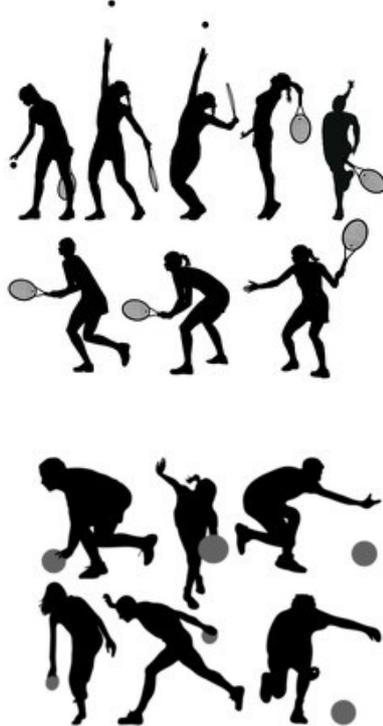




Centenary Celebration

30 March 2025

Club Tranmere's centenary celebrations, recalled the history of tennis, bowls and croquet with an emphasis of the attire worn during those times.



TRANMERE BOWLING AND CROQUET CLUB.

The Tranmere and District Bowling, Tennis, and Croquet Clubs held an evening on Wednesday, at the Tranmere Masonic Hall, and made it the occasion of the presentation of a case of gold-mounted pipes to the treasurer (Mr. W. H. Page), who leaves shortly for England. Included among those present were Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Treloar, Mr. and Mrs. S. Alexander Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Duell, Mr. and Mrs. J. Tenyson Bold, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. P. Rote, Mr. and Mrs. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Thorpe, Mr. and Mrs. K. Knox, Mr. and Mrs. D. Jarvis, Mrs. W. Sanderson, Mrs. Sampson, Mrs. Coonan, Mrs. H. B. White, Mrs. Fellow, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Skitch, Mrs. Blundell, Mrs. Dealy, Mr. and Mrs. S. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Gard, Mr. and Mrs. S. Platt, Mr. and Mrs. F. Flood, Mr. and Mrs. R. O'Connor, Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Badger, Mr. and Mrs. P. Dempster, Mr. and Mrs. W. Wilson, Mr. W. H. Page, Miss Page, Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Beger, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Bevan, Mrs. A. Philips, Mr. and Mrs. L. Carr, Mr. and Mrs. Major, Miss Lorna Mayor, Miss Joyce Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Rodda, Mr. and Mrs. Emerson, Mrs. Harwood, Mrs. D. Murray Collett, Misses Baker, Mr. E. H. Bakewell, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. Davidson, Miss Harrington, Misses Fotheringham, Mr. J. Fotheringham, Misses E. and J. Knox, Mr. V. Knox, Mr. Atkin, Mrs. M. H. Williams, Mrs. E. O. Thomas, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Molnar, Mrs. Nightingale, Mrs. C. B. Sharpe, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Sperry, Messrs Bowen, Bradshaw, E. Martin, A. Edwards, A. Nicholls, E. Nicholls, Messrs. A. Treloar, P. Treloar, S. Treloar, L. Simon, and E. Simon.

AT TRANMERE.
 Invitations have been issued by the President of the Tranmere and District Bowling, Tennis, and Croquet Club (Mr. C. H. Treloar) and Mrs. Treloar to the official opening at the grounds, Magill road, this (Saturday) afternoon.

TRANMERE BOWLING, TENNIS, AND CROQUET CLUB.
 Amongst the many efforts to raise the necessary funds for the initial stages made by the Tranmere Bowling, Tennis, and Croquet Club, was an eight weeks' competition. This effort has just come to a close, and resulted in about £25 being raised. The competitors were Messrs. Gard, Flood, Roberts, Treloar, and Page, Mr. J. B. Gard and

TRANMERE CLUBHOUSE.

On Saturday night the new clubhouse erected by the Tranmere bowling, tennis, and croquet club was declared open by the president of the Bowling Association (Mr. S. J. Laidlaw), who was accompanied by the vice-presidents (Messrs. W. Miller and J. C. Rundle), the secretary (Mr. T. Crase) and other members of the executive. The president of the combined club (Mr. C. H. Treloar) traced the history of the club, and said the membership in four years had grown from 95 to 175.

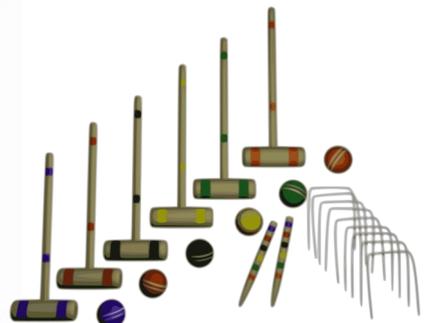
Mr. Laidlaw congratulated the club on its beautiful new clubhouse, greens, and surroundings, and trusted that the members would enjoy themselves in healthful recreation. He referred to the progress of the game, and said when the association was formed there were only two city clubs in existence, as against 36 at the present time.

Mr. J. B. Gard (president of the Bowling Club) moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Laidlaw, and acknowledged Mr. Crase's services to his club. Mr. R. M. Sibley (president of

the Tennis Club) seconded the vote of thanks. Mr. J. C. Rundle thanked the club members for their reception.

The grounds were illuminated, and there was a large attendance at a Continental. There were competitions in bowling and tennis. Numerous stalls were in evidence, and there was dancing on the lawn. An ugly man's competition was also held. The Thebarton Brass Band was in attendance. The general committee responsible for the arrangements of the Continental were:—General president, Mr. C. H. Treloar; bowls president, Mr. J. B. Gard; tennis president, Mr. R. M. Sibley; croquet president, Mrs. J. B. Gard; general secretary, Mr. J. Fotheringham; bowls secretary, Mr. C. W. Bailey; tennis secretary, Mr. V. Knox; croquet secretary, Mrs. H. B. White; general committee, Mrs. E. W. Skitch, A. E. Gough, D. K. Jarvis, M. Badger, and G. Wray.

The new clubhouse is commodious, and will compare favorably with any in the metropolitan area. It was designed and built by Mr. W. G. Hagger, a member of the club, and cost, with furnishings, £1,300. Accommodation is provided for bowls, croquet, and tennis, and the appointments include a secretary's office and committee room, bowlers' clubroom, billiard room, cardroom, croquet and tennis rooms, and a kitchen. The grounds contain a bowling green of 10 rinks, two croquet lawns, and four grass tennis courts.



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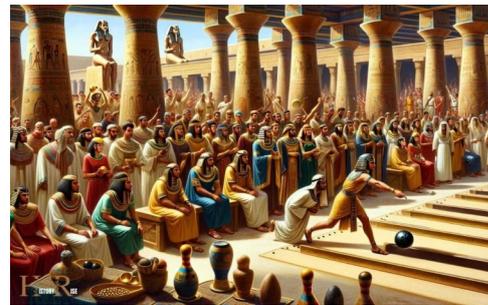
Bowling attire through the ages



From left: Anne Lippis, Denise Abraham, Veronica Dolan, Keely Flannagan, Pam Fullarton, John Diestel-Feddersen, Ann Ellis, Peter Marshall, Dino De Corso, Graeme Parkinson.

Lawn Bowls

The origin of lawn bowls can be traced right back to the ancient Egyptians, archaeological findings support the theory that a game played with biased stone balls was played 7,000 years ago. It was probably played on dirt and a stick used for the kitty.



From the 1200s onwards, in England, lawn bowls was being played with wooden bowls made from boxwood, holly or yew. In fact the game became so popular that laws were passed restricting who could play and for how long. The concern was that lawn bowls was distracting men from archery practice and this was important as bowmen were an integral part of any army.

“Time enough to play the game and thrash the Spaniards afterwards,” Sir Francis Drake is supposed to have said when someone interrupted his game of bowls with the news that the Spanish Armada was approaching up the Channel.

When our club was formed, men wore very traditional outfits for lawn bowls.



Long white pants, white shirt, club tie and a blue blazer with the club's insignia on the pocket. Hats displaying the bowler's collection of badges were a must. The bowls were made of Lignum Vitae, a very hard wood originating from the West Indies.

Eventually the dress code was relaxed a little and men wore cream or white pants an open shirt and a sleeveless knitted top. The bowls were now black and made of Bakelite.



Ladies bowls uniforms were strictly white dresses or white skirt and white blouse. The only colour allowed was a red cardigan or a red blazer also with the club's monogram on the pocket. The ladies wore skin tone stockings and hats had to be worn at all times and could only be removed when madam President took hers off or when the sun had set in the evening.

It was not uncommon for the ladies' uniform to be measured to confirm it was no more than 15 inches from the ground.

Of course all lady lawn bowlers had a to have accessories, hand made either crocheted or knitted.

And let's not forget a neck protector, muff, hand protector, bowls cloth and a monogrammed handkerchief.

This fashion continued until the 1990s when Tranmere was the first club in the state to introduce coloured clothing for women. **Pam Fullarton** sewed polo tops with blue and yellow checked collars and coloured blue bands for every lady bowler in our club and they could now wear white or blue pants.



Today bowls uniforms and bowls come in a variety of colours.



These days our representatives for the RSL and Armed Bowlers State teams are hard to miss on the greens.

Modern bowls are made of Melamine and come in every colour and pattern imaginable

Most recently Bowls Australia has approved a mechanical arm to help bowlers with mobility issues or limitations to stay in the game.

Bowls attire has come a long way since Sir Francis Drake, - what could we be wearing in the future?



And a final thought:

If you think nobody cares about you, try missing a bowls match!

"Time enough to play the game & thrash the Spaniards afterwards!"



"Time enough to play the game and thrash the Spaniards afterwards," Sir Francis Drake is supposed to have said when someone interrupted his game of bowls with the news that the Spanish Armada was approaching up the Channel.

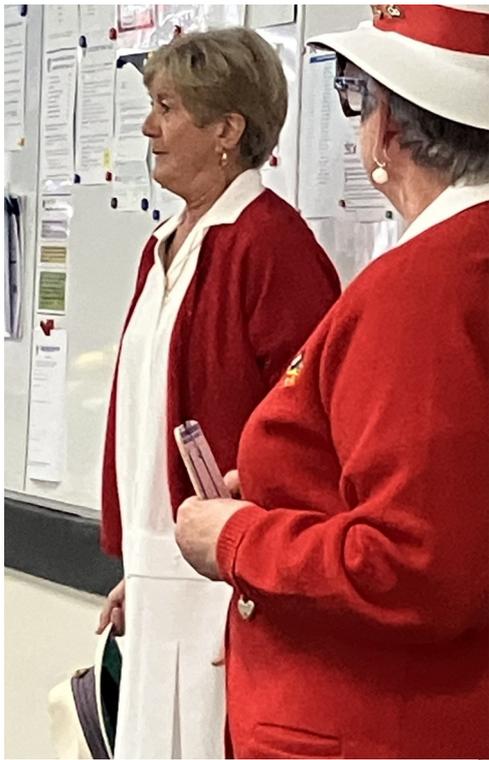
Today, above the bowling green on Plymouth Hoe, Joseph Boehm's 3metre-high bronze statue of Drake stares out defiantly over the Sound, a monument to the great Devon sailor.

Did Drake really say those famous words, or are they just part of Devon folklore?

No contemporary records support the story, but it is mentioned some 40 years after the Armada, so it is possible that the tale was based on an eyewitness account of what happened.

Moreover, from what we know of the tide and weather on that day, Drake's apparently casual behaviour may well have been justified.









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Tennis attire through the ages



Back row: Sandra Scinto, Ann Rieger, Elaine Marsland, Natalie Kowalski, Carol Davis, Sally Noble, Maria Maddigan, Wendy Stephens & Richard Ellis.
Front Row: Greg Parker, Shanelle Palmer & Natalie Palmer.

In the fashion parade tennis greats were represented: Lottie Dodd (Wendy Stephens), Suzanne Lenglen (Elaine Marsland), Daphne Akhurst (Maria Maddigan), Nancye Wynne Bolton (Carol Davis), Margaret Osborne DuPont (Ann Rieger), Gertrude Moran (Natalie Kowalski), Maria Bueno (Shanelle Palmer), Margaret Court (Sally Noble), Gabriela Sabatini (Sandra Scinto), Steffi Graf (Natalie Palmer), Ann Rieger (Umpire) and Greg Parker (Pat Cash).

Tennis

The ladies' fashion parade showcased tennis fashions from the **1880s to the end of the 20th century**, together with a commentary on tennis icons in those eras. Budgetary constraints did not allow for the flamboyant fashion in the 2000s with Serena Williams wearing diamond encrusted Nike shoes, a black crystal encrusted dress and a black and gold glittered train, at her farewell match at the US open.



Appreciation was extended to **Margaret Kaernbach** from the Walkerville Tennis Club who researched early tennis fashions, drafted the patterns and made many of the outfits seen on the evening.



It is worth noting the significant contribution to tennis fashion by British fashion designer, **Teddy Tinling**. Teddy was considered the foremost designer of tennis outfits in the 20th century.



Where did it all begin? The chic aristocratic ladies of tennis, made clothing a spectator sport in the late 1800s. The influence of cricket and lawn tennis gatherings required ladies to wear white. Not only was white a symbol of purity, but perspiration, which was considered to be disgusting, did not show on the white clothes.

Heaven forbid if ladies showed any skin so stockings, long skirts and long-sleeved tops along with corsets were mandatory. Appearance was more important than comfort and manoeuvrability. White also excluded the lower classes who had little chance of having spotless white clothes due to employment in dirty jobs. Hence, the game was kept for the elite.

Five out of our 10 models competed in the mid-week ladies tennis finals the following Thursday. Even without a rehearsal, the fashion parade went off without a hitch.

The trip down the memory lane of tennis fashions and tennis icons was very entertaining.

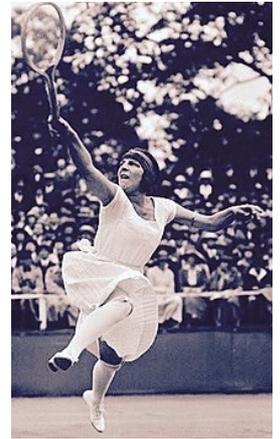
Wendy wore tennis clothes from the **late 1880s-90s**. Her long white, embroidered skirt reached the ankles and was teamed with a long-sleeved shirt with a bow tie. A hat decorated with roses completed her outfit.

Wendy represented British tennis player, **LOTTIE DOD**. Lottie was determined to succeed in a sport dominated by men. In 1887, at the age of 15 and wearing a whale bone and metal corset under her tennis clothes, Lottie became the youngest person to win a Wimbledon singles title. This record remains today. Lottie went onto win Wimbledon four more times. She was noted for her strong ground strokes hitting the ball harder than most of the men. Like most of the female players of her time, Lottie served the ball underarm.



As Wendy left the catwalk, she demonstrated Lottie's underarm serve.

They moved onto the **1920s** with **Elaine** wearing a long-sleeved dress showing her ankles. Elaine's outfit was completed with a large hat. Elaine represented French tennis legend **SUZANNE LENGLEN** also known as "the Goddess". Scandalising polite society, Suzanne would take a sip from her hip flask containing brandy as she changed ends during a tennis match.



Breaking the convention of wearing unsuitable clothes for tennis, Suzanne was the first to show her ankles and to wear sleeveless dresses. She often wore a white fur draped around her shoulders when walking onto the court.

Suzanne was the first inaugural N1 in the world between 1921-26. Her powerful and aggressive style was frowned upon by the establishment who deemed it unladylike. Having studied ballet, she was noted for her graceful leaps and jumps as she played her shots.

Elaine demonstrated Suzanne's leaping and jumping while hitting her powerful forehand.

Remaining in the **1920s**, **Maria** approached the catwalk wearing an above the ankle dress with short sleeves. White stockings and soft white shoes were also worn. A headband completed the stylish outfit. Maria portrayed one of Australia's most famous tennis players, **DAPHNE AKHURST**. Daphne put Australian tennis on the world stage in the 1920s.



She was the sweetheart of Australian tennis. It is significant that Daphne won her first Australian singles title in 1925, the same year the Tranmere Bowling and Tennis Club was formed. She won the Australian Championship singles four more times. She was ranked 3rd in the world in 1928.

In 1933, Daphne died prematurely at the age of 29 but her legacy lives on with the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup awarded to the Australian Open Women's singles winner.

As the representing photographer and infatuated tennis fan, **Richard Ellis** presented a red rose to Daphne (Maria).

Moving into the late **1930s and 1940s**, **Carol** wore an above the knee divided skirt. A buttoned shirt with puffed short sleeves is teamed with a sensible hat.

Carol portrayed one of Australia's most successful players, **NANCYE WYNNE BOLTON**. An Australian Championship singles winner 6 times between 1937-1951. Ranked third after Margaret Court and Serena Williams for winning the most Australian singles titles. Nancye was a formidable doubles player winning the Australian Doubles title 14 times. She was ranked 4th in the world between 1947-1949.

Nancye was known for her powerful forehand and competitive grit.



Ann was welcomed to the catwalk. She is wore an outfit typifying the **1940s**. Her buttoned dress, above the knees and short sleeves with squared shoulders. A sash was worn around the waist. Ann represented a famous American player **MARGARET OSBORNE DuPONT**, who was ranked one in the world between 1947-1950.



Margaret won 37 Grand Slam titles, mainly in doubles. She won 6 Grand Slam singles titles. Margaret's husband never allowed her to play in the Australian Championships. Margaret later divorced him.

Margaret was a very aggressive player who chipped and chopped her shots. She was noted for storming the net and putting away her famous volleys.

Ann demonstrated Margaret storming to the net and putting away a winner.

Prior to 1950 only white tennis players could compete in the major tournaments. **ALTHEA GIBSON**, an African American tennis player broke the colour barrier in 1950 paving the way for future coloured tennis players in international tennis. In 1956 she became the first African American to win a grand slam title.

Natalie was welcomed to the catwalk. Natalie played the role of controversial American player **GERTRUDE MORAN**, later to be known as **Gorgeous Gussy Moran**. Moran played tennis in the late **1940s and 1950s**. Her request to wear a coloured dress at Wimbledon in 1949 was rejected so Teddy Tinling designed her a dress much shorter than the norm which showed her lacy underwear shooting her to immediate stardom.



Photographers fought for positions where they could get low angle shots of Moran. Some even lying on their backs. The tennis world was shocked prompting a debate in British Parliament and Tinling and Moran were accused of bringing vulgarity and sin into tennis. It created a media frenzy.

Moran continued to be a fashion icon. Photographed wherever she went, Gussy modelled her tennis attire in department stores and appeared on magazine covers. She had a racehorse, an aircraft and a special sauce named after her.

Shanelle was the next model wearing a tunic style dress with a coloured inlay. This typified the more streamlined look in the **1950s and 1960s**. Colour was becoming more common place. Shanelle represented Brazilian champion **MARIA BUENO**. Maria pushed the boundaries of tennis fashion bringing gasps from the crowd when she wore pink underwear.



Maria won 19 major titles and was World N1 in 1959 and 1960.

Maria was an aggressive player who still managed to be very graceful on the court and was nicknamed the "tennis ballerina". Maria had a very hard serve and displayed great speed around the court. She was a serve and volley specialist.

Shanelle had practicing the Maria Bueno serve and gave a demonstration.

Sally wore a polo shirt and pleated skirt typifying the practical tennis clothing in the **1960s-1970s**. It was fitting that Sally, a long-time member of the club represented the absolute super star of women's tennis, **MARGARET COURT**. Margaret was one of the more conservatively dressed players.

Margaret's first racquet was a paling off a timber fence which she used to hit a tennis ball against a wall. She went on to win an eye-watering 64 Grand Slam titles and holds the record for winning the most Australian singles titles – 11 times.

Margaret was formidable at the net. Playing an attacking serve and volley game, she was able to dominate the more conservative players. She was committed to fitness training and was known as the "Aussie Amazon".



Sally was delighted to show Margaret using the timber paling to hit some of her shots.

Moving into the **1980s-1990s**. Firstly, **Natalie** was welcomed, playing the role of German player, **STEFFI GRAF**. She was joined by **SANDY**, who played the part of Argentinian beauty, **GABRIELA SABATINI**. Both ladies wore colourful outfits. Sabatini was noted for wearing long socks.

Steffi, a superstar of tennis, is ranked third after Margaret Court and Serena Williams with 22 Grand Slam singles titles. She put an end to the dominance of Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova. At 13 years of age, at the French Open, Steffi became the youngest player to compete in a Grand Slam singles tournament.



Steffi's close friend, Gabriela Sabatini, was a former World N3 in both singles and doubles. Winning the US Open in 1990, Gabriela was a semi-finalist at many of the Grand Slam tournaments. Gabriela was noted for her beauty, charisma and style. She kept up a close rivalry with her friend Steffi Graf.

Arguably, the most beautiful of all female tennis players, both past and present.

It was all going smoothly until **Greg Parker** entered the scene as **PAT CASH**, "disrupting" the ladies fashion parade.

Pat Cash wearing his trademark chequered head band, won his first and only Grand Slam singles title in 1987 at Wimbledon. He defeated World N1 Ivan Lendl. Ranked 4th in the world but was plagued with injuries throughout his career. Pat fancied himself as a ladies' man so a word of caution was given to the ladies sitting near the catwalk.

An umpire came to the catwalk with a notepad and pen to put Pat Cash on report and tell him to leave the catwalk.



Anyone for Tennis?









Mary Feddersen & Anne Lippis



Anne and Lui Lippis



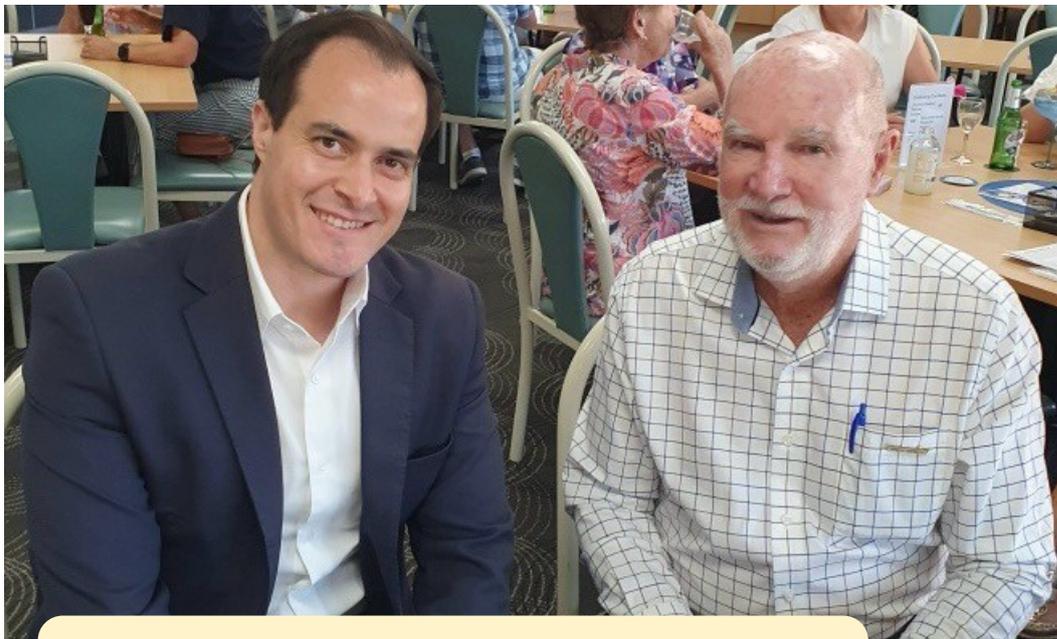
John & Libby Bartram



Bev & Jack Cowles



Brenda Porter, Veronica & Eddie Dolan, Mike Porter



Club Patron, Hon Vincent Tarzia MP
and General President, Greg Ferris



Marie Roberts



Peter Holland & Toni Giles



Brenda Porter & Sue Sanders

Dancing the night away...



Brian Hales and the Groove

