

# ***The NBBC eNewsletter***

***No. 182 February 2026***

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This is the first newsletter for 2026. The next newsletter will be published in early April. The newsletter will be published every two months with the final edition for the year being published in early December.

Contributions, including photos, are welcome. Please email them to [tonyral49@gmail.com](mailto:tonyral49@gmail.com) by the end of March. (Note that the phone number for the Newsletter Editor on page 2 of the handbook is that of the former editor. My number is as listed in the membership roll.)

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**Ian Mollison** is the Managing Director of Helloworld Balwyn North. **Ian** has been a Member and Sponsor of North Balwyn Bowling Club for 36 years. Ian's business offers exceptional knowledge, experience, and customer service.

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## President's Report

Hello Members,

Welcome to the first e-letter for 2026.

After enjoying all our end of year celebrations for 2025 we were shocked and saddened to receive the news that our Bowls Director Peter Harry passed away on Boxing Day.

A large number of our members attended Peter's funeral held at Bridgewater Lake Retirement Village where he had worked for many years, to show our support to Peter's family at this very difficult time for them. Peter Sexton was invited to speak at the service on behalf of NBBC club members and Phil D'Paul and Michael Antonino (both had played many games with Peter over the years) were two of the pall bearers.

Peter's contribution to our Club since April 2022 was considerable. A life ending too soon.

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## CLUB NEWS

- We held an **extraordinary meeting of the Board on 20<sup>th</sup> January** to discuss the following items:
  - Bowls Director Vacancy – An email to bowlers seeking expressions of interest for this casual vacancy until this year's AGM to be held in mid-May will be forwarded soon.
  - Coaching Plans/Winter Bowls Program
  - Social Media/Marketing
  - 2026-2027 Membership Fees – It was agreed that all annual membership fees will remain the same as last year.
  - Green Fees for all organised social bowls play will be reinstated.
  - As from 1/4/2026 a mat fee will be charged to members who participate in the 2 hour Friday morning social sessions of Indoor Bias Bowls (\$5.00 members & \$8.00 visitors).
  - The above fees will also apply from the same date for members & visitors attending the fortnightly Friday Mahjong sessions.
  - It was decided to implement these fees in consideration of fairness as the Members attending Bridge and Craft have been paying participation fees at each visit for some considerable time.
  - During the month of January, the club has offered free Wednesday night Pickleball sessions for players from the Boroondara Sports Complex, all of which have been very well attended. The daytime Pickleball sessions were on hold at the BSC due to other activities being hosted in the school holidays.
  - We will now be looking to invite these participants to join NBBC as social members to enable Pickleball to continue to grow at our club. The members working through this process include Peter O'Brien, Deb Petty, Partick Monahan, coach Anthony Baranowski, and me. More to come about this after 3/2/26.
- The monthly **morning tea rosters** for both the **Auburn and Maling Probus** meetings are now on the main noticeboard. The first Auburn meeting is on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February** (10 meetings on the 1st Monday of the mthly). Our NBBC members are responsible for the set up of the chairs during the year. We are seeking two or three volunteers who can assist Gary Jackson. Gary is both a Probus & NBBC member and would very much appreciate some help.  
Maling Probus meets 11 times during the year on **the second Wednesday of each month**. For more information, please contact our Social Director Sue Stephens.
- **Deb Petty** will add a few more notes on other important club matters further in this edition and **Peter Sexton** as Chairman of Selectors will provide a Pennant update.

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Please consider offering your assistance when & where you can. In an ideal world we would like to see all members volunteer at least once a month in some capacity, big or small to enable our club to continue to thrive.

Enjoy whatever activity that you are involved in at NBBC, support one another, and take care during these hot summer days.

Best wishes,  
Robyn McClelland  
President

## From the Secretary's Desk

I hope everyone enjoyed a little time off over Christmas and New Year and are ready for another year of Bowls, Bridge, Craft, Mahjong, Pickleball and Gardening.

The first part of our year will be a busy one. Along with our regular Bridge days we will also wrap up the end of season Pennant matches and Friday Coaching. More information about off-season coaching will follow in coming weeks. Our events calendar continues with Life Members Day, Presidents and Presentation Day, Club Championship matches, Super Vets Championships and the AGM which will be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May this year. As you will have seen in an earlier email, we are looking for an Acting Bowls Director to work with us to ramp up our social bowls program at the end of the Pennant season. This will include Tuesdays and Saturdays and one night game when we will hopefully also run some Pickleball.

A little closer to the AGM, we will once again call for nominations to fill Board Positions. Now is the time to come and have a chat with existing Board members to see what is involved and how you may be able to help with the general business of the club either as a Board Director or to help support a Director or one of the other Office Bearers. I for one have learnt a lot about the running of a community sports club and have enjoyed using a few of my previous work and life skills to manage the role of Secretary. As I have said many times previously, many hands make light work and we need to avoid burning out our volunteers. If you can take one of the tasks from a Director's list of duties or other regular volunteer, it could make an enormous difference.

We hope all bowlers are enjoying their new uniforms which hopefully at the time of publication, should be nearly all distributed. I think we certainly look a lot smarter on the Green and many of our opposition have made complimentary remarks about the change. My thanks to Yvonne, Robyn, and the sub-committee made up of Cheryl Amos, Chris Nolan and Simon Spurgeon who helped pull the change-over off.

Between now and the AGM, we will be working on our social media presence including Facebook, Instagram and our Website. This is one part of a broader general marketing campaign where we will be refreshing our club motto Play Bowls Make Friends and updating our club information brochure and street banner frontage. As you will have seen in an earlier email, we are asking all of our members to put their creative hats on and come up with a new slogan to represent the range of activities we now

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provide at our Club. We are keen on keeping our social media regularly updated with photos and news, so if you are comfortable using these mediums, we would especially like to hear from you.

In the meantime, if you are already on Facebook or Instagram, please search for North Balwyn Bowls Club and request to “Follow” as a Friend. There is now only one NBBC on Facebook, where there were previously two. We are getting some “How To” sheets developed to get those of you not already on Facebook and Instagram to consider joining. The more people we have as “friends” on the North Balwyn Bowls Facebook page, the more exposure we get, hopefully resulting in people wanting to look us up.

Well, that's it from me for now.

Deb Petty

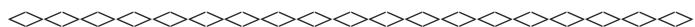
## Membership Report

Since our last newsletter, we've welcomed Sally Lee as a Mahjong player, Naomi Hackworth, Jill Howell, Jenny McNeice and Cheri Modesitt as Bridge players and lots of Pickleball players - Carmel Ginevra, Carmel Kelly, Fisun Kewming, Monica Nicholls, Cathy Cartwright, Helen Chesbrough, Mark Cunningham, Margaret Farley, Gaynor Ireland, Georgina Ivanoff, Tonia Lenaghan and Caroline Brown.

A warm welcome to you all. We hope you'll enjoy your time at the Club and also encourage you to join in other activities we have on offer. If you're a pickleballer but have a hankering to try bowls, come along on a Sunday morning from 10am-12noon, or a Friday afternoon from 3.00-5.00pm, followed by a drink and socialisation with members. Coaching and bowls are provided free of charge.

Other Club activities include indoor bias bowls, bridge, the craft group and mahjong. We also have garden plots available for hire, and books can be borrowed free of charge from our library. Lots to choose from and fill your time!

Yvonne Wheeler



E Shao joined the club about two years ago and was developing to be a good bowler. It was a surprise to hear that he had left the Club. Bruce Hexter messaged E to wish him well and encourage him to keep up his bowling. E's reply to Bruce is reproduced below with E's permission. It is pleasing to know that he enjoyed his time at the club and a reminder to us all of the importance of welcoming and encouraging new bowlers.

Hi Bruce

I was truly delighted to hear from you—thank you for your message.

Due to family reasons, it looks like I may need to relocate to Brisbane for the long term. I have been thinking a lot about the wonderful times I had at the club, and I miss them deeply. It has been a real honour for me to have been a member of the club in Melbourne.

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Over the past nearly two years, you have given me tremendous support and help, and I'm sincerely grateful. With your encouragement, I was able to grow gradually from a complete beginner. But as life often reminds us, circumstances can change unexpectedly.

The journey continues, and life is taking me to different places. Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart. I will always remember your kindness, care, and support.

Wishing you and your family a very happy New Year—may the year ahead bring you good health, joy, and every success!

Kind regards

E Shao

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## Bowls Report

In the absence of our dear friend, Peter Harry, since the last newsletter, below is a summary of where our sides are at this stage of the season with two games to go for both Weekend and Midweek Pennant. The comments do not purport to posit all scenarios.

### Weekend Pennant

#### *Firsts Side*

In 7<sup>th</sup> position with 79 points, this week the firsts face Richmond Union (8<sup>th</sup> – 44 points) at our home green and then face up to St Kilda (2<sup>nd</sup> – 146 pts) in the last game. City of Melbourne (6<sup>th</sup> – 84 points) have MCC (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Camberwell (4<sup>th</sup>). One more win than City of Melbourne in those last two rounds would ensure we avoid relegation.

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## ***Seconds Side***

In 8<sup>th</sup> position with 50 points, and games against Fitzroy (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Albert Park (1<sup>st</sup>), the seconds are unlikely to avoid relegation.

## ***Thirds Side***

In 5th position with 86 points, and games against Donvale (4<sup>th</sup> – 118 points) and Vermont South, the thirds are in the unusual position of a slim possibility of making finals but also in the possible relegation zone as 6<sup>th</sup> position has Fitzroy on 83 points and MCC in 7<sup>th</sup> position on 80 points. The thirds would need to win at least one game unless Fitzroy and MCC lose both their games.

**Editor's Postscript.** Since Peter wrote his report, round 13 of weekend pennant has been played. Here is an update on the situation for the three sides.

Side 1 defeated Richmond Union and got 16 points. City of Melbourne lost their match and got zero points. NBBC is now in 6<sup>th</sup> place 11 points above City of Melbourne. If both of us lose or both win the last match, we will avoid relegation. Should we lose and City of Melbourne win it could come down to rink points and shot difference.

Side 2 lost to Fitzroy Victoria and now cannot avoid finishing 8<sup>th</sup> and being relegated.

Side 3 lost to Donvale. It remains in 5<sup>th</sup> place but with 4<sup>th</sup> place well out of reach and only 9 points ahead of the 8<sup>th</sup> placed team. The then bottom side, Box Hill RSL, scored 18 points and moved to 6<sup>th</sup> place 4 points behind NBBC so there are four sides battling to avoid relegation. We have the difficult task of playing the top side in the last round but all the sides below us also are playing sides from the top four so we can hope no more than one of them will win.

## **Midweek Pennant**

### ***Firsts Side***

In 8<sup>th</sup> position with 49 points, the firsts would need to win both games against the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> clubs and hope that Flemington-Kensington (6<sup>th</sup> – 76 points) lose both their games. Relegation likely.

### ***Seconds Side***

In 4th position on 86 points, the seconds play Vermont Sth (5<sup>th</sup> – 80 points) and Box Hill RSL (3<sup>rd</sup> – 109 points). At least one win should ensure a finals position for this side.

### ***Thirds Side***

In 6<sup>th</sup> position with 86 points, the thirds play Fairfield (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Box Hill RSL (5<sup>th</sup> – 99 points). The 7<sup>th</sup> position is held by City of Heidelberg on 85 points who play the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> clubs in the last two rounds. This has been a tough section this season with the first four clubs on the ladder having their firsts sides playing. Simply, the thirds win both games and they stay up.

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## ***Fourths Side***

In 7<sup>th</sup> position on 65 points, the fourths play Alphington (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Heidelberg Golf (4<sup>th</sup>). Eltham in 6<sup>th</sup> position on 70 points play 4th and 3rd placed clubs in their last two games. Again, win at least one game and the 4ths may avoid relegation.

## **Summary**

Whilst most of the scenarios above may not be to our liking, it is in our hands over these last two rounds to be positive each time you step out on the green and to have a winning mindset. So many of you have put in a lot of work on your skills, thanks to Howard's and Peter Harry's diligent work, so let's reward them and finish off the season with a winning flourish.

Peter Sexton

Chairman of Selectors

(On behalf of the Selection Committee)

## **Fair Play or Foul?**

Refer below for questions to test your knowledge of Bowls Rules for both Pennant and Club Championship matches. Rules reference is World Bowls Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Revised May 2023.

### **Questions:**

- 1 Where should a marker stand in relation to the head.
- 2 The player having delivered their bowl asks the Marker the position of the head. The player is down one shot. What should the Marker tell the player ?
- 3 Can a Marker ask for verification of a dubious jack length ?
- 4 During a match, bowls and or jack may be displaced accidentally by a Neutral object or Person, or by Opponent or by someone from your Own Team. What happens next depends on who or what displaced the bowl(s) or jack. Which of the following are NOT considered neutral objects.
  - a. Marker
  - b. Umpire
  - c. A dead bowl
  - d. A jack from another rink
  - e. A spectator's hat
  - f. An opposition player
  - g. A player from another rink
  - h. A lifter

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- 5 Once a player starts using a bowling arm, they must deliver the **jack** with the arm for the rest of that game. **TRUE or FALSE**
- 6 After playing another player's bowl and it displaces the head, you must return the bowls moved back to their original position. **TRUE or FALSE**.
- 7 A bowl has been delivered but the jack had NOT been centred. You must centre the jack. **TRUE or FALSE**.
- 8 The game has commenced , and the mat has been placed off the centre line. The mat must be centred. **TRUE or FALSE**.

## Answers:

- 1 Approximately 2 metres to the rear of the head and 1 metre to the side of the jack.
- 2 The marker cannot indicate anything to that player as they are no longer in possession of the rink. **(Law 42.2.6)**
- 3 Yes **(Law 42.2.3)**
- 4 An opposition player and a lifter are NOT neutral objects.
- 5 **FALSE** .(BA Artificial Devices Policy).
- 6 **FALSE** .( **Law 29.2**).
- 7 **FALSE** .( **Law 9.7**).
- 8 **TRUE** .( **Law 6.1.2**).

## Terence Staunton Umpire

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**NBBC BBQ    Free to a good home**



Any member who would like the old BBQ please contact Michael Potter, Facilities Director on 0430952045.

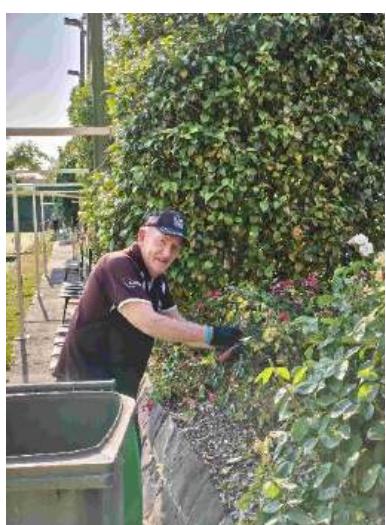
## Facilities Maintenance Crew

We all appreciate that we have attractive and well-kept club facilities and surrounds and we get many positive comments about that from visiting bowlers and bridge players. We may not be fully aware of the work that is done by a small group of members to maintain our greens, gardens and surrounds. Nearly every Monday morning from 9 to 11 followed by a cuppa and a chat, this group of volunteers meets to undertake a range of tasks.

Additional helpers will be welcomed. Turn up on a Monday morning or contact the Facilities Director, Michael Potter 0430952045, Peter Buchanan or one of the other members of the crew to find out how you can help.

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From time to time, particular repair jobs are needed and volunteers with the necessary skills undertake that work. Before Christmas, Michael Potter and Eric McGee repaired the broken bench seat facing green 1. (Happy birthday to Eric who turned 95 on 31 January.)



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## Bowling Myths and Maths

In the previous newsletter I discussed the basic relationship between green speed and aiming angle or the width of the bowl's path. This was about draw shots. What about weighted shots? When we are driving does the same rule apply; do we need less angle on a slow green than on a fast green? It surprises some bowlers that the answer is the opposite, that, unless you can drive at cannon-ball speed, you need more angle on a slow green than you do on a fast green for drives delivered at the same speed over the same distance. The reason is that the drive on the slow green will decelerate more and will take longer to reach the target and hence it will curve more as the bias operates over that longer time. Of course, we are talking about much smaller aiming angles than for draw shots. Some bowlers can deliver their drive so fast that it will travel virtually straight over 30 metres on a 17 second green, but even they would need to allow for some curve over 30 metres on a 12 second green. (Note that driving techniques which involve tilting the bowl and inducing a wobble to achieve a somewhat straighter path require more complex analysis.)

So, if for draw shots we need a greater aiming angle on a faster green and for drives we need a greater aiming angle on a slow green, what about controlled weight shots? Controlled weight shots are effectively draw shots to a point beyond the target bowl or jack so that the projected path of the bowl runs through the target. Therefore, we need to allow for a wider curve on a faster green the same as for a draw shot.

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So, why isn't a drive-weight shot also effectively a draw to a distant point? In a sense it is but only on an imaginary extension of the green. If we had a long enough extension of the green eventually a drive shot delivered with the bowler's maximum speed would come to rest and would exhibit the curve of a draw shot albeit over a much longer distance. A longer extension would be needed for a faster green because a bowl delivered with a given weight will travel further on a faster green. This is another way of explaining why the drive-weight shot needs a greater aiming angle on a slow green because the amount of curve exhibited by a bowl is greater the greater the proportion of its projected path that it has travelled and the target distance will be a greater proportion of the projected path on a slow green than on a fast green.

Tony Ralston

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	<b>Zen</b> Herbal Liniment & Zen Sports Spray help relieve minor sports injuries including bruises, sprains and general muscle aches. Perfect for bowlers!

## Social Director's Report

Our social year started on the 15th January 16 of our members enjoyed competing under lights against the Barleycorners who are a combination team from various clubs. North Balwyn fared well with a top score. Pizza and drinks ended the night.

Our next event is Life Members Day on 1<sup>st</sup> February. 60 members will enjoy a BBQ with our Life Members, showing appreciation for all their contributions to the club .

Again this year, two Probus clubs use our facilities, Auburn on the 1st Monday and Maling on the 2nd Wednesday. We are keen to have two of our members on the premises to help with the morning teas. It involves about 2 hrs on those days from 9 to 11 am. Probus also provide two members to help serve

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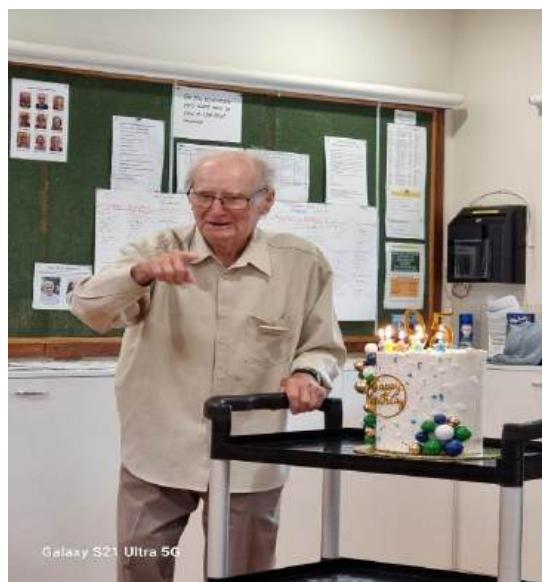
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the refreshments. Your assistance with this is greatly appreciated. Thank you to all who assisted over the last year

Looking forward to another year of Social activities

Sue Stephens SD

## STOP PRESS



Sixty members gathered on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February to celebrate our Life Members and enjoy an informal BBQ.

Our life members in attendance were Helen McGee, Betty Collins OAM, Kevin O'Connor, Michael Fox, Bruce Hexter, Peter Buchanan, Michael Johnson & Robyn McClelland. Unfortunately, Bob Beresford, Bill & Pat Brown, Margaret Beech and Famia Kajtazi were unable to join us.

We thank our Social Director Sue Stephens & her team (Anne Durrant, Anna Sinclair, Bev Brown & Gayle Slessar) for organising the meal and Brian Quinn and Bruce Stewart who cooked the meat to perfection and all those who assisted with washing up and tidying at the end of the evening.

An additional highlight of the evening was the singing Happy Birthday to Eric McGee who celebrated his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on 31<sup>st</sup> January. Helen McGee provided a delightful cake for everyone to enjoy for dessert.

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## Craft Group

### NBBC CRAFT REPORT NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2025

**Cheryl McCowan** (seated in the centre of the photo) led seven of our ladies to make this little fabric gift box/threadcatcher etc. whatever you want to use it for.

During the month Cheryl had prepared kits which she gave to the ladies to make the job easy.

Cheryl very kindly gave me one of the boxes she had made as a sample. Thankyou Cheryl, it matches the NBBC Record Books I keep at home and sits very nicely next to them. This was the last class for 2025.



We celebrated **Christmas in December** at the **Box Hill RSL** having lunch together with plenty of chatter. **Cheryl** gave all the ladies a **bauble filled with chocolates** – showing us all how easy they were to make.

We resume craft at **9.30am on 9th February, 2026** and our project is a **Nail File Cover** directed by **Cheryl McCowan** and **Gift Cards** with **Anna Sinclair** and **Lois Staunton**.

Come and join us for a friendly chat and a cuppa and if you wish you can make the project of the day.

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## Bridge Wildcards



**FINESSE** is a card play technique which will enable a player to win an additional trick (or tricks) should there be a favourable position of one or more cards in the hands of the opponents.

The player tries to win either the current trick or a later trick with a card of the suit he leads notwithstanding that the opponents hold a higher card in the suit.

The technique varies upon the **suit combination** being played and the number of tricks the player is attempting to win in that suit.

Most players love to finesse. It's usually simple, and provides instant gratification when it works. But bear in mind that finesses often lose half of the time. Consider the consequences. If a finesse runs a risk of allowing the opponents to get in and beat your contract, and you don't need it to make your contract, consider other avenues to get those extra tricks.

Here we'll go through a few finesse types.

N: ♠ A Q

The **DIRECT FINESSE** can gain a trick without losing one.

Here the Queen is finessed. The outstanding King is the card finessed against. You finesse against a missing honour, but finesse the card you yourself play.

S: ♠ 6 3

When South is on lead, she can lead a small Spade to the Queen. If West plays low, she plays the Queen from Dummy. If West is holding the king (deemed "onside"), North-South will win two tricks, for a gain of one trick without losing a trick. If West actually plays the king on the first trick, North-South win two tricks by covering with the ace.

N: ♠ K 6

The **INDIRECT FINESSE** can gain a trick, but may require losing a trick firstly. South leads a spade toward the king; if West holds the ace, the king will either win the current trick or will become the highest remaining spade and win a later one. (Actually, the King is set up as a winner. It may be ruffed, or in a No Trump contract, through the opponents' squeeze it may have to be discarded).

S: ♠ 5 2

A **MARKED FINESSE** is one that cannot lose, because the opponents' honour is known to be onside. (The finesse is onside or on, if the finessable honour is favourably placed.) If South begins by leading the king, and then the queen, she learns on the second trick that East has no more spades and so the finesse of the ten is proven.

	♠ A 10 5 4	
♠ J 9 8 6	W N↑ S↓ E	♠ 7
	♠ K Q 3 2	

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N: ♠ A Q 10

The **DOUBLE FINESSE** is against two honours held by the opponents, and can gain up to two tricks.

S: ♠ 8 4 3

South leads a spade to the 10; if it holds, she re-enters her hand via another suit and leads another spade to the queen; if the 10 loses and she subsequently regains the lead in her hand, she likewise leads another spade to the queen.

North-South will take three spade tricks if West has both the king and the jack (about 25% chance in the absence of any information), two if East and West have one each (50%), but only one if East has both (25%).

N: ♠ A J 10

This combination can gain one trick (or two if you delve into endplays).

S: ♠ 8 4 3

South leads a spade to the 10. Assuming it loses, she re-enters her hand and leads another spade to the jack. North-South will take two spade tricks if West has either the king or the queen, or both (about 75% chance), but only one if East has both (25%).

N: ♠ A Q

The **FREE FINESSE** is not technically a finesse at all, as it is not dependent on the position of the opponents' cards, but only on their choice of lead.

S: ♠ 6 3

A free finesse occurs when an opponent leads a suit, so that the hand containing a tenace position (a finessable card couple) plays last to the trick.

The Direct Finesse only works if West has the king, but if East leads spades, the declarer simply plays the lower card that will win the trick, and so gets two tricks no matter whether East or West has the king.

A Free Finesse often happens when the defence guesses wrongly about high cards in the declarer's hand, especially on the opening lead. (It is also possible to force the defense to give you a free finesse, by endplaying them.)

Other finesse types include: the Deep finesse, Ruffing finesse, Two-way finesse, Backward finesse, Intra-finesse, and Pseudo-finesse. But the explanations above should get you thinking.

Happy bridging,  
Morry Freedman ❤



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## Pickleball at NBBC

### Pickleball at NBBC: February Update



As many of our members are aware, the primary objective of introducing Pickleball to NBBC was to increase foot traffic and invite new visitors to explore the diverse activities our club offers. Thanks to the unwavering support of the Board, these efforts to expand our membership are now yielding tangible results.

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## Recent Successes & Outreach

In December, with the help of my two grandsons, we distributed promotional leaflets at the Boroondara Sports Complex. We invited local players to join our "**Pickleball on the Green**" sessions, held every Wednesday evening from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

These sessions complement our existing Friday morning schedule, which runs for 90 minutes starting at 9:30 AM. Key highlights from our recent activities include:

- **High Engagement:** Despite the summer heat, we reached maximum capacity for our evening sessions.
- **Cross-Sport Interest:** As of January 31, several participants have expressed interest in trying our lawn and indoor bowls.
- **Community Support:** Two new participants have generously volunteered to assist with session setup and teardown.
- **Strong Attendance:** Our Friday bookings have seen an encouraging rise, with 15 players recently registered—13 of whom were guests.
- **11 New Social Members** have so far joined.

## Looking Ahead

A dedicated committee is currently finalizing the details regarding court usage and membership costs. We anticipate publishing these guidelines in early February.

Furthermore, as we continue to enhance our social media presence, we remain optimistic that our membership will continue to grow in the coming months.

Best regards,

**Peter H. O'Brien**  
Pickleball Coordinator

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 real health Naturopathy & Acupuncture	<b>A Real Health</b> A professional & holistic healing centre, combining naturopathy, painless acupuncture, and low-level laser therapy. 437 Belmore Rd, Mont Albert North VIC 3129
 PEUGEOT REGAN ESTABLISHED 1946	<b>Regan Motors</b> Regan Motors has been selling and servicing new and used vehicles in Balwyn and the surrounding areas for over 70 years.

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## Garden Plots

Crops to look at planting that like the heat are beans both bush and climbing, sweetcorn although this needs a lot of watering and I haven't had much success I admit so good luck. Cucumber, zucchini (still prolific but try watering daily or every 2<sup>nd</sup> day) and pumpkin. Try planting some root veggies like beetroot, carrots and radish. If you like your leafy veggies, lettuces but keep in a semi shade as too much sun sees them bolt to seed, silverbeet always reliable, spinach is easy or try a bit of bok choi.

Also good with the heat are leeks, spring onions and a lot of the herbs: basil, sage and rosemary. I like to plant small batches of seeds every few weeks for beans, corn and zucchini rather than having one large harvest.

Watering-- this time of year try ensuring deep watering at least twice a week if you don't have automatic sprinklers focusing on the soil rather than leaves to prevent disease.



**Some of the plots and surrounds are getting to the scruffy stage and we are in danger of the club giving them away if we don't clean them up.** Please make sure if you have a plot that you maintain it and its surrounds, keeping the weeds away and general upkeep. If you are unable to maintain your plot and want to give it away let me know. If you don't use it you lose it. I find coffee grounds on the actual plot helps keep the weeds away but not too much as it stunts veggie growth.

Also, the club would like plotters to store their bigger tools in the club shed situated on the side of the pickleball court.

Good luck with your veggies, plotters.

Chris Walker

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Re the upkeep of plots mention by Chris above, the Facilities Director has added:

Hello to all our Garden Plot members.

It appears all members have enjoyed the 'fruits of their labour' this year. However, the hot weather has provided challenges for us in keeping up with the watering.

The surrounds of the garden plots have become a little overgrown with weeds etc. and as such we will be conducting a working bee to tidy up the whole area.

The working bee is planned for Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup> commencing at 10am. Please bring your own gardening tools. Hope to see you there.

Michael Potter  
Facilities Director

