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Vermont South Bowls Club has seven of its eight sides in the Saturday pennant finals

David Turner, Whitehorse Leader

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Last weekend, Vermont South Bowling Club completed an outstanding home-and-away season with seven of its eight Saturday pennant sides qualifying for the finals that get underway on this weekend.

It was the club's most successful season since its inception.

And, the only side to miss finals went about as agonisingly close as possible.

It finished in fifth position and would have made the business end of the summer had it gained just one more shot in its final-round clash.

Heartbreakingly, it came up a fraction short when the very last bowl of the day required the measuring tape.

"It was tough," club head coach Lloyd Iccarino said. "To get so close to finals, it was only a centimetre either way."

The season, however, was a stunning success for the Livingstone Rd club.

Six Vermont South sides finished in the top two, earning the right to host home semi-finals this weekend.

"Six of the seven are at home," Iccarino said. "But we haven't got the space for everyone, so a couple of teams will have to play at neighbouring clubs."

"The club is buzzing, the atmosphere is awesome. We're busy organising barbecues and things. It will be a real carnival-like atmosphere.

"We recruited pretty well at the start of the year, but it was my first season as head coach, so it was a bit of the unknown.

"It's been a long season, 17 weeks since the first round I think, and we started pre-season back in July.

"Now we have finals and it's all in our own hands."

The club president, Michael Keel, was delighted with the success.

"This wonderful achievement is due to the focus and commitment of our players and in no small way to the enthusiastic coaching provided by our head coach, Lloyd Iccarino and his team," he said.