



HAWK EYE

February 20, 2025

Hilton Park Bowling Club Newsletter

The bowls season is racing to a close and there is still plenty to play for as far as Hilton's various teams are concerned. Like any season, there have been problems, difficulties and controversies but it is the last few weeks of the season that those matters will be sorted out.

The success story of the season has to be the Tuesday Ladies who were relegated last season from Division Three then allowed back in to make up numbers. Well, we have more than made up numbers – we are at the top of the table and fighting for promotion.

Our top sides on Thursday and Saturday have turned things around in the second half of the season and are now preparing for a big finish while our Division Three sides on both days need some victories to avoid relegation.

The Division Five sides are mid-table on both days and, again, some wins in the last few weeks could see Hilton chase the play-off spots.

So, let's give it our best shot – let's have a big finish.

Australia Day

The Australia Day weekend provided the chance for an enjoyable Australia v Rest of the World bowls competition at Hilton. This writer is happy to say that his Rest of the World team won its rink, but the others were overwhelmed by a more talented Australia side.

It was a great day on and off the greens.



Pennant wrap

Week ending February 1

The Tuesday Ladies got the week off to the flying start with a massive 50-shot victory away at Kwinana which takes Hilton back level on points with Rockingham at the top of the table and slightly ahead of them on percentage.

The 11 ladies, plus Ron Turner, could do no wrong on the day. Denise Hughes stormed to a 34-10 win closely followed by Bobi Ward's 30-13 scoreline. Judy Dean had the close one – a 26-17 win.

Then, on Thursday, Hilton's Division Two side produced their best result of the season so far – playing at Spearwood we hammered the league leaders by 39 shots and took all six points. Gary Dodd won 29-8, Tony Maxwell won 26-14 and the closest of the three was Craig Standley's 20-14 win.

What a performance and the points lift Hilton up to mid-table. With seven games to go, we have now completed our fixtures against the top two.

At home, the Division Three side battled hard against league leaders Rossmoyne but went down by 11 shots. Hilton got one point from Les Onley's finer 21-12 win, but Ian Gray lost 17-23 and Dave Van de Ven went down 14-28.

So, this side is still second bottom but again, by coincidence, we have now played the top two twice.

The Division Five side battled hard at Melville, picked up two points but lost the aggregate by five shots. Barrie Douglas' rink was never close and went down 13-30 while Ivan Stulic battled hard to squeeze home 19-16.

The story of Graham McKenzie's day was different. Two late changes were made to the rink which raced to an 11-1 start. Graham Burnett was then affected by the heat and took no further part in the game. Playing with three, the side managed to extend the lead to 20-5 before being pegged back in the last few ends to 21-12.

Newcomer Richard Chapman has to be congratulated for coming in at the last minute and contributing some good bowls when the team played one-man short.

On Saturday, the Division Two side again displayed its new-found energy with a stunning 7-1 home win over Kardinya by 40 shots. Travis Simpson was welcomed back for his first game of the season with a 24-16 win. Gary Dodd did even better, winning 29-12 while the biggest win was by Ton Maxwell's rink – a massive 34-8 scoreline.

The only disappointment – Craig Standley couldn't make it a clean sweep, going down 16-27. This result jumped the side up another couple of spots in the table.

At Rossmoyne, the Division Three side battled hard all day, took two points but lost the aggregate by six shots to drop down into second bottom spot. Dave Van de Ven won on the last end by 18-17 and Barney Young lost by 12-17. Ian Gray's rink was ahead 12-10 and then took a single shot from each of the next nine ends to win 21-10.

The aggregate was still on the line, but Les Onley's rink lost 10 shots in the last three ends to go down 15-28.

Division Five made it a great day on the Hilton greens with an emphatic 80-47 win over Fremantle which keeps the team mid-table in fifth spot. Graham McKenzie won 29-21, Vic Philpott finished 28-12 up and Barrie Douglas scored a comfortable 23-14 win.

Season to date: Played 66, Won 35, Lost 30, Drawn 1.

Week ending Saturday, February 8

The Tuesday Ladies got the week off to a great start (again!) with an emphatic 5-1 home win over their nearest rivals, Rockingham. These two clubs now have a two-game break over the next best club.

The winning margin was 24 shots thanks to a terrific 34-10 win by Judy Dean's rink. The other two rinks were even – Bobi Ward winning 20-16 and Denise Hughes going down by 20-24.

It's hard to describe the Division Two side's performance at Melville on Thursday – it was just a bad day when nothing went right for us. Hilton lost 0-6 to a side lower on the league ladder and the aggregate was not even close – 18 shots.

Tony Maxwell lost 16-22, Gary Dodd lost 19-22 and Craig Standley lost 13-22.

At home, the Division Three side had a terrific 6-0 win over Warnbro and the points see Hilton jump over them into eighth spot. Ian Gray started with a six and led all the way despite dropping 10 shots in the last six ends to win 20-17 and Les Onley had an excellent 25-11 win.

Dave Van de Ven had a crazy game which saw just 23 shots scored in 21 ends (19 ones and 2 twos) and the final score was 13-10 in Hilton's favour.

Hilton sent an inexperienced side down to Warnbro for a Division Five fixture and we lost 0-6. Jim Watson skipped for the first time and lost 17-24, Barrie Douglas lost 14-23 and Ivan Stulic went down 16-30.

On the Saturday, Hilton's Division Two side produced easily their best result of the season – an emphatic 8-0 home win over second-placed Leeming by 24 shots. The points lift Hilton to fifth spot with Melville and East Fremantle now in their sights.

It was a tough game with many tight ends, but Hilton established a lead by the halfway mark and pushed on to finish strongly. Tony Maxwell was the biggest winner by 27-15 followed by Gary Dodd's 24-17 win. Craig Standley squeezed home 19-16 and Travis Simpson lost two shots on the last end to cut the margin to 18-17.

The Division Five side was playing alongside and won all three rinks to make it a clean sweep on C Green. Barrie Douglas won 27-15, Graham McKenzie won 21-15 and Vic Philpott dropped shots late on but still won 19-15. This side is now safely in the top half of the table.

Unfortunately, the Division Three side could not make it a clean sweep. Along the road at Spearwood, they were well beaten by the top team on the ladder and came back with just one point.

But what a point it was. By co-incidence, our Les Onley was drawn against his son Les jnr. And it was one to the old man with a fine 25-15 win. Elsewhere, Ian Gray lost 17-21, Barney Young lost 15-24 and Dave Van de Ven was belted 11-30,

This side is still in second bottom spot and desperately needs some wins.

Season to date: Played 73, Won 39, Lost 33, Drawn 1.

Week ending February 15

The ladies again got the week off to a great start on Tuesday when they took five points from a 20-shot win at home against East Fremantle which keeps the side at the top of the ladder. Rockingham are keeping close, just four points behind.

There was a cool wind and a bit of rain around but the ladies pushed through the unusual conditions. Denise Hughes made sure of the aggregate with a big 31-10 win while Bobi Ward squeezed home 22-20 and Judy Dean went down 23-26.

On Thursday, the Division Two side returned to winning form, beating Manning by 41 shots. Gary Dodd's rink was the stand-out, winning with 38-10 while Craig Standley was not far behind with a 29-12 scoreline. The only disappointment was Tony Maxwell's rink which lost 20-24.

The five points from this game move Hilton up another spot on the ladder but things are pretty tight with just eight points between the second bottom and second top.

The Division Three side had a shocker on a difficult Cockburn surface – going down by more than 50 shots. We are unsure what to say about Dave Van de Ven's massive 6-42 defeat as the score reflects what sort of day they had.

Les Onley's rink battled hard but fell away badly in the last half-dozen ends to go down 15-32 while Ian Gray got half a point from a 20-20 draw. Ian's rink fought back from 1-9 down and 6-16 down at the halfway mark only to see Cockburn's skip grab the shot with his last bowl to draw the game.

The Division Five side won their first game for a month, beating Cockburn comfortably at home and taking all six points to hold its mid-table position. Graham McKenzie won 23-12, Barrie Douglas won 24-15 and Ivan Stulic topped those scores with a 30-15 win. And Saturday was a great day with all three sides winning.

The Division Two side won by 28 shots down at Kwinana despite having to make two late changes to the sides. Travis Simpson won 28-15, Tony Maxwell won 22-11 and Gary Dodd eased home 23-11. But we had to settle for seven points as Craig Standley went down 17-22.

At home, the Division Three side was engaged in one of those rare games where you win just one rink but still take the aggregate 5-3.

This was achieved through some great work from Dave Van de Ven who recovered from Thursday's drubbing to win 28-13.

Elsewhere on B Green, Barney Young lost 20-25 and Les Onley went down 17-31. Ian Gray didn't play his last bowl and settled for a 15-19 loss knowing that Hilton had won the aggregate by two shots.

A close win was long overdue and lifted the side up one spot on the ladder,

And 5ths completed the clean sweep on a strangely slow synthetic green at Kwinana, winning by a very comfortable 43 shots. Vic Philpott had two sixes in a big 37-15 win, Graham McKenzie eased home 31-15 and Barrie Douglas was made to fight hard for his 19-14 win.

The season so far: - Played 80, Won 45, Lost 34, Drawn 1.

Club finals

Some club competitions have come to a conclusion after the knock-out rounds were played earlier.

Craig Standley and Debbie Beesley beat Rod and Nat Butler in the mixed pairs final while Gary Saint and Brian Smith won the men's pairs finals after a cracking tussle with Steve Ivory and Tony Maxwell.

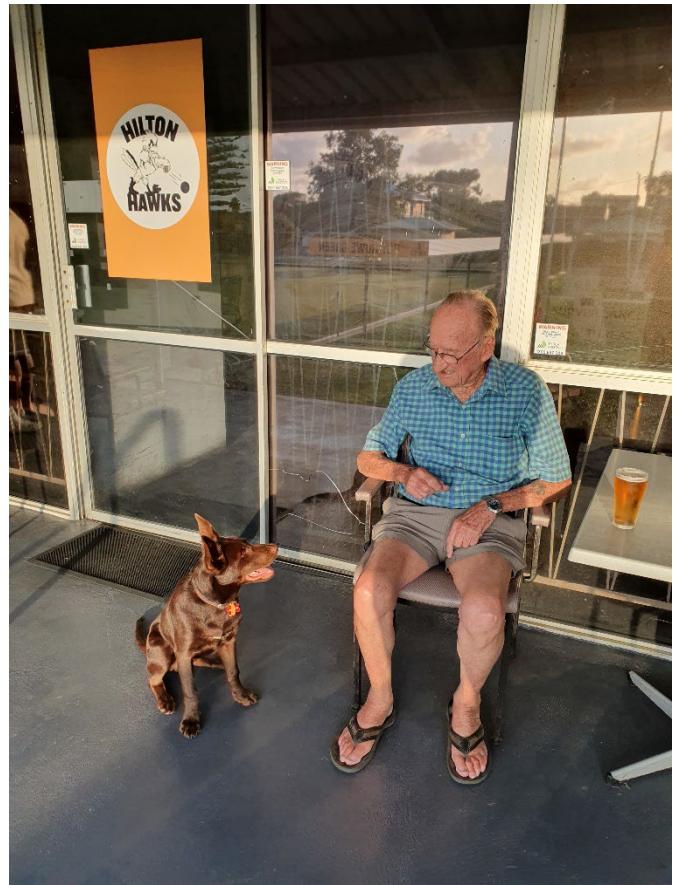
And in the ladies section, their triples was won by Denise Hughes, Sharron Mitchell and Bobi Ward.

Nice send off

Hilton had to say farewell to a life member earlier this month with the death of Roy Rowe - a former bowler who was held in such high esteem that B Green was named in his honour a few years ago.

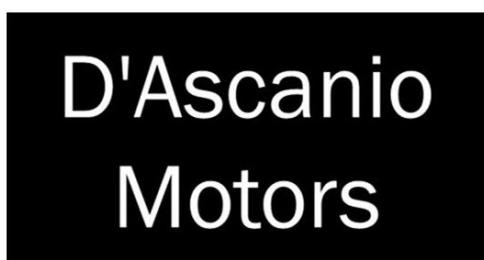
Roy, who was 94, was born in Fremantle and lived in Hilton most of his life. He worked as a wharfie and enjoyed fishing and bowling. He was a great contributor at Hilton Park and, as one of his granddaughters said at his funeral service, he "only went to the club when it was open".

He was still driving in his 90s and was a regular in the bar, swapping stories and listening to the chatter. After Roy's funeral, the wake was back at Hilton and members of his family took great pride standing for photographs under the sign saying "Roy Rowe Green".



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