



The Magpie



Women's Singles Championship
2025/2026



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vote. Under the Associations Incorporation Act there are processes we must follow, and your support is important.

If you have any questions about next season’s pennants or club bowls please ask someone who can give you accurate information. We know there are changes happening, and it can be unsettling, but please talk to us.

Finally, your club is in urgent need of more Umpires, Markers and Measurers. Our dedicated officials are ageing, and with increasing age comes various health issues. We all know the mind is often willing, but the body protests. You can do the Markers and Measurers training and not the Umpires qualifications if that makes the decision easier. Measuring is by far the most requested task during competition bowls. If you have a steady hand and can get up and down on the green, you can be a Measurer! The club pays for the training, but we do ask that you make yourself available throughout the season, (on a roster), to officiate. The more trained people we have, the better. While on the subject of umpires, it is an open book test, and it really is not that difficult to pass. Please think seriously about it and speak to one of our umpires if you need more information.

This is my penultimate Magpie President’s Report - one more to go then I will have lots of free time!

Angela Loran – President



Grounds Report

Greetings, Club Members and others. The Ground Crew are doing what they do best, maintaining the grounds. The Ground Crew submitted a report on the grass greens A and C to the Executive Committee. Please take the time to read it. It is very important and concerns all

Warwick members. It was sent out with the minutes of the February Executive meeting and a reprint is included in this Magpie for your perusal.

Cheers - Peter Coffey – Greens Chair



A factory worker died today after falling into a vat of coffee. Police say that although it came as a shock to all who knew him, they may take some relief from the fact he didn’t suffer.

It was instant.

Discussion Paper Warwick Bowling Club Grass Greens:

Objective:

To inform discussion and decision making in relation to the future of grass greens at the club.

Background:

This document was prepared by Peter Coffey in early January 2026. The Subject was:

Grounds Committee Review A Green:

The Grounds Committee suggests the following, after a 6-month review of A green.

“A” Green is not responding to all our efforts, watering, fertilising, spraying, mowing, deep coring, top dressing so therefore we suggest we do not spend any more time or money to get it up to pennant stage. Our advice is to just water and mow it and put it out of play for good. The reason we believe it is not responding to our efforts is due to

- Severe wet winter weather;
- Lack of nutrients in the soil, deep down which stems from the original soil base on which it was laid:
- A history of Nematodes outbreaks has not helped its recovery:
- The Disease Summer Decline

Greens Committee Suggested Solution:

Keep “A” green, neat and tidy.

Hopefully, lights will be installed, after which time we install a Synthetic turf surface & reticulation system. Subject to finance.

The new synthetic to be installed should be cheaper than the recent B green surface if the following is implemented:

- Installed in an East – West direction to save on off-cut wastage: (B green was installed diagonally, resulting in lots of waste)
- No drainage is required.

This would mean the club has 3 synthetic greens, under lights.

These greens will require less maintenance, which will reduce costs and be easier for the ageing volunteers to take care of.

C Green – The Grounds Committee suggests we keep C green in play for as long as possible, hopefully until the end of June, which is the end of the agreement with Osborne Park Bowling Club. After that, we take C Green out of play for good. Just keep it neat and tidy.

Overview – Two grass greens are very expensive to prepare and maintain due to rising costs eg water, fertilisers, chemicals, soil management, machinery repairs and replacement and wages. The general upkeep costs of operating a club continue to rise, putting pressure on the club’s bottom line. It is better to take these steps NOW rather than later.

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Women's Captain's Report

The Women's Pairs championship concluded with new pairs' champions, Jill Martin and Angela Loran, and plate winners Jules Matheson and Wendy Rees. A hard fought competition - well done to all entrants.

At time of writing, the singles are under way but should be completed by time of publication – head to our website to see who came out on top. It is truly a prestigious honour to hold that title.

The Women's Novice championship is also set to get underway soon. Scheduled along with the Men on evening of Friday 13 March, so get along down to the club for a meal and drinks and support our new members. Hopefully Friday 13th doesn't scare them off!

Pennant season will be finishing soon and who knows where we will end up in our divisions, but hopefully everyone has enjoyed their games. A season ender on Tuesday 10 March has been organised by the selection team – a time for a few drinks and nibbles and reflecting on the season.

And it's gearing up to be a busy busy time. We are hosting some of Men's Country week competitions, which always means lots of preparation and work. Lots of hearty men to feed and water over four days of competition. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help out.

Our own tribute to Gloria Cook, gone but not forgotten, will be on Wednesday 25 March with a morning game of triples and some jollity afterwards.

Following on immediately, we are hosting the Women's Inter Region Round Robin on Saturday and Sunday 27/28 March. This is a big event and 14 of our women have applied to represent the Northern Region. Good luck to those selected.

As hosts we will be providing morning tea and brown bag lunches (sandwiches and rolls ordered on the day). On the Sunday we have a special afternoon tea to prepare for over 100 persons as the presentations take place. It's lots of planning and preparation and once again, thanks to all volunteers – we could not do this kind of thing without you.

Liz McIlhone - Women's Captain



Men's Captain's Report

What an incredibly busy couple of months we've been through. Country week was certainly an eye opener from the organisational point of view, I don't think a lot of the members realise the incredible work by a dedicated team of volunteers.

From the executive fighting for allocations of games against all the other clubs trying to do the same thing, the ground staff who prepared 2 magnificent playing surfaces over the 5 days, the feeding of the players led by Liz McIlhone and her team. I cannot thank Liz enough for her help. Ted Stiles with his team looked after the Nominated Triples lunch. And to all the other volunteers that turned up early in the morning to lay out the mats, put up flags and assist where required.

The Mens Nominated Triples ended up with 22 teams and aside from a stuff up of my doing where I had to stand down a Warwick team for a Yanchep team that I had missed registering everyone seemed to have a great day. Congratulations to the winners of S. Perica, M. Shemeld and J. Titheradge from the Manning club. Warwick teams brought up 2nd, 3rd & 4th places.

The Men's Singles would have started by the time of publication and from a slow start of only 12 players on the closing day to 27 on the revised closing day we can now have at least a decent competition. Results will be posted in the next report.

The end of the Pennant season is upon us, and I'd like to thank the Selectors for their onerous job of keeping 132 players relatively happy through the season. How they do it is beyond me, but without them we don't play.

Congratulations to all the teams that got through to promotions and playoffs and next year is going to be very interesting.

Paul Burn – Men's Captain.

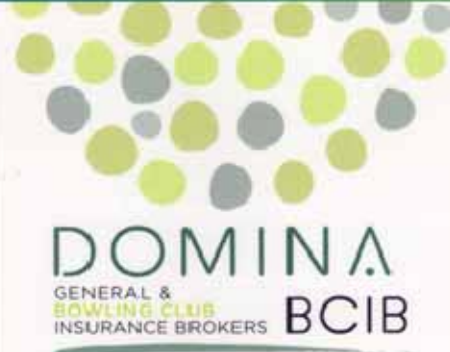


One man was sitting under a tree reading a book. The other man was writing in a notebook. The lion quickly pounced in the man reading the book and devoured him. Even the king of the jungle knows that reader's digest and writers cramp.

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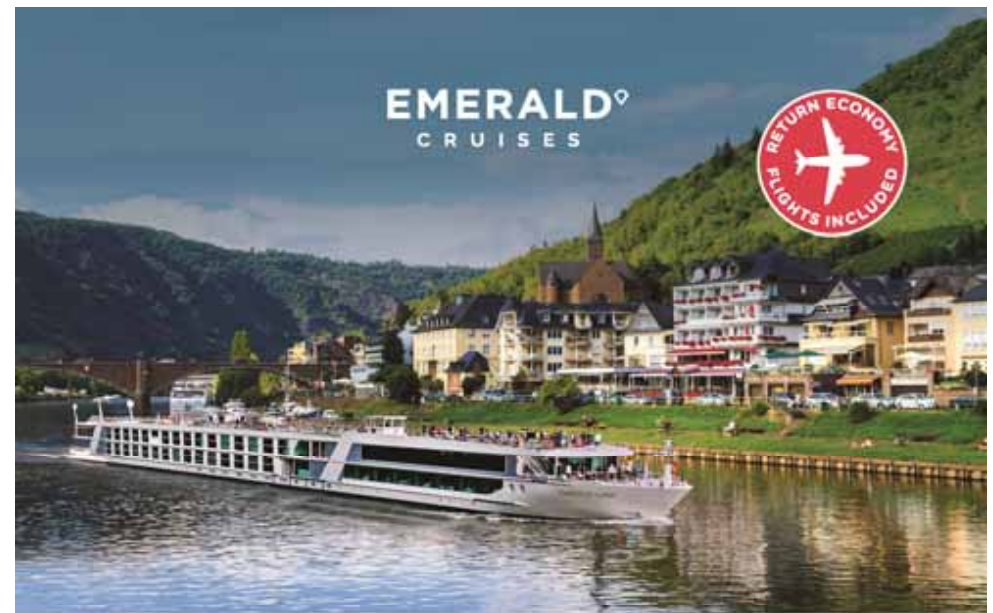
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Umpires Staff

I normally have a set of questions and answers for the Umpire’s article but umpiring, like much of the Club, is desperate for volunteers to fill vacated positions. In the past we have had plenty of umpires, and we have been the envy of many clubs but umpires, like all others, get old and this together with illness and injury have caused retirements.

Currently we have eight active umpires and two markers. By the end of the 2026/2027 Season I anticipate that between 30% and 50% of our umpires and markers will have retired.

Being an umpire is not hard. To become an umpire you attend a 1 night a week course for 3 weeks. In that time you are taught how to use the law book to find the relevant laws for the situation you are asked to adjudicate. You are also made familiar with items that umpires may use. At the end of the course you sit a practical and written exam.

The practical exam is short and very simple. You may be asked to decide the shot bowl with 2 or 3 bowls in the measure or determine whether a bowl or jack is out of bounds.

The written exam is also simple. You will be asked to answer a number of questions. A sample of the questions asked can be found in previous editions of the Magpie. (All those questions were taken from Bowls WA Umpires examination sheets.) It is an “Open Book” exam which means you have the Law Book to use to help answer the questions.

Once you pass you are an umpire. You only work during the season, umpiring Pennants matches, Championship events, Country Week events or any other events the Club may host. Ninety percent of the time you are only required to measure, and where you are asked to make a ruling on the law you have the right to check the Law Book and consult with other umpires before making a decision.

Sometimes you are busy, sometimes nothing happens – it is a bit of a raffle that way, but it is a necessary position, and someone must do it.

So I ask you please, if you are physically able, consider becoming an umpire. It has its rewards, and you will be helping the club.

Richard Booker - Head Umpire.

Championship Finalists Major for 2025/2026



Women’s Pairs Championship

Champions:
Angela Loran and Jill Martin

Runner-Ups:
Jan Ridley and Jenny Duthoor



Men’s Pairs Championship

Champions:
Dean Herbert and Sean Wright

Runner-Ups:
Bill Shand and Max Chapman



Men’s Fours Championship

Champions: Bernie McNamara,
Heath Berryman, Sean Wright, Troy McNeill

Runner-Ups: Ian Davies,
Ray Loran, Clive Boyle, Geoff Hinge

Championship Finalists Plate for 2025/2026



Women's Pairs Championship

Plate Winners:
Jules Matheson and Wendy Rees

Plate Runner-Ups:
Kath Fenning and Stephanie Boyle



Men's Pairs Championship

Plate Winners:
Andrew Dixon and Gary Chappell

Plate Runner-Ups:
Mark Curtin and Paul Burn



Men's Fours Championship

Plate Winners: Andrew Dixon,
Dean Herbert, Declan Wilson, Gary Chappell

Plate Runner-Ups: Stew Fraser,
Paul Burn, Keith Willett, Steve Hurley

**Community Bowls/Jack Attack/
Scroungers Report**



The Jan 2026 comp has just finished with the coveted Lawn Bowl on a plinth award going to Koolanoff. Well done boys. It's amazes me that some of these teams have been with this competition for over 10 years and every season the teams are pretty much locked in for the next one. We have one team not sure for October and 2 teams hanging in there to get in.

I think the longevity is due to the great volunteers who give up their Wednesday nights and provide a great atmosphere for people to come and relax and also be in a competitive environment.

With the end of the Comm Bowls the club launched a new competition over the 4 Wednesday nights in March called Jack Attack. We picked up 14 teams from the Comm bowlers and 12 teams from Warwick bowlers. They are competing in their own groups, and the winners of each group pick up a weekly prize and a monetary prize at the end.

Everyone had a great night, and it is something that we will look at running through the year.

The Scrounger number are growing each Friday night, and the weather is at its best

This is a fun night and every social member and above can play. We have picked up a couple of new players and Liz who has only been with us for 3 weeks won against some stiff competition. We have also converted some new bowlers to become associates, so they can play in our social season.

This is a great way to get involved with bowls as we don't take it seriously, at least until the rink winners get into the finals then all bets are off.

Scroungers runs every Friday night through the year unless it's raining.

Paul Burn – Coordinator for Community Bowls, Jack Attack and Scroungers – 0415 631 509

BOWLS EXCUSES

"Brought the wrong shoes"

"Someone moved"

"Bowls are sticky"

"Opposition is putting me off"



"Trousers too tight"

"Bumped my hand on the floor"

"Forgot my glasses"

"I've got a bad shoulder"

"I've hurt my back"



"The grudge match."

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Women's Selection Report

We are always saying that time seems to be going fast and that is definitely true for this Pennant season.

Presently we have one more game to play on Tuesday. At the moment 1 White is placed seventh and must finish 8th or higher to avoid relegation.

The players have worked extremely hard and have adapted to team changes due to injury and illness. We will keep our fingers crossed.

Division 1 Green North is placed 10th and will face relegation. Unfortunately, not all things have gone to plan, however, the calibre of the playing group will ensure they bounce back next season.

Division 2 Blue is currently placed 6th on the ladder and cannot afford to slip below 7th. The players are also working hard to hold their division, and the last game may be the decider.

Division 2 Green was promoted from Division 3 last season and unfortunately, the players have had difficulty finding their feet. With the new structure for next season, we will be competing in Division 3.

Our Saturday ladies have two games left to play. They are currently holding third position and if they can remain in the top four, they will participate in finals. Again, we will keep our fingers crossed.

If you take out the team in teamwork, it's just work.

Now who wants that?

Matthew Woodring Stover (American Novelist)

Nola Appleby – Chair Women's Selection



A blind guy walks into a bar and sits down. After a while he starts chatting to the bartender, and says: "I've got the funniest joke about Collingwood supporters."

The bartender says: "I'll stop you there mate, obviously you can't see, but I'm a semi-pro kick-boxer, just doing bar work until I get a few more wins under my belt. The bloke sitting next to you, he's a mate of mine from kick-boxing, and the two bouncers by the door, who are within earshot, they are both powerlifters and karate black belts. Now all four of us barrack for the Pies. With that in mind, do you really want to tell your joke?"

The blind guy thinks about it for a second, then says: "No, no way. Not if I'm going to have to explain it four times."



Men's Selection Report

By the time you read this the season will be over. At the beginning of the season it was obvious that we would not have enough players to field all our divisional allocations. It was therefore necessary to withdraw a team from Thursday pennants. As the season progressed it came to the stage that we were finding it difficult to find players to field our teams. To highlight this issue, on Thursday 26th February 26 bowlers were unavailable and on Saturday 21st February 30 bowlers were unavailable. Future selectors may have to consider how many divisions the Club can sustain.

The issue was caused by the usual factors i.e. ill health and injury (we are all getting older), holidays and players withdrawing their services due to selection dissatisfaction.

As you should all be aware, next season will see a restructuring of pennant bowls. A 14-game season is on the cards, and it is planned that there will be a longer break during December/January. The Match Committees will no doubt look at this to see what games can be scheduled over this break.

Where teams finish on the ladder this year will determine what divisions we will be allocated for next season. At the time of writing this, there is one game remaining and it is becoming likely that we will not have a 2nd Division on Saturdays. At this stage it appears we will have a proliferation of 3rd Division sides on both days. Some divisions are still looking at promotion, depending on results.

To those players who have made themselves available all season, thank you and thanks to those who have come in at late notice to fill vacancies.

Enjoy your off season, rest up and come back ready for next season.

Jeff Sheppard – Chair Men's Selection




ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

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Coach's Corner: 7 Common Lawn Bowls Delivery Mistakes (and How to Fix Them) - continued

2. Bouncing or "Thudding" Deliveries

If your bowl hits the green with a loud thud and stops short, you're likely releasing too high or too early in your forward motion. The bowl loses momentum and struggles to hold its intended path.

The Fix:

Focus on *lowering your point of release*. Imagine you're "rolling" the bowl onto the grass rather than throwing it forward. Practise slow, rhythmic roll-ups to short targets, concentrating on a gentle, brushing contact with the turf. Gradually increase distance while maintaining that smooth action. Bowlers training on quicker greens should pay special attention to this - excessive bounce can magnify inconsistencies.

3. Stepping Off-Line

One of the most common but least-recognised issues is stepping across your line. Many bowlers unintentionally step toward the jack instead of along their aiming line, dragging the body and arm off target. The result? Bowls consistently finishing narrow or wide.

The Fix:

Lay down two narrow tape lines from the mat directly along your target path. Practise stepping and delivering along this lane to reinforce muscle memory. Keep your **front big toe pointed toward your aiming point** and ensure your shoulders follow that same direction. A useful cue: imagine your step is the "rail" and your arm is the "train" running smoothly along it.

Video yourself from behind — most bowlers are shocked to see how much their step drifts when they thought they were straight.

(to be continued)

From "The Bowls Academy Blog" -
<https://www.thebowlsacademy.com/blog>



Personality Profile – A J (John) Weaver

I was born in England in 1943 during the 2nd World War. I spent my childhood, schooling and youth in Farnborough (home of the Air Show) Hampshire. I left school at the age of 15, then completed a 3-year agricultural apprenticeship. In 1961 I decided to leave England and migrated to Western Australia as a 10 quid Pom arriving at Fremantle on the SS 'Orion' in October with a few pounds in my pocket. 'That was the best 10 quid I have ever spent, I just loved the lifestyle and the people in the bush'.

I soon found work as a farm hand on a property at Borden, which is South of Gnowangerup and on the edge of the Stirling Range National Park. I was immediately recruited for the local cricket team as it was considered that being a 'Pom' I must have played the game in England, nothing could be further from the truth, however, I quickly learnt some skills and was more than a handy spin bowler and perfected a 'flipper' on the malthoid wickets. I also joined the Gnowangerup Football Club, learnt to "drop kick and hand ball" and played as a ruck/rover.

Deciding I wanted to see more of the State I moved to Geraldton in 1963 and worked on a Crayfishing boat for an Abrolhos Island Season. Whilst in Geraldton I played football with the Brigades Football Club. At the finish of the Island Season, I drove up to Port Hedland, 'The road was all gravel after crossing the Gascoyne River bridge'. I took a job on Warralong Station, which was halfway between Port Hedland and Marble Bar, as a 'Jackaroo'. Warralong Station was larger in area than the County of Hampshire, but with only a handful of people living on the Station. Windmill runs, either on a motor bike or 4-wheel drive, and mustering sheep on horseback were all part of my daily routine.

I moved back to the Gnowangerup area in 1966 where he met a Nurse (Margaret) at the local Hospital and in February 1967 we were married. We have two Adult Daughters, Ann-Marie and Helen and four grandchildren.

In March 1969 I joined the W A Police Force and after completing my three-month training at the New Police Academy at Maylands I was stationed at Perth Central and the Fremantle Wharfs. In 1971 I transferred to Moora. It was during his time at Moora that I was

introduced to 'Lawn Bowls'. 'I was asked if I could cut the bowling greens on a Thursday morning for Lady's Pennants' I then had a few roll ups.

We moved to Perenjori late 1974, and I soon made a few visits to the Bowling Club. I was given Margaret's Grand Fathers bowls, a set of Dunlop's. It was whilst I was station at Perenjori, I would travel up to Morawa to assist the local Police. It was here that I met Reg and Margaret Wilson who had the local bakery. 'Now Reg told the story that on one occasion in Morawa I had to arrest him, but I can neither confirm nor deny this to protect the innocent'.

In September 1978 I was transferred to Narembeen where I continued to play bowls. In January 1982 we moved back to our first home in Girrawheen. I then joined the Wanneroo Bowling Club and regularly played Pennants on Saturdays until 1997 when Shift Work prevented me from continuing playing bowls. At this time the Warwick Bowling Club did not exist.

We moved to a new home in Hamersley in 1984 where we stayed until 2013 when we moved into a new home in Balga with less garden to look after.

Between 1982 and 1993 I was attached to the Police Prosecuting Branch at the Central Law Courts. During this I travelled all over the state.

From 1993 to 1998 I was the Officer in Charge of the Morley Police Station, and from 1998 to September 2003 when I retired from the Police after 34 and a half years of service to the community. I also served on the Police Union Council for over twelve years and was the founding Chairman for Police Legacy, and office I held for ten years. I was awarded Life Membership for both the Police Union and Police Legacy for services to both organisations.

Following my retirement and wanting to again play bowls I called into Warwick Bowling Club, liked what I saw, completed an application form and joined, again linking up with Reg and Margaret Wilson. I was thrilled to be a member of a Fourth Division side, which won a Pennant for Warwick Bowling Club the following season.

While attending the Club Annual General Meeting in 2006 I 'volunteered' to take over as Secretary from Margaret Wilson who was about to take off on an overseas holiday. I could not let the Club down by leaving the position vacant, the Club is greater than the individual.

With the Club elections to be held soon I urge ALL members to consider nominating for positions within the Club. 'Our Club is only as strong as our members want it to be, so please bring along your own expertise and ideas to make our Club stronger. Division creates disunity, unity creates Strength.

UPCOMING EVENTS

13, 20 Mar	Men's & Women's Novice Championship
15, 22 Mar	Men's Singles Championship
16-18 Mar	Women's Pennant Finals
19, 26 Mar	Men's Midweek Pennant Finals
21/22 Mar	Open Gender Saturday Pennant Finals/Play Offs
25 Mar	Gloria Cook Drawn Triples
15 Apr	BCiB Drawn Fours
25 Apr	Diggers Trophy Mixed Drawn
29 Apr	Women's Closing Day
3 May	Closing Day
24 May	Annual General Meeting (AGM)



Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.



Finally:

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

John F. Kennedy 35th US President



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