

GREATER NEWCASTLE BOWLS
MINUTES DELEGATES MEETING at Lambton BC



Date Monday September 30, 2024. 5:30pm (brought forward from Oct 7 due to Public Holiday)

Attendance – As per Sign in sheet

Apologies – Alf Smith (Hexham), Mick Kedwell (Valentine), Kev Atkinson (Edgeworth), Kane Coulls (Nelson Bay), Nev Berry (Cardiff), Erroll Lind (Dora Creek) Julie Dawson (Marks Point), Jan Wiltshire (Belmont)

Clubs not in Attendance: Adamstown, Carrington, Fingal Bay, Lemon Tree Passage, Mayfield, Redhead, Soldiers Point, Tea Gardens, Teralba, Windale Gateshead.

OBITUARIES - Nil were reported, amendment to previous minutes Life Member Merle Gregory (Beresfield) was omitted from September Minutes.

PRESIDENTS OPENING REMARKS AND REPORT

I have had a busy month with Committee Meetings, weekly catch ups with Warren and attending Bowls Presentations and Regional Finals. I would like to thank Raymond Terrace Bowling Club and Valentine Bowling Club for your kind invitations to your Presentation nights. These were very enjoyable nights seeing many Bowlers being awarded Club Awards for their achievements and sharing friendship.

I also attended Soldiers Point Bowling Club where it was a pleasure to present medals and prizes to the winners and runners up of the Ladies Regional Open and Senior Ladies Championships. At East Maitland I attended the Final of Mens Regional Fours Final where I also presented the winners with their medals and runners up with prize money. I also attended one of the Junior Training Sessions at the Beresfield Bowling Club.

I attended Beresfield AGM where I was notified that Gail Stunell had been awarded Life Membership of the Ladies Bowling Club. Congratulations Gail. I also attended Windale Gateshead AGM where Les and Shirley Pyke were also awarded Life Membership. Congratulations to both of you.

Long Serving President of Windale Gateshead Frank Botham after 21 years of outstanding leadership finally pulled up stumps and did not nominate again. Frank has been a great supporter of our Zone/Region as a friend and Bowler. On behalf of us all "Thank You".

I also had the pleasure of presenting Raymond Terrace with their Medals when winning the No 1 Grade Pennant Flag. Another great achievement. I am also looking forward to

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attending the Finals of the Ladies Pennants at Club Charlestown. Many thanks to all our Clubs who had supported the Pennant Games throughout the year. Hamilton North Flag unfurling was a fantastic day and well done to them on a remarkable Pennant season. I also had the pleasure of presenting the winner's medallion to Lee Schraner at East Maitland for the Region singles

Our Mattara Entries are now completed, and we are looking forward to an excellent Carnival with the Main Host being the Beresfield Club. Best of luck to all Bowlers who will be playing in the Carnival.

Again, I would like to thank all those Bowlers who nominated for positions on our Greater Newcastle Bowls Committee and meetings amongst most of these committees have begun. Thank you also to all those clubs who have requested our attendance at Presentations and AGM's.

I would also like to again thank Jacki Aldred for her tireless work for the Newcastle Women's District and the short time she was involved with Greater Newcastle.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD AT RAYMOND TERRACE SEPTEMBER 6

Matters arising

1. Question regarding Selection policy. W Shipley informed the meeting that there is a current selection policy on the Zone 2 website for all to view. This will be reviewed by current selectors and modified to reflect Greater Newcastle.
2. Question on Women's Pennant continuing. W Shipley stated that there has been no discussion regarding Women's Pennant not continuing and there will be a Women's Pennant competition in Season 2025/26

CORRESPONDENCE

- Information regarding BNSW Awards night and members conference.
- Mattara draws distributed
- Next Webinar Tuesday October 8 looking at all ability bowls, featuring special guest Right at Home Jackaroo, world champion and Bowls Australia pathways coach James Reynolds.
- Nominations called for BNSW Board, closing October 4.
- Rookie Pairs draw available via Bowlslink.
- Women's State Carnival to be held at Forster.
- State Championship schedule and draw now available.



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- Nominations open for State umpire, selector and junior committees closing October 11.
- Appeal for clubs to host Mixed Pairs qualifying Saturday November 2 (8 rinks x 3)

TREASURERS REPORT

D Wells reported a Current balance of \$676441. There were still some term deposits which have recently matured to be added to this total and the Xero accounting system needs to be reconciled to reflect the closing balances from LMWDBA, NDWBA and NDBA accounts. Don also informed the meeting that the last Audit of NDBA was now completed which showed a deficit of \$-14631, which was down from \$-19815 the previous financial year. Don then moved that the Greater Newcastle Bowls Delegates appoint Cutcher and Neale as Auditors for the 2024/25 financial year. This was seconded by J Wolfe (Swansea Workers) and carried.

ADVISORY REPORT Milon Rigby reported that the Advisory committee have been reviewing all previous advisory pamphlets and updating them to be placed on the new Greater Newcastle Website.

JUNIOR REPORT R Gardner informed the meeting that the next Junior Training season will be held at East Maitland on October 16 commencing at 5:30pm. He asked the delegates to encourage any Juniors at their club to attend. These sessions are held monthly at various clubs throughout the Region

MARKETING REPORT Katey Hughes informed the meeting that a grant of \$2500 has been secured from Newcastle Council for All Abilities Bowlers. She also reminded delegates about the "quick links" at the top of the Greater Newcastle Facebook page and thanked the members for their support with photos and club logos. Any club wanting information published on Facebook should contact Katey.

MATCH REPORT We have been very busy with finalization of the Women's Regional Pennant season for 2024-2025.

Sectional play finished on Thursday 12th September and the overall results meant that no washed-out games needed to be played to determine sectional winners.

Sectional winners of Division 4 and Division 2 (section 2) were decided after round nine but all remaining sections needed to continue to round ten to find the winners.

The Post Sectionals were held on Tuesday 24th and Thursday 26th at Club Charlestown and we thank them for their great hospitality. Daniel did a great job ensuring that everything was ready to go and I thank him for his support.



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On Tuesday in Division 3, Hamilton North got off to a strong start winning both matches 7-0 and in Division 4 Raymond Terrace played solid bowls to ensure their spot at the State Finals.

Thursday all Divisions played, with Divisions 3 and 4 completing their round robin matches and Divisions 1 and 2 playing straight knock-out games.

- Division 1: Charlestown put in a great performance against Beresfield to take the title 46-20.
- Division 2: Soldiers Point and East Maitland was a hard fought match which could have gone either way but East Maitland held it all together, winning 38-36.
- Division 3: Hamilton North continued their campaign with a strong win over Charlestown 51-27 giving them a 21 point total. This is a back to back win for them having won Division 4 in 2023- 2024.

Rathmines and Alder Park/Bar Beach played terrific bowls vying for runner-up, and this went down to the last end ending with a drawn game giving Rathmines the runner-up medallion.

- Division 4: Raymond Terrace had a bye but had already secured winning position, so the match Karuah versus Mayfield West was also a decider for runner-up.

Both teams were determined to win a silver medallion and the match went right down to the wire, and with only 1 shot the difference Mayfield West were the victors winning 39-38. The presentation of medallions and the flags is always a momentous occasion and this was no exception. President of the Greater Newcastle Bowls, Mark Conway presided over this event watched by a huge gallery of spectators and all players walked away proud of their achievement.

Every player who participated in Pennants 2024-2025 should be congratulated for their great sportsmanship and the competitive spirit they displayed throughout the season. Thank you to all the Umpires for giving up their time and to the Club's Committee members who supported their players along the way.

The State Pairs and Senior Pairs entries close on Monday 30th September so all Clubs need to check the boards to ensure entries have been sent.

State Singles and Senior Singles close the following week Tuesday 8th October so it would be advisable to send both event entries together.

SELECTORS REPORT Mens regional events conclude next week and teams for the Pat Geary Shield played in November will be selected shortly after that.

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I have been in talks with Darren Morrison (Chair of Central Coast region) about the possibility of a game against them which will include Under 25's and a reserve representative team.

Also, I have discussed with fellow selectors to implement a day of drills and a chat to potential over 60's/ Veteran players. This will provide us with a larger sample size of players abilities and commitment on their behalf. Also to open the line of communication between players and selectors.

We have been set a task with the ladies side of things. Joining two zones into one region. With a larger player pool and the teams going from six or seven rinks in each Zone, to now align with the men to three or four rinks in forming one Regional team.

UMPIRES REPORT The umpire's committee has been busy over the last month doing umpire accreditations and reaccreditations.

The new committee consisting of Glenda Robins, Christine Davies, Cohen Ridd and Glen Baxter all assisting Milton and Myself in doing these courses making things run smoothly.

We have completed courses at Boolaroo, (14 New Umpires), Raymond Terrace (7 new umpires), We have also carried out reaccreditations at, Wangi, Dora Creek, Warners Bay, Soldiers Point, Raymond Terrace, Nelson Bay, Hamilton North and Adamstown.

We have had some question asked about a player turning up to play straight from work and only shoes were not approved by Bowls Australia but had flat soles this is where common sense and sportsmanship comes into play and the player be allowed to play.

Umpires need to use common sense when asked about a bowl that has been dropped accidentally when is about to deliver a bowl, there is no set distance that a dropped bowl travels if it only gets a few metres up the green that is when sportsmanship comes into play by the players.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Open Pennants. W Shipley informed Delegates that all clubs have now received their Open Pennant allocation of sides for the competition commencing February 15 2025. He reminded clubs that if they intended to apply for grades that they have not been allocated or not field the same amount of sides, then they must show evidence to support their request. Any member listed on Bowlslink is considered available for Pennant.
2. W Shipley reminded all that if a female has played in the Open Reserve Singles and Pairs, they are ineligible to compete in the Women's or Senior Women's Singles or Pairs.
3. W Shipley informed meeting that the Greater Newcastle Bowls website <https://greaternewcastlebowls.com.au/> is up and running with limited information

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but we are working toward closing the Zone 2 website with all the historical information relocated onto the new site.

Next Delegates meeting will be held at Raymond Terrace on Friday November 15 at 10am, followed by meeting Monday December 9 at 5:30pm at Lambton BC