



CONSTANTIA BOWLING CLUB

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FALCON FEBRUARY 2015

Last month will be remembered for the sad passing of Ronnie Clausen who died suddenly on 21st January. A celebration of Ronnie's life was held at the Club on Monday 26th January and the attendance was a testament to Ronnie's popularity amongst not only our members, but many other bowlers from clubs in our area. Moving tributes were given by both his children and Terry Hepworth, with the overriding message that Ronnie was a devoted family man and in both senses of the word one of life's gentleman. I played many Flag games with Ronnie when I first joined Constantia and he was, a very competitive bowler before his body started to let him down a bit in recent years. My lasting memory was Ronnie's ability to get the balance right between being competitive and being courteous to ones opponents, sadly it is still a work in progress as far as I am concerned. He will be missed but not forgotten.

I have been loading all the selections and results for Flag and Muter matches onto our web-site and trying to make the information available as early as possible. After a slow start I am now getting the necessary details from the convenors of selection and the team captains so by Sunday evening all the previous day's results should be viewable and the selections by the day after the meetings. I hope this information is useful to members and we will see an increase in the numbers visiting our site. For January 2015 we had 5173 visits to our web-site from 405 different sources. I am going overseas from 14th February until the 16th March and Kevin Pattenden has agreed to take on the updating of our web-site in my absence so could the convenors and captains please note to send the results and selections through to Kevin for the matches to be played on 14th and the selections to be made on 16th February 2015. This handover will run to the end of this Flag & Muter season and Kevin's E-mail address is kevin.pattenden@capetown.gov.za

After the first three weeks of Flag & Muter our ladies teams are doing fine with the C team top of their division and our B side in second place only 2 points behind the leaders. Our Premier Division team are mid table but only 6 ½ points behind Durbanville who are top and we still have to play against them. The position of our mens teams is going to exercise the minds of our selectors as our Premier side are at the bottom of their division after a bad result at Milnerton on Saturday. The scoring system does punish teams that loose sets even by the narrowest of margins. We lost by one shot on one rink after a tied first set but the points are 1-5 because of that one shot. A similar situation on another rink where we lost by 5 shots after a tied first set and again the points are 1-5. This first past the post puts a big premium on winning the crucial ends but all is not lost as Milnerton went from second last to fourth with this one good win. We must hope that **Alan Lofthouse** is fit to return this Saturday as his intimidating presence on the green should boost our side and worry our opposition. Its early days yet but who would have thought WPCC & Glen would suffer the humiliation of being relegated from the Premier Division, but they were and it could happen to us. We obviously need to improve and a home game against Camps Bay this Saturday should give us a big chance to kick-start our season.

Of our other three sides our C team are our best performing side in fourth place on 28 ½ points but our B & D teams are both 8th in their divisions on 21 & 19 points respectively. By a quirk of the fixture list all four of our men's sides are at home this Saturday so we must fight hard to improve all our positions. At the time of writing this Falcon I have no idea what our men's selectors are going to do but I do not envy them their task.

In the WP mixed pairs we did well by getting 10 pairs through to the knock-out stage but only two of those pairs were able to progress into the round of the last 16. Congratulations to **Neels Kotze & Linda Stringer** and **Roy & Linda Clark**. I hear through the stop press that Roy & Linda are through to the semi-final to be played next Sunday at Atlantic BC starting at 09.15hrs. **Joan Hitchens** has also got through to the semi-final playing with Joel Roebert and we wish her well as she is not playing against Roy & Linda in her semi-final.

Also in January two teams from Constantia rushed off to Hermanus, after playing in WP mid-week, to play in the annual Ayala Tournament and then rushed back after two days of intense bowling to play in the Flag on Saturday. A lot of top bowlers play in this tournament and our "social" team" of **Tim-Ross Thompson, Clem Douglas, John Stamper** and myself half expected to just make up the numbers as we did last year. However some lessons were learned from the previous year, firstly it's a big mistake to drink too much in the evening when you have to play 3 games the next day and secondly you need to check the side effects of medicine that can cure one problem and cause another. When treatment for gout gives you serious diarrhoea the journey to the toilet becomes a choice between painful hopping and something much

worse. This year we were all fit and won our first five matches including beating a team from Durbanville skipped by Roly Maggott. He was not amused but we won by over 10 shots. Sadly the last match was one too many against a team from Caledon who were about half our age and although we only lost by 3 shots the scoring system was such that we only managed 6 points which dropped us down from second to fifth. It was good fun and thanks to John Stamper for organising the food and the accommodation. A plumbing problem saw lots of chaps with towels in hand wandering about this very large house to find the working showers It reminded me of Butlins Holiday Camp in the 60's when communal baths were the only option. The unattractive spectacle of shuffling bodies a little past their prime with towels in hand was mitigated by not having such good eyesight as back in the swinging sixties. Our other side have asked that I do not mention their names or how they got on.

The WP Midweek competitions finished the round robin stage and we have 3 teams through to the KO stage. **Graham Barker, Eddie Curtis, Terry Hepworth & Ronnie Carmichael** plus **Ghanie Pick, John Perryman, Philip Meridith & Chris Nurrish** in the men's and **Moira Stanley, Lynda Nurrish, Linda Clark & Linda Stringer** in the Ladies. Well done to all concerned. **Western Province have just changed their calendar for the KO stage which now starts on Wednesday 11th February for men and a week later on 18th for Ladies.** We wish these teams further success in this competition.

A Steak Evening is being arranged for Friday 6th February 2015, to raise money for our Trust Fund that is used to help with player's expenses when travelling to play in National competitions. Tickets are R70-00 each which includes a succulent Salad, caramelised baby potatoes and a 300g Steak plus dancing to a live band. Members and their friends who do not buy tickets for the evening are expected to pay a minimum of R30-00 each to enjoy the dance. Tickets can be purchased from **Neels Kotze, Peter Cottrell or Moira Stanley.**

GREENS REPORT: FEBRUARY 2015

The grass cover on A and B Greens is not as good as we would have hoped. The southern margin of A Green (shade from the encroaching trees?) and parts of B Green have not yet fully knitted. We will continue to string these sections to give them time to recover, as we have a long season ahead until renovation time at the end of November. When practising on a green which has been strung, please play parallel to the string.

Despite the mining activities of a family of moles on C Green, this hardy green has excellent cover and will continue to serve us well this season.

A Green is running at 13+ and B Green at 12,5. We will attempt to improve the “finish” on B Green over the next week or two. We should have C Green running at 12,5 in time for Ladies Day.

The quality of our greens, surrounds and gardens is due to the efforts of a much larger team than just the greens staff and committee. We have thanked Clive and Irene in previous reports for their interest in the gardens. We should also record our thanks to **Neels Kotze, Philip Meredith and Des Stanton** for their support in the maintenance of our machinery and the sourcing of equipment.

Can you please note that **Chris Williams** new contact numbers are 021 762 9484 and Cell 0795439037.

As I mentioned earlier I will be overseas from 14th February so I will not be publishing a Falcon in March but I look forward to producing the April edition if I still have the job.

John Perryman