



GOULBURN VALLEY BOWLS DIVISION Inc.

Season 2020/2021

ELEVENTH & FINAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

*Monday 17th May 2021
Tatura Bowls Clubrooms
Commencing at 10.00am.*

PRESENT:

James McLeod (Chairman): Directors: Jean Sprague: Rob Sceney: Gordon Nash: Grace Kenworthy: Bill Chilcott: Peter Naughton (Treasurer) & Joy O'Donnell (Secretary).

Guest: John Emerson (Regional Bowls Manager -North East Victoria – Bowls Australia

Avenel: David Furletti: Noel Slater: **Colbinabbin:** **Dookie:** **East Shepparton:** Pamela Hueston: Marilyn Cox: **Euroa:** Neville Harris: Marc Stevens: **Hilltop:** Greg Toy. **Katandra West:** Fiona Rourke: Heather Palmer: Barb Tomlinson. **Kyabram:** Marg George. **Merrigum:** Maureen Shepherd: Joe Chant. **Mooroopna:** **Mooroopna Golf:** Faye Wheelhouse: Maree Formica. **Murchison:** Geoff Higgins. **Nagambie:** **Rushworth:** Debbie Thompson. **Seymour:** **Seymour VRI:** **Shepparton Golf:** Graeme Waddell: Gary Grant **Shepparton Park:** Bill Gullick; John O'Donnell. **Stanhope:** Greg Fitzpatrick. **Tallygaroopna:** **Tatura:** Phil Boyd: C. Johnson. **Violet Town:**

WELCOME: GVBD Chairman (James McLeod) welcomed those in attendance to Eleventh (& Final) Annual General Meeting of the Goulburn Valley Bowls Division (GVBD).

Chairman James then asked for MINUTE Silence in memory of Past Bowlers and wished those Bowlers unwell at this time – speedy recovery.

APOLOGIES: **East Shepparton:** Noel O'Brien. Hill Top: Rod Piggott; Trevor Downie: **Clubs:** Nagambie: Seymour.

Motion: It was moved Greg Toy (Hill Top) and seconded Phil Boyd (Tatura) that the apologies as presented be accepted. (Carried).

BUSINESS: in addition to any business required to be transacted at the Annual General Meeting under the Act the business of the Annual General Meeting may (but for the avoidance of doubt, it does not have to) include as detailed in Agenda tabled.

MINUTES: Minutes from the previous (Tenth) Annual General Meeting held Monday 26th October 2020. (As circulated)

Motion: It was moved Joe Chant (Merrigum) and seconded Greg Toy (Hill Top) that the Minutes of the previous (Ninth) Annual General Meeting be confirmed. (Carried).

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: (Chairman – James McLeod)

Chairman's Report for the 2020/ 21 Season.

I have much pleasure in presenting my Fourth (4th) and Last, report for the 2020/21 Bowling Season.

I believe the GVBD has enjoyed a highly successful and busy season.

Thank you to Everyone that helped, and came alone, and made our 100 Year Celebration Afternoon and Night one to remember. Great time had by all.

Congratulations to a very successful Midweek and Weekend Pennant Season with the winners being:
 Midweek- Edna Harling Shield Division 1 - Shepparton Golf, Division 2- East Shepparton, Division 3- Stanhope, Division 4- Nagambie, Division 5- Kyabram.
 Weekend- Allan Matheson Shield Division 1- Shepparton Golf, Division 2- Shepparton Golf, Division 3- Mooroopna Golf, Division 4- Stanhope, Division 5- Mooroopna Golf, Division 6- Seymour VRI.

I would like to thank Director Rob Sceney, and the Weekend Match Committee, as well as Deputy Chair and Midweek Director Jean Sprague, and the Midweek Match Committee, who have worked so hard to deliver the Pennant competitions and the Divisional Matches. There is an enormous amount of work done by these Committees and sadly often goes unrecognised by the players.

Thank you to GV and Regional Selectors who have worked hard in picking the Right sides to represent the GV. A highly successful season for us in the GV.

I would like to thank Director Gordon Nash for all his hard work with his commitment to his Portfolio looking after Laws and Umpires. Thank you to Doug Maconachie for his help in

organising Umpires for events in the GV this season. Great to see some new Umpires now on the list.

Thank you to Director Bill Chilcott with all his work he has put into his Portfolio as the Coaching and Junior Development. Good to see some new Coaches come on to our list of coaches in the GV. The GV is lucky having the Junior GV Squad up and going again. Big thank you to Naomi and David Cartwright for all the work they have put into this.

To our Finance- Treasurer Director Peter Naughton, a HUGE Thank you for your support to Myself, and your hard work in looking after the Financial side of the GVBD. You do this job so well.

I would like to thank Bill Chilcott who once again has done an outstanding job as our Web site Co-Ordinator, and for all your hard work this past season. Also, as the Junior Development Director. Bill has done a great job in providing support for our GV Devils.

Huge Thank You to Naomi and David Cartwright in looking after our GV Devils, throughout this last Season and having a very successful one at that.

To Director Grace Kenworthy, thank you for all you do in your Portfolio in Welfare and Sponsorship.

It was I believe a great decision to create the position of a Publicity Officer, and a Huge thank you to Daniel Nichols and Naomi Cartwright who once again put their hands up to undertake this role, it was done so well and kept everyone well informed. WELL, Done Daniel and Naomi.

The GVBD again enjoyed the Sponsorship from GV Hearing Clinic in Shepparton as well as E.B.Mawson & Sons Pty. Ltd. and Quality Teams. Their generous sponsorship makes a significant contribution to the finances of our Division, without it we would surely have to increase our affiliation fees. Please support our Sponsors if the opportunity arises.

Thank you to our Auditor Bruce Doherty.

I look forward after a remarkably busy, and must I say a very successful season for the GV, to having a rest, as I am sure everyone is.

Finally, A HUGE Special thanks goes to our Administrator Director , Joy O'Donnell who has worked tirelessly and very efficiently to provide the Secretarial services to the Division. Joy has been the link between the Clubs CCOs and the Board. Thank you Joy for ALL your support to myself as Chairman and being the glue that holds the GV and the Board together. A job Very Well Done. Enjoy your Rest.

I would like to thank the Members of the Board in general who have had to deal with many issues and made the best decision for the GVBD. The Board has met regularly, and ALL

Members have made important contributions to the successful administration of Bowls in the Goulburn Valley.

I would finally like to thank ALL the Clubs and their Members for all their Support during the 2020/21 season and the last four (4) years as your Chairman of the GV Bowls Division. It was greatly appreciated and a Privilege.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Director - Jean Sprague – Portfolio: Midweek Match

Despite a great deal of uncertainty as to whether the 2020/21 season would get underway, it was pleasing to start the years bowls only a month later than normal and to only have one short COVID-19 lockdown during the season. I was particularly pleased to be able to still play two (2) full rounds of pennant.

Congratulations to all the GV State Event winners, who then had varied success at Regional level and Champion's week in Bendigo. It was great to see some of our local bowlers take out State Titles.

Congratulations also to all the pennant winners for the 20/21 season. We were treated to some awfully close finals and some excellent bowling on display.

The CGM challenge day held at East Shepparton was a most enjoyable day, played in friendly competitive fashion. Well done to the GV Blue ladies on their win, which contributed to the overall GV win.

It was unfortunate the O&M Challenge and the Shirley Sinclair Challenge both had to be cancelled this year, the O&M challenge due to spare day constraints and the Shirley Sinclair day due to inclement weather.

I would like to extend a very big personal thankyou to the Match Committee ladies, Lyn, Di, Marilyn, Sue and Grace. All contributed to the mostly smooth running of the last two seasons, and this was most appreciated. It was a pleasure to work with all these ladies and as a group we worked well together.

To all the clubs who were happy to host our Midweek events a big thank you. The greens and hospitality were as usual outstanding. Thanks also to the Umpires and Markers for their willing assistance when required.

I would like to say many thanks to the Board for their help during the past two (2) years. Joy and Bill deserve special thanks for all their assistance sorting me out when required. I have enjoyed my time on the Board and hope we contributed to our Members enjoyment of their bowls.

Director – Gordon Nash – Portfolio: Law & Umpires

This will be my last report as a Director of the Goulburn Valley Bowls Division as I will not be nominating for a position on the new Region Board.

The Goulburn Valley Bowls Division (GVBD) is recognised as one of the best run Divisions in the State and it has been an honour to have been a part of it.

We have been extremely fortunate with Director Joy O'Donnell as a very competent Secretary and a very hard-working team led by Chairman James McLeod.

Many thanks to Umpire Co-Ordinator (Doug Maconachie) and fellow Umpires for their work during the year.

Finally, I wish the new Goulburn Murray (GM) Bowls Region administration all the best for the future.

Director – Grace Kenworthy – Portfolio: Sponsorship & Welfare:

First, I would like to also congratulate all last season's Pennant and Competition winners. Congratulations also to those inducted into the GVBD Hall of Fame and to those named as Legends.

After the restrictions we faced during most of 2020 it was great to get back on the greens for a full season of bowls; I know some of us found the wearing of masks confronting especially on the warmer days, but we all did our bit to make sure we kept our part of Victoria safe from the virus.

Sponsorship:

A big thank you to our generous sponsors, Mawson's, Goulburn Valley Hearing Clinic and Quality Teams, for their continued support of the GVBD over the years. In 2019-2020 we were fortunate to receive a one-off sponsorship from Rick Hall of Kittle Brothers Funeral Directors which was used for the printing of competition scorecards.

We are grateful for the generosity of these businesses.

Welfare:

The pandemic which has interrupted and impacted our lives since mid-March last year continues to affect us; our experience earlier this year when Weekend Pennant was cancelled due to the snap five (5) day lockdown throughout Victoria. The ongoing need to sign in at venues and the wearing of masks on public transport, in airports and on planes daily remind us that we are not yet clear of this menace. I encourage everyone to abide by the protocols and regulations to keep us all as safe as possible.

Since our last Annual General Meeting I have sent out the following:

Get Well greetings to Moira Smith, Barbara Patterson, Ailsa Cook, Iris Sidebottom, Milton Stibbard, Bill Donovan, Rob Sceney, Noeleen Boyd, Russell Schwab, John Firmer, Graham Lewis, Kyle Pedder, Ian Russell, Shirley Sinclair and Jock Hastie.

Sympathy cards to Renato Pozzobon, the family of Robin Squire, the family of Bill Tyres, Marg Stibbard and family, the family of Noel Dobson, Lorraine Henderson, the family of Win McGoldrick, the family of Peter Davies, the family of Ken Allen, Jo Crowe, Joy Campbell, Kaye Cross, Sandra Wallace, the family of Shirley Hannam, Peter Delzotto, John Moore, Joyce White, Sue Perry and the family of Don Nicholson.

Finally, I want to thank President James, Secretary Joy, my Fellow Directors and all Club Members for their support and encouragement over the past two years; it has been a pleasure and a privilege.

Thanks everyone. All the best for the future.

Director - Rob Sceney – Portfolio: Match & Pennant –Weekend:

Season 20-21 has been a remarkably interesting one for everybody involved in Bowls in Victoria. The GVBD Weekend Match & Pennant Committee has been as involved in this as anyone. John Stokes, Stuart Florence, Kevin Cox and Paul Becroft formed a well credentialed hard-working Committee that has delivered an excellent program of Weekend Pennant, GVBD State Events and CGM Group Events.

The Pre- Season from May to October saw the Match Committee prepare no less than eight (8) Pennant draws and three (3) or four (4) State Event draws because of the COVID-19 and lockdowns in Victoria. My congratulations to the committee for all their hard work during this time. We thank Bill Chilcott for performing his magic in creating the Pennant Draws that were presented to him regularly. Once the season started the members of the committee organised and ran the Weekend Pennant and all the Men's State Events which involved working all weekends until Christmas and some after. East Shepparton's support of the Wednesday Evening Pairs was most gratifying. More support from a majority of the GVBD Clubs in trying out a new concept would have been pleasing.

The Pennant Season and Finals were run successfully as were the State Events.

The GVBD Weekend Pennant Winners were:

Division 1 Shepparton Golf

Division 2 Shepparton Golf

Division 3 Mooroopna Golf

Division 4 Stanhope

Division 5 Mooroopna Golf

Division 6 Seymour VRI

Shepparton Golf went on to win the CGM Title and were runners up in the State Pennant title.

Congratulations to all the GVBD State Events Winners and the CGM Region winners for the 2020-21 season.

The Weekend Match & Pennant Committee would like to thank the clubs, the greenkeepers and all the workers who made their Clubs and greens available for both State Events and Weekend Pennant Finals. Everyone was pleased with the quality of the facilities provided. Unfortunately, a couple of clubs members tried to hijack the process of selecting the venues and as well made their attack personal towards Weekend Match & Pennant Committee Members, Club Players and Club Officials.

It would be advantageous for the Goulburn Valley Section and the Goulburn Murray Region to have a wide representation of clubs on the Match Committee in whatever form it takes for the 2021-22 Season. The Goulburn Murray Region Director will oversee the Match Committees of the Murray and the Goulburn Valley Sections and the Director will be responsible to the Goulburn Murray Board.

I have been challenged by the positions that I have held on the Weekend Match & Pennant Committee and the GVBD and have enjoyed the responsibility of helping run Bowls in the GVBD. I would like to thank all the other members of the GVBD Board for their support and friendship over the last seasons. I have not nominated for any sectional or regional positions for the 2021-22 Season.

I would ask all Clubs in the Goulburn Murray Section to support the Regional Board and Members consider nominating for it so that they can help shape bowls in the future. It is not enough to want everything to be as it is and to criticise those who must work within the confines and rules of the various Committees and Boards.

Director Report – Bill Chilcott – Portfolio – Junior Development & Web Co-Ordination:

Junior Development

The GV Devils have had a highly successful year of operations.

With many events cancelled or postponed in 2020 due to COVID-19, a grant was received from the Victoria Government to provide Hoodies for the team. This outerwear should last for several years as they can be handed down to younger players as the older ones grow out of their size.

The GV Devils missed playing in the Under 18 State Championship March 30th – April 2nd, 2020 at Narre Warren BC. Due to COVID-19.

The Devils ventured to the Under 18 State Championships in Warrnambool in January where Olivia and Jordyn came home with the silver medal.

Olivia continued her winning form to take the Victoria Under 18 Singles title.

The Devils then on January 20th attended the Under 18 Junior Provincial Championships in Daylesford.

On April 12th GV Under 18 Squad 'Devils' entered in the Under 18 Doug Kneebone Championships held at Bendigo East. Olivia & Jacob Cartwright, Kobie Cromie & Cameron Keenan finished 2nd in the Fours.

2020/21 State Champs week in Bendigo in April 13-16th – all 16 juniors entered most events which is great to see.

The U18 Boys singles 11 yr. old Jacob Brighton - East Shepparton reached the final and playing under 18 State Player Liam Turner. Jacob went down 11/25, but a great effort for his first State Championship.

The triples event on Wednesday saw the team of Olivia Cartwright, Cameron Keenan and Jordyn Long finish with a silver medal.

The mixed pairs on Thursday saw the combination of Ben Fletcher/Jordyn Long as well as Olivia Cartwright/Cameron Keenan made it into the semi's finishing equal third.

On the Friday Girls Singles and Boys Pairs was the highlight of the week.

In a great performance Olivia held off her four (4) opponents in a dominating fashion. The semi-final against Jordyn Long - Glenroy could have gone either way but Olivia held her nerve against her best friend to take the win to then play Lily Dodd - Melton in the final. Olivia's determination led to her controlling the game from the outset, coming home with a comfortable win. This is Olivia's 2nd Under 18 singles title going back-to-back.

Ben Fletcher and Partner Connor Fry- Bendigo won their way through to the boy's pairs. In a great game it came down to the last end with Ben & Connor needing 2 for the win. Ben drew a blinder and took the title - both Ben and Connor turn 18 this year so this was an extra special win.

On April 28, the GV Devils together with Kyabram P12 College entered the Victorian Sporting School Bowls Finals, coming away with more success.

Kyabram P-12 College thanked the GV for their support after winning 3 State titles. The Primary, Secondary Junior Yr7-9 and Secondary Senior Year 10-12 all came away with a gold medal.

Thanks go to Naomi Cartwright for her unrelenting support of this group, as well to David, Tim, Rob, and Di to keep the stimulus of this group going. (Apologies to anyone I have not mentioned). The GVBD Board also acknowledge those Clubs that have shown their support by making their greens available to the GV Juniors team for practice and play.

Webmaster

The GVBD Website has operated well this year, together with the successful implementation of BOWLSLINK to provide draws and results for Midweek and Weekend Pennant, as well as most of the State events held in the GVBD. The Match Committees have been ever helpful in keeping me up to date with events and results, and I thank them all for their assistance. BOWLSLINK has had several upgrades during the year, and it continues to improve in its use and versatility.

As the competition year draws to a conclusion, it is to be expected that visits to the website will drop off, but there is and will be plenty of new information posted on a continuing basis, particularly in relation to the Regionalisation of the Divisions.

Club Secretaries/Membership Officers should ensure that all their member details are correct. Many records are not being updated when members change address, phone number or email address. To assist with this, clubs should encourage all members to logon to BOWLSLINK to check and update their own details, (each Member will create their own permanent password). Instructions on how to perform this simple task are on the GVBD website under the Documents tab.

Club Administrators now have access to dispatch bulk emails to their members from within BOWLSLINK.

BOWLSLINK now has a facility for booking your greens as well. The future of this will be to permit online registration by players as well as entry fee payments online.

Clubs who yet have no website can get their own website at zero cost by contacting Matt Ottobre of Bowls Victoria, or Kelvin Rogers of Bowls Australia. Those with their own website not using the Bowls Australia Wordpress setup, can also apply and have their data transferred to their new website. The advantage of this is that Bowls Vic / Bowls Aust keep the backups and perform upgrades and maintenance for the system. At this stage there is no club specific email support yet.

I spoke with Matt Ottobre last week about the new Region setup, and I get the feeling that not a lot of forethought has gone into the transition for the Region website. As Bowls Victoria have suggested that the purpose of Regionalisation is to reduce workload and repetitiveness, I would expect that a single website for the region would be appropriate with each playing area having access to perform playing area specific tasks and reporting.

I have indicated to Members of the Board that I shall not be seeking any appointment to the new Region Board, but I will be available to assist any Club within the playing area or Region to sort out any problems or provide training associated with their webpages or BOWLSLINK, as I have been doing for the past 6 years.

I take this opportunity to thank all clubs in the GVBD for their support throughout these last two sometimes difficult years in the uptake of the new BOWLSLINK system together with transition to the new website portals that some clubs have taken up. I also thank the GVBD Board Members for the effective co-operation we have had throughout these last two years and wish the new Goulburn Murray Region all the best for the future.

Director's Report – Peter Naughton – Portfolio: Greens

Because of Chairman's Dan's lockdown the season got off to a late and slow start, with some Clubs not able to do any winter maintenance on their greens. Making greens not quite up to their normal standard when Pennant began. This season there were no new greens in the GVBD to worry about, Seymour being in the CBD, but the people from the Bowls Vic Greens Committee wanted to inspect the two GV undercover greens because they had both being stretched. After many postponements, because COVID-19, two Inspectors finally arrived had a quick look, did some nit picking, informed me they both passed then jumped back in the car and drove back to Melbourne. What a waste of time.

During the season I received two written complaints about greens one was Seymour and the other Kyabram. The complaint about Kyabram should have been a rules complaint not the greens. I did inspect the green, the very next day, with Greens Committee Member and Kyabram Greenkeeper (Mal Williams), and found it in the mists of a maintenance program and quite OK. Seymour was a little difference the complaint was regarding the speed of the green, their new synthetic green. As far as I know there is no rule regarding what pace a green to be, in our Handbook it states that Bowls Victoria recommends that a green should be between 13 & 17 seconds, that is a recommendation not a rule. I inspected that green with Robert Brown, Seymour

Greenkeeper, on New Year's Day ad found it true and I timed it at 13 seconds both ways. I spoke with the Company who installed that green, Berry, and they told me it was what was to be expected from that green and that it will improve over time. There was a very heavy shower of rain just before I arrived which may have improved the pace.

Again, this season many Clubs applied for finals and the greens were inspected accordingly the relevant Match Committee then decided on which Clubs were to be Final's venues.

During the season, the Bowls Victoria Greens Committee promoted me to a Senior Greens Inspector which I think was because of my age because it had nothing to do with anything I did.

Director's Report – Joy O'Donnell – Portfolio: Administration:

Joy provided a verbal report as she was thrown in the deep end by the Chairman (James) asking if she would like to say anything.

In speaking to the meeting Joy expressed her appreciation to all Club Members, their Club Executive Committees -present and past in assisting her to undertake the role over the past ten years, your support made my job much easier.

Joy also noted the support and encouragement received from her three Bosses – Maurie Rowlands: Lloyd Mawson and James McLeod and stated how appreciative she was of their guidance and friendship.

Joy also thanked the present and past Members of the GVBD Executive Board, plus all the Representatives over the past ten years who volunteered on all the various Committees – huge thank you too all.

Lastly Joy thanked hubby John for his support and undertaking the heavy lifting of the role over the years when required.

Motion: It was moved Phil Boyd (Tatura) and seconded Faye Wheelhouse (Mooroopna Golf) that the reports as presented be accepted. (Carried).

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Director - (Treasurer) – Peter Naughton.

GVBD Financial Statement

Bendigo Bank Cheque Account:	- \$1,091-49
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit Account:	- -----
Bendigo Bank Junior Development Account	- <u>\$1,205-00</u>
	<u>\$2,296-49</u>

GVBD Director of Finance (Treasurer) (Peter Naughton) acknowledged the work undertaken by GVBD Auditor (Bruce Doherty). Huge Thank you Bruce.

Motion: It was moved by Bill Gullick (Shepparton Park) and seconded Greg Toy (Hill Top) that an Honorarium of \$300-00 be provided to the GVBD Auditor (Bruce Doherty) for his contribution for undertaking the auditing of the Goulburn Valley Bowls Division financial records over the past three years. (Carried)

Motion: It was moved by GVBD Treasurer (Peter Naughton) the adoption of the Financial Report seconded Graeme Waddell (Shepparton Golf) as presented be accepted. (Carried)

Hard copy of the Auditor's Report provided to all in attendance.

Any Other Items Which Member Clubs may wish to table. No Items tabled for discussion.

Any Other Business of which Notice is Given in Accordance with the GVBD Inc. Constitution.

Motion: It was moved by Debbie Thompson (Rushworth) and seconded Greg Toll (Hill Top) that the Goulburn Valley Bowls Division Inc. (GVBD) resolves dissolution of the Incorporated Association in line with the Boundary Review notice undertaken by Bowls Victoria. (Carried)

GVBD Chairman (James McLeod) in closing the final AGM Meeting of the Goulburn Valley Bowls Division Inc. thanked Tatura Bowls Club for the use of their facilities and catering for a light luncheon which was to follow the meeting.

Chairman James then thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed – 11.00am

Minute Taker – Joy O'Donnell

GVBD Secretary – 17th May 2021.