

The Falcon: April 2019

Mens' Singles Finals

Top billing in this month's Falcon goes to the Club Mens' Singles Finalists and to Roy Clark for managing to organise all the finals to take place on the same Saturday afternoon. For a change, these finalists battled it out in front of an appreciative group of spectators. Many members forsook their afternoon's Tabs to watch the semi-finals and finals and were treated to some very good bowls.

I'm sure the finalists appreciated this show of interest and support.

The results were as follows:

Open Singles: Alan Lofthouse beat Roy Clark

Senior Singles: Bobby Boniface beat John

Perryman

Novice Singles: Bevan Capes beat Carl Marshall

It was a great success and we hope that circumstances will allow a Finals Day to take place next year incorporating both the ladies and the men.

Ladies All Cape

Congratulations to Flo George, Cheryl Saunders, Laurie Keevy-venter and Colleen Marshall in getting through to the semi-finals of the All Cape where they eventually succumbed. In the quarter-finals, they had an outstanding win against a team which included Internationals Colleen Piketh and Elma Davis. Well done to you girls.

WP Mens' Midweek

Well done to Roy Clark and his team, comprising Graham McLeod, Tim Ross Thompson and Ian Rohtbart, for reaching the finals which were played at Plumstead Bowling Club recently. Despite a late rally from our team, the Pollsmoor team were just too strong on the day, and ran out comfortable winners.

St Paddy's Long Table Lunch

After a fun morning of Snakes and Ladders Bowls, a number of us sat down to a Long Table lunch to celebrate St Patrick's Day. Haydn and Mandy laid on a meal fit for a King – and a few leprechauns! Heather had organised the décor – green table settings, green wine (really!) and green beer (are you serious?) – and we all agreed the event

needed to be repeated. Will do, and thanks Heather.

Forthcoming events

28 April McCully ABBA show

31 May Music quiz

7 June Personal Trust Cheese and wine

16 June Potjiekos competition.

Abba show

Thanks to Heather Cawood, we can look forward to another McCully show, Abba, on Sunday 28 April at 5 pm. We look forward to your support. In order to save the costs of hiring a stage each time we host such an event, we built our own. We are extremely grateful to Carl Marshall for building the stage. Apart from being a promising bowler, Carl exemplifies the spirit of giving – of his time, and his services. Thanks Carl.

The Classic

A reminder that the prestigious Constantia Classic takes place on Saturday and Sunday over the Easter Weekend. Our grateful thanks are extended to Alan Lofthouse and his team for putting the event together, and to Warwick for their generous sponsorship. If you are not already involved in assisting Alan and his team, come along and watch some good competitive bowls. With the event fully subscribed, and all greens in action, there will not be any Tabs on those two days.

Autumn Midweek Trips

This event, sponsored by Personal Trust, commences on 15 May and will run for the usual 5 weeks. John Perryman and Gary Roach will be running the event. It is no advertising gimmick when we say that the list is filling up quickly, so please enter before it is too late.

Cheese and Wine

The annual Cheese and Wine party, sponsored by Personal Trust, will take place on 7 June. Please support this Club event by buying your tickets from Roy Clark.

England President's Bowls Tour

We were proud to host the touring English President's squad at the Club on Sunday 7 April. After an excellent meal of Bobotie (requested by the tourists) and fruit salad and ice cream, prepared by Felicia Pillay and her team, we adjourned to the greens. Despite their losing to us 180 – 203, their President, Hazel Marke, had many pleasant things to say about the time spent with us. She handed over the English pennant which will be displayed over the bar to commemorate the event.

New Members

We welcome Liz Walker who has joined as a dual member – Liz also plays at Pinelands. We hope you enjoy both the competitive and the social sides of bowls at Constantia.

Mens' Locker room

The shower facilities in the Mens' locker room have been extended to accommodate the runners and a number of our more fastidious bowlers! At the same time it has become necessary to replace the existing geyser.

The extensions have been done by a VOB member, Rory Hunt, at a very reasonable price. Half the cost of the showers has been funded by VOB

Getting to know

It has surprised me, over a number of years of playing bowls, how little we tend to know about each other. I suppose it's quite difficult to carry on a one-on-one conversation with someone in the post-match, often raucous Bar environment.

I was reminded of this last week at the wake to celebrate the life of Robert Balfour Laing. Apart from his rugby exploits, which included representing Rhodesian Schools, Natal University, and Natal itself, playing against the 1955 touring Lions team, we established that he had also been Mayor of Kloof in Natal for a number of years.

Our experience of him during Tabs or the occasional Midweek competition, was of a quietly spoken, somewhat reticent but friendly man. Yet his wife Jane tells us he was hugely competitive, and would return from bowls on occasions quite irritable about his performance.

I thought back to my introduction to Constantia Bowling Club where, during my first few months, I played with a man considerably older than me. Somehow, (certainly not instigated by him), his war career came up. I was fascinated to learn that he had been a member of one of the two crews that formed part of the famous Dam Busters. For weeks afterwards, I encouraged him to tell me more about the planning and ultimately the execution stages of this memorable experience. (Can you remember his name Geoff, Eddie, Pat?)

Bar prices

Consistent with our policy to maintain the budgeted gross profit level, the prices of some of the products in the bar will be adjusted upwards in the next few days. These adjustments are carefully considered before implementation by Peter Cawood, Jet Clark and President John Stamper.

If the thought of a minor increase is of concern to you, take your heavily chilled beer or glass of wine out to the braai area, sit down, take a sip, then take in the surrounds and the magnificent view of the mountain, and consider where else you might get equivalent value for money!

Sick Bay

As usual, our thoughts are with those who are struggling with poor health or undergoing medical interventions. We think of Doreen Day, recently released from hospital, Barbara Pringle, Graeme Elliott and Charlotte Roux. "Colonel" Keith Ingram has managed to dislocate his shoulder. How did this happen? Ask him yourself!

Birthdays

We believe Mannetjies Roux celebrated his 80th recently. All the very best, Mannetjies. We hope that the Boks can give you a belated present later in the year!

Greens

We have managed to get B Green running at an acceptable speed at last. The feedback from the Classic over the coming weekend, where all three greens will be in operation, should give us an indication as to what more has to be done to provide quality running surfaces.

Our sponsors

In describing the successful Jenni Williams Ladies Day, held a while back, we failed to acknowledge the substantial role that Personal Trust had played in supporting this venture. We cannot stress how grateful we are for those who sponsor our events and we apologise for this oversight. The correspondent who provided the report has subsequently been suspended (without pay)!

Friday Tabs

The resurrection of Friday Tabs got off to a promising start last Friday. Six teams (trips) battled to win the First Prize. As there have been complaints of collusion (and manipulation), the results will only be announced in the next issue of the Falcon!

A number of us had tendered our apologies this time around, so we expect the numbers to swell in the future.

Thanks to President John for arranging the swindle – apologies – the Friday Tabs.

How many ashtrays?

In a spirit of Ubuntu we wish to appeal to the smoking population to come up with some solution that will avoid their having to deposit their stompies in the most unusual places.

Club members

We mentioned last month the distinction the President of a neighbouring Club had made between “Club Members” and “Members of the Club”. With this in mind and aware that we should never take the willing helpers for granted, may we thank the following for their ongoing efforts:

Peter Brown and Rusty Gillett in representing the Club in negotiations with the City Council, pertaining specifically to ongoing lease agreements

Peter Cawood for the time he puts in to the management of the Bar

Eddie Curtis for organising the recent visit of the England President’s Tour as well as officiating as CTO over so many weekends at all the WP Events at our Club

Jet Clark, Chris Scaife and Geoff Perrow in collecting monies, paying accounts and balancing the books

Peter Brown for liaising with organisations which make use of our facilities and thus contribute considerably to our income.

Lyn Clark for all the good work she does in handling the apparel portfolio.

Maureen McLeod for providing an outstanding communication system that keeps all of us in the loop.

(If you think your name should also have appeared here, you are quite right. We will redress the situation in next month’s Falcon.)

Elma and Trevor Davis

We join all in the bowling fraternity when we record our sadness at the tragic passing of Elma and Trevor. Their contributions to bowls, both in a playing and administrative role, have been enormous.

And finally

Relevant to these days of revelations about state capture et al is the following quotation:

“It’s not only who you know but what you know about who you know that counts!”

And finally, finally, this quote. Not, we may say, from one of our members.

“I don’t feel old. I don’t feel anything until noon. And then it’s time to have my nap”. (Bob Hope)

And absolutely finally.

May we wish each one of you a joyful Easter.