



Sturt Bowling Club at Unley Oval

Selection Report Pennants 2019-20

By any measure, the season past was an outstanding success. Unequivocal acknowledgement extends to all 63 players that represented Sturt on two days through six competitions. COVID-19 would cut the season short with Sturt having two Saturday and one Wednesday side(s) in the thick of finals action. This was disappointing but in no way diminishes the season achievements that include two Pennants and very imposing performances across all sides.

Selection was open, visible and accessible. The selectors invested significant time in familiarising themselves with the playing group, understanding & managing expectations and being conversant with team, rink and individual performance. Heightened communications equated to facilitating feedback from all players. The resulting interactions were, in the main, relevant, robust and respectful.

Rinks were selected that better supported positive play and in turn allowed individuals to bowl with greater expression. Players were fast tracked into positions / teams and in doing this asked some of our more experienced to take on different roles. This was embraced, worked very well in practice and strengthened teams. It is apt to note that this sense of team can easily lose relevance if individuals become consumed with their position in a rink rather than appreciating their role for the team. Collectively this is worth reflecting on and revisiting as we move forward.

The self-motivation of players at Sturt to practice that extended to the sharing of skills, knowledge and experiences was commendable. This enthusiasm to focus on their own and others development was significant in the season's success. The added dimension of Sturt's inaugural journey into Taylor Bowls was crucial and expressly noted.

Metropolitan Bowls Association [Rule 2.9](#) restrictions on selection of players in rounds 15-18 provided unreasonable restraints on Sturt and this matter requires ongoing representation.

The role of side managers, umpires and result reporters are gratefully acknowledged.

The Board is sincerely thanked for its unqualified support. We are honored to have represented the Club as selectors.

A summary for each competition is found at Appendix A on pages 2 & 3 of this report.

Selection
Andrew McDonald
Bruce Williams
Matthew Jeffrey
Paul Teesdale-Smith

Appendix A

Linked are 2020 Pennant Premiership Tables and associated Player Tables from [Saturdays](#) and [Wednesdays](#).

Saturdays

Top Side

Division 4 East

Position 1st

13 wins 5 losses 0 draws

Players 21

The top side started the season slowly winning 2 out of 5 and then things looked decidedly shaky after being beaten badly by Adelaide at home in Round 9, going to the break at 5-4. Massive consolidation in the New Year saw us win 8 of our last 9, finish 1st and take the minor premiership. The loss on extra ends to Tranmere in the 2nd semi-final was very disappointing but certainly not decisive. The feel was that group would most certainly rebound.....Excellent...

2nd Side

Division 5 South

Position 3rd

12 wins 5 losses 1 draw

Players 30

The 2nd side also started the season slowly winning 2 out of 5, then having a disappointing away loss (by 2 shots) to the eventual premier, Hawthorn, in round 8 before going to the break at 5-4. The back half of the season saw us lose only 1 game culminating in an impressive 1st semi-final win over Reynella at Hawthorn. The 2nd side had momentum and one sensed a Pennant was well within reach....Magnificent work...

3rd Side

Division 7 South West

Position 4th

9 wins 7 losses 1 draw

Players 30

The 3rd side arrested top position from Morphett Vale after defeating them in a punishing home victory in round 17. It is history now that a better Brighton outfit would defeat us in the final round and we would finish 4th being 8 points adrift. Overall, an outstanding performance this season, particularly given the difficulty of settling the team given the high number of players used. We thank the Night Owl players who filled casual vacancies.

Wednesdays

Top Side

Division 3 South West

Position 1st

15 wins 2 losses 1 draw

Players 24

After a round 1 away loss to Happy Valley, the top side dominated the season until a pre finals setback in Round 18 at Glenelg. The unmitigated damage that was consistently administered was implicit of a side looking to compete higher...and so that will be as promotion to Division 2 is assured and the challenges of increased standard and different format awaits...Overall, a special effort..

2nd Side

Division 4 West

Position 5th

9 wins 8 losses 1 draw

Players 28

After round 13 the 2nd side sat in 2nd position with 9 wins and 1 draw. Unfortunately due primarily to unavailability, we would suffer 5 consecutive losses to finish 5th. However the loses were all controlled being by 10, 2, 1, 4 and 11 shots. Well played and the expectation is that the 2nd side will give the Pennant a good look next season.

3rd Side

Division 4 South West

Position 6th

10 wins 8 losses 0 draws

Players 29

This was a very strong season by the 3rd side that, competing in the same Division as the 2nd side, performed admirably including a run of 5 consecutive victories. Player unavailability would ultimately lead to some inconsistent performances but the enthusiasm never wavered. We acknowledge the women who made themselves available and their understanding in being rotated due to the restrictions placed on their selection. We further acknowledge those Night Owls players who were able to fill casual vacancies.
