

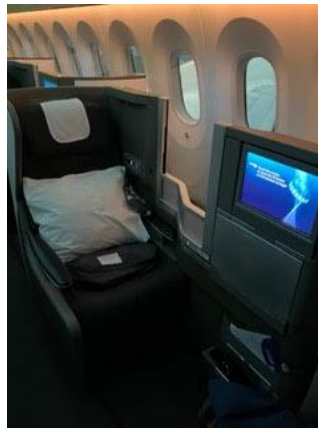
## Sue Mates Bowls Blog

### The Journey

I left home at 3pm on Wednesday travelling to Heathrow by car on the M25. The traffic was awful and stacked back several times.

Eventually arrived at 5:45pm so was able to check-in slightly early. I offloaded my large suitcase and started to make my way to the departures lounge when I was stopped by a British Airways staff member who suggested that I also offload my smaller cabin suitcase as the flight was due to be extremely busy.

She then took the case and my boarding card returning a few minutes later. I said that I hoped I would get a gold star for helping and she replied 'no but I have managed to upgrade you to Club Class so you'll have a flat bed'.



I was so surprised as this has never happened to me before and I was happy to accept for this 13.5 hour flight to Singapore. I arrived at Singapore feeling quite refreshed and having eaten a fabulous breakfast.

I then had 3 hours until boarding for my next leg on a smaller Qantas plane and back to economy class with everyone sitting on top of each other! This next stage was a 7 hour flight to Brisbane with an awful offering for breakfast. It's a large drop from Club Class to Economy!

On arrival at Brisbane I was picked out again, this time by their Border Force. They x-rayed my bags twice but I'm not sure what they thought was in them. I did have my measuring equipment; that perhaps they couldn't recognise?

I had to provide a complete run down of my itinerary but fortunately no personal strip searches!!

I was met by my transfer who kindly took my luggage to the car. Just over an hour later we arrive at the apartments and I check-in. As the apartment wasn't ready I left my bag and went to find Broadbeach Bowls Club for a cup of tea.



I have bumped into 2 people I know, Sara Trotter, representing Cyprus, and Chris, Ellen Faulkner's partner. It's a small world eh? The locals are very friendly and say hello as you pass by.

The Broadbeach club is a great venue, huge, 4 greens, all look amazingly prepped and ready to go. Internally, it's massive building that's run as a business.

I'm now off to bed. Catch up again soon.

Sue Mates