

Bowls Victoria - Ovens & Murray Region

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OVENS AND MURRAY BOWLS REGION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 10.30am. WANGARATTA BC

Sunday 4th June 2023

MINUTES

O & M Board members to be Present;

President Laureen Smith; Vice President Roger Mathers

Secretary Graham Moore; Treasurer Patrick O'Shea;

John White, Neil Reid, Glenice Campbell, Chyerl Lewis Loraine Stone

Delegates from Clubs To Be Present; Beechworth, Benalla, Bright, Chiltern, Club Mulwala, Corowa Civic, Corowa RSL, Corryong, Dederang, Kiewa Valley, Mansfield, Miliawa,, Moira Benalla, Moyhu, Myrtleford, Rutherglen, St. James, Swanpool, Tallangatta, Tawonga/Mt Beauty, Tungamah, Wangaratta, Wareena, Wodonga, Yackandandah, Yarrawonga & YMGR

Official Opening; President Laureen to open the meeting at 10.30am and welcomed all to the meeting

Minutes Silence for our departed members

Apologies; Patrick O,Shea; Glenice Campbell, John White, Clare Sanders ,Lynne Mills, Keith Mills, Ian Bilney, Joe Northey, Brenda, Devries, Tawonga Mt Beauty & Tungamah

Clubs Present; 21

Delegates Present; 34

Clubs not in attendance; Beachworth, Corryong, Moira Benalla, Moyhu, Tawonga Mout Beauty,, Tungamah, YMGR

Minutes of last year AGM---Moved to be accepted Sec. Graham Moore---

Seconded by Dederang -----carried

Any Business arising from those minutes----nil

REPORTS;

PRESIDENTS---Please see attached report

SECRETARY---Please see attached report

FINANCE---Patrick O'Shea---Income;---

\$2,800.00 from BV

\$2,000.00---grant

\$490.00---Partners Accommodation Echuca

Balance of General Account--\$25,218.14

Please note Audit no6t complete due a few questions he wants to ask our Treasurer

This report was not excepted---due to no finance received for 2022—23 season. A very deep discussion took place regarding the Yearly Finance report not be available for the AGM.

It was decided that the Treasurer when he gets back from his holidays, must get the report done, the Board are to have a meeting to go through the report before the secretary sends it out to all clubs.

This report will then be discussed at the next delegates meeting.

Moved Dederang Seconded Wangaratta--Carried

Suggestions were made to change the constitution to have our year ending brought back to end of March-or move our General meeting till the end of June. The Board to look into these aspects

BVRR; President & Secretary

PENNANT COMMITTEE; Bryan Smith-----see attached report

CHAMPIONSHIP & SELECTION---Clare Sanders

UMPIRES; Laureen Smith---all on track

GREENS; Patrick O'Shea---no report given Patrick away

JUNIORS---NA

COACHING---Neil Pryor----see atachd report

WEBSITE; Noel Murrell----see attached report

Accept all reports Moved by Dederang;--Seconded by Bright --carried

APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITOR---PARMESAN; Accountants and advisors

57 Standish Street Myrtleford and 20b Wills Street Bright

Proposed bye Patricek O'Shea Seconded

This to be looked into once we have the Auditors report-----Board to be the Judge on this item

Honorariums for season 2022/23-----President, Secretary and

Webmaster

President \$1200.00

Secretary \$1200.00

Webmaster \$600.00

Moved bye Drderang Seconded by Wangarrata --carried

APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITOR---PARMESAN; Accountants and advisors

57 Standish Street Myrtleford and 20b Wills Street Bright

Proposed bye Patricek O'Shea Seconded

President Laureen to ask Office Bearers to step down—and ask someone to take the chair, once the President has been elected she then goes through all other nominations

Election of Office Bearers

Directors

President----Graham Moore
Deputy President; Cheryle Lewis
Secretary---Glenice Campbell
Treasurer---Patrick O'Shea
Director -----Neil Reid
Director -----Graham Burrington
Director-----John White
Director
Director

Committees Coaching: (4 persons)
Laws & umpiring (4 persons),

Pennant: 7 required
Pennant coordinator

Championship/ Selection/Match
7required:

Greens: (As many as possible),

Junior Bowls: (3 persons),

Website Administrator & Media
Officer

O & M NOMINATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE BOARD & O&M COMMITTEES----2022/23

PRESIDENT-- only nomination was received Graham Moore will be elected as President unopposed

VICE PRESIDENT-----Cheryl Lewis was nominated from the floor to step up to the Position of Vice President, which Cheryl accepted Moved Chilten Seconded Myrtleford

SECRETARY-----Graham Moore & Glenice Campbell, Graham will rosined is nomination due to him being elected President. Therefor Glenice being the only other nomination received, will be elected unopposed

TREASURER----Patrick O'Shea; only nomination received, elected unopposed

BOARD MEMBERS [5 REQUIRED]—Neil Reid, s & John White. Nominated unapopsed.

Graham Burrington—nominated from the floor by Cheryl Lewis; seconded by Gareth Williams; 2 more board members required

WEB SITE ADMINISTRATOR/ MEDIA OFFICER; Noel Murrell; only one nomination was received, elected unopposed

PENNANT COMMITTEE [COMBINED, 7 REQUIRED]—Fran Don, Noel Murrell, Bryan Smith, Gareth Williams, Ian Bilney, David Crothers, George Perterson-----all elected unopposed

PENNANT COORDINATOR; Noel Murrell only nomination received elected unopposed

MATCH / CHAMPIONSHIP/ SELECTION COMMITTEE [COMBINED Peter McLarty nominated by Bernie Jones; seconded by Wangaratta several still required board to follow up

LAWS & UMPIRING—Anne Summerhill, Laureen Smith, Neil Pryor and Rhoanna Smith only nominations received, more required if possible-nothing came from the floor

COACHING COMMITTEE; Neil Pryor only nomination received Elected unopposed more required from the floor-no one came forward

GREENS; Patrick O'Shea only nomination received. Patrick elected unopposed Help required. Names to b taken from the floor---no one came forward

JUNIORS; No interest Board to sort this out

Graham Moore

President O & M Bowls Region

General Business

Items for discussion;

The Board are recommending \$10.00 entry fee into all Championship events. This will then go towards Prize Money for each Event; Prize Money which has been suggested is \$100.00 per player for each event. Winners only

All clubs present was for the above mention format

Moved; Chiltern;---Seconded Myrtleford ----carried

To enter a team in the New Victorian Bowls League. To enter into this event we require a Major Sponsor, plus a team manager, plus players from O&M mixed players

A small discussion took place the main outcome is that a Major Sponsor would be required

This was left in abeyance for the Board to follow up

Bernie Jones informed those present that he would be doing a Bowls Show on 2REM Radio and asked for clubs to take part

Any other Points for Discussion

Next Delegates meeting to be advised

Meeting Closed at 12.10pm

Presidents Annual report Season 2022-23

Five years go quickly when you look back and today as the five year anniversary of my appointment as President of the O&M region it seems time has flown. But I am tired, I have put my international umpire duties on the back burner for a couple of years and have decided it is now time to reignite my umpiring at the Aus Open in preparation for the World's later this year and regenerate my batteries.

I think I have enjoyed my time in this role, I'll tell you in a couple of months.

Pennant season was completed with seemingly few hiccups, the finals had some seriously close games. Thankyou to Bryan and his team (Noel, Fran, George, Gareth, Dave and Ian) for their work over the past season and making the recommendations for the incoming committee to consider for next season.

The season was capped by the excellent performances of Wodonga (weekend) and Wangaratta (midweek) at the state playoffs for pennant in Moama with Wang coming away with the silver in midweek. Congratulations to all participants.

Our other hardworking frontline committee is the Championship and selection committee. Thankyou to Claire and her team (Anne, Mary, Roger, Kylie, Albert and Klive).

This season saw the introduction of BowlsLink into our region competition format and any difficulties were outweighed by the benefits gained. I'm sure Claire will have mentioned these in her report and I bow to her greater knowledge but online is the way of the future and I'm sure we will adapt and adjust as necessary.

This year we were once again a strong showing in the State events. Congratulations to all our representatives in the State competitions who all played the best they could on the day and represented O&M with pride.

Congratulations to Ian Brimblecombe who was recognised as the Victorian Male Bowler of the year for last season and to Koby Cromie who took out the Under 18 Male Bowler of the Year.

Our best wishes go to Ian Brimblecombe and Rob Mitchell and Kylie Whitehead, Anne Miles, Laureen Smith and Claire Sanders who will be representing Victoria in the nationals in Perth in October in the Mens Pairs and Ladies Fours.

Region Sides was completed last weekend and for the second time O&M results for the Men and Women were reversed. This year the Men finished a creditable fifth in the Gold division separated from third by shot difference and the ladies finished strongly in the round robin and took advantage of the position in the final gained when Yarra defeated Northern Gateway to take out the Gold

division from Bendigo Goldfields Campaspe. Congratulations to all men and women on your selection and the way you represented O&M.

Thankyou to the greens committee (Patrick, Neil and Lance) who handled any matters raised about greens in a manner to achieve the best outcome for the club and competition.

From the umpire committee, a big thankyou to Anne Summerill who liaises with the Championship committee and clubs to ensure our events have officials and to our presenters and assessors who train our new and continuing officials.

We are in a period of change in our sport, BV is reviewing and making decisions about many events and the manner in which they are to be conducted into the future. As a region we have limited role in this process, they are decisions made by BV about the way that organisation wants to spend our money to the best effect for the sport. What we can do is make decisions about what events we want to run in our region and how these events are conducted. This is where the clubs come in. The Board has welcomed, and hopefully will always welcome, information from the clubs about what they want to happen in O&M. The forums are the delegates meetings and via direct communication to the Board.

Thankyou to all members of the Board, (Roger, Glenise, Cheryl, Loraine, John and Neil). The conduct of regular monthly meetings has, in my opinion, improved the discussion and response to any issues raised with the Board. Special thanks to Roger and Loraine who have been members of the Board and committees for longer than I have been on the Board who have decided to retire.

Thankyous are also extended to our Treasurer Patrick, who has kept us on track with the finances. The Board decided to review the basis of calculation of the club membership levy/ pennant side levy which is the manner in which the O&M is primarily funded. The Board decided that the model used is an appropriate one to keep as we have received no negative feedback over the seven years this model has been implemented. In response to a seemingly regular annual drawdown from our reserves to cover "normal" expenditure, it was decided to adjust the amounts allocated to each category for the first time since the inception. In the COVID years the region accessed grants that were available and was able to adjust the amounts payable by the clubs and still cover our costs. Recently we were successful in receiving a grant to help defray the expenses incurred for region sides. The Board intends to continue to source as much outside funding as practicable allowing O&M to increase expenditure on things like livestreaming our extremely entertaining matches in pennant and state event finals.

Thanks also go to Graham who has worked tirelessly as Secretary (even when he would have preferred to let someone else take over) and is now prepared to take on the president role.

O&M is dependent on volunteers to run our Board and committees and every year I have stood here to thank everyone for their input and asked for everyone present and not present to think about what they could contribute to our region either at club level or region.

I am a little disappointed at the lack of nominations for one of our most important committees. I know there is a reasonable amount of work and commitment required for these committees but the championship and selection committee is often the one that cops a lot of comments and discussion

about their decisions. I am a strong believer in if you don't like what you are seeing happen, you have the choice to put up or shut up. I hope there will be some "put uppers" later today.

I leave the presidency of the O&M after five years feeling satisfied that the issues that caused me concern then have now been addressed. We have a template for the region that is not dependent on specific people, the roles can transfer and the region will continue strongly into the future.

I am not responsible for this. All of the five Boards, all the committees over the years and all of the clubs that belong to the O&M region have contributed- they are collectively responsible for change, nurture and growth of the Region then, now and into the future.

From me for now, "that's all folks"

Laureen

Umpires Report AGM 4th June 2023

Well hasn't there been some fun and games in the officiating arena recently.

If you are not up to date with it all, World Bowls introduced two new rules in the latest edition of the Laws of the Sport on the 1st of April. The proposed wording concerned Bowls Australia and NOAG but World Bowls was adamant that bowlers would appreciate the intent of the new laws in addressing cheating in our game.

Their introduction caused major ructions when a player stopped one of their team's bowls from entering the ditch and the umpire having to apply the law and penalty as written, forcing the team to forfeit the game.

Much to the relief of all, World Bowls saw sense and have removed the new laws completely from the Laws of the Game, so when you buy your new edition of the Laws make sure you redact Laws 37.1.3 and 37.1.5.3.

This does not open the door to players to take advantage of the removal of these laws to cheat by clearing a way for their bowl to progress to the head (37.1.5.3) or by stopping one of their bowls from reaching the head and thus changing the result (37.1.3). I believe any action along these lines will be treated as unsportsmanlike/bringing the sport into disrepute and subject to an instantaneous penalty.

Other than that, our officiating has been progressing as normal in O&M.

Our presenters and assessors are doing a sterling job in reaccrediting and accrediting new applicants.

One positive outcome from COVID times is the development of online training resource for umpires. This is available to everyone to undertake the theory of measuring, marking and umpiring via the BowlsLearn aspect of your individual BowlsLink account.

If you wish to be certified, you need to complete the online units then send in your application for the practical aspects of each course to be assessed within the region.

Right now we are in the process of progressing everyone who has lodged an application and are waiting for a course to happen to complete the online units then follow up with a one day practical assessment day.

This has already happened for Wodonga (thankyou Anne Summerill) and Yarrawonga (Laureen) This is not perfect yet as the process is in development- broad brush but details are sketchy. So if you have members who are waiting to hear from one of the training team, let them know the gist of what is happening or tell them to contact myself and I will get things moving.

Congratulations to Rhoanna Smith who achieved her International technical official certificate in March this year. Rhoanna is certainly on the young end of the officiating spectrum agewise and we wish her well with important international events being hosted in Australia in the next few years. Rhoanna joins myself, Anne Summerill and Ann Climas as ITO's in O&M, we are very lucky to have this depth of experience and talent in our officials.

Thankyou to my team on the umpire committee (Anne, Max and Neil) and to the presenters and assessors who volunteer their time to support the training of new and continuing officials

Laureen

Secretaries report

Firstly I would like to thank all the Board members for a great year and to all club Secretaries and club Delegates thank you so much for your help during the year.

To our retiring President Laureen, what a bloody great job you have done during the year and also through you 4 year term, which included the Pandemic. You are going to be a hard act to follow. I have never known any put so much work into what she does.

I have been on this committee 11 years, 3 of these I spent as a BVRR and when I became secretary I was glad to pass the baton on, how bloody wrong was i with BV requesting that Secretary and President now being the BVRR.

A big thank you to all our committees, just to mention two Championship, Match and Selection, what a fantastic job you have all done lead by Clare, this committee was a fine machine

Our Pennant Committee led by Brian Smith and Noel Murrell once again this committee is fine piece workmanship

I have served under 4 Presidents, Batesy, Marge rate, Neil and Laureen and I can honestly say you have been the best Laureen.

I would also like to congratulate you on your achievements in the bowling world

I would also like to say a big well done to all our Champions, to our Ladies team that won the Gold section in the State events, to the men also a job well done

Once again thank and well done to all the delegated from the O&M

Graham

WEBSITE REPORT

Firstly, my apology for not being in attendance at the AGM due to touring WA.

This is a brief report on the Region's Website and BowlsLink for the AGM

Website

The website is still attracting much interest and being used as our major communicating tool. The main uses are:

- To communicate the Region's activities,
- Pennant administration
- Notification of Club Events – please send Flyers in as a PDF

BowlsLink

It is encouraging how clubs and bowlers continue to embrace BowlsLink.

Pennant. Using BowlsLink for Pennant through Club entering results is now at a mature state. Only a couple of clubs a little slack on entering the results immediately after the game. I suspect this is due to insufficient club members in the lower Divisions trained or provided access at club level.

State Events.

The use of BowlsLink for the State Events was a success and it appeared the Region may have received a greater number of entries. The use of BowlsLink and the knowledge gained by bowlers will no doubt mature over the next season.

It was a pleasure working with the Regions Match/Selection Committee to get the State Events on the system and then managing the events. Great effort by all concerned.

Club Tournaments.

It is hoped that clubs will start to use BowsLink for gaining Club Tournament entries. Other Regions/clubs are certainly embracing this system.

Finally, thanks to all clubs who have assisted by providing input to our website. Should you require assistance on any matter relating to the websites or BowsLink do not hesitate to contact me.

Noel Murrell

Website administrator
Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc

2 Jun 23

Ovens & Murray Bowls Region

Coaching Report 2022-2023.

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	13	25	1
Introductory Coach	0	3	1

Current Club Coaches are from; Benalla, Bright, Mansfield, Wodonga, Yarrawonga, YMGR with one from Chiltern Pending.

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

Changes to course processes

Bowls Australia has changed the structure of accreditation courses for Coaching. 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 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

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).

The way forward for O&M this year

You may commence online modules at your leisure. When completed, Bowls Victoria will schedule on green assessments. Locations will be determined by the numbers of applicants in each area. This is the Catch-22, until we have more coaches complete the online course, we won't get an accreditation day in the O&M. The nearest one at the moment is in Moama or Sunbury!

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

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Neil Pryor PH 0439161573 email. neil.pryor@outlook.com

CHAMPIONSHIP / MATCH / SELECTION COMMITTEE 2023 REPORT

Another year of outstanding results, on and off the greens has come to a close.

A big thankyou must go to all the clubs, who were more than willing to host an Ovens & Murray state event this year. Of course these events do not go ahead without Umpires, Markers, Scoreboard attendants etc

Bowlslink was introduced for all our state events this year, The transition to bowlslink ran smoothly and proved to be a positive move for all. We must also thank Noel for all his time and guidance he gave us.,

Congratulations to all our winners, who then went on to represent the Ovens and Murray at Championship week in Bendigo. A list of all winners accompanies this report.

Our mens pairs of Ian Brimblecombe and Rob Mitchell, and the ladies 4s of Claire Sanders, Laureen Smith, Anne Miles and Kylie Whitehead were successful and claimed State Titles.

They now go on to represent Victoria at the National Championships in WA, in October 2023. Good bowling to both teams.

With the new format for the Regionals State Championship, both our mens and ladies Ovens and Murray teams are positioned in the Gold Section. After 3 days of solid bowling against strong opposition the Ladies finished in 2nd ,with 5 wins from 7 games. This qualified them with a position in the final against Bendigo Campaspe Bowls Region.

Results ; Ovens and Murray Region 41 defeated Bendigo Campaspe Region 23.

Congratulations on winning the 2023 Ladies Region Sides Championship and taking home the gold medal and gold cup'

The men also did extremely well and finished in 5th position, but were equal on points with 3rd and 4th placed winners. They had 3 wins from 7 games against strong opposition. Both men and ladies teams did the Ovens and Murray proud, Congratulations to all players and managers., Mens – Peter McLarty and the ladies Maree Jones.

I personally would like to thank all members of the Championship / Match / Selection Committee, for your time, support and encouragement this year.

Believe me this did not go unnoticed,

To the new committee next year, I wish you all the best'

Claire Sanders

PENNANT COMMITTEE REPORT AGM 2022/2023

As a comprehensive end of season Pennant Report was provided to the General Meeting in February this report will concentrate on what has been happening since.

However, just to summarise the 2022-2023 season, Covid had a minimal impact on the past season compared to the previous two seasons. We did experience a few days where high temperatures caused early starts for Weekend Pennant.

An update on what has occurred since the February General Meeting is as follows:

Congratulations to Pennant Champions for Season 2022-23:

- **Weekend Divisions**

- A1 – Wodonga
- A2 – Wodonga
- A3 – Howlong
- A4 – Swanpool
- B1 – St James
- B2 – Corowa RSL
- B3 – Wodonga
- B4 – Kiewa

- **Midweek Divisions**

- A1 – Wangaratta
- A2 – Corowa Civic
- A3 – Wangaratta
- B1 – Mansfield
- B2 – Howlong

- **Early Start Times Weekend Pennant.** After receiving numerous requests for a 10.00am start for Weekend Pennant the Pennant Committee has decided that the impact on many of our younger bowlers, who have family and work commitments at weekends, the early start would not be conducive to our competition.
- **Tawonga Mount Beauty.** Will not be fielding a side in Pennant for the coming season but will remain affiliated in the short term. Some of the club's members will most likely play with another club on a Pennant Permit or seek transfers. We wish Tawonga Mt Beauty all the best in whatever they do next.
- **New Greens.** Wodonga, Wangaratta and Myrtleford clubs are endeavouring to have projects underway to obtain covers over their Greens. We wish them all the best in their endeavours.
- **Draft Divisions 2023-24.** A copy of the Draft Divisions has been sent to all clubs and posted to the Region's website. This draft is based on information provided to the Pennant Committee to date. As advised prior to the start of the 2022-2023 season there will be no promotion from Weekend Division A4 or B Divisions. An apology to Swanpool for advising them, through recent correspondence, that they would be promoted to A3. Obviously, this was incorrect and the committee apologises for any inconvenience or angst caused.
- **Pennant Dates- Season 2023-24.** The committee has advised the dates for the coming season and has sent the details to clubs and posted the dates on the Region's website.
- **Twilight Games** After a review of the programming of twilight games it was agreed that clubs be canvassed for expressions of interest to hold twilight games as their Home games.

Any club indicating a desire for a twilight game (all Divisions) will have their Home game programmed as such.

- **Review Rule Changes**
 - **Inclement Weather Rule** – The committee has decided, rather than have catch-up games, to extend the duration of games. The following rules will be amended:
 - **Rules 12.1.2.3, 12.1.2.4 and 12.2.3** be amended or removed to allow more time to complete a game. Appropriate wording to be added to enable Side Captains to finalise a game in an appropriate time frame eg. game to cease when the minimum number of ends have been achieved per **Rule 5**.
 - **Playing of Music** – As a result of complaints raised at the recent General Meeting, the committee has agreed that a new rule needs to be established providing guidance to clubs during Pennant. This will be based on guidance provided by Bowls Victoria.
- **Extreme Temperature.** The Pennant Committee has confirmed, that as a general rule, notification of an early start for Weekend Pennant will be no later than Thursday.
- **Promotion and Relegation.** The committee has reviewed the Promotion and Relegation process and agreed that it would not be good for the competition or clubs to have more than one Side in the same Division. However, the committee believes there is merit in ensuring annual changes within a Division. The committee proposes to amend the current rules as follows:
 - canvas Sides in the same Division for their desire to be promoted should the winner/runner-up Sides knock back promotion. However, it would not be appropriate to promote a Side from the bottom of the ladder, therefore the Pennant Committee would need to reserve the right to veto any expression of promotion.
- **Review of Pennant Structure** In response to some Club feedback the Pennant Committee has questioned whether the length of the Pennant season is optimal. As part of the committee's review an option was developed, based on the proposed Sides for the coming season. It was agreed that this option should be provided to Club Delegates, at the AGM, to take back to clubs for further discussion with their members. No change will be made unless feedback indicates a desire for the Pennant Committee to develop this, or other options, with a view to improving our current competition.

I would like to thank all members of the past season's Pennant Committee for all their support and for attendance at the numerous meetings held over the past 12 months. Discussion has always been vigorous but convivial. Special thanks to Noel Murrell for all his tremendous work with Bowlslink and the Pennant competition.

Bryan Smith
Chairman
Ovens and Murray Pennant Committee
25 May 2023