

The Falcon: January 2020

Introduction

The competitive season is in full swing, bringing with it the usual aspirations, challenges, successes and failures. With only two rounds of Flag and Muter completed, we cannot say we got out of the blocks with a bang. But there are many fixtures ahead still, and ample opportunity to improve in each of our Divisions.

What was great to experience, however, was the vibe in the Club on Saturday evening, with the steaks and chops sizzling on the fire and the music drowning out any post mortems. This despite a number of disappointing results.

Did anyone notice that the Segregation Act is still being self-enforced, with the ladies forming a tight exclusive circle adjacent to the Bar, and the “manne” outside around the fire discussing matters of deep philosophical concern!

W P Mixed Pairs

Quite a number of our teams progressed to the sixth round of this event, played at Plumstead this past Sunday, but only two made it to the Quarter finals where they were, sadly, eliminated.

Congratulations to Adrian Standley and Ciel Brandt and Colleen and Carl Marshall for these achievements.

W P Midweek

This very popular event was opened to mixed teams this year, with Constantia entering a number of teams.

For the benefit of newer members, the format of this event means that the teams in your section all travel together to the different venues each week. This allows one to get to know a number of bowlers outside your Club over the 7 week period – and to “make friends” in both senses of the word .

For next year, if you are free on Wednesdays, make it a priority to put a team together to participate. You won't regret it.

Warwick

It is very important that we continue to recognise the considerable support which our main sponsor, Warwick, provides. A new three-year deal was signed recently which confirms their annual

sponsorship of R60 000 a year. Two-thirds of this money goes towards the sponsoring of Club Tournaments, for which we are incredibly grateful.

In addition to the support we get from Bill Kilbride, who always has good things to say about Constantia Bowling Club, other contacts at Warwick are Ravin Rademeyer, Fichard Filer and Nick Rusling.

Please continue to support Warwick.

VOB

The relationship between VOB and the Bowling Club continues to flourish. They have intimated that they are happy to regard CBC/VOB as their home for the foreseeable future.

As reported in the November issue of the Falcon, Exco has agreed to allow them to convert the existing shelter near the tennis courts into a much-needed office and provide a wooden storage room for our use at the rear of the shelter. All this at their cost!

Mens' Club Captain

In the last two months I have played at Western Province, Kelvin, Bergvliet , Meadowridge, and Goodwood. When comparing the green I played on at each of these clubs, to our greens, I am very proud of the condition of Constantia considering the foreign grass that invaded B green and the root invasion on A green. I understand my knowledge of Bowls and greens is very limited, which I pointed out to all and sundry before taking my present position as Club Captain, so understand some may differ from this impression. I would like to thank those working on our greens for their outstanding efforts.

Butch Liebenberg

Twilight bowls

This competition is running until the end of February. The aim is to collect as many points as possible during the time in which the competition runs. It's not necessary to play every week. It's also not necessary to be in a team as it is run on a Tabs- in basis. 10 ends per game (which basically

means we play from around 6pm to 7.30 pm). There are still 5 weeks to go so it's not too late to join in! Remember - everyone WILL win a prize. I'd like to encourage all to come down and have a roll.

SAVE THE DATE: Friday 28th February is the final game. This will be followed by prizegiving. Watch your WhatsOn mails for more details.

Heather Cawood

Coaching (from Ian Rohtbart)

When next you practise, check your delivery against these points which Ian has listed below.

Delivery Check List

Be comfortable and relaxed with evenly distributed body weight

Keep your shoulders square to the delivery line (ensure that the shoulder of the delivery arm does not drop.

Your feet must be pointing along the line of the delivery.

Do not hold the bowl in the middle of your body. Focus on the delivery line.

Keep your bowling arm close to the side of your body.

Your non bowling hand should grip your knee or thigh.

Step forward along the line of the delivery.

Keep the forward step at a comfortable length (avoid either a too small or a far too long step.)

Your delivery arm must come through straight along the line of the delivery.

Follow through – even exaggerate this a bit.

The whole action must be slow and deliberate.

Greens

At the end of the day, this has to be the most important feature of any Club. So it is understandable, and to be encouraged, that members take an interest in the condition of the Greens. They are entitled to be kept up to date with developments, hence our attempt to share as much info as possible.

What is disappointing is that a small group of members choose to spread their discontent with our greens around the District, while not engaging in constructive criticism with members of the Greens Committee. Sad, but I suppose that's human nature!

By now, many of you will have played in Flag, Muter, Friendly League and W P competitions, on other Clubs' greens. I hope that has provided some perspective in comparing our greens with others.

While we have chosen in the past not to broadcast WPBA ratings, perhaps it is a good time to mention the following:

Levels: At the completion of the last round of inspections of ALL greens in the District (November 2019), our three greens scored extremely highly. Even the problem with rinks 3,4 on C Green has been resolved. Which means that a false running line is likely to be due to wind, grass variation or poor mowing – but not the level.

Rating: All greens are rated out of 100 points, covering factors such as levels (30 points), grass cover, foreign grass (we have tons!), smoothness, run off etc.

According to the November ratings, despite the foreign grass factor, there were only four Clubs who had scores similar or higher than us. While the whole issue of rating Clubs is open to debate, and we know that our greens are far from perfect, it does place quality into perspective.

B Green: I remain convinced that B Green has the potential to develop into our best green, and possibly one of the better ones in the District. Which could mean that the effort, and expense, was worthwhile.

In closing, we are delighted to welcome Wilf George to our Greens Committee. His observations are already contributing to our weekly planning. And Neels, who advises on and maintains our machinery, is also assisting in other ways. Thanks to both of you for your interest.

Ladies rest room

Quotations are being requested for a make-over of the Ladies Rest Room. Once again, our good friends and partners VOB have come on board and offered to pay half the cost. Fantastic! It is our intention at this stage to replace the toilets, tile the floor and add another shower.

Looking ahead

While our AGM is 5 months away, it is never too early to give serious thought to the replacement of most of the existing members of Exco who intend standing down at the end of this term. Please give some thought to who might be valuable replacements on Exco. If you need clarity

regarding the role of the various portfolios, chat to the existing members.

Our Club is viewed by many as one of the more prestigious Clubs in the District. In order to maintain, and possibly improve on this status, we need a vibrant team to take us forward.

Please let us not leave nominations of potential members to the eleventh hour.

John Stamper

Events on the greens

February

Sunday 02: Club Mixed Pairs

Friday 07: LADIES DAY

Sunday 09: Club Ladies Singles

Friday 28: Twilight Bowls Final

March

Friday 06: ARMY DAY

Saturday 28: UK Touring Squad

April

Saturday 11: CONSTANTIA CLASSIC

Sunday 12: CONSTANTIA CLASSIC

Wednesday 15: Autumn Midweek begins

May

Cheese and Wine: date to be confirmed.

Ladies Day

This very popular event, which is now held in memory of the lovely Jeni Williams, will take place next Friday. Play starts at 10 with an 18 end game, followed by lunch (and the traditional dessert extravaganza), and finally a 15 end game. If you are not playing, come along and enjoy the action from the bank.

Army Day

As listed on the previous page, this takes place on Friday 6 March. Keith hopes to have 28 teams participating on a day which raises funds for such a worthy cause – the Robbie Robertson House which tends to the needs of those in the Armed and Security forces injured on duty.

If you have not received an invitation from Keith but would like to sponsor/enter a team, please chat to him.

British Tourists

The David Bryant tourists from the UK have requested that we host them for lunch and bowls on Saturday 28 March. There will be 9 rinks of Trips. Please let Eddie Curtis know timeously if you wish to be involved.

Saturday Tabs

Please note that, throughout the Flag/Muter season, rinks will be available for Tabs. If you are not included in any of the Flag/Muter/Friendly sides, but would like to have a game, arrange this with others in advance, instead of turning up on the day and being disappointed .

Practice days

Despite the necessary information being posted on both the Mens and Ladies Notice Boards, there is still some confusion. Please look at the notice to ensure that there is a properly prepared green for you on the day you choose to practise.

No provision is made for practising on a Monday as it is our watering day and no greens are prepared.

Ramp at entrance

It is a miracle that no one has injured himself or herself when walking away from the Tabs board on a Tabs Day. The ramp, while very convenient for wheelchair access and bringing in the trollies, is an accident looking to happen!

Someone suggested our putting in a rail, but the good news is that the ramp is scheduled to be filled in and access to be provided elsewhere.

Shorter games

We are still investigating ways of providing seating for those whose legs occasionally let them down! When I mentioned this at a Greenkeepers' meeting recently, I discovered that some Clubs have a split draw on Tabs days. This means that for those for whom 18 or 21 ends is a bit much, they can enjoy 10 ends and wrap up the outing with a cup of tea and sandwiches.

Ron and Rusty, you might like to see whether there is any interest in this.

Parking

Our neighbours the Tennis Club have requested that, especially on Wednesdays and Saturdays, we refrain from parking in the designated area earmarked for the tennis players.

They have limited parking as it is. Our President has asked us to respect this very reasonable request.

And this is a hardy annual! It has been noted that certain members are parking in the bays reserved for Committee members. May we ask for your consideration in this regard as well.

Questions (and some answers)

Two issues that arise regularly when Greenkeepers get together to share their frustrations, are when members complain about playing:

Between rinks; where a Club changes the rink markings, and directions of play, every week, this is highly unlikely to be a factor. On spongy greens, with a thick mat, and where the rinks and directions are not changed regularly, it is likely to affect the running of the bowl as constant compaction can produce "ridges".

End rinks: with most greens being around 38 metres in width and rinks averaging 5,5 metres, a 6-rink layout leaves ample space on the margins to avoid the end-rink syndrome. However, where one has to string for 7 rinks, and particularly where the levels close to the ditchboards vary, the ditch hand can be interesting!

Lucky Eddie

How good is it to see Lucky back on the green and playing Flag. And finding time to practise while carrying out a myriad of secretarial duties. Keep going, Eddie.

In passing

Years ago in my student days, while a member of the UCT Athletics Team, our star athlete was 6-times S A Mile champion, Athol Jennings. A qualified Quantity Surveyor, he had elected to return to university to study Theology.

For four years we were part of the squad that participated around the country in Inter-University events. The train trips were most enjoyable, with men and women students from UCT and Stellenbosch representing a range of sporting codes, travelling together.

The purpose of the story is that Athol possessed the coveted green Springbok Blazer. Being slightly more mature than us undergraduates, he quite happily allowed the rest of the team to take turns in wearing the blazer to meals. The results were quite spectacular!

Now our own Lofty recently cleared out his cupboards and gave me an assortment of caps, tracksuits etc to distribute. Among this assortment are two items bearing the words "South Africa". The thought crossed my mind that one of our members innocently wearing one of these garments to a social gathering could do wonders for ones' image – and give the particular gathering much to speculate about!

So if you wish to hire one of these items, please apply to LHO, Lofthouse Hepworth Outfitters, PDA (price on application).