

# **Bowls Victoria Ovens & Murray Region**

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## **OVENS AND MURRAY BOWLS REGION DELEGATES MEETING**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 at Wangaratta Bowls Club at 10.30am**

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Graham Moore (President), Cheryl Lewis (Vice President), Glenice Campbell (Secretary), John White, Neil Reid, Graham Burrington (Board Members), Beechworth (Keith McIntosh, Heather Fitzpatrick), Benalla (Ian Hobson, Brenda Sunderland), Bright (Otto Kupferle, Julie Ellis), Chiltern (Neil Pryor, John Payne), Club Mulwala (Lindsay Evans, Wayne Dowsey), Corowa Civic (Sue Dawson, Pam Tobias), Corowa RSL (Keith Mills, Roger Mathers), Dederang (Bryan Smith), Howlong (Merrill Farmer, Rob McConnell), Kiewa Valley (Brad Terry), Lavington (Bill Collins, Dave Warford), Mansfield (Elaine Petersen, Marion Ryan), Milawa (Bernard Neal, Terry Hallinan), Moira Benalla (Therese Alexander, Rob Jones), Myrtleford (Lance Symons, Rutherglen (Nancy Duursma), St James (S. Bament), Swanpool (Margaret Blake, Lou Sigmin), Tallangatta (John McCoy, Mark Fleming), Tungamah (Graeme Whinray, Dianne Sampson), Wangaratta (Maurie Braden), Wareena Park (Lola Clarke), Wodonga Peter McLarty, Bernie Jones), Yackandandah (Frank Artis, Reon Garvey), Yarrawonga (R.Tait, B. Batey), YMGCR (Greg Fisher), Noel Murrell (Website/Pennant)

**Apologies:** Patrick O'Shea (Treasurer), Brad Blanchard (Howlong), Tawonga Mt Beaty Bowls Club, Corryong Bowls Club (Apology sent by email on morning of meeting and not seen until the evening), Moyhu (Apology sent to wrong email address)

#### **Non-Attendance:**

**Meeting opened at** 10.30am by Vice President Cheryl Lewis. President Graham Moore delayed.

**Minutes:** past minutes acknowledged

**Moved as true and correct record:** Wangaratta **Seconded:** Mansfield

**Business arising from minutes:** Nil

Graham Moore arrived and continued to then preside over the meeting

**Inward Correspondence:**

Various dates – Bowls Vic

- Region side information
- Conditions of Play State events
- Conditions of Play for Region Pennant
- No change to Conditions of Play Region Pennant re promotional Pennant Permit
- Country manager Program
- Lavington transfer to Ovens and Murray Region, Bowls Victoria
- BowlsLearn new modules
- Follow up meeting with Tony Sherwill, Josh Thornton and Pat Schram 25/10
- Region sides now a protected event
- Granted exemption to play pennant Region Sides event date
- Bowls Vic AGM 26/10 via Zoom. All invited to attend.

24/7 – Lance Symons – Myrtleford - Split affiliation fee payments to Bowls Victoria

9/8 – Bright BC – O&M Rep to present super veteran badges on 1/10

22/9 – Pennant Committee – agenda items

**Outward Correspondence:**

Various dates – Bowls Vic – respond to inward correspondence

- Change to Conditions of Play to allow opt in/out promotional Pennant Permit
- Request exemption to play pennant novice singles on Region Sides weekend

10/8 – Bright BC – Accept invitation

30/8 – Benalla BC – Process for acknowledge 90-year-old players

**Correspondence discussion:**

- Myrtleford – Re split affiliation payments for Bowls Victoria. Payment currently off season for bowls and members not yet renewed memberships for the following season.

- Affiliation fee is for the season just completed so would have already collected the relevant membership
- If wanting to pay a different interval are able to contact Bowls Vic to discuss
- Tallangatta – Added extra comment to BV affiliation fees. Have 17 members but have to pay for 25
  - Response – affiliation fee is set for brackets of members. 25 is the lowest number.
- Swanpool – Wanted it noted that they sent correspondence but not recorded re not happy with staying relegated when extra team added to A3 and they had won A4 last season
  - Was not recorded because sent to pennant committee with secretary as a cc.
  - Noel – advised Pennant Committee not happy how it resulted. Changes to Conditions of Play will hopefully eliminate occurring in future years

**Correspondence be accepted:**

**Moved accepted:** Chiltern

**Seconded:** Bright

**Finance report:** Tabled report read out. Report attached.

Opening balance 11/9/2023 - \$23,459.92

Closing Balance at 8/10/2023 - \$18,580.09

Term deposit - \$13,292.51. Matures 8/11/2023

**Moved accepted:** Patrick O'Shea

**Seconded:** Rutherglen

**Reports:**

**President:** Presented by Graham Moore

- Super Veteran badges (Over 80 years old) and 90 year old bowlers certificates should be presented by O&M President, Secretary or Vice President as Bowls Vic Representatives. If none of them are available then Club Presidents can do the presentations
- Badges are not to be sent directly to clubs
- Club tournament information is not to be sent to the secretary but sent to Noel (Website administrator)

**Match / selection / championship committee:** Presented by Peter McLarty. Report attached

- Season started with only 1 committee member. Initially assisted by the Board. Now there is a full committee
- COMMENTS
  - Myrtleford - unable to submit the entry fee on Bowlslink when entering the State fours

- Noel Murrell - Is a BowlsLink issue. There is a cost involved to set this up and it has not yet been approved for payment.
- Entry fees will be collected at the events

**Pennant Committee:** Presented by Bryan Smith. Report attached

- COMMENTS
  - Bright – Not happy being placed in Weekend B1
  - Milawa – Happy with current conditions
  - St James – Prompt for scores after completion of games.
    - Problem with internet access if at private home due to poor reception
  - Cheryl (Vice President) – Reminder to enter teams when have a Bye. The bye counts as a game played.
  - Wodonga – made a comment not a complaint
    - One player in the opposition team playing pennant not in any uniform. They expect not yet able to get same
    - Reminder Club Presidents are responsible to ensure that all players are in correct uniform.
    - Side Captain Tool kit says for Seconds to sign the score card but the score says for Skips to sign the card
      - Noel response – Cards to be signed by Skip as indicated on cards and in Conditions of Play

**Website/Bowlslink/Media Committee:** Presented by Noel Murrell.  
Report attached

- Tournament flyers to be sent to him and not to O&M Secretary
- Pennant documents have been updated
- After season is underway will be updating Championship winners list on the website. If clubs able to fill in gaps please advise Noel with the names
- A major upgrade will occur for BowlsLink in December.
- State events are all on the website now
- There has been changes to the clubs updating post on their Websites. Any problems contact Noel Murrell for assistance
- Membership lists – clubs need to do a handover to new committee members during administration tasks
  - Need to ensure information is correct as there are some common errors
    - Incomplete member records
    - Incorrect or no email address
    - Member record not showing correct financial status
    - Need to ensure records are correct and show members as active and full playing rights allocated to be able to be entered in events

- Noel is available for most issues relating to BowlsLink. He is available to provide club and individual support.

**Umpires:** Presented by Neil Pryor. Report attached

- Some members waiting for the in-person training. Encourage anyone to do the online modules

**Greens:** Written report tabled and read out. Report attached

- Swanpool will have 4 rinks suitable to play pennant on this season

**Coaching:** Presented by Neil Pryor. Report attached

- COMMENTS
  - More members welcome to join the committee
  - Lavington – They now have an extra Coach
  - Encourage members to do the online training

**Moved reports accepted:** Wangaratta **Seconded:** Myrtleford

### **General Business:**

- John White (Corowa Civic) – Consider weekend pennant start at 10am after Christmas break
  - Bryan Smith responded – Last survey showed 50/50 agreement
    - Can affect clubs with younger players and members who are working Saturday mornings
- Country Manager Pilot Program
  - Glenice presented an outline of the program
    - Program offers
      - A way to do more for the country regions
      - Support and a backup person
      - Different requirements for different regions depending on needs
      - Eg if different zones in region will arrange Region events
      - Can support Board governance
      - Provide sponsorship assistance
      - Can be a Facebook administrator
      - Currently funded by Bowls Vic. After pilot is completed there may be a \$5.00 per bowler levy paid.
      - Region has committed to it and will commence January 2024 at no cost to the Region. Still able to opt out at any time if desired
- Facebook administrator/s required – volunteer/s requested
  - No one accepted position from the floor
  - Clubs to canvas a suitable person if they have some one
- Pennant Committee – Promotional Pennant Permits

- Noel spoke on this item
  - Pennant Committee concerns
    - No opt in/out option
    - Pennant game points gained by playing the permit player could influence ladder positions
  - Corowa RSL – Pennant permit game held has increased their membership numbers
    - Clubs need to be continually working with new members to then have them as members
  - Bright – Not all understand what the Promotional Permit is
    - What is the pennant committee wanting the Board to do
      - Noel – Write to the Bowls Vic Board for more input from Regions
      - Could consider withdrawing the pennant competition from the Bowls Vic competition
    - Myrtleford – Wondering what other regions opinion is
    - Chiltern – Bowls Vic run the metro regions pennant so there is only 8 Regions affected by the Promotional Permit
  - Mansfield – Advised the O&M Board need to raise the issue with Tony Sherwill at the upcoming meeting with him
  - Secretary Glenice outlined the aims of the Promotional Permit for everyone
    - Can occur once before Christmas
    - Encourage clubs to promote the sport of lawn bowls in their area
    - Encourage clubs to promote their club in the local area
    - Encourage clubs to host fund raising nights such as Sportsman’s nights and club coaching sessions with the promotional permit players
    - Create sponsorship opportunities for clubs
    - Create revenue making opportunities for clubs and players
    - Increase exposure for clubs and players
  - Myrtleford – enquired if Josh Thornton had received any payment from the club when he played. He received no payment
  - Wangaratta – made the point of currently players are calling an O&M club as their home club yet they play all their pennant games for a Metropolitan club

- WHAT IS WANTED – to have more consultation with the Regions and not be dictated to.
- Pennant Committee – Region sides a protected event
  - Noel spoke – Previous has not been an issue as hasn't been during the pennant season.
    - It was not mentioned in the draft or final copy of Conditions of Play but came as a late amendment.
    - Fortunately, when requested have been able to have an exemption and able to play pennant on the Regions sides weekend this season
    - Would agree with upper grades of pennant being protected but not all grades.
- Milawa BC – Byes in pennant draws – points allocated / lost.
  - Communication to clubs from the Pennant Committee have resolved this issue. All clubs will have 2 byes
- Date of next delegate meeting. Current date clashes with State Singles sectional play at Benalla
  - After discussion all were in agreeance that the next meeting will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am at Wangaratta
- Any other items raised by delegates
  - Bernie – media – Was to be doing a radio program in Albury/Wodonga. As yet has not been possible to happen
  - Corowa RSL – What are the rules regarding Vaping –
    - Glenice answered – Conditions of Play say that Smoking, e cigarettes and vaping are all treated the same. Must only occur in area where smoking is permitted.
  - Glenice – All clubs invited to attend Bowls Vic AGM as a zoom meeting on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October
  - Glenice – Updated contact details will be forwarded to Noel for the website and sent to all Clubs

**Draw lucky door prize** – one entry per delegate in attendance was given to win 2 bottles of wine donated to the Region from the accommodation hosts at Regions sides event.

- Mansfield was the lucky club

**Meeting closed at 12.20pm**

## **NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am at Wangaratta

**Ovens & Murray Bowls Bowls Region**

**Balance Sheet 07/10/2023**

**Opening Balance**      **11/09/2023**      **\$23,459.92**

**Income**

Interest    September      \$0.17

**Total \$23,460.09**

**Expenditure**

Peter McLarty reimbursement

Ballarat Accomodation 12 & 13/01/24 `      \$4,880.00

**Balance as at 08/10/23**      **\$18,580.09**

**Accounts to be passed for payment**

Nil

**Term Deposit**      \$13,292.51      Matures    08/11/2023



## Ovens & Murray Bowls Region

### Umpiring Report Sept 2023.

#### Current state of umpiring in O&M

Analysis of the Bowls Link database shows the there ae the following number of umpires in the O&M

	Current	Expired	Pending
Markers	?	?	17
Measurers	?	?	29
Umpires	?	?	14

We will have the numbers of current officials for the next board meeting.

The numbers of pending include those who have been awaiting courses for some time.

#### Umpires Seminar

An umpires seminar was held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September at Wangaratta Bowls Club with 14 in attendance. Discussions were held regarding changes in rules relating to the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Rules of Bowls released by World Bowls, and subsequent amendments. Clubs and players should make themselves aware of these changes, particularly relating to stopping bowls in the course of play, possession of the rink and other changes. Clubs should have a current 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Rule book for their umpires and team managers to consult.

Umpires submitted questions and scenarios, which were discussed and upcoming pennant and State Events Conditions of Play were discussed. Umpires noted the importance of clubs having stated conditions of play for club events and tournaments displayed to ensure smooth conduct of events and to avoid scoring anomalies (eg handicap events).

#### Changes to course processes

Bowls Australia has changed the structure of accreditation courses for Markers, Measurers and Umpires. The courses now require applicants to complete online modules, before a full day on-green assessment for accreditation.

#### Online Modules

The online modules contain instructions for completion. They allow for part completion so you can complete them in smaller sections.

There are three officiating course available;

Markers Course, Measurers Course & Umpires Course (Umpires need to complete all three courses prior to accreditation)

Applicants log on to the courses via Bowls Link log in and then using the Bowls Learn Tab. When enrolled, invoices will be sent to each club for payment (\$50 per course for those seeking accreditation).

## Ovens & Murray Bowls Region

### Coaching Report September 2023

#### Current state of coaching in O&M

Analysis of the Bowls Link database shows there are the following number of coaches in the O&M

	Current	Expired	Pending
Club Coach	14	25	2
Introductory Coach	1	3	2

Current Club Coaches are from; Benalla, Bright, Chiltern, Mansfield, Wodonga, Yarrawonga, YMGCR with two from Howlong pending. One accredited introductory coach is from Chiltern.

2 coaches from Howlong have completed the online courses and are awaiting accreditation.

Coaches with expired accreditation are from Benalla, Corowa Civic, Corowa RSL, Corryong, Dederang, Kiewa, Mansfield, Rutherglen, Yarrawonga, YMGCR.

#### Howlong Bowls Club Junior Coaching "Roll Up" program

Howlong Bowls Club are three sessions in to 10 weeks of the Bowls Victoria Roll Up program. The junior program provides Howlong's local kids an opportunity to have fun, socialise and ultimately learn how to bowl. The program will have experienced coaches providing an array of exciting and different level-based activities to help juniors to develop and upskill their on-green development. No previous experience in bowls is required.

#### Online Modules

The online modules contain instructions for completion. They allow for part completion so you can complete them in smaller sections. Aspiring coaches need to log onto Bowls Link and access the courses through the Bowls Learn tab.

There are three coaching courses available;

Introductory Coach Course - for coaches to work with bowlers new to the sport

Club Coach Course – for coaches to work with new and experienced club bowlers

Selection Module – for club selectors

Aspiring coaches may commence online modules at their leisure. When completed, Bowls Victoria will schedule on green assessments. I encourage all clubs to consider their coaching needs and encourage players to enrol in the Introductory or Club Coach courses. For more information contact

Neil Pryor PH 0439161573 email. [neil.pryor@outlook.com](mailto:neil.pryor@outlook.com)

Green Report Delegates Meeting 08-10-23

Patrick O'Shea

**Swanpool Bowls Club**

I have revisited Swanpool on 19/09/23 spoke again with Shayne Mathieson and we put a few bowls down on a couple of rinks

They have been bowling on the green, and it has been mowed and rolled a few times

It is still a work in progress but they have 4 rinks suitable to play pennant on this 2023/24 season

Patrick

## GENERAL (DELEGATES) MEETING – 8 OCT 23

### PENNANT REPORT

Following is a summary of what has been happening around Pennant since the AGM.

#### Lavington Panthers Bowls Club

The Pennant Committee welcomes the Lavington Panthers Bowls Club into our competition and wish them all the best for the coming season. It has taken a while to integrate the club as one entity as when the club transferred from NSW Bowls Vic did not realise that the ladies of the club had a separate entity. Hopefully the club is now fully integrated into Ovens and Murray.

#### Pennant Planning

Again, we have seen delays in finalising the Fixtures for the coming season due to some club's inability to identify their final numbers and Side requirements. As all clubs are now aware, there has been a comprehensive restructure of B Divisions in both Weekend and Midweek competitions to realign the geographic regions and to accommodate new Sides.

Hopefully all our plans have now come together and we have a successful season. First rounds got underway yesterday with Weekend Divisions A3 and B3 leading the way. A number of administrative changes governing Pennant have occurred over the break as follows:

- The Regions Pennant Rules have now been integrated and aligned with the Bowls Vic Regional Pennant Conditions of Play. This initiative allows bowlers to view all Pennant Rules within the one document.
- **Promotion and Relegation. New Clubs.** In the advent of new club being added to our Region and a Side is deemed to be inserted in Division A the new side will be Inserted in the appropriate Division and the last and 2nd last Side from the end of the previous season will be relegated and this will cascade down in all lower Divisions;  
*eg. Insert new Side into Division A3, drop last 2 Sides from previous season, drop last two Sides in Division A4 also. This will allow promotion from A4 and B Division.*
- **Updated Inclement Weather Rule – Heat** - to allow play beyond 6.15pm until a result can be achieved. (50/36 ends rule).
- **Bowls Vic Regional Pennant Conditions of Play.** The Pennant Committee is concerned that Bowls Vic is now interfering too much in our ability to run Pennant by imposing additional restrictions under the BV Regional Pennant CoP's. Over the last two seasons they have included:
  - the enforced application of the **Promotional Pennant Permit**, applies at any level of Pennant. Additionally, the Region's are not part of the approval process, approval is via application to Bowls Vic.

- the inclusion of the Bowls Vic **Regions Sides Championship as a Protected Event** where restrictions have been applied to all levels of Pennant. *(After a special request, we do now have special dispensation for Weekend Division A3 and B3 for this season,*
- a recent amendment where ***we must comply with the Bowls Vic Regional Pennant CoP*** except where the CoP's have a provision that allow the Region's to make their own rules.

*Prior to the new insertions into the BV CoP's Regions had the right to make Pennant Rules as long as they did not breach **The Laws of Bowls.***

- **Weekend Pennant Divisions A3 and B3.** As some of the Sides in these two Divisions are not playing one another twice and there is an unequal number of Byes, to rectify this, the following Sides will not play each other in Round 16 effectively creating their 2<sup>nd</sup> Bye:
  - **Division A3** – Wangaratta and Tungamah
  - **Division B3** – Wangaratta and Dederang

**BowlsLink.** As in recent years BowlsLink is the official record for managing our Pennant competition. It is essential that all clubs have sufficient trained managers capable of entering/confirming their Sides results **at the venues** immediately after the games.

Please note that all documents pertaining to Pennant can be found on the Region's website under the heading **PENNANT**.

Chairman of the Pennant Committee for the following season is Bryan Smith with Noel Murrell appointed the Pennant Coordinator.

Finally, the Pennant Committee wishes all clubs the very best for the coming season and hopes all players enjoy their game of bowls.

**B. Smith**  
 Chairman  
 Pennant Committee  
 Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc

4 Oct 23

## Ovens and Murray Bowls Region – Match report September 2023

During September the Match committee didn't meet.

### **Match committee members 2023 – 2024**

Anne Miles, YMGCRC, Mary Tragardh Myrtleford BC, Andy Lefevre YMGCRC, Graeme Burrington, Myrtleford BC, Peter McLarty Wodonga BC, Maurie Braden, Wangaratta BC, Ian Brimblecombe, Wangaratta BC,

### **Work that has been completed during September.**

#### **Bowls link training – State events management**

Maurie Braden meet with Noel Murrell for training on bowls link.

Maurie will be using bowls link to gather the entries information, develop the draw and write up game score cards.

#### **Ovens and Murray bowls region state events calendar 2023 - 2024.**

The bowls calendar has been completed and distributed to all member clubs.

Information provided, include:

1. Venues.
2. Dates.
3. Format.
4. Conditions of play.

#### **Groups sides championships Ballarat 2023 - 2024**

1. The match committee will select players to “try out” for our representative teams.
  - a. 16 ladies and 16 men will be selected to try out.
  - b. The selected players are required to play against the Goulburn Valley Bowls Region, the following Sunday.

O&M intra trial match	Venue	Date
	YMGCRC	Sunday, November 26, 2023.

2. The O&M v's GV games has been scheduled to play at:

O&M v GV games	Venue	Date
	YMGCRC	December 3, 2023.

3. After the O&M v GV games the match committee will select the players and teams who will represent our region at Ballarat, January 12 to 14, 2024.
  - a. 12 ladies, (3 teams of 4 players), 1 nonplaying emergency and a team manager.
  - b. 12 men, (3 teams of 4 players), 1 nonplaying emergency and a team manager.
4. Accommodation has been booked and paid for, for our representative team members.

**State 4's Event scheduled, October 22, 2023.**

As of October 7, 2023, the entries received for these events to date are.

Ladies state 4's = 4 teams

Men's state 4's = 6 teams

With one week remaining until entries close, the number of entries compared to last year are;

	2022 – 2023	2023 -2024
Ladies	7 teams	4 teams
Men's	6 teams	6 teams

Can all club delegates promote this, and other state events planned or the coming bowls season.

Regards

Peter McLarty.

Chair O&M match committee

Ref 07102023

## GENERAL (DELEGATES) MEETING (08 OCT 23)

### WEBSITE/BOWLSLINK REPORT

This report provides an update of where we are at with the website and BowlsLink, since the AGM.

#### Website

**Tournament Flyers.** Clubs are actively sending in their coming tournament details. For those clubs who are not advertising their club events through the website are encouraged to do so. When putting your Flyers together it would help to set them as a PDF as it assists me, otherwise if it is as a Jpeg/word doc then I have to convert it prior to posting it to the website.

**Club Contacts.** Most club Office Bearers have been updated. Please check that the details on the website are correct and advise of any changes.

**Pennant Documents.** Pennant documents have been updated and are available from the website.

**Website Posts.** Last update has made posting information a little more complex as the page defaults to Block format. The new input format is more of a training issue.

**Championship Records.** Once Pennant is underway I am hoping to update the Region Championship records. Thanks to those who have provided details on gaps and errors in our data.

#### BowlsLink

**Upgrade.** The next regular BowlsLink upgrade will not occur but a major upgrade will be released in December.

**Lavington BC Database.** The Lavington ladies and men's BowlsLink membership records were finally merged earlier this week completing the transfer of Lavington Panthers Bowls Club to Ovens and Murray.

**Secretary Administrative Rights.** Secretary Glenice has gained administrative access to the Regions BowlsLink members account database.

**Training.** I will be providing BowlsLink familiarization and administrative training to both President Graham and Secretary Glenice in both the Membership and Competition Modules as soon as possible..

**State Events.** All State Events have been set up within BowlsLink for the coming season with a number of the early events already open for entries. Entries can be made through a link on the Home page of the website or through your own BowlsLink logon.



**Membership Records.** I note that clubs have a number of their membership records that need updating. Common errors are:

- Incomplete member records
- Incorrect or no member email addresses
- Member records not showing correct financial status

It is requested that Club Administrators ensure that their member records are correct and at Active and have Playing Rights allocated.

**BowlsLink Support.** For most issues relating to BowlsLink, as the Regional representative, I can provide club or individual support.

Finally, it is great to see that the majority of clubs are competent in using BowlsLink. The pinnacle is to have all your members able to enter their BowlsLink accounts and are maintaining their own personal records.

**Noel Murrell**

Website/BowlsLink Administrator  
Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc

05 Oct 23