

The Falcon: June 2019

Club Management

If, like me, you continue to find the Club a happy place, providing excellent facilities and multiple opportunities for social interaction, then you probably also know that this is only possible through the selfless contributions of a vast number of people.

Many of you are part of that bank of contributors, in one small way or another.

But pulling this all together is a small group of members who constitute our Exco team. Without their oversight, our contributions can become fractured.

Some of these Exco members will be standing down at the end of the season. They need to be replaced.

At this stage we know that the positions of Club Secretary and Club Captains will be vacated by the incumbents.

Apathy is a killer. We would ask that you see this as an opportunity to make either yourself available, to bring new energy to Exco, or prevail upon one of your colleagues to consider making themselves available.

The good news is that President John Stamper will be continuing his enthusiastic role as Club President for another year.

WP Trips

The Mens' Trips team of Graham Barker, Peter Cottrell and Carl Marshall made it through to the second weekend but were eliminated by a strong Goodwood team.

Two Ladies' teams have done even better, with Flo George, Taz Bright and Laurie Keevy-Venter, and Moira Standley, Lynn Clark and Linda Stringer getting through to the last eight. They played each other in the quarter finals, with Moira's team winning 21 – 9. In the semi finals, Moira and her team went down to a Milnerton side 14 – 17.

Autumn Long Table

The second "Long Table" event – The Autumn Long Table - was once again a fantastic success. See the picture alongside. Thanks to all who assisted with the call for Autumn leaves and berries. Who knew that most of what was needed was to be found in the gardens at the

club!! Dried leaves in reds and browns, along with some berries and aloes made for a really



club!! Dried leaves in reds and browns, along with some berries and aloes made for a really festive occasion. Haydn once again did himself and us proud. The Butternut soup starter was good enough to have as a meal on its own, but was followed by a tasty Beef and Guinness Pie with veg and chips. It was a meal fit for royalty. Sunday lunches really don't get any better than this!

Our next long table will be a "Christmas in July". As each meal is made specifically, bookings are essential. Please watch your weekly mails for more details.

Autumn Midweek Trips

As a result of the heavy rains of last week (the Club registered 56 mm, some of it falling in the Clubhouse!), we had to call off last Wednesday's bowls and extend the event by another week. Lots of healthy competition at the top of the table, with two weeks to go.

Cheese and Wine

More than 150 members and guests enjoyed another highly successful Cheese and Wine

Evening sponsored by Personal Trust. Gavin Ashwell from Personal Trust was on hand to wish us well and indicate their commitment to this highly popular annual event. Organised by John Stamper, with support from Lynn and Roy Clark, it couldn't be anything else but successful. The catering was exceptional – and some of us even won a prize or two!

Forthcoming events

With so much going on right now, it has been decided to postpone the Potjiekos Competition until a later date.

Snowball

This got under way this past Saturday with 16 teams enjoying the best of Cape Town's autumn weather, and the banter which usually accompanies this social/serious event.

Alan Lofthouse, who runs this event so well, has apparently lost his knack of ensuring, by sleight of hand, that the jackpot isn't won until later in the season. So last Saturday resulted in a winner, with Bevan Capes' team making off with R1 000.

Just a reminder that if you wish to participate, add your name to the list and Alan will do his best to accommodate you.

A further reminder that normal Tabs In runs parallel with Saturday's Snowball.

New members

Good to see Eddie Douglas and Gayle Wells, Jenny and Pierre Schoeman and Peter Gilchrist already immersed so fully in the events of the Club.

Getting to know

Following on from previous thumbnail sketches of some of our members, I had occasion to chat to Finn Stender recently. A one-on-one discussion after bowls is a rarity in our Club where many of us have impaired hearing, Bobby Boniface is abusing someone verbally, and the TV commentator agonises at top volume at another Manchester United miss.

For 43 years, 39 as Cape Town Branch Manager, Finn worked for Sharp. During his time Sharp captured 80% of the local microwave market. Finn ascribes this success to their excellent communication philosophy. Every three months, purchasers of Sharp MW ovens would receive a newsletter, Sharp Microwaves, containing various cooking recipes (any of you remember?). They also gained substantial market share with their

calculators, winning a tender that involved their supplying, for three years, all the Standard 9 pupils in the Cape with calculators. Picking up on a comment in last month's Falcon of "thinking outside the box", he told me of the origins of the Sharp Corporation. It started in 1920 when Mr Hijakawi, a blacksmith specializing in the manufacture of cooking pots, came up with an idea. An intelligent and ambitious man, he developed the propelling pencil. With one not having to resort to laborious pencil sharpening, he called the invention, and the company, EVERSHARP.

As a loyal Sharp man, Finn offers the following comment. "A sharp operator is often considered to be a person of dubious nature. To me however, a sharp person is one with an enquiring and stubborn mind – and a healthy interest in lawn bowling!"

Gardener wanted

Harvey Havenga, who has initiated so many things around the grounds, has been forced to retire from bowls and from gardening activities. His back is not behaving well and leaving him in pain after each bowls or gardening outing.

We thank him for his enthusiasm and efforts on behalf of the Club.

We are now looking for someone to fill his boots (or his gardening gloves).

Please give me a shout if you would like to keep an eye on the gardens. It is more a supervisory role, but very important that we don't let our roses, shrubs and garden beds lose their sparkle.

Greens

The greens staff have topdressed most of our banks with a mixture of compost and clay. With the recent rains, they are even more fragile than ever. We would ask all our members to kindly avoid stepping, standing or sitting on the edges. We have put down red and white tape to indicate the edges to avoid. Please don't take offence if you are reminded, or even mildly fined, for any transgressions. Repairing them after being trampled is time-consuming.

We are also looking for a member to join our Greens Team. As can be seen from the paragraph above, Harvey has handed in his trowel. But in addition to doing the gardens, Harvey, as a member of the Greens Committee was able to supervise weekly preparations when both Trevor and I were not available.

If you live reasonably close by, and would like to help out on occasions, please let me know.

Trevor Cleghorn

At the start of bowls events held at the Club, the greens staff and myself are often thanked for their efforts. But the contribution of Trevor Cleghorn tends to be overlooked.

Trevor is our most valuable contact with the Council, liaising with them to prune trees, remove roots and stumps, remove refuse or repair lights. He also ensures that our greens equipment is in good nick and checks on the condition of water bottles, pens, rink markers, scoreboards etc. So well done and thanks to you Trevor.

There's always a first time!

Seen with my own eyes. A bowl travelling inexorably towards the jack. A player sprints from the huddle to stop and pick up the bowl. The deliverer of the bowl screams "Leave it, it's mine!". The picker-upper shouts back, "I know, but you're supposed to be playing in the rink next door!"

Maureen says it's the first time this has happened to her. Maureen, there's always a first time!

Tabs draw

Doing the Tabs- In draw can be tricky when one is assailed with all sorts of strange requests; it's even trickier when one conducts the draw closely watched by a number of "scrutineers"!

If you are interested in helping with the draw, please volunteer and we'll put you on the list. The more, the merrier (we hope!).

Parking

As is expressed earlier in this edition of the Falcon, our Exco members put in a lot of effort on behalf of all of us. Their reward is the occasional note of praise AND – their parking bay. They are entitled to feel vaguely disgruntled when someone nicks their parking place. So please folks, it's not that far to walk to the Clubhouse. There is an example of parallel behaviour among the Virgin Active members that never fails to amaze. On their way to a training session at the Gym, ostensibly to raise their levels of fitness, they will drive around and around until they secure a parking place as close to the Gym as possible! Strange!

And finally

Six retired Irishmen were playing poker in O'Leary's apartment when Paddy Murphy loses £500 on a single hand, clutches his chest, and drops dead at the table. Showing respect for their fallen brother, the other five continue playing standing up.

Michael O'Connor looks around and asks, 'Oh, me boys, someone got to tell Paddy's wife. Who will it be?'

They draw straws. Paul Gallagher picks the short one. They tell him to be discreet, be gentle, don't make a bad situation any worse.

'Discreet??? I'm the most discreet Irishman you'll ever meet. Discretion is me middle name. Leave it to me.'

Gallagher goes over to Murphy's house and knocks on the door. Mrs. Murphy answers, and asks what he wants.

Gallagher declares, 'Your husband just lost £500, and is afraid to come home.'

'Tell him to drop dead!', says Murphy's wife.

'I'll go tell him,' says Gallagher.