



**MINUTES OF “MID PENNANT SEASON” MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025**

**Purpose of Meeting:** To review Goals and Strategies set at the beginning of the season. To assess what has been achieved, what we need to do for the rest of the season and strategies we might want to consider as part of the preparation for the next Pennant season.

**In Attendance:** Di Agius, John Strybosch, Rob Graham, Derek Hale, Spiro Agius, Tony Bennett, Oscar Setyana, Denis Quintal, Geoff Bryant, Ken George, Pam Barnhill, Peter Morgan, Mike Petty, Jann Laurence, Rhona Bastiani, Anne Staley, Marlene Storer

**Meeting Commenced:** At 7.05 pm with Di welcoming everybody and thanking them for their attendance.

The group had feedback documentation, to refer to, that had been distributed from the Skips/Thirds forum and team meeting held prior to Christmas.

In relation to the goals set at the beginning of the year the following has been achieved:

**Goal No. 1 – Win the majority of games to make finals**

- Saturday Side 1 team will be relegated after this season. Sides in Division 1 are playing players.
- An information session was held for all pennant players to give them an understanding of our goals and strategies for the season.
- Maintain as an ongoing strategy, Selectors and Coaches to motivate players to enter club and ERBR championships.
- No Team Captains were appointed early in the season but have been nominated now to encourage players to practice together on Thursdays in readiness to play finals.
- Practice games were organised as planned.

**Goal No. 2 – Driving a culture of team spirit and positivity**

- Communication has been open and transparent.
- The majority of people feel everybody is important, valued and belong in the club.
- Selectors are pro-active in following up with team skips on how their team went on match day but rarely refer a player to a coach.
- The strategy of coaches referring players to selectors for promotion should not have been included because they do not see players playing often enough.
- Pie chart “The Vermont South Spirit” still relevant.

**Goal No. 3 – Implementation of a club coaching program**

- The two outside coaches were well received by those who attended the sessions. The main issue was not enough attended these or the Monday morning skills sessions run by Geoff.
- Training has not been well attended. Players are expected to train with their team on a Thursday night.

## **The Current Pennant Season**

- All Tuesday teams will possibly play in finals.
- Selectors will determine positional movement within the team for Side 1 (Division 1) to assess how they perform for future consideration.
- Side 2 (Division 3) has the chance to make finals if they keep winning and we need to be proactive around training and coaching for the rest of the season. We must make every effort to avoid relegation. There may be minimal changes to qualify players or strengthen where appropriate.
- Strategy for Side 3 (Division 5) is to play finals and go up to Division 4. We are aiming for teams to be in Division 2,3 and 4 next year.
- Side 4 (Division 6) is currently in 8<sup>th</sup> spot and only 17 points separate between 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> teams. If they can win a couple more games they can avoid relegation.
- Side 5 (Division 7) is in 4<sup>th</sup> spot and playing finals is achievable.
- 18 players have qualified to play finals.
- Selectors will also have to look at any further need to qualify players across teams without creating too much disruption to each playing group. To support us to achieve these goals the group agreed that Captains will be appointed for each team for the rest of the season to support players attending training and with any coaching needs as well as preparing those teams who do make finals. Captains will be Side 1 – Ron, Side 2 – John S, Side 3 – Derek, Side 4 Ken G and Side 5 - Rhona.
- The group considered that our internal coaches would be able to work with our players for the rest of the season.

## **Strategies for next Pennant Season**

- Captains will be appointed for each team.
- Teams to be called Side 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.
- The tick system will remain. A third and skips session will be held to go through the tick system in detail so everyone has a good understanding and we have a consistent interpretation of an effective bowl. They will also receive the Skips/Thirds document provided to the committee by John Temple and it will be discussed in detail.
- Our pennant form will be redeveloped to include a number of questions (mini survey) in order to provide the selectors with a lot more information about willingness to attend training, playing positions, nominating to be developed as a Skip etc.
- Training will remain on Thursdays from 4-5.00 pm.
- If players from Side 1 and Side 2 cannot attend Thursday training it will be compulsory for them to hand in a training card for every week they don't attend.
- A Skips development group will be identified and supported to be able to take up the Skip position.
- The Bowls committee needs to determine whether we advertise for a Head Coach next season, use CoachForce or have our internal coaches responsible for player development. The group agreed that if we had a coaching co-ordinator (who does not necessarily have to be a coach) it would provide leadership and enable us to keep our coaching program organised. This could be a discussion for the AGM?
- There is still some work to do around communication and development of players.

### **Culture Discussion**

- We are not trying to be a premier club and the club is not going to pay players.
- We are a strong club but we are happy to be a Division 2 club where our players can enjoy playing bowls.
- We are a social club with a Pennant competitive arm to it.
- The feeling within the club overall is positive, although there are some negative people. These people are to be walked away from when they are looking for an audience.

We are a Happy Club!!

**Meeting Closed:            9.05 pm**