

BOWL SPEAK

The Monthly newsletter of the Warrnambool Bowls Club Inc

JANUARY EDITION 2026

Editor: moloney.lynne.l@gmail.com

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Dear Members,

The festive season came and went in the blink of an eye, and I truly hope you all enjoyed a joyful—and safe—break with family and friends.

Pennant is now back up and running, and while I haven't committed to a regular appearance just yet, some of you may have spotted me enjoying my fourth time on the green at social bowls on Friday. It was great fun to be on the other side of the glass and experience our club at its finest. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend the recent tournaments, but thanks to the dedication and hard work of our amazing members, team, and volunteers, I hear they were a raging success.

Our new kids' room is already proving to be a hit, with plenty of tiny foot traffic and lots of fun being had. By all accounts, the kids have well and truly voted it a winner. A huge thank you goes to Jon Clegg, who led the charge on getting the painting completed—your efforts are very much appreciated.

While the Board has enjoyed a short break, we're now hitting the ground running. Our next Board meeting will be at the end of this month. Work is underway on identifying a successor to Pod and progressing the search for a new chef. In the background, the 7-Year Plan subcommittee continues to work diligently, and we look forward to sharing updates when the time is right.



Thank you all for your continued support and for making our club such a vibrant and welcoming place.

Warm regards,

Emma Newton
Chairperson

BOWLS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

When and How to Play the Up Shot

THE ROLL UP - INTRO

Understanding intent, timing, and control



The up shot is one of the most misunderstood shots in lawn bowls. For some players it feels like an aggressive rescue option, while for others it's a reliable way to reshape an end without resorting to a full drive. The truth sits somewhere in between. A well-played up shot is not about hitting hard, it's about applying **purposeful weight at the right moment**. Understanding when to use the up shot, and just as importantly when not to, is what separates smart percentage bowlers from those who give away cheap shots.

A smart guide to timing, weight control, and decision-making

What the Up Shot Really Is?

An up shot is best described as a controlled weighted bowl designed to move something with intent, usually an opposition bowl or the jack while still remaining in or near the head. Unlike a drive, the goal isn't destruction. Unlike a draw shot, the goal isn't precision to the inch. It's a blend of impact and control. Good up shots have a sense of calm and control. They are delivered with commitment, but without panic.

Choosing the Right Moment

Timing is everything with an up shot. The shot makes sense when the head is relatively open and the situation calls for change rather than protection. If you're chasing one or two shots and there is space to work with, an up shot can subtly swing the head in your favour without exposing you to major risk. Late in the end, the up shot often becomes a percentage decision rather than a gamble. When drawing for shot is unrealistic due to traffic or narrow pathways, controlled weight offers a realistic alternative. In these moments, even improving the head slightly, for example - four down to two down can feel like a win.

Where players get into trouble is using the up shot too early. Early in the end, there is usually more value in building pressure through drawing and tactical covering. Up shots played without a supporting bowl often help the opposition more than they help you.

Reading the Head Before You Commit

Before playing an up shot, the best players take a moment to visualise what success actually looks like. It's not just about making contact, it's about what happens next. A good up shot leaves something behind. A bad one clears the area and hands control straight back. If the jack is exposed or slightly off-centre, an up shot becomes a much stronger option. Small jack movements can be incredibly powerful, especially when you already have bowls positioned behind or around the head. On the other hand, tightly packed heads reduce predictability. In those situations, even perfect execution can lead to poor outcomes.

Executing the Shot With Control

Technically, the up shot requires commitment without tension. The line is often slightly straighter than a draw, but rarely direct. Allowing a touch of bias and less weight reduces the chance of your bowl going out of play after contact.

Weight control is the defining factor. Many missed up shots fail not because of line, but because the bowler delivers either too softly - failing to move anything - or too firmly - sending everything out of the head. The ideal weight is enough to make a meaningful change while still allowing the bowl to remain in play.

Confidence plays a major role. Indecision almost always results in half-hearted deliveries. Once the decision is made, the delivery should be positive and committed.

Common Errors That Undermine the Up Shot

The most common mistake is confusing an up shot with a drive. When frustration creeps in, players tend to add unnecessary weight, turning a percentage play into a high-risk shot. Another frequent error is playing the up shot while already holding shot, effectively undoing good work.

Emotion also plays a role. The up shot should be a calculated decision, not a reaction to a bad bowl or a missed opportunity. The moment emotion takes over, control disappears.

Key Takeaways

- The up shot is a **controlled weighted shot**, not a drive
- Timing matters - late in the end and semi open heads suit the up shot best
- Always visualise the outcome *after* contact, not just the hit
- Slight angles reduce chaos and increase consistency
- Commitment to weight and line is critical
- If you're already holding shot, protection is usually the better option if risk is involved
- The up shot is not a rescue shot or a show of strength, it's a **strategic tool**. Its true value lies in knowing when it makes sense and having the confidence to execute it calmly.
- Master the timing. Respect the risk. And when the moment is right, trust your weight.

Paul O'Donnell
Bowls Co-ordinator

MATCH COMMITTEE REPORT

I hope everyone had a great xmas and new year! Social bowls are tracking along with good numbers, averaging 40 to 44 players on Fridays, with slightly smaller fields due to midweek pennant on Wednesdays. The new format for the Monthly Triples starts this month with good numbers. Remember it is a 10am start with two games in the morning and two in the afternoon. Lunch (salad roll) is included in the entry price.



Pennant has recommenced with Golds, Blues, Reds, Greens, Oranges, Maroons and Yellows all having wins last week with teams in all divisions to play finals. Midweek Pennant is also having a good season with all four grades winning last week and all to feature in finals which is great since we have struggled to field sides in the past.

Congratulations to Simon Johnson on winning the Novice Singles – well done!

Congratulations go out to the organisers and sponsors in the recent SHB and Aussie Broadband tournaments, and to all the volunteers who gave their time to make these events the success that they are.

There are three games of pennant before the finals, keep up the good work and get to the finals – good luck all teams!



Bill Hunting
Match Committee

SOCIAL BOWLS DECEMBER/JANUARY

19/12	Winners of Winners	G Johnson & G Sharp	+12
	Winners of Losers	R Hill & B Hill	+19
26/12	Winners of Winners	T Smith & C Grimmond	+15
	Winners of Losers	P Verdon & S Verdon	+8
31/12	Winners of Winners	T Smith & P Tabenar	+9
	Winners of Losers	B Hill & A Murphy	+11
2/1	Winners of Winners	P Meade & B Murrell	+20
	Winners of Losers	L McLaren & G Kelly	+12
9/1	Winners of Winners	J Woolley & G Blandthorn	+20
	Winners of Losers	W Tory & C Jensen	+16
14/1	Winners of Winners	R Hill & P Lumsden	+12
	Winners of Losers	F Byron & B Hill	+9
16/1	Winners of Winners	R Hill & B Hill	+23
	Winners of Losers	J Klein & R McGillivray	+13

MANAGER'S REPORT

Hello WBC Members,

I'll keep it short and sweet this month 😊

A big thank you to our volunteers and staff for the huge effort put in over the January tournaments. These events simply do not happen without the time, energy and care that so many people put in behind the scenes.



We would also like to sincerely thank our two tournament sponsors, SHB and Aussie Broadband for their support. Your involvement plays a big role in helping our Club deliver quality events and a strong bowls field at the Club.

Our new kid's area has already proven to be a great addition, with kids and the young at heart making the most of it. It has been fantastic to see families spending more time at the Club and enjoying the space together. We will do

Sunday Trivia has recently kicked off, and the numbers are growing each week. It is a fun, relaxed afternoon for all ages, running every Sunday from 2:00pm to 4:30pm. This is a free event and all are welcomed to join this.

Australia Day the Club will be doing a meat tray raffle from 3:30pm till 5:30pm with ten meat trays on offer, Tickets are \$2 each and will be drawn across the afternoon area. I'll be throwing some snags on the BBQ to nibble on across the meat tray draw.

Jagr will be back rocking the Club on Saturday 31 January, from 8:00 PM This is a free event and is always a great night out for music lovers, so make sure you lock it in.

That is all from me for this month. See you around the Club or back here for next month's issue.

Cheers

Tim Smithyman
Manager

FIVE MINUTES WITH BARB PULLING

By Maree Dalton

AT A GLANCE

BORN: 1960 in Koroit

PARENTS: Gwen and Brian Lenehan



MARITAL STATUS: Single

SIBLINGS: I'm the 4th youngest of 8, Daryl, Maree Dalton, Helen Gleeson, then me, Blackie, Neville, Leon and Philip.

CHILDREN: Louise Brown, Todd McLean, Carly Peake, Cloe O'Flaherty and Alex Pulling. I have 10 grandchildren plus 8 step grandchildren.

EDUCATION: St Bridgets Primary Crossley, St Pat's Primary Port Fairy and then St Ann's Warrnambool

SPORTING HIGHLIGHT: Winning the B & F in Netball in the WDFNL. I've also enjoyed success in various Netball Premierships and Tennis Pennants.

INTERESTING FACT: I have an extremely rare blood group (and so does my sister Maree). There are only about 15 people in all of Australia with the same blood group. We didn't know about it until we were having our first babies back in the mid 1980s. Under no circumstances can we have any other blood except our blood group which is called Bombay Blood.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PLAYING BOWLS AND WHY DID YOU START?

This is my 5th year of playing bowls. I gave up playing tennis back in 2013 and didn't find time for any sport as I was busy looking after grandchildren. I then decided I wanted to play bowls and contacted Ian (brother-in-law) and he suggested I have some lessons with Pod. I immediately became hooked on the game.

DO YOU ENJOY IT? WHY?

I just love the game, it is so challenging and very difficult at times. I enjoy the company of both my team mates and the opposition. You meet a lot of great people.

WHAT IS YOUR BACKGROUND?

I grew up on the family dairy farm in Toolong. I left school at 16 and worked at Coles Supermarket for about 7 years and then went to Chitticks Bakery and a couple of butcher shops. In 2009 I began working in the laundry at South West Healthcare where I stayed for 15 years. Now I am transitioning to retirement and only work part time with the WCC as a home carer and also at the Dragon Inn.

HAVE YOU PLAYED SPORT IN THE PAST?

I've played lots of sport including tennis, netball, basketball, volleyball, Little Athletics and Indoor Bowls.

WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT BOWLING?

I thoroughly enjoy the competitiveness of the game. I also really enjoy our Club Events, everyone is keen to win and there is great rivalry between the teams. Our club is a great place to be a member of.

FLY ON THE WALL

My last contribution for Bowls Speak was heavily censored before it made it to print, so I will need to be careful this month! (*Ed: didn't think you noticed Loui*) Sadly, Kenny Johnson, Mark Bowles, Benny Cornick and Wally from Woolsthorpe, (formerly known as Kenny from Koroit), will never know what I reported on!

After his interview with Kane Nelson at the Christmas party, Luke Williams has been running around telling everybody who will listen that he is the Ray Martin or Michael Parkinson of Warrnambool. Personally, he reminds me more of Norman Gunston. The Christmas party also witnessed the reemergence of the 'Dancing Queen' Darren Sager. Interestingly, when he was recently asked if there was anything that he was not good at and there was a stunned silence. Never seen him lost for words before. However, after a short period of contemplation the answer was, of course, nothing! Who would have guessed?



Our Christmas raffle was apparently a boon for Santa. I am led to believe that an air fryer, a bar fridge and a barbecue were all regifted.



A big congratulations to Simon Johnson on winning the District Novice Singles Championship. There has been a lot of members running around claiming credit including his father and ex pennant team mates from last year but I have it on good authority that his inspiration is in fact Mick Molloy and the Crackerjack movie. It was always the free parking that got him over the line. If you have not watched the movie for a while it is worth a revisit and you might even spot some characters that resemble our own members!

Both the SHB Singles Prelude and the Aussie Broadband Triples tournaments have been run and won and the verdict is in! the SHB complimentary pens are far better quality than the Aussie Broadband pretenders.



Do not worry ladies if you see Digger Mahoney hanging around the ladies change room. He is just looking for books to read after the unauthorised decimation of his home library by Julie in her effort to tidy up the house. I do not know the titles or the genre of the books that were discarded but how dare she! And no, they were not magazines with interesting articles inside, they were actually books!

I am only aware of one New Year's resolution amongst our members. Lenny McCosh decided he would play a game of bowls without resorting to a weighted shot. In a valiant effort, he lasted three and a half ends at his first day back at social bowls after the New Year. They do not refer to him as

Crash and Bash McCosh without reason. Well done for trying Lenny. Another shock at social bowls in the New Year. Pat Green was spotted participating! Stranger things!

A lot of seconds out there with glass slippers. Apparently, it takes so much time to fill out the scorecard and update the scoreboard that they do not have the time to assist in kicking back bowls at the completion of an end. Whilst we are on about scoreboards, updating them every end helps the skipper know where the game sits as well as letting the other rinks know what is going on with the overall score. Please update the bloody scoreboards! Some are also known for playing their two bowls and then disappearing until the next end! Possibly having a smoke? Just one other thing; can you please try and get close when the lead misses out! Not all leads are as perfect as they would have you believe. And whilst we are on about leads, the President of the Dirty Stinking Rotten Leaders' Club has been playing second all year. What is with that?

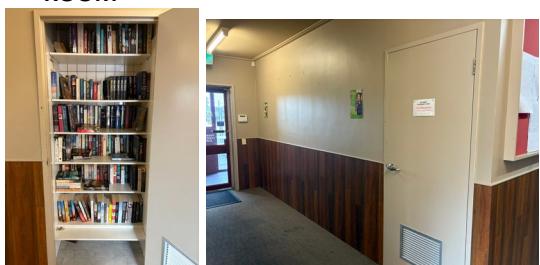
I did a bit of partying over the Christmas and festive season and heard a lot of songs that reminded me of club members. I wonder if you all associate the same people with these songs: My Way; Girls Just Want to have Fun; Red, Red, Wine; The Nips are Getting Bigger; Ego is Not a Dirty Word; You're so Vain; Let Me Entertain You; Sisters are Doing it for Themselves; Hippy, Hippy Shake; Chain of Fools; Little Red Rooster; Uptown Girl, the Real Thing; and the list goes on and on! Some of our members probably qualify under several titles!



Until next time,
Loui



- **REMEMBER WE HAVE A LIBRARY AT THE CLUB**
- **NEW BOOKS UPDATED REGULARLY.**
- **COME AND BROWSE**
- **LIBRARY INSIDE THE OLD WASHING MACHINE ROOM**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following members who will be celebrating their birthdays in the month February:

Frank	Byron	23-Feb-1940
John	Carroll	17-Feb-1947
Roger	Hill	28-Feb-1955
Phillip	Hill	25-Feb-1960
Anthony	Kelly	19-Feb-1960
Peter	Lumsden	17-Feb-1952
Casey	Mcgillivray	04-Feb-1982
Margaret	Mcmahon	20-Feb-1951
Stephen	Mitchell	10-Feb-1964
Terry James	Smith	04-Feb-1962
Donny	Neale	14-Feb-2010

2026 QUBE AUTUMN CLASSIC

Pairs & Fours Tournament

With a total prize pool of \$30,000, this event promises intense competition, top-tier bowling, and a fantastic atmosphere for players and spectators alike.



TUESDAY, 7TH APRIL 2026

SUNDAY, 12TH APRIL 2026



PAIRS TEAM ENTRY: \$240

FOURS TEAM ENTRY: \$480



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