



Eagle Wrap

March 2019

No. 20

From the President (by Sam Katsivas)

Well, it's been an interesting couple of weeks! Yesterday, our Wednesday 1st division side continued its outstanding form, winning against Holdfast Bay in the opening round of the finals. Six weeks or so ago, there was much glumness and head-shaking within the Club as relegation looked a real possibility for this side, so well done to all concerned.

Our Wednesday 3rd division side, which finished minor premiers, went down to Novar Gardens in the first round of the finals. Fortunately, the side has a second chance next week, so our Division 1 and Division 3 teams will be playing in the second round of finals next Wednesday, at Tranmere and Lockleys respectively.

Last Friday night, in a replayed match, the Saturday Division 1 side lost to Tranmere but is still placed second and will be playing finals in two weeks. The Saturday Division 3 side took 14 of the 16 points and, with other results also playing in our favour, has jumped off the bottom of the ladder into 8th place. A good game this coming Saturday against Blackwood will see them hold their colour.

Our Thursday women's sides have had mixed results. The Premier side has fought gamely all season but regrettably will be relegated. However, the second side has finished as minor premiers, winning the Club's first pennant of the season. Go Lockleys..!

From my perspective, these results don't just happen. Some of the reasons they do are because players lift, rinks support each other, bowls focus

is maintained and there is good camaraderie between players. All too often, we give ourselves a deserved pat on the back when we perform to the standard we seek. And that's as it should be.

But let's also recognise that what goes on in the selection room plays a vital role in the makeup of our teams and ultimately the success of our Club. Selection is the most difficult task in a bowling club, as selectors need to be able to find a balance around positional ability, player compatibility and be able to deal sensitively and honestly with players whose perceptions of their own ability differ from what others see and understand. It's a thankless task – so I will thank our selectors here. Well done. Keep up the great work you do.

If you are in a position to support any of our teams that are playing finals, please come along to the games, as it gives the players a great boost to see Club members supporting them.

I will also take this opportunity to remind you of two important events:

- the End-of-Season Power Play event on Wednesday 27 March at 6.30pm is a bowls playoff, featuring our Night Owls against pennant players, so put your name on the list for that – there will be a free BBQ and we want to see as many people there as possible.
- Our Presentation Night is on Thursday 11 April and should be a great evening – we look forward to seeing you all there.

Finally, can I ask people to be a little more vigilant when leaving the Club, to make sure all doors are shut and locked and the alarm activated when the last person leaves. There have been two instances recently where doors have been left open or unlocked, though in one instance the alarm was activated, which caused some consternation when a visitor innocently entered the unlocked building!

From the Board (from the Secretary)

Board appointments – several places on the Board are either up for reappointment or will fall vacant at the AGM in May. If you're interested in becoming involved in the Club's governance, even initially in an assistant capacity, please have a chat with Sam Katsivas.

Club finances – the Club recorded a net profit of \$3170 in February, which was a good result given we had a couple of large expenditure items,

namely the second instalment of the affiliation fee to Bowls SA (\$2300) and provision for outstanding electricity bills (\$4600, some of which we're disputing with Council). Pleasingly, our liquidity is about \$20K better than it was this time a year ago.

Bar profitability – the bar had a very good month in February, with a turnover of almost \$11K (and gross profit of 71%). Well done to Mark Ballestrin and his team – and to those supporting the bar! The recently-introduced EFTPOS facility is also proving popular.

Bowls events and venue bookings – in the coming weeks we have a considerable number of events at the Club, including the Women's Classic Fours Medley, several days of both the Men's and Women's Country Carnival, use of our greens for training by the men's and women's State Squads, and a number of venue bookings. If you can help with any of these events, either in the kitchen or bar, or by marking etc, your assistance will be appreciated.

Club trophies and memorabilia – we've had an offer from the family of a former Club member to upgrade the trophy cabinet (which the member originally donated). Recognising that we have numerous trophies and memorabilia in various locations throughout the Club house, as well as addressing the issue of how best to display our honour boards, the Board is considering whether to set aside an area – possibly in the old Secretary's office – as a 'trophy/history room'. Such a venue would enable much of the material to be appropriately displayed without impacting the broader (and perhaps more modern) décor of the Club house. If you have views on this, please talk with any of the Board members.

Bowls update (from Ashley Halls, Bowls Director)

Pennants – most of the news has been covered by the President but I would reiterate his call for members to support those sides playing in finals, particularly when the games are being played at Lockleys.

We've also had a request from the Metropolitan Bowls Association to host the grand finals of the Division 3, 4 and 5 competitions at our Club on Saturday 6 April. Given that we hopefully will have our Division 1 side returning to the Club that day after playing their grand final at a neutral venue

elsewhere – and that we have a booking from the Fulham Cricket Club for a social function that evening – it could well be a very hectic but profitable day for the Club. We'll keep members advised of further details.

Taylor Challenge – our Club had a reasonable season in both the Gold and Bronze competitions. Pleasingly, the results will return over \$400 in prize money to the Club, as well as providing invaluable experience to those who participated in the competition, which included the opportunity to play against a number of clubs we don't usually encounter in the regular pennant season.

Karidis Retirement Village Women's Classic Fours Medley – a reminder this event is being held at the Club on Sunday 24 March. We have around 20 team nominations to date, so we should have a good turnout. If you can help on the day, please talk to Judy Bartlett, Shirley Howard or Don Webb (regarding tournament organisation) or Bill Green (catering) or Mark Ballestrin (bar).

Country Carnival – the Club will be hosting several days of the Men's and Women's Country Carnival in the week 25-31 March. We need markers for singles on Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 March, as well as Sunday 31 March. If you can help – even for half a day – please put your name on the list on the notice board. If you can assist with catering or the bar, please see Bill Green or Mark Ballestrin.

Best of the West (men's competition) – the dates for this year's round-robin competition are:

- Wednesday 10 April (at Grange)
- Tuesday 16 April (at West Lakes)
- Thursday 18 April (at Holdfast Bay)
- Wednesday 24 April (at Lockleys)

Games commence at 12.30pm and will comprise 7 teams of 2-bowls triples over 25 ends. Each team will consist of a mix of players from various grades, providing the opportunity to play with members of the Club who are not normally together.

The nomination sheet is on the notice board. Please indicate whether you are available for all games or only certain ones. Lockleys currently holds the trophy, having won the last two series. Please contact Lester Todd on 0400 504 527 for further information.

Blue Opal Qualifying Event – the Club will be hosting a qualifying event on Saturday 4 May and Sunday 5 May for the Blue Opal Tournament (held at the Broadbeach Bowling Club on the Gold Coast in late May). The field will be limited to 32 players, with an entry fee of \$75 per person. The winner will get \$600 in cash plus automatic qualification to the Blue Opal Tournament, which has an entry fee of \$1000 and prize money of \$40K+. A nomination list is on the notice board.

Off-season bowls – we are reviewing a range of activities to be conducted during the off-season, including the frequency and duration of mid-week and weekend bowls, as well as the possibility of conducting an indoor bowls competition and various information and training activities. Details will be announced shortly.

Social events (from Sam Katsivas)

The **Quiz Night** held on Friday 15 February was very successful, with about 80 in attendance and a net profit of around \$2500. Thanks to Sam Katsivas and Lyn Nixon for organising it, and to Ashley Halls for providing a very entertaining night as quiz master. The next quiz night will be held in July, with 7-8 teams from our February event already confirming their nomination. Details will be on the notice board shortly.

The next **'Fish Night'** is this Friday (15 March). Late entries welcome but please contact Bill Green on 0417 821 922 ASAP to confirm he can fit you in. Please note also that the following Fish Night will be on Friday 26 April (as the third Friday of the month is Good Friday).

A reminder also that we're still raffling a **new set of Taylor bowls**, valued at \$630, to be drawn at the Karidis Retirement Villages' Women's Classic Fours Medley on Sunday 24 March (generously provided as part of the sponsorship arrangement for the Taylor Bowls Super Challenge).

The **Presentation Night** will be held on Thursday 11 April (6.30 for 7.00pm). Please put your name on the flyer on the notice board. Cost is \$25 per head for a 3-course set menu dinner, which includes wine on the table, courtesy of Shingleback Wines. Dress is smart casual, with a bit of glam (jackets optional but preferred – and please, no shorts, bowls wear or track suits).

The seating plan will be organised by the Social Committee, primarily to ensure we have an appropriate number of Club members sitting with our VIP guests and major sponsors. It should be a great night to end this year's pennant season, so please add your name to the list.

One more snippet of history

Members may find interesting the following excerpt from *Times Have Changed: celebrating 100 years at the Lockleys Bowling Club 1912-2012* (as researched and written by Vern Butler):

Replanting the greens

In March 1980, a Special General Meeting decided that the couch greens which had served the Club so well since the initial planting in 1963 should be replaced with 'tifdwarf', a relatively new bowling green grass which had a reputation for a smoother fast-running surface. The Airport Driving Range assisted with the removal of the old grass and took away some 60-odd tons for replanting at their site, to be replaced with tifdwarf cuttings from the Grange Bowling Club.

By the end of the 1981-82 season, all four greens had been replanted, however, the optimism and anticipation of holding the finals of the Australian National Championships at Lockleys came crashing down when in January 1983 the new greens were considered not up to standard by the Royal South Australian Bowling Association.

After recovering from the disappointment, assistance was sought from the Botanical Gardens ... who conducted exhaustive tests and reported that 'Your soil has been polluted by salt through the use of reclaimed sewerage water ... and it will be many years before the problem is overcome'.

However, switching to mains water brought almost immediate effect. The grass flourished and the 1984-85 season was historic for the Club which hosted the Interdominion Test Matches between Australia and New Zealand ... with the bowling fraternity glowing in their praise of the greens.

Editor's note: we're still using considerable quantities of reclaimed water (which is substantially cheaper than mains water). However, our greenkeeper closely monitors its

chemical composition, utilising data provided by SA Water, to ensure we don't repeat the problems of the early 1980s.

Grants and sponsorship (from the Secretary)

No further news on grants.

SA Accountancy has been added to our sponsor list in recognition of their agreement to audit our financial records for \$500, representing a value-in-kind 'saving' of around \$3000 over previous years. The year-to-date sponsorship tally is now \$23,600 (comprising \$11,350 in cash and \$12,250 in product/services).

If you're aware of grant opportunities or possible sponsors, please contact Bob Ormston, as both are important sources of revenue for the Club.

Calendar for March

- Friday 15 March – 12.30pm social pairs, followed by Club practice session at 4pm; Fish Night at 6pm (see separate notice under social for details)
- Saturday 16 March – pennants round 18
- Tuesday 19 March – 7pm Night Owls (last of the season)
- Wednesday 20 March – pennant preliminary finals – Division 1 at Tranmere, Division 3 at Lockleys; 7pm Night Owls (last of the season)
- Friday 22 March – 12.30pm social pairs, followed by Club practice session at 4pm
- Saturday 23 March – pennants semi-finals
- Sunday 24 March – Karidis Retirement Villages Women's Classic Fours Medley at Lockleys, commencing at 9.30am
- Wednesday 27 March – no pennants (because of Country Carnival); 6.30pm End-of-Season Power Play event (Night Owls v pennant players) – free BBQ included
- Friday 29 March – 12.30pm social pairs, followed by Club practice session at 4pm
- Saturday 30 March – pennants preliminary finals

Calendar for April

- Wednesday 3 April – pennant grand final
- Friday 5 April - 12.30pm social pairs, followed by Club practice session at 4pm
- Saturday 6 April – pennant grand finals, including hosting the Division 3, 4 and 5 competitions at Lockleys
- Wednesday 10 April – 12.30pm social pairs
- Thursday 11 April – 6.30pm Presentation Night (see separate notice under social for details)

- Friday 12 April – 12.30pm social pairs
- Saturday 13 April – 12.30pm social pairs
- Wednesday 17 April – 12.30pm social pairs
- Friday 19 April – Good Friday (no social pairs and no Fish Night)
- Saturday 20 April – 12.30pm social pairs (if sufficient numbers, noting that this date is Easter Saturday)
- Wednesday 24 April – 12.30pm social pairs
- Friday 26 April – 12.30pm social pairs; 6pm Fish Night
- Saturday 27 April – 12.30pm social pairs

Keep up-to-date with Facebook

For the latest news and updates on the Club, access our Facebook page on <https://www.facebook.com/LockleysBowlingClub/>

If you have suggestions for material to include on Facebook, please contact Mark Ballestrin on 0417 700 257.

Did you hear the one about?

A tough-looking group of Harley Davidson bikers were out riding when they saw an attractive girl by the side of the road, weeping uncontrollably.

The leader, a big burly man, got off his bike and approached the girl, saying "What's the matter with you?" The girl didn't respond but kept crying, so the bikie said, "Well, let me cheer you up by giving you a hug and a kiss."

Perhaps fearful of the consequences if she didn't, the girl agreed – and it was a long, lingering and passionate kiss.

After they'd finished – and by then the girl's tears had stopped – the biker said, "Wow! That was the best kiss I've ever had. Now that I've cheered you up, tell me why you were crying."

"It's just my parents, they don't like me dressing as a girl."

Editor's note: this is the last monthly issue for the 2018-19 season. *Eagle Wrap* will now be published two-monthly until the start of next season.