



HAWK EYE

March 20, 2025

Hilton Park Bowling Club Newsletter

Message from the president

Before pennant bowls on Saturday, March 8, club president Michael Broadbridge called members to a morning meeting to bring everyone up-to-date with what is happening in and around the club.

In a snappy yet detailed address, the president explained that the club was drawing up a strategic plan for the future of the club aimed at making Hilton Park the best community and bowling club in the Fremantle area.

The committee was also working on a long-term plan to have a synthetic surface on B Green in the next few years with grants and as small a possible contribution from the club. A second synthetic green would also bring big savings in greenkeeper's wages etc.

And he revealed that there was some interest from developers in installing courts for the fast-growing sport of padel ball on one of Hilton's old unused greens.

He also gave members advance notice that some new appointments would have to be made at the club's next annual general meeting as the following people had indicated they would not be continuing next year. They were Graeme Kibell (treasurer), Doug Watson (social), Kevin Willis (bar manager) and Val Turner (ladies captain).



Pennant round-up

Week ending February 22.

After a string of wins, the Tuesday Ladies came back to earth with a bang when they travelled to Warnbro and failed to pick up a point in their first loss since November last year. And it was not even close – by 37 shots.

Judy Dean got belted 15-33, Denise Hughes' result was by the same margin – 12-30 and the only close one was Bobi Ward's rink which

lost on the last end 22-23. This result cost Hilton top spot with four matches remaining.

Thursday was another great day for the club, The Division Two side went to Kardinya and came away with all six points in a really tight afternoon of bowls. Craig Standley won 17-14, Gary Dodd won 18-16 and Tony Maxwell squeezed home 19-18.

Things are turning with a close match going our way for a change and the six points pushes Hilton up to fourth on the ladder.

The Division Three side also took on Kardinya on our grass and got a win with 4 1/2-1 1/2. The aggregate was settled early on with Les Onley's rink racing ahead from the start and finishing with a terrific 37-9 win. Dave Van de Ven lost by four shots (15-19) and Ian Gray got half-a-point from a 16-16 draw.

Hilton got four shots in that last end to draw level and Ian had a chance to win the match with his last bowl but rolled past the kitty. The 4 1/2 points was not enough to jump over Kardinya on the ladder.

The Division Five tie against Kardinya was called off because our opponents were unable to field a side. However, the 6-0 win saw Hilton jump up two spots to fourth place.

On Saturday, the Division Two side went into the home game against East Fremantle with high hopes – so it must have been really disappointing to lose by 18 shots and pick up only 1 1/2 points.

Gary Dodd's rink kept up its good form a strong 21-15 win while Travis Simpson got half-a-point in a 20-20 draw. But elsewhere on C green, Tony Maxwell went down 14-21 and Craig Standley lost heavily 11-28. Not the result we had hoped for.

The story was similar in Division Three except that the Hilton side did not expect much as the home side, South Perth, was second top of the table, Barney Young (14-24) and Les Onley (17-32) both lost comfortably but Judy Dean – in her first game as a Saturday skip – had a terrific 15-13 win.

Dave Van de Ven narrowed what had been a big deficit to just one shot with two ends left – but then ran out of steam big time by losing a five and a seven to go down 16-29.

It was not a completely bad day as Hilton's Division Five side recorded its fourth 6-0 win in a row. This time it was a comfortable home win over Cockburn. Vic Philpott won 25-18, Barrie Douglas won 27-13 and Graham McKenzie made it a clean sweep with a 28-15 win.

This side now has two Saturdays off before it plays again.

The season so far: Played 86, Won 48, Drawn 1, Lost 37

Week ending March 1

The Tuesday Ladies jumped back to the top of the table by just one point. While Rockingham were losing at Safety Bay, Hilton went to Spearwood and squeezed out a narrow win after a slow start to the game.

Bob Ward came home strongly to win 27-12 which was more than enough to cover Denise Hughes' 16-20 loss and Judy Dean's 22-22 draw. There are just three games left now.

Thursday was not a successful day for Hilton – starting at the top with the Division Two side losing at home to Kwinana by 10 shots. Hilton picked up two points with wins by Craig Standley by 22-12 and Tony Maxwell by 19-18.

But the match went Kwinana's way when the usually strong Gary Dodd rink suffered an off day and went down 13-34.

The Division Three side had a difficult task at Leeming and failed to pick up a point in a 20-shot loss. Yet the team was in a reasonable position in all rinks after 15 ends – down by just four – only to fall away when the games were on the line.

Dave Van de Ven was up 14-12 after 15 ends but lost 14-22. Barnie Young was down 11-14 after 15 ends but lost 18-22 with a five late on making the score look closer. And Brian Smith (helping out because of a shortage of skips) was down 9-12 after 15 ends and lost 12-22.

The Division Five side was scheduled to play Kwinana at home, but they simply didn't turn up and had told no-one in advance. Not getting a game is disappointing yet the six shots lift the team to third on the ladder.

There were no games on Saturday, March 1 because it was a holiday weekend and Country Week.

The season to date:- Played 89, Won 49, Drawn 1, Lost 39

Week ending March 8

The Tuesday Ladies stretched their lead over Rockingham at the top of the ladder to three points with a good home win over Kardinya. While Rockingham were drawing 3-3 at home to lowly Spearwood, Hilton picked up five points from a 30-shot win over Kardinya.

The aggregate win was secured way before the end thanks to Bobi Ward's 33-6 scoreline. Denise Hughes got a late four shots to squeeze home 17-13 and Judy Dean was one up going into the last end but lost two shots to go down 15-16.

Well done ladies – promotion is now a certainty.

If Tuesday was good then Thursday was bad. Three defeats.

The Division Two side travelled down to Safety Bay but came home with 1½ points from a 15 shot defeat. Two rinks were tight - Gary Dodd scraping home 16-15 and Craig Standley drawing 19-19. But the game was blasted open by Tony Maxwell's big 9-25 defeat.

Hilton remains in fourth spot on the ladder.

At home, the Division Three side managed to throw away a good aggregate lead and just when a 5-1 win looked certain it quickly

changed into a 1-5 loss to Mt Pleasant. Dave Van de Ven won 20-17 although it could have been more while Les Onley lost 16-19.

Disaster struck Ian Gray's rink. They were sailing along comfortably ahead 24-14 with three ends left only to lose a four and then a six. Hilton held the shot on the last end but a slight touch on that bowl moved the jack a few centimetres to the opposition. That made the final score 24-25.

Up at picturesque Mosman Park, Hilton enjoyed the views and came back with only one point. Ivan Stulic was the big winner 25-14 but Graham McKenzie lost 13-21 and Barrie Douglas went down 20-26.

Thankfully, Saturday was a happier day. The Division Two side went down to Fremantle and did all that was required by winning 7-1 and by 17 shots to keep Hilton in fifth spot on the ladder. Travis Simpson won 24-20, Tony Maxwell won 25-17 and Gary Dodd finished ahead 27-21.

Craig Standley had the close one but lost 20-21.

Again, all the excitement was at home where the Division Three side came from a long way back to get a one shot win over Fremantle and take the points 6½-1½. An aggregate win didn't look possible as Ian Gray's rink had a terrible day, losing by a massive 8-30.

Barney Young helped pulled back some of that deficit with a 21-10 win and Brian Smith's rink got three shots on the last end to draw 16-16. That left Les Onley still to do a bit of catching up. The 24-12 final scoreline hides the fact they got a six on the penultimate end to make the aggregate close and a two on the last end to tip the points to Hilton.

Again, Division Five had a bye.

The season to date:- Played 95, Won 52, Drawn 1, Lost 42

Week ending March 15

Tuesday was a great day for the Ladies team – their crushing 6-0 win over Kwinana while nearest rivals Rockingham were losing at Kardinya meant that Hilton clinched top spot on the ladder. This is a massive change from last season when we finished last.

All the skips had good wins – Bobi Ward by 26-17, Denise Hughes by 29-13 and Judy Dean by 28-15. It was an excellent all round team effort and shows what can be achieved with settled skips and a line-up which didn't change much over the season.

The pressure is now off for the final match of the league season down at Rockingham with a flag play-off on the horizon.

Rain and thunder hit Perth on the Thursday causing the home games for 2nd Division and 5th Division to be abandoned just the start.

The Third Division side was down at Warnbro under the roof and got their game played. But it does not make pleasant reading. Ian Gray's rink was hammered 10-37 and Dave Van de Ven's rink lost 13-35, including an 8 on one end. Yet both skips said afterwards that the games were more competitive than the scorelines suggest.

Les Onley's rink almost got a great win. They had been neck-and-neck all afternoon and went into the last end at 20-20. Even that end was tight, but Warnbro just managed to get the winning shot.

That resulted in dropping Hilton to 9th spot on the ladder. We have 36 points, Warnbro2 got a point at Safety Bay to move to 36½ and

Kardinya got three points from an abandoned game to move to 40 ½.

So, it is down to the last game.

On Saturday, the Division Two side, even with 2-3 changes, got the job done with a fine 8-0 win over Warnbro. Travis Simpson won 29-20 and Gary Dodd sailed home 27-9 to secure the aggregate. But Hilton also won the two tight games – Craig Standley by 19-15 and Tony Maxwell by 16-15 to take eight points and jump over Melville into fourth spot on the ladder.

Our Division Three side was no match for Manning who scored exactly double Hilton's number of shots. Les Onley had the only close tie, losing 20-23, while Barney Young lost 16-26. The other twoscores were ugly – Dave Van de Ven losing 14-35 and Brian Smith going down 8-34.

While this was going on, Rossmoyne was grabbing seven points at home to Cockburn to bring themselves exactly level with Hilton in the relegation zone.

Hilton's Division Five side got five points from a five-shot win – honestly. Vic Philpott had a rare 9-18 loss against Warnbro but the aggregate went Hilton's way when Barrie Douglas squeezed home 17-16 and Graeme McKenzie pulled off a fine match-winning score of 26-13.

These points lift Hilton into third spot only four points off top position.

The season to date: - Played 102, Won 55, Drawn 3, Lost 44

Club competitions

There was a surprise result in the ladies' singles competition when veteran bowler Liz Mann struck some great form to take the title from favourite Judy Dean. It just shows that in bowls it is who plays best on the day.

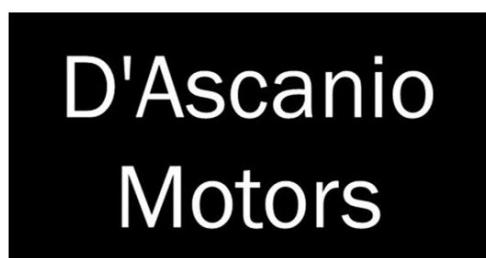
Last Sunday the men's fours was decided with a big 24-6 win by George Annandale, Scotty Cargill, Rob Fontini and Michael Broadbridge. It was great work from this rink as they only won their semi-final tie on the Friday night against a rink skipped by John Jenkinson.

Earlier in the month, Gary Saint and Brian Smith won the pairs competition and then this same pairing along with Shaun Farrell won the triples.



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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