



## Merry Christmas Happy New Year



How quickly the time passes with Christmas and another New Year only a few days away. We now know that we have a strong challenge for most of our sides, due to the revamp of the pennant divisions by Bowls SA and our recent side promotions. Perhaps we should endeavour to live the motto "**when the going gets tough, the tough get going**" for the second half of the season.

Everyone likes the new club sign on the entry wall into the club. A big thank you to our long serving members, John Flett and Steve Barrett, who made generous donations to fund the sign.

We asked members to support our club organised events and thank you - you have done so. Our Ladies Medley Skins day held in late September was a tremendous success.

Our Mens Medley day (our Augie Centofanti Memorial Day) held on Monday 24 October was stunning. The

atmosphere all day was so good and the winning team paid a wonderful tribute to our Augie.

Socially we had an interesting and fun day for the Melbourne Cup, supported as it was by members and friends.

Our Cosmo Triples day on Monday 28 November - our last tournament for 2016, attracted enough entries to make the tournament very competitive and enjoyable.

Your bowls committee will be reviewing our tournament program for next season. So many clubs trying to fill so many tournaments. We need to find a niche and host just a few attractive tournaments with innovative formats that appeal to bowlers to enter.

Thank you for all the support for this year's Christmas raffle, which will be drawn at our Christmas dinner on 16 December. Bridgestone Select at Magill has donated the 1st Prize of "The set of tyres fitted". Plus, we have some cash

prizes and vouchers from Nick Cirocco's "Mon Ami" and Romeos Foodland that all come in handy at Christmas time.

What great interest for our Christmas dinner - over 120 members and friends have bought tickets to come along and enjoy some Christmas spirit - see you there.

Looking for a Christmas present? What about a new club casual polo shirt?

Just another reminder - don't forget our club sponsors. Our TV advertising program is growing nicely. So please consider their services and sales products and let them know you are from the Tranmere Bowling Club.

Enjoy your bowls under ALL the shades at your club.

**Above all please have a really good Christmas with family and friends and GO Tranmere in 2017.**

*Mike Porter*

And the winners were **Tommo, Clauso and Feddo**

Read more and see all the pictures from the Cosmo Triples tournament held on 28 November on page 2. Our sponsors for the day were



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### Drawn Pairs

The club drawn pairs championship is a wonderful event to enjoy a day's bowling before the pennant season resumes after the holiday break.

Last year it was Bob Cecchi paired with Bob Bussenschutt in the men's event and Ivka Petrunic paired with Di Born in the women's event. Will it be you in 2017?

There's only one way to find out – be in it to win it on

- Wednesday 4 January for the men
- Thursday 5 January for the women

**Ditch Drawing:** When the jack is in the ditch, don't try to draw close to the ditch with your last bowl. Just draw to a point past your opponent's nearest bowl.

## Cosmo Triples Tournament

Twenty-six teams descended onto the Tranmere greens on Monday 28 November to contest the Cosmo Triples tournament. Buoyed by the success of teams from Modbury at the recent Augie Centofanti Memorial Day tournament, visitors from Hawthorn, Glenelg, Modbury, Salisbury and Semaphore joined the fray. They didn't go away empty handed, with many picking up consolation prizes for failing to win any of their three games. Six teams won all three games, with the winning order being sorted out on most ends won. Sixth place, despite winning all three ends, missed out on prize money. The team that won the most ends and first prize was Tom Lycett, Claus Schonfeldt and John Feddersen.

We sincerely thank all our sponsors for the day – **Beyond Bank**, **Galligan's Mattress Factory**, **Campbelltown Eye Care**, and **Coopers Brewery**. Marg Green, from Beyond Bank, was on hand to congratulate the winners.



We thank Kath Day and Ann Thomas behind the bar and Ivka Petrunic, Anne Lippis, Kirstie Blaskett, Di Ferris, Julie McGirr, Ann Ellis and Barbara Christiansen (not in photo) for the fabulous lunch.

## From The Selection Table

by Justin Parkinson

There are three certain things in life; death, taxes and someone in a bowling club talking about selection. Walk into any bowling clubrooms anywhere in Australia, or the world most likely, and it is guaranteed there will be someone talking about selection. "Why am I playing there?", "Why has that person been promoted?" We have all heard it, and many of us may have even said it. Selection can be one of the most contentious issues of any bowling club.



At Tranmere, we have a great group of thick-skinned members who volunteer their time and energy to select 7 sides on a Saturday (108 bowling positions), 6 sides on a Wednesday (88 Bowling positions) and 4 sides on Thursday (44 bowling positions). It is a thankless job. When was the last time you went up to a selector and said "thanks, you are doing a great job!!"?

Previous seasons have seen each side have their own selector or selectors and whilst this has worked decently well, it was proposed, and approved by the bowls committee, that we move to a selection panel system for the 2016-17 season. Four members of Panel A select the first three sides and five members of Panel B select the remaining sides on both Saturday and Wednesday. Five members of Panel C select the four women's sides on Thursday. Each panel has its own chairperson of selectors.

Another introduction for this season has been the performance feedback slips for all pennant competitions. Change is a difficult thing and the selection panels appreciate this has been a difficult change for some members. However, overwhelmingly the majority of members have embraced the new system and for this we say a HUGE thank you. The feedback we have been getting has been excellent. From the selection panels to the members, we greatly appreciate your ongoing input as it makes what is a tough job a little easier.

We would also like to encourage members to approach and speak with selectors (but just not prior to or during games). The more conversations we can have and the more open and transparent the system, then the better it is for all members. This leads to better selections and better results.

Selection for all the positions each week is no mean feat. It must be said, contrary to popular belief, the performance feedback slips are not the 'be all and end all' when it comes to selection. They only form a small portion of what is taken into consideration each week. Verbal player feedback, player enjoyment, player availability, rink continuity, rink performance, individual player performance, individual player positions both current and future, player compatibility, rink results and the performance feedback are all taken into consideration.

The advantage of the feedback from the performance slips (and the collation of the numbers provided by the respective chairpersons) is that it provides the panels with a visual history of each player's performances. With 108 players to select every Saturday it is impossible to know exactly how every member has been performing week in week out. The performance feedback slips allow us to view patterns. We believe this information allows us to make more educated decisions with regards to the form of players. This is especially important when we are looking to promote players.

Whilst the panel format and the performance slips are still a work in progress the new system ensures that the selectors on each panel are equally responsible for the sides they select. Many hours are spent collecting and analysing feedback. An equal amount of time and importance is placed into selecting the 1<sup>st</sup> side as it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> side or the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> side. We hope this gives good comfort to all our members. Whilst this may not be apparent when looking at the selection board on any given week, conversations at selection meetings have certainly become more robust with the new system. Any members who may have been at the club on a Monday around 11am would be able to attest to this.

With all current members of the panels having had previous experience as single side selectors, the overwhelming thought is that the new system is an improvement. The panel system and the performance feedback arrangements are working. It's not perfect, but, with half a season down we believe we are starting to get some good balance and consistency with selections. Continued improvement in the collaboration between members and selection panels, between selection panels A, B and C and between selectors themselves will ensure we continue to grow and succeed as the progressive club that we are.

## Who Can It Be Now?

How well do you know your fellow club members? Who is this person of international intrigue? The anecdotes below are absolutely true – amazing!

I was an **amateur boxer**, competing in the cruiser weight division.

I held an International competition license for **motor sport** issued by the world governing body, the Federation Internationale De L'Automobile of France. This allowed me to compete in all forms of the sport such as the Indianapolis NASCAR series of races in the U.S.A.

My main interest was in competitive car rallying; that is Special Stage Rallying on roads closed to the public. I was Berwick Car Club champion on several occasions. I became acquainted with several motor sport personalities of the time, including Innes Ireland, Jim Clarke, Jackie Stewart and Andrew Cowan, the winner of the London to Sydney rally. Jim Clarke and Andrew Cowan were also members of the Berwick Car Club. Andrew had an advantage over me because he was a works driver, but I beat him once, which was a great achievement.

In Britain, **national service** was compulsory. I was in the R.A.F. and rose through the ranks to senior air craftsman, which was the highest rank attainable by national servicemen. In doing my work I identified a potential faulty part which, if left unchecked, could prove fatal to pilots. That led to a redesign of the part and amendment of the work manual. I was awarded the Queens Commendation of Valued Service and promoted to corporal.

Our **honeymoon** was a four-week car trip to Torremolinos, just south of Malaga in Southern Spain. In the third week we set off north to Barcelona, then over the Pyrenees heading home. When we left Barcelona, it was tee-shirt, shorts and bare-footed sandals. By the time we reached the foot hills of the Pyrenees it had been raining for an hour or so. As we started up the mountains the rain got very heavy, then it stopped. Travelling on dry roads was fine, but we'd made no provision for travelling in snow. Just short of the summit there stood three cars which had stopped for a photo opportunity of the snow-capped peaks. When they tried to proceed on up the hill they couldn't; it was too steep to get traction on the snow.

I got out and helped to push them, one at a time, two hundred metres up and over the hill. Here's the rub; when I try to get my car moving, it too is stuck and there I was in thin sandals, bare feet and no help from anyone. I had to do something, so out of the car came four car floormats, two each per wheel and off we went. [Ed's note: that's ingenious]

Coming to Australia, the flight I was travelling on from London to Sydney was cancelled in Los Angeles due to mechanical problems. We were delayed overnight and, because I did not have a current visa. I was **held in custody** under US immigration laws. I was detained in the L.A. Hilton under guard to an outsourced private security company. However, I was allowed freedom to walk round the block and have a meal in an adjacent restaurant as I had a prominent attorney-at-law, who was a legal representative to Robert Holmes a Court, as a relative. The Minister for Finance from the island country of Kiribati was also detained at the same time and he requested permission to accompany me on my outings. That consent was given on condition that I guarantee his safe return.

Bizarrely, a female staff member from the security company was detailed to stay in our room overnight. This, we felt, was not on – we enticed her out of the room, then locked and bolted the door. There followed a heated argument through the door with, at one point, her male partner threatening to shoot the door lock out. It was at this point we dropped the name of the attorney-at-law and quickly things quietened down.

**Caravanning** in Australia was great fun. On one occasion, we stopped at Coffin Bay for a few nights. One morning, it is time to move on to Port Lincoln. Having done all the checks to make sure all is secure and well, we set off. We are about 15km into the journey and I again check the mirrors for following traffic. Everyone is overtaking us with ease, but we are struggling with the strong head wind.

When I look again, the van is on fire. 'Oh s\*\*\*', the gas bottle. I quickly stop and it's the brakes that are on fire. 'Do I take the gas bottle off the van, or do I extinguish the fire in the brakes?' Quick decision - brakes first, then the bottle. I retrieve the fire extinguisher from the van but it only lasts 20 seconds and the fire is still going. 'What now?' Into the boot, grab the Stanley knife, cut the water pipes and, using drinking mugs, pour water onto the fire and extinguish it.

The van is saved but not one car stopped to assist. Back then we had no mobile phones, so I had to drive on to Pt. Lincoln using only the gears to control the breaking. I take great care but on arriving at the 'T' junction stop sign I have to stomp on the car brakes and haul on the hand brake. There is an almighty explosion. The brake drums clatter to the ground in pieces and the car falters but carries on. Luckily there were no people or cars about. The car comes to a stop and all is well when assistance arrives. They have very good mechanics in Port Lincoln.

**Confidence:** When you are four shots down with one bowl to play, try not to see anything but the jack for that vital draw. Ignore the four scoring bowls.

## Half-Way In The Pennant Season

In seasons past Tranmere has had a roller-coaster ride of success in pennant competition.

2012-13:	3 flags	table position index 3.41
2013-14:	7 flags	table position index 3.28
2014-15:	0 flags	table position index 5.50
2015-16:	6 flags	table position index 3.38

This is explained to large extent by success in one year being rewarded with promotion to the next higher division the following year and, in many instances, finding that next level a bit too strong for us. In several cases our sides have been relegated again that next year, to be followed once more by success in the lower division the year after that.

To overcome this dilemma some clubs actively recruit and even pay players to join them so as to strengthen their promoted sides in a bid to avoid the first-year relegation syndrome. Tranmere does not do that (a policy with which I whole-heartedly agree) and the roller-coaster effect is one of the challenges we face.

This season many of our sides are finding the opposition very strong because of the division restructures made by Bowls SA. This restructure has made the higher divisions much stronger and because of our success last season, it's a tough program for us. As an example, on Wednesdays our top three sides play against 25 first sides from the other clubs. In Premier division that's exactly what you expect. But our second side, in division 1, also plays against the first sides every time and our third side, in division 2, plays against seven first sides and two second sides from the other clubs.

So, how are our sides faring at the half-way mark of the current season, recognising that it is a post-success year? Our current table position index (the average position of all our seventeen sides on their respective divisional premierships tables) is 6.24. That means many more of our sides are towards the bottom rather than the top of their tables. And well below that of our overall result in 2014-15.

On **Wednesday** our top three sides, playing in the highest divisions possible, are having to battle to avoid relegation. Our fourth side looks set to finish mid-table, our fifth side (Division 4 East Red) is top of the table and a genuine premierships contender, while our sixth side also looks set to finish mid-table.

**Ignore History:** The only bowl that should be in your mind is the next one; especially if the last one wasn't that good. Previous bowls are history.

On **Thursday** the promotion of our top side to the Premier division also sees it fighting to avoid relegation. It has suffered several agonisingly close losses, which had they been agonisingly close wins, would now see the side in much better shape. A strong second half showing will boost its chances. The second side is very competitive and could finish top. It will very likely be in the finals to contest for the premierships. The third side is mid table and could feature in a top-four finish, while the fourth side is excelling and a strong prospect of winning the flag ending the first half of the season well ahead of the second placed side on the table.

On **Saturday** our top four sides are all in the mix for a top four finish and a playoff spot in the finals. Our two division 5 sides are mid table and, while a high order table finish beckons, a premierships win is not likely. Our seventh side is in last place and headed for relegation.

## Congratulations

**Darryl 'Wheelie' Willson** has been invited to try out for the 2018 Commonwealth Games Paralympic Squad, sponsored by Bowls Australia. Along with eleven other invitees he recently participated in the first four-day training camp at Broadbeach, Queensland. Darryl made the cut of eight to the next and final camp which will be held in March 2017. Only a triples rink is to be selected and it must include at least one B6 classified athlete with the remaining two being chosen from the B7 and B8 classifications. Darryl is a B7 athlete and is competing for a role in the lead position.

When Tranmere Times asked him if he'd been enjoying the experience Darryl said, with some enthusiasm, "I'm loving it." Congratulations to Darryl, on being invited and on making it to the final training squad. Good luck for ultimate selection and, if successful, in competing for Australia.

**John Feddersen** has been selected as a skipper in the 20-member South Australian RSL representative side to compete in the forthcoming national RSL bowling championships. The championships will be in Adelaide from 29-31 December 2016 and 2-5 January 2017.

The championships comprise two competitions. The first is a head-to-head round-robin event in which the six state sides, each playing four rinks of fours, compete against each other for top spot. The second is a 50-team knockout competition to find the last team standing. Good luck and good bowling John and the rest of the South Australia side.

**Concentration:** In a fours game, you will stand on the mat for only about 3% of the game. Keep your deepest concentration for those precious moments.

## Claus' Conundrum

The shy club member in the photo from last month's conundrum was none other than Denise Abraham. The missing club member from the list of names and witticisms was Adam Sharp.

This month's conundrum comes from a recent quiz in the daily newspaper. You may have seen it. The question was asked, 'In which sport would you do a finger peg?' I'd never heard of a finger peg and thought of quoits, tiddlywinks, croquet or competitive hanging out of washing on the clothesline. It didn't occur to me it might be lawn bowls.

Well, to my surprise it was. So, I looked it up. Finger peg is a term used in crown bowls rather than the flat surface bowls we are used to here in Australia. I refer you back to the September edition of the Tranmere Times for the story about crown bowls when Tom Lycett visited his uncle and played a game with him in England.

There are two types of peg when bowling the jack (which in crown bowls also has a bias) or the bowls; thumb peg or finger peg based simply on whether the bias side is closest to your thumb or your little finger. Now you know. No excuse for ever forgetting the sport in which you do a finger peg.

## What Am I Reading?

When Tranmere Times asked Kirstie Blaskett to write a few lines for the new *What Am I Reading?* section of the Tranmere Times she thought, 'sure, no problems, I can do that.' But when she sat down, thought about it and tried to categorise what she read and what she is now reading, she confessed, "I drew a blank."

"If you read the last edition you'll know what mum reads," she said, "and basically, I get the books after her. So, what she reads, I read."

"However, there's a twist. I also read level-28 readers with our 7-year-old son. I read *Skylanders* and *Pokemon* and *Boyz Rule* library books to him. I've read the Harry Potter series so that I can keep up with (and understand) our 10-year-old daughter (who has read the series at least five times, including the latest *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*). I've also read biographies and auto-biographies and books about Gallipoli and the World Wars (thanks to Dad's interest in them)."

"At the moment I'm reading the first in the *Gallagher Trilogy* by Nora Roberts. A romance story set in Ireland about faerie princes and ghosts and mythological folklore. Should be interesting....."

## The 11-Point Delivery

In a recent pennant bowls encounter the result of the match came down to the final bowl from one of our skippers who, for the sake of the this item, we'll call Peter Homburg.

With four of the five rinks finished for the day (Wednesday Division 2 North), Tranmere had 5 premiership points in the bag. Peter's rink was the last to play and at the beginning of that final end his rink was five shots down on the card and Tranmere was trailing Modbury by four shots overall. Somehow his team had to win that last end by at least five shots.

Not a thrilling position to be in, but when the going gets tough, the tough get going. When Peter stepped on to the mat for the first of his final two deliveries his team was holding three shots. All Peter had to do was draw two more and hope the opposition skipper didn't get either of his two bowls into the count or drive into the head to remove one or more of Tranmere's counters. That sounds straight forward enough, but under pressure it isn't always so.

Peter played it perfectly and the opposition skipper fell short. The result was five shots to Tranmere for that end, earning a tie result on Peter's rink and a one-shot victory to Tranmere for the match. That gave Tranmere 16 premiership points and Peter's final bowl was worth 11 of them.

## Know Your Rules



The bowl hanging over the edge of the ditch came to rest on top of the jack that was already there, without falling in. Had the jack not been there, it would have fallen in. Is the bowl live or dead?

Believe it or not, the bowl remains live, but it is not a toucher. This situation was discussed previously

in the second edition of the Tranmere Times in July 2014. It appears again here because recently, in a Division 1 pennant match, a similar situation arose. In that instance the bowl came to rest on a toucher bowl in the ditch, rather than the jack, but the decision is still the same – the bowl remains live. The skippers, unsure of the rule, declared the bowl dead and removed it from the rink. Luckily that didn't affect the result for that end – but it might have.