



HAWK EYE

January 20, 2025

Hilton Park Bowling Club Newsletter

Welcome to 2025

Hilton welcomed in the New year not with a party but with a hastily-arranged meeting of bowling members to clear the air, sort out some issues and come up with fresh ideas to try to improve some of our pennant teams which are currently sitting low in league tables.

Club president Michael Broadbridge addressed a good turn-out of bowlers and called for greater commitment and for a determined effort to improve. It was agreed that teams should work together and be more aware of aggregate scores as Hilton seem to have lost more than their fair share of close games this season so far.

It was accepted that the casual roll-ups on Tuesday afternoons should become a more structured pennant practice and that has been happening over the last couple of weeks with good turn-outs. Also, the prospect of engaging a formal bowls coach for a few weeks was considered.

Of course, in the end, words are easy. It is actions that count. Hopefully, everyone left the meeting determined to do better. How that relates to results on the bowling green remains to be seen.

Pennant round-up

Week ending December 21

Going back to the last bowls week before Christmas, the Tuesday ladies ended the year on top of the ladder. While previous leaders Rockingham were losing at home, Hilton jumped over them by taking four points from a win over Spearwood.

It was created thanks to a massive score of 30-5 by Bobi Ward's rink and this was more than enough to cover narrow losses of 12-17 by Judy Dean and 20-23 by Denise Hughes.

The ladies concluded their day with an impressive Christmas spread with the tables in the bar set up in a big square. It was a great day and everyone was rewarded for their efforts.

Sadly, our Thursday sides were not able to complete the year with any wins – with all three sides going down. Again, with Christmas coming close, one of the issues was the availability of players as it has become clear we need to be at full strength to win games.

The Division Two side lost by eight shots down at Rockingham with Craig Standley getting a point from a 18-14 win. In a tight and very low-scoring game, Gary Dodd's rink went down to the last end before they lost 12-13 while Graeme "Cat" Fewings skippered a Hilton rink for the first time but lost 16-27.

The Division Three side took on Warnbro on Hilton's grass green but lost by six shots – the side's third loss by that margin or less. Hilton got a point from Ian Gray's win. They were 15-4 up after 11 ends but slumped to 17-17 going into the last end where three shots secured a win. Elsewhere, the games were close with Dave Van de Ven going down 24-29 and Bryn Regan losing 17-22.

Hilton's Division 5 side was also at Rockingham but picked up only half-a-point from Barrie Douglas' 12-12 draw (only 24 shots in a 21-end game!!!). Elsewhere, Les Onley lost 15-21 and Graham McKenzie was well beaten 6-33.

And it was a similar story on the Saturday when, with all three sides weakened by Christmas and other reasons, we suffered another three defeats.

It was perhaps no shock that our Division 2 side lost away to ladder leaders Safety Bay but the 40-shot deficit was still disappointing. Gary Dodd got a point from a narrow 22-21 win but elsewhere Craig Standley lost 11-31 and stand-in skips Shaun Farrell and Paul Harber lost 17-26 and 18-30 respectively.

That results leaves Hilton with a 3-6 win-loss record and in bottom spot although only 2½ points cover the last four teams.

The news was not any better at home where the Division 3 side lost by six shots to Cockburn. The aggregate was tight going into the final ends but went Cockburn's way when Barney Young's rink lost 8 shots in the last two ends to go down 14-29. Dave Van de Ven went down 19-25 but Hilton got two consolation points from wins to Ian Gray by 21-14 and to Les Onley by 25-17.

This side is sitting second bottom of the ladder with a 2-7 record at the half-way stage.

Hilton's Division 5 side was back at Rockingham and this time it was a straight 0-6 defeat. The margins were all around the same mark – Vic Philpott going down 14-20, Barrie Douglas losing 14-21 and Graham McKenzie losing 18-24. This side is holding a mid-table spot with a 5-4 winning record.

The season so far:- Played 59. Won 27, Lost 32.

Week ending January 18

The first Hilton Park team on the green in 2025 was the Tuesday Ladies who made the short distance to Kardinya. The side was without regular skips Bobi Ward and Judy Dean so needed Ian Gray, Graeme Kibell and Mike de Luis to make up a full team.

And what a ding-dong battle it was. Michelle Van de Ven's rink was well behind early then got to grips with the wide and fast surface to

scrape home 17-15. Denis Hughes' rink was the opposite – starting well and then having to hang on to win 20-18 while Liz Mann battled hard but went down 13-17.

All that meant was a 50-50 draw with Hilton taking 3½ points but it cost us top spot in the ladder as Rockingham got five points from a narrow two-shot win to squeeze ahead of us.

And Hilton's three Thursday teams all won well to make it a great start to 2025.

The Division Two side jumped a couple of spots up the ladder after taking 5½ points from a home win over East Fremantle. Craig Standley battled hard all day and had to settle for a 19-19 draw with East Fremantle's top rink while Gary Dodd won 19-16 and Tony Maxwell turned around an early deficit to win well at 24-15.

Down at Fremantle, the Division Three side took the game by 18 shots to pick up five points and move one spot up the ladder. Dave Van de Ven led the way, powering home by an impressive 24-11 while Les Onley grabbed a five and a three in successive ends to win 20-15. Ian Gray looked like he would make it a clean sweep but lost the last three ends to go down 16-18.

Back at Hilton, the Division Five side easily defeated Como who were sitting second top of the ladder. Ivan Stulic's side burst out of the blocks to lead 14-0 on the way to a massive 41-12 win. Lead David Millard and second Jim Watson both had terrific games. Elsewhere, Barrie Douglas won 20-13 but Graeme McKenzie lost 16-21.



Three wins was enough to justify a sing-along in the bar afterwards and the ringing of the bell.

The wins kept coming on the Saturday with our Division Two side going to Rockingham and picking up a very welcome seven points. Gary Dodd set the standard with an impressive 30-11 won while Craig Standley won 24-19 and Tony Maxwell squeezed home 19-18. The only hiccup was Brian Smith's 9-27 loss.

The points moved the team up one spot into mid-table where five points covers five teams.

At home, the Division Three side also won 7-1 and by 25 shots against Leeming – a massive switch from the first game of the season when Hilton lost by over 60 points at Leeming.

Amazingly, after just three ends, Hilton was up 16-0 across the four rinks. Were we playing so well and were they just playing so badly? Or was it playing on the grass which didn't suit Leeming?

Anyway, Les Onley streaked away to a terrific 23-8 win led by great bowls from Gab Procino while Dave Van de Ven won 19-12. Ian Gray's side was 11-0 up before Leeming got on board and started to narrow the margin. Four shots to Leeming on the penultimate end made the 17-13 score look close. Barney Young's rink battled hard

and were up 8-0 but Leeming got the final shot on the last end to win 20-19.

Again, the seven points has jumped the side one spot up the table.

Unfortunately, the Division Five boys could not make it another clean sweep – losing 0-6 away to Leeming. Graeme McKenzie lost 21-27 and Barrie Douglas battled hard before going down 18-20. Graeme Kibell stepped in at the last moment for an unwell Vic Philpott and lost 11-21.

Season to date:: Played 59, Won 31, Lost 27, Drawn 1.

Too hot

For the first time this season, the summer heat affected the bowls with predicted 40-plus temperature and high humidity causing the ladies competition on January 21 to be called off. We should have been at home to Safety Bay.

With the heatwave continuing, Thursday's bowls were called off as well.

And with Australia Day coming up, the weekend was also free of pennant bowls.

Party time out

Hilton's New Year's Eve party has been a big success for the club for something like the last 15 years but the planned party to welcome in 2025 had to be cancelled at almost the last minute.

The club was having problems finding bar staff to work that night and this issue, exacerbated by poor advance ticket sales, caused the club executive to make the tough decision to cancel the function.

Money is certainly tight at Hilton just now and the prospect of losing money on a function was something which had to be avoided. Plenty of people were unhappy with the decision and indicated that they had been planning to attend but had not bought tickets.

100 Club Night

One function definitely going ahead in the annual 100 Club raffle on Saturday, March 22 when the winners will be drawn. As a past winner of the \$2000 first prize, this writer can definitely state that it is a great night out.

We want to write that tickets are selling fast but let's just say that the tickets are selling well. If you have bought a couple already that's great. If you have not, do it soon.

Staying alive

Hilton Park cannot live by bowls alone.

There is no doubt that the Friday night and Sunday afternoon band sessions play a big part in keeping Hilton alive as a bowling club. Attendances are those functions are usually good and sometimes they are better than good with the premises being packed out with a mix of dancers, music lovers and drinkers.

Of course, like everything around the club, it can't happen without a lot of helpers working as bar staff, glass collectors and general tidy-uppers. The home-made burgers on a Sunday afternoon are ultra-special. So a big thanks is due to everyone who helps out.

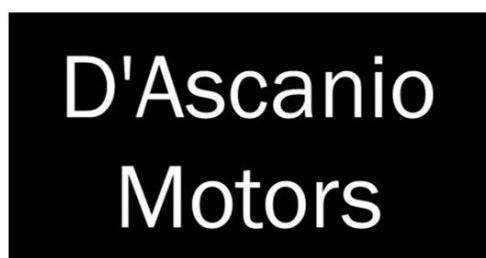


New world record

If we only kept records, Bryn Regan's recent performance at the Saturday scroungers might have broken all records. Bryan could do no wrong on the day and amassed an amazing 61 points. The highest score this writer can recall is a visitor from Spearwood scoring in the 40s

Our sponsors

We would like to acknowledge our new sponsors The Vespa Shop and thank F&G Cranes for their generous donation. We would also like to welcome back our existing sponsors to the club in 2024/2025.





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