

The NBBC eNewsletter

No. 184 June 2026

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

Patrick Culshaw has written a series of articles for the newsletter on club personalities finishing with one on Eric and Helen McGee in the November 2025 edition, but Patrick has decided to retire from that role. If any budding biographer might be interested in taking over producing those articles, please contact me.

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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President's Report

Hello Members,

Welcome to NBBC 2026-2027

- Our AGM was held on 16th May 2026 with 76 members in attendance and 30 apologies received. Thank you to all who attended and those who lodged postal votes for showing their interest in the management of our club. Thanks to Colin Cust, Terry Staunton, and Juanita Monahan who managed the election process and to Sue Stephens and her team for providing refreshments.
- We welcome back to our NBBC Board Bruce Hexter (Bowls Director) and newcomers Max Baker (Vice-President) and Dimi Hoppe (Secretary).

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NBBC Board Members 2026-2027

President	Robyn McClelland
Vice-President	Max Baker
Secretary	Dimi Hoppe
Treasurer	Alex Sawyer
Bowls Director	Bruce Hexter
Bridge Director	Patrick Monahan
Facilities Director	Michael Potter
Social Director	Sue Stephens
Membership Director	Yvonne Wheeler

- Our Facilities Director Michael Potter is overseas until the 31st July, and we are pleased to advise that Peter O'Brien has kindly offered to manage our facilities in Michael's absence.
- The Board met on Tuesday 26th May to plan the calendar of events and key dates for the coming season.
- Following on from an agenda item at the AGM an EOI regarding the formation of three new committees has now been sent to members. Please consider becoming involved.
- As several members may be aware we have been experiencing considerable electrical issues recently with heating units, sensor lights, and in particular non-operational carpark lights. Evex Services electricians have been hard at work this week identifying the faults and getting our lighting operational again.
- During this past year NBBC has successfully introduced two new initiatives, Pickleball and Mahjong, expanding opportunities for recreation and connection across all age groups. As a result, NBBC has nominated for the Boroondara Sports Awards in the Innovative Club of the Year category. Thanks to Peter O'Brien for his tireless efforts in managing Pickleball and to Anne Williams for her leadership of the Mahjong group. Award winners will be announced at a Presentation evening at the Hawthorn Arts Centre in August.

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- We are pleased to advise that our clubrooms have been identified as a suitable candidate by the Boroondara Council for the installation of Solar Panels. If our site is deemed appropriate for solar installation, it may be included as part of their upcoming works programme, with installations commencing between August 2026 and April 2027. We will advise members as soon as Council confirmation is received.
- While still on council matters, on 28th May several Board members met with two team members from the Operations Team, Sports and Recreation of Boroondara Council to discuss the renewal of our lease. We had the opportunity to clarify a few points, and we look forward to signing our new 5-year lease before the end of the financial year.
- We have been fortunate with the mild utumn weather to enjoy all our outdoor activities. Pickleball has been well attended across all sessions, while the revamped Social Bowls programs on Tuesday mornings and Saturday afternoons have also been well supported. My thanks once again to Mike Johnson, George Liondas, and their teams for their excellent organisation and the players' ongoing support.
- Finally, I am pleased to advise that we now have a Club Archivist. Peter Lansdell has previous experience having reviewed his own family history and is happily volunteering his time to the slow process of sorting through our club memorabilia that has been hiding away and accumulating in our Boardroom over the past 78 years. He will digitise relevant photos and documents that can then be put on the club televisions at suitable times keeping our club history alive and more accessible to members.

Peter found this snippet written by President Bob Buckland from the February 1956 NBBC Newsletter introduction:

“WHAT'S DOING!!

WELL, YOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HAS CONCEIVED AND BROUGHT FORTH THIS NEWSLETTER TO DEEPEN AND EXTEND THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AMONGST ALL MEMBERS OF OUR CLUB, WHICH SPIRIT AND HAPPY RELATIONSHIP HAS OFTEN BEEN COMMENDED BY OUR VISITORS.

OUR FAMILY ATMOSPHERE HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY SO MANY HUSBANDS AND THEIR WIVES BEING MEMBERS, BY THE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF OUR BOWLING COMPETITIONS AND MATCHES, AND BY THE MANY AND OFTEN UNSEEN WILLING SUPPORTERS OF THE CLUB.

HAVE YOU EVER ASKED YOURSELF WHY OUR CLUB IS SO, AND WHY IT HAS PROGRESSED SO WELL IN THE SHORT PERIOD OF ITS EXISTENCE? COULD IT NOT BE BECAUSE SO MANY MEMBERS ARE ANXIOUS AND WILLING TO DO SO MUCH IN THEIR OWN SPHERE TOWARDS THE CLUB WELFARE RATHER THAN THEIR OWN PERSONAL BENEFIT? COULD IT NOT ALSO BE WE HAVE COME TO KNOW EACH OTHER MORE PERSONALLY AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHERS' POINT OF VIEW BETTER?

WE COMMEND TO YOU THE MEDIUM OF THIS NEWSLETTER TO FURTHER EXTEND THESE HAPPY CONDITIONS, LEARNING MORE OF EACH OTHER'S DOINGS AND MORE OF WHAT IS BEING DONE BEHIND THE SCENES TO ENSURE THESE HAPPY CONDITIONS AND PROGRESS ARE MAINTAINED AND THE SPIRIT OF GOODWILL AND GOOD FELLOWSHIP INCREASED IN THE LIFE OF OUR CLUB.”

A different world 70 years ago...but still the same in many ways.

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I look forward to a successful and enjoyable year both on and off the green.

Best regards to all.
Robyn McClelland
President

Volunteers Needed

The meetings for the Auburn Probus Club are scheduled at NBBC on the first Monday of each month between February and November (no January or December meetings.)

In our MOU we are responsible for the room set up on the Sunday afternoon prior to the scheduled meetings.

This task is too much for one person to manage. The room is set in a meeting format with approximately 90-100 chairs (see photo on main noticeboard).

Gary Jackson would very much appreciate assistance from two or three able-bodied members to help him particularly for the July meeting as he is returning from holidays late on that day.

PLEASE CALL GARY ON 0418 578 863 IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST.

Thank you
Robyn McClelland

Health & Safety

BEING PREPARED FOR THE FLU SEASON

1. Wash and dry your hands

Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water is one of the best ways to reduce your risk. If you are in a public place and touch a surface, avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth without washing your hands first. An alcohol-based sanitiser is always good if you don't have access to soap and water.

2. Keep your distance

During the COVID-19 times we were regularly warned about keeping our distance from one another. The same advice applies to reduce the risk of catching the flu (or passing it on before you realise, you're contagious). Consider wearing a mask in high-risk areas such as public transport or health facilities to reduce your risk.

3. Stay home when you're unwell

If you have flu-like symptoms, stay home and try to keep space from one another to reduce the chance of passing it on.

4. Clean shared spaces

Clean and disinfect surfaces such as benches, doorknobs and door handles, tables, fridge doors and toilets regularly. Use antiviral disinfectants because they will kill viruses on common surfaces. Check the label to make sure you've got the right disinfectant.

5. Don't share germs (or personal items where they like to live)

During cold and flu season, take extra care to avoid spreading viruses. Don't share drinks, cutlery, glasses or hand and bathroom towels.

Cough into your elbow or a tissue (that you immediately toss out) rather than your hand.



"The Catch of the Day is the chef's cold."

6. Vaccinations

Don't forget to keep up to date with your flu and COVID vaccinations, and the RSV vaccine is now available free for over 75s. See <https://www.health.gov.au/winter-vaccinations>

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Membership Report



Since our April newsletter, we've welcomed the following new members:

Bridge – Louise Bearham, Jennifer Danks, Geva Murano, Amreek Singh & Sally Stockley.

Bowling – Alfred Ong, a social member since 2015 is now trying his skills on the green.

Social/Gardening – Pam Gunnell (Plot 5) Michael Ji (Plots 4 & 10)

Membership Category	
Full Bowling Members	134
2 Full bowling applications currently waiting to be accepted by the board.	
Dual Bowling Members	1
Intermediate Bowling Members	2
Life Members Bowling	7
Life Members Social	5
Social Members - This figure includes members who participate in one or more activity e.g. Bridge, Pickleball, Indoor Bowls, Mahjong & Garden	232
Total as at 1-6-2027	381

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Bowls Director's Report

The bowls committee had its first meeting on Monday 25th May with a long Agenda. Members of the Committee are Bruce Hexter, Craig Stephens, Mike Johnson, Deb Petty, Betty Collins, Sam Wenn, Peter O'Brien, Kevin OConnor, Stephen Clarke, Mike Ellsmore.

I would firstly like to say thank-you to the committee members for their diligence and commitment to work with a common goal to make our club better.

Topics covered:

- It was decided we will not go down the outside coaching direction and coaches will be aligned with the Saturday and Tuesday Pennant sides. Two coaches to each Saturday side for smaller group coaching sessions.
- Tuesday bowls will continue under the guidance of George Liondas.
- Saturdays are being led by Michael Johnson assisted by Adeline Roberts & Roger Yates with new initiative's & formats
- Wednesday Night Bowls is a work in progress with the goal to start in October/November. At our next meeting we will establish a committee to organise and run the programme.
- There will be an information session; the first one will target new and newish bowlers covering Etiquette & Rules of the game; date to be confirmed.
- There will be other information sessions throughout the year.
- Club Championships will be reviewed especially to align with the new criteria set by Bowls Victoria.
- We are in discussion with a guest speaker for season launch night. Watch this space for the date not to be missed.
- Selection committee applicants will be called for in the next month. Think about whether you would like to put your hand up for a challenging and very rewarding experience, especially if we can get some teams into the finals.
- Boroondara Cup the selection criteria will be announced prior to the event.
- Harold Brennan Day. The date will be more fluid this year to try and get maximum numbers. Again, watch this space.
- Pennant practice will go back to Thursdays 4.30 to 5.30.
- We again will be encouraging social bowls on Friday afternoons. Stay for a drink and enjoy fellowship with your fellow bowlers.
- We will be introducing a Scholarship Programme with High Schools in the immediate area then potentially expand to under twenty-fives.
- There are other ideas TBC.

Thanks. Bruce Hexter



Club singles champions for 2025-26 at Presentation Day.

Fair Play or Foul?

Slippery Scenario Solutions

Refer below for questions to test your knowledge of Bowls Rules for both Pennant and Club Championship matches. In my experience, a lot of these scenarios happen often.

Rules reference is World Bowls Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark 4th Edition Revised May 2023 and Bowls Victoria Lawman Columns.

Questions:

Scenario A:

A player delivers the jack, and the mat has been placed on the wrong line. No bowl has been delivered.

Scenario B:

A player delivers the jack, and the mat has been placed on the wrong line and centred on that line. A bowl has then been delivered by the same player from on the wrong line.

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Scenario C:

The first bowl has been delivered and the skip of the opposing team wishes to challenge whether the jack is a legal delivery.

Scenario D:

A player thinks the mat is slippery and dangerous and turns the mat over to deliver their bowl.

Scenario E:

A player thinks the mat is slippery and dangerous and decides to place their bowling rag on top of the mat and then delivers the jack and their bowl.

Scenario F:

During the first end of a match the end is declared dead. What should happen?

Scenario G:

The skip of a team removes the mat as they believed it was their last bowl.

Answers:

Scenario A:

The mat must be moved to the centreline – as per Law 6.2.3. The end then continues and there is no penalty.

Scenario B:

Law 6.2.3 always applies, that is, if the mat at any stage of a game is off the centre line, it must be moved to that line. The mat must always be on the centre line. Law 9.7 also applies. That is, after a player has delivered their first bowl, no-one has the right to challenge the legality of the original position of the jack. Therefore, the mat must be centred on the along the centre line, but the jack must be left in its original position.

Scenario C:

Law 9.7 again applies such that after the first player has delivered their first bowl no-one has the right to challenge the legality of the position of the jack.

Scenario D:

Law 6.2.6 allows a player during adverse weather conditions to lift the mat and turn it over before delivering their bowl. This player must replace it in its original position.

Scenario E:

There is no law which states this cannot occur and in line with the introduction to the Laws this should be permitted (page 8, The Laws of the Sport of Bowls, 4th Edition). This action would not be providing an unfair advantage and common sense suggests it would be permitted. Such an action should not be seen as contradictory to Law 34, Objects on the Green.

Scenario F:

Law 20.2 states any dead end must be replayed in the same direction unless the skips agree to play it in the opposite direction. It does not matter if it's the first end of play, the same law applies.

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Scenario G:

Law 6.2.4 states that if a player picks up the mat before the end is completed, an opposing player must replace the mat in its original position.

Terence Staunton Umpire

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	<p>Back to sleep exert a uniqueness in the world of bedding and mobility products - a specialised showroom in the heart of Balwyn, staffed by a friendly team whose only focus is helping you to sleep better, live better®, now, and into the future.</p>

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.

By advertising in the April newsletter, Bev Williams was able to sell a set of bowls to another member.

Wanted to Buy

Bowls measure. Contact David Crawford, 0427 388 823.

Set of bowls, size 0 or 00. Dreamline XG or similar. Contact Leonie Hickie, 0417 144 627.

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For Sale

Set of bowls, Taylor SRV, size 3. Good condition; with bag if required. Price \$250.
Contact Phil D'Paul, 0408 466 147.








Bowls shoes. Brand new Henselite bowls shoes, UK size 8, retail price \$130, for \$70.
Contact Phil D'Paul, 0408 466 147.



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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!

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	Regan Motors Regan Motors has been selling and servicing new and used vehicles in Balwyn and the surrounding areas for over 70 years.

Bowling Myths and Maths

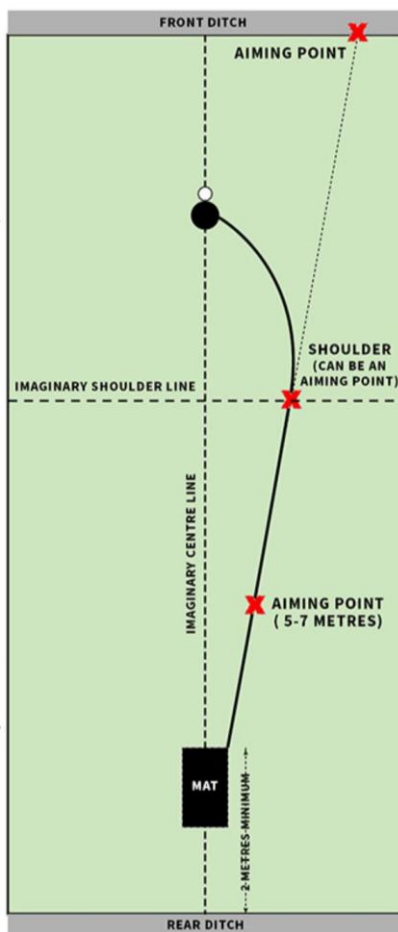
The Shoulder as Aiming Point Fallacy

Some people, including some coaches and some good bowlers, advocate a technique for getting one's delivery line by bowling to the shoulder of the bowl's path. (Typically, the shoulder is about two thirds of the way down the green from mat to target.) Some go on to say that using the real shoulder as an aiming point cannot work and that the bowler has to use an imaginary shoulder outside the real shoulder but others seem to be referring to the real shoulder. I remember a visiting coach years ago and also one the club's top bowlers of years past who advocated this. They could not be persuaded that bowling to the [real] shoulder couldn't work. David Bryant, the great English bowler of the 1960s

and 1970s, in his book Bryant on Bowls, says “there is only one place to look when delivering a bowl and that is the shoulder of the arc”. He doesn’t explicitly say that the shoulder is the aiming point but that seems to be implied if that is what you are looking at.

Using the shoulder as an aiming point cannot give the correct delivery line. Contrary to what is shown in some published diagrams, the bowl does not travel in a straight line to the shoulder and then start to curve. A bowl delivered smoothly on its running surface starts curving right from the start of its path. The curve is less earlier in its path because the bowl is travelling faster and the force of its forward momentum outweighs the force of the bias pulling the bowl inside its line. The curve becomes greater as the bowl slows and the force of the bias becomes relatively more significant. The shoulder is the point at which the bowl is furthest away from the centre line but by then it has already curved well away from the delivery line. If your first bowl is right on the jack and you deliver your next bowl along a line to the shoulder of the path of your first bowl, then the second bowl will finish narrow. Bowlers who successfully use the shoulder as a reference point must actually be delivering their bowls along a delivery line angled outside the line to the shoulder.

Tony Ralston



This **misleading diagram** is an example of what can be found online. It shows the bowl’s path being straight to the shoulder and only starting to turn after the shoulder is reached. Hence it **wrongly claims** that the shoulder can be an aiming point.

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Social Director's Report

The Social committee for the new season welcomes Sue Baker assisting Bev Brown as provedore as Cheryl Amos has stepped down while settling in her new abode. As a committee we are working with the board to finalise dates for future events.

Save the Date for the club Christmas Dinner on Friday the 11th of December. There will be more information when we finalise arrangements with Spitting Image Catering. The Bridge end of year, Christmas function will be on Thursday 17th December at the conclusion of social bridge.

While Winter Bowls continues, occasional BBQ's will be held. With the return of Friday twilight social bowls light refreshment will be provided at the end of play to bowlers, pickleball players and guests.

Raffles, thanks to the generosity of our members and sponsors, will be held monthly. The proceeds help with our social events.

The Board is working with the Boroondara council on improvements to the club, including the kitchen area. Meanwhile, we offer our facilities to various clubs in the area and thank members for their support and participation with these activities.

Looking forward to a successful social and inclusive season.

Sue Stephens
Social Director

Craft Group

Thank you **Ekko Mitchell** for opening her house to us for our April Craft session. I think there was very little craft achieved but there was certainly plenty of chatter and lots of food to share. For Anna and me, it was a very relaxing morning and we thank Ekko most sincerely for hosting us. Craft is not all about what we make but about the friendships we make along the way.

For our May session Anna led most of the group in making a card from scraps of card and paper as shown in the photos above, whilst the rest of us took to knitting and finishing off some UFO'S (Unfinished Objects).

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Next session is the King's Birthday holiday however Anna and I said we will come and everyone can bring their own project (if they have one) and a small plate of food to share and we will celebrate the King's Birthday. At the time of writing, July's project hasn't been decided, however, I think we might be doing decoupage.

LOIS STAUNTON

Pickleball at NBBC

Pickleball is still progressing, however the weather has affected several nights, when we have had to cancel and refund those who registered. Having said that, winter is a perfect time to play, there is rarely any wind and after a warmup game, it's "play on"

The numbers therefore are down a bit and we need to find a method of advertising our club's variety of activities, particularly to other local community. The Board is aware of this and has recently sent a broadcast email to all members seeking social media experience to help us develop this avenue. I have sought help from the two local universities for students who might be interested in this pursuit, however, with no response. Perhaps members have family contacts who might be interested in earning some extra money.

Two important actions include the embedding of "OpenSport" into our club's booking system, whereby one book through us and find a platform with details of all sessions monthly. The other is to arrange for the court lines to be remarked, and when that occurs the courts will be moved closer to the western boundary to enable another two courts (North-south) to be created when volume increases.



Bridge Wildcards



NO-TRUMP SUPPORT RAISES are an alternative to the “standard” suit-support structure (Limit Raises).

Standard raises such as $1\heartsuit-2\heartsuit$, $1\heartsuit-3\heartsuit$, or $1\heartsuit-4\heartsuit$ are simple and natural, but they can be blunt tools. They often fail to distinguish between different point ranges or distributions, and they provide limited room for slam exploration or competitive bidding.

Modern systems use artificial No-Trump (NT) raises to describe responder’s hand with far greater precision. These bids show support for opener’s major suit (and, except for the 2-Major response, are alertable). Here is a comparison of the two structures, after partner opens $1\clubsuit$:

Responder’s Hand Type	Standard Raise	NT Support Raise
a) 6-9 points, 3+ spades	$2\spadesuit$	$2\spadesuit$
b) 10-12 points, 3+ spades	$3\spadesuit$	2NT
c) 13-15 points, 3+ spades	$4\spadesuit$	$3\spadesuit$
d) 16+ points, 3+ spades	$4\spadesuit$	3NT
e) 0-5 points, 5+ spades	$4\spadesuit$	$4\spadesuit$

The raise in (e) is the classic “**weak-freak**”, a hand with 5+ trumps and very few points. With a 10-card fit, the *Law of Total Tricks* (popularised by Marty Bergen) suggests jumping straight to game to make life difficult for the opponents.

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Why NT Raises Are So Useful

The biggest gain is in category (b): 10–12 points with 3-card support → 2NT
This bid invites game while keeping the auction low. It gives opener room to describe their hand more accurately:

- **3♠** = *minimum hand, sign-off*. Opener has no interest in game even if responder is at the very top of their range. Responder must pass.
- **4♠** = *maximum hand, sign-off*. Opener believes game is safe opposite 10–12 support points, but slam is not possible. Responder must pass.
- **A new minor** = *game invitation*, showing extra values and location of opener's side suit
- **3NT** (in some partnerships) = a maximum hand with strong controls

This structure allows both partners to judge game or slam prospects far more effectively than standard raises.

What We Lose (and How We Replace It)

Using NT raises means giving up the old natural NT responses:

- **2NT** = 10–12 balanced
- **3NT** = 13+ balanced

These hands are still easy to show. Responder simply bids a new suit first (forcing), then clarifies with NT on the next round. For example:

- 1♠ – 2♦
- Opener rebids
- Responder now bids NT to show a balanced hand in the old 2NT/3NT ranges

This keeps the system consistent without sacrificing descriptive power.

Interference Changes Everything

If an opponent overcalls after the 1-major opening, NT support raises are, by partnership agreement, no longer used. We revert to standard suit raises because:

- Interference reduces bidding space
- Slam becomes unlikely
- Natural raises are more practical in competition

This keeps the partnership on firm ground when the auction becomes crowded.

Other NT Support Systems

Jacoby 2NT

- Response of **2NT** to a 1-major opening
- Shows **4+ card support** and **game-forcing values (13+ points)**

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- Keeps the auction low for slam exploration
- Opener shows shortness or strength patterns to help responder evaluate slam chances
- The most widely played support-raise convention



Jordan (Truscott) 2NT

- Used **only when the opponent doubles** a 1-major opening
- **2NT shows 4+ card support and limit-raise values (10–12 points)**
- Frees **redouble** for hands with strength but *no fit*
- Makes **1M–3M** available as a weak preemptive raise

Takeaway

NT Support Raises give the partnership more accuracy, more bidding space, and better slam-investigation tools than standard raises - a simple upgrade with a big payoff.

Happy bridging,
Morry Freedman ♥

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 <p>REGAN ESTABLISHED 1948</p>	<p>Regan Motors Regan Motors has been selling and servicing new and used vehicles in Balwyn and the surrounding areas for over 70 years.</p>

Garden Plots

Hi fellow plotters

It's great to see some of the vacant plots taken up so a big welcome to our new friends Pam and Ken on plot 5 and Michael on plot 10.

Here we are in late autumn and it has given us the opportunity to do some last-minute plot cleaning up and planting of seeds/seedlings. (I prefer seedlings as they get a 3-4 week start over seeds and you can usually find some cheap punnets if you shop around.) The soil is still a tad warmish and with the

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expected rain it should help get the veggies off to a flying start. The early rain has helped give us a bit more greenery and lushness around.



I have been waiting for the cooler weather and rain to arrive so I can now empty out my compost bin where the worms have been munching away at the veggie scraps turning them into a rich dark soil filled with plant loving nutrients. The veggie seedlings will love this! If you are a composter (is that a word?) don't forget to add some worms to your bin (you can hunt around for some if any of your friends have worm farms or buy them). They are sure quick in turning the scraps into soil. And don't forget to keep the compost a bit damp and not let it dry out. Remember compost doesn't like citrus, onions etc and, if you put eggshells in, rinse out any leftover egg white or yolk to reduce the chance of odours and stop pests from being attracted to your compost.

At the minute I have spinach, silver beet and loads of parsley (which also helps keep the weeds down). Others you could try include the following but there are stacks more:

- Spinach --easy to grow
- Silver beet-- easy
- Radish -- easy from seeds and then space out
- Lettuce
- Coriander
- Leeks
- Celery

and don't forget to top up your plot with compost and manure.

Good luck and good harvesting.

Chris

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

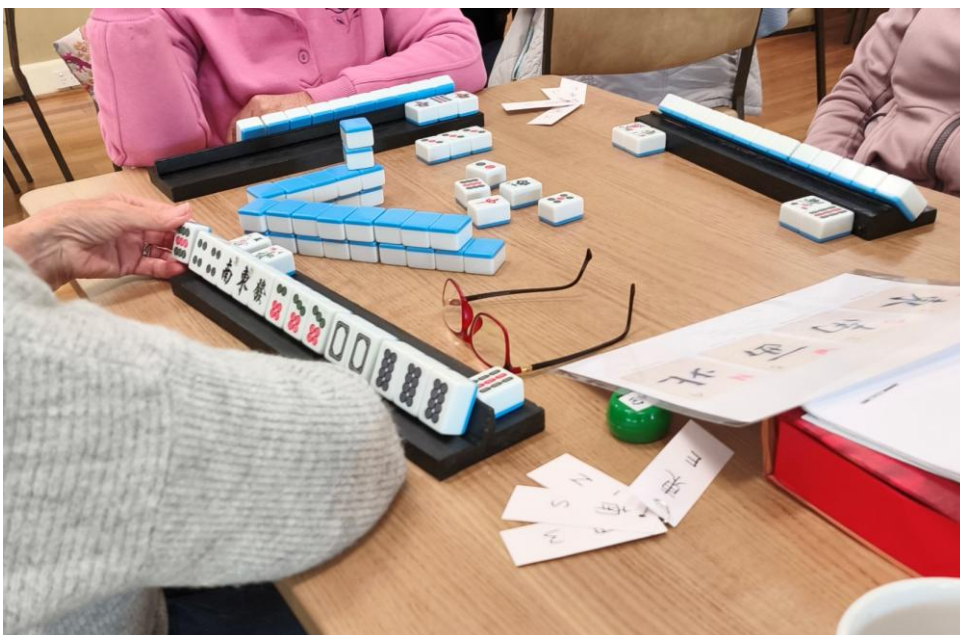
Don't forget that Meat in a Box offers a 15% discount to NBBC members.

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Mahjong

No report from the organisers this month but here are some photos taken by our roving photographer, Man Ng. Contact Anne Williams to find out about the next scheduled session.



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Indoor Bowls

I would firstly like to thank **Barry Stillman & David Grundy** for managing the player selection for our four teams each week this season.

Our Indoor Pennant season is now up to Round 6 with mixed success to date.
The Pennant ladder is here [ESIBBA Home Page](#).

We are happy to welcome back **Julie Antonino** to our Friday Social Bowls sessions as well as **Anne Walker** who is more often seen at the Bridge tables. Weekly attendances have been between 20-24 players. We have a lot of fun while working hard to improve our game.

The ESIBBA Championship events are well underway with the Singles being finalised. NBBC player **Lilac Kamiya** progressed to the semifinals but was defeated by **Pauline Bradley** from Blackburn RSL. The event winner was **Jodie Jones** from Blackburn RSL. In the Men's event **David Grundy** had a strong opponent in **Jim Corcoran** from Ringwood RSL and lost his first-round match. The event was won by **Rodney Jones** from Blackburn RSL.

The Men's & Ladies Triples were played on 28th at Blackburn RSL. Our team of **Phil D'Paul, Barry Stillman and David Grundy** lost their first-round match and our ladies' team of **Lilac Kamiya, Sandi Fitzpatrick and Sue Cust** lost the final to **Gail Loidl, Fiona McNamara and Margaret Poile** from Heatherdale played on 29th May at NBBC.

The Men's Final was won by the Blackburn RSL team. Our NBBC member **George Liondas** who initially attended as a spectator was a late inclusion for the opposition team from Ringwood RSL who had a player become unavailable at the last minute. Thanks George.

Upcoming Indoor events include the Annual Indoor Tournament at Ballarat on the June long weekend. **Anne Williams, Lilac Kamiya, David Grundy, and Doug and Robyn McClelland** are members of the 26-player combined South-East team.

Another bowling opportunity will be the Annual Gil Pegg competition between ESIBBA and South Group being held on Friday 3rd July at Keysborough Bowls Club. ESIBBA will be trying hard to retain this trophy.

Good bowling to all!

Robyn McClelland
Indoor Co-Ordinator
Vice-President ESIBB



Farewell Yarrawonga?

Annual Yarrawonga Easter Tournament Sojourn – Reflections and Good Bye?

For the past 15 years, except for the COVID lockdown in 2020, North Balwyn Bowls Club has entered teams into the Yarrawonga Easter Bowls Tournament. This year we had a smaller troupe of 13 bowlers and 8 non-bowling partners make the trip. We were blessed with lovely weather, petrol stations with YY enough petrol to get us there and back, and an absence of mossies (Japanese encephalitis had been the subject of a health alert for towns along the Murray!).

Even with a smaller contingent this year, we still had some success with Mike Johnson, Robyn Fowler and Cheryl Amos winning 3rd prize in the Open 2 bowl triples (only missing out on 1st prize by 6 shots over the entire day) and another of our teams picking up best game in the same competition.



However, the trip has always been mostly about having fun, enjoying the company of each other and friends made from other clubs, and of course, happy hour drinks after the game in the motel car park and dinner out at various venues in Yarrawonga.

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The original group that went to Yarrawonga in 2012 comprised only 14 – Eric and Helen McGee, Bob and Moira Beresford, Ian and Kay Speed, Peter and Marilyn Harker, Steve, Jerome and Noelene Coles, Brett Hanley and Mike and Ingrid Johnson – 11 bowlers and 3 non-playing partners. Sadly, many of these great people are no longer with us.



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We peaked in 2021 with 39 making the trip - 31 bowlers and 8 non-bowling partners. Bridge was often played at night after the evening meal. At that point, NBBC was the lifeline for the Yarrowonga Bowls Club, as they were going through a hard time attracting teams and we kept them afloat. Things have now changed, and the event is booked out months before the competition closes, and in recognition of the role we had played in keeping the tournament alive, Yarrowonga Bowls Club always reserves places for us and gives us priority.

Unfortunately, after 15 years, it is increasingly hard to attract our members to the event. Many attending this year were ex members who have played before and their friends. Our non-playing partners are finding it very difficult to find anything to do in Yarrowonga over Easter that they have not seen before, and the greens are very challenging for our bowlers. As a result, it is highly unlikely that we will make the trip back again. Instead, we will look at participating in the Echuca bowls tournament held over nine days in the first week of May each year – Sue Casey used to organise a group to go to this event many years ago. More on this early next year – but pencil it in your calendars!

Mike Johnson

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