



HAWK EYE

October 20, 2024

Hilton Park Bowling Club Newsletter

Hello again – we are back

This is the monthly magazine of the Hilton Park Bowling Club and the first edition for the 2024-2025 bowling season. The plan is for the magazine to drop into members' in-boxes around the 20th of each month and it is hoped all members will enjoy reading about what has happened at Hilton Park and what will be happening soon at the club.

Pennants on the horizon

The new pennant bowls season starts only a few days from now – October 26 to be exact – so let's hope everyone is ready and raring to go.

The biggest change this summer is that the Saturday men's competition is now officially an Open Gender competition. This has persuaded Hilton's women's team to drop out of their own tournament and jump in with the men.

Just how that works out with team selections remains to be seen but all that we can ask of the selectors is that they pick their teams on merit.

One bit of good news just a couple of weeks before the season start came when Bowls WA told Hilton that it's Tuesday women's team would not be playing 4th division but would be moved back up into 3rd division where we played last year.

The main issue from that is we need 12 players to make a team which better suits our playing numbers. Playing Fourth Division with just 8 players (and with a lot more travel involved) might have meant some bowlers missing out each week.

Message from President Michael Broadbridge

"I am honoured to step into the role of president of Hilton Park Bowling Club. Our club has a real history and a strong sense of community, and I look forward to building on that foundation.

Together we will continue to promote a spirit of sportsmanship, friendship and excellence that has defined our club over so many years.

I am committed to ensuring that every member feels valued and supported and that we create an environment we all can enjoy and contribute to the success of the club.

In the coming months I plan to work closely with the committee to explore new opportunities for growth, continue to improve our facilities and enhance member engagement.

By the end of 2024, the committee will finalise the 2025-2027 Strategic Plan for the club. That new Plan will serve as a guide document for decision-making and action over the next two years.

It is vital that members are involved in the formation of this Plan, and you will soon receive notification regarding your opportunity to contribute to the success of the club.

Whether you are a seasoned player or a newcomer, your input and participation are essential for shaping the future of Hilton Park bowling club. I encourage everyone to get involved and help make this club the best it can be.

Thank you for your trust and support – I look forward to serving as your president and to working together for a fantastic year ahead."

Warm regards – Michael Broadbridge



Welcome to new members

Hilton has picked up a handful of new members and we welcome them all to the club. At this early stage, two or three of them are relatively unknown but we hope that will soon change as the summer season progresses.

Three of the better-known newcomers are Bryn Regan (Kardinya), Graeme Fewings (also Kardinya) and John Townsend (Fremantle). Other newcomers are Gabe Procino, David Millard, Jim McKee, Damon Rubery and Richard Chapman.

At this stage, it appears our only loss is veteran bowler Warren Edwards who has moved to Fremantle as that club is nearer his home. Warren contributed a lot to Hilton as a selector and a skip and, behind the scenes, in a financial way.

Missing Tommy James

Sadly, long-time member Tommy James died a few weeks ago and is missed by all at the club. He bowled regularly on Thursdays during the winter months and was one of the first to put his name down to play pennants on both Thursdays and Saturdays in the coming season.

We had a feature in Hawk Eye late last season on Tommy in which he revealed he was born in Croydon in England in September 1936 which means that he just failed to make his 88th birthday. He migrated to Australia to make a fresh start with his second wife 50 years ago and lived and worked initially in Victoria.

He had to retire at 55 because of ill health and then made another fresh start by moving to WA. "I have proved the doctors wrong," he told Hawk Eye proudly.

Tommy joined Hilton Park in 1995 so played bowls for the club for almost 30 years. He was thrilled at the end of last season when one of Hilton's MVP awards was named in his honour.

This writer played against Tommy on the Thursday (three days before he died in his sleep) and he was in fine form. As he left that day, he reminded someone that he was the second oldest bowler at the club.

He was a fine member and a fine gentleman. He will be missed.

C Green turns white

It took years of fundraising and months of planning before it was laid down but the new synthetic surface on C green proved its worth by allowing far more bowls to be played over the winter months when the weather is not the best.

On a normal winters' day, bowlers would get a regular morning message that the Tuesday/Thursday bowls were off because a bit of rain made the grass greens unplayable. Well, that didn't happen this winter – we played on through strong winds, light rain and dark clouds.

However, play was stopped for a bit one Thursday afternoon in early September when a hailstorm came roaring over Hilton – covering the greens in a white layer of ice and snow (sorry, we are exaggerating a little!).

In a remarkably quick time, the ice had melted, and the water drained away so out the hardy bowlers went again.

On a more serious note, it is hoped that all the winter bowling on the synthetic green has allowed Hilton's bowlers to play with confidence on what is a beautiful surface. And all this practice must help our teams to play better at other synthetic venues as well. (Warnbro excluded).



State fours

A rink from Hilton Park put up a brave fight in the State Fours competition played over the first weekend in October. Craig Standley, Tony Maxwell, Steve Ivory and Kym Robertson travelled all the way to Ellenbrook for their games.

They won their first game 17-11, lost the second game 7-18 and also lost the third game 16-17 to a rink from North Perth which went all the way to the quarter-finals the next day before being knocked out.

Well done guys.

Home improvements

A lot of work has been done inside the clubrooms and outside around the greens to make a visit to Hilton all the better.

Inside, much of the floor area in the hall and in the bar has been scrubbed and polished and has come up well. It looks good so well done to those who gave up their time helping with the work. Also inside, some novelty tables and seating have been created using wood and some of the old bowls which were just lying around. The committee room has also been gutted and looks much better for the spring clean.

Outside, the main garden area near the synthetic green - named the Norm Watson Gardens - has come on well and looks terrific. An area of garden near the can-bar has seen the frangipanis removed (no more leaves lying around) and has been re-stocked with natives.

Another area close to the exit gate which was sometimes used for parking has also been stocked with natives. Once all these little shrubs become established it will look a treat.

Changes have also been made to improve the shade for players using the synthetic green. Some limestone blocks have been removed, creating a type of gate, and extra paving has been laid to create a shaded seated area during pennant games.

Lots of people have helped with those jobs and if we tried to name them all we would be sure to miss one or two out. So, let's just say a big thank you to everyone.



Tough times in Exmouth

In mid-September, a dozen Hilton bowlers flew north for the annual Bowls Festival weekend in Exmouth. And it proved to be tougher than usual with temperatures around the 36-37 mark.

Our three teams won some games and lost some games over the two days. Craig Standley's rink finished in the top eight – high enough to win about \$600 for the rink.

Everyone had a great time. As expected, the food was terrific, and everyone had to be well hydrated because of the heat. Will they be returning for more next year? You bet they are.

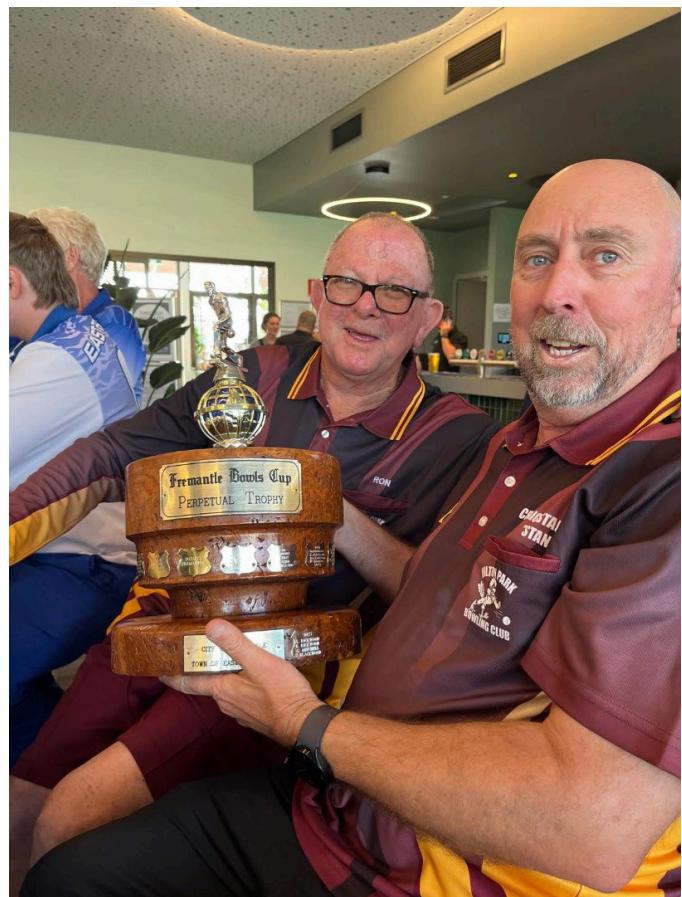


Cup winners

Hilton had a great day at East Fremantle last week, winning back the Fremantle Cup after an exciting day of bowls against teams from East Fremantle and Fremantle.

For many, it was their first experience on the new green at a re-developed East Fremantle complex. The synthetic surface seemed a bit slower than expected but we stuck to the job against some tough opponents to finally come out winners.

So well done to everyone who took part, and we get the reward next spring by bringing everyone back to Hilton for a great day of bowls.



Community bowls

The Community Bowls season commences Wednesday, 13th November 2024.

If you feel that you can help, we are always looking for volunteers to assist.

Now for something quirky

Perhaps you have not noticed that some new paving has been laid at the bottom of the back stairs and the initials HPBC have been carefully cut into the brickwork. That stands for Hilton Park Bowling Club. Obviously.

But wait a minute. Maybe the bricklayer was a dog lover. For the initials happen to represent the names of members' dogs and their owners. There's Harry, Pete, Butler and Chester.



And finishing on a hot note

Veteran ladies' member Val Turner celebrated her 79th birthday with her bowling ladies at the club on October 2 and things got a little heated when husband Ron took her home.

It was a cold night so Ron switched on the gas fire and went out the back to get himself a beer from the fridge. Val quickly got changed into her PJs and housecoat and stood in front of the fire to keep warm and place her birthday cards on the mantelpiece.

Ron got the shock of his life when he came back inside and saw that Val's nightclothes were on fire as she was too close to the gas heater. Ron's quick re-action and a bit of luck certainly prevented any injury.

Val had to pop to the shops the next day to get herself a belated birthday present – a new housecoat.

OK – we have poked a bit of fun at Val, but we are all glad she was not hurt. Happy birthday.

Melbourne Cup!

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What's on this October at the Hilton Park Bowling Club



**FRI
04
OCT**

THE KAHUNA TWANKSTERS



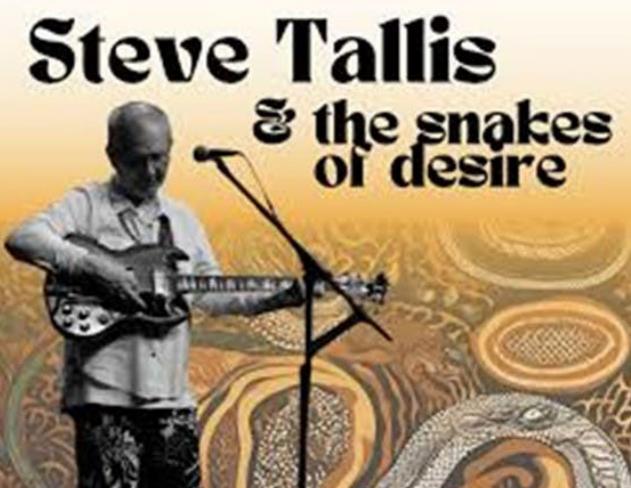
**FRI
11
OCT**

HOPE RIVER ROAD



**FRI
18
OCT**

PETE STONE & THE HILTONES

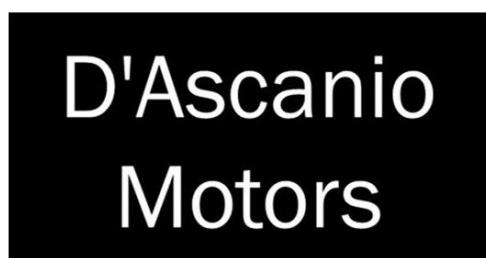


**FRI
25
OCT**

STEVE TALLIS & THE SNAKES OF
DESIRE

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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