



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

31ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REPORTS

MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of 30th AGM Minutes – April 2024
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
7. Next Annual General Meeting Date

SEASON 2024/2025 ANNUAL REPORTS (FOLLOW)

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Bowls Section Chairperson – Di Agius

I have been the Chairperson of this wonderful club for 4 years and as I write this report, I am reflecting on what I know and have learnt about our club and its culture. What is culture? It is a reflection on who we are....

We are a local community club, a social bowls club with a competitive section. We value our culture over a “winning at all costs” approach where a club prioritises achieving victory over everything else. Our club culture emphasises a sense of community and belonging, shared values, sportsmanship and inclusivity where everyone feels valued and supported. We continue to build a positive environment where everyone can thrive, developing loyalty and member retention over time, camaraderie and personal growth among members. We are a club that celebrates both individual and team achievements regardless of the final score. The diverse opinions heard around the club provide for interesting conversations, good laughs and even some controversy around issues at times, especially selection. But when it counts we are there for each other. And that is exactly why I am so proud and honoured to have been in this position for so long. Every member should also be proud of what we have here. It is because of your efforts and contributions for over 40 years that we continue to thrive where it counts the most.

The bowls committee have been very appreciative of the support they have received in representing the members again this year. I personally want to thank all the volunteers that have undertaken the roles in committees and support positions, not only this year but for the 4 years I have been Chairperson. The committee has made it a priority to recognise our volunteers and members with a “thank you” afternoon tea every year because you are the heartbeat of our club. Without you, we would not be here and when you receive the list of names of the Bowls Committee, Sub-committees and support positions at the AGM you will see all the positions needed to be able to run our section and to keep this club alive. If we continue to work together our future will be secure. I am so proud of how you are so passionate, enthusiastic and energetic in contributing to the running of the club. I encourage everyone to continue to be involved in any capacity you can manage, to maintain our long-term sustainability.

Our membership numbers have dropped, mainly because members have reached a stage where their capacity to keep bowling has been reduced. We have recruited 16 members since our last AGM. They have joined via a number of avenues – Jack Attack (thanks to John Temple and his team); Barefoot Bowls (thanks to Ken George and Mike Petty); via phone enquiries; member referrals and transfer from other clubs. I also acknowledge the efforts of Pam Janssen and Gail Pearson who devote a lot of hours to welcoming our new members and support them as they integrate into the club. Despite our efforts and the way we showcase ourselves and our activities, our recruitment has not been as strong as previous years so this needs to be a focus for the incoming committee. I thank all of our members again for the way they represent our club and I know other clubs are envious of the culture we have here.

We have settled into our new clubrooms, despite a few hiccups which hopefully will be all sorted over the winter. Visiting clubs have been so complementary of our new facilities and what we have to offer our members. Besides all of the continued maintenance required we have submitted priority needs to the VSC for future consideration such as improved shading, kitchen upgrade with new appliances, lights for the bottom green, green replacement and of course the ultimate, a dome. We could also add in new scoreboards while we are asking!!

Our social bowls program continues to provide many options for members to play socially. We have had an excellent number of players involved across Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays depending on whether it is winter or summer season. The Balmoral Cup was run again by John Strybosch with a couple of rounds being played at Balmoral Village. This tournament is proving to be a huge success and we thank Balmoral for their continued support and sponsorship.

Monday pairs, run by Mal, in his exemplary way, was sponsored by Kieser again this year and we thank them also for their continued support and sponsorship of our yearly Ladies Day Tournament. Another successful story this year.

We must acknowledge the enormous effort by Ray Spelman who has been running Thursday social for 20 years and has a consistent number of regular players as well as looking after our new members to the club.

We also introduced the "Mega Bowl" social comp on Melbourne Cup Day and what a success it was thanks to Peter Morgan, Mike Petty and their helpers.

Our social programs are continually developing and on behalf of the Bowls Committee, we thank all of the convenors involved, (Rob Graham, Paul Drew, Peter Ballam, Mike Petty, Ken George) who provide the opportunity for so much enjoyment for our members.

I have mentioned sponsorship and 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. The Ladies Day Tournament (sponsored by Kieser and Mark Kainey Property) had 22 clubs represented with Vermont South being the winners of the day and by the time you read this report we will have had our Super 4's Tournament (sponsored by KCL, Balmoral Village and Bendigo Bank) which I know will be another huge success as it was last year under the KCL banner.

Our Pennant results were mixed this year but we still have a number of achievements to celebrate. We were unable to fill the Head Coach position and went with a strategy where we had coaches referred to us from the Coachforce program run by Bowls Victoria. This strategy has been viewed by many as achieving mixed results, a bit like our Pennant season and we will need to review what we are trying to achieve in the competitive arm of the club and devise a strategy detailing how we can achieve the best results going into the new Pennant season.

Six of our thirteen teams made finals. Saturday's Side 3 made it to an elimination final. Tuesday's Side 2 and Side 3 made it to the Grand Final. Thursday 7s Side 1 made it to an elimination final and Tuesday night's 2 teams made it to the grand final playing against each other.

Our Tuesday night Side 1 won their section and Side 2, in the same section, were the runners up. It was a very close game right to the end. Congratulations to our Tuesday night teams on a great year.

In day Pennant, Saturday's Side 1 experienced considerable challenges this year with the difficult section we were placed in, the travel required outside of our Region and the knowledge that "paid players" has now crept from Premier League into the First Division of our competition.

Side 2, who were promoted this season, maintained their position in Division 3. Side 3 made it to the elimination final and Sides 4 and 5 maintained their positions in their respective divisions.

Tuesday day pennant results with Side 2 and Side 3 making their respective Grand Finals, means that, although they did not win, they both will be promoted to 3rd Division next year. Side 1 will move to 2nd Division and Side 4 will retain its position in Division 6.

Overall, the time has come for us to realign ourselves to the Divisions where we find our competitive edge and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. We may not have won a premiership in day Pennant but we have given it our best shot and we will find ourselves in Divisions where we are more competitive next season and results will come. What was good to see was the level of support with many members at the finals games cheering our teams on.

The committee acknowledges and congratulates all players involved in the Pennant season of 2024/2025. We are so proud of how you represented yourselves and our club.

I want to thank our Selection panels, for their hard work and the number of hours committed to a very difficult responsibility and commend them for their efforts this year. However, there are many volunteers who support our competitive arm of the club with the various jobs required including – the greens team (committed to keeping our greens in top class condition), emergency players, duty rinks, bowlslink entries, team managers, catering staff, housekeeping and supplies, our club uniform ladies, bar staff, coaches, umpire co-ordinator, umpires, measurers, controlling body duties, and of course Quasimodo. It is a huge effort by everyone every week and why our club is a great one.

Thanks also go to our gardening team and those involved in regular maintenance, keeping the club and it's surrounds in immaculate condition and picture perfect.

Our Club Championship committee, consisting of Graeme Durrant, Mal Walker and David Fisher must be congratulated on their efforts this year. We have had a record number of entries in most of the events and results where everyone had a chance to win depending on how they played on the day. What a fabulous success they have been and I look forward to our presentation day when winners will receive their trophies and acknowledgments.

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 latest 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. The incoming committee will need to prioritise the changing legislation affecting sporting clubs.

Sport Integrity Australia is an executive agency of the Commonwealth Government, established in 2020. This agency developed a National Integrity Framework which contains a range of governance policies for all levels of sport. Bowls Australia adopted this framework in 2022 and now Bowls Victoria has presented to bowls clubs advising that we need to adopt the framework. This will mean that the incoming bowls committee will need to update the rules for the bowls section, develop a code of conduct policy and ensure we have position descriptions for all positions within the club to ensure compliance. A fair bit of work I have to say.

We have continued 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 Leanne Bourke); and our handbook (thanks to Jim Cull).

Our bowls trip was a huge success this year with everyone having a great time. A big thanks to Alex and Faye for taking on this huge task, researching options and making sure they had a good itinerary for the benefits of those making the trip.

Last year we implemented the strategy of a succession planning group – Leanne Bourke, Rick Nelson, Sue Morgan, Dean Stublely and Tony McCardle who came along to Bowls Committee meetings to understand what is involved in running the Bowls Section. The aim was to help them to feel more supported and comfortable to take on roles of responsibility within the club. They contributed to discussion about issues even though they could not formally vote. From this strategy Leanne became the Social Committee Chairperson; Rick joined and is committed to stay on the social committee; Sue Morgan has indicated she will nominate to a committee role and already has responsibility for uniforms; Dean Stublely has committed to taking up a committee role and Tony McCardle has undertaken to be involved in gardening, barefoot bowls

and corporate activities. I thank all of them for volunteering to be part of this group and I thank them for their contribution over the past year and getting involved in the running of the club.

When I assumed the role of Chairperson of the Bowls Section in April 2021, I advised everyone at the meeting that I uphold the principles of integrity, transparency, listening, explaining and supporting. I said I do not shy away from hard decisions and involve all stakeholders in an issue. I said that I am very proactive about communication both in giving and receiving it, because it underpins everything we do. I am satisfied that both myself and my committees have done exactly that. Have we got everything right...well that will depend on who you talk to, for everyone is an expert when they are not in a role of responsibility. But from our perspective we have done our best and most importantly, the interests of the members have always been at the forefront of our minds.

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

Go Vermont South!!

Membership Information – Graeme Durrant

During the year we welcomed the following bowlers who transferred from other bowls clubs – Marlene Storer and Andrew Smith. We have also welcomed another 16 new bowlers to our club. It is pleasing to note that three of our new bowlers are under 50, with two of them being under 30.

During the year we farewelled the following bowler who transferred to another club – Ray Evans. We thank him for his contributions to the club during his time with us and we wish him well at his new club.

Sadly four of our bowls members passed away during this 2024/25 season, John Beaumont, Ed Benetti, Rob Laver and Ron Knight.

Two bowls members elected to maintain contact with the club by electing to become “Friends of Vermont South” members rather than full affiliated members. Seventeen 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 **187** affiliated bowlers, just down from the 189 affiliates at the previous AGM in April 2024.

A total of 103 members bowled in Weekend pennant and a total of 67 members bowled in Midweek pennant. These figures are slightly down from the previous year and we thank all those emergencies who filled in during the year.

We also had a total of 27 members who bowled in the 7-a-side Thursday morning competition run by Bowls Victoria. This season we entered two teams, down from the four teams in the previous season.

We also had a total of 28 members playing in the two teams that we entered in the Bowls Victoria/ERBR Tuesday night pennant competition. This season there were only three rinks of three bowlers in the team, down from the four rinks in previous years.

A total of 73 members did not play either weekend, midweek pennant or night pennant.

We currently have 24 members who are in our Social Bowlers category, either just learning to bowl or playing in our Thursday social bowls competition and another 24 social bowls members not bowling due to health or other issues.

The following longer-term members did not renew their affiliated membership this year, but all have given valuable service to our club over the past 30 years. We thank them for the wonderful contributions to our bowls club.

Jean Walter - Jean joined the bowls club on 1/11/1994 as a foundation member with her late husband Mick (Mick served as Men's president for two terms). She played 179 Saturday pennant games and 520 Tuesday pennant games giving a grand total of **699** games for the club.

Jean won the ladies pairs club championship in 1995/96, 1996/97, 1998/99, 1999/2000, 2007/08 and again in 2012/13. She also won the mixed pairs club championship in 2012/13. She was the skip in the ladies fours club championship team in 2001/02 in a team including Barbara Brown, Carole Simmons and Pauline Wilson.

Jean was a member of the following VLBA Tuesday sectional pennant winning teams – Side 1 – Div. B2 in 1997/98, Side 1 – Div. B1 1998/99 (Divisional runners up), Side 1 – Div. A2 2006/07, Side 1 – Div. 2 2010/11, Side 1 (Bowls Vic) – Div. 2 2011/12 and Side 1 – Div. 1 2012/13. She was also a member of the Saturday Div. 7 Section 6 pennant winning team in 2016/17. A wonderful achievement in so many pennant winning teams.

She served on the Tuesday (VLBA) Selection committee for two years, on the Tournament committee for seven years and on the VLBA ladies bowls committee for three years. Jean loved her game of bowls and when ladies were allowed to play pennant on Saturday afternoons (from 2011 onwards) she eagerly joined a group of lady bowlers who became regular Saturday pennant bowlers.

We sincerely thank Jean for her service to the Vermont South Bowling club.

Marg Emery - Marg joined the bowls club on 1/05/2007 and she played 33 Saturday pennant games and 235 Tuesday pennant games. She played in the VLBA Side 2 – B1 Div. 2008/09 Tuesday pennant winning team, the Bowls Vic. Div. 3 2013/2014 Tuesday pennant winning team, the Div. 4 2014/15 Tuesday pennant winning team and the Div. 3 2015/16 Tuesday pennant winning team. Marg also played in 3 rinks that received an 8. (2014, 2016 and 2017).

Marg was a great contributor to our catering and housekeeping committees.

Katrina Oxley - Katrina joined the bowls club on 9/07/2016 and she played 82 Saturday pennant games. She served as secretary of the VSC committee for one year in 2021.

Alan Flaherty - Alan joined the bowls club on 1//7/2009, transferring from Glen Waverley. Alan played 245 Saturday pennant games. He skipped in the Div. 3 Side 2 Saturday pennant winning team in 2010/11.

Alan was a keen sportsman (played football for St Kilda) and he was a very quick witted and humorous contributor to the club.

Milestone Games achieved during 2024/25 Season

The follow milestone games were celebrated during the season:

700 games – Barry Brown

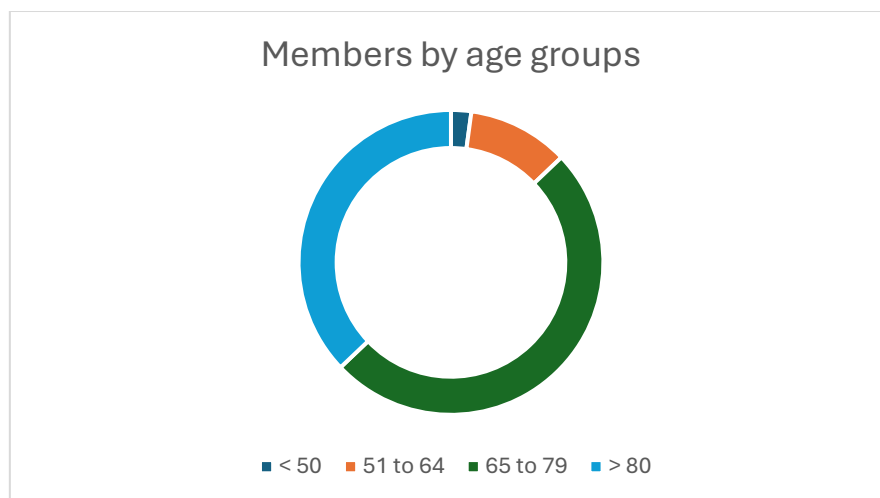
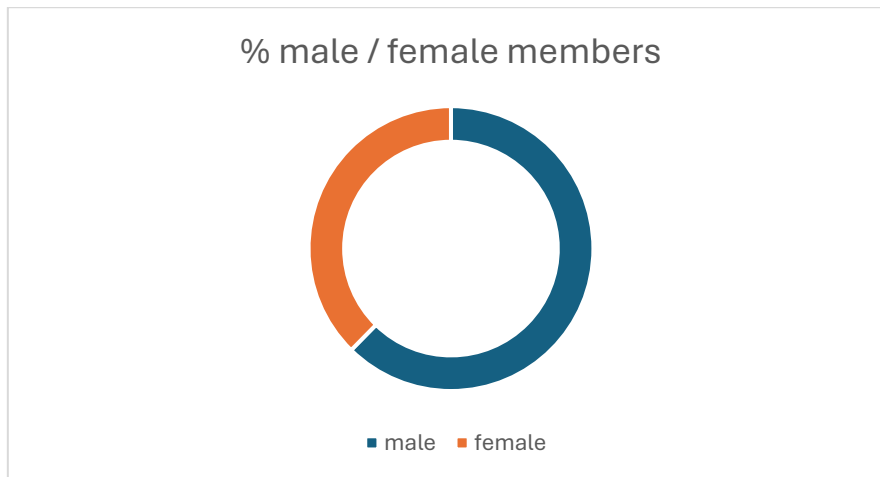
400 games – Cyril Evans, Allan Rolfe, Levena Evans, John Molloy and Graeme Durrant

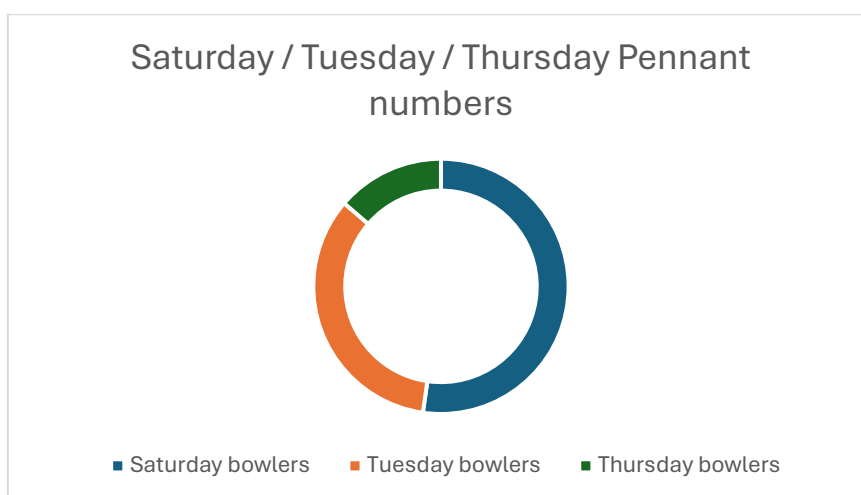
300 games – Rick Carver, Geoff Bryant, John Deegan, and Phil Staley

200 games – Spiro Agius, David Pearson, Nance Way and Barbara Carroll

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 current bowls membership at 1 April 2025 is now **187 affiliated bowlers** - 38% are female bowlers and 37% are over 80 years of age (our veterans membership category).





Weekend and Tuesday Pennant – John Strybosch

I have said this before, but I will say it again. Lawn bowls is a sport that requires precision, strategy and skills, and is enjoyed by many, irrespective of age or gender. However, the organising of competitive and balanced pennant teams presents significant challenges, particularly when it involves multiple teams. Selecting 5 teams (Saturday) and 4 teams (Tuesday) has many variables, difficulties and factors that must be dealt with on a weekly basis. Such as (a) skill levels, (b) team composition and compatibility and (c) the big one, non-availability of players.

Saturday

This season we fielded 5 teams, 2 of these teams having been promoted last season to Div 1 and Div 3. We required 80 bowlers and had a list of 92 committed bowlers and a fair list of emergencies. A big thank you to all the members who participated as emergencies throughout the season, because you were sorely needed starting with week one when we had 16 players out. This didn't help to get the season off to a great start, as all the factors mentioned above came into play, and, unfortunately, continued somewhat throughout the season. It was one of our goals that no side would be relegated. However, our No. 1 side, not only being drawn in a very hard section, found out very early that the divide between Div 2 and Div 1 is massive. They tried valiantly and on occasions got within a few shots of winning the day, but this divide was just too great. Our remaining 4 sides achieved their first goal and avoided relegation, with our 3rd side achieving their second goal of reaching the finals. Unfortunately, they were defeated in the prelim final by a strong No 1, Bennetswood team. The cheer squad was out in force. Well done everybody. We will be better and stronger next season. Depending on numbers, we will have teams in Divisions 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7.

I thank my fellow Saturday selectors, Mary Farley, Spiro Agius, Rob Graham, Derek Hale and Tony Bennett for all their support and the extra time and work that goes into being a selector. Thanks guys and gal.

Tuesday

We fielded 4 teams, requiring 48 players and had only 52 committed players on our list. As per Saturday, the factors mentioned above came into play from the beginning, but not as drastically. Thank you once again to all the members who made themselves available, sometimes at very short notice. Thank you.

Unfortunately, some of our previous stronger players were not available for this season and subsequently our No 1 side playing in an even section was relegated to Div 2. On a brighter note, both our No.2 and No.3 sides made finals, finishing 2nd and 3rd respectively. Both sides played magnificently in reaching their Grand Finals. The 2nd side, holding game, lost to a most fantastic last bowl of the day. The 3rd side was only just defeated by a few shots by a No.1 Alphington side that remained undefeated throughout the season. Again, our cheer squads were amazing. Thank you to our many supporters. Both sides have been promoted, and again, dependent upon numbers, we will have teams in Divisions 2, 3, 3, and 6. Well done everybody.

I also wish to thank my fellow Tuesday selectors, Chris Holland, Gillian Horlock, Martin Haines and John Deegan for their support, hard work and dedication throughout the season. Thank you, guys and gals.

In Conclusion

Can we do better? Yes, we can. We can if we improve on all the things above in my opening remarks; our skill levels, compatibility and most of all our commitment to pennant and minimise our unavailability. The ball is in your court. Now is the time to work on your skill levels, your harmony with others and your schedule. Remember, we are still a strong club, and we will remain so if we all play our part. That includes things other than playing bowls, such as being an active member around the club, and serving in any capacity that will help the club and your fellow members.

Proud of you all,
Good bowling and God bless.

Tuesday Night Pennant – Ron Short

This 2024/25 session started with some significant changes by Bowls Victoria as they included night pennant under their banner of control. What did this mean to our night pennant competition;

- Eastern Ranges still co-ordinated the draws.
- Teams were reduced to 9, playing 3 sides of triples.
- Games played by players are recorded by Bowls Victoria which means Clubs include night pennant games played in their members history.
- Some rule changes which included composite teams, moving players during the game, no roll up plus a few more.

Eastern Rangers created a draw which included 2 sections. Section 1 being teams of experienced players and Section 2 teams made up of new and less experienced players. Vermont South fielded 2 teams in Section 2 which consisted of;

- 4 new club bowlers and 5 members who can't play pennant due to other commitments a total of 9 (1 full side.).
- Over the season we drew on 30 members which again demonstrates the need to have players listed as being emergencies.

Our sides performed really well throughout the season with the Phil Staley's team finishing very strong to jump from 4th position to second on the last game giving Vermont South a 1/2 finish going into the finals (1 played 2, 3 played 4, 2 played 4, 1 played 2 again).

The Grand Final was played at Mitcham, Vermont South 1 play Vermont South 2 ending up with a close finish win to team 1 with only 1 side up 2 sides down.

Congratulations to Andrew Smith who finished second on the Bowls Victoria Night Pennant Section 2 players' ladder.

Overall, what a very successful night pennant season not only with the results but with the experienced gained by many of the players playing in a different position, playing pennant games and experiencing final nerves for the first time giving the Vermont South bowls group a stronger more experience players group to call on in the future.

Well done to all involved.

Thursday 7s Pennant – Spiro Agius

Vermont South entered 2 sides for this Pennant competition. Side 1 played in Division 1 in 8 rounds against sides from Mulgrave MCC, Mitcham, Lilydale and Boronia. Vermont South Side 1 played in an elimination final against Mitcham whom they had beaten early in the season but were unable to replicate that achievement in that final. Regardless of the outcome it was a great effort by all involved during the season.

Vermont South Side 2 played in Division 2 in 10 rounds against sides from Heathmont, Croydon, Mt Waverley, Bentleigh and Lilydale. Whilst wins were hard to come by the game was played in great spirit with everyone enjoying themselves and giving it their best.

In total, 30 members contributed to fielding 2 sides for the duration of the season with many thanks to all the emergencies and some outside the emergency pool who stepped in when required.

Weekend and Midweek Pennant Summary – Graeme Durrant

Saturday Team 1 – Div 1 Section 3	Won 0 Lost 14 - Finished 8 th , Relegated to Div. 2
Saturday Team 2 – Div 3 Section 5	Won 6 Lost 1, Washout 1 – Finished 5 th
Saturday Team 3 – Div 5 Section 5	Won 8 Lost 6 – Finished 4 th , lost Sectional elimination final 61-88 against Bennettswood 1
Saturday Team 4 – Div 6 Section 5	Won 6 Lost 2, Washout 1, Draw 1 - Finished 6 th ,
Saturday Team 5 – Div 7SE Section 2	Won 5 Lost 6, Draw 1, Byes 2 - Finished 5 th
Tuesday Team 1 – Div 1 Section 3	Won 4 Lost 10 - Finished 8 th , Relegated to Div 2
Tuesday Team 2 – Div 4 Section 4	Won 10 Lost 4 - Finished 2 nd , won Sectional semi-final 77-42 against Croydon 3, lost Sectional Grand final 57-59 against Croydon 3, Promoted to Div 3
Tuesday Team 3 – Div 4 Section 6	Won 5 Lost 8, Draw 1 – Finished 3 rd , won Sectional elimination final 78-43 against Mooroolbark 5, won Sectional preliminary final 66-53 against Blackburn 2, lost Sectional grand final 49-54 against Alphington 1, Promoted to Div. 3
Tuesday Team 4 – Div 6 Section 5	Won 8 Lost 6 - Finished 5 th
Thursday 7-a-side Team 1 – Div 1 Section 2	Won 4 Lost 4, Byes 2 - Finished 3 rd , lost Sectional semi-final 42-62 against Mitcham 1
Thursday 7-a-side Team 2 - Div1 Section 5	Won 0 Lost 10 - Finished 6 th

ERBR Tuesday Night Pennant Team 1 – Div 2	Won 8 Lost 1, Byes 1, - Finished 1 st , won Semi-final 50-44 against Vermont South 2, won Grand final 51-43 against Vermont South 2
ERBR Tuesday Night Pennant Team 2 - Div 2	Won 6 Lost 3, Byes 1, - Finished 2 nd , lost Semi-final 44-50 against Vermont South 1, won Preliminary final 61-49 against Mitcham 3, lost Grand final 43-51 against Vermont South 1

Greens – Denis Quintal

This past year has kept the greens team extremely busy, caused mainly due to the construction of our new clubrooms. In the first instance a fault in a drain caused the bottom green to flood and water under the synthetic top raised this in many spots on the green.

With assistance from KCL plus many hands from the Club we need to roll back some 2 metres and re-level the base. This will solve the problem but there are some risks that the seams may come apart and some of the rink lines may need repainting.

During the year we needed to repair and replace the water sprinkler controllers. Another problem was when a major downpour of rain caused water, scoria, mulch and dirt from the driveway onto the bottom green. A blockage from the tennis courts magnified the problem.

The top green which is now 11 years old is getting closer for replacement.

On a positive note we will have enough helpers for the greens team next year. I am pleased to announce that Paul Bastiani has offered to be the greens director next year.

I would like to thank Noel Bennett, Ron Vogeles, Tony Bennett, Alan Rolfe and Paul Bastiani for their dedication and mateship which made my job a lot easier.

Tournament - Mike Petty & John Strybosch

The 2024 to 2025 bowling season was another good year for the VSBC in regard to tournaments.

The Ladies Day tournament was held and was once again a great success, both financially and as a tournament. Fully booked again!

The level of competition was exemplary and all the male volunteers on the day in white shirts and bow ties helped keep the day fun and professional. Our lady volunteers made sure the men did not spoil the food and Gavin Gow kept everyone swinging during the break playing his clarinet. A great day and a huge thank you to all the volunteers and Di for getting this up and running with expansion planned for next year. Stay tuned.

The Super 4s tournament this year will be held on Sunday, April 27th. It has already been fully subscribed a month out with 30 teams entered. This is in large part because last year's Super 4s Tournament was so well run. Graeme Durrant with all of our volunteers on the day, ensures that all participants have an enjoyable and problem free day.

This year KCL reduced its sponsorship due to its success in installing their greens in other clubs, which meant for them, more requests for sponsorship. Spiro stepped in and brought in Balmoral as another major sponsor and also Bendigo Bank keeping the tournament prize money fully sponsored. It has meant the Super 4s Tournament is very profitable for our club.

The VSBC through John Strybosch also ran the Balmoral Challenge for VSC members. A handicapped tournament sponsored by Balmoral, that was so successful it has been fully subscribed by Vermont South Bowls Club members.

The Club Championships was well supported again with a pleasing increase in participation from new members entering the competitions. It is a very healthy sign for clubs when new names are involved in the championship and also involved in the finals.

Peter Morgan also ran a new fun Mega Bowl competition on Cup Day last year. The Mega Bowl Tournament. It was considered a great day and with some tweaks, is planned to be run again this year, bigger and better than last year.

These tournaments help bring profile, money and by extension, success to our great club.

A huge thank you to all of our volunteers who ensure tournaments are run so successfully at our great club.

The Vermont South Bowls Club looks forward to another successful tournament season in 2025/26.

Social Bowls – Rhona Bastani & Jann Laurence

Having had the privilege of being part of the Vermont South Social Bowling group over the last 12 months, a huge thank you goes to the conveners, Peter Ballam, Rob Graham, John Strybosch, Di Agius, Paul Drew, Ray Spelman and Mal Walker. These wonderful volunteers have kept the social bowls attendees completely entertained and, thanks to Jann for the Running Sheets, we were kept up to date with the Vermont South Club news each and every week. The trivia sessions kept our minds active. The lucky raffle draws gave us the opportunity to dine at the Dandenong and Wantirna Clubs and assisted with additions to our private wine collections. Participation numbers for the Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday social bowls days including the Balmoral Cup were excellent. These events often brought bowlers from other clubs enabling them to enjoy the activities and facilities we offer. Credit is given to the conveners for their organisational skills and their encouragement for all to participate, no matter what level a bowler has reached.

Monday 4 Bowl Pairs – Mal Walker

The 2024 Season was played from 18th March through to 16th September. Over the season this Monday event was played on 23 occasions with a weekly average of 43.3 i.e.. 996 players for the season. It should be noted that a number of clubs are also running Monday events which has resulted in a decline in the number of visitors.

Before Covid we were averaging around 20 visitors per week but that number has now reduced to around 8 per week. A big thank you must go to our greens maintenance team who present our KCL greens in an excellent playing order on a weekly basis.

Also to note, the current season has started off well with an average of 44 players per week.

Wednesday Summer – Peter Ballam & Rob Graham

The season was in our opinion very successful in that we averaged 30-36 bowlers each week although numbers tapered off a little from January onwards. In previous year's summer social it was not unusual to have 42-48 bowlers.

We believe our numbers have dwindled somewhat owing to the wide variety of bowls offered by Bowls Victoria and accepted by our members. Now you can play Pennant Bowls on Tuesdays day or night. You can also play Thursdays. We are certain that this has contributed to members opting out of Wednesdays to play in these other competitions.

Thursday Social – Rick Nelson & Tony McArdle

Thursday Social bowls happens all year round weather permitting and is a “triples” format event. On average between 16 and 25 players per week with good attendance in the warmer months. Players put their names down on a list in the week prior to the game and walkups on the day also very welcome.

Ray, the convener, is at the club early on game day and selects teams ensuring to mix up the experience of players and this results in a great way to play with and against different people each week. It also means everyone gets an opportunity to play at different positions if they wish and a chance to win the days first prize, although most just want to bowl better than their last bowl and have some fun. Thursday Bowls has been an important stepping stone from barefoot to pennant for new players over the years.

Jack Attack – John Temple

This past year we hosted two Jack Attack seasons of 6 weeks each. We had 18 teams participating in the November/December season and an impressive 20 teams competing in February/March. That means around 80 regular players - predominantly non-Club members - came together to enjoy the excitement. Most of these players return season after season which is a true testament to the warm and welcoming spirit of our Club and the vibrancy of our Jack Attack product.

Our Jack Attack program continues to attract a diverse group, with an even mix of genders and players spanning ages from 16 to their mid-80s. Over time, many of these players have taken the next step and joined as full Club members, with even more sure to follow.

We're always evolving, enhancing the experience with fresh ideas such as upfront green fee payments, innovative prize systems, and team handicaps to level the playing field. The atmosphere is electric, music fills the air, and players eagerly enjoy refreshments and snacks greenside. After the games, the fun doesn't stop, with pizzas, more refreshments, and passionate conversations about the matches that just unfolded.

Our Jack Attack program is powered by an incredible group of dedicated volunteers who have stayed steadfast through 16 seasons: Mary Farley, Trevor Holland, Elaine Kendler, Alan Rolfe, and Mal Walker. Also a special mention to Geoff Bryant and his coaching panel for their outstanding introductory coaching. It's a joy to watch new bowlers grow their skills and, more importantly, have a fantastic time doing it.

Jack Attack not only generates significant income for our Club but also serves as a wonderful way to connect with the wider community and showcase the positive and vibrant essence of our Club. Jack Attack is contributing positively to our wonderful Club.

Region Championships – Graeme Durrant

Eastern Ranges Region Championships Vermont South Entries 2024/2025

Event	Players
Men's 60+ Pairs	Ron Short / Phil Staley – Round 1
Men's 60+ Singles	Ron Short – 2 nd in section, John Strybosch – 2 nd in section, Oska Setyana – 3 rd in section
Mixed Pairs	Warren Strybosch / Mary Farley – Round 4 Ken Barnhill / Janice Macgregor (Heathmont) – Round 3 Ron Short / Teresa Bowden – round 2
Men's Pairs	Ron Short / Warren Strybosch – Quarter Finals
Men's Singles	Ron Short – finished 2 nd in section
Men's Champ/Champ	Oska Setyana – Round 1
Women's Champ/Champ	Mary Farley – Semi Finalist

Vermont South BC Club Championships Results 2024/2025

Event	Players
Women's Pairs	Winners – Barbara Carroll and Mary Farley Runners Up – Pam Barnhill and Anne Staley
Men's Pairs	Winners – Ron Short and Phil Staley Runners Up – Craig Anderson and Spiro Agius
Women's Singles	Winner – Mary Farley Runner Up – Pam Barnhill
Men's Singles	Winner – Oska Setyana Runner Up – John Strybosch
100 Up Handicap	Winner – John Benson Runner Up – Warren Strybosch
Mixed Pairs	Winners – Ken Barnhill and Sue Morgan Runner Up – John Benson and Pam Janssen
Novice Singles	Winner – Steven Gatt Runner Up – Frank DiMauro

Corporate Activities and Function Hire – Di Agius

As predicted the demand for corporate, private and barefoot bowls events has increased this year but is still impacted by the lack of kitchen facilities for catering. Hopefully with minimal updates to the kitchen we will be able to realise the true potential and revenue options of corporate bookings and barefoot bowls sessions. We are also going to trial a community catering company who support not for profit clubs like ours.

We booked 21 events over the year involving school sessions, barefoot bowls sessions and formal corporate bookings. With a further anticipated increase in events, it becomes even more important that we make sure we balance the demand for corporate functions 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 sustainability, but we do not want to compromise the needs of our members.

An 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 for corporate functions. 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 the future will bring.

Catering and Housekeeping

The club kitchen has functioned well during the last season. Special thanks to Loretta Benson who sees that the kitchen is spick and span and restocked each Monday. Also, thanks to Sharon Hedrick who has kept the kitchen well stocked and Rhona Bastiani for her enthusiasm in helping in the kitchen on social days. Your help is most appreciated.

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. In January we catered for the Mulgrave Challenge and just recently for the Ladies Tournament. We will also cater for the Super Fours Tournament, the AGM and Presentation Day in the next couple of weeks.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who give so willingly of their time to help out in the kitchen. I look forward to working with you again next season.

Gardening Group – Trevor Holland

The Gnomes have managed to keep the Club's environment at a pleasing high standard. This has only been possible with the constant efforts of Gillian, Keith Horlock and Christine Holland with the assistance of members on our eight or so monthly garden sessions per year.

As you would be well aware we are all aging and we rely heavily on the empathy and co-operation of club members who continually assist.

The regular monthly Friday sessions are supported by only a few members but they report great satisfaction from assisting and they say it is also a worthwhile social event where they enjoy the companyand of course the shared morning tea adds to the friendship.

SO please be assured your attendance at our next gardening session will be much appreciated.

Social Committee – Leanne Bourke

We have had a productive 2024/2025. The first event for the year was The Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea. It was a very successful and well attended day, raising \$1,930 through donations and raffle sales. Barbara Brown won the major prize.

Footy Pie Night was next, approximately 24 people attended and enjoyed a drink and some food watching the footy. John Temple won “Pick the Margin” and Mike Petty won the door prize. A trivia night was held in September and approximately 70 people attended. Justin O’Meara and Libby from the tennis club ran the night and they did a fantastic job. (We have scheduled another one for August 2025.) Prizes for games and winners were purchased for the night by Justin as well as Bunnings providing some vouchers via Spiro.

The Christmas Party was held in our new clubrooms. We had 89 attendees. Spitting Image Catering did the food on the night and the feedback wasn’t great, so we are on the lookout for a new caterer. Entertainer was Jeff Pattison, and he was fantastic. Feedback was positive, so we may look to get him again this year. Donations were collected from members to make up 4 hampers, main prize won by Dean Stublely. New decorations were purchased also.