



HOTSHOT



BAIRNSDALE GOLF-BOWLS CLUB NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2026

2025/2026

Club Events Finalised

2025/2026

The final Club events for the season were the Men's and Ladies' 100 Up.

Congratulations to the winners, Jan Dodson and Lui Mosele, and the runners-up Judi Hogan and Steve Beggs.



BCIB INSURANCE BROKERS

Gala Day

BCIB INSURANCE BROKERS

We were pleased to welcome 14 teams for our annual Gala Day on Friday 17 with visitors from Maffra, Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Sale, Howitt Park, Stratford and Paynesville. Congratulations to the winners of the day, Joy Waddell, Jeanette Simmons and Annette Anderson from Maffra. Runners-up were Robyn Scott, Pam Ward and Gail Palmer from Howitt Park. Thank you to the Match Committee and everyone else who contributed to the success of the day - there was enough afternoon tea to feed an army, well done!

"Thank you to all our bowls members for your generous donations. We raised \$375 for our Club (there was not one prize that didn't have tickets in it's corresponding container - a job well done by everyone. Thank you - Ann, Rose and Lyn."





Season 2025 - 2026 Presentation Night



FRIDAY, JUNE 5th. 2026

\$40 per person two course meal.

Booking sheet available in the foyer.

Please pay Jenny in cash by Mon. June 1st.

**Come along and celebrate the past season
with all our Club Champions and
events winners and runners-up.**

MANAGER'S REPORT - APRIL 2026

Jeff Graham



Hello all,

What a wonderful stretch of weather we had in April, lots of golfers on the course and plenty of events and functions to go along with it.

Also, plenty of positive feedback from the golfers regarding the course condition which is encouraging. Craig has been rationing fuel since the problems in the Middle East and applying growth retardants to the fairways rather than cutting them. It's not ideal but smart management in strange times.

Ace Society Comp is LIVE.

We have launched the Ace Society Hole-in-one comp on the 11th hole and early indicators are very positive. This new competition replaces the pro-ball and provides members with a chance of winning a minimum of \$5,000 jackpot prize.

So how does it work?

- If you are playing in the comp, pay an extra \$2 for a chance to win a national hole-in-one jackpot of \$5,000 (min). If you are playing social, its \$3.
- The staff will provide you with a printed ticket which has a QR code on it.
- When you get to the 11th tee, scan the QR code with your mobile phone, follow the simple steps and the cameras start recording!
- Also, if you hit your shot within 1.5 meters of the hole you win a \$20 prepaid credit card (used at BGC). Hit your shot within 1 meter and win \$50 prepaid credit card.

Give it a go...much like Tattslotto, someone has to win it!

Team Golf

Congratulations to all the Team Golf winners for season 2026. The return of the event was greeted with enthusiasm by 94 players in 16 teams that played over 1200 rounds.

Grand champions were the **Jacals** who defeated the Old Tambodians in the final.

Well done to Jeanette Jones, Julie Clarke, Andrew Gibbons, Julie Percival and Colin Jones (Jacals).

Another congratulations for Julie Clarke who defeated Helen Rose in the riveting Bairnlow Medal count. It was a last round thriller and made for a great presentation night.

Upcoming Events

Golf

- Golf East Gippsland Men's Veterans - Monday May 11th
- aRound 4good Mental Health Awareness Day (\$2,000 prize pool) – Saturday May 16
- Golf East Gippsland Men's Pennant Finals (@BGC) – Sunday May 24th
- Marion Dwyer Day – Friday May 29th
- All Gippsland Championships – Saturday and Sunday May 30th & 31st

MANAGER'S REPORT - APRIL 2026 (cont.)

Strategic Plan update.

IN PROGRESS

Perform minor renovations to the female change rooms. UPDATE. Approval has been provided for the replacement of the carpet in front (with vinyl planks) of the vanities along with a vanity refresh (new countertop, taps and basins). The aim is to have this complete by Marion Dwyer day on Friday May 29th **UPDATE:** Unfortunately, a delay on the new benchtop means that we won't have the upgrades complete before the Marion Dwyer, so we won't start prior to avoid any mess.

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 1st hole left greenside. The 17th hole left greenside, 8th hole front right greenside. We will also replace the sand in the 2nd hole, 3rd hole x 2, 5th hole, 8th hole and 14th hole. **NO UPDATE** since last report.

Repair or reconstruct the golf course paths rated a high priority (Perform 50% of).

UPDATE: Some good news, the culvert drain on the 18th has been completed and we expect to start laying the hex grid (purchased and awaiting installation) within the next 3-4 weeks.

UPDATE: We are close to finishing the 18th path with the hex grid and crushed rock installed. We need to lay some sod grass on the 10th tee and finish off a few rough areas but other than that it's complete. Whilst we are very happy with the outcome, we won't be entirely satisfied until we have a significant downpour of rain to test the path and new drainage. The course team will then finish the 18th green bunker and surround works before moving onto the 15th green to 16th tee path. Lastly, the team will address the path on the 17th hole which will take a new direction on the opposite side of the women's teeing ground.

Until next month, play well,

Jeff Graham

PRESIDENT'S REPORT—APRIL 2026

Stephen Mann



Hello to all members,
April has seen some marvellous weather for Golf and Bowls.
I hope you enjoyed it.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Unfortunately Chris Savige has resigned as Club Captain and he will be sorely missed.

I sincerely thank Chris for all of his work at our Club on the Thursday Committee, as Club Captain and also on the Committee of Management. His contribution should never be underestimated by us all. The Committee of Management has appointed Peter Alldis as Club Captain to replace Chris and I ask all members to support Peter in the role.

COURSE BURGLARY

Unfortunately, we had a burglary at the Course Shed recently resulting in a significant loss. Action is being taken to further secure this location.

BUDGETS

Budgets for 2026-2027 are being prepared and will be presented to the Finance Committee and COM for approval once completed.

Enjoy your Golf and Bowls.

Regards,

STEPHEN MANN (President)

TREASURER'S REPORT - APRIL 2026

David Pollard



We are speeding towards the end of another Financial year. This means preparing for the annual Audit and starting to draft our Budget for 2027. Any time you would like to chat about the figures, let me know. The reporting period is 01.07.25 to 31.03.26

RESULTS V BUDGET

Income is over by \$15,600 (good)

- We are seeing good returns for Green fees, Sponsorship, Major events and Grants received.
- All our 'retail areas' are tracking well, with Subscriptions being the only income area we are currently behind Budget on.

Expenses are over \$35,000 (not so good)

- As previously mentioned, House costs & Compliance costs are over due to some unforeseen costs. Nothing of note in these areas after the initial unforeseen costs.
- The course Budget is tracking well with hire of equipment a little over Budget.
- The only other area we are tracking over Budget is the course staff wages as we took the opportunity to spend extra money there to provide Craig with some more staff to help get through work as needed.

Net Profit (After Depreciation) is under \$19,300 (not so good).

As we sit, at the end of March, our net Surplus before Depreciation is \$122,000, against our Budget of \$142,000.

Considering we set ourselves a good hard Budget for this year, and considering some of the impacts we have had, I am quite happy how we sit.

David

BOWLS PRESIDENT'S REPORT - APRIL 2026

John Crawford



Beautiful weather for most of last month with only 4 mls of rain recorded. Ideal weather for bowls.

All Club events have been run and we now look forward to Presentation Night (5th. June @6 p.m.) to applaud the winners. Be sure to put your name down on the sheet in the foyer. I am hoping all our newer bowlers and partners will attend this most enjoyable night.

Winter social bowls is a great opportunity to improve your skills, especially if you intend playing Pennant.

Getting into a Pennant side is not easy and the Pennant Selection Committee expect you to earn your place, and if selected, take your position with pride.

You are representing our great Club.

In September we have our AGM. Give some thought to nominating for a position on any of the committees withing the Club. It is very rewarding.

Lastly, thank you to the Match Committee and all involved in organising the Club events. It's a big job, well done for another year.

Good Bowling.

John C.

WE ♥ OUR
volunteers

BOWLS CO-ORDINATOR REPORT - APRIL 2026

Jan Dodson



Hi Everyone

Our Gala Day despite the weather went off extremely well. We had thirteen visiting teams giving us a full green with only one team fielded by us.

A huge thank you to our members for the generous raffle donations filling three trestle tables. Rose, Ann and Lyn did the enormous task of putting them all together, congratulations to them. Afternoon tea was another huge effort from our members. Janet and her team of helpers put together a scrumptious array of goodies everyone enjoyed, well done to all the volunteers who assisted her.

Our 25/26 Club Competition season is now over with the last event the 100up being completed on Tuesday 28th. Congratulations to Lui Mosele on his win against Steve Beggs.

To those who are heading off to chase the sunbeams this winter, safe travels to you.

For those staying home our usual Monday Triples, Thursday Social and Saturday Rock up and Roll bowls will still be running over winter.

Don't forget our Presentation Night on Friday 5th June.

Great bowling everyone.

Cheers,

Jan

GREENS DIRECTOR - APRIL 2026

Steve Beggs



David Slater has kindly offered to spring clean our BBQ which is much needed, thank you David from us all.

A much needed program has the go ahead so for the week beginning 11th May.

We will commence to line the shed walls to totally bird proof the roosting sites.

John and I will purchase the materials, then all hands on deck.

The ply timber will require undercoat and top coat, so I will be requiring drop sheets if you have them.

Our ladies are certainly welcome to assist with this painting and some blokes to place and install the wall sheets then bird-proof all around. I expect this job to take several days. This is why it is after all Club events and Paynesville Autumn Carnival is over.

The lines will also require marking that week so more volunteers required for that job.

The saga of the roller ramps is ongoing with design to comply with OH&S requirements as well as load capacity of the actual ramp which must be rated for minimum 350kg. I hope to have a solution very soon.

Steve

What happens if you drop a bowl, on delivery, from your hand or bowling arm?

LAWS OF THE SPORT OF BOWLS - DEFINITIONS

C3 Delivery: deliberately releasing a jack or bowl from the hand or an artificial device using an underarm movement.

If the jack or bowl accidentally slips from a player's hand or artificial device during delivery, the player can pick it up and start the delivery again.

Saturday Bowls

Saturday bowls continues to draw many of our newer players who are getting lots of experience. We hope to see them continue on and, maybe, look forward to playing Monday Triples and Club competitions with us.



PENNANT - APRIL 2026 Steve Beggs



The 2026/27 Pennant season is fast approaching so your Pennant Selectors have scheduled a meeting to discuss all things Pennant on Monday 18th. May.

Every player who wants to participate please put your name on the Weekend and/or Midweek list on the notice board in the foyer prior to that date.

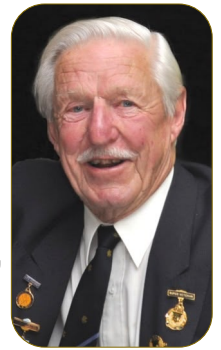
Unless we know the number of available players we cannot submit teams to the GBR for either competition.

If you have any item you would like considered please email and I will add it to the agenda for discussion at that meeting stevebeggs21@gmail.com

Note:- this is the current Pennant Selection Committee and this may change at the September AGM.

Steve

Allan Archibald Memorial Day



Monday 20 was our annual Allan Archibald 2-Bowl Triples Memorial Day. Allan created this two-bowl triples event back when predominantly three-bowl triples was being played. He was always of the view that it became a skipper's game, and now, years later, it is very common and often preferred.

For those of us who knew 'Arch' it was a chance to remember him and all he contributed to us having a Bowling Club, and in turn, two bowling greens. Thank you to everyone who attended this day.



Winners Mira Faithfull and Meg Sutton (Jim Haine absent) with sponsors Bev and Eric Yeates.



Runners-up Graeme White with Jenny and Mark Holter.



Best 2nd game Jason Henry, Alan Schwennesen and Daryl Butler.



Mark Hemming from Paynesville BC.



Helen Everett bowling with David Slater and Ann Seville.



David Slater with Julie Beggs, Helen Everett and Ann Seville.



Lyn Baldwin with Mark and Jenny Holter.

Allan Archibald Memorial Day



Julie Beggs.



Ann Seville.



Steve Beggs with John Crawford.



Lui Mosele with Graeme White.



Jenny Woolard with Kevin Savage,
Mira Faithfull and Meg Sutton.



Daryl Butler with Jason Henry
and Fin Ross.



Rod Bridgborn with Paul Sampson.



Brian Hinkley.



Meg Sutton.

HANDMADE,
STONE BAKED

PIZZA & PASTA

DINE IN OR TAKEAWAY

EVERY THURSDAY

BOOK A
TABLE
ONLINE



LOOKING BACK ON THE HISTORY OF OUR BAIRNSDALE GOLF-BOWLS CLUB. PART 14...

OUR BEGINNING

A look back at the early days for our Associates (ladies), remembering they were affiliated and using the green at least one year before the Members (men).

Back in the day, bowls was as much about playing and clapping as it was about eating.

September 15 1969 Letter to Mrs. Haylock for the donation of a bell (probably the one still in use).

February 2 1970 A Handicap Board was worked out by the Match Committee and will be placed in the Clubhouse. It was unanimously decided to hold a 21 Up Competition for Club Associates for a trophy donated by EGDLEBA/Club member Mrs. Marion Dwyer.

Marion continued to donate the trophy for this event, later requesting it be named the 'Dwyer Trophy'.

The Committee decided to give trophy orders for 1 the 1970 Club Championships in Singles and Pairs. \$4 for Singles and \$2 each to Pairs Winners. None for Rinks (fours) as only two selected teams played.

October 6 1970 Trophies for a 100 Up Competition donated by former member Mrs. Gregory of Drysdale.

November 4 1970 Menu for Associates tournament later this month; **Thursday 26** potato and meat pies for 40 players @50c each; 'chicken - in - a - basket' with pickled pork and appropriate vegetables to cost 65c each for 30 players. Breadsticks, tea and coffee inclusive. Afternoon tea will include sandwiches and cakes each day 30c. **Friday 27** salmon mornay for 80 @50c each and 'chicken - in - a - basket' and sweets for 50 @65c each.

April 5 1971 Mrs. Moulton thanked the Secretary and Committee for their wonderful support during the past year and commented on the success of the Members first tournament due mainly to the co-operation and loyal assistance of every Associate in the Club.

December 8 1971 Arrangements made for Treasurer to pay drivers of cars to Pennant at the rate of \$2.50 per car to Orbest; \$2.00 to Ensay and \$1.00 to Lakes Entrance.

April 4 1972 An interesting item this month was that a list of names to be prepared for inscription on honour boards i.e. Presidents, Secretaries, Club Champions and EGDLEBA Honours. It must be at this time that our 'Presidents' were to be officially known on our Honour Boards as 'Chairwoman' and 'Chairman'. It took some time for the Honour Board to be installed as when it arrived it was found the lettering was too big and had to be re-done.

May 19 1972 At the EGDLEBA Delegates Meeting our Club tried to have Pennant Day changed from Wednesday to Tuesday and if washed out, to be played on another day. This did not get up and points were to be divided if washed out. 20 cents levy green fees for all Pennant players.

June 20 1972 Mrs. Haylock thanked all who had helped cater for the EGBA Presentation Night. 100 catered for with savouries, casseroles and sweets. Profit \$102.10. Members would like to have the same again next year and perhaps the price could be \$2,00 instead of \$1.50.

March 5 1973 Member's tournament catering. Cold meat, hot vegetables each day. Meat to be roast lamb, corned roll and tongues (yuck); apple sponge peaches and custard.

Tournament competition prizes: Thursday towel donated by Mrs. Gabbett; Friday Mrs. Yeates will make a three-layer ginger fluff; Saturday tea towel and measure jug (Club to purchase) and Sunday Towel (Club to purchase).

October 11 1973 Mrs. Gabbett passed on a suggestion, by the Members (men), that afternoon tea on their Pennant days consist of scones, jam and cream and butter. After a discussion it was moved that the Members pay the Associates 60c per player for the afternoon tea, as suggested above, also that a roster of Associates be drawn up and placed on the notice board; two Associates to be roster for each Pennant day.



Gippsland Region Board Summary

The Gippsland Region Board met on Tuesday 7 April 2026 at Maffra Bowls Club.

The following is a summary of matters discussed, and decisions made.

2026/27 pennant structure

The Board discussed and endorsed the 2026/27 Weekend and Midweek Pennant structure proposed by the Competitions Committee. In recommending the structure, the Committee took account of all written submissions and comments by Clubs, accepting several suggestions.

The structure will be distributed to Clubs for dissemination.

Bullying and harassment

The Board has adopted an Anti-Bullying and Harassment Statement following recent incidents of verbal and online abuse of officials and the Board. The statement includes definitions of bullying and harassment and a procedure for reporting incidents.

Women in Bowls

The Board supported a proposal from the Women In Bowls Committee to launch the 2026/27 season with the inaugural Women In Bowls Challenge. The event will be held on Sunday 4 October at Maffra Bowls Club, full details to be provided in coming weeks.

Sausage sizzle

The first GBR sausage sizzle will be held at the new Sale Bunnings store on Saturday 9 May from 9am to 4pm. Funds raised will go towards junior development and the Region Sides.

Junior championships

The GBR Junior Singles and Pairs scheduled for week beginning 13 April have been postponed to a date to be determined.

Good luck

The Board extends best wishes and good bowling to all Gippsland representatives playing in the State championships in Bendigo from 14-22 April. Also, best of luck to our weekend and midweek pennant premiers-respectively Lakes Entrance and Bairnsdale-who will represent the GBR at the State pennant championships in Moama from 25-28 April.

Bronwyn Thwaites

GBR Secretary



Minutes of the Gippsland Bowls Region Annual General Meeting Bairnsdale Bowls Club, Sunday 3 May 2026

Jan Morton opened the meeting at 10.05am with special mention to Life Member, Jeff Amos.

Present Directors Jan Morton, Bronwyn Thwaites, Colin Smith, Graeme Hemming, David Butterworth, Shane Higgins.

Delegates and observers

Jeff Amos (Yarram), Nannette Hamilton, Suzanne York, Colleen Smith (Bairnsdale), Bert and Sue Middelhuis (Heyfield), Kerry Binotto (West Sale), Maureen Petty, Rhonda Hall and Ian Johns (Stratford), Leigh Bryant and Keith Pritchard (Sale), Chris Kyle (Howitt Park), Don Cameron (Bruthen), Nigel Plunkett (Lindenow), Karen Chenney and Bruce Kneebone (Orbost), Alan McDonald (Loch Sport), Jim Castles (Maffra), Alan Taylor (Bairnsdale Golf), Mark Coleman via Zoom (Bowls Victoria).

Apologies

Chris Sherrin (Heyfield), John Crawford and Helen Everett (Bairnsdale Golf), Alison Harrower (Bruthen), Barry Sauer (Rosedale), Mark Henry (West Sale), Nev Irish (Sale), Marg Brandhoj (Lakes Entrance), Kieran Casey (Metung).

Vale

There was a minute's silence for all those members who passed away in the previous 12 months.

.. Cont. over

Previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2025 were previously circulated. Moved by Jeff Amos (Yarram) and seconded by Bert Middelhuis (Heyfield), the minutes were confirmed. There were no matters arising.

President's Report

Jan Morton presented her report for 2025/26:

While this season has brought its share of challenges, it has also highlighted the unwavering commitment and enthusiasm of many members, volunteers, coaches, and players, who are striving to build a welcoming and inclusive community.

Our teams displayed great sportsmanship and commitment, both on and off the field, and we celebrated several notable achievements,

- Jo Martin selected in BV City v Country event.
- Jo Martin, silver medallist at Vic Open with former GBR player Julie Simpson and Geelong member Sharon Renshaw.
- Jo Martin, Rhonda Sadvosky and Glynis Bugeja silver medallists State Triples.
- Jack Sharman, Richard Dooley and Michael Better silver medallists at Vic Open Men's Triples.
- Bairnsdale midweek side winning 4 games at State final, finishing 2nd in their section their only loss being to eventual State Champions Ocean Grove.
- Lakes Entrance finishing 4th in their section at Weekend State final with 2 wins.
- The many players who won their sections at the Vic Open and to the host Clubs for a great job.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all Board and committee members, coaches, volunteers, and supporters for their tireless work behind the scenes.

Looking ahead, we are excited to build on this year's successes and explore new opportunities for growth and development. We welcome feedback from our members and encourage everyone to get involved in shaping the future of our association.

"The secret of change is to focus all your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new." (Socrates).

We say farewell to retiring Secretary Bronwyn Thwaites. Bronwyn was a Foundation Board Member of the GBR and has given much to the region, her commitment to the position and work behind the scenes in her "bat cave" for 6 years was extraordinary. She will be missed and I am sure you will join with me in wishing Bron all the best for the future.

Also to Chris Sherrin who is retiring as our Umpire Coordinator, a fantastic job, we now have more umpires and three assessor and presenters. Thank you Chris.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. Here's to another fantastic year at Gippsland Bowls Region!

Moved by Leigh Bryant (Sale) and seconded by Nigel Plunkett (Lindenow), receipt of the report was carried.

Treasurer's Report

Colin Smith presented the Region's accounts for the period ending 30 April 2026. The top line financial results for 2025/26:

Income - \$13.4k capitation fees (still awaiting outcome of negotiations between Bowls Victoria and Golden Paradise Beach re fees); \$2.9k State and GBR event entry fees; \$3.2k BV Region Sides travel subsidy; \$1.4k Region Sides accommodation levy for single rooms.

Expenses – \$3.5k event hosting fees and prize money; \$4.4k net for Region Sides accommodation and lunches; \$3.1k for premier and small flags, medallions and engraving; \$1.9k for zipped hoodies; \$1.6k for laptop and printer. Colin reported the closing balance on 3 May as \$6.1k.

As there were no questions, he asked that his financial report be received. Moved by Jim Castles (Maffra) seconded by Maureen Petty (Stratford), receipt of the report was carried. .. *Cont. over*

Committee and other reports

Competitions Committee

Jan Morton presented the 2025/26 report from the Competitions Committee:

The Competitions Committee is charged with managing all competitions including pennant in the GBR as set out in the Regulations. See [link](#).

Achievements

- Successfully organised and ran all scheduled competitions during the past season, ensuring smooth operations and fair play throughout.
- Implemented and updated rules and regulations, resulting in improved consistency and clarity for players and officials.
- Expanded and introduced online registration and payment for state events. Live scoring extended to all state events.

Aims for the coming season

- Further boost player and team involvement, particularly focusing on junior development and female participation.
- Formation of Region Division 1 for Weekend Pennant after feedback and support from Clubs and players.
- Live scoring for Division 1 Region and shuffle button usage for all divisions in both Weekend and Midweek.
- Enhance communication channels with Clubs and participants to ensure timely updates and transparency.
- Expand the number of competitions offered, including new formats and events.

Results 2025/26

- *Weekend Pennant*

Champions

Premier – Lakes Entrance 1 Division - 1 Heyfield 1 Division – 2 Lakes Entrance 4
Division - 3 Metung 2 Division – 4 Orbost 2

Section Winners

Division 1 - Orbost 1 & Heyfield 1 Division 2 - Lakes Entrance 4 & Yarram 1
Division 3 – Metung 2 & Sale 7 Division 4 - Orbost 4

- *Midweek Pennant*

Champions

Region 1 – Bairnsdale Division 2 – Paynesville 1 Division 3 – Maffra 4

Section Winners

Division 2 – Paynesville 1 & Sale 2 Division 3 – Paynesville 2 & Maffra 4

State Events

Women's Fours P Carter, M Sceney, S Jarvis, G Mckenzie

Men's Fours J. Sharman, M. Better, B Addison, B Lancaster

Women's Triples J Martin, R Sadovsky G Bugeja *Men's Triples* R Orchard S Pyers I Johns

Women's Pairs M Nathan J Easton *Men's Pairs* A Bell S Dove

Women's Singles J Corrigan *Men's Singles* M Better *Mixed Pairs* J Sharman R Sadovsky

Champion of Champions Women C Smith *Men* B Lancaster

- *Region Event GBR Pairs Women* M Brandhoj L Hochkins *Men* S Sroczynski B Montant

Players of the Year P Carter B Lancaster

2026/27 pennant

The pennant structure has been finalised. After 10+ draw versions last season, the committee streamlined the Division structure process for the coming season.

This involved the formation of Weekend Region Division 1 due to low entries in both East and North in 2025/26, only 6 sides in each division. .. Cont. over

The Committee also applied promotion and relegation where possible and used last year's sides as the foundation for divisions 2, 3 and 4. There have been some adjustments but the final division structure for 2026/27 is attached to this report.

Thanks to:

Committee members Pam Carter, Colin Smith, David Butterworth and Brad Lancaster for their voluntary work throughout the year. Also, to Peter Leslie who had to step down during the season due to health reasons; Bronwyn for her attendance and photos of many events and Keith Pritchard for his live streams; Chris Sherrin for managing umpires for events and Brad for his continued exemplary management of BowlsLink.

Jan noted that the start dates for pennant are 6 October (Midweek) and 10 October (Weekend), with two games being played on Wednesday due to Cup Day and Australia Day.

Umpiring

Bronwyn Thwaites presented the umpiring report on behalf of Chris Sherrin:

The past year has been a productive and steady period, with umpires demonstrating professionalism, consistency and a commitment to supporting the game. Umpiring services were provided for all major regional events, including pennant finals, championships, State events, tournaments and the Vic Open.

There was continued focus on the development and accreditation of umpires, markers and measurers – 12 members successfully completed new umpire accreditation, while 10 experienced umpires undertook re-accreditation. Very pleasing to see newly accredited umpires covering important matches and doing a great job. Sincere thanks to all umpires for their dedication throughout the year whose contribution is vital to the smooth running of our competitions. Thanks to Club officials, players and the GBR Board for their support and cooperation.

The standard of umpiring across the Region remains high and we are well positioned to continue improving and supporting the game into the future.

Jan Morton asked that all reports be received. Moved by Jeff Amos (Yarram), seconded by Kerry Binotto (West Sale), receipt of the reports was carried by majority.

Election of office bearers

Jan Morton handed over this part of the meeting to appointed Returning Officer Jeff Amos, who before declaring the election thanked retiring Secretary Bronwyn Thwaites for everything she has done for the Region in the role, noting the position of secretary is the backbone of any organisation.

As there was only one nomination each for the vacant office bearer position and two director positions, Jeff declared the following duly elected for a period of 3 years as stipulated in the Constitution:

Secretary David Butterworth

Directors Shane Higgins and Keith Pritchard.

Other business of which notice has been given

There was no other business.

Next Annual General Meeting

Sunday 2 May 2027, 10am, Maffra Bowls Club (to be confirmed).

The meeting closed at 10.25am

General meeting

Jan Morton opened the general meeting at 10.26am.

Conditions of Play 2026/27

Jan advised that BV had not yet provided the 2026/27 Conditions of Play. The GBR can set the temperature and other region-specific rules, which need to be approved by BV.

Other matters

Pennant

Nigel Plunkett (Lindenow) queried why Clubs were not given until 30 July to submit teams as in previous years and why the number of rinks for Weekend division 2 was changed from 2 to 3.

.. Cont. over

In response, Jan said the Competitions Committee changed the process for determining the pennant structure because the previous timeline did not allow enough time to get things done. She said several revisions were required last season, with 'to-ing and fro-ing' from some Clubs until just before the season started. Regarding the rinks change, this was done at the request of bigger Clubs which had excess numbers of players. Jan suggested Clubs get in touch with the Competitions Committee if they had issues.

Karen Chenny (Orbost) read a statement from the Orbost Bowls Club.

"On behalf of the Orbost bowls members, I'd like to address the member Clubs and the Board re the situation we as a Club find ourselves with Weekend Pennant for the coming season.

This season as you know we were not asked what Pennant teams we wanted. A proposed structure was presented to us. Orbost asked to withdraw from Weekend Division 1 Region Pennant and to be placed in Division 2 as we did not have the members willing to play region Division 1 Pennant.

The upshot of this was the Competitions Committee accepted our withdrawal from Division 1 then stated there was no spot for us in Division 2. As such, Orbost have only one side in Division 3 (eight players) and 12-14 players not being able to play Pennant at all. It's all well and good to have a nice glossy strategic plan for the Region. With 8 sides in each Division and no duplicates in Premier and now Region Division 1, however these structures come at the expense of the people and Clubs they are supposed to support, it is time for member Clubs and the Board to reconsider what is happening.

Apparently the value of inclusion isn't one of them. A competition must be fair, not just administratively tidy. If a bye is needed, so be it. For older players – who make up the majority of pennant bowlers – the amount of travel becomes a real issue. Travel fatigue directly affects participation, health and club retention.

Orbost wish to play Pennant but at a level that best suits their individual ageing needs. This is not about resisting change – it is about protecting the viability of bowls for Orbost and indeed Gippsland.

Orbost are tabling a grievance letter at the close of this meeting. We do so respectfully, but firmly, in the hope that common sense will prevail and the Board and member Clubs will work with us to ensure fair and inclusive participation for all bowlers in our region."

During discussion;

Jan stated that Orbost was not prepared to travel 3 times to the north nor abide by the Conditions of Play which stipulate promotion and relegation.

Bert Middelhuis (Heyfield) suggested that Weekend Division 2 East comprise 9 sides, allowing Orbost to be included, noting that there could be a bye and not all teams need to play each other twice.

Nigel Plunkett queried whether Tambo Valley was happy with its inclusion in Division 4 given the quality of their junior players (Jan responded she had spoken to the club and they were happy to fill the vacancy). Maureen Petty (Stratford) said their Club was in a similar position with availability of players, needing 44 players and only having 29 at this stage.

In conclusion, Jan said the matters raised, including the number of rinks, will be referred to the Competitions Committee for further consideration.

Coaching Nigel Plunkett advised that Bowls Australia had revamped the coaching course, now significantly improved. The cost has also increased to \$200 which Clubs would have to pay on behalf of their members.

Christmas break Jan advised the Christmas break for Midweek is 15 December to 19 January and for Weekend 19 December to 16 January.

Region shirts Ian Johns (Stratford) queried why the State event winners did not wear the GBR shirts when playing in the State championships. He said GBR and Strzelecki were the only regions not wearing Region shirts and it looked 'ordinary'. In response, Jan said some Clubs support their players financially and require them to wear Club shirts. The matter will be referred to the Competitions Committee.

Close of meeting

Jan closed the meeting at 11am, thanking everyone for their attendance and contribution.

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The Good Life


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Management has requested we **DO NOT FEED THE BIRDS PLEASE.** as they are creating a mess in the shed.

It was ladies day at Bairnsdale Golf, the sun was shining bright,
A perfect day for bowling, not a single cloud in sight.
There were cries of "Good shot Helen," and very quiet applause,
There were draw shots, and a drive or two, all within the laws.

The day was quiet as usual, no trouble, so it seemed,
But you'd never guess what happened, not in your wildest dreams.
Just as Julie played a shot, the best you've ever seen,
A man devoid of clothing, dashed across the green.

A STREAKER! YES, A STREAKER! The ladies screamed as one,
As the streaker flashed his hairy chest, and showed his pale white bum.

He made a dash across the green, the girls could only stare,
As he displayed his twiddly bits, with everything quite bare.

Well! The ladies got excited, some fainted with the fright,
Some looked away in horror, some cheered with sheer delight.
Judi made a mighty lunge, and tried to grab the bloke,
Joy called out excitedly, "I nearly had a stroke!"

Angela took a piece of chalk and chased him down the track,
She said "I'll mark his toucher! I think he moved the jack!"

As the streaker disappeared from sight, one was heard to say,
"That streaker brought back memories I'd forgotten 'til today."

Now on ladies' day there's trouble, you'll see lots of wayward bowls,
They simply cannot concentrate, they wander off - poor souls!

Their form is quite erratic, their shots are getting weaker,
They're praying for a nice warm day, and another young buck streaker.



WHERE'S WALLY?

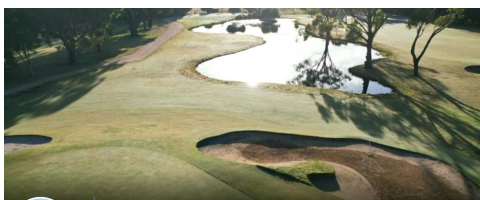
Can you find Wally?
He is in this edition somewhere.
This is where he was in March P. 3



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