



VERMONT SOUTH BOWLING CLUB
 (A Section of Vermont South Club Inc. Reg No. A0006707Z)

30th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REPORTS

MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of 29th AGM Minutes – April 2023
3. Presentation and Acceptance of Annual Reports
4. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members
5. Election of Sub-Committees and Supporting Positions
6. General Business
 - Our Future
 - Local Legend
 - Green Fees
7. Next Annual General Meeting Date

SEASON 2023/2024 ANNUAL REPORTS (FOLLOW)

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Bowls Section Chairperson – Di Agius

Another AGM approaches and as I write my report it gives me the opportunity to reflect not only on this last year but the three years I have been Chairperson of the Bowls section. Are we in a good place, bloody oath we are!!! The future is exciting!!!

By the time you read this report we will be in our renovated clubrooms and won't we all be happy about being back in our home venue. The clubroom looks fantastic and once we get a bit more work completed in the kitchen we will have lots of opportunities open up for more services to members and for community use to support our future viability. On behalf of the bowls section, I thank the Tennis section for sharing their clubroom with us enabling us to keep operating. They have been supportive and accommodating. I also thank the VSC for their support and hard work, especially Ken George who has worked on the extension project night and day to get us to where we are today.

The culture of our club continues to thrive with our strong spirit of moving forward together - the social culture, the friendships, the inclusiveness, the camaraderie and our hunger for competitive success has shone through this year. So much so that our success in Pennant has been fantastic.....what a difference a year can make.

The selectors, our coaches (led by our Head Coach) and the bowls committee met and set goals for the upcoming Pennant season, earlier this year –

1. Vermont South Bowls Club wins the majority of games to make finals;
2. Everyone in the club to be involved in driving a culture of positivity and
3. The implementation of a club coaching program.

We had a “must achieve” goal of getting the Saturday 2nd team promoted to third division.

It is because of our planning, implementation and the dedication and passion of our players that we have achieved success in Pennant with 6 of our teams across Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday competing in finals. In fact, we not only achieved getting our second side promoted, we also had fantastic success with our first team winning the section grand final against Ringwood and are now promoted to first division. The good news keeps coming with us maintaining our first division status in mid-week competition.

I want to thank our Selection panels and Head Coach, John Strybosch, for their hard work and the number of hours committed to a very difficult responsibility and commend them for their efforts this year in being an integral part of our Pennant results. Congratulations to our coaches, selectors and players for a great Pennant season. I set the challenge for next year to maintain our position in Division 1 in both Saturday and Mid-week Pennant.

This success has been achieved by the contribution of our Greens team also, who are committed to keeping our greens in top class condition each and every year. Visitors to our club always comment on the magnificent condition of our greens. Thanks Greens team.

I congratulate all those players that entered our Club, Region and State championships. There is no better experience to develop your game to its potential and to get to know other players in the bowls community. It is amazing what you can learn.

Our social bowls program continues with strong numbers being involved across Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays depending on whether it is winter or summer season.

We ran the inaugural Balmoral Cup this year which was a huge success and Balmoral have agreed to sponsor the competition again this year with one round actually being held at Balmoral. Though I understand the entry conditions will be a little stricter and will be open to outside clubs – competition on!!!

Monday pairs run by Mal will be sponsored by Kieser, one of our major sponsors and will be called “Kieser Mondays”, again open to outside entries.

We must recognise the great work being done by our sponsorship committee led by Spiro Agius in creating relationships and involving sponsors in many aspects of the club including tournaments and social programs, as well as Jack Attack.

Our social programs are continually developing and on behalf of the Bowls Committee, we thank all of the convenors involved, who provide the opportunity for so much enjoyment for our members.

Our Action Plan has been updated and distributed to members detailing our planning and progress on an ongoing basis. It is very important for the club to look to the future and determine our goals and strategies for the growth and success of the club.

This has been another year where the bowls committee have been very appreciative of the support they have received in representing the members. I personally want to thank all the volunteers that have undertaken the roles in committees and support positions. Without you all we would not be here, you are the heartbeat of our club and I am so proud of how you are so passionate, enthusiastic and energetic in contributing to the operational requirements of the club. But it is not only that, it is because of you that we have the culture that we do and why we are all so proud to be members of Vermont South Bowls Club. Collectively, we are a team and it is because everyone is so committed to their positions and responsibilities that we are thriving and can look forward positively to a good future. However, when you look at the list of roles and responsibilities handed out to you at the AGM you will see that it takes an enormous group of people to keep this club alive. My concern is that if we drop the ball on any of our activities then we will head down a path like so many other clubs and start to struggle. It could be the start of the demise of our club. We cannot let that happen; therefore, I encourage everyone to be involved in the running of our club in any capacity you can manage. If there are still vacant positions when you read the list of volunteer roles please consider contributing in some way.

We have recruited another 18 members since our last AGM. They have joined via a number of avenues – Jack Attack (thanks to John Temple and his team); Try bowls and Barefoot bowls (thanks to Ken George and Mike Petty); via phone enquiries; member referrals and transfer from other clubs. This demonstrates that no matter where people connect with our club they are impressed enough to want to join. We should be proud of how we showcase ourselves and our activities. I thank all of our members again for the way they represent our club. Most clubs would be envious of our recruitment numbers but the work must go on.

We continue to keep you up to date as much as possible via eNews (thanks to John Temple); our committee minutes; our action plan, convenor running sheets, social media (thanks to Pam Janssen); and our handbook (thanks to Ray Evans).

To my committee, who have worked hard for another year and are so committed to the members Anne Staley, Mike Petty, John Strybosch, Pam Barnhill, Sharon Hedrick, Rhona Bastiani, Jann Laurence and John Ispanovic– thanks does not seem enough for the enormous support you provide to me and the extraordinary effort you make on behalf of this club.

Go Vermont South!!

Membership Information – Graeme Durrant

During the year we welcomed the following bowlers who transferred from other bowls clubs – Teresa Bowden, Craig Anderson, Pearl Barratt, Judy Prentice, David Fisher and Carol Fisher.

We have also welcomed another 11 new bowlers to our club this year - Bruce Hopcroft; Terry McConnell, Bruce Will, Ken Sanford, Paul O'Brien, Hazel Stokes, John Tainsh, Tony McCardle, Karen McCardle, Robbert Hannam and Tony Slater. These new members came from our Try-Bowls efforts, our Barefoot bowls on Wednesday evenings, our Jack Attack program, the Whitehorse Council Open Day and some personal references.

During the year we farewelled the following bowlers who transferred to other clubs – Diane Tew and David Dressing. We thank them for their contributions to the club during their time with us and we wish them well at their new clubs.

Sadly six of our bowls members passed away during this 2023/24 season, Bruce May, Colin Jeffery, Len Way, Jean Comte, Alby Dibbs and John Van West.

Two bowls members elected to maintain contact with the club by electing to become “Friends of Vermont South” members rather than full affiliated members.

Sixteen bowls members did not renew their membership with the club this year.

With the membership non-renewals, clearances to other clubs and transfers to the “FOVS” category, our current bowls membership is now at 189 affiliated bowlers, just down from the 190 affiliates at the previous AGM in April 2023.

A total of 104 members bowled in Weekend pennant and a total of 72 members bowled in Midweek pennant. These figures are slightly down from the previous year, with one less team being entered for both Saturday and Tuesday pennant and we thank all of those emergencies who filled in during the year.

We also had a total of 43 members who bowled in the increasingly popular 7-a-side Thursday morning competition run by Bowls Victoria, up from 29 members in 2022/23.

We also had a total of 38 members playing in the two teams that we entered in the ERBR Tuesday night pennant competition.

A total of 65 members did not play either weekend, midweek pennant or night pennant.

We currently have 31 members who are in our Social Bowlers category, either just learning to bowl or playing in our Thursday social bowls competition or just not bowling due to health issues.

The following long-term members did not renew their affiliated membership this year, but all have given valuable service to our club over the past 10-20 years. We thank them for their wonderful contributions to our bowls club.

Allan Lamb: Allan joined the bowls club on 26/6/2008 and he played 297 Saturday pennant games. He served on the Saturday Selection committee for ten years, the last seven of which he was the chairperson. Allan won the Novice club championship in 2008/09 in his first year of bowls at the club. Later Allan went on to win the men's singles club championship in 2011/12 and he was a runner up in 2013/14. He also won the men's pairs championship with Geoff Bryant in 2012/13. He was a member of the winning Division 2 grand final team in season 2018/19. He was awarded a meritorious service award in 2021 for his valuable contribution to the bowls club.

We sincerely thank Allan for his service to the Vermont South Bowling club.

Paul Dunn: Paul joined the bowls club on 30/1/2002 and he played 233 Saturday pennant games and 171 Tuesday pennant games. He served on the Saturday Selection committee for seven years. During his time on the selection committee he took on the role of compiling and updating the number of Saturday and Tuesday pennant games played by every club member.

Paul is still compiling and updating the number of games played by each player (which now includes Thursday 7-a-side games), a wonderful effort considering he is no longer an active bowler due to his health issues.

We sincerely thank Paul for his service to the Vermont South Bowling club.

Bryan Woods: Bryan played 222 Saturday pennant games in his time with the club. He was one of the club's foundation members, joining in 1994, a membership that lasted 29 years. His wife Betty also joined the club in 1994 and she served on both the Tournament and Tuesday VLBA Selection committee's. Bryan joined the greens maintenance team in 1994 and when Roy White had his "shed" accident, Bryan took over as the green's director, serving from 1995 until 2003.

Bryan has not played pennant bowls for the past 8-9 years, but he enjoyed Wednesday social bowls, playing right up until COVID interrupted our bowls in 2020. Along with Alby Dibbs and Gordon Nevard, after they retired from pennant bowls, the trio used to come along on Saturday afternoons to watch the firsts and seconds play pennant and give subtle hints on our progress during the games.

We sincerely thank Bryan for his service to the Vermont South Bowling club.

Bryan Power: Brian joined the bowls club on 17/01/2013 and he played 82 Saturday pennant games as well as many Tuesday night pennant games.

Megan Ware: Megan joined the bowls club on 8/06/2018 and she played 66 Saturday and 70 Tuesday pennant games. She took on the role of co-ordinating the yearly trip away to the Murray River area (Echuca and Moama) in 2020.

The following milestone games were celebrated during the season:

600 games – Ian Heatley

500 games – Trevor Holland, Jock Halley, Ron Vogele

400 games – Joy Smith, Les Stackpoole, Peter Ballam, Chris Holland

300 games – Wyn McNamara, Grahame Jackson, Mal Walker, Jan Daphne

200 games – Ron Short, Tony Bennett

Membership and Recruitment - Graeme Durrant

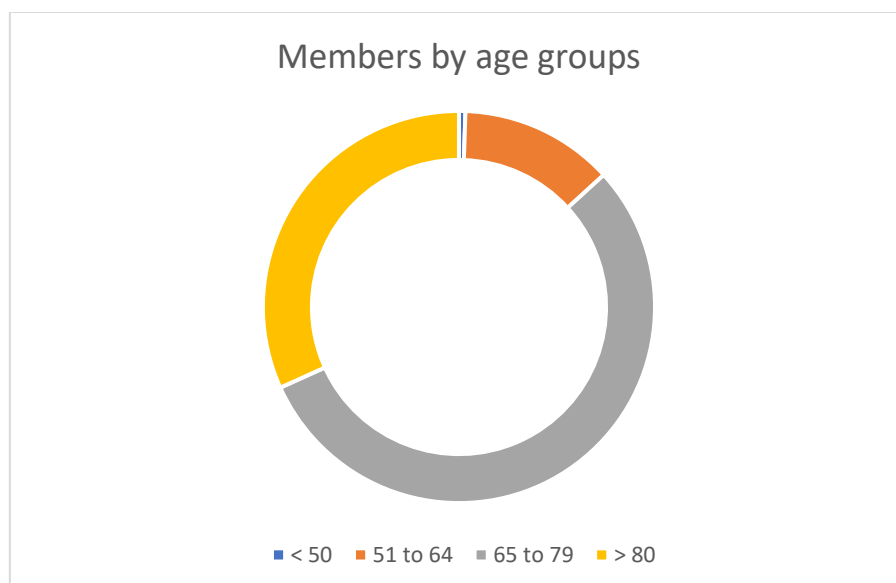
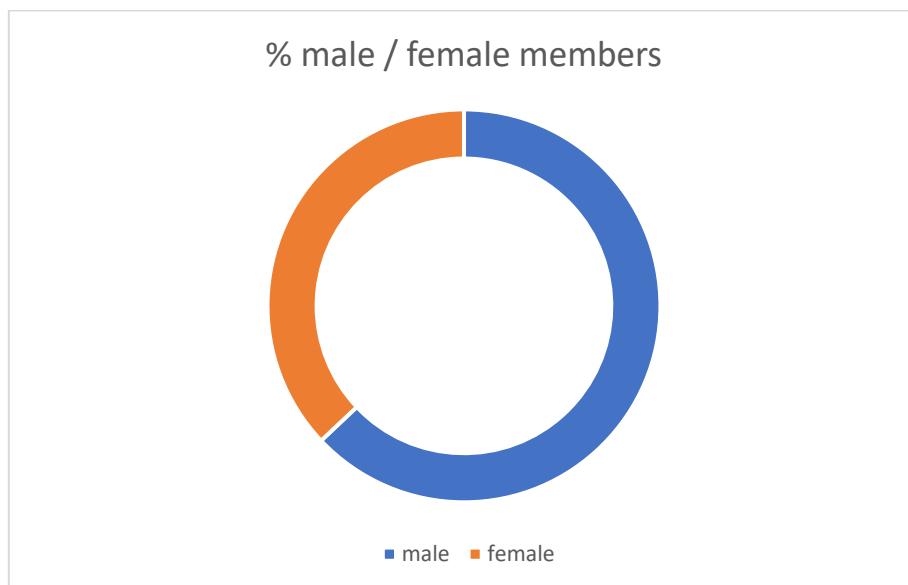
Considerable effort is required to ensure our bowling numbers are maintained at high levels. Many clubs have suffered a decline in recent years with a general reduction in interest from the community for all organised sports.

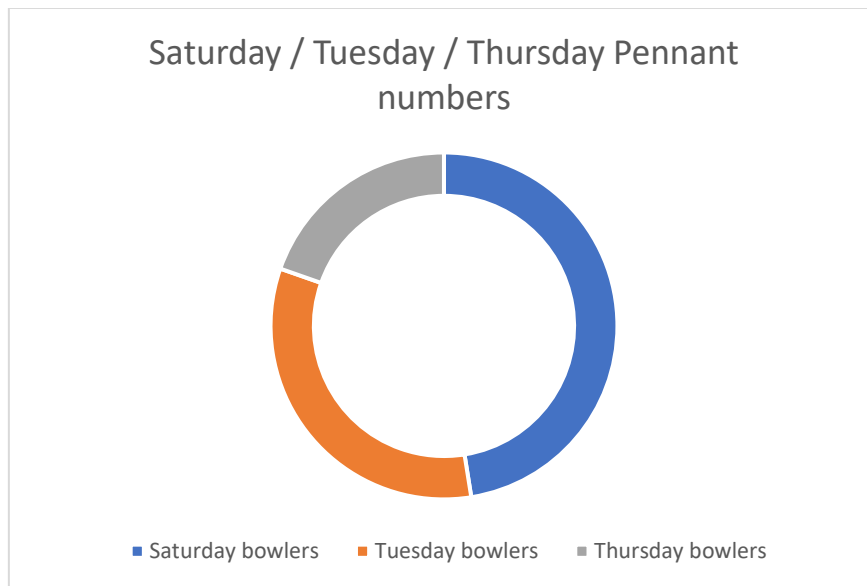
Our major recruiting efforts include the annual "Try Bowls" period, our barefoot bowls program on Wednesday evenings and the continuing "Jack Attack" series which now has 22-24 competing teams. These events depend on the willing assistance of a regular band of volunteers.

With the membership non-renewals in October 2023 and transfers to the "FOVS" category, our current bowls membership is now at **189 affiliated bowlers**.

Of these members, 37% are female bowlers and 34% are over 80 years of age (our veterans membership category).

See graphs below for a pictorial representation of our memberships.





Head Coach - John Strybosch

Two years ago, on taking up my appointment as Head Coach, I made the following statement:

“You don’t have to be a Premier Club, but you must be a strong and vibrant Club.”

So, what makes a strong Club? Good leadership and you, the loyal members. You all love this Club and your heart and soul are in this Club showing your willingness and commitment to serve this Club and care for one another. Working and playing hard and of course, training!

Did I just mention training?

Attendance at training has been slightly disappointing, more so on Thursdays than Mondays. However, that may be completely understandable and justified due to work, family commitments, health and mainly, I believe, to the plethora of bowls that is available and is played in any given week. For instance: Monday skills and drills; Tuesday Pennant; Tuesday night Pennant; Wednesday social; Jack Attack; Thursday Pennant; Thursday social; Thursday training; Saturday Pennant. On top of all that we have Club and Regional Championship events and Tournaments. A lot of bowls.

In some ways this is good, because I believe match practice is one of the best methods of training and improving your bowls, but I have stressed throughout that to do so you must assess and honestly judge every game as to your performance, taking particular note of any flaws in your performance and when necessary, seek the assistance of a coach.

I have also instigated a self-assessment card system whereby members keeping records can see their progress and some members took up this offer. I have many cards left and it’s not too late to take up the offer. Utilise them through your winter games or personal practice. I have mainly tried to instil in all a sense of self belief and belief in your team mates and your Club. Results this year go to show that many of you took all this on board. It has been a successful year, mainly due to your commitment and dedication to the Club.

Much of our success is due to our strong team of coaches and I wish to express my thanks and gratitude to them all, and a very special thanks to our co-ordinator of Club Coaches, Geoff Bryant, who has done an extraordinary job in allocating coaches to our new bowlers and running

the Monday morning Skills and Drills sessions. Club Coaches, well done and thank you, you made my task easier.

As you are all now most probably aware, I will not be taking on the role of Head Club Coach again. I wish to give my heartfelt thanks to all for your support and commitment. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve you.

Thank you and God Bless.

Weekend Pennant – Mary Farley

We fielded 5 teams - Division 2, 4, 5, 6 & 7 - this season requiring 80 bowlers every week from our list of 92 committed bowlers. We were reticent to look at including a 12-a-side team and calling on the same emergency players every week. We chose to go with the 5 teams and risk having to rotate players out every week. We rotated only once for the year!! By the end of the season we only had 84 players but that included a number of players recovering from illness or surgeries.

This year again we had an amazing list of emergencies, not so much in number but so obliging and understanding of our situation. We also turned to midweek pennant players to help - thank you also. We had 43 places to be filled by emergencies throughout the season - and the winners are Joan Heatley and John Deegan - each helped out 8 times. Amazing. Please just go on the permanent list next season..... Thank you so much to our emergencies, without you we wouldn't have been able to get all our teams on the green every week.

Hope you feel, like me, that the club has had a very successful season. It's a very encouraging sign for next season that we will again be very competitive.

Side 1 had a great season winning the section flag and being promoted to Division 1 for next season. Congratulations to everyone who played in this side this season you have contributed to this amazing result.

Side 2 came so close to winning the section flag but still won promotion to Division 3 next season. Congratulations to this side for a great season.

Side 3 were up with 12 ends to play in a very exciting game against Heathmont but lost their final by 6 shots. They have had a very good season and we look forward to them going further in finals next season. Congratulations on your year.

Side 4 had a thrilling win in their first final but came up against a strong team in their 2nd final. They were in the top 4 all season, very encouraging sign for next season. Congratulations on a very good season.

Side 5. This is the side which is most affected every week with players being unavailable and numerous changes being made. It's very difficult to have stability, rink compatibility and consistency under those circumstances. They were up against sides of a higher level all season. They found themselves in the top 4 before Christmas but couldn't hold on. We thank you for your patience and perseverance throughout the season.

The excitement around the club during finals time was amazing. The Vermont South cheer squad was out in force. We are very proud of the players and thank you for the support of the selection committee and our decisions this season.

Thank you to everyone who does their “bit” to help this club function day in day out. The more people involved the easier it is for all. Thank you to the greens staff, the coaches, umpires, measurers, kitchen staff, bar staff, weekly duty rinks, bowls link and team managers. Without everyone’s contribution we wouldn’t be able to field teams for pennant.

I would like to thank my fellow selectors Denis Quintal, Spiro Agius, Rob Graham and Derek Hale for all their support and hard work, not only at the selection table, but all the work that gets done behind the scenes.

Thank you to John Strybosch for his assistance and support and for all he’s done at a coaching level for the club.

CONGRATULATIONS VERMONT SOUTH FOR A SUCCESSFUL WEEKEND PENNANT SEASON.

Midweek Pennant (Tuesday) – Derek Hale

VSC entered 4 sides in Midweek Bowls Pennant season, reaching a decision to drop Side 5 prior to pennant season due to a shortage of intending players.

As the season commenced a number of players indicated their desire to play pennant resulting in the necessity of VSC Selectors to rotate these excess players accordingly. As a result this created a selection challenge weekly with several players required to be rotated out on more than one occasion for various reasons.

A special thank you to all those rotated players for your understanding, it was greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to Side 1 reaching Midweek Pennant Finals.

Our Second, Third and Fourth Midweek sides all produced some excellent results overall. However they found the competition players this season were of a lot higher standard than previously. This made reaching finals a far larger task.

Side 1 Midweek finished the season in third position being an excellent result despite several key players becoming unavailable during the season. Side 1 played in the elimination final only to go down to Lilydale who they had beaten both times during the pennant season by only 4 shots. It was an exciting game for players and spectators watching. Congratulations to all players involved you should feel very proud of your achievements.

Side 2 Midweek came up against very strong competition all season and finished on the bottom of the ladder and should find the competition easier and more enjoyable next season. It was most pleasing to have some newer younger bowlers given the opportunity this season. They displayed their skill playing at a higher level ensuring ongoing future success.

Side 3 Midweek were unlucky missing finals by 1 point only. This was due to having their second last game against bottom team Yarra Junction abandoned due to being a Total Fire Ban, this resulted in shared points. The team overall however had a pleasing season and were competitive in almost all games. Also there were a number of new bowlers to take on challenges and develop their skills further.

Side 4 Midweek had a difficult playing effort all season with constant changes due to weekly rotation ending the season in seventh position and only one game outside of the finals.

Some weeks Midweek Selectors struggled to find enough players to fill a team due to health issues.

Both the feeling and attitude in the club was mostly positive this season as selectors tried to keep teams consistent wherever possible. This was not always possible with players being unavailable.

I trust all bowlers have enjoyed the season of challenge and friendship and having had a good time while bowling weekly. We look forward to seeing you back bowling next pennant season.

A huge thank you to all those groups that support the club to be able to field teams in Pennant competition: the greens staff, the coaches, umpires, measurers, kitchen staff, bar staff, weekly duty rinks, bowls link and team managers. Your support and contribution is vital for our teams to achieve success in pennant as success on the green brings new members to our club.

Special thanks to the selection team, Pat Andrew, Graeme Buntrock, Barbara Carroll, John Deegan, Gillian Horlock and John Strybosch as Coach for their support, dedicated hard work on game day and input at the selection table weekly.

Midweek Pennant (Thursday) – Di Agius

The Thursday Pennant competition was a 10 week season this year with finals. It seems that Bowls Vic have not settled on a format as it has changed every season since its introduction. We had over 28 players express they would like to play Thursday 7s which enabled us to enter 4 teams into this competition.

It was a difficult season for every team, there was the travel outside our region, unavailability of players and the fact that we were up against Saturday Division 1 players, most of the time, who were using Thursdays as their game practice. It was also hard to catch up with everyone as we often went straight home after games. Team 4 finished 4th after being defeated in the elimination final.

I asked the players to meet after the last game, to obtain feedback about how they felt the season went. A lot of valuable information was provided for the bowls committee to consider in determining our involvement in this competition next season.

Despite the results, all of the Thursday 7s players learnt a lot out of this competition, so all goes well for how we approach it next season. A big thank you to all Thursday 7 players for your commitment to the game and for representing our club so well.

Weekend and Midweek Pennant Summary - Graeme Durrant

Saturday Team 1 – Division 2 Section 4	Won 8, Lost 4, Washout 1, Draw 1 - Finished 2 nd Won Sectional Semi-Final against Mitcham 2 (84-80) Won Sectional Grand Final against Ringwood 1 (96-81) Lost Divisional Quarter Final against Narre Warren 1 (64–81) PROMOTED to Division 1
Saturday Team 2 – Division 4 Section 5	Won 9, Lost 3, Washout 2 – Finished 1 st Won Sectional Semi-Final against Ringwood 2 (90-67) Lost Sectional Grand Final against Healesville 1 (68-72) PROMOTED to Division 3
Saturday Team 3 – Division 5. Section 5	Won 9, Lost 4, Washout 1 – Finished 3 rd Lost Sectional Elimination against Heathmont 5 (77-83)
Saturday Team 4 – Division 6 Section 5	Won 7, Lost 5, Washout 2 - Finished 3 rd Won Sectional Elimination against Glen Eira McKinnon 2 (72-67) Lost Sectional Preliminary Final against Moorabbin 3 (62-98)
Saturday Team 5 – Division 7SE Section 2	Won 3, Lost 8, Washout 2, Draw 1 - Finished 8 th

Tuesday Team 1 – Division1. Section 3	Won 7, Lost 5, Washout 1, Draw 1 - Finished 3 rd Lost Sectional Elimination Final to Lilydale 1 (56-60)
Tuesday Team 2 – Division 3. Section 4	Won 4, Lost 10 - Finished 7 th
Tuesday Team 3 – Division 4. Section 6	Won 5, Lost 8, Draw 1 – Finished 5 th
Tuesday Team 4 – Division 5. Section 4	Won 6, Lost 8 - Finished 7 th

Thursday 7-a-side Team 1 – Division1, Section 1	Won 1, Lost 8, Draw 1 - Finished 6 th
Thursday 7-a-side Team 2 - Division1, Section 5	Won 1, Lost 9 - Finished 6 th
Thursday 7-a-side Team 3 - Division1, Section 3	Won 2, Lost 8 - Finished 5 th
Thursday 7-a-side Team 4 - Division 1, Section 2	Won 4, Lost 6 - Finished 4 th Lost Sectional Semi-Final against Coatesville 1 (26-68)

ERBR Tuesday Night Pennant Team 1 – Section 1	Won 3, Lost 6, Washout 1 - Finished 5 th
ERBR Tuesday Night Pennant Team 2 - Section 2	Won 4, Lost 5, Washout 1 - Finished 5 th

BowlsLink

Many thanks to my team of helpers who entered the teams and updated the home side results on a weekly basis for the Saturday, Tuesday, Tuesday night and Thursday pennant teams this year.

Thanks go to Ken George, John Strybosch, Mike Petty, Rick Carver, John Ispanovic, Jim Cull, Ron Short, Di Agius and Grahame Jackson. On a Tuesday night Phil Staley and Ron Short completed the task for us. Special mention to Grahame Jackson who entered many Tuesday teams and results and just about all of the Thursday 7-a-side teams and results.

This year the Bowls committee gave me approval to use BowlsLink for our own internal club championships. The entrants and the blind draw were completed via BowlsLink and all of our bowls members were able to follow the results and progress of all of our club championships on the BowlsLink results portal (either on their mobile phones with the Bowls Now App, or from the website directly to the portal).

Links to these draws and results were published periodically in our eNews and I copied relevant draws and results and posted them in the greenhouse. I do hope that club members appreciated the way that our championship results were presented this year.

We also included the two seasons of Jack Attack on the BowlsLink for the benefit of those participating, including the weekly ladder. Now we are using BowlsLink for our Ladies Day Tournament on Sunday 24 May.

All BowlsLink completed match results for Vermont South BC (pennant and championships) can be viewed on the BowlsLink results Portal.

Greens Report – John Ispanovich

This year has been a challenging year with the club house renovations impacting on access to the West green.

I would like to sincerely acknowledge and thank the dedicated team whose knowledge and hard work week in and week out provide for the pristine surface the members enjoy for pennant and social bowls.

Well done fellows, without your support, willingness and good-natured banter the prospect of those early morning starts twice a week is much less appealing.

The primary goal of the team is to minimise wear and tear of the greens surfaces and maintain their longevity to the highest possible standards.

Some of these tasks include:

- Grooming of the surface of both greens to remove microscopic debris and lift the weave.
- Bi-annual scarification of both greens to provide a deeper clean and restore the surface in preparation for the pennant season.
- Surface line making maintenance.
- Irrigation and drainage maintenance.
- Greens surround maintenance and repairs.
- Surface treatment for moss, fungus and weeds.

Future Challenges:

The East Green

The existing surface will require replacing within 3 - 5 years, this project will require a dedicated budget which needs to include a revised drainage plan.

The West Green

Recent weather conditions have caused concern regarding the drainage of the west green and if the construction work has impacted on water flow and drainage.

Tournament – Mike Petty

The 2023 to 2024 Bowling season was a reasonable year for the VSBC in regard to tournaments.

We held and ran the KCL Super 4s tournament last April and it was a great success. So much so, KCL has sponsored again this year and increased their sponsorship to 100% of the prize money. It would not have been the great success it was without the enthusiastic support of our volunteers who managed the tournament so professionally.

The VSBC through John Strybosch also ran the Balmoral Challenge for VSC members. A handicapped competition sponsored by our club sponsor Balmoral, that was so successful it has been expanded this year to include other clubs including Premiership bowlers.

The Club Championships were well supported, although more participation from club members is encouraged. They are the litmus test of good clubs.

This has all been achieved in a season where we were locked out of our own clubrooms due to extension upgrades and while sharing the tennis clubroom. A great achievement. The tournaments help bring profile, money and by extension, success to our great club.

Thanks to everyone involved, particularly John Strybosch who drove all of these events.

Now we are in our new clubroom, we are expanding our tournaments to include a Ladies Day with players from other clubs invited.

We look forward to another successful Tournament season at the Vermont South Club in 2024/25.

Social Bowls Program – Rhona Bastiani

Our social bowls program for the year has been well attended by 3,940 bowlers over winter and summer. We are so fortunate to have convenors volunteering to run our social competitions over a number of days of the week – Wednesday (day and night) and Thursday in Summer, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday ladies and Saturday in Winter.

The social bowls programs are very popular with our members...in fact we have special commentary from one of our newer members, Rhona Bastiani about Wednesday bowls. "Having had the privilege of being part of the Wednesday Social Bowling group over the last 12 months, I want to say a huge thank you to the convenors, Peter Ballam, Rob Graham, Alan Rolfe

and Mal Walker. These gentlemen have kept the Wednesday social attendees completely entertained and ensured club information was imparted each and every week.

The Trivia sessions kept our minds active. The lucky raffle draws gave us the opportunity to dine at the Dandenong or Wantirna clubs as well as assisting with additions to our private wine collections.

The participation numbers for the Wednesday social events including the Balmoral Cup were excellent. These events often brought bowlers from other clubs enabling them to enjoy the activities at the Vermont South Bowls club. Credit to the conveners for their organisational skills and their encouragement for all to participate, no matter what level the bowler had reached.

And that in summary is what our club is all about!!!

Thank you to the convenors over the past year – Mal Walker, Rob Graham, Peter Ballam, Alan Rolfe, Paul Drew, John Strybosch, Di Agius, Ray Spelman, Leanne Bourke, Sue Morgan, Ken George, Mike Petty and all support helpers.

Jack Attack – John Temple

Jack Attack continues to grow at our Club. For the last two seasons we have hosted a record 22 teams comprising around 80 regular players.

We conduct two 6-week seasons per year using both greens. Jack Attack is a team-based, 2-bowl triples competition that runs for about 2 hours on Wednesday evenings during daylight saving times. Team handicaps are applied to help even out the competition.

Teams comprise mainly new bowlers but one registered bowler is allowed per team to support mentoring of new players and to allow bowls members to play with their family. Other teams are made up of mates, families, VSC sponsors, golfers, tennis and darts players to name just a few. We have a wide range of ages from teenagers to eighty-year-olds with an even mix of genders.

There is an overall atmosphere of fun with music playing and enthusiastic players enjoying refreshments and nibbles greenside. After the game, pizzas are enjoyed over a few more refreshments along with impassioned chit-chat about the games just completed.

Jack Attack has been running with basically the same loyal team of volunteers since 2017. Thanks to Mary Farley, Trevor Holland, Elaine Kendler, Alan Rolfe and Mal Walker, we are providing a popular, vibrant bowls product that generates significant income and gives our Club positive exposure to the wider community. Furthermore, many Jack Attack graduates are now active bowlers and members of our Club. Thank you all for making our Jack Attack program so successful.

Region Championships - Graeme Durrant

Eastern Ranges Region Championships - Entries 2023/2024

Event	Players
Men's 60+ Pairs	Ron Short/David Fisher – Semi-Finalists John Strybosch/Phil Staley – Round 3
Women's 60+ Pairs	Teresa Bowden/Linda Isted (Croydon) – Semi-Finalists
Women's 60+ Singles	Not Yet Completed
Mixed Pairs	Craig Anderson/Lee Ann Atkinson (Heathmont) - Round 1 Warren Strybosch/Mary Farley – Round 2 Phil Staley/Anne Staley – Round 2
Men's Novice Singles	Roy Arscott – Round 1, Finished 2 nd in Round Robin Section 8
Men's Pairs	Ken Barnhill (Heathmont)/Rick Carver – Round 1 John Strybosch/Warren Strybosch – Round 1
Men's Singles	Ron Short – Round 1, Finished 2 nd in Round Robin Section 3 Phil Staley – Finals Round 1, Finished 1 st in Round Robin Section 9
Men's Fours	Phil Staley/John Strybosch/Warren Strybosch/Ron Short – Round 1 Grahame Jackson, Glen Goury (Heathmont), Rick Carver, Ken Barnhill (Heathmont) – Round 2
Men's Champ/Champ	Denis Quintal – Round 1
Women's Champ/Champ	Di Agius – Round 1

Corporate Activities and Function Hire – Di Agius

Our corporate and function activities have been impacted by the clubhouse renovations over the past 12 months. Only 4 events have been held since our last AGM, all of them barefoot bowls. However now that we are back in our clubroom it is anticipated that demand for corporate, private and barefoot bowls events will increase significantly.

The VSC has set fees for function and interview room bookings but we need to make sure that we balance the demand for events in our clubroom, with the needs of our bowling community. We understand that corporate hire plays a significant role in contributing to our financial wellbeing and our viability but we do not want to compromise the needs of our members.

An anticipated increase in demand for events also impacts the demand for volunteers, ready to support the holding of barefoot bowls sessions, providing bar services and catering needs. I thank those who willingly put their hand up every time an event was held this year, making them very successful and look forward to the opportunities that our renovated clubrooms will bring.

Catering – Pam Barnhill

The club has functioned well despite the disruption of the clubhouse renovations. We are grateful to the Tennis Club who shared their clubhouse with us. Special thanks to Loretta Benson (Monday) and Rhona Bastiani (Wednesday) who see that the kitchen is spick and span and restocked. Also to Sharon Hedrick and Anne Staley who have kept the kitchen well stocked.

Vermont South Bowls Club has many volunteers who have helped with lunches on Tuesdays and afternoon teas on Saturdays during the pennant season. To those people many thanks.

We have catered for several events during the year. A very successful forum for new members was held and they enjoyed a wonderful supper. We've held 2 major tournaments in the last year and have had very favourable feedback from the participants. Our Ladies Tournament will be held next weekend and we will also cater for the KCL Tournament, the Annual General Meeting, Presentation afternoon and the official opening of the new Clubhouse.

Thanks again to all our volunteers. I look forward to working with you all next season in our lovely new clubhouse.

Gardens – Trevor Holland

The Gnomes are so grateful for the willing assistance given by club members. We only meet as a group 9 times a year but manage to keep the gardens and environs looking 'pretty smick'.

It was encouraging see a few new faces at our last post construction cut back. However, some Gnomes work constantly and we thank Gillian and Keith for their mammoth effort and perseverance.

BUT, we do need more assistance from members and state categorically you do not need 'green thumbs'.

Social Committee – Faye Blundell

The last year has been somewhat quieter than usual as the club located to the Tennis club room which is smaller than our club room.

A Christmas in July Lunch was held at the Knox Club and was attended by approximately 20 people with all enjoying a meal and chatting. Geoff and Denise Parry attended and needless to say everyone was pleased to see Geoff out and enjoying catching up with members.

In November a Sunday lunch was arranged, this time supporting one of our sponsors The Wantirna Hill Club. The 30 members who attended said they enjoyed themselves and some asking to have more lunch time outings. In December we had our Christmas Party at the Knox Club with 80 members attending showing they knew how to enjoy the night. We raffled 4 hampers and all were won by members attending on the night with a profit of \$600+ for the club.

There is an expression of interest paper with ideas for future functions. We would like members feedback as it will help us decide what events members are interested in attending.

On the 17th March we were entertained by Damian Mullin and his Elvis Forever show. This is the 2nd time we have been entertained by Damian, the first time was in 2021. Feed back by some of those attending was very positive. 123 members and friends were in attendance.

Going forward Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea will be back in May. We look forward to hosting member functions in our great new club room.