

GREATER NEWCASTLE BOWLS
MINUTES DELEGATES MEETING at LAMBTON BC



Date Monday August 25, 2025. 5:30pm

Attendance – As per Sign in sheet,

Apologies – Alex McDonald (Rathmines), Katey Hughes (Bar Beach), Lois Wedesweiler (Hamilton North) Carolyn Fredericks (Tea Gardens) Richard Simmer (Marks Point) Carolyn Fredricks (Tea Gardens) Kathy York (Redhead), Les Carter (Hexham) Ann Murray (Fingal Bay), Paul Croucher (Stockton)

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

President Mark welcomed all in attendance to the meeting and informed the delegates of the upcoming move of the office to Beresfield. The office at Lambton will be vacated by the end of October.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD were circulated and confirmed as correct.

Matters arising

- Thank you to Beresfield, Charlestown, Nelson Bay, Soldiers Point, Rathmines, Bar Beach, Windale Gateshead and Belmont as the only clubs out of 41 to offer their services for Singles. Options for next season will be to increase entry fees and pay a fee to clubs who arrange markers to compensate them in some way or go to sections of 3 players 21 up matches which none of the players seem to want.
- Entry numbers for Region events, singles- men up 19, women same, reserves up 11, senior men up 42, senior women same, Pairs- men up 8 teams, women down 4, reserves down 1, senior men same, senior women down 11 teams. Overall the two events have 56 more individual entries.

1. CORRESPONDENCE

Bowls NSW will be sending an email out to all club contacts informing them of their requirement to complete and submit a 'Bowls NSW & Region Membership Form' on

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behalf of their club. This online form provides Bowls NSW and Regions with crucial information from clubs, including key contact details and club information.

2. GNB is moving office to Beresfield and this will be completed by mid-October.

PRESIDENT REPORT Mark Conway

It has been a couple of amazing weeks with all the rain we have had and causing havoc with many of our clubs. Our Match Committee has been in overdrive in scheduling Region Events. I would like to thank all those clubs that had volunteered to host many of our Regional Championships which is greatly appreciated. At present we are nearly at the end of the three threes competition which I have been playing in. All the Teams that I have played against has enjoyed the concept. We are playing bowls, enjoying the friendship, and supporting our clubs.

I would also like to inform you all that this will be the last meeting at Club Lambton as we are moving our office to the Beresfield Club. I would like to thank CEO Michael Gray and Club Lambton Staff for all their friendship over the past 4 years whilst we held meetings. I also would like to thank CEO Phil Ticehurst from the Beresfield Club for his support in our move.

Our Presentation Night at the Beresfield Club was a huge success with Mr Steve Glasson OAM being the MC. This was the 1st time that the Men's and Ladies combined for a Presentation Night, and it was magnificent. I would like to thank everyone who attended and Congratulations to all the winners

TREASURERS REPORT

The annual audit has been arranged for Friday 5 September 2025 and this will be the last one that Greater Newcastle Bowls will be required to complete as the Department of Fair Trading has adjusted the amounts required for Assets and Finance and GNB fall under these thresholds. The Executive believed that we should complete an audit for the 2024/25 financial year being our first as Greater Newcastle. Once the Audit has been completed the AGM date will be set and the financial report will be available for members. Currently GNB has \$500,000 in fixed term accounts and a on call account containing \$303,474. As of August 21, 2025.

ADVISORY REPORT

The Advisory committee has compiled two new documents, "Marketing Your Club" and Boomers Embrace Social Media. These documents are designed to create ideas for clubs to attract greater membership and will be available on the Website and sent to clubs once approved by the Executive committee.

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MARKETING REPORT

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**

JUNIORS/UNDER 25'S

A squad of 7 Junior players were selected for Greater Newcastle Bowls (GNB) in the 2024/2025 Junior Inter Region Competition. This was comprised of: Singles: Zane West (Raymond Terrace). Pairs: Mackenzie Wicks and Charlotte Hayman (Raymond Terrace). Fours: Mia Bromhead (Raymond Terrace), Tahlia Kennedy (East Maitland), Ami Bromhead and Kyle Anderson (Raymond Terrace). Whilst all sides didn't get the results we were hoping for, they all represented GNB with pride and in the spirit of this great game. For context, the Gold Medalists in the Fours and Pairs, and Silver Medalist in the Singles all came out of the sections that featured GNB. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the following players who were able to play for Hunter in their time of need as they were short of players. Hearing the enjoyment they both had and appreciation for the experience is what this game is all about. Experiences, opportunities and new friendships! These players are as follows: Willow Powell and Tiffanee Wicks (Raymond Terrace).

State Juniors and Under 25/Development Series. Congratulations to Tahlia Kennedy and Charlotte Hayman who represented Bowls NSW in two events. They were the Under 18 Tri Series against Victoria and Queensland on the 1st – 3rd August, and in the NSW vs Victoria State Series in the Under 25/Development Side on the 8th and 9th August at Club Sunbury in Victoria. The Under 18s Girls were victorious finishing first on 33 points. This is the 2nd year in a row the girls have won this Tri Series! In the Under 25s/Development Series vs Victoria, the Girls side were defeated 2 tests to 1. However, this is a great achievement for both of our GNB representatives for being selected in both events!

Junior Golden Nugget: A word of well done to both Tahlia Kennedy and Charlotte Hayman who were selected in the prestigious 2025 Junior Golden Nugget Singles event at Club Tweed. Tahlia qualified for the finals and was defeated in the Semi Final 18-21. Whilst Charlotte finished 3rd in a tough section.

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Under 25s: The 2024/2025 GNB Under 25 Pairs Event took place at Charlestown Bowling Club. The final was held on Tuesday 22nd July. Congratulations to Zoe Nicholls (Raymond Terrace) and Caleb McDermott (Beresfield) who defeated Tahlia Kennedy (East Maitland) and Charlotte Hayman (Raymond Terrace) 23-13. We would like to thank Bowls NSW Hall of Fame recipient Sam Laguzza who came along to assist with the presentation. Your experience and words of wisdom were appreciated by the players and all who attended. The Semi Finals saw Caleb and Zoe prove too strong for Kayla Jukes (Mayfield West) and Cohen Ridd (Beresfield) 19-12. Whilst Tahlia and Charlotte knocked out the 2023/2024 winners of the GNB Under 25 Pairs in Kyle Anderson and Brendan Stokes (Raymond Terrace) in a hard fought 24-19 victory.

Junior Bowler of the Year: Tahlia Kennedy. The GNB presentation night was held at Beresfield Bowling Club on Thursday 24th July 2025. Congratulations to Tahlia Kennedy who won the award for the first time. An incredible 2024/2025 season was had with a long list of accomplishments as follows: 2024/2025 GNB Junior Fours, GNB Under 25 Pairs Runner Up. Runner Up State Junior Pairs (alongside Charlotte), Australian Junior Girls Singles Runner Up, Australian All Schools Triples Gold Medalist, All Schools Australian Team Medalist, 4th at Junior Golden Nugget Singles.

MATCH REPORT

Zoe Nicols RT and Caleb McDermott Beresfield won the under 25 pairs
Region Champion of CC fours winners were Raymond Terrace, runner up was Wangi
Natasha van Eldik was selected in the Jackaroos squad for Scotland tour in September
Greenkeepers won by 14 points over Legends sides event played at Bar Beach in July
2024/25 Region awards:- Raweang Namutwong from Charlestown – won Female senior
bowler of the year; David Govan from Beresfield won Male Representative Player of the
Year, Kelly Giles RT Female Rep player of the year; Tahlia Kennedy from East Maitland won
Junior Bowler of the Year Award; Warren Shipley, Soldiers Point – Male Senior bowler of the
year; Female bowler of the year was Leisa Burton from Soldiers Point; Lee Schraner,
Raymond Terrace won Male Bowler of the year
Junior Golden Nugget – Tahlia Kennedy East Maitland finished 4th, Tahlia also won triples in
school sport Australian championships, also named Team Captain, finished 5th in singles
event.

Natasha Van Eldik was runner up in the women's Golden Nugget 2025.

Over 40 pairs State Qualifiers Scott Davis/Nathan Dawson from Charlestown with another
qualifying team to be found at Beresfield on August 30.

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U/18s NSW representatives Charlotte Hayman and Tahlia Kennedy were part of the side who won the Tri series at Sunbury Victoria.

NSW were second overall in the U/25s development teams. Charlotte was the girls champion

NSW men and women won the open test in July against Victoria, two rinks were skipped by Lee Schraner and Natasha Van Eldik from RT. The senior men and women sides were defeated by Victoria.

Bill Ahoy was one of 5 finalists in the NAIDOC AWARDS – Sports person Legacy Award Australian Indoor has concluded – Region qualifiers were L Farmer, Daniel Hill from Charlestown, Hayden Bojkowski from East Maitland was a quarter finalist.

GNB players Mark Jackson – Valintine; Henry Ly and J Van Heythuysen – Raymond Terrace; Dominic Palmieri – Charlestown won their qualifying rounds in the State Rookies Singles and will contest the State Finals at Raymond Terrace in November.

Men's region and reserve singles commenced 16/17, 23/24 August with open women, and men. Senior women's singles commenced at Charlestown 25th.

3/3s competition is currently being played

SELECTION REPORT

A Side of 12 men and 8 women will be released very soon to compete against Hunter Valley in a Development match. The Selectors have chosen a squad of players who they believe are on the border line of selection for future representative events and this match will take place at Beresfield on Friday evening September 19. Players are reminded that if they want to be considered for selection for Greater Newcastle they should complete the Expression of Interest to be Selected for Greater Newcastle form which is available on the website.

UMPIRES REPORT

Another change has been made regarding working with children's certificates for umpires, you now must have a WWCC certificate before you can apply either to become an umpire or reaccreditation of your ticket. This doesn't cost anything if you are a volunteer and can be done on line for most of it.

There is now a section in the Bowls NSW news for umpires it is recommended that umpires and officials read this section, in one article an umpire is called and just looks at the bowl and said its out, didn't put and thing on it to make the decision, it doesn't matter if the umpire thinks it is out, they should use the correct equipment to make the decision.

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We had a report about spectators sticking their noses into to game, the officials are there to run the game the spectators are there to enjoy the bowls, in a sportsman like fashion.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Three threes finals will be held at Beresfield Bowling club, as the only club wishing to host the singles GNB would like to reward them for doing so.
- Question from the floor regarding updating working with children check for umpires. Umpires only need to obtain this when they are due for reaccreditation or are becoming an umpire for the first time.
- W Shipley explained what the grading rule is for the current season in Open and Women's Pennant and offered to visit any club and discuss the conditions of play with selectors or any members.
- Question relating to archived members and transfers. No fee should be required to be paid for a member who is archived at their previous club as they are classed as not being a current financial member.
- As a quorum was not reached at Raymond Terrace this planned meeting became a general discussion for those in attendance (4 members)

Next Meetings: Monday October 20 at Beresfield BC 5:30pm. As Daylight saving will have commenced this will be the AGM