

The AGM and Your New Committee

Forty-five club members came along to the Tranmere Bowling Club AGM held on 30 April 2017.

Wow. The thing that was impressed upon me and, presumably all others in attendance, is just how much forward thinking and volunteer work goes into making a club like this function smoothly and effectively.

Mike Porter informed us that planning for 2017-18 is well under way. The General Committee has approved the project to upgrade our floodlights. The old lights were installed in 2000 and 2004 and have lost some of their lighting power. We have applied to the State Government's Office of Recreation and Sport for a facility upgrade grant so that we can install the latest LED technology floodlights that will give 50% more light power, are cheaper to run, and each globe should last for 36,000 hours. Campbelltown Council has already given us a grant of \$10,000 towards the project. If everything goes to plan we will be a lot brighter for the next Night Owls season.

“Our current members enjoy bowls facilities that our earliest members would never have dreamed of.” Mike Porter

Tranmere Bowling Club Committee 2017-18

President: Mike Porter
 VP (Women): Anne Lippis
 VP (Men): Geoff Thomas
 Secretary: Darryl Stanton
 Treasurer: Claus Schonfeldt
 Committee: Denise Abraham
 Kathy Day
 Mary Feddersen
 Sue Sanders
 Bob Bussenschutt
 Max Davidson
 Bob Gilby
 Peter Holland

The General Committee has also approved the purchase of synthetic material to go into all the bowling green ditches. This will save time in maintenance and preparation of greens for all bowls competitions and practice sessions.

The material will be a rusty red colour that will also improve the visual conditions for stepping onto the greens.

The Club has also called for quotes to upgrade our electricity sub-boards. The sub-board on the south wall in the centre of the club has run out of room such that we cannot add further necessary appliances into the main kitchen.

We are also looking at extending the front veranda outwards to give better weather protection from wet weather conditions.

Our new Sponsors Book has been well received by our sponsors. It complements our TV advertising program that we present at our various bowls events. Last season our sponsors donated nearly \$13,000 in cash and products towards our tournaments and events. So, if you need the services or products that one of our sponsors can provide, please give them a call - tell them that you are from Tranmere - it could be beneficial.

Another new season is not far away. The opportunity to bounce back after last season is up to us to make it happen.



Thanks to Paradise Motors Mazda, Tranmere pennant bowlers will have new-look bowls stickers to display on their bowls from the beginning of next season. They look pretty snazzy, don't they?

“This is your club; you are all owners for the length of your membership years. Enjoy and volunteer often.” Mike Porter

Key Calendar Dates – 2017-18

Open Day	Saturday 2 September
Trials	Commence Wednesday 6 September
Pennant	Commence Wednesday 4 October
	Thursday 5 October
	Saturday 7 October

D is for Dolan

How to surprise your wife on your 25th wedding anniversary – option 101, by Eddie Dolan. “I’d had a moustache for 28 years,” Eddie told Tranmere Times, “and, on a whim, on our 25th wedding anniversary on the Gold Coast, I decided to shave it off.” Eddie didn’t tell Veronica, so it would be a surprise and, judging by her loud scream when he appeared sans tickler, it was.



The things we do for love. Sounds like a great title for a hit pop song and it could have been written for Eddie and Veronica. When Eddie (17) met Veronica (16) at a New Year’s Eve dance in Glasgow in 1965, there was an instant attraction. But, it wasn’t all smooth sailing. The night ended eventfully – no, no, not what you’re thinking. Eddie didn’t own a car but, the guy Veronica’s best girlfriend hooked up with did. He thought he was on to a good thing and offered to ‘lumber’ the girls and Eddie home. Great for Eddie and Veronica; not so great for the best girlfriend. She didn’t really fancy the guy and when the car pulled up at a set of lights, she and Veronica did a runner. Eddie was heartbroken.

All was not lost however and, clearly, fate was on their side. They both attended night school and met up on Wednesdays. Love blossomed and, for Eddie, the courtship meant a regular two-hour round trip on public transport to escort Veronica home to Paisley, then back to Glasgow and on to his home in Milngavie (pronounced Mulguy – these Scots speak a funny language).

They married in 1970 and, to close the loop on this part of the story, Veronica’s best bridesmaid was none other than she of runner fame from that eventful New Year’s Eve dance. They’re still best friends to this day.

A daughter was born in 1972 and, in 1976, they migrated to South Africa. Veronica’s sister had been living in Johannesburg for some time and her favourable reports of

life and opportunity there enticed Eddie and Veronica to give it a go. Despite arriving two weeks after the Soweto riots they found life in South Africa rich and rewarding.

Eddie found work with Africa’s largest explosives manufacturer, which neatly reveals our first mystery member from last month’s conundrum. Yes, it was a dangerous occupation and, yes, there were regular explosions, some of which, tragically, cost lives. Their first encounter of such an explosion occurred prior to Eddie’s employment at the company. When Veronica switched on the engine to drive their new car for the first time, they were rocked by an enormous bang which they initially feared was the car. But, it was the noise from the distant explosives factory where a magazine with 29 ton of explosives had detonated. Just imagine the fright this would give you.

Among many highlights, Eddie and Veronica enjoyed trips to Kruger National Park and the Okavango Delta where they saw the Big 5. Eddie and Veronica were always go-getters and risk-takers. Eddie left the explosives factory to set up a plumbing business which he and Veronica grew to become the most successful in South Africa at that time.

During their time in South Africa a son was born and, after ten years, the family returned to the UK in 1986, taking up residence in Dorset. Eddie took on the job of building inspector and did such an excellent job of it he was recognised with the highest national award by the National House Building Council. Veronica became PA to the Public

Relations Manager at BP in Wareham, which brings us neatly to the second mystery member from last month’s conundrum. Her job regularly took her out to the oil rig in the centre of Furzey Island in Poole Harbour.



After enduring a month of particularly heavy snow over winter, they decided there and then to apply to migrate to Australia. Who could blame them? They were made welcome in 1989.

Their entrepreneurial drive shone through once more, establishing the successful Dolan Tile business in 1997. Today, it’s run by their son and Eddie and Veronica enjoy the rewards of their hard work.

It was through the building trade they met Darryl Stanton and his partner Sandra Deakin and that’s how they got into lawn bowls.

They often socialised after work, enjoying many a fine wine club dinner together. They all worked long hours, seven days a week and Darryl suggested night-owls as a relaxing social activity to help unwind. They formed a team, *The Wobblers*, so named because the bowls always seemed to wobble out of Veronica's hand, and thus began their time at Tranmere.

They loved it so much, they progressed to winter bowls and then pennant and haven't looked back since. "I knew so many people from winter bowls, I was surprised to meet so many new people at pennant," Veronica said. "For a long time, I knew more visiting club members than our own."

They both still enjoy bowling as much today as when they started and have had remarkable success in a short time. Veronica has been a member of seven pennant-winning sides, has won four 8-badges and been part of a Taylor's Cup winning squad. Eddie has been a member of two pennant-winning sides and three Taylor's Cup winning squads. Both have been active club members and continue to contribute to committee, selection and other volunteer work.

"We used to work so hard and such long hours, our daughter told us to 'get a life'," Veronica noted. "Now she has to come to Tranmere if she wants to see us."

Know Your Rules

A player in a pennant match plays out of turn. While the bowl is in motion and still yet to reach the head, that player's skipper realises the mistake. What should the skipper do? The obvious reaction would be stop the bowl before it had any impact into the head, return it to the player to play in turn after the other player has first bowled as should have been the case.

1. Do the rules allow that?
2. What if the bowl has reached the head and gone through without impacting any other bowl or the jack and come to rest in play (say as the back wood on the green)?
3. What if it did as above but ended in the ditch?
4. What if it impacted another bowl or the jack?
5. What if it was a wrong bias and was headed into a neighbouring rink?

The following answers have been supplied by one of our resident, accredited umpires - John Feddersen.

Question 1: No! Only the opposing skip can stop the bowl and return it to the player to play it in the proper order, not the skip of the player who bowled it out of turn (Rule 29.1.1).

Question 2: The opposing skip must choose whether to:

- a) leave the bowl where it came to rest and have their team play two bowls one after the other to get back to the proper order of play; or
- b) return the bowl and get back to the proper order of play (Rule 29.1.2).

Question 3: As for question 2 but, if the opposing skip chose option a), he should obviously remove it from the ditch and place it on the bank.

Question 4: The opposing skip must choose whether to:

- a) leave the disturbed head as it is and have their team play two bowls one after the other to get back to the proper order of play, or
- b) replace the head in its former position and return the bowl to and get back to the proper order of play, or
- c) declare the end dead (rule 29.1.3).

Question 5: As for question 2 but additionally fine the player \$1 donation to the home sides' favourite charity. If the bowl ends up out of bounds and the opposing skip chose option a), he should obviously remove it and place it on the bank.

State Development Squad

Tranmere Times is always on the cutting edge of breaking news and we are pleased to announce that for the third year running our very own Kirstie Blaskett has been selected in the Women's State Development Squad for 2017-18. The squad consists of approximately 20 ladies from all over the state. The ladies train once a month along with being expected to do their own drills. This is great recognition for Kirstie who continues to improve at a fast rate.

We are also pleased to announce that Justin Parkinson has been selected in the Men's State Development Squad for the second year running.

Both Kirstie and Justin will be training hard and working to get selected in their respective state development sides, which travel to Mildura in August for the annual "grudge" match against Victoria Country Sides. Beyond this, both teams play various regional games throughout the upcoming season.

Congratulations again to both Kirstie and Justin; well done!

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder to find one.

Tranmere Helps Wasleys

On Sunday 26 March 2017, in sweltering heat, Roger Birnie, Darryl (Wheelie) Willson, Dave Gray (Lobethal Bowling Club) and Anne Lippis went up to Mount Pleasant to play in the Wasleys President's Day. Mount Pleasant Bowling Club hosted the event, as the Wasleys clubrooms are not completed yet, after the devastating bushfire of November 2015.



"It was super to be a part of this, with some metro and many country clubs battling it out in extreme heat and humidity to make it a successful day," Anne told the Tranmere Times. The Tranmere team came second on the day (no mean feat), just missing out by 3 points for top spot. The greens were very challenging to say the least. One team did not turn up, so Mount Pleasant pulled a member off his tractor and got him and his young son (11 years old) and young daughter (12 years old) to fill in. Great spirit in the sport of lawn bowls!

The good news is that Wasleys Bowling Club is rising from the ashes, with their greens restored and clubrooms nearing completion. They have a good Facebook page if anyone is interested in their progress.

Claus' Conundrum

This month, instead of a proper conundrum, Tranmere Times presents an obscure fact about each one of your 2017-18 committee members. See if you can link the fact with the member to which it applies.

Submit your entries, on a sheet of paper with your name and the fact number alongside each of the committee members to whom you think it applies, to Claus Schonfeldt, by no later than Friday 16 June 2017. The entry with the most correct answers wins a voucher for a winter bowls game.

Tranmere Supports Wheelie

He's cute. He's cuddly. And we love him. I'm talking about the wombat, not Darryl 'Wheelie' Willson.



Ian and Denise Abraham love him so much that they chased him all the way to Raymond Terrace Bowls Club, NSW. They dropped in on their way up north for their annual winter retreat on Sunday 21 May to cheer on SA and Darryl Willson in the National Disability Bowls Championships.

For the record, Darryl and his triples team mates missed out on a semi-final spot by a single shot. He fared better with his pairs partner to make it through to the semi-final, but lost out to the strong Queensland pairing.

Entry forms will be at the desk on each winter bowls day.

- 1: My nickname at high school was 'stiffy'.
- 2: I proudly restored a 100-year-old rocking horse to its former glory.
- 3: I performed, before a large paying audience, on the Sydney Opera House stage.
- 4: I am a grand sword master.
- 5: I tailored men's suits for a leading Adelaide tailor.
- 6: I played cricket and once took 8 wickets for 2 runs, including two hat-tricks.
- 7: Playing soccer in Adelaide was an experience especially when the team was referred to, by the Messenger Press, as a team of ageing never-has-beens.
- 8: My mother says I was a shy and bashful youth.
- 9: In my day, I was a state 100m hurdle champion.
- 10: I provided health care support to the outback community with the Royal Flying Doctor Service.
- 11: I worked with Pro Hart.
- 12: I trained and drove harness racing horses.
- 13: I had my throat slit as an infant.