

**Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc**

**Bowls Victoria**

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| **PRESIDENT**  **Maurie Braden**  **0493 391 888**  **presidentoandmbowls@gmail.com** | **SECRETARY**  **Glenice Campbell**  **0408 420 508**  **secretaryoandmbowls@gmail.com** |

**OVENS AND MURRAY BOWLS REGION AGM**

**Sunday 2nd June, 2024 at Wangaratta Bowls Club at 10.30am**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Graham Moore (President), Cheryl Lewis (Vice President), Glenice Campbell (Secretary), Patrick O’Shea (Treasurer), John White, Neil Reid, Graham Burrington (Board Members), Beechworth (Heather Fitzpatrick, Keith McIntosh), Benalla (G Greene, I Hobson), Bright (Otto Kurpferle, Julie Ellis), Chiltern(Brian Cassidy, Chris Cassidy) , Corowa Civic (Shane Rosenow, Pam Tobias), Corowa RSL (Keith Mills, K Widdison), Corryong (Leif Kamba), Dederang (George Eldridge, Terry Dawson), Howlong (R McConnelly, B Blanchard), Kiewa Valley (Ron Miller, Brad Terry), Lavington (Bill Collins, Slavko Kitt), Mansfield (Vicki Klien, Nick Klien), Milawa (Terry Hallinan, Maureen Walker), Moira Benalla (Robert Jones, Therese Alexander), Moyhu (Ian Ritchie), Myrtleford (Greg Robbins), Rutherglen (Wayne Saunders, John Flannery), St James (S Bament), Swanpool (L Bradshaw, M Blake), Tallangatta (John McCoy, Brendan de Vries), Tungamah (Dianne Sampson), Wangaratta (Maurie Braden, Greg McDonald, Fran Don, J&R Hermassoo), Wodonga (Sue Beer, Bernie Jones), Yackandandah (Frank Artis, Reon Garvey), Yarrawonga (R Tait), YMGCR (Kerry Kinnane, Jill Lamson), Noel Murrell (Website/BowlsLink), E & G Peterson (Pennant Committee)Observer – Josh Thornton, BV Country Pilot Program Manager, Observer – Commercial Club (S Broad, R Fredericks), Observer – North Albury Club (F Guivarra, Mick Baz)

**Apologies:** Lance Symons (Myrtleford), Wade MacPherson (Club Mulwala), Nancy Duursma (Rutherglen), Bryan Smith (Dederang), Lillian Smith (Dederang), Laureen Smith (Umpires, YMGCR), Lola Clarke (Wareena Park), Matt Andison (Rutherglen), Nadine Simpson (Rutherglen), Graham Whinray (Tungamah), Lou Sigmund (Swanpool), Colin Timms (Observer – Commercial Club)

**Non Attendance:** Club Mulwala, Tawonga Mt Beauty

**Meeting opened at** 10.40am

**1 minute silence observed for departed members during past year**

**Minutes:** 2023-2024 minutes

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

**Business arising from minutes:** Nil

**Inward Correspondence:** Nil

**Outward Correspondence:** Nil

**Correspondence be accepted:** N/A

**Moved accepted: Seconded**

**Finance report:** Audited report attached

**Moved accepted:** Patrick O’Shea **Seconded:** Tallangatta

**Reports:**

**President:** See attached

**Match / selection / championship committee:** See attached

**Pennant Committee:** See attached

Added comment from Bryan Smith **–** Thank you to Noel for his incredible work as he is too humble with the work he does to thank himself.

**Website/BowlsLink/Media Committee:** See attached

**Umpires:** See attached

**Greens:** Presented by Patrick O’Shea

* 2 requests to see 2 greens during the year
* 1 requires funding to replace green
* 1 has a plan in place
* Reminder if a complaint about a green, if it is not in writing it means there is no complaint. Send any complaints to O&M Secretary

**Coaching:** No report received

**Moved reports accepted:** YMGCR **Seconded:** Wareena

**Election of Office bearers.**

**PRESIDENT**

Cheryl Lewis (Myrtleford) Nominator: John White (Corowa Civic)

Seconder: Graham Burrington (Myrtleford)

– Withdrew nomination

Maurie Braden (Wangaratta) Nominator: Noel Murrell (Wodonga)

Seconder: Bryan Smith (Dederang)

As no other nomination Maurie Braden elected and took over as chair of the meeting

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Cheryl Lewis (Myrtleford) Nominator: Glenice Campbell (Rutherglen)

Seconder: Graham Moore (Wangaratta)

As no other nominations Cheryl Lewis elected as Vice President

**SECRETARY**

Glenice Campbell (Rutherglen) Nominator: Graham Moore (Wangaratta)

Seconder: Cheryl Lewis (Mrtleford)

As no other nominations Glenice Campbell elected as Secretary

**TREASURER Vacant –** No nominations received

Wade MacPherson has volunteered and has been elected

**DIRECTOR/BOARD (5)**

Cheryl Lewis (Myrtleford) Nominator: Glenice Campbell (Rutherglen)

Seconder: Graham Moore (Wangaratta)

Withdrew nomination

Glenice Campbell (Rutherglen) Nominator: Graham Moore (Wangaratta)

Seconder: Cheryl Lweis (Myrtleford)

Withdrew nomination

John White (Corowa Civic) Nominator: Graham Burrington (Myrtleford)

Seconder: Glenice Campbell (Rutherglen)

Graham Burrington (Myrtleford) Nominator: John White (Corowa Civic)

Seconder: Glenice Campbell (Rutherglen)

Wade MacPherson (Club Mulwala) Nominator: Nicole McPherson (Club Mulwala) Seconder: Alan Ralph (Tungamah)

Neil Reid (Wangaratta) Nominator: Maurie Braden (Wangaratta)

Seconder: Glenice Campbell (Rutherglen)

John, Graham, Wade and Neil all elected to the Board.

Fran Don (Wangaratta) volunteered to be on the Board

Since the AGM Terry Hallinan (Milawa) has also volunteered to join the Board

**PENNANT COMMITTEE (7)**

Noel Murrell (Wodonga)

Bryan Smith (Dederang)

Elaine Peterson (Mansfield)

Graham Moore (Wangaratta)

Ian BIlney (Corowa Civic)

George Peterson (Mansfield)

John McCoy (Tallangatta)

All elected to the Pennant Committee

**CHAMPIONSHIP AND SELECTION (7)**

Graham Burrington (Myrtleford)

Mason Bayliss (Wodonga)

Rhoanna Smith (Wangaratta)

All elected to the Championship and collection committee

Since the meeting Greg McDonald (Wangaratta) has nominated

**3 Vacant positions**

**COACHING COMMITTEE**

**Vacant positions**

**LAWS AND UMPIRING**

Anne Summerill (Corowa RSL)

Laureen Smith (YMGCR)

Max Drummond (Benalla)

Ron Boulton (Chiltern)

All elected to the Umpire committee

**JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT**

Mitchell Enshaw (Rutherglen)

Elected to the Junior Development Committee

**Vacant positions**

**GREENS COMMITTEE**

Patrick O’Shea (Bright) has accepted nomination from the floor by Graham Moore (Wangaratta). Seconder John White (Corowa Civic)

**Vacant positions**

**MEDIA COMMITTEE**

**WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR**

Noel Murrell nominated from the floor and accepted

**Vacant position**

**FACEBOOK ADMINISTRATOR**

**Vacant position**

**SPONSORSHIP AND MARKETING COMMITTEE**

**Vacant positions**

**General Business:** No AGM business

**Meeting closed at** 11.35am

**DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW AGM**

* Delegate meeting dates, times and location
  + Agreed by those present
    - Meetings to be held at Wangaratta Bowls Club
    - Time to be 10.30am
    - To be on a Sunday unless Sunday’s are not available
* Pennant structure for upcoming season
  + Should pennant teams be 4 or 3 rinks
    - Noel Murrell – 2 surveys over last 10 years have both had for 4 rinks
    - Corowa RSL – What happens with extra players if go to 3 rinks
    - Corryong – If go to 4 rinks ma struggle with enough plaers
  + Vote: 14 clubs for 4 rinks and 12 clubs for 3 rinks.
  + Now up to Pennant Committee to decide what the format will be for 2024-25 season
* Lavington – Move that in finals should be $10.00 per person green fees
  + To be discussed at next Delegates meeting
* Swanpool – For finals is it possible for smaller clubs to have finals allocated as well
* Rutherglen – Should all clubs have laser levels available for measuring?
  + Up to each club and umpire if laser level is purchased

**NEXT MEETING:**

TO BE DECIDED BUT WILL BE BEFORE PENNANT STARTS SO ABLE TO COLLECT SCORE CARDS

**O&M Match and Selection Committee Report:**

The Match and Selection Committee has overseen another successful 2023-24 season with the completion of all State Events within the required times. The Committee is very aware of the need for all member Clubs to also complete their individual Club Titles, however with 13 State Events and Region Trial games, the calendar tends to get overloaded. We were on the right side of the weather this season with only the Mixed Pairs sectional play affected by excessive heat and all other events were able to be completed on the scheduled dates.

This season saw the Board re-introduce match fees and prize money for all State events excepting the Champ of Champs. This resulted in an overall net gain of $1020 for the Region. Next year we hope to increase the women’s entries which were at times on the light side.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank all the venues that have hosted events throughout the season, your assistance is very much appreciated and hopefully the green fees, lunches and drinks sales proved fruitful.

The O&M played the annual challenge against the Goulburn Murray Bowls Region at YMGCR on Sunday 3rd of December. Congratulations to both Women’s and Men’s sides that were both successful on the day. Big thank you to Claire Sanders (Women’s Manager) and Match Committee members, Graham Burrington and Andy Lefevre for their assistance on the day. Congratulations to YMGCR for the presentation of the greens and the great catering job on the day.

A successful Region Sides campaign in Ballarat in the first weekend of January culminated in the women’s side winning a Silver Medal as runner’s up in the Gold Section, losing a close game to Eastern Ranges. The Men’s side maintained their position in the Gold Section with a win against West Coast. Accommodation was more than adequate as were meal arrangements and player behaviour, Overall, a successful weekend.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank committee members Graham Burrington and Andy Lefevre for their assistance throughout the season, and to past member Peter McLarty for his hard work at the start of the season helping to set the scene for the State events and arranging accommodation for the Region Sides Championship. Thank you to the support of the O&M Board members who gave their assistance to the running of the State events during the season. On the selection side of the committee thanks to Anne Miles, Claire Sanders and Mary Tragardh as well as Mason Bayliss, Scott Widdison and Jim Lefevre for their valued input into the selection of players for the trial games and ultimately the Regions Sides teams.

I would like to personally thank Noel Murrel for all his assistance setting up the O&M State Events, conducting the initial draws, and finals series draws. Noel’s knowledge of ‘Bowlslink’ and more importantly his willingness to help is certainly a great asset to the O&M Region, and for me, as I am still playing, maintains an important impartiality to each event.

Regards,

Maurie Braden

O&M Match Committee.

**O&M State Event Winners 2023-2024**

**Ladies Champion of Champions:**

Jodie Fruend (Wangaratta)

**Ladies State Singles:**

Laureen Smith (YMGCR)

**Ladies State Pairs**:

Jodie Fruend [s] (Wangaratta), Jan Hermassoo (Wangaratta)

**Ladies State Triples:**

Jodie Fruend [s] (Wangaratta), Rhoanna Smith (Wangaratta), Jan Hermassoo (Wangaratta)

**Ladies State Fours:**

Jodie Fruend [s] (Wangaratta), Rhoanna Smith (Wangaratta), Jan Hermassoo (Wangaratta), Barb McDonald (Wangaratta)

**State Mixed Pairs:**

Ethan Fruend [s] (Wangaratta), Kylie Whitehead [Substitute] (Wodonga), Jodie Fruend (Wangaratta)

**Over 60 Womens Singles:**

Sharon Warfe (Moira)

**Over 60 Womens Pairs:**

Mary Tragardh, Cheryl Lewis (Myrtleford)

**Womens Novice Singles:**

Abbey Arendt (Moira)

**O&M State Event Winners 2023-2024**

**Men’s Champion of Champions:**

Les Spencer (Yarrawonga)

**Men’s State Singles:**

Ethan Fruend (Wangaratta)

**Men’s State Pairs:**

Mason Bayliss [s] (Wodonga), Scott Widdison (Corowa RSL)

**Men’s State Triples:**

Ian Brimblecombe [s] (Wangaratta), Chris Langdon (Rutherglen), Rob Bartel (Kiewa Valley)

**Men’s State Fours:**

Ian Brimblecombe [s] (Wangaratta), Ethan Fruend (Wangaratta), Robert Mitchell (Benalla), Rob Bartel (Kiewa Valley)

**Over 60 Mens Singles:**

John Boyd (Howlong)

**Over 60 Mens Pairs:**

Les Spencer (Yarrawonga), Gary Presnell (YMGCR)

**Mens Novice Singles:**

Jim Murtagh (Myrtleford)

**Umpire Report O&M AGM 2023-24**

As we review another season, from the officiating on the green point of view it ran very smoothly.

The other aspect of our work, the training and accreditation of new and reaccrediting officials has been taking place in the background. The relatively new system of training and accrediting officials (measurers, markers and umpires) is taking a little time to settle in.

In O&M we have predominately adopted the model of applicants completing the online units then having a day (or two) to show mastery of the equipment and processes in a practical demonstration (if needed) and practical assessment when ready.

I’ll try to give you a feeling of how the system works:

I receive the names of people who wish to become an official from BV. I usually make contact with them shortly after receiving the information and chat about their road to accreditation.

The reason we do it this way is because the numbers are often small and can be geographically very far.

I will try to organise sessions that cater for a group of people in a location that minimises travel for everyone concerned and once a session is organised, everyone who could be interested in that session is invited.

This step can and will be delegated to the P&A most conveniently located and they do the organising.

Before the practical sessions can run, all applicants must have done the online units.

Some applicants would have done the units before they applied for accreditation to BV and some will apply first anticipating doing the units before the sessions, one of the important topics covered when the initial contact is made.

As you can hear, we try to make the process as available as possible within reasonable time lines.

BUT

The process can get a little derailed at my end when I become particularly busy, or when applicants say they need a little time and communication lapses, or when applicants are not able to attend a series of sessions for personal reasons and communication lapses.

As I mentioned in the beginning, it is a work in progress and Neil Pryor, Anne Summerill and myself as the three most active presenters and assessors are aware of the need to continually improve the system supporting the training of our new officials.

If you have any issues with potential officials at your club who may feel that the system is letting them down, I’m more than happy to hear this and take steps to rectify and progress the applications.

As the committee of people who have a good understanding of the laws of the game, the conditions of play for events run by BV and the policies of BA and BV, we are very willing to be included in deliberations by other O&M committees or the Board when this knowledge could be a useful perspective to bring to the discussions.

I finish with an acknowledgement of the many hours our volunteer officials have contributed over the season. Working at pennant matches, pennant finals, State events held at region level, the inter region games hosted in O&M and not to forget the club competitions. The game cannot continue without you.

Thankyou

**Laureen Smith – DUP O&M**

**Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc**

**Annual General Meeting 2 Jun 24**

**WEBSITE/BOWLSLINK REPORT**

A brief update on the Region’s Website and BowlsLink and any issues experienced during the past season covered as follows:

**• Website**

The website is still doing its job to communicate the Region’s activities, provide feedback on Pennant administration and issues and allows notification of Club Events and tournaments. During the Pennant season our website attracts a high volume of hits (site being accessed).

Whilst clubs do have their own websites not all our region’s bowlers visit these sites. If your club wishes to cover a larger audience within and outside the Region feel free to duplicate your posts, where applicable, on the Region’s website, after all this is your website.

**• BowlsLink**

It is encouraging how clubs and bowlers continue to embrace BowlsLink. Each year we see the expansion of use by clubs and individuals through embracing the capability of BowlsLink to manage competitions and events. Through regular updates to BowlsLink the system is becoming more user friendly.

**• Pennant.** The use of BowlsLink for Pennant has now reached maturity as a result of a greater number of club members now being trained to enter Pennant results. I encourage all clubs to endeavour to have someone in each of their Pennant Sides able to enter teams and results enabling this to occur at host clubs rather than wait until they get back to their clubs.

**• State Events.**

The use of BowlsLink for the State Events has matured and has been successful and attracting more entries. The next stage is to use the scoring capability to provide real time updates to those interested and not at the venue.

**• Club Tournaments.**

I recommend that clubs test out the use of BowlsLink for gaining and managing Club Tournament entries. The system has been simplified to make this task easier. Once you have your regular events entered in BowlsLink these events can easily be used as templates for the following season. This is how each seasons Pennant Draws are created.

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

**Noel Murrell**

Website/BowlsLink Administrator

Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc

1 Jun 24

**AGM 2024**

**PENNANT COMMITTEE REPORT – SEASON 2023/2024**

An apology from Bryan Smith, Chairman of the Pennant Committee for not being in attendance. Bryan is in Fiji visiting family.

The past season saw the Pennant Committee extremely busy dealing with a number of difficult administrative issues, some generated within the Region and some external distractions. Apart from these issues we had a great season with minimal disruptions through washouts or heat-outs.

Just to remind everyone we had a great final series in all Divisions with the **Pennant Champions for Season 2023-24 Season:**

* **Weekend Divisions**
  + **A1** – Wodonga
  + **A2** – Wodonga
  + **A3** – Lavington (first season in O&M)
  + **A4** – Swanpool
  + **B1** – St James
  + **B2** – Wodonga
  + **B3** – Dederang
  + **B4** – Corryong
* **Midweek Divisions**
  + **A1** – Wangaratta
  + **A2** – Corowa RSL
  + **A3** – Dederang
  + **B1** – Corowa RSL
  + **B2** – Chiltern
  + **B3** - Howlong
* **New Greens.** It was great to see both Tallangatta and Kiewa hosting clubs on their new Greens. The improvement at both clubs I am sure will attract more bowlers to any tournament that they hold.
* **Draft Divisions 2024-25.** A draft of the Divisions for the coming season will be sent out to clubs once the NSW boarder clubs transferring to Victoria are finalised and entries are received. Hopefully the dust will settle by mid July.
* **Pennant Dates- Season 2024-25.** The new committee will meet asap and set the dates for the coming season. Dates will be advised to clubs when confirmed. It is envisaged that the first rounds will be Weekend 12th October, Midweek 15th October.
* **Outcomes of Meeting with CEO Bowls Vic and Regions Board.** As a result of a complaint from CEO Bowls NSW over the Region meeting with NSW Border clubs, Bryan Smith and myself met with the Regions Board and CEO Bowls Vic. The meeting was extremely constructive and after assurances were provided that we were not actively poaching clubs, the Region was given approval to continue to meet with any club seeking information on our Pennant competition.
* **Review of Pennant Structure.** This is ongoing but the outgoing committee does not see splitting the Region in to two playing areas (North/South or East/West) is a great option as it will weaken our competition. The committee feels that it would be more beneficial to add additional Divisions eg. Weekend Division A5 and additional B Divisions as required. Again the creation of a Premier League would effectively be retitling Division A1 and by doing this other than for prestige reasons no benefit gained. Thanks to all who provided input for a proposed restructure of our region. It is appreciated that these submissions took a lot of effort.
* **Weekend A Division.** Feedback has been requested from clubs on their views on whether Weekend A Division should be reduced to Sides of 12 rather than 16. The purpose of the request is to identify whether it would assist the struggling clubs to field their Division A and B Sides. A show of hands at the AGM will provide guidance to the Pennant Committee.
* **Bowls Vic draft of the proposed new structure of the Bowls Vic** **CoP** – The Region has received an outline document for the proposed new Bowls Vic CoP. A full Draft copy following the new structure should be ready sometime in June.
* **Update – NSW Border Clubs** 
  + **North Albury** – Now disaffiliated with NSW and applied for affiliation with Victoria. They are looking at entering up to 3 Sides in Weekend, 1 Side Midweek,
  + **Commercial Club** – Now disaffiliated with NSW and their application should have been approved by the Bowls Vic Board last Thursday. They propose entering 4 Sides in Weekend, 2 Sides Midweek.
  + **Walla Walla -** The club is still looking at their options and any move will be dependent on player availability prior to Christmas and whether members were to forgo the Odewan Shield competition.

Bryan wished me to pass on his thanks to all members of the past season’s Pennant Committee for their support and attendance at the numerous meetings held over the past 12 months.

**Noel Murrell**

Pennant Coordinator

Ovens and Murray Pennant Committee

01 Jun 2024