



Sturt Bowling Club at Unley Oval

President's Report – 2018/19

It is with much pleasure I have the opportunity to present the annual report for the past 12 months.

As a club we have had a very successful season both on and off the greens and I thank all members and their families, friends and supporters for their contributions for this success and ultimately the progress of our club.

An overview of the past year:

PENNANTS

On Saturday Pennant days, we fielded three teams.

Our top side played in 4 East after being demoted from 3 East the season before. It has been well documented this team was very unlucky losing many games by only a few shots. This year this team finished a creditable 3rd, only missing a grand final appearance by 2 shots in the Preliminary Final.

Our second team played in 5 East and finished 5th. This effort was a huge improvement on previous seasons and they only missed finals on the last game because of another result which did not favour us.

This season our 3rd team played in 7 South West and finished in 4th position. There were no finals played in this division but I hope all who represented this team are very proud of their efforts. These players were rarely in the same position or rink week to week because of unavailability, health or rotation. I believe this team has done a magnificent job.

Wednesday Pennants also had 3 teams representing Sturt Bowling Club.

The top side competed in 3 South West and finished the year in 3rd position, again just missing a grand final appearance. It was a lopped sided division which also included a bye. There were some very weak teams but two very strong teams which we could not get over.

Our second side in 4 East finished in 3rd position only 14 points behind the pennant winner. There were no finals for this division. This finish was a strong performance and an improved result particularly since this was a 12 team division.

In another 12 team division our 3rd team participated in 4 South West and ended up in 9th position. This team also had to cope with continual weekly changes but finished the season with a couple of strong wins against teams placed higher on the ladder. I must sincerely thank the ladies who helped fill positions in this team every week. Without them there would have been many forfeits.

So the wrap up is...

Saturday	4 East	3 rd
	5 East	5 th
	7 South West	4 th
Wednesday	3 South West	3 rd
	4 East	3 rd
	4 South West	9 th

Just a quick look at these results you can see overall we can be proud of our these but we should not be satisfied.

I feel there are better things to come but we must work hard and strive for these better results.

As a club we must thank our selectors, Paul Teesdale-Smith, Peter Hughes, Matt Jeffery and Bruce Williams for a great job both Saturday and Wednesday. People don't queue up wanting to be a selector so thanks guys for doing this tough job.

ADELAIDE CUP TOURNAMENT

Our tournament was again played on Saturday of the long weekend in March. Leading up to the day was difficult this year trying to attract teams but on the day we once again enjoyed the company of many repeat teams and some new teams as well to help make the day a huge success again. Many thanks to all the volunteer helpers, Alister Behenna and Barry Paterson behind the bar, Brenda Welsh and Chris Williams in the kitchen and Dean Buder and Tim Williams on the bbq cooking breakfast for all. Again, thank you all.

It is a big job to join all the dots for this day but well worth the effort. Many positive comments are received from our visitors and the tournament is of course very important to the well being and growth of our club.

Alfred James Funerals and Phil Hoffman Travel must be thanked for their continued sponsorship and support for this annual event.

NIGHT OWLS

Our Night Owls program is surely second to none.

Again our club delivered another great year and both Tuesday and Thursday night we had both Greens full most nights.

Congratulations to Tuesday winners Smoking Grass and Thursday winners Test Eagles, and Thursday Owers got one back on the Tuesday team in the annual Tuesday Thursday challenge.

Over the past years our club has benefited with increased membership from "owlers" moving up to be Pennant players. There are many highly skilled night owl players around so we are hoping these progressions continue.

Many thanks to all who participated and huge thanks to all the "blue shirts" volunteers who gave their time on the bbq, in the kitchen, behind the bar, running the raffles, doing the cards or any other job that needed doing to make this year again a big success.

Of course we need co-ordinators and we have the best - John Griffith, Paul Teesdale-Smith and Matthew Jeffery.

Thanks guys for the massive job you have done again running the Night Owl program.

Without Night Owls and the teamwork of many members our club would struggle so it is very pleasing to see the vast numbers turn up each week to enjoy a game of bowls and keep the till ticking over.

Thank you all.

WINTER BOWLS

These social bowls days, held on Wednesday and Saturday weather permitting is a great way to keep socialising with each other in the off season. Enjoyed by many and always hoping for some sunshine these days are very popular. Well done to Deane Pye, the winner this year and many thanks to Bruce Williams and Paul Teesdale-Smith for organising the programs.

ANNUAL CLUB TOURNAMENTS

Sturt Bowling Club Championships and other events were this year revamped and co-ordinated by Kim Keane and Tom Morgan.

Running almost the whole season we saw some very hard fought and entertaining games played. Thanks to all who participated in these games, most to win, but some for the enjoyment and some just for the experience to help become a better bowler.

This year we saw 2 new champions step up and we also had new winners in different events.

In quite an extensive list, congratulations go to

Ladies Singles Champion	Cathy Stevens
Ladies Singles Runner Up	Tracey Kneebone
Men's Singles Champion	Michael Underwood
Men's Singles Runner Up	Peter Welsh
Club Pairs Winners	Kim Keane Peter Hughes
Club Pairs Runners Up	Andrew Messenger Kym Pratt
Presidents Cup Singles Winner	Deane Pye
Presidents Cup Singles Runner Up	Bruce Lindner
Mixed Pairs Winners	Tracey Kneebone Grant Fisher Heather Todd Kim Keane

There was a tie in this event.

Drawn Pairs Winners	Steve Young John French
Drawn Pairs Runners Up	Tracey Kneebone Bruce Lindner
Two Bowl Triple Winners	Russell Moore Neville Riddle Bruce Williams
Two Bowl Triples Runners Up	Richard Sismey Fred Grossi Dave Paley

Thank you Kim and Tom for all of your work and time taken to make these games successful.

Also "on the green" thank you to Paul Crossie who gave many hours to coaching some new members giving them a good start to bowls and also some members who needed that bit extra in their game.

Paul was always available to pass on his knowledge and experience.

Thanks also to Russell Moore and Paul Crossie for both sharing the Greens Manager position at various times of the year as well as communicating with our Green Keeper James Gregory and staff member Brendon.

CLUB HIRE – SOCIAL

Once again our facilities were taken advantage off for events, functions and social bowls by many groups. We had lots of groups rebook from past years because of their success and we always have had positive feedback for what we can offer. This year was particularly busy and huge thanks go to Matt Jeffery for organising bookings, being onsite for the functions and making sure some members were available to assist with bar trade, help on the greens or any other jobs. Well done and thanks to all who gave their time and helped to take our club out to the community.

MEMBERSHIP

Although actual numbers may not have increased this year it is pleasing that it still feels as though there was growth. At the end of season 2017/2018 we said farewell and good luck to Brian Burns who moved to Jinderbyne NSW with a new business venture, Ewen Graham who was given an opportunity to give Premier League a crack with West Lakes Bowling Club, Brian Green relocated back to Tasmania and Dianne Stephens moved to Millicent. We lost a lot of experience but we have gained a few very keen and willing new members.

Thank you past members for contributing and welcome to the new.

PROPERTY

At present Sturt Bowling Club has submitted an application to the Active Club Program for a grant to upgrade our greens watering system. The final assessment should be available to us early August. There is a motion to be addressed today at the AGM regarding this grant.

We are very fortunate to have Gerry Dillon at our club who has done the hard yards to get this application up and running. Thank you, Gerry and other members who have spent many hours on this submission.

Our Property Manager Neville Riddle and our House Manager Barry Paterson have been up and about, with this past year being particularly busy. These two key gentlemen have spent many hours at the club to make sure everything runs smoothly inside and out. Yes, there have been problems but they are always fixed by these dedicated members.

Also on deck is Deane Pye and his merry band of helpers named "Sturt Stranglers". Meeting regularly mid-week this group paints, cleans, mows, trims, pulls weeds, does the watering and any other job to keep our club looking great.

Thanks guys for all you do and hope you always enjoyed your cake and coffee morning tea break.

BITS 'N' PIECES

This year our new bar took shape and has been a huge success. More space was achieved and now with a new bar, double door access and new bar table and stools this area is a winner with members making themselves comfortable for a drink and chat, listening to Alister's top 100 golden oldies on the jukebox. (and some weird stuff)

We once again thank the Unley Council and all club members and friends who contributed to this major project.

Thank you very much to Paul Teesdale-Smith and Alister Behenna for running the bar so professionally and all the volunteer bar workers for all their hard work and time spent.

Where would we be without our wonderful pennant day sandwiches?

Many thanks to Sandra Brown for organising and co-ordinating the rosters for home pennant games and also big thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who assisted with the shopping and making the sandwiches. This group of volunteers was deservedly treated to a beautiful meal at the Earl of Leicester hotel on Wednesday 17th April. Thank you all and well done.

I must also thank Mel who worked the bar and helped with sandwich making. Always busy, Mel has been a valuable addition to our club.

With the club open 6 days a week it is going to get a bit untidy, so thank you to our cleaners Noel and Darleen who did a great job and always made themselves available even sometimes at short notice.

Looking forward, the conifers along the northern side of A green are due to be removed thanks to our friends at Unley Council. Plans are advancing for screens and plantings to replace them and hopefully allow better grass growth along the ditch areas of that Green.

Club member John Mitchell has spent many hours preparing documents which compare our club with Surbiton Bowls Club situated at Surry in the UK. John has struck up a partnership with a friend at Surbiton detailing how both clubs operate. It is a very interesting process but is not complete. John's time has been limited lately with more time needed at home. Good luck John and thank you.

The footy season is with us again and in 2019 the bowling club is sponsoring a new Sturt Football Club player in Lachlan Burrows. With the growth of women's football we also sponsor Hannah Dreckow. I have not yet met Hannah and are looking forward to doing so but Lachlan has come over and joined in Winter Bowls on a Wednesday and also joined the footy tipping comp. Lachlan is a friendly and approachable young guy and we hope we will see him and Hannah at our club through the year.

There are two members I must acknowledge for the tremendous amount of work they have both put in to our club. Thanks to Secretary Bruce Williams and Treasurer John Griffith. This club functions daily very well because of the efforts of these two members. Thank you.

Another thank you is to Paul Teesdale-Smith who constantly works on our website, updating and adding more information for you the club member. Paul has also spent a huge amount of time gathering information from history records to update our Life Members Board. This new board will soon be on our wall with many additions to it. The complete list will also be put on our website.

This website is well worth a look if you have not visited it lately.

There is a motion to be discussed today regarding our new life membership board.

Personally I wish to thank the outgoing committee of 2018/2019:

Matthew Jeffery	Vice President Functions.
Bruce Williams	Secretary
John Griffith	Treasurer
Barry Paterson	House Manager
Neville Riddle	Property Manager
Alister Behenna	Bar and Handyman
Paul Crossie	Coach and Greens

Unfortunately during the season Paul's health did not allow him to finish the year on the committee.

I must give credit to all these members. The results from all the work they took on was amazing and I must add that I have had great support from them all and it has been a privilege working along side you all. Thanks again guys

In closing this report I would like to encourage members to dig deep and ask themselves "What can I do to help?"

We have a wonderful spread of volunteers at our club all doing a great job, but many of our members have been doing the same job for many years and may need a rest or a break. We are all getting on in years but we now have a group of younger members coming through. I am not targeting anyone but this club has a bright future but that future depends on people stepping up if they are able.

With increasing membership, improved facilities, a beautiful outlook and a good vibe around the club, it just is a great place to be.

Let us all continue growing with support and friendship and keep making our club the envy of all our visitors.

I thank everyone who has contributed to our club in the past year and look forward to future success both on and off the green.