



ELTHAM BOWLING CLUB

Newsletter No 53: March 2013 Editor: Sue Arnott



FROM THE PRESIDENT

A very warm welcome to new members Dennis Woodward and Robert Harris. We wish you well and hope you enjoy your bowling future. This season has seen the club expand its membership considerably.

Congratulations to both Tuesday and Saturday Pennant teams. Tuesday celebrated a Section win with another team making the finals. Saturday had three teams who featured in finals. We have the room in the club house for more Pennant flags so perhaps next season we can make that leap. Please confirm your desire to play in either mid-week pennant or Saturday Pennant 2013/14 season by signing your name on the lists currently displayed on the notice board.

If you have not previously played either competition but wish to do so, just add your name to the notice. We need to know how many teams to recommend to the membership at our forthcoming Annual General Meeting so it is important that you do so as soon as possible.

Notice for the aforementioned Annual General Meeting will be sent out soon. The AGM will be held on the 5th May 2013. Nomination and AGM Motion forms will be sent electronically to those members who are online and have provided their email details to the Club. These forms will be mailed to those members not online. Please give some thought to how you may play a part in the running of the club. We need ongoing determination to fill all roles on committees.

Noel Spargo

PROPOSED CLUB FOURS CHAMPIONSHIP (from Cliff Lynch)

At the next AGM I propose to submit a motion for the introduction of an open club championship fours competition. I would like to explain the proposal here for members to consider rather than attempt to do it at the AGM.

The idea is that those interested in playing submit their single entry. After entries close all players will be divided into 1 of 4 categories according to where the person played pennant in the previous season. Those who didn't play pennant would be categorised by the match committee.

1. Saturday 1st side
2. Saturday 2nd side or Tuesday 1st side
3. Saturday 3rd side or Tuesday 2nd side
4. Saturday 4th or 5th side or Tuesday 3rd or 4th side

The teams of four will be randomly chosen by selecting 1 player from each of the 4 categories. Unless there are the same number of entries in each category some players will obviously not get a game.

Rules:

- All games of 12 ends
- No dead ends, jack spotted at 1.5m on the side
- Players may change positions after 6 ends
- Each team must lose twice before being eliminated (called the two-life system in New Zealand – see http://www.bowlsnz.co.nz/uploads/media/Regulation_3_-_3.3_Draws_Byes.pdf for details)
- No set dates for any game-a fair while, say 4 weeks, allowed for the completion of each round.
- Games not played count as a loss to both teams.

FUND RAISING

The Monster Raffle was drawn at the end of February and the lucky winner of the new set of bowls was Jack Diamond. In second place Tony Wileman and Wilf Ward both of whom were visitors during the season. The effort raised over \$1,000.

Jan McDermott, Di Debney, Lorna Sparke

ROLLING ROSTER FOR APRIL

Monday 1st (Easter Triples)	Joe Tolomeo	Gary Battershell
Friday 5th (Forty/40)	Eugene Snopkowski	Gary Marshall
Saturday 6th (Mens Century Hcp)	Greg Lambert	Cliff Sloggett
Sunday 7th (Triples Final)	Ian Jones	Vincent Bok
Saturday 13th (Open Triples)	John Sharp	Steve Spargo
Sunday 14th (Mens Century Hcp)	John Sparke	Graeme Abblitt
Saturday 20th (Pres/Vice Pres)	Tom Walker	Wayne Byrne
Sunday 21st (Mens Century Hcp)	Peter Toovey	Bruce Goodman
Saturday 27th (Pres/Vice Pres)	Bob Cairns	Joe DeCarlo
Sunday 28th (Presentation Day)	Bob Jones	Brad Jones

Please note if you unable to attend on your rostered day please contact another Club member and exchange days with him. If you are unable to operate any of the required equipment, seek help from either Gary Marshall or Eugene Snopkowski.

TUESDAY PENNANT ORGANIZING and SELECTION COMMITTEE

This Seasons results are very pleasing. All sides will remain in the same Divisions for next Season unless of course if Bowls Vic does any rearranging again!!

FINAL LADDER POSITIONS

SIDE ONE -1st SIDE TWO -6th SIDE THREE – 7th SIDE FOUR – 2nd
Congratulations to Side 1 and Side 4 for making the Finals.

SIDE ONE

- WON SECTIONAL SEMI-FINAL 73 Def. Diamond Creek 44
- WON SECTIONAL FINAL 56 Def. Ivanhoe 51 (Eltham 2012-2013 Pennant Winners)
- LOST METRO DIVISIONAL QUARTER FINAL 60 Def. by Middle Park 61

SIDE FOUR

- LOST SECTIONAL SEMI-FINAL 48 Def. By Lalor 53

Both Selection Committees have reviewed the Performance Card (Tick system) and there are two main points that have come through from the feedback we have received.

1. There have been difficulties and inconsistencies nominating the player to hold the Performance Card.
2. Judging a bowl for a tick, there needs to be conformity throughout all teams. More instructions must be given to achieve consistent and honest results.

The Selection Committee will consider and give a recommendation for next season.

Many thanks to Sue, George, Jenny and Nyra for carrying out the duties of a Selector, focused on improvement of each Side with fairness and consideration of all players. The committee worked well together to tackle a very difficult job, well done. Many thanks to Diane and Jan for taking charge of many jobs which keep Pennant Day's organized and enjoyable.

**Ros Camera
Convenor**

MATCH COMMITTEE

The last few events for the Season have notices up on the board ready for your entry.

Mixed Triples is on this weekend Saturday 23rd.

President's and Vice President's Singles will start Saturday 20th April.

Men's Century Handicap starts 6th April

Both Men's and Women's Triples Final will be played on Sunday 7th April.

Diamond Valley Shield at Diamond Creek Sunday 14th April, 3 games against Monty, Hurstbridge and Diamond Creek, details on Notice Board.

Congratulations to all Championship winners. Trophy Presentation Day, **Sunday 28th April 2pm**. Bowling followed by dinner and presentation of trophies.

Match Committee would appreciate any feedback on the events this season, especially the changes we tried for entry into Women's Championship and the flexible arrangements to play.

Thank you to the committee Cliff Lynch, Graeme Abblitt, John Sparke, Meryl Spargo and Cath Andrew for their work putting all events together.

**Ros Camera
Convenor**

SATURDAY PENNANT REVIEW MEETINGS

There were 2 meetings held in March on Thursday nights where players were invited to suggest things that might be done to improve the performance of our pennant sides. The first meeting was for players in the 1st and 2nd sides; the second was for those in 3rd, 4th and 5th sides. There was nothing sinister about having 2 meetings, the idea was just to keep them manageable. About 15 attended each meeting. These were the things raised, grouped by subject.

Selection

- Too many dramatic changes
- Not enough promotion/relegation between sides

- Persisted with losing skips for too long
- Skips to be involved in selection
- Skips debriefed after each game
- Selectors to make known their criteria for selection and expectations of players
- Too much selection talk outside selection room
- No discussion with selectors to occur outside selection room
- Several players from each side to be regularly invited to selection meeting
- Selectors to be appointed by president &/or board
- Introduce rink compatibility assessment
- Selectors need to better communicate with those not on email
- Players to be encouraged to offer comments by issuing comment slips
- Teams selected on Thursday

Performance measurement

- Set goals for each side at start of season
- Number of ticks not reliable indicator of winning games
- Inconsistent judgement as to what constitutes a tick – education of 3rds and skips required
- Need to better capture the impact 3rds and skips have on a game
- Inaccurate reporting is a problem

Green played on

- Watering of synthetic removed most home ground advantage
- Was often very different between Thursday and Saturday

Coaching

- Paid coach from outside the club needed
- This paid coach leads club coaches
- This paid coach is involved in selection
- Club coaches to approach players obviously needing help, not just those with whom a relationship already exists
- Players have personal responsibility to seek assistance of coaches

Practice

- Need to make it structured and compulsory
- To be led by skips
- On Saturday morning before pennant
- Should be compulsory to practise together as a team
- Lower side players benefit from practising with top side players
- All players to sign off each week after practising
- A coach to attend each practice session to offer assistance if required

Skips

- Not managing their sides correctly
- Too much prominence attached to them through listing results on board in their name

Playing

- More encouragement of team mates

Constitution/regulations

- Printed copy should be at club

There was a fair degree of overlap between the meetings regarding the topics raised . The main differences were that at the first meeting the idea of a paid coach received strong support whereas it wasn't raised at the second meeting and the performance measurement system was the main concern at the second but didn't rate a mention at the first.

The next step is action to implement some, all or none of the ideas. A few would require motions at the AGM which is something their proponents might want to pursue. The others are for the consideration of the next lot of selectors, whoever those lucky people might be.

Cliff Lynch

SPECIAL EVENTS- EASTER BOWLING

There are notices in the clubrooms for members to enter their names for play on either Saturday or Monday or both. The weather is usually very pleasant at this time of the year so if you are home for the holiday perhaps consider a very pleasant afternoon bowling.

Standardizing percentage bowls in zone scores

The Club has now played a full season using a new way of scoring effective bowls. Being based on facts, rather than opinions, the percentage bowls in zone scores (ie. the number of ticks) is a huge improvement over the voting system. We can now actually say with some certainty that someone leading in a side scoring 40% played better than someone else leading in the same side who scored 30%. It gets slightly less certain, however, when comparing the performance of players in different positions and across the sides. Here are the reasons why:

- It is considered harder for thirds and skips to get bowls in the zone as the head is usually more congested when they bowl.
- We don't all play on the same green every week under the same conditions.

What would be very useful is to be able to come up with an adjusted figure which can be directly compared regardless of the team, position and green played on, that is, to arrive at a method of standardizing scores. How does someone who scored 40% while playing lead on a 14 second green compare to a third who scored 30% on a 19 second green? Intuitively you'd think the real difference is much less than 10% but how much less? Should the 30% score be standardized to 35%, 40% or some other value?

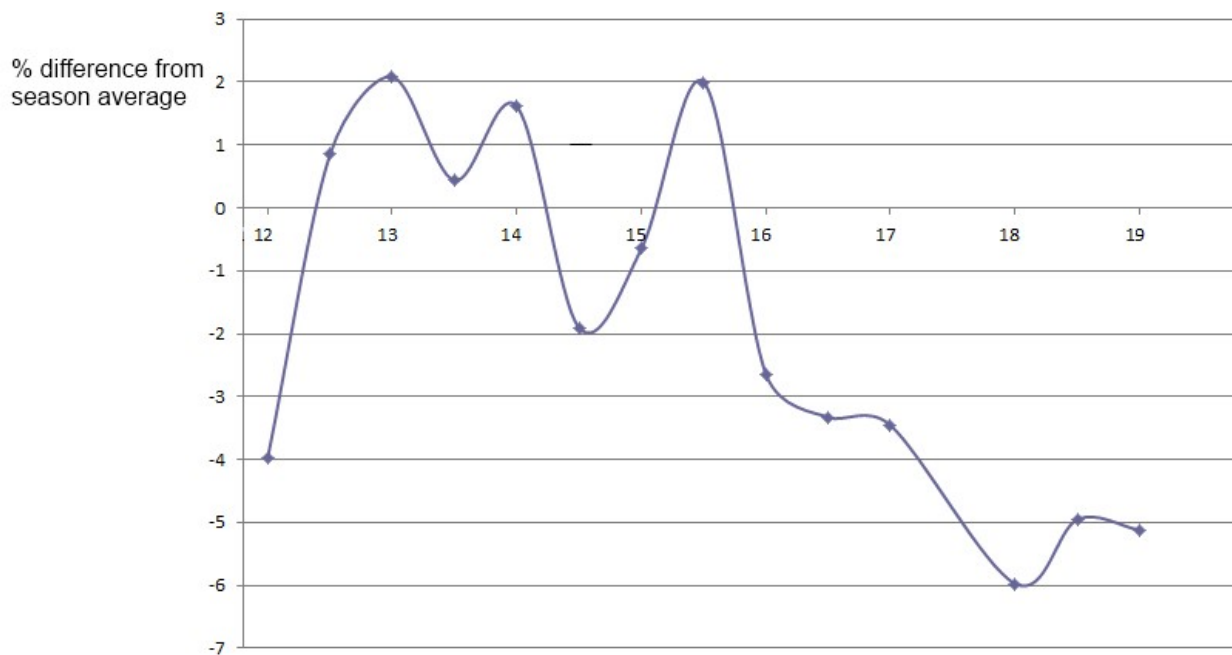
Donvale provided their figures for last season and these are shown below with our figures for this season.

Club	Div	Overall	Lead	2nd	3rd	Skip
Eltham	1	36.8	36.3	36.8	37.3	36.8
Donvale	1	35.0	38.8	33.9	34.2	33.1
Eltham	3	31.1	32.1	32.5	31.2	28.8
Donvale	4	31.7	33.0	30.5	32.9	30.2
Eltham	5	28.2	30.1	29.6	28.7	24.3
Donvale	5	28.2	29.2	25.5	29.3	28.9
Eltham	7	27.9	30.1	27.2	25.9	28.5
Donvale	6	26.0	26.8	25.6	25.4	26.1
Eltham	8	21.2	22.5	19.9	22.0	20.5

It's hard to draw much of a conclusion from this data as it is all over the shop. I'd expected that the figures for the leads and seconds would be pretty much the same and slightly better than those for thirds which would again be slightly better than those for skips, but not so. It looks even more inconclusive when plotted so I haven't included the plots. One explanation might be that generally the more skilful bowlers tend to play 3rd and skip but I don't think so. Perhaps the only conclusion to be drawn is that there is too much variability to be definitive. So that leaves the green and the conditions to be adjusted for.

The variables between greens include the speed of the surface and the prevailing wind. The only one of these which can meaningfully be quantified is the green speed. (Wind speeds can obviously be measured but it's generally the variability of the wind which is the main problem and that's a lot harder to measure. To take account of this factor we'd have to rely on subjective assessments and that's far too problematic.) So the remaining question then is: does the speed of the green affect overall performance? I've tried to answer this using this season's data.

For every game played by every side I've calculated the difference between that side's actual performance for that game and the season average performance. For example, our div 3 side's season average is 31.1% and the actual performance for their only game played on a 16 second green was 28.3% which gives a difference of -1.8%. The average difference is then determined for each green speed resulting in the following graph.



I was expecting there to be 3 distinct parts to the graph and this is very roughly in line with that.

1. a range of speeds for which performance is best. The performance **is** above average when the speed is between 12.5 seconds and 14 seconds.
2. a decline in performance below the ideal range. The performance was much worse on a 12 second green although this shouldn't be asserted too confidently as there was only 1 game played on a 12 second green.
3. a decline in performance beyond the ideal range. The performance **was** well below average at 16 seconds then pretty much continued to worsen as the speed increased.

The performance between 14.5 seconds and 15.5 seconds does throw a bit of spanner in the works but I'll have a go at explaining it. Firstly, I think the seemingly anomalous peak at 15.5 seconds can be explained as the speed which I've used for our synthetic green. I'd expect us to bowl above average on our own green. Secondly, there weren't many games played on 14.5 and 15 second greens to attach too much certainty to those figures.

So at this stage I'd conclude there is not enough data to answer the question: How does someone who scored 40% while playing lead on a 14 second green compare to a third who scored 30% on a 19 second green? Perhaps we'll be able to answer this in a year's time.

Cliff Lynch



Kulula is an Airline with head office situated in Johannesburg South Africa. They do not fly internationally. Kulula airline attendants make an effort to make the in-flight "Safety Lecture" and announcements a bit more entertaining.

Here are some real examples that have been heard or reported:

On a Kulula flight, (there is no assigned seating, you just sit where you want) passengers were apparently having a hard time choosing, when a flight attendant announced, "People, people we're not picking out furniture here, find a seat and get in it!"

On another flight with a very "senior" flight attendant crew, the pilot said "Ladies and gentlemen, we've reached cruising altitude and will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants."

On landing, the stewardess said, "Please be sure to take all of your belongings. If you're going to leave anything, please make sure it's something we'd like to have".

"There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane".

"Thank you for flying Kulula, We hope you enjoyed giving us the business as much as we enjoyed taking you for a ride".

As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Durban Airport, a lone voice came over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella WHOA!".

From a Kulula employee:

"Welcome aboard Kulula 271 to Port Elizabeth. To operate your seat belt, insert the metal tab in the buckle, and pull tight. It works just like every other seat belt; and, if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised."

"In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child travelling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are travelling with more than one small child, pick your favorite".

"Weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, but we'll try to have them fixed before we arrive. Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money, more than Kulula Airlines."

"Your seat cushions can be used for flotation; and in the event of an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore and take them with our compliments."

"As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses".

And from the pilot during his welcome message:

"Kulula Airline is pleased to announce that we have some of the best flight attendants in the industry. Unfortunately none of them are on this flight!"

Heard on Kulula 255 just after a very hard landing in Cape Town: The flight attendant came on the intercom and said, That was quite a bump and I know what y'all are thinking. I'm here to tell you it wasn't the airline's fault. It wasn't the pilot's fault, it wasn't the flight attendant's fault - it was the asphalt".

Overhead on a Kulula flight into Cape Town, on a particularly windy and bumpy day: During the final approach, the Captain really had to fight it. After an extremely hard landing, the Flight Attendant said "Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to The Mother City. Please remain in your seats with your seat belts fastened while the Captain taxis what's left of our airline to the gate".

An airline pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the passengers exited, smile, and give them a "Thanks for flying our airline". He said that, in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally everyone had gotten off except for a little old lady walking with a cane. She said "sir, do you mind if I ask you a question? Did we land or were we shot down".

Part of a flight attendants arrival announcement:

"We'd like to thank you for flying with us today. And, the next time you get the insane urge to go blasting through the skies in a pressurized metal tube, we hope you'll think of Kulula Airways."

Heard on a Kulula flight:

"Ladies and gentlemen, if you wish to smoke, the smoking section on this airplane is on the wing. If you can light 'em you can smoke 'em".

ooOOoo