



# VERMONT SOUTH BOWLING CLUB

[A Section of the Vermont South Club Inc. (ABN 60 896 828 957)]

## 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & Reports

### MEETING AGENDA:

1. Apologies.
2. Confirmation of 2013 AGM Minutes -
3. Presentation & acceptance of Annual Reports
4. Election of Office Bearers.
5. Election of Sub committees
6. Recording of Accredited and Club Coaches
7. General Business
8. Date of 21<sup>st</sup> AGM.

### ANNUAL REPORTS (FOLLOW)

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## CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Bowls Committee have performed their duties this past year with enthusiasm and dedication, Vice President Chris Holland has always been there to assist me when required and I thank her for her help. Secretary Keith Horlock as always has performed his duties admirably throughout the year. I thank all Committee members for their service to the club.

Our membership has increased this year and will continue to do so if we follow our dedicated approach to gaining new members. We had an excellent result from our last Try Bowls Days and thanks to all coaches and members who participated.

The secret to our success as a Bowls Club rests with the dedicated people who undertake the many numerous tasks required to make organisations, such as ours, run smoothly and we are lucky to have so many.

Our Sub Committees have once again worked away quietly in the background and helped the Club achieve the levels of excellence we all enjoy.

Andrew Ross and his greens Committee have done an excellent job with the replacement of our east green. Our greens continue to be rated amongst the best in our area and have never looked better and we need to keep them in good condition for many years to come.

Viv Bennett has been looking after our surrounding gardens and has worked to ensure that they have survived our hot summer. John Molloy has undertaken general maintenance around the club facilities and it's good to see the clubs general appearance being maintained by Stewart Andrew.

Our club Selectors have had a hard year to ensure all members were given an opportunity to play pennant with mixed results. Saturday :Side 1 were defeated by Ferntree Gully Side 2 won their section and promoted to Division 2 Side 4 were defeated by Cardinia Waters Side 5 were defeated by Lilydale.

Tuesday pennant: Open Div 1 Section 4 Defeated by Donvale Open Div 3 section 4 won their section and promoted to division 2 congratulations to all members who contributed to the success of the winning teams.

The Tournament committee chaired by Mal Walker was responsible for the running of all club Championships and was run very efficiently .I congratulate our new club champions Joseph Iaccarino and Mary Farley. Thanks also to Lloyd Iaccarino for his coaching sessions during the winter months.

The Tournament committee have excelled in the range of activities undertaken over the past year and encourage the newer members to check the notice boards and join in the fun.

Another area that our newer members can participate in is the Social Bowls calendar ran by our Tournament Committee, during the winter months they can play on most days of the week. These days are only successful because of the dedication and hard work from the conveners and I thank each and every one of them .The BBQ Sponsored days on Sundays are well attended and I am sure they will continue to be a popular event. We were unsuccessful in the Challenge game against Mulgrave Country Club, another popular event on the social calendar. Next year we will beat them at home.

The lack of interest shown by members in nominating for various committees; is of major concern! I along with members of the Committee have spoken with many potential volunteers, over recent weeks without much success, due to a certain extent, because the person has been reluctant to take on the responsibility involved with others feeling they may struggle to get up to speed with the breadth of the role!

Present vacancies, on the Bowls Section Committee and various sub-committees **provide YOU with great opportunities to develop your skills and contribute to the running of the club**, while at the same time helping us to strengthen and diversify YOUR club's management team, increase our overall effectiveness and ability to achieve our goals.

***David Russell - Chairman***

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

We have now completed our 2<sup>nd</sup> full year as a unified club but there remains quite a deal of administrative “work in progress” to be completed and fine-tuning to improve the way we manage, implement and allocate Committee activities and responsibilities.

In combining the various reports that make up this, our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Report, it's noticeable just how many members, individually and collectively contribute time and energy to managing and running the Bowls Section – The Committee is most appreciative and grateful to you all. However, this year our endeavour to persuade members to join one of various sub committee's and/or the Committee has failed with seemingly not one “new face” stepping up to the plate. We are fortunate, indeed that the majority of members of the various subcommittee's, have agreed to continue for another year. However, key positions of Secretary and Greens Director remain unfilled, with, additionally likely to be two Committee positions, vacant. Succession, per se, will challenge the new Committee during the year ahead.

A shining success, again this has been VSC's e-News, which is now distributed to 86% of our bowls members, up a whopping 10% from last year (76%). With just a “click of the mouse”, eNews which is edited, produced and published by John Temple enables the majority of our members to be regularly informed about club events, results, news and “happenings” etc,. Thanks John, your flair for the job and skilled production; is appreciated. Thanks also to our diligent news “hounds”, Gail Pearson, Neil Cameron and Michael Keel.

Membership has grown over the past year from 241 to 256 including 7 pending COM approval. The recent special promotion via Try Bowls (4 in Feb) resulted in Nine (11) “recruits” who are now being coached and close to being “passed to play”. We also have one “Transfer” pending. Membership growth is healthy and trending in the right direction and, according to Bowls Australia CDO, Paul Holtschke, “Vermont South” is in top ten of 61 clubs in his region, that are actually growing – i.e. leaving 84% (of 61) with declining membership!

Over the past year, the club has connected, really well with our community, by hosting events for school children, local businesses, clubs, and special needs groups, one such event was on display recently, when we welcomed 61 special needs students' from eight Eastern Special Development, schools, for a “Gala Day” organised by Bowls Victoria.

The Committee, decided at their last meeting (Mar 14), to divide the existing combined “Sec/CCO” role into two discrete, interrelated jobs - CCO (Chief communications officer) and Secretary with the latter responsible for **Intra**-club (internal) activities and CCO dealing with all external communications including receipt, distribution and response to **inter**-club, flyers/correspondence and communication with Bowls Victoria and the Region (ERBR). The position of Secretary remains unfilled but I have agreed to stand for re-election on understanding that, if elected, I'll take-on both the CCO and Secretary roles, for the year ahead, ONLY!

In closing this report, I'd like to acknowledge and thank; Chairman David, Asst. Sec Gail Pearson, the Committee and my other collaborators: VSC Sec Jim Baker, VSC Membership Sec., Paul Dunn, webmaster John Temple, for their support and encouragement.

Finally, on behalf of all members, I'd like to convey a special vote of thanks to Val Weight, for her care of those among us who have been/are unwell or unable to play bowls. We are most grateful for your ongoing, sensitive commitment to the wellbeing of others and together with your, always up to date, progress reports – they are appreciated, too! Derek Mullett assists Val, as needed and, thank you too, Derek!

**Keith Horlock - Secretary**

## BOWLS SECT TREASURER'S REPORT - Income & Expenditure

INCOME	Year to 31/3/2014	Year to 31/3/2013	Variance
Green Fees Social	33058	33385	(327)
Green Fees	22963	23511	(548)
Raffles	14849	14680	169
Book Sales	687	828	(141)
Food Sales	2479	1911	568
Misc Sales	20	112	(92)
Social Functions	1557	1391	166
Corporate Bowls	6108	5056	1052
Gala Day	1430	1652	(222)
Donations	50	210	(160)
Sausage Sizzle	1020	0	1020
Monster Raffle	803	0	803
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>85024</b>	<b>82736</b>	<b>2288</b>
EXPENITURE	Year to 31/3/2014	Year to 31/3/2013	Variance
Bowls -Prizes	12773	11158	1615
Housekeeping	5401	5836	(435)
Greens Maintenance	1015	1200	(185)
Stationery	1305	748	557
Catering	2502	2406	96
Gardens	750	0	750
General Maintenance	1333	702	631
Wellbeing	434	0	434
Engraving & Framing	74	39	35
Try Bowls	125	95	30
Promotions	576	555	21
Corporate	1016	634	382
Bowls purchase	150	0	150
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>27454</b>	<b>23373</b>	<b>(4080)</b>
Profit	57570	59362	(1792)

This year we achieved an overall profit of \$57,570 i.e. 3% lower than the previous year despite a 3.8%, increased in income, due mainly to inclement weather in December and wet weather together with excessive heat in Jan/Feb causing a number of Pennant and Social Bowls games to be cancelled. Having access to only one green, during the installation of the new green in the first two months of our winter programme, also had an impact on the profit downturn

Overall costs were up 17.5%, on last year, due mainly to work on the surrounds, facilities and gardens of the new green. Taking this into account we believe the overall result is very satisfactory.

***Ian Oxley – Bowls Sect Treasurer***

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

This year the committee again arranged a variety of activities.

We thank all members who supported and helped in the arrangements of these functions and trips. Thank you also to the many people who donated prizes for raffles; held at these functions.

Our activities this past year; included: Crown Casino, The Shirley Bassey Show, Russian Ballet, \$1,000 raffle night, visit to Parliament House, Whitehorse Theatre production of Gypsy, Christmas party, Flinders bowls club visit and Yarra Glen races together with the annual Cobram trip arranged for post AGM commencing on 10th April.

Feedback we received from members, who participated in these activities, was mostly positive and we look forward to the continued support from all of our club members.

I thank the committee for their support and commitment to the VSC

***Norman Weight - Social Committee Chairman***

## BOWLS 1 & 2- PORTFOLIO REPORT

**Selection:** Congratulations to all sides that made it through to play “Finals”.

**Tuesday** -Division 1 open lost to Donvale in the first semi-final. Division 3 section 4 won the section Flag but lost to Point Cook in the first inter-sectional final.

**Saturday** - Division 2 lost to Ferntree Gully in the first semi final, Division 3 won their section Flag from 4<sup>th</sup> place, but lost to Bundoora RSL in the first inter-sectional final. Division 4 lost to Cardinia waters in the first semi final and Division 6; lost to Lilydale in the first semi-final.

### Finishing position on ladders:

Tue	Div 2 Sect 2 (wo) 6 <sup>th</sup>	Div1 Sect 4 4 <sup>th</sup>	Div 1 Sect 6 5 <sup>th</sup>
	Div 3 Sect 4 1 <sup>st</sup>	Div 3 Sect 5 9 <sup>th</sup>	Div 4 Sect 4 7 <sup>th</sup>

Sat	Div 2 Sect 5 4 <sup>th</sup>	Div 3 Sect 6 4 <sup>th</sup>	Div 3 Sect 8 5 <sup>th</sup>	
	Div 4 Sect 6 4 <sup>th</sup>	Div 6 Sect 5 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Div 7 Sect 2 5 <sup>th</sup>	Div 9 Sect 2 5 <sup>th</sup>

The work done with our players by Lloyd Iaccarino over the winter months certainly helped our performance during the pennant season. Thank you Lloyd, for a job well done!

The Development group also arranged skills training by Rob Wilson coach of the under 18 Victorian squad. Thanks to this group for showing initiative in giving members this opportunity.

Both the Tuesday and Saturday Selectors thank the many members who put themselves out to act as emergencies, many at the very last moment.

**Coaching** - With Margaret Borden retiring as Coaching Co-ordinator this year this position has been filled by Lloyd Iaccarino. Thank you Margaret for your many years of ensuring all new members had the opportunity to learn the basic bowling skills. We have one new coach this year with Andrei Butskikh completing his level one coaching course.

**Special needs Bowls.** Again, this year, a dedicated group of helpers have supported Bernadette Ross in looking after the Wednesday group who come to our club.

**Tournament.** Opening of the Season was well attended and this was the first official event on the new East green.

An open pair's event was run, on the 2nd of September; as a final event of the winter pairs.

Thanks to all the convenors who gave up their time to organise and run; very well, the social bowls winter program which attracted many visitors. Thanks also; to all the summer events convenors - we were very pleased with the numbers attending on Thursdays.

The club put-on a very successful Gala day tournament; again this year, with 26 teams including 18 visiting teams. Thanks to Val Weight and her band of willing helpers who help raise \$1430.00 for the club. Well done! “Ladies”,

The annual Mulgrave CC Challenge event was played at Mulgrave this year and the home side won! However, the venue next year will at Vermont South and we look forward to a win.

We are running the Pro Shot Men's Fours on April 5<sup>th</sup> this is a promotion tournament for KCL Pro Shot Surface.

### Club Champion Champions:

Event	Champion(s)	Runner(s) Up
Women's Singles	Mary Farley	Christine Holland
Men's Singles	Joe Iaccarino	Allan Lamb
Women's Pairs	Barbara Brown & Christine Holland	Lizzie Boucher & Joy Smith
Men's Pair's	John Temple & Gary Simmons	Allan Lamb & Geoff Bryant
Mixed Pairs	Angela Bonutto & Ken Barnhill	Viv and Noel Bennett
Women's 100 Up	Jan Daphne	Gail Pearson
Men's 100 Up	Jim Cull	Peter Ballam
Novice Singles	Jim Cull	Chas Amos.
Chairman/s Open H'cap	Mal Walker	Denis Quintal

**Barrie Brown - Bowls 1 & 2 Co-ordinator**

## MEMBERSHIP & TRY BOWLS REPORT

The club held its Try Bowls campaign, over four successive Friday nights during February 2014, when some 60 persons attended and I am delighted to advise that at least 9 persons have lodged applications to join the club

I wish to extend my personal thanks to my sub-committee Florence Parker, Ken Barnhill and Graeme Marchment, on a job well done.

I also wish to thank members who helped with these, earlier Try Bowls activities and the promotional days at Knox City Shopping Centre. The outcome, this year has been exceptional with a net membership gain, between April 13 to Mar 14, of thirteen – 9 men and 3 women.

Once again, thank you all for your, concern, encouragement and assistance.

***Peter Ballam - Membership and Try Bowls Coordinator***

## FACILITIES PORTFOLIO REPORT

The Facilities Portfolio has been easy to manage due to the enthusiastic and generous members who give their time so freely and willingly.

### GREENS

I have pleasure in presenting this; my final report as Greens Director, to the members of the Vermont South Bowling Club, outlining some of our activities for the year and providing information regarding the completion of the reconstruction of the East Green and forward planning for this year and beyond.

The Greens Committee comprises of; Noel, John, Tony and Ian Bennett and of course our longest serving member Ron Vogele who despite on many occasions suffering from chronic pain is always there to lend a hand, repair equipment and give advice, also to our new comers Jim Cull, Denis Quintel and Keith Horlock. as well as our co-opted painter Stewart Andrew who has done an outstanding job of painting the whole of the exterior of the Clubhouse, Workshop as well as the Greens Office, seats and shelters.

The Greens Committee members spend hours preparing the greens twice a week from 7.30am to 10.00am Monday and Friday mornings from early September to end of March and once a week for the remainder of the year. As well we check the greens every Saturday and Tuesday morning to make sure all debris is removed from the greens prior to pennant and that the green speeds are within the guidelines as laid down by Bowls Victoria. Without doubt this club is most fortunate to have such a team of willing, knowledgeable and dedicated Greens Committee members. I extend my thanks to each one of you for a job well done.

Our three goals again this year, which were set at the start of the season, were;

1. To achieve a green speed of less than 17 seconds for all pennant games.
2. Obtain the highest possible rating for the annual Greens Inspection.
3. To maintain the greens to the best of our ability and provide members with the best possible playing surfaces.

These three goals were achieved with both Greens rated an “A” the highest level possible and our new East green rated as the best synthetic green in the Eastern Ranges Region.

Other important regular maintenance projects were;

- Watering and regular grooming to reduce green speeds.
- Regular poisoning and spraying to remove algae from the surface of both greens
- Modification of greens usage to reduce wear on both greens at different times of the year.
- Painting lines on greens.
- Regular trimming of trees and shrubs to limit overshadowing.
- Cleaning ditches, banks and surrounds
- Repairs to shelters and drinks fountains, removing rubbish and garden maintenance

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## GREENS (CONT)

The highlight this year was the commissioning of the East Green and for me personally to be invited to roll the first bowl, for the opening of the season, it was a great thrill. The Green was finally handed over to us in late August as KCL was responsible for providing on call support and advice for the first 3 months after physical completion. Minor repairs were carried out by KCL at this time and since then all work has been undertaken by us. The surface is reacting as predicted, slower on a hot day and slightly faster on a cold day and in the evening, the draw on both hands is very predictable, the closest possible to a natural grass surface.

The West Green was opened in 2008 and is showing signs of wear after having such heavy use for the last four years and requires a lot of effort to maintain at a sub 17 second speed for pennant. As members are aware this green was rolled back twice in the first 15 months due to defects in the base, which has caused the carpet to stretch and depressions are also evident along the line of an old drain. We will attempt some sub-base repairs during this coming season and may need to undertake regular heavy grooming to improve the longer term playability of the green. I suggest that replacement maybe required earlier than first thought, which needs to be planned for now, not only a budget figure but also a review of most appropriate surface.

Congratulations to Noel Bennett who has been appointed as a Greens Inspector for the Eastern Ranges Region and thanks to Christine Holland who our link with the Bowls Sect., Committee.

### **Andrew Ross Greens Director**

## GARDENS AND SURROUNDS

Since the last AGM, Viv Bennett has stepped forward and accepted the challenge of Gardens and Surrounds Convenor. Viv has spent many untold hours working on the surrounds and thinking about what is needed. She has nourished the plants through a very hot summer and she has coordinated the monthly gardening efforts successfully. Well done and thanks, Viv.

Thank-you and congratulations to the wonderful team of willing workers who arrive each month ready to prune shrubs, trim the top of hedges, thin the garden along the car park area, spread loads of mulch, weed endlessly and of course plant new shrubs as required. To the best of their ability the group have achieved the goal of maintaining the native plants around the West Green and rejuvenating the surrounds of the East Green.

Well done, we look forward to your help again next season (hopefully with increased volunteers as our beautiful area needs constant maintenance)

Extra effort from the Greens Committee needs to be applauded as they regularly undertake heavier, more demanding tasks that are beyond the gardening group.

## MAINTENANCE

Throughout the year John Molloy, along with the "hands on group" from the Green Committee have met each problem or crisis head-on and devised an economical and viable solution.

With increased use of facilities there is always something to be attended to such as: (yet another) new tap for the urn kitchen, a new kitchen sink tap system, sponsor signs falling off, scoops needing new wheels or de-rusting, new stove catch, new floor protectors for chairs, re gluing edges on tables, a new storage box in the Green House for umbrellas ..... the list is endless!

Thank you all for a supreme effort and for accepting the challenge for another year.

## HOUSEKEEPING

With the increased amount of bowling, corporate events and meetings every week, there has been a constant demand on our kitchen and the supplies. A well-earned thank you goes to Margaret Sampson, Joy Smith and Gail Pearson who have been such a well organised and committed team. Twice each week during pennant season they attended to cleaning and maintaining a spotless kitchen and replenishing supplies (not only food supplies but also cleaning material, dishwasher items, outside water cups and bathroom needs) for all club members to enjoy.

Their exemplary efforts can go unnoticed even though the kitchen area is utilised every day.

### **Christine Holland - Facilities Portfolio**

## SPONSORSHIP and FUNDRAISING REPORT

VSC has had a reasonable successful year in gaining new sponsors both major and minor but unfortunately, we have lost two minor sponsors.

### NEW SPONSORS

- **Ringwood Mazda** – We were fortunate gain this company for most Thursday's during the year as Ringwood Mazda Triples with regular presentation by Sales Executive. Thank you to members who have supported this sponsor so well – with, at last count, 7 cars purchased
- **Peppertree Hill Apartments** – We welcome with a promised two Presentations per year.
- **Poppies Restaurant** Vouchers donated for drives during the year.
- **Neil Angus** – Local Member for Forest Hill
- **Coles Stores Vermont South** - Generously donated vouchers for major tournaments and Bunnings Sausage Sizzle, July 2013.
- **Medibank** – Presently in negotiations and hopeful!

It is my intention to invite, on a reasonably regular basis, one of our major sponsors to visit and make a presentation at our popular Wednesday and Thursday games, to show that VSC are playing our part in appreciation of their generosity.

### SPONSORS NIGHT (NOV 2013)

- VSC and Committee members gave a warm welcome to the majority of our sponsors during Sponsors Night held in November. The “turn-out” of for the occasion was excellent and reflective of VSC's ability to reach-out and connect with sponsors and positive feedback, both during and after the event, has been most encouraging.

### FUNDRAISING

- **Bunnings Sausage Sizzle - July 13** – Our first effort and what a success, thanks to all that helped before and on the day to raise over \$1000. We plan to hold another “Sizzle” in 2015.
- **Opportunity Shop** May 12/16 An Inaugural event and we're looking forward to a good week. Help roster is in the clubhouse. Keep up to date with arrangements/donations via eNews.

Thank you to all that have supported me, and our sponsors during the past year and I will continue to strive to the best of my ability for the VSC during the club-year ahead.

**Neil Cameron.**

## MARKETING and PR REPORT

Two years ago, when I was previously in this role, I wrote that *the best “marketing” comes from the advocacy of current members*, and I stand by that observation. I extend my thanks to every one of you who have promoted the club in both formal and informal ways. Your friendly greetings to visitors, your sportsmanship on the green, your support of new members, your positive comments about the club to your family and friends, all contribute to “marketing” and our club's brand.

During the summer month's we have had well in excess of 200 visitors to the club through our **Corporate Bowls initiative**. We have made a clear profit of \$3,229 without including the substantial boost to bar takings. We still have 3 events to run, at the time of writing this report. I have had many enquiries that could not be accommodated, due to dates being unavailable. Interestingly, the majority of enquiries have resulted from visits to our website, and most groups have been new, not repeat visitors, this season.

The feedback from Corporate Bowls activities continued to be very positive;

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## MARKETING and PR REPORT (Cont)

- ▶ We have enjoyed the involvement of the members on the green. They have been positive, encouraging, very helpful and extremely welcoming
- ▶ It is great to have the venue for our sole use (other clubs with a far more mercenary focus, pack in several groups at a time and there is no personal connection to speak of)
- ▶ The Club is superbly maintained and evident from the buildings and the surrounds, that member's take pride in the place and it is clearly treated with great respect.
- ▶ We are planning to come back to do some team-building
- ▶ The food was great.

We have used Barefoot Bowls to build better links with the Tennis section by running an event for tennis members prior to Christmas.

Livingstone Primary School students will be undertaking Lawn Bowls as part of an extension PE program, this being a result of connections made with the school staff who attended our club for their Christmas function.

*Not only have these events promoted our bowls club, they have generated extra funds and made important links with the **community, prospective bowlers and sponsors.***

None of these events would have happened without the assistance of members and, in particular, I wish to acknowledge the work of Allan Lamb, Alex Blundell, Geoff Parry, Jim Cull and Wyn McNamara, who have been part of the on-green leadership team. I extend thanks to everyone who has helped to make these events successful and fun.

You will read a separate report about **Try Bowls** which is also a key part of club promotion, along with other initiatives which have gained publicity for the club, including the recent highly successful bowls day for students with Special Needs.

Neil Cameron is to be commended for his tireless work in the **Sponsorship** area. We were extremely pleased to be able to work with VSC to gather our sponsors together in November to acknowledge their valuable support.

**Communication** within our Club, as with all Clubs, continues to be a challenge. I am pleased to report that the eNews is now bedded down as a central communications plank for the club. I wish to extend heartfelt thanks to Gail Pearson for putting the Bowls news together each week, the many members who have provided articles for publication, and John Temple who has supported the eNews distribution.

You will also be aware that Sponsors are promoted on the TV screen in the Clubhouse, as are the weekly pennant results. Thanks to the members who take time to prepare this data.

I urge all members to make a point of reading the various notices on display in the Clubhouse. Communication is a two way street, and whilst every endeavour is made to publicise activities, notify members of various issues and celebrate successes, there is an expectation that members take personal responsibility to be informed.

Our **handbook** is another valuable source of communication. Michael Summers and Laurice Webb have been central players in the preparation of the Handbook. We thank them both for their commitment and time.

In a digital age, we must continue to look at the ways we connect with both our own members and the public, especially sponsors and prospective visitors and members. To that end, VSC is looking to revamp the website and input from Bowlers, will be welcomed. It is interesting to see how many more of our bowls members now check teams on the website and use email as a preferred way of communicating. As we recruit younger members, there will be an increased reliance on digital information, and as a Bowls Club we need to respond to these demands. This is an aspect of club development being promoted and supported, by Bowls Victoria.

Thank you to all who have worked tirelessly to promote the club. You can be truly proud of your efforts.

**Lizzie Boucher**