

The Falcon: May 2018

Introduction

The main item must surely be the welcome rain that we experienced last week. Since 2014, the rainfall figures have declined steadily, resulting in the drought crisis. We recorded 20mm at the Club last Monday and 30mm on Wednesday. If forecasts are reliable, this may be the start of an old-fashioned winter! Let's hope so for all the local sporting associations (and particularly the Bowls Clubs) which have had to curtail their programmes and, in some cases, cancelled them entirely.

From the Mens' Selectors

"Unless one has the blinkers on, this past Flag season has been on the cards for some time. Following the "call to arms" meeting held before the start of Flag we, as selectors, were encouraged by the members' positive response, to the extent that we were able to enter four teams in Flag. Another positive was the new band of younger members who joined and it was encouraging to see them practising hard, performing well and enabling us to select them in the 2nd side.

But there is no point in candy coating the obvious. Our competitive members are aging and this over a period of time has resulted in our 2nd and 3rd sides being relegated. This is a bitter pill to swallow but as selectors we believe we put out the best team selections we could.

The 1st team started poorly and never recovered and with our 2nd and 3rd sides battling we were limited in choices to strengthen the side.

The real shining light was our 4th team which was made up of many members who in the past would have preferred to play in the Southern Peninsula League. Well done lads, take a bow.

Congratulations must go to our victorious Friendly League teams, one of which brought the trophy home!"

(The message underlines the need for each one of us to actively campaign to attract new bowlers to the Club).

From the Ladies' Selectors

Firstly, congratulations to all of you for your commitment to the game and the spirit in which you played it. We have seen a vast improvement in our ladies as a whole, mainly due to practice and compatibility.

The 3rd team that the selectors chose to enter in the 1st Division knew that this division was tough but met the challenge head on. Under the guidance of Joan Wedderburn- Clarke and Petal Jones, this team grew in leaps and bounds, finishing 6th and therefore staying in 1st Division. Thanks to all the reserves (Inga, Judith, Louisa and Maureen) who stood in without hesitation even when required to travel to Gordons Bay and the Strand.

The 2nd team performed well, finishing 3rd overall. Cheryl Saunders was given the responsibility of skipping one of the sides, to give her experience for the Inter Districts.

The Premier side finished second to Durbanville. This was probably influenced by our picking up only 4 points away to Old Oak while Durbanville, at home against Old Oak, scored 11 points. That's the luck of the draw!

Thanks to Maureen McLeod and Louisa Veitch who managed administration and recording of the results.

Club Competitions

The semi-finals of the Mens' Open Singles took place on Tuesday with Graham McLeod winning against Alan Lofthouse and Peter Harvey getting the better of Peter Cottrell.

Sunday bowls

The Sunday Trips ended last week with Roy and Lynn Clark and Carl Marshall winning the 3 week event. In the absence of Roy and Lynn during the Masters, Vince Taylor and Clem Douglas stood in, and kept the ship on course.

Graham Barker and team finished second, Chris Scaife and team third and Ciel Brandt and her team fourth.

Tea on the last day comprised bacon and scrambled eggs organised by Peter Cottrell and prepared by the kitchen staff.
Thanks to Geoff Perrow for his donation of wine.

On Sunday 13 May the 3-wood pairs commences. Once again we congratulate the two Grahams for reinvigorating Sunday bowls. The list is filling up quickly, evidence of the fact that members are enjoying the opportunity for organised Sunday bowls. But Graham is hoping to fill two greens, so please enter as soon as possible.

Constantiaberg

This coming Sunday, Constantia plays hosts to the annual Constantiaberg event, involving teams from our neighbours Bergvliet, Meadowridge, Plumstead and ourselves. This is an all day event.

WPBA Events

Masters: Our Club was well represented in the recent Masters by the following: Taz Bright, Lynn Clark, Darryll Edwards, Flo George, Laurie Keevy-Venter, Liz Maisel, Colleen Marshall, Cheryl Saunders, Moira Standley, Linda Stringer, Roy Clark, Peter Harvey and Alan Lofthouse.

13 Constantia members out of a total field of 72 gives a reasonable indication of the strength in the Club, particularly among the ladies.

The outstanding achievement was recorded by Lynn Clark who beat Denise Vermeulen in the final of the Senior Ladies.

WP Ladies Midweek: In the final held at Gardens Bowling Club, after a series of postponements, our team struggled in the wet conditions and eventually had to be satisfied with the Runners Up Cup. Nevertheless, congratulations to Flo George, Cheryl Saunders, Laurie Keevy-Venter and Colleen Marshall on their achievement.

Mens' All Cape

At the recently completed All Cape in East London, a Constantia team comprising Neels Kotze, Paul Goldacre, Graham McLeod and Ian Rohtbart came second in their section, thus qualifying for the Plate play off which they lost by one shot to a Durbanville team.

The good news for future tournaments in the Border is that, with one exception, they found the greens of a good standard.

Club events

Trivia evening: Although not as well attended as previous times, those present enjoyed another slickly presented evening of fun organised by Heather Cawood.

Workers' Day was celebrated with a Family Fun morning of turnabout trips (and pairs) which filled B Green. Once again, Heather Cawood was at the organisational end of this event which was greatly appreciated.

A further reminder for you to enter the "Match the Pairs" event by sending pictures of yourself (taken during the past 5 years, if possible) and your children or grandchildren. The latter pictures could be recent, or a few years back, if you really want to test the observational skills of our members. The pics can be scanned and emailed to Heather or given to her as hard copy in which case she will copy and return to you.

Personal Trust Cheese and Wine: This takes place on Friday June 8. There has been a slow response to what we know is usually a most enjoyable evening, so please get your tickets from John Stamper or Roy Clark.

Sick bay

We are continually asked for information regarding Otto. According to Rusty, his hernia operation was a great success, he is without pain, and he has provided a verbal warning that he will soon be back on the greens. I know he will be welcomed back with much affection.

Eddie Curtis has not been too well over the past few weeks. Next week he will go into hospital for observation and possibly some surgery. We all wish you well, Eddie.

Greens

The recent rains and high humidity have resulted in an outbreak of Fairy Rings on A Green. These Type 3 rings are characterised by the appearance of mushrooms/toadstools. While these rings have no detrimental effect on the quality of the turf, and therefore the running of the bowl, they are really unsightly.

B Green has been introduced into play and, while it is slow (11,5 – 12) it is reasonably true.

C Green is running exceptionally well and has good grass cover.

Grounds

Improvements to the surrounds include the laying of slabs at access points, the refurbishment of the benches, and the proposed planting of trees along the southern border of A Green.

The Council has completed the paving of the public parking area adjacent to A green and also provided us with a security fence and gate to the yard area.

We are most grateful to Council for their continued cooperation, and to Trevor Cleghorn for liaising so effectively with them.

Packing away

While we are really grateful to those who religiously clean up after events, can we ask that you go one step further. On most afternoons, and many Sundays, the Greens Staff are off duty by the time bowls ends. It is therefore necessary, not only to stack the mats and jacks etc in the trolleys but also for someone to bring the trolleys in to the Rest Room.

Etiquette

One cannot over-emphasise the aspects of etiquette that make this wonderful game of ours so special. Chris Nurrish has provided the following which is an extract from material provided to participants at Level 1 Coaching Courses regarding the introduction of new bowlers to the game.

- Don't talk to your opponent's bowl, wishing a bad result. Talking to bowls from your own team can also be irritating when overdone.
- Avoid gamesmanship. It is just not sporting.
- Standing jack-level for a team member. Once the bowl has left the players' hand, move out of the head. Everyone is entitled to an unobstructed view.
- Do not stand in the head unless you are directing a shot.
- Stay away from the head when a technical official is called to measure.
- Show respect by not talking and keep out of a player's peripheral vision when they are on the mat.
- Don't complain after playing a bad shot. No one really cares why it happened!
- Acknowledge good bowls by an opposing player.

- Be humble in victory, gracious in defeat

More Club Competitions

With WPBA cancelling many competitions this year, an opportunity is afforded us of arranging more Club events. We have space in the Calendar, we have ample greens space, so it's up to the Competition Secretaries to come up with some ideas.

Harvey Havenga

This past Saturday, one of our newer members asked me who Hepworth was, as he was drawn to play with him. This got me thinking about the fact that we play year after year with our fellow members but, for some reason, seldom get to know much about each other.

The Tuesday and Wednesday bowlers know Harvey as an enthusiastic lead. Some of our members may know him as the person who looks after our gardens, and is now assisting on the greens. I know him as someone with a delightful sense of humour.

But do you know that Harvey was a single-handicap league golfer, took up running in his 40s, ran two Comrades and 10 Two Oceans, and climbed Kilimanjaro in his fifties (almost)?

Condolences

We extend our condolences to Petal Jones whose husband passed away earlier this week after a long illness.

And finally

I am indebted to Geoff Perrow for providing the source of this issues' quotes. They are contained in the publication "A Tad More Grass" compiled by Neville Odell. Can you identify with any of the following?

"If some bowlers gripped a knife and fork like they do their bowl, they'd starve to death".

"The older I get, the better I used to be".

"Competitive bowls is played mainly on a 14 cm rink, the space between your ears."

And then this bit of nonsense.

"History records that William Tell and his family were enthusiastic bowlers. However, all the League results over the years were destroyed in fires. Therefore, posterity will never know for whom the Tells bowled!"