

VERMONT SOUTH BOWLING CLUB

MINUTES OF THE 31ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) HELD ON SUNDAY, 4TH MAY 2025

Chairperson: Diane Agius
Secretary: Anne Staley

Chairperson Di Agius called the meeting to order and asked if everyone had signed the attendance register.

Chairperson Di Agius – Declared the 31st Annual General Meeting of the Vermont South Bowling Club open for business at 1.34 pm and thanked members for their attendance.

Before commencing the formal part of the meeting, Chairperson Di invited everyone to stand to take a few moments of reflection in silence to remember our members, friends and family who passed away this year and those who are currently struggling with health issues....1 minute.

Chairperson Di thanked everyone.

1. Apologies

Chair asked the Secretary, Anne Staley to read the list of apologies – Anne read out the following names:

Graeme Durrant
Judy Prentice
Anne Pries
Jock Halley
Ian Parry
Brenda Ross
Joy Smith
Ron Vogeie
Mike Petty

Gary Simmons
Ian Heatley
Ian Bennett
Gary Bryar
Chis Holland
Graham Munro
Liz Henwood
John Ispanovic

Levena Evans
Joan Heatley
John Deegan
Jan Daphne
Trevor Holland
Elaine Kendler
John Henwood
Val Weight

Chair then called for any further apologies - Andrew Smith was also noted as an apology.

2. Notice of Meeting

Chair asked the Secretary - "Has every financial member of the Club been informed of the AGM in accordance with Rule 32(a) of the Club's Rules?"

The Secretary responded - "A notice has been sent by post to the address of all financial members who do not have an email address and emailed via eNews to all members who have email addresses and also posted on noticeboards."

3. Confirmation of Minutes - 2024 AGM

Chair announced - "The Minutes of the 2024 Bowls Section AGM have been posted on the noticeboard, emailed via eNews and copies made available to members. I ask for a Mover and Seconder that they be taken as read and accepted."

Moved: Jann Laurence

Seconded: Pam Barnhill

Chair – ‘I put the Motion forward that the Minutes of the 2024 Bowls Section Annual General Meeting be accepted’ – Those in Favour? Against? *Motion: Carried*

4. Business Arising from 2024 Bowls Section AGM Minutes

Chair asked the secretary - “Was there any business arising from the Minutes that needed to be addressed by the Committee?” Secretary responded “There’s none.”

5. Presentation and Acceptance of Annual Reports

- (a) **Chair** advised that both historically and currently all expenditure approvals and financial accountability are determined at VSC committee level including lodging our annual statement with Consumer Affairs. Di thanked the VSC for working in partnership with the club around the operational needs of the bowls section.

The Treasurer, Phil Staley has provided the latest monthly financial report for members of the Bowls section. The Chair asked if there were any questions on notice for the Treasurer of the VSC – there were none.

- (b) **Chair** advised that the annual report has been published for all members to read.

In addition to this report, Di made the following comments:

- In her report she mentioned our culture and wanted to reiterate it because it is important... What is culture? It is a reflection on who we are. We are a local community bowls 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 strive to build a positive environment where everyone can thrive, developing loyalty and member retention over time, camaraderie and personal growth amongst members. We value diverse opinions because they help to make our club the best it can be and the committee strives to represent members to the best of their ability. Di asked “do we always get it right” well that depends on who you talk to for everyone is an expert when they are not in a position of responsibility, but we take our responsibilities very seriously and give careful consideration to the decisions we make knowing that you can’t please everyone all the time.
- Our membership is 187, down from last year and needs to be a focus for the incoming committee. 16 members recruited since the last AGM. They have joined via a number of avenues – Jack Attack, Try Bowls and Barefoot Bowls, via phone enquiries, member referrals and transfers 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 so proud of how we showcase ourselves and our activities. Di thanked all of our members again for the way they represent themselves and our club. Most visiting clubs admire what we have here and the work must go on.
- Our Pennant competition – and it is just that, the competitive arm of the club striving to do the best we possibly can to get the best results.

We have advertised the Head Coach position to see what applicants we might attract. So far we have had four applicants which includes one from South Africa. We will explore the other three further with interviews.

Our results this season were mixed as written in my annual report but we are still proud of what we achieved and how we represented ourselves. We will be more aligned to our competitive edge next season and results will come. There is nothing wrong with being a second Division club if that is where we want to be but do we? We will need to review our strategies and determine how we can achieve the best results. After all it is competition and we do want to win don't we?

Six of our thirteen teams made finals and wasn't it great to see so many supporters at the games where our teams were playing.

Tuesday day pennant led the way with Side 2 and Side 3 making their respective Grand Finals. Although they both lost by small margins which was most disappointing for them they will both still be promoted next season.

A special acknowledgment also to our Tuesday night teams where they both made the Grand Final and had to play each other. A super effort. Absolutely fantastic.

For all other teams, it has been an effort the club can be proud of and a challenge to better those results next year. Congratulations to all players, coaches, selectors and all the supporting roles needed to enable us to play Pennant each week. We are so proud of your efforts. Please show your appreciation to our Pennant players and all supporting roles.

- Our sponsors are actively involved in partnerships with the club again this year via tournament prizemoney and social prizemoney. Ladies Day with Kieser and Mark Kainey, KCL, Balmoral and Bendigo Bank sponsoring the Super 4s; Kieser being involved in Monday social nominated pairs; Balmoral sponsoring the Balmoral Cup. We need to acknowledge the hard work by the sponsorship committee very capably led by Spiro Agius. Over \$100,000 has been raised by this committee over the past 3 years and this plays a huge role in our future and the opportunities we can create for members and the community. Our tournaments have been a huge success up to now and that will only continue into the future. We have been able to showcase our greens, our presentation, our catering, our organisation and now our clubrooms. We really lead the way for other clubs to admire.
- I planted the seed at the Ladies Day Tournament, for the introduction of an annual Ladies Club Challenge Tournament. I want to continue pushing for Ladies to have events to showcase their bowling abilities. At this point Croydon is going to work with us to try and get this annual event up and running so stay tuned and ladies, please get involved when the opportunity arises.
- Di then announced she would like to make some special acknowledgments:
 - Our Greens Team, they keep our greens in immaculate condition and are an integral part of this club continuing. It was great to hear the recent news that work to rectify some of the problems with the damaged West green will now proceed.
 - John Temple and the vital role he undertakes in keeping everyone informed about what's happening across the VSC and especially our bowls section via eNews. He and his team also do a magnificent job with the Jack Attack program every year and its success just keeps growing and growing.
 - Alex and Faye Blundell for organising the end of season bowls trip. An enormous effort to make sure members have a great time with the activities planned, bowls games and dinner functions. Thank you.
 - Jim Cull for stepping in and making sure we had a handbook this year and will do again for the upcoming year. Thank you Jim.

- Pam Barnhill and all the catering volunteers involved in club functions, tournaments, corporate events and then there is the catering rosters for pennant. It is a huge workload and it is because of Pam and her helpers commitment, organisation and great cooking that we receive such positive feedback about our club presentation being professional and successful, as well as the food being so yummy.. It is a mighty effort.
- I thank the convenors of both social and pennant competitions who have taken up the leadership role of running their days without any interference from me. Our social comp numbers are very strong and continue to grow.
- Acknowledgment also has to go to our RSAs, also involved in so many club events. They are needed for social games, barefoot bowls, corporate events, club functions and pennant days. You name it we need RSAs. There have been a lot more corporate events scheduled this year and again the RSAs have been quick to put their hands up to make sure that these events can run as well as the income they provide that contribute to our future viability. Special mention to Jeremy O'Meara who has ventured into the Bowls section from Tennis and has immediately got himself involved in stocking the bar. As well as playing bowls of course. Well done Jeremy.
- Again, I thank my committee who have supported me for the past 4 years and have undertaken their responsibilities with due diligence and integrity always mindful that they are representing all of the members of this club.
- We are a volunteer club and so we need everyone to be involved in the running of the club, in any capacity you can manage, to maintain our long-term sustainability. To you, our members, it has been a privilege and an honour to be the Chairperson of this great club for the past 4 years. Every member should be proud of what we have here. I want to thank all those volunteers who have continued in roles or taken up roles for the first time for the next 12 months. It is because of your efforts over the past 40 years that we continue to thrive where it counts the most and we are a great club.

Chair - "I now ask for a Mover and Secunder that the Reports as circulated, be taken as received, read and accepted". *Secretary notes*

Moved: Noel Bennett

Seconded: Rhona Bastiani

"I put the motion forward - Those in Favour? Against? *Motion: Carried*

6. Election of Chairperson, Secretary, 3 Committee Members and all Sub-committees and Support Roles

Chair – "I refer you to the document titled "Bowls Committee, Sub-committees and Support Roles 2025/26" which will be an attachment to the minutes.

This is very detailed and demonstrates the huge number of roles and responsibilities in running the Bowls Section.

According to the Vermont South Bowling Club rules – specifically 15.3 (a), the Chairperson, Secretary and each elected committee member shall take office from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting at which they are elected and shall hold office until the conclusion of the second Annual General Meeting following their election.

We move to the election of Chairperson. I was hoping that we would have received a nomination for the vacant Chairperson position but we did not receive an expression of interest let alone a nomination. It is imperative for the future of our club that we have others who can take on this role.

Last year I advised that I had no desire to be the longest serving Chairperson. Again, our rules, 15.3 (c) state that no member of the committee may serve for more than four consecutive terms of two years. They can return after a 12-month absence but given that commitment who would want to.

Our Secretary, Anne Staley has 1 year of her 2-year term left to serve.

The following Committee members have 1 year of their 2-year term left to serve – Pam Barnhill, Mike Petty, John Strybosch and Peter Morgan.

Rhona Bastiani, Jann Laurence and Sharon Hedrick have completed a 2-year term and have decided not to renominate.

Chair – “We will now address the vacant positions to be filled”

Chair advises:

- Firstly, for the role bearer positions we have one nomination for the Chairperson position - Di Agius

Chair – Are there any objections? There being no other nominations for this position, I declare Di Agius officially as incoming Chairperson.

Chair – “We will now address the 3 vacant general Committee positions, to be filled”.

We have Sue Morgan, Dean Stublely and Marlene Storer nominating for the 3 vacant positions.

Chair – “As we have 3 nominations for 3 vacant positions. Are there any objections?
I declare – Sue, Dean and Marlene elected - thank you all for nominating for these positions – Congratulations!”

A big thank you to 3 members leaving the committee this year - Rhona Bastiani, Jann Laurence and Sharon Hedrick. These ladies have contributed considerable experience, knowledge and support to the operational demands of the Bowls Committee. Thankfully, they are not going anywhere, despite leaving the committee, they will still be continuing on with other roles in the Bowls section and continue to work for the benefit of the members. What a great asset they are to our club. Please show your appreciation for Rhona's, Jann's and Sharon's contribution to committee administration.

Last year, I introduced an opportunity for volunteers to become involved in a committee development group. What that means is, they will come to bowls committee meetings and be bound by all the rules and regulations the committee runs by. However, they will be there to learn about all the operational aspects of the bowls section with the view that in the future they will be more willing to volunteer for a role in an area where they feel they can add value and get more involved in the running of the club. This year we have recruited Steve Raymond, Kim Fox, Paul Bastiani, Craig Anderson, Loretta Benson, Warren Strybosch and Matt Hay to this group. I am so grateful that they willingly accepted the invitation to be part of this group. If any other members want to take up this open invitation to join this group at Bowls Committee meetings you all know where to find me.

Chair – “And now it gives me great pleasure to invite your new Committee - to join me”

Sub-committees and Supporting Positions 2025/26

I refer you to the sections of this document that details the sub-committees and supporting roles for 2025/2026. There is a large number of roles and responsibilities included in these pages and that means we need a large number of volunteers to fulfill these roles.

It's very pleasing to note that majority of members involved with the various sub committees and support positions last year, have renominated; decided to continue for another year or we have seen some new members starting to get involved in the running of the club!

Head Coach: Vacant

The Committee decided that the Head Coach position would be advertised. At this stage we have 4 applications – one from South Africa. We will interview the three other applicants and ascertain whether they can add value to what we are trying to achieve in our Pennant goals. The Bowls Committee will continue to work with the coaches and selectors to determine how we approach our Pennant season this year and will keep everyone informed as we move forward.

Weekend Selectors:

Chair: John Strybosch, Rob Graham and Tony Bennett have 1 year remaining of their 2-year term. Spiro Agius and Derek Hale have renominated for another 2 years. Di Agius has nominated. This results in 6 selectors for Saturday Pennant.

Mary Farley leaves this selection panel after many years of participating in both Tuesday and Saturday selections. Can we please acknowledge her contribution and hard work. Mary continues her role in the Jack Attack team and in catering.

Midweek Selectors - Tuesday:

Chair: Three selectors have 1 year of their term remaining – John Strybosch, Chris Holland and Martin Haines. Gillian Horlock is renominating. Gwen Baker is nominating. This results in 6 selectors for the mid-week selection panel.

John Deegan leaves the panel. John stepped in last year when Graeme Buntrock could not continue in the role.

Please acknowledge John and Graeme for their contribution to selection.

Midweek Selector - Thursday:

Spiro Agius has nominated for Thursday selection. There have been a lower number of players indicating they are wanting to play Thursday's so we already know we will be entering less teams into this comp. It would be good if we could get another person volunteering to work with Spiro in this competition.

Tuesday Night Selectors:

Ron Short and Phil Staley will continue but need to have others indicate they can take over the roles in the future.

The following sub-committees and/or support positions will be continuing and I want to take the time to acknowledge their continual contribution to the running of our club.

Tournament – Mike Petty (next year – Ladies Day, Super 4s, Ladies Cup Challenge, Mega Bowl Day).

Club Championships - Graeme Durrant, David Fisher and Mal Walker – will review how this year's events went and develop a program for next year.

Social Committee – Leanne Bourke – will continue to schedule a range of events.

Club Uniforms – Sue Morgan and Caz Fisher

Social Convenors – Mal Walker, John Strybosch, Ray Spelman, Rob Graham, Paul Drew, Peter Ballam – continuing a variety of social programs for members.

Barefoot Bowls (now being held on Fridays) – Mike Petty, Ken George, Tony McArdle (new)...looking for more people to get involved and help out.

Social Media – Pam Janssen and Leanne Bourke and Gil George

Membership – Gail Pearson and Pam Janssen – put in lots of hours welcoming new members and integrating them into the club.

Bowls Handbook – Jim Cull

Cash Handling – Jann Laurence

Catering – Pam Barnhill

Gardens – Trevor Holland, Gillian and Keith Horlock and helpers – keeping the presentation of our club and its surrounds picture perfect.

Housekeeping/Supplies – Sharon Hedrick, Rhona Bastiani and Loretta Benson

Chair –Graeme Durrant has offered to also continue his work off Committee as club CCO. I want to acknowledge Graeme's excellent representation of us into the bowls community. His recent efforts in organising and showcasing our club for the ERBR O60's competition was exceptional and recognised by the ERBR delegates.

We also have new volunteers for other support roles:

Rhona Bastiani and Dean Stubley will take up the role of Wellbeing Officer

New accredited coaches in the coaching pool include - Warren Strybosch, Rick Carver, Ron Short, Di Agius and Marlene Storer.

Matt Hay, Chris Holland, John Temple, Jim Baker, Rick Carver and David Fisher have all reaccredited or become accredited as umpires.

Paul Bastiani has assumed the role of Greens Director. John Benson, Andrew Smith and Steve Hamilton have volunteered to be on the greens team.

I thank everyone for volunteering because whether you are long term members or new, we need everyone to contribute in some way to the running of our club, especially if we want to have a future.

Please acknowledge each other

7. General Business

Chair – General Business

- Our future

Our future looks good as long as we keep working together around what we are as a club and what we want to achieve.

We need to do some work on bringing our rules and position descriptions up to date as well as develop a detailed code of conduct policy in the next term.

The committee undertakes to keep working with members and stakeholders around strategies and goals in the Pennant area.

The committee also undertakes to keep working for the benefit of all members. But note – we know we cannot please everyone all the time but we will continue to do our best, after all that's why we have a committee.

There are still some areas where we need volunteers (Corporate, Friday - Barefoot Bowls, Social Committee, Thursday and Tuesday Night Selection). If anyone feels they can volunteer in any area of the club please discuss it with any committee member and we will help you to get involved.

- Members leaving items in and around the club. If you find you no longer have any use for something, whether it be a household item, gardening items or tools for example, please don't bring them to the club and just leave them somewhere. You must talk to a Bowls committee member to ascertain whether the club needs or requires such items and wait until you receive an official answer.
- It was noted it was John Henwood's 80th birthday celebration today.
- Peter Ballam stood and asked if he could speak to the room to acknowledge the work Di had done in the last four years for the club, in getting it from its lowly point and turning it into the great club we have today. Peter said a thank you was simply not enough and requested those in the room show their affirmation by standing and applauding Di in acknowledgement of what she had achieved.
- Local Legend Award presentation – we continue our Local legend award for its second year. Di explained the background of nominating a person who might not necessarily get considered for meritorious/life membership recognition.

Di invited Ray Spelman to join her and presented him with his award and then advised:

Ray Spelman joined the Vermont South Club in July 2005 as a bowler and subsequently as a darts player. He co-convened Thursday social with David Russell in 2005, 2006 and continued on his own from 2007. That makes 20 years of convening. Ray returned to bowls in 2023 because he felt he was getting a bit old for darts. He has developed a group following of players who turn up regularly every Thursday to be looked after by Ray. They love him and he loves them. Ray also looks after our new bowls members as they integrate into the club via the Thursday social bowls program and he does an excellent job making them feel they belong here from the day they start. Ray looks after all of his players with icy poles and cordial on hot days. He buys birthday presents and anniversary presents out of his own money as part of the culture of caring he has built amongst the players.

When I talked to Ray recently, gathering information, without him knowing, it was obvious how he loves running Thursday's. They make it easy for me he told me and he said he tries to make it easy for them. Ray is an asset and such an example to our club and a silent achiever, just doing his convening and looking after his players. In my discussion he challenged other social day players to get involved in Thursday's, mix it up a little bit he says.

I have spoken to Thursday players, a couple are on my committee and they cannot speak highly enough of Ray and they, being new members to the club, could not have felt more welcome.

Ray has also given me some ideas to take to the bowls committee and is always thinking about ways we can improve things for members. He is a caring man and it shows in the culture he has developed. It is very obvious that Thursday Social convening is a very important part of his life and Ray is a very important person in this club and we could not do without him.

He truly deserves the title of local legend.

A grateful Ray then responded by reiterating how important Thursday Social has been to him over the last 20 years and how he will continue to do what he has been doing for more years to come.

Chair: I'm happy to open the meeting up for any questions from the floor for a few minutes. But, please be aware that as no notice has been given. it may be necessary to refer questions to the Committee or relevant sub-committee if we're unable answer the query here today.

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8. Next Annual General Meeting

Chair: The next Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held on Sunday, 3rd May 2026.

Chair: The first meeting of the new Bowls Committee will be on Monday, 2nd June 2025.

To finish I want to thank my husband Spiro, who has supported me through the ups, downs and challenges of this role and its responsibilities over the past 4 years. There have been many and I could not have done it without his support, love and patience. Thank you for all you do for me.....and here we go again!!!

We will move on to presentations finishing with afternoon tea and the reverse raffle.

However, first...

"There being no further business I thank you all for your attendance and declare our 31st Annual General Meeting closed at.2.18 pm".