Alan Lofthouse and Colleen Marshall; Peter Cottrell and Linda Stringer: (last 16)

Peter Harvey and Cheryl Saunders; (last 8)

Booking rinks

Not quite sure how we get this message across. There is ample space for Bounce Games and Club Competitions throughout the week. But writing it down in the book and expecting the green to be prepared is going to lead to disappointment. Please give me a shout so that I can adjust the weekly programme to accommodate your request.

Events

Another highly successful and well attended Trivia Evening, masterminded by Heather Cawood, took place last Friday. Well done, once again, Heather.

The next item on our Social calendar is the Wine and Cheese Tasting, scheduled to take place on Friday 23 February. Please note the date in your diary. More details later.

And a reminder of the Family Day scheduled for Wednesday 21 March, starting with Tabs at 09:00. Watch the Notice Board.

Finally, thanks to all the members who made donations to the St Josephs Childrens' Home for chronically ill children. You have brought some joy into the lives of these children.



The Duck

It embarrasses me that the Duck has been found, where it always resided, in the cupboard. Lynn Clark found it and thought it necessary to remind

me that men are clueless when it comes to looking for anything!

Now that it has returned, please prepare to be fined for the mildest transgressions on, and off, the green!

Greens

A Green: Feedback on the running of this green has been generally positive. Now that Neels has chopped down the two Brazilian Peppers, we will poison the stumps after which the invasive roots on the green should die. This will allow the rather scruffy southern margin of the green to recover.

Much of the wood from the trees has been chopped and stored which means “en nou gaan ons braai!”

B Green: This project has proved really worthwhile. Just eight weeks since planting, there is 95% coverage. We are cutting at 5 mm, just 1 mm higher than our established greens and are filling up any minor indentations. Our consultant, Mark Rist, hopes to hand over to us before the end of this month. That could mean that there will be feet – and bowls – on the green in March!

C Green: Our new Greens Assistant, Elvis, has been given C Green as his specific responsibility. I am sure that you will be impressed by the improving condition of this green.

We are experimenting with the banks by inserting PVC pipes which are intended to take the water (and fertiliser) down to the lower levels. We have started on B Green and will move to the northern bank of A green which is badly undercut.

Water restrictions

At the time of writing the Falcon, there is speculation that draconian measures are to be implemented which will affect the irrigation of greens in our District. It is not inconceivable that competitive bowls fixtures, following on from what has happened to cricket, softball and baseball in the District, may also be temporarily suspended. A meeting involving all stakeholders and the CTCC will have taken place on 6 February, after which Neels should be able to offer further clarification.

The Bar

Once again we record our thanks to those members prepared to offer their services behind the Bar. However, the limited number of members prepared to assist is shrinking and could lead down the line to other costly strategies being adopted to man the Bar.

The Bar Roster for the next few weeks is as follows:

8 – 14 Feb. Keith Ingram, Graham Barker, P.Trojan (VOB), Peter Harvey, Jet Clark

15 – 21 Feb. Peter Brown, A.Swanson (VOB), Chris Scaife, Craig Brown, Patrick McLaughlin

22 – 28 Feb. John Stamper, Peter Rogers, T. Corbett, Mike Patton, Dave Wayvell (VOB), Theresa Rennie (VOB)

1 – 7 March. Peter Smith, Butch Alexander, Chris Nurrish, Dianne Gilchrist (VOB), Sid Goncalves, Robin Bolten (VOB)

Comment

In an attempt to encourage input from members, we offer the following comments which have arisen recently:

1. What is home ground advantage in bowls? As most competent players are equipped to adapt to greens running in the 12.0 to 14.0 range, is it not something that comes into effect where a green is substantially faster, or slower, than these norms?
2. If Bowls involves more luck than a number of other sports, should the powers that be not be considering adaptations to the playing and scoring of the game. Look at the changes that have been introduced into rugby and cricket, and a number of other sports.
3. Our greens are horribly underutilised over the course of a season. Is there anything else which we should be doing/offering to attract more feet on the greens?

Taz Bright

That's an appropriate surname, Taz. Good to see you back at the Club and on the greens.

Any boating outings planned in the near future?

Blotto

It had to happen. With the pot standing at over R4000, along came Colleen Marshall to burgle it from in front of our eyes. Well not actually. She employed an agent to submit her numbers. To add insult to injury, her ticket won the consolation prize as well! Her agent has refused to discuss the commission he received. Well done Brett.

Cleaning up

A reminder to our members that their assistance in clearing up after tea and after bowls will continue to be appreciated. We would also like to report that on two occasions during the past month, one or two of our “soft” chairs have been left outside on the stoep. Could those wrapping up the evening’s activities, check this area before closing.

Etiquette

We intend to devote a little more time to this topic in the next issue of the Falcon. What we would like to reiterate right now is that there is a general understanding that when a WP fixture is allocated to a Club, that green on which the play is taking place “belongs” to WPBA. Club members may play on that green provided that they are in whites or Club Colours AND with the permission of the other players.

It is not our right to be allowed to play on that green. For the next three weeks, both functioning greens (A and C) will be used by WPCA and therefore appropriate dress is obligatory.

David Edwards

On Monday of this week members of our Club and that of Meadowridge gave David Edwards an appropriate send-off. David was extremely popular at both of the Clubs, making many good friends and sharing his humanity with all of us. We admired the manner in which he battled his illness, and have many fine memories which should keep his spirit alive.

Membership

Having written with enthusiasm in the past about the manner in which we make people welcome at this Club, we dropped the ball recently. Two very talented bowlers who had relocated from the Eastern Cape, and were looking for a new home, joined us for a number of Tabs outings. They made it clear that they were looking at a number of Clubs in the area before making up their minds. We arranged for them to collect Application Forms and meet with the relevant members who might process their applications. It didn’t happen, and we have lost an opportunity!

Ron Joubert

If you are considering disposing of your existing car, or might be looking for a good second-hand car, don’t forget to contact Ron. With years of experience in the industry, you are bound to get good advice from him.

And finally ...

Man to psychiatrist: “How do you select who should be admitted to this facility?”

Psychiatrist: “We fill a bath with water and then give each person a spoon, cup and bucket. Then we ask them to empty the bath.”

Man: “Ah, I understand. If you are sane, you use the bucket.”

Psychiatrist: “No. A sane guy would pull out the plug. Do you want a room with a balcony or without?”