

GREATER NEWCASTLE BOWLS

MINUTES DELEGATES MEETING at LAMBTON BC and CHARLESTOWN

Date Friday July 4, 2025. 10:00am, Monday July 14, 2025. 5:30pm

Attendance – As per Sign in sheet, it was highlighted that only 7 delegates, representing 6 clubs, attended the daytime meeting. The August daytime meeting will be monitored and if attendance is low the daytime meeting will no longer take place

Apologies – Anne Murray (Fingal Bay), Julie Schumacher (Soldiers Point) John Smith (Bay Way Village), Cliff Bennett (Wangi), Milton Rigby (Charlestown), Carol Sagar (Boolaroo)

OBITUARIES Neville Berry (Cardiff), Chris Edwards, Kevin Bunt (Beresfield), Tim Sutcliffe (Stockton), David Dumbleton (Mayfield West), Noel Baker (Bay Way Village), Noel Bates (East Maitland) Robert Carey (Kotara)

PRESIDENTS OPENING REMARKS AND REPORT MARK CONWAY

The wet weather again saw the postponing of the Vets and Super Vets Day which was to be held at Beresfield. This important event will be rescheduled to later in the year when the weather is warmer. Last week saw many of our Greater Newcastle Regional Bowlers play in the Australian Open. What a magnificent effort to see Warren Shipley and Tony Hinton making the final of the Over 60's. Unfortunately, they went down on an extra end in a nail-biting finish. Tahlia Kennedy also made the final of the Under 18's Girls Singles and was defeated but put up an outstanding performance. David Govan from Beresfield made the Final of the Champion of Champion Singles and was Runner Up. Another outstanding effort.

To all our Regional Players who represented our Region in the Inter Regional held in Sydney you all certainly did the Region proud. The Seniors being Quarter Finalists, Women's, and Men's Semi Finalists only to be beaten by the eventually winners. 2 of players Natasha and Genevieve could not make the games as they were flooded in. I know how disappointed they were. To all the supporters who travelled down to watch the games thank you. To our selectors and managers well done.

In July will see 7 of Junior Players compete in the Junior State Inter Region 7-A Side Championships in Dubbo. We all wish them great success and Congratulations in being selected. Our Region also has a long list of players who trialled for NSW State Selection and no doubt many of these players will be rewarded to represent the Keno Blues. Best of

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luck to all our Regional Clubs who are playing the State Pennant Finals at the end of this month. Hopefully, they will come home flying a State Winners Flag. Travel safe.

In closing our Prestigious Region Presentation Night will be held on Thursday 24th July at the Beresfield Bowling Club. Invitations have been sent out to ALL CLUBS for 2 persons to attend the night. The invite is for 1 delegate and their partner or 2 club delegates only. Extra tickets can be purchased for \$40 a ticket. If your club would like to book a table or purchase extra tickets, please let President Mark know. We have the pleasure of having Steve Glasson OAM attending the night which is a great honour. For catering purposes RSVP needs to be sent to marktconway@gmail.com please. This is the first time we have had a combined Men's and Ladies Presentation Night which will be a wonderful night. There will also be Live Music with Emile.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD AT LAMBTON and CHARLESTOWN BC were circulated and confirmed as correct.

Matters arising

- The GNB management committee have agreed to support clubs to the value of \$200 toward the purchase of "Wet Bulb Globe Temperature Stress Meter" (WBGT). This device provides the most accurate determination of the heat stress index based on the cumulative effect of air temperature, air movement, relative humidity and radiant heat.

If clubs already have a weather monitor they may use the grant toward umpires equipment. \$200 will be reimbursed to clubs on receipt of proof of purchase.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Bowls NSW invite Club Charlestown and Soldiers Point to participate in Platinum
2. Bowls NSW advised of updated calendar with changes to Platinum Pennant dates
3. Bowls NSW Over 40's draw released Qualifying Rounds | Saturday 2 – Sunday 3 August, State Finals Saturday 6 – Sunday 7 December 2025
4. Bowls NSW Rookie Singles and Pairs entries (Singles closed, Pairs August 19) Singles Qualifying: 9 & 10 August, Pairs Qualifying: 27 & 28 September, Singles & Pairs State Finals: 20 – 23 November 2025.
5. Bowls NSW Mixed Pairs. Entries Close: 23 September, Qualifying Dates: 1 & 2 November, State Finals (2025-26 Bowls NSW State Championships): June – July 2026 (exact dates TBC)
6. Expressions of Interest for Representative Selection has been forwarded to clubs.

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TREASURERS REPORT Don Wells

Treasurer's report: Profit Loss Statement from 1 July 2024 to current was circulated to clubs - Income \$333,055; expenses \$261,158; Net Profit \$71,897;

Three Fixed Term Accounts have been opened 1x \$400,000 and 2x\$50,000

Current working account contains \$243,627

ADVISORY REPORT

The committee have been preparing documents for approval by the GNB Executive including Member Farming – Tap a Hidden Asset and Improve Your Bottom Line, social media Policy and Executive and Committee Expense Policy.

MARKETING REPORT

Cathy Hughes thanked the many people who supplied updates of results from the recent State Pennant Finals, those people included but not limited too, June Evans, Ron Morey, Trudy Ryan, Scott Thoroughgood, Steve Duncan, John Wolfe, Lesley Afflick, Jodie Dorricott, Terry Blow and Grahame Melville.

A reminder that both the Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/greater.newcastle.bowls> and Web Page

<https://greaternewcastlebowls.com.au/> has links to **Invitation/Tournament flyers** and are updated monthly on the website. Any flyers for events can be forward to

j_m_evans60@hotmail.com so they can be included in each update. **June Evans (Website Administrator) Mob: 0407 661 768 or email j_m_evans60@hotmail.com**

MATCH REPORT Gayle Gannon

Since the last meeting the State Junior Championships were played and Tahlia Kennedy from East Maitland was Runner up and was also runner up in the Australian Open under 18 Girls event.

NSW Junior Pairs Final Tahlia Kennedy (East Maitland) and Charlotte Hayman (RT) were defeated in a close game by a Merrylands team.

GNB inaugural Bowling Arm Pairs – Ian Percival and Andrew Caparo from Charlestown were champions.

The State Calendar for 2025-26 has been approved – Women's Pennant will commence Tuesday 24th March mid week Tuesday and Thursday over 10 rounds; Open Gender Pennant will commence 14/15 February 2026 weekend with double header over 10 rounds; and Men's Single Gender Pennant will commence 25th February 2026.

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GNB Open Three Threes event has been introduced with a revised set of conditions of play and will commence on Wednesday 23rd July.

Region Open Singles will commence Saturday 16th August and Senior Women from Monday 25th August. You will have noted from current COP that all senior events will be played mid week and open events at the weekend. The open 4 bowl pairs is now 18 ends, not 21 ends as previous.

GNB Veteran Pairs – Winners were Chris Handley, Kel Frame from Cardiff

Barry Mungoven and Michael Abel from East Maitland were runner up in the State Men's Champion of Club Champion Pairs

David Govan from Beresfield was runner up State Champion of Club Champion Singles

GNB Champion of Club Champion 4s will be played July 12, 13, 19 with 30 sides entered

GNB Open Pennant Finals were concluded at various venues over 3rd and 4th May:-

Grade 1 Champions – Charlestown; runners up Beresfield.

Grade 2 Champions – Teralba; runners up Cardiff

Grade 3 Champions – Swansea; runners up Wangi

Grade 4 Champions – Beresfield; runners-up Charlestown

Grade 5 Champions – Merewether, runners-up Waterboard (I went to Wangi for the final and attend the presentation. I was very impressed with the high standard of bowls played)

Grade 6 Champions – Hamilton North; runners up Swansea.

Grade 7 Champions – Cardiff; runners up Bayway Village

Under 25 Singles – Champion Brendan Stokes – RT; R-up Matt Swan - Charlestown

GNB Juniors selected in Junior Blues Gold squad are C Hayman – RT and T Kennedy- Easts; Silver squad were Mackenzie Wicks, Willow Powell, Kyle Anderson - RT

Women's State Carnival was won by a composite team from Merrylands/Oak Flats

Upcoming event is the Inter school challenge which is open to students years 7 – 12

Congratulations to Raymond Terrace who finished 4th in Platinum Pennant

Vet and Super Vets Day has been postponed due to wet weather – new date tba

Men's and Women's Inter Region sides both made it to the semi finals being defeated by eventual winners Metro South West

Men's and Women's Open, Senior, Over 40s and Under 25s squads have been selected to trial for the upcoming State Selection Series last weekend and early last week.

Congratulations to Natasha Van Eldik, Kate Matthews, Lee Schraner, Sharon McReynolds, Charlotte Hayman, Zoe Nicholls, Shelby Powell, Brendan Stokes from Raymond Terrace; Daniel Hill, Raweang Namutwong, Matt Swan, Nathan Dawson from Charlestown; Leisa Burton, Betty Herbertson, Bill Ahoy, Tony Hinton, Warren Shipley from Soldiers Point; Leisa

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Morgan, Tahlia Kennedy from East Maitland; David Govan from Beresfield. These sides will be announced shortly.

Australian Open – Runner-up Senior Pairs – Warren Shipley, Tony Hinton – Soldiers Point; Soldiers Point and Charlestown have replaced Mount Lewis and Taren Point to compete in the State Platinum Pennant competition and will join Raymond Terrace and East Maitland.

Bowls NSW Junior Inter region 7-A-side championships to be held at Club Dubbo 11 – 13 July – congratulations to Singles – Zayne West (RT); Pairs – Mackenzie Wicks, Charlotte Hayman (RT); Fours – Ami and Mia Bromhead, Kyle Anderson (RT), Tahlia Kennedy (EM) Congratulations to Natasha Van Eldik and Lee Schraner from RT selected to compete in the Golden Nugget on 28th July at Tweed

Under 25 pairs started at Charlestown last Tuesday night and will continue over coming weeks at that club.

Congratulations to Lee Schraner who partnered with Warilla's Corey Wedlock to claim the Singapore Pairs Lion's Cup.

SELECTION REPORT Ian Lean

Inter-region Championships have been completed. With some good results from all teams. The over 60's kicked off our campaign. Finishing first in their section, but unfortunately being defeated by team Illawarra.

The men's open team made it all the way to the semi-final after defeating a strong Illawarra team in the quarter final.

However, we were defeated by a very powerful Metro South-West team, losing just the one rink.

The Womens team finished the same way. Made it to the Semi -final, also being defeated by a powerful Metro South-West team.

All teams played well throughout the championships and can hold their heads up high.

A special shout out to the women's team. They suffered an early set back with 2 key players unable to make it due to the floods. This forced our reserve to come in and a player to arrive from Newcastle at short notice. Then a reshuffle in the team where all players stepped up and played brilliantly. Team harmony was superb, on and off the green. So proud of you girls!

We have the Junior 7 aside team playing on the 12/13th July at Dubbo. Congrats to all players selected and wish them all the best.

And finally, we will be selecting a men's and women's development teams to play in a series later in the year. This will enable players to showcase their abilities, creating an opportunity to break into the open team. Yours in bowls

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Dates for 2025/26 representative fixtures

Development series match Friday September 19

Pat Geary Shield October 25 and 26 at Soldiers Point Men and Women 3 rinks

Men's Senior Trial Tuesday October 28 venue TBA

Rod Robards Shield and Waves to Wine Friday evening November 7.

John Smith Shield November 29 and 30 Central Coast

Rose Bowl November 30 Central Coast

Men's Veteran Trial Wednesday January 28 venue TBA.

Men's Senior Inter Region at Yamba February 2,3,4 2026.

Men's and Women's Inter Region Yamba and Iluka February 6,7,8 2026

UMPIRES REPORT Kevin Bucklee

We have been informed that it is only a recommendation to have a working with children certificate for umpires at this stage.

One of our members had a question asked of him about a player playing pennants having a fall at Rathmines and having to go to hospital. A person sitting on the bank watching was eligible grade wise to become a substitute, but was refused by the umpire because they were not in club uniform making one side play a player short. In the front of the law book there are it stated that common sense and sportsmanship comes into play when there are not specific rules to cover all situations. A similar situation happened at Beresfield where a player got ill and the opposition skip said that they couldn't use an eligible player from the spectators because they weren't in their club uniform, thankfully the umpires showed common sense and allowed the player to be used as a substitute.

A question was sent to the umpires committee re a delivered bowl hitting a bowl into the ditch then followed it on and sitting the bowl in the ditch with some of the bowl still on the green, the law (17.4) states that all dead bowls must be removed from the rink as soon as it has been declared dead. If the leaning bowl, then falls into the ditch then it too becomes dead as long as it hadn't touched the jack on the way through.

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GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Three Threes Entries (103) 8 gold, 44 Silver, 51 Bronze. This compares with 95 sides in 2022 and 104 sides in 2023 remembering that Hunter Clubs were also entered in these competitions, which calculates an increase of 11 sides for this season
2. Champion of Champions Fours FINAL this Saturday at Lambton between Raymond Terrace and Wangi
3. Open and Women's Pennant grading. Clubs will soon receive the Grades/Divisions they have been allocated for the 25/26 season with information on what to do should they wish to apply for Grades/Divisions that vary from what has been allocated.
4. A link to a "Gala spreadsheet" will be forwarded for clubs to complete with their normal weekly galas. This is not to be used for special events or tournaments, but for the regular matches that are held each week.
5. Clubs are reminded that for Club Championships, clubs that are not unified are to be considered as two separate clubs (Men's and Women's) it is possible that the Men's Club may have women as registered members and the Women's Club may also have men registered and this is their primary club. This means that any Man or Women can only play championships for the primary club they are registered with (Men or Women) as an example, if a women is registered with the "Men's" club as their primary club, they cannot play in club championships that the Women's club contest as they are not members. The best solution is to unify. Information on Unification can be obtained from BNSW.
6. Anniversaries – August Beresfield Men 75th, July - Beresfield women 70th, Tea Gardens 70th
7. Question from the floor regarding the Champion of Champions Fours event being Open. This was communicated when the entries were called for and because clubs have the option of conducting Men only, Women only or Open club Fours the Region conducts the event as an Open event with any team that wins their club Fours being able to enter (Men, Women or Open) so no member or club is restricted from entering.
8. The Region is in desperate need for clubs to host Singles matches on August 16 and 17, thank you to clubs that have already put their hand up but we need more.

Next Meetings: Monday August 25 at Lambton BC 5:30pm and 10am Friday August 29 at Raymond Terrace.

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