

# The Falcon: March 2018

## Introduction

Much work has taken place at the Club since the last Falcon was issued. Thanks to Neels, CJ and Carl Marshall, the Rolls Royce of a twin indoor braai has been installed and the surrounding areas tiled. With sausages being sponsored by Neels and Carl this past Friday, the braai was put to the test and declared a roaring success!

If any member has braai tongs, folding braai grids or braai gloves to donate, please let the Braaimaster (Neels) know.

Repairs to the roof have taken place under the guidance of Butch Liebenberg. We have watched in amazement, and appreciation, as Butch has slaved away on the top of the roof in the heat of the day. Thanks for your efforts Butch. When the rains eventually arrive, there is a good chance that the indoor bar won't turn into an indoor pool, as has happened in the past.

Thanks to Ciel, Butch and Lyn, Mark Vadas and Tony Kandan, the store room (cage) has been fitted out with new shelving.

The carpets in the Club, and the chairs, have been cleaned by a team of workers which once again included Tony Kandan. Thanks for your commitment Tony.

On the subject of chairs, we are indebted to Maureen and Graham McLeod for their generous sponsorship of 16 new chairs to replace the tired cane chairs.

Further thanks go to Harbour Bay Village, represented by Bruce and Anton, for their sponsorship of the Club. More details of this development in Glencairn will be made available soon.

Also thanks to our main sponsors, Warwick Wealth, for their contribution to the Cheese and Wine Tasting that took place two Fridays back.

## Flag and Muter

While not scaling the heights of last season's performance, the ladies have once again done us, and themselves, proud. The Premier team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> to Durbanville, the B team finished 6<sup>th</sup> in a section where Meadowridge have won promotion to the Premier Division for the first time, and the C Team finished a creditable 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Well done, ladies!

Regarding the Flag Teams, the results this year have been disappointing. With one round to go, two of our teams are propping up their respective sections. As a Club, we appear to have fallen behind slightly. Whatever has caused this, we need to use the post-Flag period to determine how we can prepare better for the competitive season next year.

## Commitment

Long before teams were entered for Flag, the Selectors asked members to commit to Flag and Muter for the duration. As the season draws to an end, it is gratifying to report that withdrawals decreased dramatically from last year.

## Friendly League

Pat Schluter's commitment to the local Friendly League is total. So we were delighted when he arrived at the Club on Saturday evening with the trophy tucked under his arm. Even more appropriate was the fact that with the score tied at 14-14 playing the last end, Pat drew the winning shot. Well done Pat. And well done to Guy Orsmond, Ron Joubert and Mark Vadas who were in Saturday's team.

## WP Midweek

Only one of our teams, Men and Ladies, won their section to progress to the play-offs. Well done to Flo George, Cheryl Saunders, Laurie Keevy-Venter and Colleen Marshall and good bowling in the next round on Wednesday 7 March.

## **WP Competitions**

With the drought affecting so many of our greens, it looks unlikely that there will be adequate space for the holding of the WP Singles this year.

## **Army Day**

Thanks to the sterling efforts of a team led by Keith Ingram and John Stamper, another highly successful Army Day was celebrated last Friday. 28 teams participated and together with their sponsors contributed to the raising of approximately R60 000 towards the upkeep of Robertson House. With a third green becoming available for next year's event, it is hoped that we can attract greater participation and thus continue to support this really worthwhile project.

For me the highlight of the day was watching the world-renowned, multi-lingual wine connoisseur and auctioneer extorting monies from his amused but very willing audience!

## **Events**

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

## **Autumn Trips**

The Personal Trust Midweek Trips is scheduled to take place over five weeks, commencing on 18 April and wrapping up on 15 May. This is being run by John Stamper and Geoff Perrow. The entry list will be going up on the board fairly soon.

## **Greens**

*A Green:* As happens every year when the grass growth slows down, this green really comes into its own. It is running well at the moment – too well according to some of our members! Add that one to the list!

*B Green:* Last Monday, our Turf Consultant Mark Rist “handed over” the green. The development of this green has surpassed his wildest dreams. Three months from planting to playing is not only great for us, but it also sends out a message to other Clubs that the total renewal of a green

need not take a green out of action for an extensive period.

We hope to get feet on the green in the next two weeks.

*C Green:* This green continues to provide us with a better than reasonable playing surface. We will attempt over the next few months to cut into the nap to combat the narrow hand which this green has presented in an E-W direction for so many years. 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**

While the National Department of Water Affairs has yet to rule on the use of boreholes and well points, the Council has asked us to attempt to limit our borehole use to two days a week and preferably before 10:00 in the morning.

With Day Zero being pushed out to July, we are all hoping that it will not be necessary to further restrict the use of borehole water.

Sadly the shutdown on the use of municipal water has claimed a number of victims. Fresnaye have had to close their green until matters improve, and are using Gardens Bowling Club as their temporary home base. A number of other Clubs are on the verge of following a similar route.

## **The Bar**

As suggested in the previous Falcon, the shrinking number of members prepared to work behind the Bar has led to the appointment of a temporary/permanent barman. Siphon Chirwa, of Malawian descent, is operating on a trial basis as of 17 February. He is contracted to work 26 hours a week. He has settled in quite quickly.

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

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

8 – 14 March. Tony Kandan, Bobby Boniface, Graham McLeod, Clem Douglas, Thomas Andrews (VOB)

15 – 21 March. Trevor Kieswetter, Conrad Greer, Jenny Wade, Alan Hurford, Ian Nixon (VOB), Gary Casagrande

22 – 28 March. Graeme Elliott, Philip Meredith, Jeremy van Zyl, Rudy Horn-Botha, Mel Lotz (VOB)

### **Exco parking**

Members of the Bowling Club and VOB Running Club are asked to respect the reserved parking area at the side of the Clubhouse. Members of Exco give much of their time to the Club and the reserved parking is their sole reward. The duty barman and Greenkeeper also have reserved parking spots.

### **Members' Book**

Those members who paid R10 as part of their annual subscriptions and would like this refunded, please approach Chris Scaife for a refund. The Members' Book has been distributed electronically to all members but should any member who has paid for a book and would prefer a printed copy, please contact Chris Nurrish who will print one for you.

### **Comment**

We asked a number of questions in the February Falcon.

#### *1. What is home ground advantage in bowls?*

Feedback suggests that the drought has exacerbated the home ground effect. The inability to irrigate has resulted in patchy surfaces, or lightning quick greens, or surfaces resembling more beach than green. Under the circumstances we have accepted that there is little one can do about this, but it can be quite

difficult for the visiting team to adapt to these conditions.

A sense of humour is useful. I heard this morning that the Skip of a home side, playing on his desert, asked his third to "take a little more sand!"

*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.*

Two viewpoints have emerged from chatting to both our members and those from other Clubs. The first suggests that the longer format of 21 ends still offers the fairest way in which to determine the deserving winner. The second, interesting comment came from another Club where it was felt the 4-3-2-1 scoring (10 points per end) helped to reduce the luck factor where a running shot, wicking off a winger, settles in for shot

*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?*

No suggestions forthcoming to date.

### **Further comment**

A number of newer members have pointed out the relative absence of development activities in the Club – opportunities for them to hone their skills via coaching, squad training and mentorship programmes. This has been referred upwards for consideration.

### **And more comment**

The Flag/Muter season is an opportunity for individuals to gain recognition within their Clubs and for teams representing their Clubs to pit themselves against graded opposition. It is the competitive period of the year. Yet year after year, in many of our Clubs, it seems to generate unhappiness and discontent, occasionally leading to members looking for "new pastures".

The nine-week period is over, the wailing wall has been demolished, and the Selectors are now back

on our Christmas card lists. Clubs can settle back to normality. But – wouldn't it be great if, for just these nine weeks, we could put our egos on hold!

### **Otto Krepelka**

I received a call from Otto a few days back. He has been suffering from a serious groin injury which has kept him away from Bowls. He told me quite emphatically that we should not write him off and that he would soon be back!

### **Bobby Boniface**

The noise level in the Club has been ramped up by the return of Bobby Boniface after his very successful hip injury. If your life is a bit humdrum and you're looking for something different, find a chair near him in the Bar area. We can guarantee that it should not take long before you are involved in contentious discussion and, with a bit of luck, you may even be insulted! It's good for the soul.

### **Etiquette**

Bowls is a sport that is noted for the friendliness, sociability and good sportsmanship of its participants. In order to maintain this reputation, new bowlers particularly need to know what is expected of them.

Over the next few months, we will highlight a few suggestions.

1. While the Thirds are measuring, stand back from the head. Show an interest in the result without making comments or interfering.
2. Don't make an adverse remark when the opponents get a good result through a fluke. Likewise, when your own team flukes a shot, don't shout "well played".
3. Don't obscure the boundary markers (white pegs). Many players are taught to take grass using the pegs as a basic point of reference.

### **Speeding up play.**

There are a number of ways in which we can all speed up play.

1. At the completion of the end, if there is doubt regarding the shot, the Thirds should get down and measure immediately.

2. Once the decision has been made, the Lead should pick up the jack and set the mat while the rest kick the bowls.

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**

Welcome to Jenny Nel and Benjy Gopal who have joined us recently. They have both taken very little time in integrating in the activities of the Club.

### **Tuesday morning Tabs**

There have been very good turnouts over the past month. We are hoping to run the popular "Sixes" tournament again this year. Details will follow in the next Falcon.

### **Henri**

If you see a wider than normal smile on Henri's face these days, it's because wife Christelle produced a son for him a few days back.

### **Cashtration**

Readers of the Washington Post were asked to invent new words. One of them came up with the word "cashtration" and the definition which says "this is the act of buying (or building) a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time".

### **And finally ...**

For our VOB partners.

"I've decided to run a marathon for charity. I didn't want to do it at first but apparently it's for blind and disabled kids so I have a good chance of winning!"