



# VERMONT SOUTH BOWLING CLUB

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

## 26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT April 2020

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## CHAIR'S REPORT

I am now in my third and last year as Chairperson / President of our Bowls club. During this last year we have had many successes and faced several challenges. Notably, in the last year we have installed a new green, our first team won through to division 1 in Saturday pennant, and we celebrated **25 years of the Bowling Club**. However, we are challenged by an aging membership list who are becoming limited in help that can be provided to the club. Therefore, attracting new members has been a top priority. We are trying varying ways to attract new members like Jack Attack, corporate bowls and Try Bowls where the focus on having fun and comradery coupled with some attractive offers to become a member.

I am saddened by the passing of the following members: Liz Jackson, Trevor Bartel, Ian Oxley, Hans Brosi and Martina Liebler, along with some close family members. They are all missed and will always be fondly remembered by all of us.

As I mentioned we celebrated 25 years of our Bowling Club and now we want another 25 years and more! The club started with such humble beginnings, is now one of the biggest and most successful clubs in our region. So much hard work by many members over the journey has achieved this significant milestone. I would like to congratulate our loyal members past and present who helped build and sustain our club over the past 25 years!

Bowls Club membership is 233 members as at of end February 2020 (this will be updated at our AGM), down from last year. This number is concerning, and again reinforces our efforts to increase membership. We cannot afford to be complacent and must always be on the lookout and act accordingly to attract new members to our bowling club.

We are very proud to be part of the local community and we have been recognised by the community receiving our second **Deakin Community Award** in two years. The Honourable Michael Sukkar MP presented this and a Deakin Community Award to Jock Halley for his many years of volunteering, notably managing all aspects of our bar. Other significant community fund raising included 'biggest morning tea' this raised a tidy sum for cancer research while the men's health day raised funds for prostate cancer research.

Jack Attack, Barefoot Bowls and Corporate Bowls are great initiatives and our goal is to increase bowls participation, improve community awareness about our club and to appeal to younger players to "have a go at bowls"! The income from these initiatives are shown in our Treasurer's report.

At the time of writing this report Pennant has not been completed and all the results are included in a separate section of this AGM report. I would like to acknowledge the support of the selectors who spent vast amount of time dedicated to select teams and manage emergency players when needed. Thank you to all of the selectors for their commitment to this important task and contribution to the success of our pennant teams.

The coaches have also played an important role in the success of pennant teams and contributed to our try bowls program. Our head coach, assisted by the team of coaches, ensured regular skill base training sessions were held, and one on coaching guidance was available to all club members. All members were encouraged to improve skill levels and gain an understanding the tactics of a game.

Our **Green Team** like so many of our volunteers, have a very important and specialised function by keeping the greens in top playing condition, which they do extremely well. Our west green – Ryman

Healthcare Green has been replaced under the management of our greens director with a new artificial green supplied by KCL (vendor) who also supplied the east green. This project was done on time and under budget. Final funding /costs are shown in the treasurer's financial report.

We are now faced with two problems on the top / east green

1. Tree roots near the surface on the top green - currently, we are in discussions with the council who we believe are responsible to fix the problems. More to come about this.
2. The drainage after heavy rain does take a "long" time to drain and has caused two Saturday pennant games being abandoned.

There are a few factors that need to be considered before we spend any anything.

Consideration to the life of the green as if we replace within the next 2-3 years, we can fix the drainage, then if not already fixed, fix the tree root problem. Or, fix the drainage and tree root problems at the same time but this comes with a risk of causing damage to the green. I have been advised rolling back the green could cause irreparable damage to it and require replacing. The stand-alone cost of just fixing the drainage problem could be as high as \$40k.

Our **gardens** are a treat and we thank our small band of gardeners and helpers who have managed to maintain our gardens to a high standard. And we can't forget to thank our maintenance team who managed to keep our assets in good condition. The **house keeping** team also often go unnoticed but provide an important service, they have kept our club room in great shape.

The number of people playing social bowls in the last 12 months has been down. The summer season was very hot, and this contributed to lower numbers. Many members were also playing in pennant on both Tuesday and Saturday and this also could have been a contributing factor. The **convenors of social bowls** have all worked very hard to run successful events and for this we owe them our thanks.

The **Tournament Committee** ran and controlled a full calendar of events including the Club Championships, Gala Day, Men's Health Tournament, social bowls events, and assisted Pro Shot. Contained in this AGM Report are the results of our club championships for 2019/20.

Our **Social Committee** again organised many activities outside the green for the benefit of all members. They have organised bus tours, live theatre, the Moama trip, and of course the Christmas Party. The one-off 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner was also a huge success.

Financially, the bowls club finances are sound, and our Treasurer has provided more detail in his report. We have been able to keep any price increases to a minimum and certainly have been prudent with all our expenditures.

We have had two burglaries, one in the green house where the defibrillator was stolen, and recently the main club house where nothing was stolen but we did sustain damage to three doors. The council paid for the repair costs. The Vermont South Club Committee is investigating improving club house security procedures and installing CCTV. Both these matters were reported to the police for investigation.

Thank you for the support you have given, and we will continue to work together with shared values for the Vermont South Bowls club.

**Michael Keel**  
Chair VSBC

## TREASURERS REPORT

Our income over the next few months while we are under Covid-19 restrictions will be non-existent and VSC have made decisions to reduce our expenditure whilst the restrictions apply.

A full financial report will be produced for the VSC Inc. AGM for the Financial Year July 2019-June 2020 however there are some observations that I wish to bring to the bowl's members attention pertaining to the current season.

Bowls membership fees are 10% down on the previous year and we are advised our affiliation fees with Bowls Vic will have an increase of 2.75% for the 2019-20 season. Our affiliation fees with ERBR could increase from \$4 to \$10 per eligible member. The VSC and the bowl's committees will need to take these factors into account before the next pennant season.

Social bowling revenue is down by 12.5% on the previous year and as a result we need to review the prize money we allocate for social bowls prizes which is running at approximately 30% of our income. Compared to other clubs we are very generous with our prizes.

Fundraising returns have remained constant and we are fortunate to have a very active social/fundraising committee who have supplemented our income with some very successful events.

'Jock's Bar' has again been well supported by the bowls members and even though it comes under the VSC umbrella and not reported on in this report it contributes to the well-being of the Bowls division and the club in general.

The installation of the solar system has resulted in a reduction of our power consumption and electricity costs over the next decade or more.

An upgrade of the clubroom is still under consideration by the VSC and the replacement of the West Green has enhanced our current facilities.

I would like to express my appreciation of the assistance I have received from Jim Baker and Phil Staley over the past 12 months. It is great to have such a willing back-up.

**Martin Haines**  
Treasurer

## VERMONT SOUTH BOWLS CLUB INCOME/EXPENSES

July 1, 2019-February 29, 2020

	Jul 19 - Feb 20	Jul 18 - Feb 19
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Membership (inc Affiliation)</b>	41,610.00	46,000.00
<b>Playing Fees</b>		
Bowling - Outdoors	48,091.13	54,242.01
Club Apparel	1,940.90	4,704.55
Bowling Items	331.99	317.28
Hire of Club House	518.18	327.27
Corporate Days	3,082.50	3,345.50
<b>Fundraising</b>		
Xmas party/Bowls	355.00	194.00
Gala Day	1,305.00	1,410.00
Social Event - Other	1,896.50	17,598.00
Lucky Numbers	9,445.30	16,603.35
Raffles & Special Efforts	560.00	540.00
Entertainment Books	-75.00	788.00
Fundraising -General - Other	8,341.01	1,652.00
Key Deposits	200.91	80.00
	117,603.42	147,801.96
<b>Total Income</b>		
<b>Expense</b>		
Club Uniforms	4,400.00	4,758.06
<b>Membership Costs</b>	650.56	214.54
Affiliation costs	14,005.00	13,297.47
Flowers / Cards Etc	272.72	282.06
Bowls -Prizes - Other	15,035.64	17,228.28
Organised trip	2,257.20	2,475.90
Fundraising Expenses - Other	4,530.00	12,000.00
Coaching expenses	9,194.54	3,136.36
Kitchen Supplies	6,530.01	6,458.83
Printing, Stationery & Postage	1,929.85	2,667.57
Telephone & Internet	1,709.79	1,278.35
Advertising & Promotion	5,458.64	68.18
<b>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>		
R & M-Bowling Green	2,143.79	237.09
R & M-Equipment	1,136.54	1,093.37
R & M-Grounds	4,896.02	5,102.12
<b>Sundry Expenses</b>		
CATERING	750.91	85.41
BBQ'S	44.65	0.00
Sundry Expenses - Other	405.67	430.68
	75,351.53	70,814.27
<b>Total Expense</b>		
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	42,251.89	76,987.69
<b>Net Income</b>	42,251.89	76,987.69

**Comments:**

- 1 Membership-Affiliation fees have been included
- 2 Club sponsor details not included (Refer VSC AGM)
- 3 Clubhouse loan details not included(Refer VSC AGM)
- 4 Interest details not included(Refer VSC AGM)
- 5 West Green-Drainage costs not included(Refer VSC AGM)
- 6 Moama Trip and PROSHOT events not included in July 19-Feb 20 figures.

## PENNANT BOWLS

### Saturday Selection Panel Report for Season 2019\_20

Saturday pennant season featured **7 VSBC teams requiring 112 players each week** to fill our teams. Its pleasing to report that we were able to field that number each week despite a total of 254 “weekly outs” of regular players an average of 14 per week . To this end we are extremely grateful for our emergency players who stepped in certain weeks, often at short notice, to complete our teams.

The season itself saw our **Div 1 and Div 3** teams compete in finals with all other teams being very competitive. A tremendous effort was recorded by our Div 3 team to win their section and gain promotion to Div 2 next season. Our Div 1 team not only consolidated their place in Div 1 after gaining promotion from Div 2 last season, but won through to the Div 1 section final. The end result of the season means, pending player availability numbers, we will have teams in each of the Divisions 1 to 7 in season 20/21 which is a most acceptable outcome.

Much kudos for the club’s success goes to coach **Lloyd Iaccarino** whose untiring application to his coaching duties and disciplined approach to practice has been a mainstay in said success. It is with sadness we bid farewell to Lloyd as he pursues employment opportunity and it’s now beholding upon the club to maintain the competitive outlook going forward. Thankyou Lloyd – go well !

Thanks also to **Geoff Bryant** who assisted Lloyd with coaching duties when Lloyd was playing tournaments or suchlike. Also gratitude to my fellow Saturday selectors who have steadfastly maintained their focus on their selection definition. Farewell also and many thanks to selector **Andrew Ross** who leaves us for warmer climes and a beloved kayak! Thankyou Andrew.

Also thanks to those who acted as team managers, umpires, measurers and greens maintenance people through the season – our teams can’t function without you.

*Allan Lamb Chair Saturday Pennant*

### Midweek Pennant Report 2019/20 Season

This season was tough, very tough, in many cases our sides played against far more experienced players, however, to our members credit each game was fought out with true grit and determination. In such circumstances humour is frequently the best response and to our Team Managers, thank you for bringing humour to the fore in giving your weekly reports and finding many positives out of each game, and celebrating each win whether a rink win or the game with everybody. Well done.

To the two sides that played in the finals, congratulations on reaching those lofty heights. The **second side** who made it by the skin of their teeth on the last game of the season played at Warburton in a tight fought game, a credit to all who played in that side during the season as everybody contributed to that success of reaching the finals, unfortunately for us Warburton won the game. The **top side** deserved to be in the finals, finishing on top of the ladder gaining a home final, unfortunately they too were beaten by MCC in the first final.

At the start of the season it looked like we would field five sides, but just before the season started this was increased to six sides and each week six sides represented Vermont South Club to the best of their ability. Some sides relied heavily on our band of emergencies to whom our thanks go out to as without them, we could have been down up to six players and would have had to forfeit games.

Our thanks go out to the **Coaches** for running the Monday morning training sessions, Lloyd as senior coach who introduced numerous new skill activities and Audit requirements for senior side players. Our Greens Committee led by **Denis Quintal**, Umpires and Measurers led by **Jim Baker**, Team Managers, the volunteers who organised and cleaned up after our lunches each Tuesday.

To my fellow selectors, Di Agius, Barbara Carroll, Liz Henwood, Ed Benetti, Keith Horlock thank-you for accepting the challenge of being a selector and carrying out that role without fear or favour. It is a tough gig, we had some painful decisions to make which we knew would upset some players, to everyone this happened to, thank you for your understanding.

Next season, whenever it may start due to the current uncertainties with Covid-19 we should be in a position to field 5 maybe 6 sides next year, in Divisions 1 to 5. The marking of the cards by the Skips and Thirds proved to be a better system than previous assessments and was reviewed by the Selectors each week as were the game stats from the score cards.

No doubt some modifications to recording the information will be undertaken prior to next season. Special thanks go to **Helen Bancroft**, who for many years has been an unsung hero behind both Midweek and Saturday Pennant, producing game cards, recording game results, statistics and all computer data required to make the selectors job easier. Thank you, Helen you are such a trooper for doing all this work. Allan and I would have been lost without your support and guidance.

Good bowling everyone, although I won't be at VSC I will be checking the weekly results and maybe ring in at 3pm on a Tuesday to listen to the game reports.

**Andrew Ross Chair Midweek Pennant**

### **VSBC Night Pennant Season for 2019-2020**

The season started with sufficient members stating their desire to play or be an emergency to play in the coming year's night season to register **2 teams**. I had support from the VSBC committee and Ken George putting his hand up to help me out and manage the second team.

We were on our way with **20 permanents and 7 emergency** members. Ken and I knew it was at times going to be tough to select 24 members to fulfill the sides. Ken and I would like to thank the total of 40 members that helped by playing at some stage during the season.

If it wasn't for other members saying yes when asked to play it would have been difficult for the permanent night pennant players to play and enjoy the game with incomplete teams. The teams were evenly matched and both sides finished middle of the field in their respective sections.

It gave new bowlers a great introduction to the game of bowls, also bowling members who can't play any other time a chance to play and also for those die-hards another opportunity to play and mentor others.

Ken and I put two teams together for the club members who wanted to consistently play each week in a team and they all supported us by turning up and being competitive while enjoying each other's company. Over-all a successful a night pennant season

**Ron Short - Night Pennant Convenor**



## TOURNAMENT BOWLS

The year has passed very quickly, although I am not sure about the coming months, with the current virus restrictions in place.

The tournament committee ensured that the social bowling events for winter and summer proceeded as planned thanks to our convenors and we were satisfied that they were run in accordance within the Club's guidelines. I would like to thank all **the regular Convenors** for their commitment each week whilst sometimes unrecognised theirs is an important role and very much appreciated, Many thanks to all.

While the numbers of weekend socials have declined over the years due to a lack of interest in further bowling beyond pennant games, the events which were held were well attended and were enjoyed by members. I would take this opportunity to acknowledge the work and commitment of the committee members. Their willingness and support was greatly appreciated.

I wish the incoming committee every success in the forthcoming year. It will be their responsibility with the VSBC Committee to determine the dates for presentation night, which was postponed due to COVID-19, and other events as appropriate given the circumstances.

The major **club championships** were run and won (with Max figuring prominently and setting us all great standards in several different events). I hope that all participants enjoyed the respective events. Congratulations to all the winners. The committee would like to encourage a greater number to participate in these events. To the current committee members who ran these championships, many thanks.

Some very close matches took place in all our club championship events and the majority of the finals went right down to the wire. We did attempt this year to provide a more systematic handicap system based on Pennant and State ranging divisions. However the Committee retains discretion to adjust the outcomes reflecting individual abilities.

Many thanks to the members of the Tournament Committee who acted as **Event Convenors, Markers, and Umpires** for these events.

**Ken Barnhill - Chair Tournament Committee.**



## **VSBC Club Championships**

### ***Men's singles***

This trophy was donated by Dorothy and Sam Patterson. Sam was the president of the men's section for our first season and is remembered for the tireless efforts in coaching new bowlers.

<b><u>Winner</u></b>	<b>Max Goldsmith</b>
<b><u>Runner up</u></b>	<b>John Temple</b>

### ***Ladies Singles***

The trophy was donated by Bev and Ken Harvey. Bev was the first president of the ladies section 1994 to 1996 and won the ladies singles in 956/96.

<b><u>Winner</u></b>	<b>Angela Bonutto</b>
<b><u>Runner Up</u></b>	<b>Lorraine Bennett</b>

### ***Men's Pairs.***

This trophy was provided by Bev Harvey in memory of her husband Ken who was the inaugural secretary of the men's division.

<b><u>Winners</u></b>	<b>Lloyd Iaccarino and Max Goldsmith</b>
<b><u>Runners Up</u></b>	<b>Joe Iaccarino and Mal Walker</b>

### ***Ladies Pairs***

The ladies pairs trophy was donated in 2001 by Bill Jewell in memory of his wife Norma who was a foundation member. Norma was a member at Bennetswood joining our club in 1994.

<b><u>Winners</u></b>	<b>Sue Sharpe and Loraine Bennett</b>
<b><u>Runners Up</u></b>	<b>Barbara Carroll and Mary Farley</b>

### ***Mixed Pairs***

When the club started there were a number of people from other clubs who assisted. One of these was Graeme Leggo from Glen Waverly who, together with Sam Patterson coached new bowlers. Graeme was a member of both clubs and he donated the trophy for the mixed pairs.

<b><u>Winners</u></b>	<b>Mary Farley and Peter Ballam</b>
<b><u>Runners Up</u></b>	<b>Angela Bonutto and Ken Barnhill</b>

### ***100 up (Open)***

<b><u>Winner</u></b>	<b>Max Goldsmith</b>
<b><u>Runner up</u></b>	<b>Graeme Buntrock</b>

### ***Novice Championship (Open)***

The novice Singles was first played in 2004/05. It is pleasing to note that this is always well supported. The event was instigated and the trophy donated by Jock Halley.

<b><u>Winner</u></b>	<b>Pam Janssen</b>
<b><u>Runner Up</u></b>	<b>Joe Lui</b>

### ***President's Handicap (Open)***

<b><u>Winner</u></b>	<b>Max Goldsmith</b>
<b><u>Runner Up</u></b>	<b>Ken Barnhill</b>

## SOCIAL BOWLS

The conveners of our social bowls events have all worked very hard to ensure we offer a full range of options to our members. It is not an easy task to co-ordinate social bowls each week, especially when members quite often turn up without putting their names down (or fail to turn up at all) and it requires a fair amount of juggling to make sure people get a game. Numbers have varied throughout the year with competing events elsewhere and increasing demand to fill pennant rosters. The summer season was very hot, and some events were cancelled due to heat restrictions and a concern for player welfare..

### Monday (Winter)

Open nominated pairs run again by Mal Walker. This 2-4-2 format remains very popular and with some grass greens unavailable it attracts players from other clubs, which also brings funds into our VSBC whilst many of our own members are away travelling in warmer locations.

### Tuesday (Winter)

Mixed social bowls again run by Pat and David Russell. We are pleased to see David return from a recent health concern. This event does assist with some overflow from Monday bowls. A regular group put their names down to play on Tuesday and support this excellent social event.

### Wednesday

Open nominated triples. The summer social season was run very successfully by Mary Farley and Eddie Hron extending an option for players not involved in Tuesday pennant. An extended winter season normally involving external guest teams is held over in view of current Covid restrictions.

### Wednesday Evening

Social bowls are normally run by organisers Susan Blanchard and Ken George giving bowlers who may still be working an excellent opportunity to enjoy a game in the evenings. New bowlers are especially made welcome. Again on hold in view of Virus restrictions. It is pleasing to note Sue Blanchard is recovering from her recent illness.

### Thursday

Run by Ray Spelman Thursday bowls is an excellent opportunity for all bowlers, especially new bowlers to play in a relaxed but competitive event. In recent years, most new bowlers start their career playing on Thursday and it is an excellent day to meet club members and play bowls in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

### Saturday (Winter)

Mixed Social bowls has been run by members of the tournament committee on a rotational basis. Future events will depend on demand after Virus restrictions are lifted.

## MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT

Considerable effort is required to ensure our bowling numbers are maintained at high levels. Many clubs have suffered a decline in recent years with a general reduction in interest from the community for all organised sports. Our major recruiting efforts include the annual “Try Bowls” period and the continuing “Jack Attack” series. These events depend on the willing assistance of a regular band of volunteers. The Club has now launched addition categories of social membership and low cost entry schemes to assist with recruiting.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As at 29 February 2020

	Tennis	Bowls	Darts	Non Playing	Total	
Adult	53	154	24		231	Adult
Veteran	1	56			57	Veteran
Student	8	2			10	Student
Junior	60				60	Junior
Hot-Shot Junior	25				25	Hot-Shot Junior
Life	1	9		8	18	Life
Non-Affiliated	15	12			27	Non-Affiliated
Non-Playing				23	23	Non-Playing
Family	2				2	Family
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

- NOTES:**
1. Multi-sport members are included in each sport.
  2. Junior Tennis Membership includes those who joined up under Family memberships.