

Club Champions - Drawn Pairs Winners

The men's and women's drawn pairs events were played and won in the now customary hot weather of the first week of January.

What makes this event so great? For starters, it brings together members from across the various pennant sides, Premier to Metro 5, in pairings that are randomly drawn to match higher-ranked with lower-ranked players. You get to play with and against members you may not know so well.

It's an excellent format, not just with the much-loved 2-4-2 style of play that gives all players a chance to shine, but also in the draw of the cards to decide match-ups over three rounds of competition. And then, to top it all off, the event is played out and decided entirely in the one day, with some fun and socialising to wrap things up by mid-afternoon.

Really, this is the club championship event that every club member should be part of, notwithstanding that the individual singles championship is the prestige event.

Both events were nail-biters. In the men's event, five of the 22 teams won all three games, with a single end separating first from second. The pairing of Nick Cirocco and Colin Whyte prevailed over Dino De Corso and Darryl Willson.

The best in each of the three rounds were:

R1: Dino De Corso – Bob Gilby
R2: Nick Cirocco – Colin Whyte
R3: David Mealor – Hong Khoo



Legends of their sports, now 'legends' at our club. Barrie Robran and Dave Roberts paired in the men's drawn pairs event.

The forensic reader will note that Dino De Corso had two partners during the event. Darryl Willson was a no-show to begin with, having forgotten about the event altogether until frantic phone calls jerked him into action. Fortunately Bob Gilby was available to step in until Darryl arrived and a good thing he was.

Honour Board

Men's Drawn Pairs
Nick Cirocco – Colin Whyte

Women's Drawn Pairs
Di Ferris – Kathy Day



In the women's event, only two of the 14 teams won all three games and again only a single end separated the winners from the runners-up.

The pairing of Di Ferris and Kathy Day prevailed over Kirstie Blaskett and Veronica Dolan.

The best in each of the three rounds were:

R1: Betty Williamson – Kathlyn Starkie
R2: Brenda Porter – Pat Miller
R3: Kirstie Blaskett – Veronica Dolan

Congratulations to the winners, runners-up and all who played.



It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas

One hundred and twenty two club members and friends joined in the fun of the annual Tranmere Christmas Dinner at the club on 18 December. The popular Johnny Cole band and a guest appearance by Terry Brooker kept the merry-makers entertained and on the dance floor.

Many members may not have realised that Terry is an entertainer from way back. With his band, The Del Airs, he was the compere vocalist at the St Clair Youth Centre dances. He went on to be compere at the Norwood Ballroom and to sing with Eddie White's All Stars at the Glynde Hotel. After Eddie White turned to vaudeville, Terry joined with John Crossing to perform at dances and hotels for many more years as The John Crossing Trio with Terry Brooker.



John Daire enjoying the Christmas spirit with Sue Sanders and Brenda Porter.



Maureen Mowat and Rod Fraser appreciate bar service from Denise Abraham and Richard Ellis.

Tom and Louise Lycett and Claus Schonfeldt gave us some new lyrics for old time favourites, *Roll, Roll, Roll Your Bowls*, *Jingle Bowls* and *It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas* which had everyone singing along enthusiastically.

It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas
The bowling's almost done
Remember the joy it brings and among most other things
We know it gives us so much fun

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas
Tournaments galore
Yes if in them you delight, it will surely be alright
'Cos after New Year there'll be more

It's beginning to look a lot like Tranmere
It provides you with the best
It won't be very long, 'til the holidays are gone
And you'll be back to bowling with great zest

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas
The bowling's almost o'er
Now it's time to have a break, enjoy our Christmas cake
And forget the scores

Sure it's Christmas, once a-more

The organising committee this year outsourced catering to give the kitchen ladies, who have prepared such fabulous dinners for us over the years, a well-earned break from the kitchen and an opportunity to enjoy the revelry of the evening along with the rest of us. Which undoubtedly they did and, next year, they can look forward to more of the same as we once more secure the services of the caterers, perhaps with some tweaking of the menu.



Santa made his customary appearance throwing lollies around with gay abandon, as well as drawing the winner of our Christmas raffle – congratulations to Leigh Hall.

Karl Stuelten and his partner, Karin, enjoying a dance on the dance floor.

Meredith and Graeme Parkinson. Where's the mistletoe?!



Who Can It Be Now?

The International Person of Intrigue featured in the previous (December) edition of the Tranmere Times was, of course, Ivor Mowat. How did you go? Did you know or guess it? Berwick might have been a bit of a clue for you, although Ivor, who was born in Edinburgh, lived in Harwick. So, how is Berwick a bit of clue? Look them up on your map of Great Britain and it should be clear. And, yes, each of the stories is true.

For Ivor, who is one of our current selectors, lawn bowls started by invitation from Max Arthur, then president of the bowling club. Max was running a keep-fit class that Ivor attended and, knowing that Ivor was about to retire, encouraged him to give it a go. Ivor thought 'why not', and after Max showed him the basics, he joined in with the Friday morning bowlers.

Not long after that, Richard Ellis, passing by Ivor's house on one of his neighbourhood walks, spied Ivor doing some gardening in his front yard. Being the friendly neighbour he



is, Richard stopped for a chat. Being the active recruiting sergeant he is for the bowling club, he suggested Ivor take up bowling. Ivor happily told him he already was but, 'before I knew it,' Ivor told Tranmere Times, 'I was playing pennants.'

'There's something special about Tranmere,' Ivor said when asked what it is about Tranmere that he likes so much. 'There's a terrific atmosphere and the people are great.'

This month we feature photos of three of our club members, but taken quite some time ago. In fact, when they were each in their late teens or early twenties. Do you recognise them? All will be revealed in the next edition.



Great News for Tranmere: Hosting Senior Supa Series

Bowls SA invited Tranmere to tender for one of their Senior Supa Series Over 60s bowls tournaments – so we did – and we are hosting the event on Monday 23 January. We have the option to host the event for 2018 and 2019 as well.

With on-line entries to Bowls SA and stacks of phone calls by Eddie Dolan we have managed to get a full house of 38 teams for the event. For the record, we have 29 teams from other clubs as well as nine from Tranmere.

Claus' Conundrum

You are a volunteer bus driver for the Campbelltown City Council. On a bright and sunny Tuesday morning, you pick up your bus at the depot and drive to the Bellara Village on Newton Road where you pick up 15 passengers. You drive on to Langton Park on Montacute Road where 2 passengers get off to visit friends and 4 new passengers get on. At the next stop, the Magill Retirement Village on Reid Avenue, 4 get off and 3 get on. After a pleasant outing at the Botanic Gardens, you drive your passengers back to their respective locations in reverse order.

How old is the bus driver?

What Am I Reading?

This edition we asked Colin Whyte ...

I grew up in a migrant family where both parents worked all their lives, having arrived like many others with very little. However, one of our "treats" was having access to an extensive Gawler Library. My father was an avid reader who, due to often working away from home, gave me the task of returning books to the library and selecting new ones written by one of his chosen authors. This eventually led to me borrowing books of my own, with Enid Blyton being an early favourite (the Famous Five and the Secret Seven).

As my business life entailed a lot of writing and reading - reports, proposals and contracts, I sought to "escape" with my leisure reading. After trying different genres, I found my greatest relaxation and enjoyment came from well written crime and thriller novels. In particular, my favourite reads were books by John Le Carre, John Grisham, Robert Ludlum, Tom Clancy and Patrick Robinson. I loved the latter's submarine novels.

However, I also thoroughly enjoyed novels by Jean M Auel (Clan of Cave Bear fame) and Ken Follett (Pillars of the Earth).

While most books I have read have been written by American or British authors, in recent times I have found some excellent Scandinavian authors. Most would be familiar with the Stieg Larsson Millennium series. However, I love Jo Nesbo's novels (particularly the Harry Hole series) for their ability to hold your attention from start to finish with down-to-earth, realistic characters and plausible plots. Other Scandinavian authors I like are Henning Mankell and Camilla Lackberg.



The long and the short of it.

The next authors on my list are Asa Larsson and possibly Liza Marklund. How fortunate are we that today we can go on holidays with an iPad or Kindle containing 10, 20 books without having to worry about excess baggage? What a truly wonderful invention.

What's In A Name?

Mea culpa - oops! In the November edition of Tranmere Times, three plausible nicknames of club members were provided, but only two were genuine. Several people have pointed out that the answer was not in the December edition. Worry yourself no more.

Claus Schonfeldt was indeed *Santa* and John Feddersen was *Fred* to his army mates. Greg Ferris was not *Rusty*, but we think he should have been! Tranmere Times may well have started something.

Here are two more nicknames for you to mull over. Both back stories are real, but only one of the nicknames is genuine. Trevor Freeman is *Raggie* and Cynthia McCreanor is *Essie*.

Trevor was dubbed as *Raggie* by Mark Green (now at the Brighton Bowling Club) when they both met for the first time years ago at the Gold Coast playing in the national Master Builders bowls championships. Mark noticed that Trevor had Hope Valley stickers on his bowls and so began a conversation. When Trevor told him he played for Hope Valley but lived in Athelstone, Mark immediately responded with, 'Oh, a Raggie,' referring to the nickname of the Athelstone amateur football league club.

Cynthia McCreanor's nickname was, for a long time, *Essie*, short for Esmerelda. Sounds a bit bizarre, I know, but that's often what nicknames are. You see, Cynthia supported her husband as an assistant in his magic act, both behind the scenes and on stage. Her stage name was The Beautiful (of course) Esmerelda and, when one of her best friends one day called her *Essie*, it just stuck. For years, Cynthia and her husband, Merlin the Magician, performed and toured outback Australia with their show.

Cecchi Deflowered on Rink

Some people get their line from a mark on the bank. Bob Cecchi uses one of the hibiscus flowers in our front garden beds. When Di Born pruned them recently, Bob was left feeling naked and deflowered.