

NEWSLETTER NO. 7

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Let me start by congratulating our ladies Muter Squad, what a great season you have had. The "A" team coming 2nd and earning promotion, and our "B" team coming 3rd in the 2B Division. This really bodes well for our ladies bowling section for the future, keep up the good work and utilize our coaches to improve your game even further. A big thank you to **ALL**

the coaches, who were involved with the squad training prior to the Muter and Flag season.



While talking about our ladies, it gave me great pleasure to be able to celebrate with a glass of champagne the achievements of Thea Blatt and Lorna Megaw. Congratulations Thea and Lorna for being the winner and runner-up of the Western Province Ladies Novice Championship, also Hester De Jongh for reaching the quarterfinals. Phillip Graham also reached the men's Novice quarterfinals. Since the championships, both Thea and Hester have been recognized by the Western Province "talent scouts" and invited to play in the WP Masters being held at Durbanville Bowling Club on the 16th and 17th April. A big thank you to Brian, who was involved in coaching the front rank players.

LETS GIVE THEM SOME SUPPORT

Greens

Some of us have very short memories. Six months ago everyone was complimenting Charl, Eben and Andrew for their wonderful work on the greens. They were superb, accolades were being received from members of other clubs and Western Province. The whole environment including the hedges and flowerbeds, tended by James, Sheila and Graeme were, and continued to be for several months a picture to behold. For the past four months however we have experienced excessive heat, drying winds and no rain. To those few members who find it necessary to complain about the greens, take a look at your own gardens, municipal verges and any parkland nearby, the weather has taken its toll. Let's be a little more tolerant towards our hard working greens keepers, they are working under severe conditions. I, and the majority of us greatly appreciate that we can enjoy our bowls so frequently.

Friday Socials

Unfortunately our Friday evenings continue to be poorly supported. Thanks to Louis and Clive who always manage to arrange a fun game of bowls for those of us who do come along and to Tina who has organized a monthly discount meal voucher from the Pomodoro Restaurant. Many thanks to Mel and (although not members of our club), Reinette and Karen who often work in the kitchen to provide us with delicious burgers.

Bar Duty Roster

Please inspect the new Bar Duty Roster on the notice board. The income generated from the bar is vital to the financing of our club. Unfortunately the efficiency and reliability of some of the bar teams continues to be a problem. No matter how often it is raised, and discussed, with plenty of nodding heads of acceptance and acknowledgement, the problems never seem to go away. ***Please***, it is the responsibility of the designated "Bar Captain" to make himself aware of the bar requirements for the week's duty and schedule his team appropriately. It is also the responsibility of any bartender who cannot do their

duty to find a replacement or swap with someone else. It is not acceptable to adopt the attitude that Gerrie and/or Francis will step in.

Kitchen Duty

I'm going to start by mentioning the bar. Ladies, whenever you come to the club either socially or to play bowls there is **ALWAYS** someone behind the bar to serve you. Our bar teams consist of 5 persons who work in the bar for a week. Each team works 6 or 7 times a year for a week. You are therefore assured of being able to come to the club and enjoy a drink 7 days a week, 52 weeks of the year. I'm not going to say anymore, except!!!

When did **YOU** last do kitchen duty?

Come on ladies; don't just leave it up to the willing few!

A bit of humour

The intense heat has been with us for months now, there never seems to be a let up. I'm sure this is why so many of us are irritable, cranky and tend to be less tolerant towards others. The moaning, groaning and criticizing level in the club has perceptibly increased. Or perhaps it's due to old age!

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

So God agreed...

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?"

And God agreed...

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?"

And God agreed again...

On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God. "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and **bark at everyone.**

Our Financial Future

For the past two years this club has dug deep into its financial reserves, expenditure has far outstripped income. This is not a sustainable situation. To continue on this path would surely see the demise of this club in the not too distant future. We have to be more business-like, proactive, and create an ongoing income base for the future. That is why your committee has embarked on a campaign to erect advertising boards on our greens. Edwin, through his business connections and his own business is supplying (free of charge) the frames required to mount boards. Chris Harrison-Smith and myself have been actively approaching local businesses in the area to take advertising space at R100 per month. This has proved to be quite successful. Local businesses want exposure and are prepared to support clubs in the community. Currently fourteen boards have been erected, two are awaiting frames, seven are in the process of being manufactured and several prospects are being followed-up. By the end of the season "B" green will be full with 20 boards, "A" and "C" will have at least 2 each. These alone bring in annual revenue of R28, 800.00. That, along with other economies the committee have made should ensure a breakeven situation this financial year and return to a positive cash flow next year.

Potentially the Club **could** generate an income of R72, 000.00 per annum from advertising boards. However selling the concept to potential advertisers takes time and effort. Roughly one in three companies approached buys advertising space. This is where **YOUR CLUB** needs **YOUR HELP**. Chris and I have leaflets available explaining the system to potential advertisers. **Please every member take one leaflet, approach one company or business, follow up, if the answer is NO that's fine, you tried, if the answer is YES give Chris or I the contact details and we will take it from there.** Based on a 1 in 3 acceptance we would easily fill another green.

When I started to write for the Newsletter I wondered where to start and what to say, but once started, realized there was much I wanted to share with everyone. Items that cannot easily be covered during our informal "TABS" tea breaks.

If I've rambled on too much please forgive me. Finally, don't forget to play your club comps, try to play early, and above all **ENJOY** your bowls.

T A W

LADIES SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Wow!! We have weathered the storm, without having to resort to wearing protective gear!! A big thank you to ALL the ladies who participated in the Muter and Provan teams. Special thanks must go the Provan ladies who had to tolerate their teams being changed on a fairly regular basis. We were aware of the grumbles, you were certainly entitled to these, but nevertheless you went out there and gave it your best! To our two Swallow ladies, Betts and Vivienne, a very big thank you for stepping in and helping out! Your willingness to participate was much appreciated! Without your participation we would not have been able to field a full team!

The A Muter Team achieved 2nd place in their division and the B Team 3rd place.

CONGRATULATIONS!

In a good team there are no superstars. There are great players who show they are great players by being able to play with others as a team. You need togetherness, because you don't always win and that is when you gotta hang tough together!! You all hung tough together!! The camaraderie shown by you all and the spirit in which you handled the problems we encountered made you Superstars!!

The word TEAM certainly meant the following:

T - TOGETHER
E - EVERYONE
A - ACHIEVES
M - MORE

The results are proof of this, thank you to all of you!

Please watch the notice board as we are planning a luncheon for the Ladies Muter and Provan teams.

FROM THE MEN'S SELECTION COMMITTEE:

The men's Flag season we have just completed, has been very disappointing from our Club's point of view.

All ended well on the last match day, March 12, when we won 4 of the 6 matches. This however was not enough, to prevent our second team from being relegated to Division 4, next season. They could only manage to obtain 18 points from the possible 63 points, which represents a percentage of +29% vs – 71%. Not sufficient interest and support from the senior players, being the main problem.

Our Provan side did not have any better luck with their games. With the overall shortage of players some weekends, they were the ones who suffered the most, as we had to pinch/borrow from their teams to play in the Flag teams. Thanks to all of you who played in the Provan teams and here is hoping it will be a better season next year!

One of the highlights of the season belongs to our first First team, they managed to finish in third position on the log. They achieved 34 points out of the possible 63 points, which represents a percentage of +54% vs – 46%.

Another pleasing aspect of the past season was the fact, that some of our new/lower graded players made very good progress and improved their bowling ability. That just goes to show that practice is NOT a waste of time! Well done to all of you, as well as to your mentors!

A new list of of players grading (the selectors are going away after the list is placed on the Notice Board!) will be available by mid April and will reflect how we, the selectors, have been impressed by the way you have “played the game.”

Let us not forget how to enjoy the game, enjoy the players you play with, enjoy the greens and all the other facilities which are available to you! We, the selection committee, elected by you the members, have had a very difficult season trying to do a good job. To those of you that have assisted us and we know who you are, a big thank you! To the others.....

My last very big thank you goes to our “SWALLOWS,” without their help and enthusiasm, it would not have been possible to fulfil our fixtures.

JOANNE, if you and LEON stop working and spoiling us, I will commit SUICIDE!! Fantastic service from you and your sexy helpers! THANK YOU!

FROM THE COACH: GERALD

The Flag, Muter and Provan have come to an end. I hope whether your teams won or lost you enjoyed representing your club and being with your teammates. In a couple of weeks all concerns we had, will be trivial and forgotten. We now need to start building our club, recruiting new members and chasing up those we have not seen for a while.

I want to encourage all our members to practise as often as they can, but if possible not alone. You drive absolutely nothing by putting four bowls on the jack, when on your own. All six leads in the flag, when rolling up place their bowls around the jack to the applause of the verandah members. These same members watching during the matches complain about the ability of our players. Bowls is strictly competitive, every game you play you have an opponent. Do not practise alone! I have played for the first Flag side for twenty years. I am the only member to have won twenty-one club championship trophies. You need to understand your opponents, you cannot do this on your own. Some of our members tell me they want to practise alone to fix a problem, for this you must use one of the coaches. When a coach needs help he asks another coach, so can you. Our new coach Brian Smith has been running the Monday afternoon clinic and all members involved were really delighted to have taken part.

When the National Committee for Disabled Bowlers approached us to host their Nationals at our Club, our committee asked me to run the week long championships. The most important hurdle was markers, I needed 64 and to my surprise the lists were filled up in two days! I was worried at first – Bowlers who were blind, in wheelchairs and mentally handicapped. But everyone of you never missed a step. I would like as many of you as possible to come on a Saturday morning for an insight into umpiring for about 2 hours. Our registered umpires will each take a group and go through measuring and the basic rules. If you find it enjoyable and want to continue I will arrange an umpires course for those that are interested. This will be held at our club.

Talking of rules – we have the club rules to promote, consideration, good manners and to be courteous to our fellow bowlers. Club championship matches are played on separate greens to our Tabs games, rolling up in Mufti is only permitted after four pm on Tab greens. The barriers protecting our banks are there for a purpose, not to be pushed aside and walked over.

G. Thompson: Convenor of Umpires, Honorary Life Member.

SALLY POOKE DAY: 10 MAY 2011

Joanne and her team would really like to make this a very special day, but in order to achieve this she is going to need the co-operation of **ALL** the members! Yes, men included here, as they are going to have a chance to practise their waitering skills that day!!

To raise funds for this day, there will be ongoing raffles taking place at the club. **PLEASE SUPPORT THIS.**

You will also be contacted and asked for items that can be used for the raffles on the day of this event. This is a great money spinner and brings in funds for our Club! **We really need your support!**

COMPETITIONS AND DEVELOPMENT:

All competitions are running well – with minimal scratching – and Lyn and Pete thank

everyone for the effort they have put in to play before time. It makes their job so much easier!

The “bad” news is that the Black and White sponsor day has been postponed – it was to held on the 27 April, but BSA have laid on a bowls awareness day and a Guinness Book of Records attempt for the most bowls in hour. Posters are on the notice board and members support would be much appreciated. It is intended that we have the usual Public Holiday tabs in, followed by the record attempt and then a bring and braai. Bring along friends and family (non bowlers for the record attempt are more than welcome!)

We will also invite bowlers from Stellenbosch and Helderberg Village to come and join us. It could be really a good day!

The club is looking for a volunteer to be the area Club Development Officer. It is not an onerous task and does not require a lot of time – 1 or 2 hour meeting every 3 months at the most. Gerald Thompson or Pete Sneller can supply better details. Don't forget to use every opportunity to promote bowls for our Club. Speak to friends and neighbours and suggest they visit the Saturday morning clinic, which is free, where Gerald, Mike or Peter will guide them and ensure they enjoy the experience. That is “Development!”

As a reminder, we have one of our best sponsor days soon, 29 March and to date there are more visiting teams than Club teams! Put your team on the board and enjoy the day! There are lots of “spot” prizes so anyone can win!

BIRTHDAYS:

Birthday wishes for March!

2 March – Mike Cunningham

10 March – Thea Blatt

15 March – Lilian Thompson

18 March – Vivienne Galbraith

20 March – Peter Minnitt

27 March – Pat Grove

31 March – Pat Rogers.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Should you need to contact any Committee member, could you PLEASE DO SO DURING OFFICE HOURS IN THE WEEK! Unless it is an emergency, PLEASE AVOID CALLS OVER THE WEEKEND!! This would be much appreciated.

The Club is in the process of having a year book printed which will contain members details, that is address, telephone number, email address. **So please if you have changed any of the above will you PLEASE NOTIFY ELAINE!!**

Last, but not least a very special thank you to the following folk, who are always there offering help and supporting the bowlers.

Vera, Isabelle, Laurie, George, Renette Borthwick, Lorna Nel. Karen.

We so appreciate your loyal support!

I leave you with the following quote -:

To find fault is easy – but it is a lot more rewarding to the club if you can come up with three POSITIVE SOLUTIONS to the problem!

Your Scribe
Joan.