

# The Falcon: November 2018

## Membership

We have chosen to open this month's Falcon with the issue of membership. We are grateful to those members who have introduced new players to the game over the past few months. But each of us needs to adopt a more proactive attitude to bringing new members to the Club.

To give some perspective to our need to market the game of bowls, the cost of maintaining one green is reckoned to be in the vicinity of R120 000. In an informal discussion with a BSA Executive member recently, it was suggested that a single green Club needed 60 members to remain viable. If we project this on to our own situation, this would imply that we should target a playing membership of at least 180. The fact that we fall well below this target, coupled with the high average age of our members, indicates that there is little scope for being complacent. We ALL need to tackle this challenge.

## Achievements

Sully: Congratulations to our two teams who won their way through to the semi finals which were played at Plumstead B C last week. Unfortunately Dawn Bastick and her team (Taz Bright, Judith Ellman, Irene Nielsen and Jenny Nel) lost in the semis to the Somerset West side skipped by Nina Painter. Our other team skipped by Darryll Edwards (Cheryl Saunders, Laurie Keevy-Venter and Colleen Marshall) had a solid win in the semis over Durbanville but came up short against the Somerset West team in the finals. Still, two teams in the last four, not bad!

We also wish to congratulate those who have been selected to represent the various WP Mens teams:

Mens' Open A: Peter Harvey

Mens' Combined C: Graham Barker; Neels Kotze

Mens' Senior: Alan Lofthouse; Roy Clark

The WP Ladies teams will be announced soon.

## Events

I am sure our excellent communication system is keeping you all informed of what is going on at the Club. Not necessary to repeat it in the Falcon. But I would like to highlight one or two events. SANPARKS is running a Trivia evening on Wednesday 28 November to which all are invited. It might give you extra motivation to attend if I mention that funds raised by this event will go towards the purchase and installation of cameras along some of the popular mountain walks and trails.

We'd also like to remind you of our annual Fun Day, the Jack Muller Day, on Monday 17 December. A mid-morning start, to let you lie in a little longer, then two games with lunch in between, and the Christmas Hamper draw to round off proceedings.

## Security

A number of Bowling Clubs have been identified as soft targets recently. This has led many of them to limiting their after-hours activities in order to ensure an early lock-up routine.

We would prefer not to go that route. However, there have been too many instances recently where the Clubhouse has been left unsecured at the end of an evening.

We would urge all those involved in the locking up process at the end of an event/evening to take extra care to make sure that all windows and doors are locked.

## Warwick Midweek

Well done to the team of Geoff Perrow, John Perryman and John Stamper for their successful running of the Warwick Spring Midweek. Thanks also to all the backroom boys and girls who assisted in various ways.

It concluded this past Wednesday with the following teams walking – or bowling – off with the prizes.

A section: 1<sup>st</sup> prize Connie Pieterse and team  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize Graham Barker and team  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize Graeme Elliott and team  
B section: 1<sup>st</sup> prize Ken Chadwick and team  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize Gary Roach and team

While the greens were not in the condition we would have liked, most of those participating were understanding of this fact. If the games my illustrious (this is for Grumpy's benefit!) team played were anything to go by, the prevailing spirit was excellent.

Thanks to the visiting Clubs for their ongoing support. Thanks to Warwick for their generous support.

Now it's off to Plumstead for the last midweek of the year.

### **Flag/Muter/Friendly season and Tabs**

A relatively small number of our members choose either not to play competitive bowls or are not accommodated in any of the competitions listed above.

We wish to assure these members that there WILL be Tabs on the Saturday afternoons in January, February and March while the WP League programme runs its course. We may even be able to arrange some form of Mixed Competition.

### **Greens**

After a severe setback in the development of B Green, we are at last seeing results. The green is covering quickly, will be levelled in the next week, and should be open for play at the beginning of December.

This means that on Muter Day, where A and C greens are being used, the B green will be available for Tabs.

The C Green should be in the best possible condition come the beginning of Flag and Muter. Elvis has done sterling work in getting this green up to scratch.

A Green will undergo light renovation immediately after Muter Day.

### **Dress code**

In line with most bowling Clubs, we resorted a few seasons back to playing our Tabs days in mufti. Apart from insisting on the correct footwear, we also appealed to our members to at least wear shirts with collars ie no T shirts.

But the competitive season is now upon us and Exco would like to remind all those representing the Club in WP events, to adhere strictly to our Club colours, of which we should all be proud. No variations on headgear please folks and also no cargo pants.

### **John Edwards Memorial Day**

Three Mens sides participated in this event last Sunday at Plumstead B C with the Constantia sides collectively gaining a narrow 21-17 win. I believe this will be an annual event.

### **Facilities Hire**

Last Thursday the Master Builders Association enjoyed an afternoon of bowls at our club. This was the third year in succession that they have held this event, and apparently they will be back again next year.

Thanks are due to Peter Brown for the time he devotes to this portfolio. It is one of the ways in which we might be able to attract new bowlers to the game – and to our Club.

### **Sick Bay**

By the time that you receive this newsletter, Moira Standley and John Dews should be well on the way to recovering from their health setbacks. See you on the green soon!

### **Passing parade**

You would have received the notification of Neville Doveton's passing. He was an enthusiastic and cheerful member of our Club for a number of years. We were sad when circumstances resulted in his relocation to Hermanus. Those who made the annual pilgrimage to the Ayala tournament would report back how happily he had settled in to his new environment.

### **Danie Loubser**

The WP Bowls community has been shocked by the sudden passing of Danie Loubser. He was an integral part of the WP bowling scene – as a provincial bowler, as an enthusiastic Greenkeeper, and as a great friend of our Club. Danie had told me that he was determined to ensure that his Club, WPCC, had the best greens in the District, if not in the whole of South Africa. He worked tirelessly towards achieving this objective, consulting widely on best practices, and sharing his ideas with others. It is sad that he will not be there to realise his dream.

### **Bowlers and rollers**

This is how John Dews distinguishes between the skilled and not so skilled members of any Club. Anyway, one of the "rollers" approached me recently to say how much he enjoyed the opportunity of playing in the company of one of

our better bowlers. Our Midweeks, Snowballs and Tabs allow this to happen. I thought it worthwhile using the Falcon to thank those “bowlers” who are prepared to play with, and mentor, those of us in the “roller” category.

### **Maintaining standards**

Elsewhere there is reference to maintaining an acceptable dress code in and around the greens. There are other actions that also contribute to the maintenance of standards. We continue to be grateful to those members who unfailingly clean up after bowls, bringing in the mats and boards, emptying the water jugs etc.

This also applies to clearing the tables after tea and placing your glasses and bottles in the appropriate places on your way out. We wish to recognise your ongoing support.

### **Comment**

I’m often asked why I enjoy coming to the Club. My flippant answer is that the abuse I receive from my fellow members is good for the soul. The real reason is that I look forward to being part of a cheerful communal vibe – a vibe to which we all contribute.

I suspect there are some who view the Club as an opportunity to air their criticisms. There is little problem with this if the criticism is delivered constructively.

I have been made aware that bar prices have come in for some criticism of late. So let me tell you that the President and I played a round of golf recently. It was agreed that the loser would have to pay for the first round of drinks. Big deal! A long putt on the last green, of which Lee Westwood would have been proud, meant the President had to pay. He returned from the bar with two small Hansas, a bemused look on his face and R6 change from a R50 note. Puts things in perspective, doesn’t it!

### **And finally**

After his high-altitude exploits on top of the Clubhouse, Butch is now referred to as “The Fiddler on the Roof”!