



**Minutes for the 47th Annual General Meeting
Held Saturday 5th September 2015 at the West Pennant Hills Sports Club**

Meeting opened at 10:35am

Welcome

President David Wilson welcomed Keith Robinson (life member), Barry Walker (patron and life member), and Michael Schwarcz (Zone 10 State Councillor). Richard Hickey (Sports Club chairman) and Steve Brady (director) were unable to be present and sent apologies.

David mentioned the passing of Bob O'Brien, Doug Gunton and Tony Hindle during the past year.

Attendance

There were 43 members in attendance as recorded on the attendance sheet.

Apologies

There were apologies from 8 members as recorded on the attendance sheet.

Minutes from 2014

Moved by Michael Quinlan, seconded Stephen Watson that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting are taken as read.

2014/15 Annual Report

Moved by Peter Eagle, seconded by Doug McClymont that the 2014/15 Annual Report be accepted.

David offered thanks to the many members who support the running of the club.

Business arising from previous AGM

There were no matters raised.

Recognitions

David presented a tie bar to Gary Tyrrell for his strong efforts as Chair of Tournaments Committee which ran a very successful Koala Carnival and other tournaments. Gerard D'Costa was also presented with a tie bar for assisting in running the Twilight bowls for a number of years.

A Merit Badge was presented to Cliff Johnstone for his contribution in the form of providing bowls boxes, marker pegs and rink numbers.

Keith Robinson moved that the tradition of presenting tie bars and Merit badges be continued. Agreed by a show of hands.

Election of Management Committee

David thanked each of the current members for their support and contributions during his presidency.

David declared all positions vacant and handed over to Barry Walker to conduct the elections.

Barry Walker thanked David for his leadership as President over the past year.

Barry noted that the Hon Alex Hawke MP (Federal Member for Mitchell) had mentioned our bowling section in conversation with Barry, which Barry saw this as recognition of the efforts of David.

Barry confirmed David Wilson elected President unopposed, congratulated him and presented him with his badge of office.

David thanked Barry and recognised Barry as being a long serving member of the club and patron and for the ongoing support Barry provided to the section through the year.

David announced the committee for 2015/16 (all were elected unopposed)

Senior Vice President	Max Walters
Vice President	Stephen Watson
Committee Secretary	Dallas Palm
Treasurer	Ross Fitzpatrick
Bowls Coordinator	Michael Schwarcz
Committee	Gary Tyrell and Geoff McIntosh

Election of Selectors

There were 4 nominations received for Selector against a requirement of 5. Gary Tyrrell, Les Watkins, Michael Schwarcz, and Ross Fitzpatrick were confirmed as Selector.

Nominations for a 5th selector were called from the floor. Jeremy Thiedeman nominated Michael Quinlan. Michael declined.

With no nominations being accepted, the election was declared. David asked for members interested in filling the vacant selector position (1) to put in an expression of interest by the following Monday.

The selectors were requested to hold a meeting to elect a chairman and advise the Management Committee of the result by the next committee meeting on 7th September 2015.

David Wilson thanked our patron Barry Walker and asked he continue in this role. Barry accepted. Barry nominated Don Couch to be Patron. David advised nominations for this position could not be taken from the floor and the Management Committee would consider this nomination ahead of the 48th Annual General Meeting.

Umpires & Coaches Panels

It was noted that Don Couch had been re-elected (un-opposed) chairman of Umpires for another year, and Michael Schwarcz had been elected Chairman of Coaches (un-opposed). These panel elections occurred prior to the AGM.

President's Report

David spoke of the achievements of the past 12 months – greater collaboration between men's and women's sections with more mixed bowls such as Friday pairs and Saturday mornings. David also spoke of social events like Lemon Tree Passage trip and upcoming Norfolk Island trip both organised by Jeremy Thiedeman, and the highly successful and fun Bunco event in July.

David conceded there are areas for further focus and improvement. Membership is to receive greater focus with commitment to 2 open days over next 12 months and social bowls events. Improving the speed of communications of events and selections is also a priority.

General Business

- Ian Thompson congratulated Communications panel for efforts. Requested member booklet be available in soft form. It was pointed out contact details for men's section is available on the web, and additionally a soft version of the booklet could be provided.
- Jeff Champion spoke of clash between social and pennant bowls, suggesting working with other clubs to provide better social activity during pennant season.
 - David Wilson replied that the question of balance comes up each year, and regardless of whether we have had 4 sides or 3 sides are playing pennants we still get the same number of social bowlers. David agreed to look at Jeff's suggestion.
 - Kevin Tuckerman commented that most Wednesday bowlers do not play Pennants.

- Michael Schwarcz responded to Jeff's comment that Pennant Hills welcomes social bowlers during this period. He added that many social bowlers stop bowling during pennants.
- Alan Meaker made the observation that calling of cards and notices during Pennants makes no mention of social bowls.
- David committed to ensuring appropriate recognition was given to social bowlers.
- Dom Surace commented on the apparent separation between Wednesday and Saturday bowlers with little crossover of the two groups, pondering if there was a separate approach being taken.
 - David Wilson replied that survey conducted a couple of years ago indicated family and costs main reasons. Committee to look at conducting a new survey.
- Paul van Tilburg suggested Member booklet includes the year's programme.
 - This can be done provided it is ready at time booklet prepared. The calendar is available and maintained up to date on the website for members.
- Jeremy Thiedeman suggested a 'welcome pack' be provided to new members.
 - Dallas Palm advised there is currently a welcome pack which is given to new bowlers although some have missed out. Pack content will be improved (updated) and process improved to ensure new bowlers do not miss out.
- John Skidmore proposed a change in uniform to blue pants.
 - Show of hands saw 17 for, 23 against with 3 abstaining. David Wilson committed the Committee to investigate through a survey open to all members.
 - Bryan Joyce commented on how good the Ladies side looked in the State playoffs in their white pants uniform.
 - Peter Eagle noted the level of positive comments on the uniform – koala, predominance of white – in the matches at Culburra.
- Peter Eagle suggested inviting ladies to social bowls to boost numbers during Pennants, citing other clubs which have recognised the change where women were not available during the week due to working.
 - Keith Robinson confirmed this was trialled during Barrie Stuart's presidency (for women to play matches on separate rinks) and was rejected by bowlers not wanting to share the green with women.
 - Don Stubbin indicated support if it helps increase membership.
 - David Wilson suggested the Committee will consider suggestions.
- Les Watkins asked about the future of the locker shed with the renovations. What facilities would be provided?
 - Bob Cole advised phase 2 of the development includes new and expanded facilities.
- Kevin Tuckerman asked what the breakup of members in the new fees structure was and was the change worthwhile to the club?
 - David Wilson advised the fees will increase in 2016 due to increases from RNSWBA, of \$20pa.
- Keith Robinson applauded the fantastic job done by the committee on hosting the Rookies Singles recently. Keith raised the issue of no social bowls when tournaments like this are hosted. There have been 3 days this year and more with the coming Rookies Pairs. What does the membership think?

- David Wilson conceded it is a challenge to balance the promotion of our club and support of our members entering these events, and with providing social bowls. It is important for the club to host some events during the year.
- Merv Cannon was surprised there was no social bowls during the Rookies singles. He and some others bowled at Pennant Hills.
- David conceded better communication to members is required, however we were only advised of final number of entrants a couple of days prior to the event. More timely information will be provided in future.

Meeting closed at 11:34.



Secretary
Men's Bowls Section