

GREATER NEWCASTLE BOWLS
MINUTES DELEGATES MEETING at BERESFIELD BC

Date Monday January 19, 2026. 5:30pm

Attendance – As per Sign in sheet,

Apologies – Mark Conway (GNB President), Don Wells (GNB Treasurer), Gaye Brown (GNB Vice President), Hilary Jenkins (Merewether Women), Carolyn Fredericks (Tea Gardens), Richard Simmer (Marks Point), Greg Hern (Lowlands)

Clubs not represented – Adamstown, Bayway Village, Carrington, Edgeworth, Hexham, Karuah RSL, Lemon Tree Passage, Windale Gateshead,

OBITUARIES Alan Earl (Beresfield), David Evans (Cardiff Life Member), Michael Rowan (Stockton Life Member), Ray Holdstock (Kotara), Dorathy Ramplin (Merewether), Garry Baker, John McQuinn, Greg Coote (Charlestown), Aurther Civil (Water Board), Charlie Shether (Lambton)

PRESIDENTS OPENING REMARKS

As President Mark was an apology, Region Administrator Warren Shipley welcomed all to a new year and thanked all for attending.

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

Matters arising

Nil

CORRESPONDENCE

- 2026 State Sides Expressions of Interest to host Men's & Women's Open Sides, Men's & Women's Para Sides, Men's & Women's Senior Sides, Men's & Women's Over 40's Sides, Men's & Women's Under 25 Sides.
- Bowls NSW announce Cabra Bowls as host venue for the 2025/26 Junior State Championships to be held from 13–17 April 2026.
- Jason Stokes has been appointed to the Bowls NSW State Selection Committee.
- Bowls NSW announce host venues for the 2025/26 BCiB Open Pennant State Finals, which will be played from Friday 21 – Sunday 23 August 2026. Grade 1: Yamba, Grade 2: Merrylands & Guildford, Grade 3: NBC Sports & Dundas Sports, Grade 4: Bomaderry & Nowra, Grade 5: Figtree Sports, Grade 6: Cherry Street Sports & Club Lennox Sports, Grade 7: South Tamworth & West Tamworth.

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- Region Open and Men's Pennant draws sent to clubs and on Bowlslink. Women's pennant will be reviewed and approved on January 12.

PRESIDENT REPORT Mark Conway

Beresfield Bowling Club hosted another fantastic Vets/Super Vets Day at the Beresfield Club. Around 160 in attendance and what a great occasion with an unbelievable 2 course meal cooked by the Bero Bowls Committee Members. They always do an amazing job, and I thank all the Beresfield Volunteers on that day. I gave Bowls NSW a story about the day which is in the December Edition and a good read. We are now fully up and running with our Bowls Office at the Beresfield with a lot more space for storing clothing and better working conditions for Warren, Don, Max, and Fiona.

November was also busy with many regional games being played at East Cessnock and down on the Central Coast. Our Greater Newcastle Regional Representative players won the Rod Robards Shield, John Smith Shield in a nail biter and the ladies winning the Rose Bowl. What a grand effort and well done to the Selectors for picking these winning Teams. Our Inter Regional Teams have been selected and would have been a headache for our Selectors in picking these teams as we are so lucky to have heaps of talent in our Region. To the players who have been selected Congratulations and wear our Newcastle Colours with pride.

To top off November we had the Mattara Carnival and I would like to thank the Hosts Marks Point Bowling Club, Richard Simmer and all your helpers on the day. The Finals Day was challenging with the rain, but we got through it. Well done Marks Point and to all the Winners on the day. Many thanks to all those other clubs who put up their hand to host games over a 2-week period. I also attended to Lee Schraners ACON Pride Presentation at the Raymond Terrace Club which was very informative. Well done, Lee. I have also forwarded the information packs to all our Regional Clubs and hopefully you will support this by registering your interest.

My prayers and thoughts to all those families who have lost loved ones in 2025. I am one of these who had my lifetime mate pass away sadly in December after a courageous battle over 2 years with cancer. My apologies for not attending the January Delegates Meeting as I will be sailing on the High Seas to New Zealand.

With January now upon us will see all our Clubs gearing up for the Pennant Season and I wish them all the best of Bowling. Along with our Management Committee and Sub Committees we are looking forward to another year of friendship with all our Regional Clubs and the hard-working Delegates.

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TREASURERS REPORT Don Wells

As of 1 January the Region has \$500,000 in fixed term deposits. Income from July 1 to January 31 = \$163,651 expenses for same period = \$155,046 which is a profit of \$8,604 The working bank account currently contains \$233,914

WEBSITE REPORT June Evans

GNB Website has been updated with current Open Pennants and Men's Pennant draws. Women's pennant will be posted mid January. Variation to Pennant start times document is also available on the website. To access Pennant information:

- hover over EVENTS/DRAWS/RESULTS tab on main toolbar – drop down menu will appear
- hover over 2025/2026 Pennants – there is a right pointing arrow with 3 submenu's which will appear when you hover over the right pointing arrow
- Click either Mens, Open, or Womens Pennants

Wet Weather Cancellations – on the home page there is a button to click if there are any wet weather cancellations for Pennants – clubs should have this spreadsheet updated if games are to be cancelled by 10 am on Pennant days.

Any Club wishing their tournaments/invitation days to be advertised on GNB website, please email Warren Shipley (greaternewcastle7@bowlsnsw.com.au) or June Evans (j_m_evans60@hotmail.com). Tournaments and Invitations days are updated regularly.

Thank you for the opportunity to create the GNB website and continue to update GNB website for the benefit of our members.

June also spoke at meeting, encouraging those in attendance to view the website and provide any information clubs may want to add.

MATCH REPORT Gayle Gannon

Region men's pairs – winners G Jennings, T Creighton – Lambton, R-up -J McEwan, R Koenig – Mks Pt

NSW/ACT vision impaired championships in Gloucester – Winner J Toby and Director R Toby won 2 gold medals in the B3 category singles/pairs

3/3s Gold winners – Charlestown, R-up East Maitland, Silver winners – Raymond Terrace. R-up East Maitland, Bronze winners East Maitland, R-up Bayway Village

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25/26 Womens Senior Triples – winners L Farmer, P White, R Namutwong C/t, R-up P Stephens, V McIntyre, B Herbertson Soldiers Pt

Men's region triples – winners B Stokes, J Stokes, L Schraner – Raymond Terrace, R-up J Bell, L Freeman, L Scott – Raymond Terrace

Men's senior triples – winners M Sheppard, M Beesley, C Ramage – Soldiers Pt, R-up D Collins, B Waugh,, J Littlewood – Charlestown

Women's triples – winners S McReynolds, G Delves, N Van Eldik Raymond Terrace; R-up J Holmes S Pyle, C Cook – East Maitland

Open Reserve Triples – winners T Milton, T Creighton, T Laughlin – Lambton; R-up D Palmeiri, P Lyford, P Palmieri – Charlestown

Women's senior fours – winners L Genders, L Faint, A Redhead, P Collaros – Charlestown; R-up A Pearson, P Stephens, V McIntyre, R Ryan Soldiers Pt.

Men's Senior Four – winners P Lynn, G Smith, D Collins, J Littlewood – Charlestown; R-up G Boyce, J Doyle, G Solomons, J Dunn – Beresfield

Men's Fours – winners B Stokes, J Stokes, L Scott, J Bye-Norris – Raymond Terrace; R-up B Bailey, N Mitchell, J Graham, J Davis -Nelson Bay.

Reserve Fours – Winners R Simmer, I Burge, J Dukes, A Brown – Marks Pt; R-up G Geise, L Murrell, G Latimore, S Rees – East Maitland

Womens Fours – winners S Pyle, S Wells, C Hayman, I Griffiths -East Maitland; R-up K Pedder, J Schumacher, B Herbertson, L Burton – Soldiers Pt.

Bowls NSW Awards night held October 2025 at Wentworthville Leagues – Brett Gemmell – Lowlands was awarded Club Administrator of the Year Tahlia Kennedy East Maitland nominated for Female Junior Bowler of the Year. Warren Shipley Soldiers Pt nominated for Male Senior Bowler of the Year.

Veterans and Super Vets held at Bero on 30th October was a huge success

Pat Geary Shield @ Soldiers Pt – October 25/26 – Winners GNB; Runner up – Mid North Coast 120/103

State Mixed – GNB section winners to play in State Finals in June 2026 are K Limond, J Duncan – Charlestown; H Hemmingway, D Govan – Beresfield; K Giles – Raymond Terrace and I Lean – Soldiers Pt.

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Para Blues champions – Simone Smith - Easts – Para Nationals

Men's Rodney Robards and Women's Waves to Wine rep sides vs Hunter Valley – winners

NSW U/18 boys and girls sides won Gold at the Australian Championship in Tasmania.

Pairs winners were Chanel and Zoe Davies; U/18 Fours winners – Zoe Davies Charlotte Hayman Tahlia Kennedy Ella Cameron; U/18. Tahlia won 4 gold medals in triples, fours, Australian girls champions and Australian Overall Champions

NSW Men's senior side won the Senior Sides Title in Tasmania – Queensland won overall, Qld won the women's. Players who represented GNB in the Senior Sides were Raweang Namutwong, Bill Ahoy, Tony Hinton, Warren Shipley

Open Sides – NSW were crowned overall champions, Qld men's side won Alley Shield and NSW women's side won the Marj Morris Trophy. Natasha Van Eldik was a member of the successful women's side.

MATTARA was held over two weeks in November with finals day at Marks Point on 21 Nov.

Les Parrott Open singles – Winner - Tony Hinton – Soldiers Pt; r-up D Govan – Beresfield

Denis Broad restricted singles A Newman – Lowlands; r-up S Clarke – Bar Beach

Wal Young Mens pairs winners T Malone, S Richards – Raymond Terrace; R-up T Hinton sub (Tony Maclean), I Lean Soldiers Pt;

Women's pairs – winners S Lowndes, J Dorricott – Hamilton Nth; R-up S Sumner – Kurri, Deb Barber – Hamilton Nth

Restricted pairs – winners – B Eick, N Willis - Lowlands; R-up G Baxter, A Milkovich - Charleston

Frank Gardner Fours – G Brown – (May West), M Cooper, Matt Brown (Beresfield), Mick Brown – (Hamilton Nth); R-up C McDermott, M Dettelbacher, A Ellercamp, D Goven – Beresfield

Twilight Triples – K Simmons, J Bucton, C Duggan – Lowlands; R-up W McVicar, G Hogan, M Dettelbacher – Beresfield

Nancy Childs mixed pairs – winners K Lumsden – Hamilton Nth, M Bert – Raymond Terrace; R-up D Woods – MayWest, V McIntyre – Soldiers Pt.

Rookie Finals:- Congratulations to Henry Ly – RT who received the Mick Bell Encouragement award – Rookie Singles

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John Smith OAM Shield – winners GNB Men by 7 points from Metro North West Region Rose Bowl – winners GNB Women by 6 points from Hunter Valley

SELECTION REPORT Ian Lean

Hi All

It has been a busy time for our Representative players.

The Pat Geary has concluded, this year, both the Women's and Men's teams points were combined to find a winner.

Pleased to announce we were successful in winning the Shield this year.

The Over 60's trial was held at Beresfield BC. From this, 12 players were selected to play in the Rod Robards.

This year was a change of format, with the Women's team included to the existing Over 60's Mens team and Open Mens team.

Again, after combining all the scores Greater Newcastle were successful in winning the trophy. With Leigh Penman's rink instrumental in securing the win for the Open team.

Then we have all our teams head to the Central Coast. Where the men competed for the John Smith Sheild and the Women looking to defend their Rose Bowl trophy.

The women were super as they dominated the event and in doing so, reclaimed the trophy.

The Over 60's and Open team were presented with the challenge in the final round of having to win both Master boards to claim the Sheild.

I am pleased to announce they were successful in a very close finish where Warren Shipley's rink picked up a very late 7 shots on the penultimate end to secure the John Smith Shield.

It has been a highly successful couple of months for our players. A big thank you to all those that have played and have made our job a very difficult one in selecting the teams for the Inter-Region early February at Yamba and Illuka. Sides have been selected for this event and congratulations to all of those that made it.

Congrats to Natasha Van Eldik in her selection for Australia in the Malaysia tour late January and a huge thank you for her commitment to Greater Newcastle bowls as she is willing to play the day after she returns home.

Sides have been selected for the Women's, Men's and Senior Men's Inter Region to be played early February at Yamba and Iluka. Also 24 players have been selected for a Veteran Trial at Beresfield on January 28, after this trial the selectors will pick the Veteran 12 to take part in the Vets Inter Region at Forster in March.

Finally, I would like to thank all those on the Selection Committee for your time, support and hard work this year, I feel this has helped with our success. Hoping to continue with this success in 2026.

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UMPIRES REPORT Kevin Bucklee

During 2026 dates will be set for courses for new Umpires, these will be held approximately 4 months apart with the first to be held in March, information will be sent to clubs to notify any of their members that wish to become umpires. Members that have the “Bowlslink app” will be able to see their accreditations on the app.

Umpires due for reaccreditation should firstly visit the BNSW website and under the “get involved” tab you will find “Officiating” where you can view all the information you need to apply for reaccreditation.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Warren Shipley completed a presentation on the uses of Bowlslink for members responsible for submitting teams and results during the Pennant competitions and gave a demonstration of the useful tools the bowlslink system has.
- BNSW reported that Greater Newcastle has one of the lowest percentages for members with an email address on the Bowlslink system. Clubs are encouraged to seek support from members in getting the percentage higher by adding their email addresses to their bowlslink account or have their coordinator do it for them.
- Women’s Pennant competitions have been approved and GNB is waiting on one Division One club to confirm their participation before draws can go live and be sent to clubs
- W Shipley informed those present that BNSW was working on some events to be played in the second half of 2026. Events such as Rookies, Over 40”s Pairs and Mixed Pairs Region qualifiers and State finals will be placed in the Calendar and there may be a few other events to add to these. Mattara will be played from October 12 to 23 and if clubs agree to again play a Three threes comp this will commence mid August.
- request for clubs to be surveyed relating to high tea after pennant matches.
- Question asked about umpires and working with children checks. All umpires must have a WWCC if they are to continue umpiring and must obtain it prior to being reaccredited.
- Question asked about men and women wearing different club uniforms. BNSW clothing policy suggests that when clubs purchase new uniforms that they are the same design for men and women, until such time, members can wear their current uniforms even if the design is different.

Next Meetings: Monday March 30 at Beresfield BC 5:30pm.

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