

Refurbishing the Greens



While our synthetic greens don't require anywhere near the maintenance and upkeep of grass greens, they still require an annual refurbishment program to keep them in prime running condition.

Over two days this month, Bob Gilby and his Green Gang of helpers undertook the task of grooming the pile, spreading very fine dry sand, sweeping it in, then watering it in and finally finishing off with a decent heavy roll to achieve a smooth and firm running surface.

The synthetic greens were installed just prior to the start of the 2008-09 pennant season. They have stood the test of time very well, helped along by the protection afforded to them by the shade system since it was installed. The greens generally run evenly and smoothly with an excellent running speed and are at their best over the winter season when it is cooler. They run at their peak when the pile is properly primed and very fine sand fills the space to the top of the running surface.



However, the pile gets trodden down as people walk over it and as the bowls roll along their preferred path. This, of course, is not evenly distributed across the entire green. A further impact occurs when the greens flood and are swept to clear off surface water. Some sand is inevitably pushed about in the process. All this results in small, but sometimes noticeable, nuances on the green. The refurbishment program aims to fix this as far as is practicably possible.

Originally the club borrowed a groomer from KCL Sports, the installers of the greens. But, early on, through the ingenuity of Graham Young, he and Bob Gilby modified the now superfluous lawn-groomer to do the job for us on the synthetic surface. Bloody clever people we have here at Tranmere!

Images:

Top Left – Dino De Corso, Tom Salmon, Barry Handke, Bob Aistrope, Bob Gilby, Stuart Loch and Peter Homburg on day two of the refurbishment program. Absent from the photo but also helping on day one were Peter Douglas, Darryl Hemsley, Trevor Freeman, Graham Young and Sam Caon.

Bottom Left – Bob Aistrope driving the sweeper. Above – Peter Homburg supervising Dino De Corso with the grooming machine.

felt it was something to do later. At any rate, that's what he told me, but, according to his own email signature block, 'the older you are, the better you were'.

It wasn't until after retirement that he started to play pennants again. Prior to that he had many a good Night-Owls game with his team "Don't Give Us The Shirts".

Claus is very much the social animal and, at Tranmere, he joined John Feddersen in running the Tranmere Winter Bowling Program. Their cabaret act at the end of every session keeps everyone entertained, Claus with his questions and stats, John with his Friday Funnies.

I asked Claus what makes him happy. So, ask yourself. What makes YOU happy? Ask the others at your table. The answer will probably be similar to Claus' – "Elizabeth and I are happy if the children are happy and they have no worries." He also said, "I'll be happy if I'm well and healthy, a challenge as we get older."

The other thing that makes him happy is playing a card game, which he calls MoMo (we may know it as Switch), with his and his brother's families. It's a game they used to play with his father and kept going after he died, in his memory. Of course, Claus collects stats on each game played, winners, best and fairest etc. and prepares a report. The whole family competes for awards and the Best Player of the Year Oscar.

So, at the end of the day what will Claus' epitaph be? His brother reckons, *Statistically speaking his time was up*, and, when that time comes, who could argue with that?

Committee Members Fact File

Tranmere Times received 17 entries for last month's competition and only one person correctly aligned each fact with the corresponding committee member.

Congratulations to Geoff Thomas. Bob Gilby was the member most often correctly identified with his fact and Claus Schonfeldt was the least often correctly identified.

Here are the correct facts and their interesting back stories.

As a 17-year-old dental nurse **Anne Lippis** travelled to Oodnadatta and Coober Pedy with the Royal Flying Doctor Service. On her first night in Coober Pedy she stayed in the same motel from which a few of the town's working girls plied their trade. Imagine the delight of the local menfolk at seeing this fresh, young prospect and the chagrin of the regular working girls at this intruder onto their turf. Anne had to contend with more than one knock on her door in the middle of the night.

Darryl Stanton was called *Stiffy* at high school but, it's not what you're thinking. C'mon, admit it – that is what you're thinking. In this instance, *Stiffy* is not a priapismic reference to his manhood being in a semi-permanent state of arousal. Nor to his reputation as a seducer of the fairer sex.

Darryl played baseball and rather than swing the bat at the ball, he would often stand there, hoping the pitcher would throw four balls to give him a 'walk' to first base. Because of this, he was referred to as *Stiffy the Statue*.

As a teenager, **Denise Abraham** was a keen athlete. She competed for both Gilles Plains High School and the Enfield Harriers. In winter, she competed in cross country events and in summer, it was high jump, the 100 and 220 yard sprints and the 110 yard hurdles. It was that long ago that these races were in yards not metres! Denise's claim to fame is that she was good enough to win the State Under-14 title as champion in the 110 yards hurdle event.



Max Davidson wanted to do something special for his children and that something was to make them a rocking horse.

It was so sturdy, even he could ride it. This so impressed a friend of their neighbours that Max was asked to restore his 100-year-old rocking horse. "I could only work on it in my spare time," Max said. "It took me some months to restore, but in the end, it was worth it. The horse came up a treat."

Bob Bussenschutt helped train harness racing horses in the South East, many of which won races in Mt Gambier. One, *Model Child*, also won several races in Victoria. The registered trainer driver of these horses was a Rasmussen, who was closely related to Natalie Rasmussen, who in turn trained and drove *Black's A Fake* to three Inter-Dominion wins. That's equivalent to galloper *Makybe Diva's* record of three Melbourne Cups; feats which we may never see again.

During a busy and interesting two years in the role of Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in Freemasonry **Peter Holland** had the opportunity to travel throughout the state presiding over ceremonies for installing the new masters of the various lodges. This role gave him a greater understanding of Freemasonry and the opportunity to meet many interesting people. Recently, he has been appointed as the Grand Sword Bearer for the next 12 months.

"Freemasonry has been a big part of my life for the past 28 years," Peter said. "Fortunately, it doesn't interfere too much with my bowls."

Sue Sanders was (unfortunately for her) born with a tiny hole in her neck so that when she was fed, milk would drip out through the hole. The hole was too small to stitch and the doctors had to first cut her throat before they could properly stitch it up so that the leak was repaired. "I am told it was a first in the London hospital," Sue said. "Some might say that they should have left the hole instant diet!"

What could be more exciting, thrilling and nerve-wracking – ‘a first flight on an aeroplane’ or ‘dancing on the Sydney Opera House stage’? That was the scenario facing **Mary Feddersen** in 1975 as the leader and choreographer of the German Folkdance Group. This group was chosen to be part of a National Folkloric Festival that took place in Sydney to celebrate the wonderful folkloric cultural heritage from all over the world that has enriched Australian life. Now the answer to the opening question is definitely, ‘flying in an aeroplane for the first time’.

As a boilermaker working in the BHP mines in Broken Hill **Bob Gilby** often met up with Kevin ‘Pro’ Hart, who worked there as driver of the battery-operated locomotives. Bob remembers Pro as a good-natured fellow, never pretentious and always up for a chat. Pro painted lots of sketches of life in the mines on anything he could, including machinery, crib cages, furniture and walls. The mines were a gallery of his work until they were all whitewashed in the clean-up for the Queen’s visit.

Claus Schonfeldt migrated to Australia from Germany with his family as a six-year-old in 1957. In recent years, following the death of his mother and father, he and his daughter have been translating his mother’s journal of their journey from Bremerhaven to Sydney. To his surprise he discovered that he had been a bit shy and bashful after first arriving in Sydney. He was pleased to read that it was only a temporary condition and that he started to liven up a bit after a little while.

Geoff Thomas was opening bowler for his school side. In a memorable match, he took eight wickets for two runs, including two hat-tricks. “If second slip had taken a catch instead of conceding two runs to the batsman, it could have been eight wickets for no runs,” Geoff told *Tranmere Times*, as though the memory was indelibly etched into his mind. Six batsmen were clean bowled, one was caught by the wicketkeeper and the other caught at square leg. The opposition was dismissed for a total of just 17 leaving them 223 behind and the inevitable outright win was obtained.

Mike Porter played with the Athelstone Soccer Club, which won five reserve championships in row and were undefeated for 50 matches straight. Mike coached John and Ross Aloisi in the under 8s and with his excellent tutelage they went on to play for Australia and are currently coaches/managers with Brisbane Roar.

As a 15-year-old apprentice at the prestigious Adelaide tailoring firm of Ingerson and Sons in King William Street, **Kathy Day** was warned off going to Sigalas coffee den or walking down Hindley Street during her lunch break. Each summer Kathy would tailor the new lawn-bowling and cricket creams for the Oldfield pastoralist family.

Night-Owls

This year the ever-popular Night-Owls competition will see an **important policy change** applied. The Tranmere Bowls Committee has decided that all Tranmere members who play pennant bowls, irrespective of the division in which they play, will not be eligible to play Night-Owls.

If you have been regularly playing in a Night-Owls team, please be sure to advise your team coordinator of this new policy to allow ample time to arrange a replacement.

State Over 60s Side



On 20-21 May, Tranmere hosted the final two days of the selection trials for the South Australian over 60s representative side to play in the national championships in Adelaide in October this year. Here we see John Feddersen, Tranmere’s sole aspirant, concentrating on impressing the selectors with his double-reverse doosra delivery. Unfortunately, John, who has previously made the state side four times, just missed out on final selection this year.

If you’d like to be considered for a state over 60s representative position next year, remember that it all begins with the **Supa 60s** tournament events held at various clubs. On 15 January next year, Tranmere will again host one of those tournament days.

Claus’ Conundrum

For those of you who have been pining for a true conundrum to test your skills, here it is.

How many minutes is it before 12:00 noon if 28 minutes ago it was three times as many minutes past 9:00 am?

At the half-way mark of the 2017 Winter Bowls series, we have had 2653 registrants playing over the three days, which is 56 more than at the corresponding time last year. So far there have been 154 different players amongst the bowling winners, with John Feddersen, Darryl Stanton and Geoff Thomas featuring the equal highest number of eight times.