



Sturt Bowling Club at Unley Oval

President's Report 2019-20

It is with much pleasure I present the President's Report for the past 12 months. There are many positives to report on over the past year but firstly I would like to thank and congratulate all members and supporters for their contributions inside and outside our Club to further the growth of Sturt Bowling Club.

MEMBERSHIP

We end the year with about 70 full members and 7 Life Members. This tally represents about the same as last year.

ON THE GREEN

PENNANTS

The Pennant season was cut short because of Covid-19 and finals were not completed and all pennant bowls competitions were cancelled. Pennants were awarded to those clubs that led the premierships table at the completion of the minor round. Sturt were fortunate to win 2 Pennants because of this ruling and will therefore be promoted to the next highest division in these two grades.

During the season our Club seemed to be enjoying some great results and a few President's drinks were welcomed and well earned and with attitudes, emotions and spirits high it was easy to see that Sturt was on track for a great year.

It was a shame that we could not come together at seasons end to celebrate and have our time in the sun but I must congratulate everyone who represented Sturt on the Green including some night owls, social bowlers and friends who put their hand up to help when our numbers were low.

Thank you all.

Final positions achieved were,

Saturday:	4 East 1 st	5 South 3 rd	7 South West 4 th
Wednesday:	3 South West 1 st	4 West 5 th	4 South West 6 th

The big improvers of the year in my opinion was our 3rd Wednesday team who finished 9th the previous season. This year they finished with 10 wins and 8 losses, equal with the 3rd team win/loss record but down on points (rink wins). Well done guys and gals.

Many thanks go to our Selectors who have done a fine job all year and had many difficult moments. Paul Teesdale-Smith, Matt Jeffrey, Andrew McDonald and Bruce Williams congratulations on your efforts this season and thanks for getting it right.

NIGHT OWLS

Once again our Night Owls programme proved to be a winner. Near capacity numbers were achieved most Tuesday and Thursday nights and everyone enjoyed what our Club had to offer. Social Bowls at its best. Our winners for season 2019-2020 were Tuesday, Amigos and Thursday, Chuffed and Nenz. Congratulations to both teams.

Many thanks to our coordinators, Paul Teesdale-Smith, Matt Jeffrey and John Griffith for their time and effort to keep this success story running so well. These guys are the heart and soul of Night Owls but they also received great support from many members who stepped up to be 'blue shirt' volunteers.

Setting up the greens, taking fees, sorting score cards, cooking the BBQ, working in the kitchen, serving at the bar, running the raffle and then cleaning up at the end all takes a huge effort and doing it twice a week. Great job all, the Club thanks you. Also thanks to our sponsors who donated various goods for the raffles. It is all much appreciated.

STURT CLUB TOURNAMENTS

Some of these popular tournaments run most of the season. It takes that long to play so many rounds and gives everyone time to organise their next on field challenge. At the end we come up with the happy winners and this year we have;

Championship Open Singles
Winner Neville Riddle
Runner Up Steve Young
Ladies Singles
Winner Cathy Stevens
Runner Up Tracey Kneebone
Championship Open Pairs
Winners Alan Ludlow Deane Pye
Runner Up Russell Moore Peter Welsh
Handicap Singles
Winner John Blue
Runner Up Enzo D'Apruzzo
Mixed Pairs
Winners Cathy Stevens Peter Hughes
Runners Up Tracey Kneebone Paul Crossie

All other tournaments were cancelled because of Covid-19 or lack of nominations. I would like to congratulate all finalists but especially the winners.

Each year different names appear on these lists which means there is a minimum of abilities between many bowlers. This is a good thing and it also shows improvement is happening at our Club.

In the three main events it was great that our popular Puzzles has extended his Championship Singles Trophy cabinet to two and also Runner Up Steve Young showed he is not far away from saluting the judge. In the Ladies department, Singles winner Cathy Stevens continued her good run to two in a row and Runner Up Tracey Kneebone has showed through the season that she is knocking on the door of a victory. In the Championship Pairs, Alan Ludlow and Deane Pye were on fire right from the start and played some freakish bowls to dominate Russell Moore and myself.

The tournaments were again very well run by coordinators Kim Keane and Tom Morgan and I thank these gentlemen very much for their time.

ADELAIDE CUP TOURNAMENT

This major annual tournament was held on the Monday of the long weekend in early March. This day has been played for many years on the Saturday but Bowls SA programmed a Pennant day on the Saturday this year. This year was the 12th consecutive year that Sturt had organised this very successful tournament and our new coordinator Deane Pye did not let the Club down. Deane was up and running early and organised 24 teams that accepted but unfortunately we had a Reynella team not showing up on the day and with no courtesy phone call. Boo!

The day got off to a great start under the pergola with Dean Buder as "Breakfast Cook" and his harem Joylene Koch and Suzanne Buder both spreading the happiness and the bread with egg and bacon sandwiches. Yummy guys....well done.

Thanks so much to Deane Pye for putting in the hard yards and to all of his helpers a big pat on the back. Jobs included score cards, leader board, kitchen duties, bar duties, raffle, microphone man and more. At the end of the day we had a great financial result for us and a happy Torrensville team who took home the major prize. Great stuff everyone involved, including players.

WINTER BOWLS

Our Winter Bowls coordinators again put on a great show for the people who just can't get enough Green time.

Dean Buder, Paul Teesdale-Smith, Bruce Williams and Paul Crossie all lent a hand in organising Pairs games on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. We had various visitors and many members hoping to find the sun on these Autumn and Winter days and after another successful competition, winner Paul Crossie and runner up Deane Pye led the charge. Thanks to all who supported these days.

TAYLORS CUP

This past season Paul Crossie and Tracey Kneebone coordinated Sturt's very first entry into Taylors Cup. This programme has been up and running for quite a few years now but Sturt's entry was met with excitement and promise. "What's it all about" asked many. It is a Sunday night competition with a unique format which is very popular and can be played by everyone. I was very impressed that a few members from our lower sides were given plenty of opportunities and represented our Club well. It was never the case that best players were chosen first and Paul and Tracey should take a bow for showing this attitude. Over the short season Sturt made the finals and produced a special effort to win the first final but then met their match in the second and bowed out. Overall this was a fantastic result for us and all the players should be so proud of their efforts.

I am sure most would be looking forward to next season. Big thanks to Paul, Tracey and all the players that were involved in our first Taylors Cup.

OFF THE GREEN

SOCIAL - CLUB HIRE

Again coordinated by Matt 'Dusty' Jeffrey, these bookings are so important to the success and progress of our Club.

We had many groups, mainly pre-xmas, that had booked in previous years and returned. Some bookings were from newbies, some were large, some were small but they all got the same smiles and service. They all count and all add to the wellbeing and financial support our Club.

Thank you Matt and his reliable team of volunteers who offer to help at these functions.

PROPERTY AND HOUSE

Again a very busy year.....

Our application for funds to upgrade our Greens watering system was knocked back but we can reapply when the grant becomes available again. Our grant application for more solar panels seems to have stalled a bit over the past couple of months but we are still hopeful that we can push ahead and be successful in this major project. The new look driveway was completed with bitumen laid full width and right up to the lawned area. A new trellis, plants, a new archway where you are welcome to get married under and better lawn coverage has made the northern end of 'A' Green a pretty picture. The ditch area of the Green has now improved with the removal of the conifers and it has been a pleasure playing on this Green with the new northerly views. With this also came the painting of our sheds to blend in nicely.

Our friends the Unley Council had a lot to do with contributing much of this work done and we thank them greatly.

Inside our Clubhouse we also have seen many improvements. The Club installed another television which is intended to be used on pennant days mostly for advertising via a rolling slide show with Sponsors, Club events, Social functions, Club members, on the Green action and more all featured.

We also have upgraded our computer in the office and the old radiators that kept us warm in Winter are now retired.

The southern wall now holds our new Life Members board which was expertly updated by Paul TS. Overlooking the bar table the new board has been cause of various conversations about an old member or two. It is always interesting to remember and have a chat about some of our past mates.

In the locker room we have new lockers available for members to use. These lockers are larger than the older variety and at present are underutilised and it would be great if more were used so we don't have bowls bags on the floor where they can be tripped over and generally look untidy.

Although Covid-19 has put a stop to various projects, our new 'STURT BOWLING CLUB' sign should be erected late April or early May on the roof of our Club facing 'A' Green. Also possibly later in the year we are looking to have a new pergola which will complete our upgraded lawn and garden area. I would also like to make members aware that we have had early discussion about new lighting over both Greens. We would not be able to proceed without a grant and is maybe a few years away. Of course we would love all these projects to happen now but these are hard times and with so much uncertainty the brakes may have to be put on for a while.

For all things Property and House we all should applaud the fantastic work of our Property guy Neville Riddle and our House Leader Barry Paterson. Quite often these two wonders must work together to coordinate jobs and situations and with their knowledge and contact supports they get it done. They both have achieved much more than what has been mentioned here and both deserve massive thanks. Also to our team of 'Sturt Stranglers' led by Deane Pye, huge thanks. This 'house and garden' team do a big job and keep our outside areas looking neat and tidy right through the year. Thank you all.

BAR

Our Bar area seems to be the most popular place to be. (Really ?) This is where you can get a hug or a good old fashion disagreement. What is certain though is that apart from the Green, the bar is the place where you can feel comfortable and mostly enjoy the company of fellow bowlers, have a drink, have a laugh and talk about all of Richmond's games at the 'G'. The Bar is extremely well run thanks to Manager Paul Teesdale-Smith and Assistant Alan Ludlow. These guys know what they are doing and do it well. Thanks guys. They also have great help from volunteer barpersons stepping up very often. Many members this year got their Responsible Service Of Alcohol Certificate and so were able to also assist. The popular Friday night cash draw was postponed in November due to social bookings, then Xmas and the break came and then Covid-19 visited us. Wayne Berryman was ok with all that because he was the last jackpot winner and is still counting his money. I am sure when able the Friday night meet and greet will be on again. Thanks again Paul, Alan and all helpers. Also thank you to Mel who gave us great smiles and great service at the bar.

HOME PENNANT DAYS

When at home during the Pennant season we all enjoyed some beautifully fresh and tasty sandwiches.

I would like to thank firstly Sandra Brown for coordinating both the Wednesday and Saturday afternoon tea rosters and organising our wonderful Ladies and Gentlemen with the shopping and making of these sandwiches.

It is normal for this group of volunteers to be treated to a thank you dinner for their time and efforts over the year but unfortunately the Covid-19 again ruined another celebration of ours.

Thank you to all the people who were involved in this process including Mel who gave us great help.

WEBSITE

Sturt Bowling Club has a great website which is continually updated with new information. This website is the go to place to find out 'what's happening' at Sturt and much much more. Paul T.S, please take a bow because the hours you spend on this must be major. Many thanks.

GREENS

Thank you Russell Moore for looking after the Greens Manager job. Coordinating with Greenkeeper James and with the problem solving that was presented sometimes would not be a simple task. Our two Greens ran very well this year except for a hiccup on B Green just after the Xmas break. There is presently maintenance on this Green and I am sure without Winter bowls at the moment both Greens will come up well when we resume.

GETTING TO THE END PART

Two people that are so important to the success and wellbeing of our Club are the two busiest and selfless we have.

Secretary Bruce Williams and Treasurer John Griffith, thank you for all you do and thank you for your support of me over the past season.

It would be normal at this point to thank the outgoing Board and I will but because of the uncertainty at the moment the current Board will continue until it is known when our deferred AGM can go ahead. So many thanks to the Board of 2019/2020. Bruce Williams, Secretary. John Griffith, Treasurer. Matthew Jeffrey, Vice President. Neville Riddle, Property. And Barry Paterson, House.

Your valuable contributions over the past 12 months have been enormous but our work is not done yet. I look forward to working with you until our AGM whenever that may be.

In concluding I wish to say thanks to every Member for a great season on and off the Greens. We truly have had a remarkable year and as a Member I look forward to our many challenges next year where we shall take another step in our Club's growth.

I believe we have something special together. That is 'STURT PRIDE'.

Peter Welsh
Sturt President
2010-20