

Open Day Saturday 3 September

Happy Birthday Tranmere Times

This is issue number 24 of the Tranmere Times. When it all began back in June 2014 Tom Lycett and Claus Schonfeldt weren't sure how long the effort would survive; they were just happy to give it a go and see what reception it got.

Well, thanks to your very positive feedback they have been buoyed to keep going and here they are, just over two years on, still publishing.

Friday Morning Social Bowls

Friday morning social bowls is very popular at the Tranmere Bowling Club with a band of regular players (plus other occasional players as well) coming along every Friday morning to enjoy a relaxed game with lots of friendly social engagement.

"Fridays are the best," Barbara Christiansen said when asked what she enjoyed most about being a member of the Tranmere Bowling Club. "It is such a sociable atmosphere. The other bowling is enjoyable too, but if I could only do one or the other it would be Friday."

Read more about Bob and Barbara Christiansen in this month's Player Profile on page 2.

Important Calendar Dates

3 September Season Opening Day

Wednesday Trial Matches

7 September Internal
 14 September Internal
 21 September Hope Valley
 28 September Modbury

Thursday Trial Matches

8 September Internal
 15 September Internal
 22 September Payneham
 29 September Hope Valley

Saturday Trial Matches

10 September Internal
 17 September Payneham
 24 September Kensington-Marryatville
 1 October Internal (9:30am)

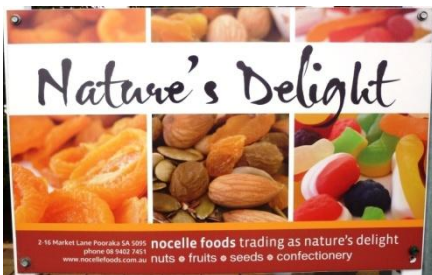
Bowling Arm National Championships – Final Trial Match

Tranmere is the home of the bowling arm players of South Australia. On Sunday 21 August the South Australian state team will compete against an elite Tranmere squad in its final trial before heading off to Broadbeach, Queensland to compete in this year's national championships.

Rodney Egge, Mike Porter and Ron Mitchell (Bowls SA and ex President at West Lakes) select the state team. Rodney is the SA state coordinator, and, together with his counterparts from NSW, Victoria and Queensland, they organise the national championships.



Dave Roberts anxiously guarding his resting toucher at Friday bowls



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Know Your Role - Third

Over the past two months Tranmere Times has brought you the first two 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 third.

The third is a pivotal player. They will have the skills to deliver a full armoury of shots, any one of which may be called upon in a range of circumstances. Hopefully the team has had a solid start, in which case the third will be asked to strengthen the position either by drawing to add more shots to the count or to place a positional bowl in a defensive spot. In the hopefully much rarer circumstance of both the lead and second having failed, the third must become the lead bowler and draw close bowls to give the skipper something to work with. Where the lead and second have bowled well but the opposition has one better bowl, or a bowl that is holding up a multiple shot count, the third may be asked to play a forcing shot to remove and replace that bowl. Occasionally the third will be asked to drive at the head.

If you are a third, make sure that you have the required skills to bowl each type of bowl with confidence. Be prepared to do some drill practice for those shots that are not so strong in your armoury.

Having a good rapport with your skipper is very important. Always wait for your skipper's call and then play the shot to the best of your ability. Now and again you may see an alternative shot from the mat end. Discuss this with your skipper and, on some occasions, you may be allowed to visit the head to have a look and be invited to play the shot in which you have more confidence.

Observe and become familiar with the way your skipper likes to play the game. On the change of ends be clear with your skipper about the objective with the remaining bowls. Do not interfere or offer the skipper advice from your end unless you are asked to do so, the head has changed significantly, or you believe the skipper has missed something important. When asked, give quick and precise directions. If the head has changed significantly after either of the two skippers' first bowls, it might pay to have your skipper visit the head to evaluate what shot is now required. Don't be concerned about taking up time; the rules allow for this and it may make the difference between a win or a loss in a tight contest.

It is important that you maintain an even demeanour, irrespective of the circumstances and especially try to stay relaxed in tough situations. Be a leader and motivator at your end.

Remember, it is never acceptable to openly critique your skipper and other team mates during the course of the match. If there are concerns, these should be held in check until the match has been completed and the team can have a meaningful review of the day.

The third has a critical role, in conjunction with the opposing third, to declare the result after each end has been bowled. Always have a measure on hand, know the rules and be thorough. Do not rely on an opponent's say-so or measure if you are unsure.

C is for Christiansen



Imagine you are a 28-year-old young man having grown up in the back blocks of the Riverland helping your father on the family fruit block. You have a yearning for adventure and a career with a challenge. What do you do? I'll bet heading off to Papua New Guinea to live and work in places such as Goroka and Mt Hagen in the highlands, Lae or Daru on the remote coast, and Kavieng on the northern tip of the island of New Ireland don't come readily to mind.

Well, that's exactly what Bob Christiansen did in 1959 as an expat working for the Australian Treasury and Finance department on secondment to PNG to assist with public administration in the years before independence. To compound the situation, Bob had been courting Barbara in the year before he left. When they couldn't bear to be apart he came back for her in 1960, got married and they settled down to married life together in those remote villages of Papua New Guinea. Barbara too took up work with the PNG Public Works department.

Just in case you're wondering where Daru is, look it up on Google maps. It is on the western coast of the Bay of Papua across from Port Moresby heading towards Irian Jaya. Back in the 1960s this was truly remote. Bob and Barbara lived in a native house until the more modern Treasury house was built. Supplies were flown in by Catalina aircraft once a week from Port Moresby.

Bob and Barbara had their two children in PNG. The second was born while they lived in Daru and because it only had a native hospital they thought it might be best to go to Port Moresby if they could. Because the Catalina only flew once a week and babies don't necessarily follow such artificial timetables, they got a room prepared in their house just in case. When the time came, the pilot had to be comfortable with carrying such a delicate passenger and said to Bob, "Bring her down and I'll have a look at her." Apparently she looked alright and was good to go. In Port Moresby Barbara gave birth to a healthy baby son without any dramas.

Bob and Barbara really enjoyed beginning their life together and raising a young family in PNG. They had a tight group of expat friends, many of whom have remained friends for life.

When their children were ready to start high school Barbara came home with them while Bob stayed on a while. It was just before Papua New Guinea gained independence in 1975 and, once that happened, Bob needed to transfer employment from the Australian government to the new government of Papua New Guinea if he was to continue to work and live there. With Barbara and the children already in Australia the decision was easy. Bob took a package and he too came home in 1976.

Bob and Barbara were and are active people who love to play sport. Bob played competitive tennis at the Tranmere tennis club and because Barbara, in her own words, "wasn't good enough for Tranmere tennis", she played competitive squash instead. A hip replacement for Bob in 2010 put paid to tennis and he and Barbara then took up night owls, because it looked like a lot of fun.

They enjoyed it so much that Barbara took up pennant bowling in 2012, with Bob doing the same two years later. They both thoroughly enjoy bowling and being club members at Tranmere. "The social aspect is terrific and the facilities are excellent," they both told Tranmere Times. "If I didn't play at Tranmere, I probably wouldn't play anywhere," they both said.

As with many of our club members Bob and Barbara help out around the club as best they can. They are both ready and willing to fill in for the Wednesday men's and Thursday ladies' competition as required. Barbara has achieved something that I doubt many others will ever have done; not one, but two, 8-badges on her first day pennant bowling. Bob too has won an 8-badge and Barbara has been a member of two premierships winning sides. How good is that?

Congratulations Julie Ludlow and Tim Huston for being selected in the ladies' and men's fours teams to represent SA in the national indoor bowling championships to be held in Shell Harbour, NSW this month.

Know Your Rules

Bowls SA has recently issued a memo to all clubs to make clear the rules concerning the use of mobile phones or other electronic devices to assist in estimating whether your team is holding shot or how many shots it is holding (or not) during the course of play before the end is finished.

You may be aware of, and may even have seen, a mobile phone app that provides a series of concentric circles within a transparent frame that can be used to position over the jack and get a guide to which bowl is closest to it. If you haven't seen this app, find someone who's got it and have a play. It's good fun.

But that's where it ends – at good fun. Bowls SA has ruled that mobile phones or other electronic devices **cannot** be used for estimating the number of shots prior to the final process of deciding the number of shots once the end has been completed.

At the same time, Bowls SA has confirmed that the technique of using crossed fingers or of placing a foot alongside or parallel to (but not directly between) the jack and bowls is acceptable for estimating the shot or number of shots during an end.

It has also confirmed that a device, other than a mobile phone app or other electronic device, comprising concentric circles within a transparent frame, may be used. But, it has emphasised that all 'pre-measures' must be made at waist height only or well away from the head if making comparisons using feet or other objects.

Winter Bowls



Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun.

At Tranmere the bowlers rug up for winter fun

Other clubs hibernate and have their greens closed

At Tranmere such folly is vehemently opposed

We brave the weather no matter how malign

Bowling in cold and rain for us is fine

It's just as well that winter's nearly done

Mad dogs and Englishmen come out in the midday sun.



How Old Is The Game Of Bowls?



Pictured is our very own Tom Lycett at the oldest bowling green in the world, which, if you've been paying attention to the Friday Questions at winter bowls, will know to be the Southampton (Old) Bowling Green commencing circa 1299.

Bowls began well before Sir Francis Drake famously played bowls on Plymouth Hoe prior to the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. Lawns for the Old Green were first laid in 1187 and a Master of the Green was appointed prior to 1299. The green, of course, was not as we would recognise today. There were no mowers or rollers at that time; only a scythe and a tampering tool for flattening the ground.

This perhaps explains why initially the game may have had an element of throwing involved, somewhat akin to the game of boulé and bocce.

Originally thought of as a poor man's game, by the mid 16th century a nobleman's mansion was not considered really complete without a designated area for lawn bowls.

Claus' Conundrum

The key to last month's conundrum was in the wording. I didn't suggest that I could jump over the hand railing (as a high jumper would do). I simply said I could jump higher than the hand rail and because the hand rail cannot jump, it wouldn't matter how high I could jump.

This month there is no conundrum for you to puzzle over. Instead there is a spot the bowl competition.

Where's Jack? Where do you think the jack is in this head? This was a genuine head played out in one of the recent winter bowls days.



The nearest correct entry will win a fabulous mystery prize. If you want to be in the running for that prize, mark a copy of the photo with an X where you think the jack might be, put your name on the entry and hand it to Claus by the end of Opening Day.

And, as an additional challenge, do you know where a bowling mat of this kind would be used? Clue: Tom Lycett has recently been there too.

