

## WINDANG BOWLS CLUB LTD



### MATCH COMMITTEE MEETING

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**MEETING DETAILS:** Friday 29th Sep 2023 @ 1:30pm, Boardroom, Windang.

**ATTENDEES:** Greg Stephenson, President (GS)  
Dave Tyrrell, Bowls Manager (DT)  
Kaye Taylor, Bowls Organiser (KT)  
Jim Wolter, Bowls Organiser (JW)  
Joyce Sawers, Match Committee (JS)  
Judith Voltz, Match Committee (JV)  
Don Lowe, Match Committee (DL)

**APOLOGIES:** Russell Connell, Match Committee (RC)

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### OPENING

DT opened with a presentation on the Agenda for the Combined Match Committee meeting:

1. [Bowls at Windang](#)
2. [Finalising our Club's Unification](#)
3. [New By-Laws \(Regulations\)](#)
4. [Roles and Responsibilities](#)
5. [2024-2025 Bowls Program](#)
6. [Bowls NSW Awards](#)
7. [Other Issues & Concerns](#)

Items 1 to 6 were for information purposes including discussion. Part 7 was for any issues and concerns that were to be raised.

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### BOWLS AT WINDANG

Due to the unification of our Men's and Women's Bowling Clubs, the previous governance structures used to manage the bowls operations was considered outdated and the new structure was now in place to assist the Bowls Committee with the consistent management of bowls at Windang.

The Committee members went from 28 in total to 11. This included equal numbers of male and female members.

All attendees were made aware that the Bylaws are not "set in stone" and could be amended with approval by the Board as we work our way through the rest of this bowling season (approx 8 months).

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GS explained that the current Constitution of Windang Bowls Club LTD had been amended some time ago to remove or amend any references to specific genders in line with current standards.

GS also pledged the Board's support as we worked our way through our unification.

The Bowls Committee's objective is to promote, oversee, organise and operate bowls activities and events at the Club. We oversee, organise and operate our bowls OK, but we can do better. We fall well short on promoting our game and the club and we definitely need to focus on this aspect.

Our membership numbers have declined over the years, which as GS pointed out is consistent with trends across NSW. Approx. 8 years ago our combined numbers were close to 300. We currently have 221 members on our BowlsLink system with over 100 members archived for various reasons (Deceased or transferred to associate membership, or to another club).

Our participation numbers for social bowls on Wednesdays and Fridays have always been encouraging with an average of 15 rinks in use on most days. Saturdays still remain constant with an average of 8 rinks. Thursdays remain constant with 5 rinks. Tuesdays and Sundays are currently not utilised for social bowls.

The Match Committee have set themselves an action to come up with initiatives in an endeavour to:

- To improve the promotion of our sport and the bowls section of our club
- Increase the participation levels on our greens.
- Increase our membership numbers to a goal of 300.

#### **Action**

*Facilitate a plan targeting these 3 specific items - DT*

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### **FINALISING OUR CLUB'S UNIFICATION**

The recommended procedure from Bowls NSW for unifying 2 clubs was presented to the attendees. The main item outstanding was the "Club Closing" form. KT completed the form with the details required. (Date of Affiliation and Date of Closure).

Although our unification does not fulfil the recommended guidelines in some points, as a club we had no option but to commence our unification after Bowls NSW could not provide us the support at the time. The CEO and Sports Manager were no longer with Bowls NSW, and these were our main contacts at the time.

DT highlighted the fact that prior to our club's unification, the Windang Women's Bowling Club's finances were on the decline and there was potentially only 2 years left and the club would have to fold. The easiest and simplest option was to let this occur, however, the Board chose to start the process of unification of our clubs.

#### **Action**

*Forward all the documentation to Bowls NSW for them to close Windang Women's Club and combine all bowling members under Windang Bowls Club Ltd.*

*This will occur Monday 2nd October 2023 - **DT Completed 02/10/23***

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### **NEW BY-LAWS (REGULATIONS)**

The Constitution and By-Laws are now available to view online via our Bowls Website under [Governance](#). A copy will be placed in both bowls offices.

Aspects of the Bylaws were explained, including the bowls committee honorariums.

#### **Action**

*Provide copies for both offices - DT*

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### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Committee members were to access the ByLaws and make themselves aware of their duties and responsibilities. It was pointed out that these Bylaws were dynamic

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and could be amended as required to assist in the management of bowls at Windang. This was all subject to Board approval.

#### **Action**

*Understand the Roles and Responsibilities - ALL*

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### **2024-2025 BOWLS PROGRAM**

The new season commences 1st July 2024, so we need to have plans in place prior to that for our club championships and other events. Something that may impact on these events will be the unification of the District & Zone which is scheduled to be finalised on the same date.

There will be one combined yearly program developed by the Match Committee. This will be available in the following formats.

- Online
- Printed on notice board(s)
- Yearly Diary

Club Championships Events will be reviewed with a focus on improving participation and catering to our diverse bowling membership.

Topics for discussion over the coming months included the following:

- Open &/or Single Gender Events.
- Majors & Minors Events.
- Determining a Minor player's eligibility.
- Seniors &/or Veterans Events.
- Club Tournaments & Formats.
- Social Bowls.

#### **Action**

*Regular Meetings will be scheduled throughout the next 8 months to review the 2024-2025 season - DT*

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## **BOWLS NSW AWARDS**

2 members have been nominated for:

- Volunteer of the Year
- Club Administrator of the Year.

DT will submit a nomination for Club Windang under the Community Engagement Award Category for the contribution to our local sporting clubs.

These are all subject to the selection process at Bowls NSW. Successful nominees will be announced in due course.

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## **ISSUES & CONCERNS**

There were several items brought up during the meeting and have been listed below. *Bowls Manager s responses and/or actions are included (in italic).*

### **1. BOWLSLINK ADMINISTRATORS**

Bowls Committee members require access to the Bowlslink System.

*Applications for members who require Bowlslink Membership and Competition access will be submitted to Bowls NSW with our unification documents. The Bowls Manager will determine the suitable members that require administration.*

**Completed 03/10/23**

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### **2. WELFARE OFFICER**

Both Nola WcWatters and Joyce Sawers have indicated their interest to act as Welfare Officers for our Bowling members.

*The Board will appoint Welfare Officers as required. This will be dealt with at the next Board meeting - Tues 17th Oct 2023*

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### **3. THURSDAY SOCIAL BOWLS FORMAT**

The low participation numbers for Thursday morning Social Bowls is a concern and DT recommended the Match Committee provide a solution to improving those numbers. The outcome from the discussion was the following:

*All Social Bowls events at Windang shall be managed by the Match Committee in accordance with the ByLaws, and in a consistent manner on any given day. To assist with increasing the participation numbers, I'd recommend changing the format to nominated teams. [There appears to be opposition to even suggesting this!](#) The Match Committee chose to trial a different (random) method of choosing teams rather than utilising selectors. This will happen on a date to be determined by the Match Committee.*

*The Women's Club Standing Orders was a document that described how bowls was managed by Windang Women's Club, this included social bowls on a Thursday. These Standing Orders were included in our ByLaws in Section 9 to assist us through the unification stage .*

*These guidelines are outdated as they include references to several items that are inconsistent with the ByLaws and today's current standards.*

#### **Action**

*The Match Committee recommends these standing orders be reviewed, amended or deleted all together and the new Bylaws updated as required - DT*

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### **4. ARE THE FEMALE MEMBERS ON THE MATCH COMMITTEE SUPPOSE TO MANAGE THE WOMEN'S BOWLS , AND DO THE MALE MEMBERS ON THE MATCH COMMITTEE ONLY MANAGE THE MEN'S BOWLS....AND WHAT ABOUT THE SELECTORS?**

*With regards to the Match Committee....No.*

*The structure of the Bowls Committee has been formed with equal numbers of men and women. The Board has appointed the Bowls Organisers( 1 x female and 1 x male). The Members have elected the Match Committee ( 2 x female and 2 x male), and the Selection Committee (2 x female and 2 x male).*



*It is my expectation that our Committee works together as a team to deliver the best possible experience for our bowlers and achieve an informative and rewarding experience for themselves. A roster may be set up in the future so members on the Match Committee learn all aspects of the management of bowls at Windang. As we move forward, and all aspects of the bowls operations are running smoothly under a united club, our volunteers will gain the necessary experience so we can create opportunities where any person can nominate for a position without any specific gender related requirements.*

*With regards to the Selection Committee.....in the immediate future, yes. In the long term, quite possibly no.*

*Again, we require our Selectors to work together to achieve the objective noted in our Club's Selection policy, and that is:*

*"To ensure that competitive and compatible teams are selected to represent Windang Bowling Club in all pennant competitions."*

*This is not a Men's Policy or a Women's Policy, It's our policy! Our selectors and bowlers are required to adhere to this policy.*

*At the start of 2024, we have 2 Pennant Competitions that will be run at the same time. This has never happened before, and will certainly create issues for our selectors. We have the Open Pennants, normally run on Saturdays and the Women's Pennants normally run, two days during the week.*

*For this upcoming season, my recommendation would be to have our two female selectors focus their efforts on the Women's Pennant teams. Our two male selectors focus their efforts on the Open Pennant teams, seeking advice if required. The Women's Pennants will be finalised Mid March, so our female selectors can then be involved in the Open Pennants, without any impact on the Women's Pennant Competition.*

*I'll schedule a meeting with our Bowls Organisers and Selection Committees very soon to discuss how we intend to manage the upcoming season. This way we can focus our efforts on doing what we can with our teams so we have the best opportunity to bring home a pennant flag or two....or three!*

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**5. WE WOULD STILL LIKE OUR MORNING TEA ON THURSDAYS AND A CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE END OF THE YEAR.**

On Thursday's, players who choose to have morning tea are charged \$1:00. This fee is used to cover the cost of the tea/coffee/milk & biscuits etc, that someone purchases out of their own pocket. In the Women's Club calendar, the Christmas party is scheduled for Thursday 12th December, with bowls resuming on Thursday 11th Jan.....?

*Tea and Coffee are readily available from Bar 2-Six from 9:00am on a weekday. Bar 2-Six is well supported by our Social Bowling members and visitors on Wednesday and Friday. This will also be the case on Thursday.*

*In the case of a visitation, tournament or carnival with high participation numbers, complimentary tea/coffee might be necessary.*

*If there was to be a Christmas Party, and the fact we are unified, it would be for all bowling members.*

*Windang Bowls Club Ltd does not close down for one month's Christmas break. That would be unwise. Instead we continue to run bowls whenever the opportunity arises, and we continue to attract visiting bowlers and members during the Christmas period. This is beneficial for our club and our members. We can thank our volunteers for that as they make themselves available if required.*

*There will not be a one month break for bowls at the end of this year.*

*One factor that has affected the end of the year for all of us is the change to the bowling seasons by Bowls NSW (starting and finishing the same time as the financial year). There is nothing stopping our club from having an end of year get-together including a bowls presentation. It's entirely up to us how we schedule our program for the year, and being our 75th anniversary in 2024 might give us the motivation we need to make it happen.*

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**BOWLS MANAGER'S RESPONSE**

*My appreciation goes out to the members of our Match Committee who attended the meeting. Thanks President Greg for attending as well. I'm sure there was a lot to digest.*

*What has become apparent to me is, there are still some members who believe that not much will change with bowls, and not much should change..... I can assure you that this will not be the case.*

*Subject to our unification process being finalised with Bowls NSW, our Club members will be merged on the Bowls Link system.*

*We will be Windang Bowls Club Ltd with 221 members.*

*Yes, there will definitely be some changes along the way as we navigate through our unification. For some, it couldn't come soon enough, for others, they will be afraid..... Afraid of losing their identity, of losing the role that they've had for several years, or of losing members if we even suggest a change to "how we've always done it"..... even the small things.*

*Just to give you something to consider, I've used a few excerpts from the [CPR Group Website](#). (They provide advice to sports clubs). Thanks CPR.*

*"In the competitive world of sport, unless you can overcome your natural fear of loss, you may never make the types of changes that are necessary to achieve great gains. If you keep doing everything the same way in an ever-changing world, you'll end up going backwards."*

*"I do suggest that you look optimistically to the future and implement well-reasoned changes that are likely to reap positive rewards."*

*I look forward to working with our Management & Board, Bowls Committee and bowling members as we endeavour to map out the future of bowls at Windang.*

*Thank you all for your support.*

*Cheers Dave  
Bowls Manager  
Windang Bowls Club Ltd*