

VERMONT SOUTH BOWLING CLUB

MINUTES OF THE 32ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) HELD ON SUNDAY, 3RD MAY 2026

Chairperson: Diane Agius
Acting Secretary: Sue Morgan

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

Chairperson Di Agius – Declared the 32nd Annual General Meeting of the Vermont South Bowling Club open for business at 1.42 pm and thanked members for their attendance.

Chairperson Di invited everyone to stand to take a few moments of reflection in silence as we 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 acting Secretary, Sue Morgan to read the list of apologies – Sue read out the following names:

Tony Bennett
Anne Staley
John Benson
Maggie Dwyer
Wyn McNamara
John Pritchard

Jock Halley
Helen King
Pam Janssen
Pearl Barratt
Keith Horlick

Phil Staley
Gary Simmons
Alex Blundell
Jim Cull
Graham White

Chair then called for any further apologies – Geoff and Lyn Bryant were also noted as apologies.

2. Notice of Meeting

Chair asked the acting 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 acting 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 - 2025 AGM

Chair announced - "The Minutes of the 2025 Bowls Section AGM have been posted on the noticeboard, emailed via eNews and copies made available to members. I ask for a Mover and Seconded that they be taken as read and accepted."

Moved: Ian Heatley

Seconded: Matt Hay

Chair – 'I put the Motion forward that the Minutes of the 2025 Bowls Section Annual General Meeting be accepted – Those in Favour? Against?' *Motion: Carried*

4. Business Arising from 2025 Bowls Section AGM Minutes

Chair asked the acting Secretary - "Was there any business arising from the Minutes that needed to be addressed by the Committee?" Acting Secretary responded "there's none."

5. Presentation and Acceptance of Annual Reports

(a) Chair – the latest VSC monthly financial report has been published for members.

Both historically and currently all expenditure approvals and financial accountability are determined at VSC committee level including lodging our annual statement with Consumer Affairs.

The full financial statements are presented to members at the VSC AGM. However, our Treasurer, Phil Staley, always provides the latest monthly report that he presents to the VSC for the benefit of bowls members.

We thank the VSC for working in partnership with us around the operational needs of the bowls section.

Phil is an apology for this meeting but I can take questions on notice if there are any and we will have them answered when he returns.

Are there any questions on notice for the Treasurer of the VSC?

No Questions

(b) Chair – The Annual Report has been published for all members to read.

Further to the very detailed report provided to members, the Committee has undertaken a club review with 2 forms developed for members to complete. 1 if you played in the last Pennant season and another as a general feedback form about other areas of the club.

Not all members have participated in that review, which is important. The committee are taking the time to consult with all members so if you want the forms to participate, there are some blank ones here.

There has been considerable information and feedback provided for the new incoming committee to consider in their first meeting after the AGM.

Also mentioned in the annual report is the bigger challenge for the incoming committee regarding our membership numbers which are trending down and I am aware that they will reduce even further with a number of members leaving before our next Pennant season.

We have tried many things and have even had a considerable number of people from the Chinese community come and TRY bowls but we can't seem to gain new members from that cohort.

However, having said all that John Temple and I had a discussion a few weeks ago and we agreed that we would send out invitations for an information night to last season's Jack Attackers, which was held a couple of weeks ago. Out of that session we have been able to achieve 8 new members.

We had our community day last Sunday and I thank those volunteers who turned up and put in a hell of an effort on behalf of the club to gain 3 more new members.

Further to that we have had 3 transfers in from other clubs.

So, that means we have been able to recruit 14 new members in the past fortnight.

I also want to acknowledge the introduction of our catchcry and theme song for Pennant and how pleasing to see our Pennant players adopting them both more and more. No, I am not going to ask you sing it now!

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

Moved: Barrie Brown

Seconded: Ken George

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

6. Election of Chairperson, Secretary, and 4 Committee Members

Chair - 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, Secretary and members to serve on the Bowls Committee.

In accordance with the Rules the Chairperson, that's me! has 1 year of my third term to serve. This will be my last! That will make 6 years and sometimes you can be in a position too long. You need someone to offer up their services to bring in new ideas and continue to take the club forward.

As I have said at previous AGMs, the rules state that a chairperson has a limit of 4 terms and I have no ambition to be that person. It is imperative for the future of our club that we have others that can take on this role.

Our Secretary, Anne Staley has completed her 2-year term and the Secretary's position is vacant.

There are 7 committee member positions. The following Committee members have 1 year of their 2-year term left to serve – Sue Morgan, Dean Stubley and Marlene Storer.

John Strybosch, Peter Morgan, Pam Barnhill and Mike Petty have completed their latest 2-year term.

John Strybosch has decided to renominate.

Pam Barnhill, and Mike Petty have decided not to renominate. Peter Morgan will not renominate but will be an appointed member of the succession/support group to the Bowls Committee.

This year was our second year where we had a committee development group – Craig Anderson and Steve Raymond will remain as part of this group. Paul Bastiani and Matt Hay will take up other positions. Loretta Benson will continue with her housekeeping duties and we thank her for her contribution to discussions at Bowls Committee level over this past year.

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 Secretary position – Anne Staley.

Chair – Are there any objections? There being no other nominations for this position, and no objections I declare Anne Staley officially as incoming Secretary. *Carried*

Chair – “We will now address the 4 vacant general Committee positions, to be filled.”

We have 4 nominations. John Strybosch renominating, Graham Munro, Paul Bastiani and Matt Hay nominating.

Chair – “We have 4 nominations for 4 vacant positions. Are there any objections?
I declare – John Strybosch, Graham Munro, Paul Bastiani and Matt Hay elected
- thank you all for nominating for these positions – Congratulations!” *Carried*

And so, we have Pam Barnhill and Mike Petty leaving the committee this year.....this is a difficult one for me. Although they are not going anywhere and will still be contributing to the running of the club, in other supporting roles to the committee, we will miss their involvement at committee level. It is because of members like Pam and Mike that we have such a great club today.

I salute them for their courage, their caring, the workload they have carried and the way they have thought about the members they are representing while on committee.

Personally, I thank them both for the support they have given me through the difficult times and the good times. I could not have fulfilled my responsibilities without them. These members make clubs great.

Please acknowledge their contribution while on committee.

Sub-committees and Supporting Positions 2026/27

I refer you to the document listing the Committee, Sub-committees and supporting roles that the Bowls Committee has endorsed for 2026/27 year. There are a large number of roles and responsibilities included in these pages and that means we need a large number of volunteers to maintain the viability of our club.

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! However, we still have vacancies and if we do not get people volunteering to take on roles that will mean some aspects of the club will be lost. History shows that once things stop, it is very difficult to get them started up again.

I want to take you through this list so you are aware of who is doing what role and where we still need volunteers to put their hand up. Sharing the load makes it a lot easier for everyone to get the things done that need to be. Please consider getting involved in any capacity you can manage.

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.

Coaching

Peter Wardle has been appointed as The Head Coach for a second year. The Bowls Committee thanks those members who have undertaken the coaching accreditation course and joined the coaching pool to assist with welcoming new members and also assisting established members with problems they may be having with their bowling. A special acknowledgement to Ron Short who has agreed to continue as coaching co-ordinator.

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.

Selection Panels

Chair: I want to point out a change regarding our selection panels. Selection panels are the same as any sub-committee or support position approved and appointed by the Bowls Committee.

Having gone through the rules thoroughly, the only committee that needs to be elected at an AGM is the Bowls Committee. All other sub-committees and supporting positions are delegated their responsibilities by the Bowls Committee and therefore are approved and appointed at Bowls Committee level.

At the last Bowls Committee meeting the following sub-committees and support positions were approved. However, there are still areas where some volunteers are needed.

Weekend Selectors

Chair: Spiro Agius, Derek Hale and Di Agius have 1 year of their 2-year term remaining. Leanne Bourke, Ross Dunlop and Jim Jones have been appointed to the weekend selection panel.

Tony Bennet, Rob Graham and John Strybosch leave this selection panel.

The Bowls Committee thank Tony for his contribution over the past 2 years.

Rob Graham and John Strybosch stepped up and didn't hesitate to get involved at a difficult time for the club and we salute you both for your efforts. John has carried a huge load for some years now including the position of Chair with other roles in the club. It is good to see that he is stepping back from some of that workload and taking some time to concentrate on and enjoy his bowls.

Can we please acknowledge, Tonys, Robs and Johns contribution to selection.

Midweek Selectors - Tuesday

Chair: Gwen Baker has 1 year remaining of her 2-year term. John Strybosch, Martin Haines, Chris Holland and Jim Jones have been appointed to the Tuesday selection panel.

Gillian Horlock left this panel when she transferred to Mulgrave. The Bowls Committee thanks Gillian for her dedication and contribution to the Tuesday selection panel. Please acknowledge Gillian's contribution to selection.

Midweek Selectors - Thursday

Chair: Spiro Agius has been running Thursday selection on his own for a couple of years now and has decided it's time for a break with all the other work he does for the club, which includes sponsorship, Saturday selection, VSC committee and maintenance work.

Mal Walker and Mike Petty have been appointed to the Thursday selection panel.

Please acknowledge Spiro's contribution to Thursday selection.

Tuesday Night Selectors

Chair: Ron Short and Phil Staley have advised the Bowls Committee that they are willing to continue as the Tuesday night selection panel and so have been appointed as the selection panel.

Umpires/Measurers – The Bowls Committee thanks those members who have undertaken the umpires/measurers accreditation and become part of the pool for Pennant and Tournaments. We are always looking for more people to join this pool so if you think you can undertake the course please let us know.

The Bowls Committee also salutes Jim Baker who has undertaken the Umpire co-ordinator role for a number of years now.

Tournament Director – Matt Hay takes on this role from Mike Petty (next year – Ladies Day, Super 4s, Ladies Cup Challenge).

Another big thank you to Mike for his hard work and contribution to this role.

Club Championships Sub-committee - Graeme Durrant, David Fisher and Mal Walker continue and will review how this year's events went with the considerable feedback received from the club review. They are tasked with developing a new schedule this year for the Bowls Committee to approve.

A special thank you to David Fisher who did all the running around to get trophies engraved, making sure we are ready for our Presentation event.

Membership – Pam Janssen and Graeme Durrant will be continuing – they put in lots of hours welcoming new members and integrating them into the club. Gail Pearson has advised that she cannot continue in the membership role, so we need someone to volunteer to take on this role which involves creating the new members folder, allocating a key, parking pass and name badge.

Social Media – Pam Janssen and Leanne Bourke will be continuing.

Wellbeing - Rhona Bastiani and Dean Stubleby will continue in the roles

Greens Team - Paul Bastiani will continue to lead our greens team – Noel Bennett, Tony Bennett, Alan Rolfe, Ron Vogeley, John Hawes, and Andrew Smith. What a superb job they do. However, we have recently lost 2 members from this group, Denis Quintal and John Benson. So, if there are members, male or female who feel they can get involved in greens maintenance I am sure Paul will be very pleased to hear from you and show you what's involved.

We thank Denis and John for their contribution to greens maintenance, especially Denis who has been the Green's Director for a number of years.

Social Sub- Committee – Pearl Barratt joins the team with Pam Barnhill, Mike Petty and Leanne Bourke. They will continue to identify and schedule a range of events for us over the year.

However, they do need more members or even if you want to offer to run one event without the meetings, that would be of great assistance.

Bowls Trip – Mike and Marlene Storer arranged this year's trip and by all reports it was another great one. However, we have no one who has volunteered to undertake this job for next year. If we don't get anyone there will not be a trip.

Catering – Pam Barnhill will lead this group again but we are looking to appoint team leaders to share the workload. Rhona Bastiani has volunteered and taken on another job. There must be others. There can be a lot of work in this area with club functions, tournaments, corporate events, club member's functions and Pennant. We always receive great feedback about the quality of our catering. Please let us know if you can join a pool of people who can be called on from time to time depending on what is needed for each event.

Housekeeping/Supplies – Sharon Hedrick, Rhona Bastiani and Loretta Benson continue on doing their great work.

Bowls Maintenance – We have a group of odd-job men who help out from time to time depending on what job's involved so if you have any odd-job skills to offer we are more than happy to welcome you to the team of – Noel Bennett, Jim Jones, Graham Munro, Paul Bastiani, Ken George, Spiro Agius, and Mal Walker.

Club Uniforms – Sue Morgan and Caz Fisher will be continuing.

Gardens – Trevor Holland – keeping the presentation of our club and its surrounds picture perfect. It important that members get to the working bees to keep our bowls precinct looking first class. I also acknowledge the continuing gardening work being undertaken by Keith and Gillian Horlock.

Bowls Handbook – Jim Cull had agreed to do the handbook for this year again. However, since the recent loss of his daughter and other pressing personal matters he has asked if someone else can volunteer to take this on. It is not a big job he says, a lot of cut and pasting. I know our members look forward to getting the annual handbook so please, someone volunteer to take this task on.

Health and Safety – We introduced a new sub-committee this year for health and safety. Paul Bastiani agreed to head up this sub-committee with a team consisting of Pam Barnhill, Craig Anderson and Dean Stubley. Hopefully you will have been reading about developments and work being completed in this area in our Bowls minutes. This team will continue.

eNews – eNews is a Vermont South Club role but it is vital to the communication channels we have with our bowls members in keeping everyone informed about what's happening across the bowls section. A huge salute to John Temple and his contribution to our operations.

Corporate – Another area where we need a group of people available to be called on depending on what is needed for the event. This is becoming a major income stream for the club so we need to be able to maintain this service.

Leanne Bourke and Rhona Bastiani have taken the lead in the corporate area from me, taking enquiries and working out whether we can provide the service. Pam Barnhill and I provide support and Marlene Storer has volunteered this year to be part of the pool. This is another area where, if you are part of a pool of people there may be only 1 or 2 events you asked to get involved with, so please consider volunteering.

Website – The Bowls Committee have been discussing our website for a very long time. We have now appointed a sub-committee which will be led by Mike Petty with a team consisting of Peter Morgan, Steve Raymond and Roy Arscott. Rob Sharpe has recently offered assistance with this endeavour and David Strybosch has recently joined this sub-committee to provide his expertise. This year we will have a revamped or new bowls website, so watch this space or keep up with our minutes.

Social Convenors – Our pool of social convenors do a magnificent job for our members and non-members providing hours of fun, social interaction, bowls and yes of course competition.

Mal Walker continues Mondays, John Strybosch Wednesdays and Ray Spelman Thursdays.

Matt Hay and Jim Jones have assumed the convenor roles for Saturday Winter social from Rob Graham and Paul Drew.

Ken Barnhill and Tony Bennett have assumed the convenors roles from Rob Graham and Peter Ballam for Wednesday Summer social.

Again, we acknowledge the contribution made to our Bowls social program by Rob Graham, Peter Ballam and Paul Drew who have convened social bowls for a number of years now. They have done a superb job. Please acknowledge their contribution.

Barefoot Bowls (now being held on Fridays) – Mike Petty, Ken George, John Strybosch, Pam Barnhill and myself will be involved but this is another area we are looking for more to help out. We have been asking for more help with Barefoot Bowls for a number of years and given this is a major avenue for new members it is becoming critical for others to get involved and give those currently involved a break. Again, this is an area if we had a pool of people you would not have to attend every week, so even if you can commit to every 2 or 3 weeks please let us know.

Mega Bowl Day – This event has been a great success and will continue again this year under Peter Morgan's Leadership, well supported by Matt Hay, Sue Morgan and Mike Petty.

Jack Attack – John Temple and his team of Mary Farley, Elaine Kendler, Mal Walker, Trevor Holland and Alan Rolfe continue to do a magnificent job with the Jack Attack program every year and its success just keeps growing and growing...*and given the success of our recent information evening we will now hold this event annually after the Jack Attack season finishes.*

First Aid Officers – This year the Bowls Committee was pro-active in getting first aid officers trained and we were very fortunate that 11 people out of the bowls section are now qualified. Please familiarise yourself with the names on the list.

RSAs – Acknowledgment also goes to our RSAs who are involved in so many events. They are needed for social games, barefoot bowls, corporate events, club functions, tournaments, Pennant days. You could just about say everything. However, again we always get the same group of people volunteering for corporate events and this is an area where the Bowls Committee may look at rostering. If anyone wants to join this pool and become RSA accredited please let us know, the club covers the costs.

Again, I thank my committee who have supported me for the past 5 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 I thank everyone for their contribution. We need everyone to be involved in the running of the club, in any capacity you can manage, to maintain our long-term sustainability. Our future depends on your involvement.

To you, our members, it has been a privilege and an honour to be the Chairperson of this great club for the past 5 years. Every member should be proud of what we have here. I want to thank again, all those volunteers who have worked in roles previously, continued in roles or taken up roles for the first time for the next 12 months. It is because of your efforts over more than 40 years that we continue to thrive where it counts the most.

Please acknowledge each other...

7. General Business

Chair – General Business

- Review of the Bowls Rules

In my annual report and the AGM last year, I advised everyone about the Commonwealth Agency called "Sport Integrity Australia" and the National Integrity Framework they have developed. A consistent set of policies applied across all sports in Australia. Bowls Australia adopted this framework in 2022 and it has been slowly devolved to Bowls Victoria, Eastern Ranges and now to bowls clubs.

This year the Bowls Committee has completed its due diligence to align with the NIF as directed by our regulatory bodies. So, we have undertaken the review and update of our rules (a template was provided by Bowls Victoria for all clubs to follow); we have created job descriptions for every position in the club and we have created a Code of Conduct Policy for all stakeholders involved in the sport of bowls (again aligned to Bowls Victoria) and is displayed on the noticeboard.

We did have to adapt the rules a little because the template did not take into consideration the structure of a bowls club having a Committee of Management.

We received a question about the section about annual membership renewals, which is phrased in a much more legal way in the new template to our old rules but it means the same and given that membership and renewals are covered in the VSC rules we do not intend to change the language.

We have not received any other questions about the rules....?

So, I now move the motion to everyone...

"That the Vermont South Bowling Club Rules, confirmed by the Bowls Committee on 3rd February 2026, be adopted subject to the approval of the VSC Committee of Management."

Moved: Di Agius

Seconded: Pam Barnhill

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

- Local Legend Award Presentation – we continue our Local Legend award for its third year.....explain the background of nominating a person who might not necessarily get considered for meritorious/life membership recognition

This person joined the Vermont South Club in 2014 as a bowler. She shared her passion for sport with netball and it took a few years to win her over totally to Bowls. She quickly became involved in the club volunteering to help out in the kitchen at first with catering. Then she moved on to being part of the jack attack team for a number of years and you often see her racing around picking up pizzas for the players and making sure they were well looked after.

She has willingly assisted with our school sessions with students from our local schools, making sure everyone has a good time. More recently she has been involved in the exercise program that we run on Fridays. She is the co- coordinator of this event which keeps people active and provides the opportunity for everyone to mix socially. She puts in a lot of work organising a social gathering of the group with food for special occasions over the course of the year.

I have talked to her many times, even had disagreements with her, and you soon learn that it is obvious how she loves this club and its members. She is the first to put her hand up to help anyone who is going through a difficult time or needs support to get to club functions. She is always looking at ways to improve things around the club and she has certainly helped things along with the amount of sewing she has done for club events and more. You can certainly rely on her and she is certainly not afraid to tell you what she thinks!

I have spoken to players, across the bowls section and they all agree that she is a great club member, reliable and always first to volunteer for whatever event is coming up, contributing heaps with no need for acknowledgment, just going about it quietly, buzzing around, getting jobs done and I am told she is the best chicken cutter upper a. She can even put down a good bowl or 2. I personally know that because when I first joined the club she and I would often find ourselves bowling against each other and yes the competition was on as to who could get the best bowl down for the day and ultimately who could claim the win.

She is a very caring person, easy going, with the welfare of others always at the forefront of her mind. She has a very important companion in her life – her dog Roxy and she is a very important person in this club. We could not do without her.

Elaine Kendler truly deserves the title of local legend.

Elaine...can you please come up and receive your award.

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.

8. Next Annual General Meeting

Chair: The next Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held on Sunday, 2nd May 2027.

Chair: The first meeting of the new Bowls Committee will be on Monday, 1st June 2026.

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 5 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..... 1 year to go dear but I know I have said that before!!!

Just before we move onto presentations, afternoon tea and the reverse raffle.

"There being no further business I thank you all for your attendance and declare our 32nd Annual General Meeting closed at.2.25 pm."