



## BAIRNSDALE GOLF-BOWLS CLUB NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Our new season of Jack Attack is off to a fantastic start with 18 teams competing. A big thank you to everyone for their interest and we hope they continue to enjoy their lawn bowls experience.

Thank you to everyone involved with running the event and providing the meal at the end of the evening. Well done!



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT—JANUARY 2026**

### **Stephen Mann**



Hello to all members,

January has been an extremely busy period at our Club.

We have broken all time records for visitors playing golf from Christmas onwards.

Average number of golfers for the two weeks after Christmas was 181 per day.

Great job from our staff in the Club and on the course during this busy period.

Pizza Nights have been a great success and well done to Jeff Graham for all his planning and work on these nights.

Leonie Graham has been promoted to a new role with Pollard Accounting and has therefore resigned from managing our Cooking Group. I sincerely thank her for her great work for our Club. Johanna will take over her role and will do a great job. Congratulations to Leonie on her promotion.

All Opening Days have been very well supported by members.

Enjoy your Golf and Bowls during February.

Regards

**STEPHEN MANN (President)**



## **TREASURER'S REPORT - JANUARY 2026**

### **David Pollard**



Hello fellow members

Somewhere along the line we managed to get through January with out anyone telling us it was happening! If someone has any idea what is happening with the weather, let me know!

Any time you would like to chat about the figures, let me know.

The reporting period is 01.07.25 to 31.12.25

### **RESULTS V BUDGET**

**Income** is over by \$1,600 (good)

- Competition Fees & Green Fees are down due to weather interruptions.
- The balance of our income is either holding steady or above budget expectations?

**Expenses** are under \$7,700 (good)

- No significant variances here. Some are over, some under, none with any great variance to give rise to concerns.

**Net Profit** (Before Depreciation) is over \$9,300 (good)

As with last report, this a very good result.

**David**



*Bob has last bowl and five down at the head. Pulls up five feet short.*

*Beau says, "What the hell is that?"*

*Bob replies, "I said the same thing to your mother when you were born."*



## MANAGER'S REPORT - JANUARY 2026

Jeff Graham



Hello all,

I'll start with some encouraging news. Despite the extreme heat and blustery conditions, January proved to be the busiest golf green fee golf month on record. (There may have been busier months decades ago, but we don't have the data).

It's encouraging because the green fee trend was declining for the first few months of this financial year but recent numbers confirm this appears to be a blip rather than the new normal. In general, numbers have been a bit erratic with some record highs and disappointing lows, but overall we are managing to beat targets by small margins.

Also, there has been a large number of changes with employed staff of late.

Leonie Graham has regrettably resigned as baking coordinator. Leonie has accepted a promotion at her "day job" requiring an increase in her days of work. Over the past two years Leonie made significant changes to the club's café resulting in improved sales and standards.

The good news is Johanna Wyllie will take on the role which shouldn't be too much of a learning curve.

Johanna was in charge before Leonie was appointed! We have also added a few casuals to assist with the Pizzeria and I'm guessing some of the names are familiar. Jenny Hemming, Jenny Archibald and Carolyn Hine have all put their hands up to join our employed team, all be it very occasionally.

Speaking of the **Pizzeria**, we have averaged over 40 people per night for the first 6 weeks with takeaways in addition! If you are planning to try it out, now appears to be a good time as the initial burst of enthusiasm appears to be dissipating. You can book online via the [golf club website](#), or call the golf shop.

### Strategic Plan update.

#### IN PROGRESS

**Clubhouse Lounge Ceiling.** This was scheduled for July 2025 and we commenced the process at that point in time. Our pro-bono plasterer has engaged another contractor to assist and unfortunately it appears this will be a considerably bigger job than first thought (and quoted). The entire ceiling will need to be removed (rather than covered with new board). We are currently obtaining quotes. **UPDATE:** We recently engaged an engineer to assess the ceiling with the aim of identifying if the existing ceiling could be left in place. Whilst we are still waiting for the report, the verbal indication was not encouraging. Unfortunately, this project appears to be headed towards the "worst case scenario"

**Change the sand in seven bunkers. Repair the drainage and change the sand in four others, fill in and grass two others.** (Perform 50% of)

In accordance with our Bunker audit, we will be fully renovating the 1<sup>st</sup> hole left greenside. The 17<sup>th</sup> hole left greenside, 8<sup>th</sup> hole front right greenside. We will also replace the sand in the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole, 3<sup>rd</sup> hole x 2, 5<sup>th</sup> hole, 8<sup>th</sup> hole and 14<sup>th</sup> hole.

**NO UPDATE** since last report

**Perform minor renovations to the female change rooms.** Finance has approved the flooring replacement, when Wood St Style and Flooring are available, it will be replaced. **UPDATE:** The flooring in the cubicle has been installed. Next, we will attack the vanities and the floor directly in front of them. **UPDATE:** The Women's Committee have requested (which was subsequently approved) the replacement of the basins, taps, Laminex on benchtop, the flooring adjacent to the vanity, as well as repainting the splash-back tiles. Work will commence shortly.

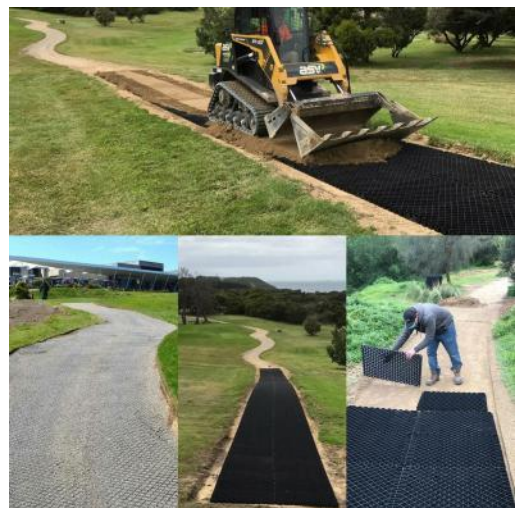
**Repair or reconstruct the golf course paths rated a high priority. 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>.**

COM have approved the construction of a hex grid pathway with concrete culvert drainage from the clubhouse to the 18<sup>th</sup> green (via a new cutaway through the garden bed to the front of the 18<sup>th</sup> green (and onwards to the women's 10<sup>th</sup> tee).

**UPDATE:** Work has finally commenced on the new path, concrete drain culverts and pits are also being installed to mitigate flooding of the 18<sup>th</sup> green and surrounds. If you are wondering what "hex grid" is, see the images from a few other courses undergoing the same process.

Until next month, play well,

Jeff Graham



## **BOWLS PRESIDENT'S REPORT - JANUARY 2026**

**John Crawford**



Jack Attack commenced on 30 January and judging by past years we are in for a fun five weeks. This year we have 18 teams so both greens will be in play.

Pennant season is drawing to a close, and it is exciting to have our Weekend Division 3 side in the finals! Next year we will be a little more experienced and hopefully a little bit better skilled. As I said at the start of the season, taking part and giving new bowlers the experience is the most important thing.

Club events are underway and have been well supported. Its great to see the newer bowlers giving the more experienced a run for their money.

Several working bees have been undertaken, the result being well presented greens and surrounds. Thanks to all who helped.



Congratulations to Craig for all his hard work on the bottom green. Let's hope it plays as good as it looks.

Golf/Bowls Challenge Day is coming up so make sure you get, or are in, a team, it's a great day.

We were all saddened by the news of Frank Borrow's passing. Our sympathy goes out to his friends and family.

Good Bowling All.



**John C.**

## **BOWLS CO-ORDINATOR REPORT - JANUARY 2026**

**Jan Dodson**



We have more Club events coming up with some events still pending.

As Pennant is drawing to a close we may have a few more free dates to finalise these Club events so keep watching out for competition draw sheets in the foyer, and put your name.

The Ladies Novice Singles Event was played on Thursday 5th February with Meg Sutton defeating Cathie Morris.

The Men's Novice Singles Event is to be played on Wednesday 4th March. The reason for these two events not being played together came down to dates not coinciding with all players. The Club Singles Championships finals will be played on the 13th February.

Our Annual RSL challenge against Lakes Entrance is on Thursday 19th February. Start time is 10.00 am. with lunch and afternoon tea provided. The cost for the day is \$15.00 and all members are encouraged to play, entry sheet is in the foyer. Depending on rink numbers there will possibly be no social bowls or bbq on that day.

Our Club Pairs Championships (1 & 2) date has been moved to Friday 20th February with rounds 3 & 4 on Friday 27th the draw sheet is in the foyer, grab a partner and have a go.

Good luck and great bowling everyone.

**Jan**

**GREAT EXERCISE!  
GREAT ATMOSPHERE!  
GREAT FRIENDS!**

*Skip has a drive and misses. Third: "You couldn't hit water if you fell out of a boat!"*



**Bairnsdale Golf**  
**v**  
**Lakes Entrance RSL**



# **Annual Challenge**

**Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.**  
**at Bairnsdale Golf**

***Entries close Thursday, Feb. 12 at 3 p.m.***

**10 a.m. start**

**\$15 per player.**

**Lunch and afternoon tea supplied.**

**Club Uniform.**



**21 Ends**

**(12 ends before lunch, 9 ends after lunch).**

***To be played under Pennant conditions.***

## **GREENS DIRECTOR - JANUARY 2026**

**Steve Beggs**



Many thanks to all who gave their time to mark the lines on both greens, it is a big job after renovation to set them out correctly, thanks to all.

Mark's rolling roster is working very well and Jenny's 'What's rolling' keeps us all well informed on what is happening around the Club.

Great work Jen and Mark, we all appreciate your good work.

Jobs this month are to re-design the line marking frame, replace clips on the rollout shades, if I can buy them. The normal edging and grass cutting never ends, so life rolls on.

Good bowling

**Beggs'y**



## **PENNANT - JANUARY 2026**

**Steve Beggs**

The Gippsland Bowls Region has requested Bairnsdale Golf to host the Midweek Pennant Preliminary Final on Tuesday 17th February. We have to provide the venue and umpire. Players bring their own lunch as per Midweek Pennant.

Craig has been flat out preparing the top green which should be excellent to bowl on for us all.

On the day we can man aggregate scoreboards and anything GBR require. As the Club receives green fees as the revenue we should run a raffle and bar to add to the income.

Sunday 15th 9.00am, members are requested to do lines, pick up leaves from ditches, cut all edges, empty bins etc. and mow to make our Club present at it's best. I know you fine folk will all chip in and help.

**Pennant Selection Committee**

## **BOWLING GREENS - JANUARY 2026**

**Craig Rimington Course Superintendent**



Both greens are in good condition with no major signs of disease; we look to have control over the couch mite damage on the bottom green.

Both greens have been groomed/verti – cut. We have multiple spray applications upcoming for disease prevention.

**Craig**

## **OUR BOWLS CLUB HONOUR BOARDS ON THE CLUB WEBSITE**

A huge 'thank you' to our Club member Ron Healey for all the work he has done to get our Honour Boards up on the website. It has been a massive job for Ron and we thank him for his interest in getting this done.

Here is the link so you can have a look:

[Bowls Honour Boards | Bairnsdale Golf Club](#)





HANDMADE,  
STONE BAKED

# PIZZA & PASTA

DINE IN OR TAKEAWAY

EVERY THURSDAY

BOOK A  
TABLE  
ONLINE







# Weekend Pennant



Sat. January 17 and it was the first weekend back after the Christmas/New Year break with two wins - Division 2 defeating Howitt Park with 16 shots up, whilst Division 3 had a nice 15 shots win against Bairnsdale 6. Division 4 had a bye.



Sat. 24 and Division 2 were off to Bruthen 1, where they had a 24 shots loss. A disappointing result but it was a delight to play on their green. Division 3 had a 11 shots loss against Paynesville 3 and Division 4 lost to Bairnsdale by 18 shots.

Sat. 31 and things improved marginally. Although Division 2 went down against ladder leaders Paynesville 2, Division 3 had a nice 13 shots win against Lindenow 3. Division 4 had a very close match with Orbost going down by only two shots.







# Weekend Pennant



Feb. 7 and we are at the end of the Pennant season. Division 2 had a good game against Bairnsdale but went down by 11 shots. Division 3 struggled for a 26 shots loss whilst Division 4 had a nice win at Bruthen by 25 shots. Ladder positions: Division 2 7<sup>th</sup>; Division 3 hung on to make the four by one point! Well done Divvy 3!! We look forward to following you at Metung for the semi-final. Division 4 held up the rest of the ladder but was a learning experience for many of our players.



## Let's Test Your Knowledge



### 20 Delivering the final bowl of an end

The skip in Pennant decides not to deliver the final bowl of the end in case he/she gives away the shot. What happens next?

- a/ The skip (or player in Singles) says "I'll declare the end."
- b/ The skip asks the player at the head to 'declare' the end.

It is not compulsory for the last player to play, in any end, to deliver the final bowl of the end. The player must tell the opposing skip or opponent in Singles of the decision not to deliver the final bowl before the process of deciding the number of shots scored starts. This decision is final.

The answer is b/ as it is not the job of the skip to ever 'declare' an end.





# Midweek Pennant



The new calendar year started well for our Division 3 side with a nice +20 shots win against Lakes Entrance 5. They are in contention for finals hanging on to fourth spot by their toe-nails! Keep going everyone, we are proud of you all!



.. all looking, looking ..



One shot to us, Jenny Holter with Dianne Scott.



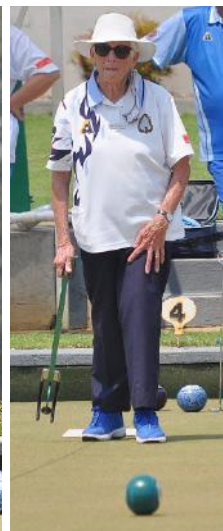
Just a jump to the left ..  
Alan Taylor with Faye Cannizzaro.



Rod Bridgborn and Tony Dodson bowled really well with their team coming home with a four shots win.



Division 2 didn't fare so well going down to a good Howitt Park side by 29 shots. Unfortunately, finals seemingly out of contention for this season.



Helen Everett, Paul Sampson and Pat Elliott all did their bit for the side.





# Midweek Pennant



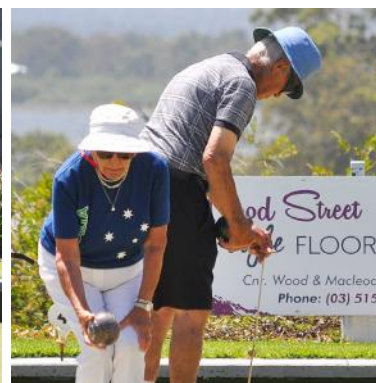
We are always pleased to welcome Howitt Park to Bairnsdale Golf, even when they beat us!







It was nice to celebrate our national day on a Monday with a good turn-up. Plenty of Australian music added to the atmosphere. Thank you for the party pies and lamingtons we gobbled up at the end of play.











# Monday Triples January 19





# LOOKING BACK ON THE HISTORY OF OUR BAIRNSDALE GOLF-BOWLS CLUB. PART 11...

## OUR BEGINNING

### The Era of 'Runners-up'

An indication of the competitiveness of the Bairnsdale Golf-Bowls sides over the years can be gained by the number of times we have competed in finals.

Pictured are just some of the sides which finished runners-up in their season.



1988-89 Season Division 1

Ellen Davies, Rosalind Creaser, Glenda Moulton, Mernda Andrew, Bernadette Hutchins, Gloria Harrap, Lil Mitton, Jean Mitchell, Vera Maginn, Bev Watson, Ann Wyndham and Tuppy Fairweather.



1992-93 Season Division 4

Cliff Whitwell, Norm Brooker, Ern (Mopsy) Lee, Ron Davies, Doug Bennett, Charlie Jackson, Ken Mitchell and Colin Nash.



1993-94 Season Division 4

Ken Purdy, Toby Beatty, Hedley Porter, Lindsay Young, Brian Cole, Alan Lee and John Kloppogge.



1992-93 Season Division 1

Ern Harrap, Jack Nesbitt, Morrie Salt, Lui Mosele, Bill Farrington, Keith Gidley, Ian Smith, John Hollingsworth, Allan Archibald, Ken Waite and Bill Longhurst.



1993-94 Season Division 1

Mernda Andrew, Jean Mitchell, Bev Baudinette, Gloria Harrap, Peg Postlethwaite, Vera Maginn, Elizabeth Von Horn, Helen Everett, Barbara Blackshaw, Loma Coles, Brenda Murray and Bev Yeates.



1995-96 Season Division 1

Allan Archibald (Manager), John Nash, Lance Self, John Hollingsworth, Morrie Salt, Alan Wilson, Bill Longhurst, Ken Waite, Don Soullier, Arthur Holland, Keith Gidley, Bill Farrington and Ian Smith.



1998-99 Season Division 1

Reta Wilson, Glenys McKenzie, Helen Everett, Astrid Schofield (Chairlady), Mernda Andrew, Betty Dunzinger, Alma Farrington, Gloria Harrap, Fay Gregg, Jean Blackburn, Barbara Blackshaw, Margaret Timmins, Bev Yeates and Vera Maginn.



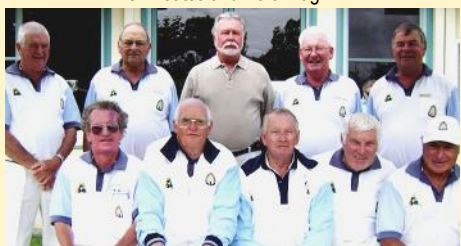
1999-2000 Season Division 3

Ellen Davies, Bev Kloppogge, Stella Ellis, Vida Gidley, Margaret Timmins, Joyce Lucas, Dorothy Daniels and Nona Hull.



1995-96 Season Division 1

Elizabeth Von Horn, Vera Maginn, Patricia Watsford, Mernda Andrew, Gloria Harrap, Bev Baudinette, Jean Child, Pat Longhurst, Barbara Guntzler, Bev Yeates, Barbara Blackshaw and Alma Farrington.



2007-08 Season Division 3

Max Timmins, Bill Gray, Barry O'Connell (Golf Club Pres.), Norm Stone, David Dennison, Eric Yeates, Bob Lowe, Des O'Neal, Alan Bridges and Jim Haine.



2001-02 Season Division 1

Jan Lynch, Judi Hogan, Mernda Andrew, June Blackwood, Bev Kloppogge (Manager), Vera Maginn, Reta Wilson, Barbara Guntzler, Fay Gregg, Helen Everett, Barbara Blackshaw, Bev Yeates and Betty Dunzinger.



2002-03 Season Division 1

Mernda Andrew, Gloria Harrap, Helen Everett, Bev Kloppogge (Manager), Ellen Davies, Reta Wilson, Judi Hogan, June Blackwood, Margaret Timmins, Fay Gregg, Barbara Blackshaw, Vera Maginn and Bev Yeates.



## **Gippsland Region Board summary**

The Gippsland Region Board met on Monday 19 January 2026 at Bairnsdale Bowls Club. The following is a summary of matters discussed, and decisions made.

### **Region Sides 2026**

The Board noted the reports on the 2026 championships from Sides Managers who highlighted the following.

- the men recorded their best performance in recent years against quality opposition, winning two games and just missing out on a spot in the final
- team bonding started at the Strzelecki practice game and continued in Ballarat
- the women's side came back after two losses to win their third game, the scores not reflecting the tight competition.

It has initiated a review of the accommodation, taking into consideration what other regions are doing, and will seek sponsorship to cover some of the costs, including meals and travel.

The Board also agreed to time the selection process for the 2027 sides to ensure potential players have played pennant games and have had the opportunity to compete in at least one State event before nominations close.

### **Assistant Secretary**

David Butterworth has been appointed Assistant Secretary in addition to his Vice President role.

The Board has delegated this responsibility in recognition of the significantly increased administrative workload on existing office bearers, in particular the President and Secretary.

### **Ayla Romanin**

Tribute was paid to junior bowler Ayla Romanin, who has left the Region after being asked to join the Deer Park Youth Bowls Academy. An outstanding young bowler, Ayla started her bowls career while a student at Paynesville Primary School. Along with other promising juniors, she was nurtured and coached for many years by Paynesville Bowls Club and more recently the Bairnsdale Bowls Club.

She was also a foundation member of the Gippsland Geckos and winner of several GBR junior championship titles. Ayla represented her clubs and the Region with dignity and integrity, displaying a mature temperament on and off the green. The Board wishes her and her mother Louise well in this next stage of her bowls career.

### **Women in Bowls**

The Board supported a proposed a new stand-alone event for the 2026/27 season and beyond – an annual GBR Women in Bowls Challenge (working title) being developed by the Women in Bowls Committee. More details will be fleshed out at the committee's next meeting on 9 February.

### **Facebook 'marketplace'**

The Board agreed 'in principle' to the setting up of a 'for sale' section on the GBR Facebook page enabling members to sell or buy bowls equipment and apparel. It is hoped the initiative will minimise members being 'scammed'.

The section would include a disclaimer that the GBR accepts no responsibility for transactions on the site.

### **Apparel**

Holland Park has been appointed as the Region's supplier of choice for all GBR branded apparel. The Board is offering excess GBR pullover (non-zipped) hoodies at a 'fire sale' price of \$50 each, multiple sizes available. Email [gippslandbr@gmail.com](mailto:gippslandbr@gmail.com) if interested.

### **Aggregate scoreboards**

The Board strongly encourages clubs to invest in aggregate scoreboards, noting that not all clubs have them.

### **Crackerjack challenge**

The Board congratulated clubs involved with the inaugural Crackerjack Challenge to be held at Sale Bowls Club on Sunday 1 March, with teams from Heyfield, Sale, Maffra and Stratford competing.

**Bronwyn Thwaites**  
**GBR Secretary**





It is fantastic to welcome a lot of new friends into our Club, along with many who have returned for another season.





AUSTRALIA'S LAST FRONTIER

# 11 DAYS/10 NIGHTS CAPE YORK, INCLUDING HORN ISLAND

GIPPSLAND DEPARTURE FRIDAY 31ST JULY - MONDAY 10TH AUGUST 2026



Cape York Peninsula is one of the last unspoilt frontiers in Australia. Even now, it remains a wild sparsely populated wilderness that is accessible only in the dry season from May until October and then only by 4WD vehicles for most of the way. To travel overland to the Cape is still a true adventure allowing travellers to see the unspoilt and diverse scenery, wildlife and birdlife at close range.

Reaching the tip of Cape York and overlooking the myriad of exotic and unspoilt islands, is truly an awe inspiring experience. With only these beautiful waters between Australia and Papua New Guinea, one can truly appreciate the experience of standing on the most northern point of the continent.

**T & Cs**

A non refundable deposit of \$1,000 per person is due within 7 days of booking. The pricing is based on a minimum of 20 travelling passengers. A maximum of 24 passengers can go on this departure. Please enquire for full terms and conditions.

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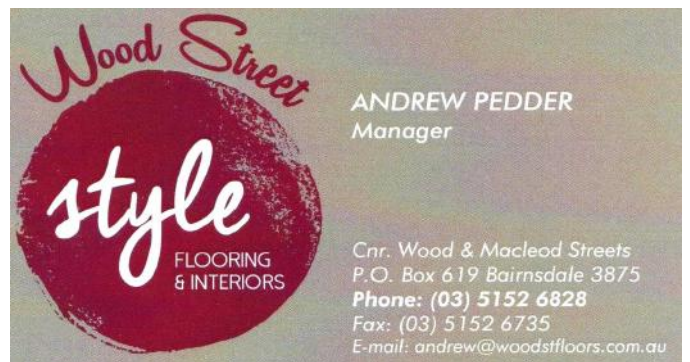
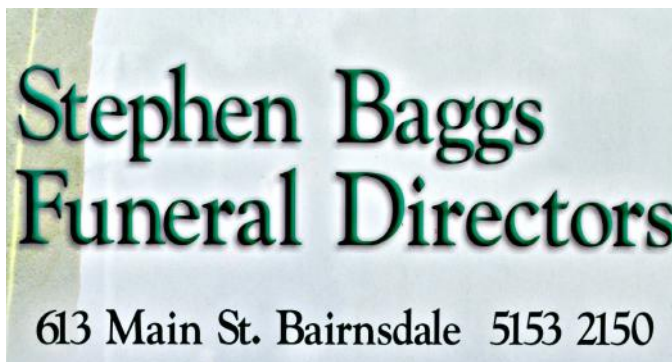
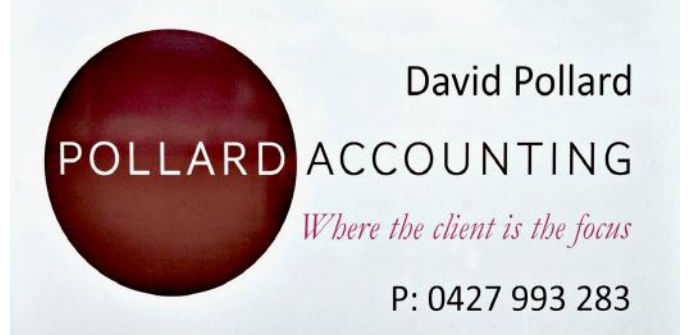
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## DO YOU KNOW THE LAWS OF THE SPORT OF BOWLS?

This is an old chestnut but something which needs to be followed.

### LAW 13 POSSESSION OF THE RINK

As soon as your team's bowl comes to rest **you MUST step back** (time being given to mark a toucher **immediately it comes to rest**). You do nothing and say nothing! Possession of the rink has transferred to the other player or team.



### The importance of being able to roll the jack accurately

I was playing in the final of the World Barefoot Bowls Championship Singles and belting my opponent.

On the first end, I rolled a 5/8 jack and picked up a four, so I thought I would carry on with that length. I rolled it perfectly six times in a row and picked up a four on each occasion to be leading 24/0.

Then I stuffed the jack roll a bit on the 7th. end and rolled it a bit longer than I wished - so I decided to drive and kill it so I could roll it to my preferred length.

I drove, hit it so hard that it rebounded off the ditch, came all the way up the green and rebounded off the bowls that were resting behind the mat - and rebounded back up and landed right where I wanted it!

I expected the marker to straighten it to the line - as the jack was still in play - but he picked it up and declared it DEAD. How can it be dead - it didn't leave the confines of the rink?

The jack was still in play - according to our experts. They were trying to tell me that it hit a dead bowl - but how could the bowls behind the head be dead when they were never alive in the first place! My opponent then threw a long jack and I never scored again - got done 24/25!

### WHERE'S WALLY?

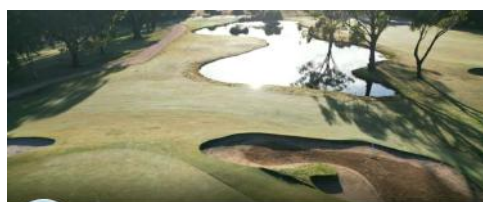
Can you find Wally?  
He is in this edition somewhere.  
This is where he was in December P11.



Don't forget to use your LOYALTY CARDS and help those who help us.



Please 'Like' us on Facebook.



Bairnsdale Golf Bowls Club  
@bairnsdalegolf  
Golf Course & Country Club

Newsletter compiled by Bev Yeates.

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