



CONSTANTIA BOWLING CLUB

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FALCON JUNE 2017

We have almost come to the end of the bowling season for 2016/17, with just the WP Men's and Ladies pairs which starts on 17th June, and finishes with the finals on 8th July and then the final tournament being the Champion of Champions on 15th/16th July. As far as Constantia is concerned the season will be remembered as the year of our Ladies domination of Western Province competitions. In the last major event we provided both finalists in the Ladies Triples which was won by **Moira Standley, Lyn Clark and Linda Stringer** who beat **Flo George, Taz Bright and Laurie Keevy-Venter**. Well done to all those players and it would be no surprise if we have a similar result in the Ladies Pairs. Our men have one last chance to redeem themselves in the pairs having had only one side through to the section final in the triples.

In the South African Nationals, held this year in Cape Town our Ladies were unable to bring home any trophies but still played with distinction. In the Singles **Moira Standley** reached the quarter final and **Joan Hutchins & Liz Maisel** both reached the last 16. In the Pairs **Flo George & Taz Bright** reached the semi-final beating **Moira Standley & Linda Stringer** in the Quarter Final and **Darrell Edwards & Joan Hutchins** also reached the Quarter Final with **Linda Nurrish & Lyn Clark** being one of the section winners from the round robin stage. In the Fours, we did not do so well but a team skipped by **Jorri Clur, with Petal Jones, Judith Ellerman and Irene Nielsen** only failed to win their section by 2 shots after 4 teams all scored 9 points. It was so nice to see four ladies from our Club, not among the recognised stars, do so well in such a major event and I am sure they were justly proud of themselves.

Our Club hosted both singles and the fours round robin events in the Nationals over four continuous days and this was only possible because of a lot of effort from our members. **Eddie Curtis** managed the event on our behalf with **Chris Nurrish** being a key member of the WP Tournament Committee. With Felicia on holiday **Margaret Schluter** managed the catering for the four days and then had to look after the Mid-week catering that started the day after the Nationals finished at our Club. Our thanks for a job well done. Our thanks also go to all those who helped out with, marking, running the bar and various other tasks that have to be done to host events of this type. Our greens were well received by the players and thanks must be expressed to **Terry, Trevor** and the guys who do most of the physical work **Henri & Victor**

We are now three weeks into our own Mid-week, which is going well but we had to cancel the matches scheduled for today (Wednesday 7th June) because of the storm that hit Cape Town. We will play the fourth round next Wednesday and complete the Tournament the following Wednesday.

We hoped to play the last game of Friday 16th June but this clashes with a tournament at Meadowridge and it's a National Holiday.

Because I am the convenor of the current Mid-week and am not playing I have had the opportunity to watch many of my fellow club members who are playing in the Tournament saunter into the Club, put down their bag have a nice chat with fellow bowlers and off they go to play. They buy a few raffle tickets and go home after a couple of beers with their opponents. I think many of them believe that by doing so they are supporting the Club and "doing their bit". Sadly, we need more members to do a bit more than that for our Club to continue to flourish. Some members even flaunt tournament rules and by their actions or in-actions make the job of running tournaments more difficult than it needs to be. They cite what I see as irresponsible behaviour as just practice that **"happens in bowls"** and as such, usage demands it be accepted without any question of sanctions being applied. This of course solves short term problems but equally it leads to sloppy practice being tolerated, increases the difficulty of managing our Club's obligations and deters future candidates from making themselves available for office. How much easier the President's job would be if members who could not take office nevertheless made it known to him or her that they were prepared to lend a hand to lighten the load and when he or she came asking they would always try to find a way to help rather than find reasons not to.

Going forward the stark truth is that for a Club like ours we have just two administrative options:

1. Raise enough money via subs, bar profits and hosting functions to pay staff to manage the administration on behalf of members. That would be OK for a few members but for many it would put the cost of membership beyond their means.
2. Members make themselves available to help run the Club's administration and in doing so have the right to expect the full support and cooperation from fellow members.

In practice, the second option is our only choice unless our membership numbers were to at least double and that shows no sign of happening. The average age of our membership continues to rise and it gets harder to function as you get older. The mind is not so sharp and the body is not so willing. Ideally, we need some of our younger members to take on the burden of office and try and shrink the jobs down by just focusing on what really matters to run a club and ignoring matters that often involve little more than wet nursing egos. If you are thinking of making yourself available I am sure Peter Brown would be happy to explain what is involved.

If they have not already been put up, the lists for nominations to our Executive Committee for next year will be up very soon and we are badly in need of new blood, as most the current senior executives have been in office for too long and deserve a big thank you and a good rest in that order. This is a very serious matter and every member needs to think carefully as to how they can help. Elections take place at the AGM which this year will be held at the Club on Sunday 30th July 2017 at 09h30.

Heather Cawood has organised a highly original event to be held in the Club at 15h00 this Sunday the 11th June 2017. This event involves a colourful celebration of the act of storytelling. Directed by Celia Musikanth, David Muller relates the tales of H C Bosman If you do not know him, Herman Charles Bosman. Lived from (3 February 1905 to 14 October 1951) and is widely regarded as South Africa's greatest short-story writer. He studied the works of Edgar Allan Poe and Mark Twain and

developed a style emphasizing the use of satire. His English-language works utilize primarily Afrikaner characters and highlight the many contradictions in Afrikaner society during the first half of the twentieth century. The poet Roy Campbell called him "the only literary genius that South Africa has produced and one of the greatest poets of all time".

Please make the effort to come along and support this event. Tickets priced at R80-00 are available from Heather 0828005303 or I am sure you could pay when you arrive.

I first started to produce the Falcon in October 2014, and I think we have published an issue each month since then. This was part of an initial policy agreed at Peter Brown's first Exco meeting as President to improve communications to members both past (if they asked to receive it) and present. I had no previous experience at writing a monthly newsletter so I just wrote what I thought and as far as I remember always included any article I was asked by a member to publish. I have to say feedback from members over the years was limited so I am not really sure that what I produced was well received or not. However, I did my best although it could perhaps have been a bit more light-hearted but that is a reflection of my personality and it's a bit too late to change that now. I mention all this because I am going back to UK next month and will only return after the AGM and this will be my last edition as your editor. I wish my successor the very best of luck should the next Exco decide to continue with the monthly publications. Also as part of the communication drive I have produced the Club Calendar, uploaded the issues of the Falcon and various pictures to our Web-site as well as loading the Flag & Muter results and other miscellaneous documents. Again, the new Exco will need to find someone else to manage these tasks if they choose to continue with the Web-site.

Winter well and let's hope your umbrella's get raised on a regular basis until we return to Cape Town in October.

John Perryman

Editor