



2019-20 Pennant Season Wrap

How did our pennant sides fare this season?

At the start of the season we set ourselves objectives for each of the eighteen sides Tranmere fielded over the three days of pennant competition.

We did quite well. Six of our sides achieved their objective, including two that won their pennant.



Congratulations to all who played in the Thursday Division 2 North and Wednesday Division 2 North sides. Another three sides fell agonisingly short by finishing in second place, missing out on the pennant and promotion - they had a very good season all the same.



That's half our sides with great results. Of the remaining nine sides, two were demoted after a very challenging season, with the other seven acquitting themselves well to finish mid-table.

How did our pennant sides fare this season compared with past seasons?

The basis of the following comments is the average table position of all our sides in the respective competitions.

In the Wednesday competition, Tranmere sides finished much the same as they did last year. We ranked 9th out of 49 clubs that fielded sides in this competition. Our top side found the rise into Premier Division demanding and will be relegated back to Division 1 next season. Our second side won the premiership but, as a result of the relegation of our top side, will not be promoted next season. We were again the best of the clubs that fielded a high number of sides and second of the ten eastern suburbs clubs. Toorak-Burnside was the best.



In the Thursday competition, all four Tranmere sides again finished in the top four with the same average table position as last season. Our second side won the premiership and will be promoted to Division 1 next season. We were again best of the clubs that fielded a high number of sides, albeit the number of clubs that do so is shrinking. We were second best of the nine eastern suburbs clubs. Walkerville was the best.



In the Saturday competition, Tranmere sides finished the season less favourably than last season with a lower average table position of 5.37 (compared with 4.0), ranking 27th out of 50 clubs (compared with 12th out of 50). Our top three sides did well, finishing 3rd, 2nd and 2nd respectively. Two of our sides will be relegated. We ranked 4th best of the clubs fielding the highest number of sides and 4th best of the ten eastern suburbs clubs. Modbury was the best.

Premierships 2012-13 to 2019-20

Over the past eight pennant seasons (2012-13 to 2019-20) Tranmere has won 22 premierships – the most of any metropolitan bowling club.

After a terrific return of 5 premierships this season, Salisbury has the second most with 19 and Ascot Park, which, like us, won 2 premierships this season, is third with 16. Tranmere regularly fields a high number of pennant sides over all three days of pennant competition. Only one other club, Brighton, does that too. This season both clubs fielded 18 sides.

As a point of interest, the total number of sides fielded by all clubs has been steadily declining, from 489 in 2012-13 to just 439 in 2019-20.

You might expect the clubs fielding more sides to win more premierships. To a large extent, that's true, but not universally so. Often the clubs that field just one or two sides do very well as a proportionate return for the number of sides entered. Let's call this the strike rate – the percentage of premierships out of the total number of sides entered.

Tranmere sides have a strike rate of 15.6%. That's pretty good and ranks 7th out of the 56 clubs that have fielded sides over the period. Of the bigger clubs, only Salisbury has a better strike rate, at 17.9%.

Summary

Feel proud of what you and your fellow club members have achieved and, above all else, hopefully you've enjoyed your bowling, whether it has led to premiership success or not.