

# The Falcon: December 2018

## **Christmas Message from the President**

“With Christmas just around the corner, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. On behalf of Exco, I would like to thank you for your support during the first four months of office.

Special thanks go to the ladies in the kitchen, especially Hester and Sharon, to Peter Cawood for looking after the bar with the help of Keith Ingram and Siphon, to Chris Scaife and Geoff Perrow for the weekly cash control, and to Terry Hepworth, Trevor Cleghorn, Harvey Havenga, Henri and Elvis for their work around the greens and gardens.

A big thank you to all those members who organise competitions and events which raise funds for our Club.

Our vision is to serve the Club to the best of our ability and we look forward to a successful 2019. May we wish you safe travel, if you holiday elsewhere, and good health over the festive season.

## **Overseas travel**

While on this topic, some of those who give up an incredible amount of time on behalf of the Club will be travelling overseas. To Maureen and Graham McLeod (travelling to the UK to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, a treat from their daughter) and Lynn and Butch Liebenberg (visiting family in Australia), enjoy the rest. You deserve it. Also travelling to the UK, along with wife Sue, to visit their daughter, is Bobby Boniface. We look forward to his return when the noise levels, both on and off the green will rise once again!

## **Flag Day**

Well done to Alan Lofthouse for organising another successful Flag Day. The usual thanks go to the Greens staff, Lynn Liebenberg and the ladies in the kitchen, and Hilary Jonson for controlling the scoring.

Our B team excelled by winning the event in a very strong field.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> team also deserves mention for winning their all-day event at Plumstead on the same day.

## **Ladies Muter Day**

This report from Moira Standley. “Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec dawned, cloudy & cool. By 8am the clubhouse was ‘abuzz’ with dozens of yellow shirted ladies – in the kitchen, at the raffle tables and various other spots. Muter Day – a big day in the Ladies bowling calendar - was happening and soon Ladies from other clubs around the District were streaming into CBC – 112 players in all from 10 different clubs.

John Stamper welcomed everyone, the clouds disappeared and the day got underway. The format was strictly according to Muter format; tea was served after the 1<sup>st</sup> game and lunch after the second. A wonderful spirit prevailed and as the weather warmed up so did the bowls! All 3 Constantia teams performed well with the “A” side grabbing the honours at the death.

Two marvellous Christmas Hampers (containing goodies donated by Club members) and some bottles of quality wines, were profitably raffled. Many people contributed to the success of the day – a big thank you to all and especially to the men who volunteered their services so willingly. To all our lady members - sincere thanks for participating and for making this day a happy and enjoyable day for all. Warwick Wealth provided sponsorship for the day and we thank them for this – please support them in turn.

Our biggest and final thank you must go to our Ladies Club Captain. What a fine job she did! Maureen McLeod co-ordinated the day and it was thanks to her meticulous planning and constant reminders to the invited clubs that we enjoyed the fine turn-out that we had. Maureen, we didn’t say it on the day but heartfelt thanks for a job well done! And might I add – a pleasure working with you.

So that’s it – another Muter Day come and gone – now to the League!

## **Membership**

In the previous Falcon, we mentioned that the average cost of maintaining one green, was in the region of R120 000. One or two members reacted to this by suggesting that perhaps we should consider closing down one of our greens.

It may well turn out one day that C green becomes a croquet court/ putting green/mini soccer field/parking lot etc. However, in the meantime we need to assure members that economies of scale prevail as far as our greens expenses are concerned. In other words, R120 000 per green does not translate into R360 000 per year for us. Our costs are significantly lower.

### **Lateral thinking**

Membership of Bowling Clubs is diminishing right across the District. Further complicating the issue is that the City Council is reviewing lease agreements, with murmurs that market-related rentals may have to be introduced.

In order to remain viable, Clubs are having to come up with alternative ways in which their facilities can be used in order to generate additional funds.

While we are fortunate to enjoy the support of VOB and the Bridge Club, we need to continue to explore other options as well.

### **Events**

For those of you who are not exposed to the weekly updates from Heather or the comprehensive website run by Mark, a reminder of:

Carols and Bowls by Candlelight on Friday 14 December after the sun goes down. Bring your picnic basket or braai meat and enjoy a lighthearted and convivial evening.

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. Closing date for entries is 9 December.

### **Blotto**

Eddie Curtis and Barbara Pringle, who have run the Friday evening Blotto for so many years, have confirmed that they would like to end their commitment at the end of the year. Their efforts in raising funds and providing enjoyment have been greatly appreciated.

Exco wishes to continue offering this Friday evening facility to our members and would ask for volunteers to take over this portfolio.

Eddie and Barbara, it's now your chance to relax on a Friday evening, put your feet up, and enjoy a glass (or two) of wine. Many thanks!

### **Security**

For all those involved in locking up the club, please take special care. This is the time of the year when we need to be extra diligent.

### **Greens**

A Green has closed for annual renovation. This will involve scarifying the top layer of grass and spike rolling the margins. It should be back in play by the end of the month.

B Green was introduced into play last week, leading up to the Muter Day. I'm sure many of the players found it "heavy going" – heard quite a few mutters, but all of us on the Greens Committee are pleased with its progress. The green is almost fully covered, so the focus now is to sort out the bumps.

C Green has not looked this good for a long time. If you feel that it errs on the slow side (+- 12), don't be too concerned as we are now able to start grooming without exposing any of the topdressing.

We will work on the banks and ditchboards between now and the beginning of Flag and Muter.

### **Gardens**

Harvey and Elvis have developed a rockery near the Paterson gate entrance. Thank you to Butch and Mike Weir for their contributions to this project. And thanks to Geoff Perrow for providing the Brumelia which now form a bed of colour in the shade near the Paterson gate.

Future plans involve beautifying the entire area outside this entrance by means of beds of Agapanthus. So if you intend subdividing your Aggies soon, please keep us in mind.

### **Practice opportunities**

A reminder that Mondays continues to be our watering day and therefore does not provide good practice opportunities as the greens will not have been cut since the previous Saturday.

On other days, the whiteboard at the front entrance should give an indication of what is available.

Please respect our "Greens Closed" notices.

In addition, Men, please take note of the following important message from Graham Barker, our Mens' Club Captain.

"I have asked all the selected teams to please arrange practices for their teams on Thursday evenings.

I am sure everybody will be striving to improve on the good showing of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sides in the recent tournaments in which they played.

We will be doing hamburgers @ R20.00 each which will be ready straight after practice.

Please put your names on the list alongside the team sheets on the notice board".

We look forward to seeing you there.

### **Dress code**

In response to questions from members regarding caps, Lynn Clark has informed us that they are in the process of arranging for new caps. These could be available early in the New Year.

### **Bar**

In order to avoid misunderstandings regarding Bar Hours, we wish to communicate the following:

Normal Bar Hours are from 4.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

There may be exceptions (special functions) where the bar will remain open until 9.00 pm. Any later times would require official authority.

We would appreciate it if members would adhere to the above times. The Bar staying open until 9.00 pm would be a discretionary decision, influenced by the number of persons present (approximately 10 persons).

Should members remain in the Club after the Bar has closed, one of those members should take responsibility for locking up the Clubhouse.

### **Mentorship**

For many years the understanding at our Club has been that the Proposer of a new member remain as his/her mentor until the new member has integrated fully in the Club.

This mentorship should ensure that the new member does not get lost, is involved in as many activities as possible, and really feels part of the Club.

### **Missing**

The second of our Umpire's Boxes has gone missing. If anyone has seen it recently, or knows where it is, please let us know as a matter of urgency.

### **And finally**

It is that time of the year when the "Wailing wall" claims its victims and exposes the frailty of some of our egos.

We need to remind ourselves once again that our Selection Committees were democratically elected by popular vote.

Perhaps this bit of verse is therefore relevant.

*"When you hark to the voice of the knocker,  
As you listen to his hammer fall,  
Remember the fact that the knocking act  
Requires no brains at all!"*