

C Green Shade System Unveiled



Tranmere patron, Dr John Flett, formally opening the new retractable shade system over the 'C' Green.

An excellent turnout of about 100 club members on **Opening Day** witnessed club patron, Dr John Flett, formally open the new retractable shade system for the C Green. Club President, Mike Porter, briefed everyone on the new arrangements for the coming pennant season and introduced three new members, Hong Khoo, Leigh Hall and Roderick Fraser. A fourth new member, Jacqui Langworthy, was unable to attend, but she is keen to get stuck into full time pennant bowling this year, having filled in as a temporary bowler last year.

Long serving club members Barb de Conti and Bev Hill were presented with 25-year membership badges. With formalities concluded players settled into a very sociable game of progressive triples, under a new format designed to maximise player interaction and an opportunity to engage with fellow club members.

Zoe - #1 fan and supporter



The ever-fabulous Tranmere Ladies, preparing another taste sensation – Devonshire Tea.



Teams were randomly drawn, with each team playing against four other teams in four 4-end quarters. The best team on the day was the one with the most ends won over the full 16 ends of the game. The team of Barrie Robran, Trevor Freeman and Judy Brooks prevailed over runners-up Pat Miller, Barbara Christiansen and David Mealor.

The ever-fabulous Tranmere Ladies provided another scrumptious Devonshire Tea for players to enjoy as the presentations were made to the winners.



New members, Hong Khoo, Leigh Hall and Roderick Fraser, introduced at Opening Day.



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Winter Bowls is over for another season. See the winter bowls wrap on page 4 for all the statistics, top players and our raffle prize king. We very much appreciate the support of our major sponsors, **Steve Briffa, Elders Real Estate, National Pharmacies** and **Mitre 10**, as well as our other sponsors, **Back in Motion** and **The Rezz**.



Getting Our Greens Ready

With synthetic greens, there's no more lawn mowing, coring, fertilising or insect control to be done. But you'd be wrong if you thought there was little to no work required to keep our greens and surrounds in good order and ready for bowling. In fact, I'll bet you'd be surprised to read that it takes about 15 hours per week.

Thank goodness we have Bob Gilby and his regular helpers in Peter Douglas and Darryl Stanton to look after the chores. In summer Trevor Morris helps out too.

"Believe it or not, there's more work in winter than in summer to get our bowling greens ready," Bob Gilby told the *Tranmere Times*. On average it takes about 3 hours each day, starting at about 9 o'clock and 7.30 on tournament days. The greens need to be vacuumed, to get all those troublesome leaves and gum nuts off. The ditches have to be cleaned and raked. Bird droppings have to be cleaned up. The surrounds need to be tidied and the paving swept.

Rinks and rink numbers need to be set up with regular rotations to minimise the wear and tramping down of the fibre where players mostly stand. We had the foresight to set up a half-metre grid to give maximum flexibility. Now that we have shading over the C Green as well as the A and B Greens, rink rotation can be maximised on pennant days with everyone enjoying the comfort of the shade.

In winter, when the greens are flooded, Sam Caon and John Daire help to push the waters off so that we can enjoy our winter social bowls.

As well as the routine preparations, the greens are given a good old Spring clean ahead of the pennant season. All the grid lines are marked afresh and the surface is groomed to lift the fibre where once the green would have been cored.

Watering of the greens is most likely not a feature of the maintenance program that comes readily to mind. Bob does this once a fortnight over summer for the specific reason of settling down the dust that accumulates on the surface.

Spreading of very fine sand and rolling the greens are other aspects that you mightn't readily associate with synthetic



surfaces, but they too are required from time to time. It is a three-step process of spreading up to 3 tonnes of sand across the greens, brushing it in and finally giving it a light watering. Rolling the greens can be needed after particularly heavy rains to settle down any air holes or high spots.

Did you know that top dressing gives the greens their speed by improving the smoothness of the roll?

Di Born, Darryl Stanton and Dino De Corso look after the garden beds, hibiscuses and roses, giving the club an attractive first impression. A fortnightly methodical spraying of the greens, ditches and pavers keeps the troublesome weeds at bay.

Bob Gilby has always been an active club member. His tireless service to our Tranmere Bowling club continues a long tradition going back to his days in Broken Hill, with the North Broken Hill Football Club and to the Athelstone Lion's Club when work first brought him to Adelaide.



It was a sub-contractor working for his employer here in Adelaide that encouraged Bob to take up Night Owls at Tranmere. That was in the late 1990s and two seasons later he took up Saturday pennants. Once he retired in 2005, Bob also played Wednesday pennants and hasn't looked back since. True to character, Bob took on the role of co-ordinator for Tranmere's MELBA (mixed electric light bowling) sides. He helped Malcolm Miller with the ground maintenance work and eventually took over from him. Bob is a member of our bowls and general committees and a highly valued member of our club. We are indeed fortunate to have a person of his dedication and work ethic, together with all the other volunteers who help him, to keep our greens polished and at their sparkling best.

Tom Lycett and Crown Bowls

Last month you were invited to consider where a bowling mat of the kind shown in the image on the right would be used. The answer is in a little-known sport called crown bowls.



“The highlight of Louise and my recent trip to England was catching up with my 80-year-old Uncle Bernard,” Tom Lycett said. “He’s been ill the last few years and one of my dreams was to have a bowl with him. Crown bowls that is.”

To the uninitiated, crown bowls is played on a green not unlike lawn bowls but it is a non-flat playing surface, generally with a small raised section somewhere in the middle. As Uncle Bernard calls it, a ‘small bank’.

Crown bowls was first played in 1907. It’s mainly played in the midlands, north England and north Wales, where there are over 200,000 regular players and 3,000 clubs. It’s usually played as a singles or pairs game, with 2 bowls and the first to 21 points wins.

The game begins at the mat; a 5 to 6 inch rubber disc, also called a footer. For the first end it is placed within 3 metres of the so-called entrance to the green.

Thereafter it is placed, by the winner of the previous end, within a metre of where the jack for that end was. In crown bowls the jack can be bowled in any direction to set the mark, but must come to rest within the playing area, no closer than a metre to the edge of the green and at least 19 metres from the mat. Here’s the thing – there is more than one game going on at the same time across the green and you have to be mindful of the line being bowled by other players.

The jack itself is like a 00 size biased bowl. When you roll it, it gives you a good clue as to the roll of the hill (bank), either “upbank” and “downbank” as Uncle Bernard says with a strong midlands accent.

The bowl has an indent or dimple on one side, allowing the bowler to identify by touch which side has the bias. With your thumb on the biased side it is known as your ‘thumb peg’ and when sending down a bowl with your thumb on the non-bias side, it is known as your ‘finger peg’. Obviously, this determines which direction your bowls will go.

The bowler must have one foot placed on the mat and must bowl with whichever hand corresponds to the foot placed on the mat; right foot – right hand, left foot – left hand.



There’s one rule that wouldn’t please Darryl Hemsley: ‘A player must bowl with the same hand throughout the game.’

“I really enjoyed the experience,” Tom said. “It was one of my most precious memories and lots of fun bowling ‘up bank, lad’, with my Uncle Bernard.”

Know Your Role - Skipper

Over the past three editions Tranmere Times has brought you the first instalments of a four-part series on the role of the lead, second, third and skipper in a fours team. This month, we look at the role of the skipper. One of the skipper’s most important roles is to encourage a high morale in the team. The skipper is the leader on the rink and, by his or her demeanour, establishes the tone for the team. Talk to your players beforehand, if only for the simple objective of relaxing them. It is vital, above all else, that the skipper remains positive, exudes confidence and avoids negative comments and body language at all times.

A skipper should respect and understand his or her players personally and recognise their skills and shortcomings. The skipper should be mindful of the player’s feelings (nervous, serious, too relaxed) and respond accordingly. Acknowledge good and effective bowls of team mates on the crossover. Avoid being too kind when bowls don’t achieve the required result and don’t over-praise.

Skippers play a pivotal role in the tactical approach to the game and each end. For every game, the skipper needs to evaluate the strengths and possible weak points of their opposition as quickly as possible. Be clear, precise and specific with directions; keep it simple.

A good rapport and working relationship with the third is highly advantageous to success. Discuss tactics for challenging situations with your third. Take them into your confidence, let them know what you are attempting to achieve and therefore give them the best chance of fulfilling their role in supporting you in your shot selections.

Build a head and either add to the count if safe to do so, or cover a downside risk to avoid potentially big losses. Stay relaxed in tough times and be willing and able to play the big shots when required. Running and weighted shots must hit their target more often than not. Always evaluate what might go wrong.

Many pennant bowling matches are won or lost on the final few ends of play and shot selection can become even more critical than early on in the game. Skippers must be aware of the overall side score. Play for the side, not the team, and, after assessing the situation across the green, decide whether to play a more defensive or attacking game plan. When all is said and done, remember it is a game and enjoy your bowling.

Claus' Tranmere Target Challenge

This month I give you the Tranmere Target challenge. How many words of four or more letters can you make from these nine letters? Each letter may be used only once. The centre letter must be included. The 9-letter target word is the name of one of our club members. Apart from that, all other words are sourced from the 2nd edition Australian Oxford dictionary. Your target is: **Good** 20; **Very Good** 24; **Excellent** 29; **Genius** 34.

A	F	O
T	N	L
L	R	U

If you were to adopt alternate letters as the central letter that must always be used, which letter would result in the least number of target words and which in the most number of target words?

Where Was The Jack?

Below you will see where the jack was in the **Where's Jack** competition from last month. The jack had been only slightly moved from its starting position. Can you believe how many bowls were so far off the mark and not a single bowl in front of the head. That's most unusual. 31 people entered the competition on Opening Day with only Sam Caon and Trevor Freeman getting near the mark. It was a close decision but Sam was closest to the correct spot by a small margin. He won the mystery prize of a bag-o-nuts courtesy of the winter bowls organising committee.



Question: What score would you get if you threw a 'bag-o-nuts' in a game of darts?

Winter Bowls Wrap?

After a record turnout in 2015, numbers were slightly down on all three days for 2016, but nevertheless a very healthy total of 4799 registrants bowled on our greens over the entire season. The two new innovations for 2016: 12 noon starts on all three days and the popular 2-4-2 format for pairs bowling on Saturdays as well as the traditional Fridays, were both well received. The two-bowl triples format was retained for Wednesdays.

Bowlers from 41 different bowling clubs joined us during this season; 32 from within the metropolitan region, 6 from the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island and 3 from interstate. This year we had 208 different people feature amongst the bowling prize winners. Of those, 72 were one-time winners. At the other end of the spectrum, Geoff Thomas featured 18 times, Sam Caon 14 times and John Daire 13 times.



Not everyone bowls on all three days and the bowlers to feature amongst the bowling prize winners most often on the separate days were Rodney Egge on Wednesdays, Trevor Freeman and Bob Cecchi on Fridays and Geoff Thomas on Saturdays. In total close to \$17000 in prize money and raffle prizes was handed out. With an incredible run of sustained luck Ray Kirkwood was the most often awarded raffle winner and lucky draw recipient.

It was great to see so many bowlers enjoying their winter bowls again this year. The many kind words of appreciation from bowlers throughout the season were well received by 'me' and 'him' and they wish everyone well for the pennant season ahead. See you again next year!

You can fool some of the people all of the time and you can fool all of the people some of the time. But, as John Feddersen and Claus Schonfeldt proved on occasion in the post-match wraps, you can make a fool of yourself anytime.

Tranmere Target Solution: aunt, faun, flan, flaunt, font, fontal, fount, front, frontal, Fullarton, furan, futon, llano, loan, loran, lorn, lunar, null, outran, rant, roan, runt, talon, tarn, tolan, tonal, torn, trona, tuna, turn, ulna, ulnar, unroll, unto.