



HAWK EYE

December 20, 2024

Hilton Park Bowling Club Newsletter

Hopefully, this monthly newsletter will drop into your inboxes just before Christmas – look on it as an early Christmas present. Enjoy the Christmas break and come back refreshed in 2025.



Pennant review

The Christmas break gives us a chance to look back on the season so far as we are just a game short of the half-way stage. It is clear that for a number of our sides the season had not been going as well as we might have hoped.

So, who do we blame for that. Is it the president's fault? Is it the treasurer or secretary's fault? Is it the selectors' fault?

Everyone is entitled to their opinion. But this writer's view is that it is the fault of the players because, for a host of reasons, we have just not been able to get our best teams on the greens often enough over the whole season so far.

We seem to have had more than our fair share of injuries, health issues, family problems, work commitments, holidays and so on. Bowlers have been coming in and out and bowlers have been moving up and down between teams.

Teams have rarely stayed the same but hopefully the breaks will fall our way after Christmas. More settled sides will surely get us some better results.

All we can do is make a commitment to try to improve in 2025. It has been suggested that Travis Simpson, one of the club's best players, will resume in the New Year and that is great news. All of our sides have either nine or 10 fixtures to go so let's get on with the task of winning games.

Pennant wrap-up

Week ending November 23

The week got off to a great start again with the Tuesday Ladies winning their fourth game in a row, which sees them sitting on top of the Division 3 ladder. And it was done by a team of 12 women – no men were needed!

Hilton smashed Kwinana 6-0 and just got the game finished before some unseasonal rain hit the Fremantle area. Judy Dean had the biggest win – by 25-15 – while Denise Hughes won 23-19 and Bobi Ward wrapped things up with a 20-13 win. The big test comes in the next three weeks when we play Rockingham, East Fremantle and Warnbro.

It's not often that we go to Manning and win but that's just what the Thursday Division 2 side did. Tony Maxwell's rink (with Glen Dwyer and Gary Melville coming up from 3rds) produced a terrific 28-12 win which helped cover Gary Dodd's 10-19 loss and Craig Standley's 21-25 defeat. So, it was a three-shot aggregate win and four points.

Unfortunately, the rest of the news from that Thursday was not good.

Hilton's Division 3 side suffered a 0-6 home defeat at the hands of Cockburn on another windy day, losing by 19 shots. Kevin Willis got off to a 9-0 start but couldn't keep that up, with one shot on the last end giving Cockburn a 15-16 win. The turning point in Barney Young's game came in the 17th end when Hilton were four shots up but the opposition's last ball moved the kitty and made three shots. Dave Van de Ven's rink lost 14-19.

The story was similar at Cockburn where Hilton's Division 5 side lost comfortably. Les Onley had the closest game, a 16-20 loss, but Barrie Douglas went down 13-24 and Graham McKenzie lost 18-27.

And Saturday was worse – three defeats.

The Division Two side, minus a couple of regulars, went down by just two shots at a windswept East Fremantle. Gary Dodd's rink gave a superb performance, winning 35-12, yet even that was not enough to carry the game. Craig Standley lost 18-22, Shaun Farrell lost 18-24 and Tony Maxwell never recovered from 0-9 start after two ends to lose 12-27.

Sadly, that leaves the side bottom of the table with one win from five starts.

The Division 3 side collected two points from a home loss to South Perth but lost the aggregate by 21 shots. Most of that came from Kevin Willis' 8-32 defeat while Barney Young lost 16-23. The two points came from Les Onley (23-18) and Dav Van de Ven (17-12).

The Division 5 side returned to Cockburn for the second time in three days but the result was the same – a 0-6 defeat. Vic Philpott had the close one, losing 17-18, while Graham McKenzie lost 11-25 and Barrie Douglas went down 14-22.

The season so far: Played 31. Won 15. Lost 16.

Week ending November 30

Sadly, the winning run of the Tuesday ladies came to an end down at Rockingham. Bobi Ward's rink just did not click on the day and went down 7-27 – a deficit that wins to Denise Hughes (23-12) and Judy Dean (18-17) just could not cover. However, the two points keeps us tucked in just behind new ladder leaders Rockingham.

On Thursday at home on the grass for the first time this season, Hilton's Division 2 side had a good 5-1 win over Kardinya. The best score came from Craig Standley with a big 30-17 win while Gary Dodd's rink had a good 24-15 success, Tony Maxwell battled hard but went down 23-28.

The Division 3 side went down by just six shots at Kardinya where the points were split 2-4. David Van de Ven won 28-20 and Kevin Willis won 20-17 but the aggregate was ruined when Barney Young's rink had a terrible day and went down 13-20.

The day was rounded off with a 6-0 win to Hilton after Kardinya failed to raise a team in Division Five.

And so to Saturday when the Division 2 side lost another close one – this time again by two shots at home to Fremantle. Craig Standley got a point with a 26-17 win and Gary Dodd shared the spoils in a tense 17-17 draw. However, Brian Smith went down 18-27 and Tony Maxwell (with Sharron Mitchell a late inclusion) lost 14-16.

Down at Fremantle, the Division 3 side picked up only one point in an 11-shot loss. Barney Young's rink found their mojo again, turning an 8-0 start into a 19-14 win but Kevin Willis lost another close one 19-21. The other rinks had their moments but in the end Dave Van de Ven lost 14-20 and Les Onley went down 17-25.

The only win of the day was Division 5 where Hilton beat Kardinya by five shots and took the points 5-1. Vic Philpott stormed home 24-14 and Barrie Douglas won 25-17. Micky Glynn, in his first outing of the season, went down 11-24.

The season so far: Played 38. Won 18. Lost 20.

Week ending December 7

The week got off to a good start when the Tuesday Ladies squeezed home by two shots down at East Fremantle – and the five points from the game took the team back to the top of the table. Denise Hughes won well at 22-15 and Bobi Ward scraped home 17-15 which was just enough to cover Judy Dean's 17-24 loss.

On Thursday, Hilton's Division Two side picked up just one point from a disappointing 10-shot loss down at Kwinana. Gary Dodd's rink was the sole winner with a 24-19 scoreline but it was not enough to cover Tony Maxwell's 12-24 loss and Craig Standley's 20-24 defeat. That result leaves the side in mid table with three wins and three losses.

At home, the Division 3 side pulled off a remarkable two-shot win over Leeming and split the points 5-1. The aggregate was comfortably in Leeming's favour but Hilton battled on and got some reward for effort. For example, in the last five ends Ian Gray won 10-

4 to finish at 30-24. In the last five ends Dave Van de Ven won 6-2 to finish 23-18. And again, in the last five ends, Barney Young won 8-1 to cut a huge deficit back to 16-25. Added all together, Hilton won 24-7 in those five ends and won by just two shots.

The Division 5 side was also down at Kwinana and came away with 5½ points in an impressive display, winning by nine shots. Barrie Douglas won 19-12 and Les Onley had a tight 19-17 win. The half-point came from Graham McKenzie's 14-14 draw and the overall result keeps the team in the top half of the table.

On Saturday, Hilton's Division 3 side travelled to Warnbro and came away with 6½ points from a wonderful win. Craig Standley set the scene with a fine 22-10 win while Tony Maxwell got home 26-16. Brian Smith battled hard all day to finish at 25-25 but the high-flying Gary Dodd rink had a poor day going down 21-21.

At home, the Division 3 side split the rinks with Manning but lost the aggregate by eight shots. Barney Young was 10-0 up after three ends and led all the way to win 24-18 and Dave Van de Ven got an early 8-0 lead and won 22-19. But Les Onley lost 15-22 and Kevin Willis went down 11-21.

The Division Five side followed the top team down to Warnbro and lost by just two shots in a match which went to the last ball. Graham McKenzie won 21-12 and Vic Philpott lost 17-26. Barrie Douglas was leading by one going into the last end but dropped three shots to lose the rink 16-18 and the aggregate by two.

The Season to date: Played 45. Won 22. Lost 23.

Week ending December 14

The Tuesday Ladies would have needed all six points from their game against Warnbro to get back to top spot but, in the end, they had to settle for four points from a narrow five-shot win. Bobi Ward produced the goods with a big 27-10 scoreline which was able to cover the defeats suffered by Judy Dean (14-16) and Denise Hughes (15-25).

On Thursday, the Division 2 side missed out on a chance to move into the top section of the table after losing on our own grass to Safety Bay. Gary Dodd got a point with a fine 23-15 win and Craig Standley got half-a-point from an 18-18 draw. But this was never enough to cover the big 11-28 loss suffered by Tony Maxwell's rink. The story was somewhat similar for Division 3 out at Mt Pleasant. Hilton's only point came when Ian Gray got four shots on the last end to win 22-18. Dave Van de Ven went down 15-23 and new skip Gary Melville will long remember his 16-35 loss. The side was holding on at the halfway stage but then dropped a seven and the floodgates opened.

Back at Hilton, our Division 5 side smashed Mosman Park to keep us tucked in at third spot on the ladder. Graham McKenzie won 33-14, Barrie Douglas won 27-11 and Les Onley won by the same margin – 29-13.

The Division 2 side on Saturday got six valuable points from a narrow home win over Melville. Brian Smith's rink was poor, going down 11-26 while Craig Standley lost 17-21. However, this deficit was overcome thanks to a big win to Tony Maxwell by 29-10. Garry Dodd rounded things off in Hilton's favour with a good 22-10 win.

But it was a bad day for a makeshift Hilton outfit at Mt Pleasant where Dave Van de Ven got our only point from an impressive 22-13 scoreline. Elsewhere, Barney Young lost 11-30, Ian Gray lost 9-26 and Les Onley lost 13-23. How things can go badly wrong was

shown when Barney's side was sitting with five shots until the other skip took the kitty back with his last bowl and went five up. A 10-shot turnaround in one bowl.

Hilton's Division 5 side took five points from a 10-shot home win over Como. Graham McKenzie won 28-18 and Vic Philpott won 22-16 – enough to comfortably cover up Barrie Douglas' 12-18 loss.

The season to date: Played 52. Won 26. Lost 26.

Looking Back

The good turn-out for this year's Novices Cup and the quality of the players in just their first or second years at Hilton caused this writer to research previous winners and see just where they are now. We took in just the last decade.

2014 – winner Gary Saint. Gary is a great clubman who has given a lot of his time over the years with greenkeeping work. Full-time work now has him playing only on Saturdays and he is always one of the first names picked in our top side.

2015 – winner Les Onley, junior. Les was an impressive young bowler all those years ago but, sadly, did not spend too many seasons at Hilton. He has been around a variety of clubs including Cockburn, Mosman Park and now Spearwood. His father, Les senior of course, still plays at Hilton.

2016 – winner Rob Fortini. This writer lost to Rob Fortini in a competition which had only four entries, so he was certainly a very worthy winner. Rob has worked on his game over the years and now plays in our top side on Thursdays and Saturdays as well as being the Greens chairman.

2017 – It seems there was no competition this year. (As the only qualifier, I could have won it easily!!!!)

2018 – winner Darren Mitchell. You always knew when Darren was around (he had a funny accent) and talked a good game. Competed hard at everything he did but now plays his bowls at Melville.

2019 – winner Micky Glynn. Micky was a worthy winner that year and played some great bowls. However, health issues and other problems have restricted his bowling over the years. Hopefully, it is starting to come together again for him.

2020 – winner Dave Van de Ven. Dave was an impressive winner who has gone on to be a great clubman. Now the Men's captain and the organiser of lots of things around the club. Just don't expect him to turn up early – last minute Dave should be his nickname.

2021 – winner Brett Parker. Just how Brett qualified as a novice, I'm not sure. He always believed he should be playing higher than where he was picked and changed between Hilton and Kardinya a couple of times. Might now be at Cockburn.

2022 – winner Graham Burnett. Another new bowler who burst on the scene with a novice's win to his name. Graham is a consistent lead bowler and is getting his game together again after a bad fall last year put him in hospital.

2023 – winner John Jenkinson. John is a great addition to Hilton's bowling numbers. A big man with a big character who stands out in a crowd. Quickly made his way up into Hilton's top side but this season he is out of action due to knee surgery.

2024 – Kevin Grant. Kevin, a former English police officer, is in control on the bowling green and was a worthy winner in his second season at Hilton. He seems to be bouncing around between two sides this summer and can't quite nail down a regular spot in the top team.

Mixed Pairs

This competition for under way in December but could not be completed before the Christmas break. The pairing of Debbie Beesley and Craig Standley has got their place in the final booked. They are waiting patiently to play the winners of a semi-final which pits Rod and Nat Butler against Anne Mauri and Tony Maxwell. Hopefully all that will be sorted out in January.

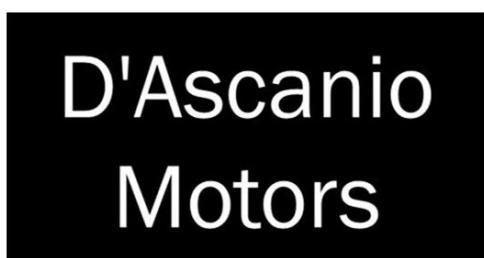
Novices Cup

There were 10 entries for this competition which is great for Hilton and shows that there has been an influx of some very good and promising bowlers in their first or second year at the club.

The pre-game favourites might have been Glen Dwyer and Paul Saffioti as both were already in Hilton's top side. Of those two, only Paul made it to the final where he was defeated by first-year member Damon Rubery. So, our congratulations go to Damon for a great win.

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