

The NBBC eNewsletter

No. 185 August 2026

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The next newsletter will be published in early October. Contributions, including photos, are welcome. Please email them to tonyral49@gmail.com by the end of September. (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.)

If anyone has an idea about other content they would like to see in the newsletter, let me know.

Tony Ralston

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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

Dear Members,

I do hope everyone is keeping well and warm this winter. The cooler temperatures have not deterred our bowlers as we continue to have good number attending on Tuesday mornings and Saturday afternoons. Both sessions have provided renewed interest during the off-Pennant season. Thanks again to Mike Johnson and George Liondas and their team of helpers for the excellent organisation.

The Pennant season commences in mid-October and will be here before we know it. Bruce Hexter and his committee have been busy planning all things bowls and the Board is pleased to announce the members of our 26/27 Selection panel are Mike Johnson, Deb Petty, Chris Nolan, Joan Ditchburn, John Douglas & Juanita Monahan. Bruce will have more bowls news in his report.

In our endeavours to boost our bowling membership we have decided to hold a Free 4 Week Bowls Program on Sunday afternoons 2-4pm during August. We will spread the message via our Website, Facebook, Instagram and flyers to our sponsors, local businesses and sporting clubs. We ask

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members to share this link with family, neighbours & friends.

<https://northbalwynbowls.com/public/schedule/events/86584-come-give-bowls-a-go>

Peter O'Brien has been working tirelessly managing many building & equipment maintenance tasks and he will soon hand the reins back to Michael Potter. We advise that the club has engaged Rapid Insulation to install ceiling insulation in our clubhouse. This will take place on Tuesday 11th August and should not cause any major inconvenience. We are also pleased to advise that Boroondara Council has now confirmed that the installation of Solar Panels will take place in August/September. WINKI Energy a well accredited and experienced contractor, will carry out the works. The installation will take 1-2 days and we have requested Tuesday/Wednesday (on a non-Proboscis week) with the dates still to be confirmed. The insulation will help regulate the indoor temperatures and together with the Solar panels, be both good for the environment and assist in keeping our club energy costs down.

Boroondara Council has advised us the NBBC is one of 3 finalists in the Innovative Club of the Year category for the 2026 Sports Awards. Six of our members (including Peter O'Brien & Anne Williams who have been the driving force for the establishment and growth of Pickleball & Mahjong) will be attending the presentation evening on Wednesday 12th August at the Hawthorn Arts Centre.

As a result of feedback from members, we will once again print a Club Handbook and Stephen Clarke has agreed to again undertake this task of compiling all the set dates and activities for the year. It is hoped that the Handbook book will be available to members in early September.

Our Official Opening of the 2026/2027 Season is scheduled for Saturday 5th September 2026. We encourage all bowlers to attend this event so please keep the date free. Full details will be emailed to all members in early August. For your free ticket please register via TidyHQ or on the list by the main noticeboard. Please pick only **one** option (Bowls & Afternoon Tea/Bowls Only/Afternoon Tea Only) prior to Wednesday 2nd September to enable us to organise team selections for the afternoon and finalise catering requirements. We will be hoping for a sunny day to get the season started.

To all members who are not enjoying the best of health we extend our very best wishes and hope the information in our newsletters help you to keep up with happenings at the club.

I encourage all members to stay connected and please keep in touch with each other.

Best Regards
Robyn McClelland
President

Membership Report

We warmly welcome Greg Bowden as a new bowls member, Kim Walton, a returning bowls member, and Linda Gallagher as a new Social/Bridge player. Currently we have approximately 390 members in total, enjoying outdoor bowls, indoor bowls, Pickleball, Bridge, Mahjong and craft, or a combination of a few of these activities.

As a new initiative to attract members, we're running a 4-week program for new bowlers on Sundays in August (9, 16, 23 and 30th). We'll be advertising this locally with flyers and also with Facebook

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and Instagram posts and would encourage all our members to share this as widely as possible. We'd also love you to "bring a friend" for the program so we have lots of attendees learning and enjoying bowls, possibly for the first time.



The poster features a background image of a lawn bowls green with several people playing. At the top, there is a yellow banner with the North Balwyn Bowls Club Inc. logo. Below this, the text 'LAWN BOWLS' is written in large, bold, blue letters, followed by 'FREE 4 WEEK PROGRAM' in yellow letters on a blue background. To the right, the text 'Come & Give Bowls a Go!' is written in a stylized, blue font. On the left, there is a section with Chinese text '草地滚球四周日新手免费培训' and 'COACHING & BOWLS PROVIDED'. Below this, the time 'Time: Sundays from 2.00 – 4.00pm' and dates '9, 16, 23 & 30 August' are listed. The location 'Location: 60 Buchanan Ave, Balwyn North' is also provided. Contact information includes 'Phone: 03 9859 3828' and 'nbbc1947@gmail.com'. A yellow button with 'REGISTER NOW' and a right-pointing arrow is located at the bottom left. A QR code is positioned next to it. To the right of the QR code, the text 'It's a game for all ages' and 'Please wear flat shoes' is written. A large, detailed image of a yellow lawn bowl is shown on the right side of the poster.

NORTH BALWYN BOWLS CLUB INC.

LAWN BOWLS

FREE 4 WEEK PROGRAM

Come & Give Bowls a Go!

草地滚球四周日新手免费培训
COACHING & BOWLS PROVIDED

🕒 Time: Sundays from 2.00 – 4.00pm
9, 16, 23 & 30 August

📍 Location: 60 Buchanan Ave, Balwyn North

☎ Phone: 03 9859 3828
✉ nbbc1947@gmail.com

REGISTER NOW



*It's a game for all ages
Please wear flat shoes*

We will soon be advertising times for members to order any uniform items they may wish to have for the upcoming pennant season. There'll be some shirts that can be tried on, but we'll be able to assist with sizing for other uniform pieces. More details in an email closer to the date.

Yvonne Wheeler

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Bowls Director's Report

Social Bowls



August will see the wrap-up of a very successful winter social bowls program. Congratulations to Mike Johnson for running a series of well attended triples, pairs and scroungers events on Saturdays with prize money presented by our sponsors. Thanks to George Liondas for running a successful Tuesday program. On some Saturdays, we have had the added attraction of a BBQ manned by master sausage sizzler Brian Quinn.

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Saturday social bowls has been blessed by very kind weather, with no time lost due to rain. We have had great attendance typically with around 36 people playing. Our objective of ensuring everyone has a fair chance of winning has been achieved, with there being 16 club members (and 3 players from Donvale) who were in the money during July.



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We had strong support from our sponsors, with Helloworld Travel Balwyn North, Real Health Mont Albert and Pinnacle Living Yarbat Place all attending in July to hand out the prize money and give an outline of what services they can provide our members.



Pennant Sides

We will be entering three Sides for Weekend Pennant (48 positions) and four Sides (48 positions) for Midweek Pennant this season. This is to ensure players who commit for the season are given as many games as possible - this is one of our Club's Pennant objectives. However, if we do not have sufficient emergencies to cover absences each week, it is possible that some teams (in our lower Side) may have to play with only 3 players on the rink. We will continue efforts to recruit new members and to encourage those who are social bowlers to play pennant, to ensure we can field strong teams each week.

Our weekend sides will be in Divisions 4, 5 and 6 and our midweek sides will be in Division 3 (2 Sides), Division 5 and Division 7.

Pennant Dates:

- **Midweek:** 20th October to 15th December; 19th January to 16th February. Finals 23rd & 25th February and 2nd March.
- **Weekend:** 17th October to 19th December; 23rd January to 13th February. Finals 20th & 27th February and 6th March

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Selection trial games will begin on 8 September for midweek and 12 September for weekend pennant. Practice games against Doncaster have been arranged for Saturday 19 September and 10 October, and Tuesday 29 September so lock these dates into your calendar if you have indicated you are playing pennant this year.

Selection Panel

The Board has accepted the nominations from the Bowls Committee for the positions of selector. Your selectors for the 2026/27 pennant season are Deb Petty, Juanita Monaghan, Joan Ditchburn, John Douglas, Chris Nolan and Mike Johnson. These selectors will be responsible for selecting both Midweek and Weekend Pennant Teams. The selectors have met once to elect a Chair, Mike Johnson, and to commence planning for the next season. All selectors will be viewing and reading the Bowls Vic selector support material.

A couple more dates for your calendar:

Season Opening Day: To be held Saturday 5th September.

Season Launch Night: To be held Friday 2nd October 6pm-8pm with refreshments prior. Neil Dalrymple is Guest speaker.

Looking forward to an enjoyable and successful season.

Brice Hexter

Bowls Director

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 4th Edition Revised May 2023.

Questions:

1. The lead in team A delivers the jack which passes the 2 metre mark. Before it comes to rest Skip A picks it up assuming that it will not reach the ditch and places it on the 2 metre mark. Skip B objects. What should happen now?
- 2 A delivered bowl comes to rest on the green and in contact with the jack which is in the ditch. It is claimed that, as the bowl is a live bowl and is in contact with the jack in the ditch, it is a toucher. Is this correct?

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- 3 A player drives and the bowl, which is not a toucher, rebounds off the face of the bank, coming to rest within the rink and 19.4m from the mat line. The opponent says that it is dead, but the player claims that it is live. What is the position?
- 4 A player in team A suggests that a bowl is out. Skip A checks it and picks it up agreeing that it is out. The opposing Skip objects. What should be done?
- 5 A bowl in course from rink 1 crosses over the boundary between rinks 1 & 2 and collides with a bowl in course on rink 2. Neither head is disturbed. What should be done with both bowls?

Answers:

- 1 The jack has been displaced by a player of its team therefore it must be re-delivered by the opposing lead who resets the mat but must not play first. **Law 38.1.1.1**
- 2 No. No bowl shall be a toucher if it plays onto, or coming into contact with, the jack while the jack is in the ditch. **Law 14.3**
- 3 As the bowl is not a toucher it is dead bowl and should be removed immediately. Only touchers rebounding from the face of the bank into the ditch or on to the rink shall remain in play. **Law 17.1.2**
- 4 If a player moves a bowl before agreement is reached, the opposing Skip must put the bowl back to its former position. **Law 37.1.5.1.**

The Skips must agree a bowl is dead before it can be removed. If they cannot agree the umpire should be called. **Law 17.3 or 40.1.5**

- 5 The bowl from rink 1 must be replayed provided it was on a bias which would have enabled it to re-enter its own rink. The bowl on rink 2 must be replayed. **Rink 1 :Law 37.3.1.3. Rink 2 :Law 37.3.1.1.**

Terence Staunton Umpire

Marketplace

NBBC members can advertise items that they want to sell, buy or swap. The items must have a relationship to club activities, for example a uniform, a set of bowls, gardening tools, etc. Email the editor (tonyral49@gmail.com) with details of the item you wish to trade. Contact the member directly if you are interested in what they are advertising.

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For Sale

Set of pre-loved TAYLORS - Size 3, "Redline" Bowls for Sale. Dimple grip. Dark Blue with "Anchor". Excellent used condition.

\$250.00. (Please note, no bag: bowls only).

Inquiries: Sue Dowdell 0417539270.



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

Bowling Myths and Maths

Distance Travelled

When one side of a green is playing wider than the other side, I sometimes hear players say that they will have to put [significantly] more weight on when changing from playing the narrower side to the wider side because the bowl will be travelling further. They may have to put more weight on because of the conditions (non-uniform surface, wind direction) but not because of the distance the bowl travels. With the mat on the back dot and the jack at 27 metres, a bowl delivered with an aiming angle of 8° (aiming point roughly the next rink number) will travel only about 20 centimetres further than a bowl delivered with an aiming angle of 4° (aiming point roughly the boundary peg). That difference requires a very subtle change in delivery speed, not the significant change implied by some players' comments.

Another example of misunderstanding relative distances is something an NBBC skip in the past used to tell a lead who was consistently rolling the jack well past where the skip wanted it. He would tell them to bowl the jack aiming for a point wide of the centre line on the theory that the extra distance of travel would compensate for their tendency to roll the jack too far. However, with the mat on the back dot and a target distance for the jack roll of 27 metres rolling the jack to a point 1.8 metres wide of the target point would add only about 6 cm to the distance travelled. That is an insignificant difference if they were rolling a metre or two more than requested but trying to roll to that wide point significantly increases the risk that they will roll the jack out of bounds.

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Craft Group



No Tiaras but some glitz and glamour at our **Craft King's Birthday Celebration** on **Monday, 8th June 2026**. Those of us who were not away came to Craft with our own projects and a plate of food to share for morning tea to celebrate the King's Birthday. We rewarded the **Maintenance Crew** with some morning tea for all their efforts in keeping the Club looking pristine.

Monday 13th July 2026 - Decoupage was the order of the day for our Craft session. Anna led the ladies in making a decoration - after all it is "Christmas in July". "**Angel Anna**" took them all home to varnish and they will be returned at our next meeting.

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The **KOGO SQUARE CHALLENGE** has exceeded my expectations. Our total to date is **694** and still growing. We have well and truly passed our Target of 582 with one month still to go - thanks to a donation from **Nelly Ziegerink**. Jenny Woods from Bridge mentioned to her friend Linda Henderson at Wattle Park Ladies Golf Club, NBBC were doing the KOGO Challenge again this year. Linda's mother, Nelly, took on the challenge and donated **280 squares**. Thank you, Nelly. (A personal thank you has been sent to Nelly for her wonderful work and donation). Photo of Nelly's donation.

Monday, 10th August 2026 we are making **Fabric Baubles**. Please bring your fabric scissors, Christmas or other fabric, 3mm-5mm ribbon for hanger and decorative bow, coloured bobble

headed pins, embellishments like rick rack braid, cords, sequins or things that can be glued on, a pencil or biro, Stanley Knife (if you have one OR you can borrow one from Lois), an old plastic loyalty card or the like – this is good to push the fabric into the foam ball.

If you have nothing to do on the second Monday of each month between 9.30am and 12.30pm why not come and join us in some friendly crafting and chatter.

Happy Crafting!

LOIS STAUNTON

Pickleball at NBBC

Facility Improvements

Our four pickleball courts have been repainted in yellow and shifted toward the eastern end of the grounds. This layout adjustment allows for two additional north-south courts to be added along the southern end in upcoming developments.

Certainly a game for all ages - a 13 year old joined up this week together with his parents and is already an obvious up and coming champion

Court Bookings & Participation

Demand continues to grow, with recent sessions hitting peak capacity. We are pleased to offer flexible court availability for club members at almost any time.

- **Booking Fee:** \$30/hour flat rate for members (includes unlimited guests/members per court).
- **Guest Limit:** Guests are welcome up to 3 visits each.

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- **How to Book:** Please contact me directly before placing your initial booking so I can explain the access process.

Volunteer Opportunity

Thank you to all members who have contributed to the success of our pickleball program.

We are currently seeking a co-representative to share coordinating duties for pre-agreed monthly sessions. The role is light and straightforward. If you would like to assist, please reach out.

Best regards,

Peter O'Brien

Email: obrien.ph@gmail.com | Mobile: 0417 502 456



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Bridge Wildcards



QUEEN AND JACK AS STOPPERS AND WINNERS

This is a suit combination that regularly comes up in declarer play.

If you hold at least five cards between you and your partner, and one hand holds Jx and the other Qxx (or Qx and Jxx), you must always make one trick - provided:

1. The defence leads the suit; and
2. You always play your lowest card in second seat.
Don't cover unless it is all you have.

	N: ♠ J 7	
W: ♠ 3		E:
	S: ♠ Q 6 2	

As an example, you hold J7 and Q62 in the North/South hands. West leads the 3.

You play 7 and now West has to play the A or the K to beat your Q. If she doesn't, you win your trick.

If she does play the K, then their A can only beat the J (or the Q). So, your trick is secure.

If you play the J (or the Q) in second seat then the A, K and 10 become a threat and you can lose all three tricks.

Try to avoid leading suits like that, as you are then forced to play one of the J or the Q to avoid losing to 10's or 9's. Instead, get the opposition to lead those suits.

Happy bridging,
Morry Freedman ❤

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	Joyce Optometrists - George & Matilda EyeCare Our qualified optometrists use the latest techniques and equipment, ensuring your eyes receive the very best care possible.		

Garden Plots



Hello fellow plotters, well we are getting towards the end of Melbourne's horrible cold winter and approaching hopefully slightly warmer weather and longer days.

Plants need 3 things, soil, sun and water, either rain or do it yourself. Let's talk about the soil as I think it's the most important. A lot of soil is low in nutrients and some soil doesn't even like water. The answer to having healthy plants and veggies is a soil rich in organic matter including worms. This ensures the harvest has everything needed to produce a healthy crop. Also, the soil will retain moisture better and be healthier protecting against insect attack or infection. Your soil needs will be determined by what you plant and want to grow so do a bit of research on this.

I tend to buy bags of soil, compost and rotted down manure mixed with my gold compost soil generated by my helpful worm friends. Check the quality of the product before buying. The other IMPORTANT thing when working with soils is that they contain fungus and other living organisms and bacteria, so it is very important to wear gloves, a mask and strong footwear. This will hopefully keep you away from the nasty diseases such as legionnaires, tetanus and other ailments. You don't want to inhale or take in anything that can get into your bloodstream. (I am not a doctor, but most products carry a warning).

Now onto 1 of my favourite gardening subjects, COMPOST. This is definitely the best way of adding quality organic matter to the soil plus helping with keeping the landfill tips better off. I put all my food

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scraps, peelings, washed eggshells, grass cuttings etc into my compost bin once a week and keep it well watered and aerated. Just poke a wooden stake into the middle of the bin and swing around so that the bin scraps get plenty of air plus keep turning it over. The worms will do the rest giving you a gold rated deep black soil rich in nutrients which your plant/veggies will love. There is plenty of information you can glean off the internet on composting, but another way is if you don't have a great amount of scraps but have a good food processor. Stick the scraps and washed eggshells into the blender with a bit of water and mix the slurry into the soil.

You will probably know a lot of the information already but looking after your soil will ensure you get a healthy harvest.

With the slightly warmer weather coming and hopefully good riddance to Melbourne frosty mornings soon will be a great time to start thinking about planting. One of my favourite and prolific easy growing vegetables is ZUCCHINI. I had about 30kg of Zucchini last season and it's so easy to grow and you can make so many different healthy recipes from it .

Best regards

Chris



Indoor Bowls

The finals for our ESIBBA Indoor Pennant season are not far away with one round to play on 4th & 5th August. Seventeen of our players have competed in the pennant competition and we have had mixed results however our Tuesday night NB2 team have enjoyed a great season sitting in **first place after**

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Round 12 with a 4-point lead. This team will have a home semi-final to be played on Tuesday 11th August. Spectators are welcome for a 7.15pm start.

The Pennant ladder is here <https://esibba.insports.com.au/esibba/default.asp>

Congratulations to all twenty players competed in this year's NBBC Singles Championships. The Men's final was won by **George** Liondas from David Grundy and **Lilac** Kamiya won the Women's final from Robyn McClelland. Both George & Lilac went on to compete in the ESIBBA Champion of Champions. George lost his semifinal in a tight fought match against Jim Corcoran from Ringwood RSL. Jim went on to win the final. Lilac progressed to the Women's final and had a narrow loss to Janet Barnes from Ashburton BC.

Our NBBC players **Anne** Williams, **Lilac** Kamiya, **David** Grundy, & **Doug** & **Robyn** McClelland were members of the 26-player combined South-East team at the Annual Indoor Tournament at Ballarat on the June long weekend. It was another enjoyable weekend and our team finished 6th with the event being won by Heytesbury with Ballarat closely behind in second place.

The above players were also chosen to play in Annual Gil Pegg competition against South Group on Friday 3rd July at Keysborough Bowls Club. ESIBBA were runners up this year handing the trophy back to South Group.



Finally, we congratulate Lilac Kamiya for being chosen to play in the Victorian team at the Nationals to be held at Blacktown NSW in late August.

Good Bowling to All!

Robyn McClelland
Indoor Bowls Co-Ordinator & Vice-President ESIBBA