

Bayswater Bowls Club NEWSLETTER

BAYSWATER BOWLS CLUB INC. GUY TURNER RESERVE
43 PHYLLIS STREET, BAYSWATER, 3153 PHONE 9729 8312
www.bayswaterbowlsclub.com E-mail: club@bayswaterbowlsclub.com

MAY 2024

Issue 2405

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

Once again, the AGM, like clockwork took place on 5th May with a great roll up of members—I was told a recent record in regards to attendees. Thanks once again to our Secretary John Garrity for putting everything together to enable us to have this meeting including the pre meeting voting process and the lodgement of the Financials with the Victorian Government.

So much behind the scenes work goes on to keep a club like ours running. Well done to those newly elected to the Board, those who retained their positions, those who went up the ranks and those who were appointed to the Board.

Like all AGM's it was a seamless meeting that met all the legislative requirements.

The Board as it sits

President – Peter Commane

Vice President – Karen Barton

Secretary – John Garrity

Assistant Secretary – Barbara Keenan

Treasurer – Chris Hesketh

Ordinary Board Member – Rob Meridith (Also Bar Manager)

Ordinary Board Member – John Rouse

Greens Director – Ray (Bill) O'Toole

Bowls Director – Fiona McNamara

Please support your Board and feel free to contact anyone of us at any time with your needs re the Club and its Operation.

Peter Commane, President

“Friendship through Bowls”

PRESIDENTS AGM 2024 REPORT

I would like to welcome all Members, Family and Friends along with all Guests to this the 40th AGM of the Bayswater Bowls Club.

I would like to thank the outgoing Board for a stellar effort during the year. A lot of hard work and a lot of out of hours

that is reflecting in the Clubs current efficient operation.

I also take this opportunity in welcoming the new Board and look forward to working alongside them, whoever they may be, in a similar vein as this past year.

Before I commence my report proper I would like to thank John Corn for his past 7 years plus as Treasurer and Bar Manager and Jane in the Kitchen. John and Jane took well deserved breaks from duties in 2023 after putting in countless hours for our club. Luckily John has recently resumed work behind the Bar where his expertise is greatly welcomed as has Jane in the Kitchen where her input is always welcome.

SPECIAL THANKS

Now, there have been some memorable moments this year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few people. Karen Barton our Function Manager for coordinating a very big and highly successful Function Season. Bill O’Toole

our Greens Director and John Rouse our Bowls Director for their huge input over the past year—well done guys. Andy Pryor for stepping in during John Rouse’s absence to instigate and organise our Club Championships in a very professional and successful manner. Doug Clarke for

taking on the role of Security Officer—a daunting task to say the least. Fiona McNamara for pennant day duties—always efficient. John Rouse for organising the Bob Murray Memorial Event – well done John. Tim Fruin for the Masters and Apprentices event—highly successful although somewhat trying conditions at the 11th Hour. Well done

Tim. Rob Meredith our Bar Manger—for all the stock pickups and the 12 stocktakes which he is now an expert on. Carl Boltwood for his efforts in organising, securing and investigating sponsorship including the updating of our sponsors package. On the matter of sponsors, it is pleasing to announce we have secured the following sponsors some of which are new and some of which are existing: Noel Jones Real Estate, The Knox Club, Bendigo Bank, Aussie Butchers, Apex Denture Clinic, Mary Doyle, Jackson Taylor, Diversified Management Group and William Matthews Funerals. And of course

(continued on page 6)



BOARD MEMBERS 2024-2025

PRESIDENT:	Peter Commane
VICE PRESIDENT:	Karen Barton
SECRETARY:	John Garrity
ASSISTANT SECRETARY:	Barbara Keenan
TREASURER:	Chris Hesketh
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	John Rouse, Robert Meredith
GREENS DIRECTOR:	Ray O’Toole
BOWLS DIRECTOR:	Fiona McNamara
Weekend Selectors:	Midweek Selectors:
Peter Commane (Chairperson)	Peter Commane (Chairperson)
Pam Pleydell	Rosalie Cooper
Jim Pumphrey	John Garrity
Chris Powell	Ray O’Toole

JOHN ROUSE - OBE

It was a great honour that I was asked to present John Rouse with his OBE at our recent Presentation Day—a great day must I say. As we know, an OBE is when a member reaches the great age of eighty. John, a Founding Member, Life Member and stalwart of the club certainly deserved this honour.



John is ever present around the Club doing what he does best and loves, building and maintenance, I’m sure I speak for one and all when I say that we all look forward to many more years of John’s company.

Well done John on this great milestone—Octogenarian

Peter Commane President

PRESENTATION DAY

After a quick-fire decision **Andy Pryor** took on the role of Club Championship Director and thus getting this year’s club championships underway in lieu of John Rouse being absent.

What a big effort and can I say—well done Andy in making this all happen in a smooth and seamless fashion.

This all culminated in a great presentation day at the club on the Saturday 4th May. Congratulations to all the winners and runners up for 2024.

Well done also to **Mark Acker** (right), for his Most Improved Award.



A special thanks to John Rouse for organising the medals and for doing all the tags on the shields—a very precise, time consuming and thankless job to say the least.

As a footnote it was great to see a sprinkling of the newer Members in the Medal Mix

Right: Men’s singles champion, **Tim Murphy**.



JACKSON TAYLOR – NEW LIGHTS

Recently Jackson Taylor attended our Club and announced that we had been successful in applying for a Grant for new LED Lights on both our Greens.

What a great day followed that announcement with raffles, snags and good bowling.

Thanks to all those who attended in uniform to make it a good day.

Our major Sponsor, Michael Gurry (right with Jackson Taylor and Peter Commane), from Noel Jones, rearranged his day to also be present.



This process had been a whirlwind request, giving John Rouse and myself only four days to put together a quote and associated paperwork – noting this fell over the Anzac Day holiday just to complicate matters.

Thankfully Wallgates Electrical came to the party and with help from John and Rob we got the required paperwork in on time.

Well done to all those involved and to all that helped out on the day.

We have now got the ball rolling with the quote being firmed up and paperwork requirements to Knox Council being prepared.

As soon as we have some installation dates, we will let you know.



Above right: **Fiona McNamara** Ladies singles champion..Left: Ladies singles runner up, **Sharon Gibbs**

IN SEARCH OF A MONEY TREE

Alistair Smith

The year is 1985. Bayswater Bowls Club has just received a planning permit allowing it to build the club. But it is virtually broke. Most of its funds had been chewed up fighting its case at the Planning Appeal Tribunal.

So how did we raise money? Raffles, car rallies, Tupperware parties, cinema outings, garage sales. Although there's no record of us ever having run a chook raffle, the chances are we did that too.

Here's some of the activities we undertook, beginning with a dinner dance (chicken supper) at the Fibremakers Social Club in Canterbury Road, at a cost of \$15 per double or \$8 per single, with drinks available at bar prices. At that time, Fibremakers was a huge company, part of the ICI group that had started life as British Nylon Spinners, and in the tradition of big UK companies of the time, it had a large social club for its employees with facilities that included a full bar, a large hall, a bowling green (where we would play in social games) and soccer pitches.

An outing to the Waverley Cinema to see "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" cost members and friends \$10 which included supper after the show. It made a \$70 profit. A pokie trip to Laverton including morning tea, lunch and a hot snack before leaving on the return journey was priced at \$12.50. We were sternly warned, though, that "due to Transport Regulations no alcohol is allowed to be consumed on the bus."

We had tickets to the Moscow Circus on Ice, and we contemplated a weekend in Sydney to see "the smash hit musical of the decade," Cats. There was a Casserole and Games night at the home of Ray and Rita Adkins; a cake and jam stall at an Apex Carnival in Bayswater. We took over a Chinese restaurant for a banquet meal and boasted "if we could always

have an attendance like that at the Chinese Banquet evening then our financial problems would be over." Which was something of an exaggeration. But it was a successful night. Not everything we did was conventional. We invented Bowlotto, which was to run for more than 30 years, at the unchanged price of \$1 a week! We worked in conjunction with Bayswater Lions to deliver Yellow Pages telephone directories, a venture that made \$300 for the club.

Meg Stent opened up her home for a display of needlework, crochet, lace, patchwork and quilting, items that were the handiwork of her late mother, Mrs Ivy B. Rich of Bayswater. Many of these had won prizes at the Royal show. Included in the display was a quilt which won the Florence Monard trophy for the best piece of craftwork in the Royal Show and also a quilt more than 50 years old that the late Queen Mary wanted to buy. Some pieces were more than 70 years old. Meg charged \$2 admission and threw in afternoon tea.

And so it went on. In one month (July, 1985) we banked \$2000., which sounded pretty good until you realised that somehow we had to find \$300,000 to \$350,000 for the project.

The answer took a lot of lobbying, but came by way of a \$50,000 grant and \$50,000 interest free loan from Knox Council and the formation of a Co-operative which was able to borrow \$120,000. That loan had to be guaranteed by the Treasurer of Victoria, at that time Rob Jolly, ironically the man who oversaw the sale of the State Bank and the collapse of the Pyramid Building Society.

(To put this in perspective, \$1 in 1985 is worth \$3 today ... so the club was looking at finding the best part of a million dollars.)



HAPPY HOUR & MEMBERS DRAW

Last year the Board decided to move Happy Hour to a Friday night to capture more participants. To add to the fun, we also reintroduced a Members Draw.

This has proved a great success with numbers growing all the time.

It's a great chance to have a drink with your fellow members, have some banter and to chew the fat over religion, politics and who is the best bowler.

Even unpopular Selectors have been known to attend. Then if you are lucky and Carl and or Wayne selects you on their famous (not rigged) program you can win some money—just ask **Rob** (right), and all the others who have won.



In all seriousness though, pop in for a great night—support your Club. Come the warmer weather and our new lights we will reintroduce the infamous sausage sizzle and some Barefoot Bowls.

BOB MURRAY MEMORIAL WON BY BORONIA

The **Bob Murray Memorial** event held between Bayswater and Boronia recently, was won overall by Boronia by 87 shots. The event was held over two days with the first being played at Bayswater and the second game at Boronia. The weather was perfect on both days which made for some great bowling. In the first match Bayswater teams won both the first and second game with a Boronia team being the two games winner. In the second game played at Boronia David Inglis from Boronia won the first game, John Garrity (Bayswater) won the second game and Paul McNamara (Bayswater) was the overall winner.

A huge thank you must go to **John Rouse** with help from **David Inglis** (Boronia), for organising the event. There was a large amount of work in getting teams together, doing the draws, writing score cards and arranging the scoring, to make the event the success that it was. It is expected that it will be run annually.

LADIES AMENITIES AREA

As we all know we are currently undertaking a major refit of the Ladies amenities area courtesy of Mary Doyle, our Federal MP, and our insurer who finally accepted our claim after a long and protracted process.

The works are progressing very well with Bay Building services excelling in their approach to this job. No, it won't be blue, (pic. right), that's the waterproofing. Like all building renovations there are hiccups and delays but we are fortunate that to date we are on schedule.

At the time of writing this article the vinyl flooring would have been laid with tiling mooted to start on Monday the 3rd June.

All other materials have been ordered and we now expect a completion date of 30th June 2024.

Thanks to all the Ladies for their patience during these works and if there are any updates to the anticipated completion date we will keep you up to date.

We will without doubt have the best Ladies facilities in the area by a country mile.



PRESIDENTS AGM 2024 REPORT *(continued from page 2)*

it goes without saying I also mention a special thanks to all our Monday Volunteers—You know who you are—well done in keeping our club pristine and the envy of many clubs. All our kitchen, bar & BBQ volunteers—You also know who you are—long hours, hard yakka—well done. And last but by no means least, to all our selectors who spend a lot of their own hours on this thankless task. Without all of the aforementioned people we would not have a club—again well done one and all.

INITIATIVES

It is very important for a club like ours with our Constitution and By-Laws that we continue to act responsibly. I can report that the Board has met regularly during the year with a 95% overall attendance record which is a credit to all and sundry. As a Board we also introduced a system of flying minutes—this is a meeting outside a normal face to face meeting that is facilitated to address pressing matters rather than waiting for the next formal meeting. A flying minute contains a motion which is sent out via email with all Board members given the opportunity to vote. The motion is either accepted or declined and acted upon if required immediately, with such decision being ratified at the next formal meeting. This has enabled our Board to act efficiently and promptly on many varied matters—it has proved very successful.

PROJECTS

As you are all aware we are currently updating/renovating the Ladies amenities area. This is the result of a successful grant application courtesy Mary Doyle our Federal MP along with a successful insurance claim after a long and complicated battle which saw several initial declines overruled by the Financial Ombudsman AFCA. This is by no means a small project so unfortunately with this comes some inconvenience, however, is one that will see the Ladies area move into the coming decades with modern and much needed upgraded facilities. We thank all the Ladies for their patience during these upgrades.

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OUTSTANDING

Unfortunately, I have to report that we are still awaiting our hearing at VCAT for the recovery of our gate monies. My latest information was that it will be another 6 months before we get to court—let's hope the wait will be worth it. On a brighter note, we are in the early stages of negotiations surrounding an Earthquake Insurance Claim which could see us in a position to flush out the drains in and around both greens at the expense of our Insurer—a job that is becoming critical for the upkeep of the greens. We are in a positive position at this stage of our negotiations and once again the Board will keep you posted—irrespective of the outcome our green drainage has reached a point in time where maintenance is required. In regards to the new surface on green #2, I can announce that with the excellent work undertaken by a working party headed up by John Rouse we successfully submitted a proposal to Knox City Council which they were very impressed with. We have been informed unofficially that funds for such replacement will be included in their 2025 budget. On the matter of the scoreboards, it has been highlighted as top priority at the New Boards Meeting #1 which is mooted for this coming Tuesday. There is a plan in place that will be discussed and most likely implemented at that meeting. Our priority is to have all scoreboards working ready for pennant if not just before. Finally, with the help of Jackson Taylor we have lodged an application to change the lights on green #1 to LED and to install new Lights on green #2. The total cost of this project is \$142,000.00 and is currently in the hands of Jackson who has pushed our barrow. We expect a result one way or the other very soon and will keep you posted.

OTHER CLUBS

During the year I have had the opportunity to visit other clubs and discuss matters common to our Club with their Board members. There was a loud message resonating around these clubs and it was very clear—dwindling membership. As a

club we need to address this matter not only with urgency but with gusto. The incoming Board will, as a priority address this very pressing issue.

I can say that the outgoing Board have already commenced discussions on this matter with input from John Garrity re initiatives to join our Club with fee incentives and from Doug Clarke in regards to re-branding or image change of our Club to entice more members. Both these initiatives will be addressed as part of our moving forward process.

As part of our drive for new members I am excited to announce we now have 2 Darts teams operating out of our premises on a Thursday night with all darts players becoming paid up Special Members of our club. Well done Chris Powell for this initiative, that not only generates new income for our club it also exposes our club and its facilities to a different cross section of our community I can advise that the Dart season is well underway now.

CHALLENGING TIMES

We are indeed in challenging times both financially and socially that our generations have not seen before especially the social changes that are taking place around us. We need to move with these changes to survive into the future and I am sure as a new Board we will consider such in any direction we may take. I am very proud to say that every decision we, as a Board made was extensively thought out and was ostensibly unanimous before being instigated by the Board. We know not all decisions are popular, however we do not take any decision lightly. Every decision has a reason, however if any one decision is offending anyone, we as a Board are happy to discuss at any time. It is our club not any one members club—as a Board we are merely trustees for a short period. Please contact any one of us on the Board to arrange for such a discussion as needed. As you will hear from the Treasurer, we enter the new year in a good sound position with our focus on membership and success on and off the green. Thank you one and all for supporting our great club.#

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

One of the key focuses of the Board this year is new membership via a Membership Drive.

What Is a Membership Drive?

A membership drive is a strategic campaign focused on recruiting new members to join our great club over a specific period of time. We as a Board are attempting to instigate a non time-limited campaign that will unite our Board & members around the common goal of attracting new members.

Our tactics will include social media campaigns, special events, referral incentives, and advertising, with no specific timeline for completion.

Membership drive isn't just about recruitment, it's a concerted effort involving marketing, outreach, and engagement to highlight the benefits of joining our club.

As a nonprofit club, a membership drive can be a powerful tool to expand our membership.

With that in mind

we as a Board

will be investigating the use of experts like “Club Builder” to ensure we can move forward successfully and we will report on this approach as it unfolds.



SOCIAL BOWLS RESULTS

Saturday, May 25

Winners: L Ham, J Natividad, R Cooper, P McNamara.

Best Game: J Corn Pei, B Keenan, K Barton. R Jack, L Ham, M Hollard.

Wednesday May 15

Winners: V Aleksevich, J Pumphrey, W Murphy.

Runners up: N Spokes, H Santinon, J Garrity.

Saturday May 11

Winners: A Acker, W Murphy, S Pastours.

Runners up: P McCarthy, Mark, John.

Wednesday May 8

Winners: Adam, Bill, John R.

Runners up: N Spokes, V Aleksevich, Jim, John.

Saturday April 27

Winners: Jane, Ian, Ray.

Runners up: Laurie, Mark, John R.

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Treasurers Report 2024

Before I start the Report, I would just like to explain the initiatives that the Board took this financial year. Firstly, we installed a new accountancy package called XERO which you will see from the financial statements, is a far more user friendly document to read. We then linked Xero to our bank — Bendigo Bank with what is called Bank Feeds which sends information from all our accounts to Xero on a daily basis. We then purchased a new Smart Till and associated software that also communicates with Xero. All of this Software now undertakes real time balances, real time stocktakes and real time BAS analysis with the ATO. All of the above is unforgiving — meaning everything must balance or it freezes, leading to a complete overview of our clubs finances at any point in time. Also linked to the above are expenses claim capabilities for those Members who purchase items for the club on a regular basis. Xero, the till and expenses can also be accessed on Smart Phone Apps, which further streamlines the accountancy process. I would like to thank Carloine Meredith and Frances for undertaking training on this system which in turn has enabled them to upload invoices both payable and receivable as needed. Karen also uses it to send quotes for functions that are accepted by the client, then automatically converted to an invoice which ensures all monies owing are documented. Although all of this may seem daunting it has reduced workload and has reduced the need to keep cumbersome books. For any further details of our new system please feel free to reach out to me as needed.

Now for the position of our club.

I am pleased to announce that as of the 31st March 2024 the club had an operating profit (cash based of) **\$68,736.85**. Copies are available. A positive turnaround of \$97,251.67 due in part to sponsorship, grants, functions, tournaments, raffles and chocolates. Also due in part to a streamlining of services that were somewhat superfluous

Cash at bank **\$235,646.29**. See Balance Sheet for more detail. Up \$71,369.29 — also due in part to sponsorship, grants, functions, tournaments, raffles and chocolates. Also due in part to a streamlining of services that were somewhat superfluous Equity **\$476,442.30**. See balance sheet for more detail At this point in time, we also had no liabilities — in fact we were owed \$ 1,542.91 — see balance sheet for more detail. The transition from the old System Reckon to the new Xero required some manual journal entries that are reflected in the Balance Sheet. It was for this reason there was no comparison between this year and last year as the chart of accounts or line items did not exactly match, noting however that all bottom lines are accurate. From 2025 however, a year by year analysis will be detailed.

With the Clubs age we are bound to have some expenses over the coming years in regards to maintenance as well as a cost for the mooted green replacement so it is important that we continue to be prudent in our approach to monies. We are also experiencing rising costs to run the club like insurance, gas, water and electricity. We as a Board are very mindful of the financial pressures on households these days and as such we will strive to keep prices and fee rises to a minimum. With the club finances being in a good strong position I now ask that this report be taken as read be accepted in full.

MAY - JUNE BIRTHDAYS

May—Vlado Aleksevic, Byron Belvis, Peter Breen, Florence Dodson, Gary Hunt, Ros Jack, Dennis Kimberley, Patricia McStay, Kath Murphy, Ray O'Toole, Marcellia Powell, Harry Santinon, Barry Smith.

June—Tim Fruin, Laurence Ham, James McKenna, Christopha McNamara, Wayne Murphy, Juancho Natividad, Werner Ott, June Pope, Anthony Powell, Alistair Smith, Dennis Wiseman, Elizabeth Wynne.