DONVALE BOWLS CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

Held in the Clubrooms on Sunday 8 June 2025 at 04.00pm

Attendees and Apologies (Attachments B & C)

Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks (Attachment A)

Presentations made to Anna Brady and Michael Meehan to thank them for their contribution.

(1) Confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 19 June 2024 (On website)

Proposed that these minutes be accepted

Moved: Ken Eldridge Seconded: Anna Brady

Passed unanimously

(2) Presentations:

The second item on our agenda tonight is the presentation of the **Keith Rochow Trophy for Best Club Person**.

This trophy was generously donated by the Doncaster East Cricket Club following the passing of **Keith Rochow**, a highly respected life member of both our club and theirs. Each year, the recipient is chosen by the Management Committee based on service and contributions to the club that go well beyond what's reasonably expected of a volunteer.

This year, it is my absolute pleasure to announce that the award is being presented **jointly**—to a **power couple who aren't actually a couple**…

Jan Meehan and **Wally Cerato**.

Jan has been a quiet but constant force behind so many of the things we take for granted at the club. Her contributions stretch back over 11 years. She's the driving force behind our club website—successfully transitioning it from an outdated system to a new platform she taught herself to use. She also produces our Members' Handbook—again, migrating it to new software and making it work seamlessly. Jan's the creative mind behind much of the artwork and flyers for our events and raffles. She volunteers at functions, helps behind the scenes, and supports our members in countless quiet ways. She truly embodies the spirit of service.

And then there's **Wally**… who you probably wouldn't call a *quiet* achiever—but certainly a prolific one! If there's been a club project or facility upgrade in recent times, Wally's fingerprints are all over it. He's been a great support to Mal in managing works and dealing with Council. Whether it's fixing a leak in the dishwasher, sourcing CCTV quotes, rolling the grass green, or stepping in as a selector, Wally's done it—and probably enjoyed it too. A hard-working, good-humoured and endlessly helpful member of our team.

Jan and Wally – thank you. You're both incredibly deserving recipients of the Keith Rochow Trophy, and we're lucky to have you.

10 Years of service awards:

John Cobain, Helen Milner, Gerry Kearney, Keith Perry, Malcolm McGuinness, Virginia McGuiness, Kim Hemburrow, Jan Meehan, Michael Meehan, Anna Brady, Gary Brady, Jan Shield, Mal Shield

20 Years of service awards:

Barbara Drew, Gerhard Blum, Jan Vickerman

30 Years of service awards:

Lindsay Ridgwell

Presentation of Life Memberships:

The Management Committee has not made recommendations on Life Membership since 2017. This year, I am very pleased to advise we are recommending three members be granted Life Membership – Barbara Drew, Daryl Drew, and Graeme Morrison.

This will involve a vote of members, requiring at least 75% of members attending to agree. Before we take each vote, Ian spoke in support of the motions.

Barbara Drew:

- Joined in 2004 = 21 years
- Treasurer NPB&SES 2011 to 2017 = 6 years
- A tremendous support to the club to help with the transition from separate ladies and men's sections to a combined men and ladies Pennant Section and a separate Social section.
- Awarded Best Club Person 2016/17.
- For a great many years Barb has managed, and is still running, the Trading Table– initially with the much-missed club character Norma Juchno. The Trading Table sales have contributed many thousands of dollars to the club's finances.
- A true club-person.

Ian moved the motion that Barbara Drew be awarded Life Membership.
Seconded: Debbie Goldfinch Passed

Daryl Drew: (Making up another one of our power couples).

- Joined 2006 = 19 years
- Has maintained the club's lawns and managed the lawn mower crew for an incredible 19 years, including looking after the many lawnmowers and other equipment and fuel supplies, putting the bins out, and many related tasks.
- He has made many items for the club, including a weather station, bookshelves, and table decorations (to hold balloons).
- Daryl is also one of our true club members, volunteering to help, attending functions and events, supporting the club in many areas, as a well-liked skip in Pennant, and quietly doing it all without ever seeking any recognition.

Ian moved the motion that Daryl Drew be awarded Life Membership.
Seconded: Barry Wilkins Passed

Graeme Morrison:

- Joined 2011 = 14 years
- Has been preparing and maintaining the club's garden beds for most of those 14 years. Many of our visitors comment on how good our gardens and lawns look, thanks to volunteers like Graeme and Daryl.
- He is such a good gardener, that I see recently he is attempting to grow beer bottles in the garden bed outside the back door.
- For many years, Graeme has supplied a variety of plants (often large and exotic), various fruits, and other gifts for raffle prizes or for sale – all to help raise funds for the club.
- He shared revenue with the club from sales of his book, "The Stairway To Me".
- He has sung and entertained us at many club events, with his wonderful Baritone voice.
- Another example of a true club person, who loves our club.

Ian moved the motion that Graeme Morrison be awarded Life Membership.
Seconded: Barry Ferguson Passed

'8' awards : Brian Dunn, Ken Heppel, Joe Bellizia, Lyn Breadmore

Geoff Smith, Jeff Grant, Ian Heap, Kevin McMaster

Jurgen Schnabl, Jeff Neagle, Julie Wilkins, David Blyth

(3) Consider and adopt the Committee of Management (INC) 's Report:

All the reports are combined into one annual return, which has been on the website for a couple of weeks. It is only 30 pages, so I hope everyone has read it all.

Ian asked that the meeting adopt the Committee of Management Report (part of the full Annual Report).

Moved: Anna Brady Seconded: John Cobain Passed

(4) Consider and adopt the Treasurer's Report and Annual Financial Report.

At this point a question was raised about the interest rates on the club's term deposits and why the club did not open accounts with higher rates. Frank explained that the club is treated as a business and as such the rates on offer for personal accounts are not available.

There was also a question about what the dome will look like. Ian explained that we won't get drawings until the quotes come in however there are plans for approximately a 3 metre overhang on all sides, possibly curtains on some sides to keep out the weather and the path would be realigned. He also explained that Mal Shield was permitted to be on the council consultation panel although he would not have a vote, he could have input.

Ian asked that the meeting adopt the Treasurer's Report (part of the full Annual Report).

Moved: Frank Smit Seconded: Wally Cerato Passed

(5) Consider the annual reports of the Pennant Bowls and Championship Section and the Non-Pennant and Social Events Sections.

The Chairman proposed that the meeting adopt the reports of the Pennant Bowls and Championship Section and the Non-Pennant and Social Events Section.

Moved: John Goldfinch Seconded: Barbara Drew Passed

6) Election of office bearers for 2025/26 as follows -

Committee of Management (INC):

Current group A positions (not up for election) are:

> Chairman – Ian Bramstedt, Vice Chairman – Mal Shield, Greens Director – Gary Brady, Assistant Secretary – Debbie Goldfinch, Ordinary Committee Member – Peter Corr

Nominations received for Group B positions are:

- Vice Chairman – Barry Ferguson
- Secretary – Debbie Goldfinch
- Treasurer – Frank Smith
- One ordinary Committee member – David Blyth

As there were less nominations than positions, there was no need for elections, and those candidates were declared elected.

With Debbie Goldfinch being elected as Secretary, there was now a vacancy for Assistant Secretary. Ian was pleased to say we had a nomination for that position – Robert Stephenson, so without any objection, Robert was declared elected.

Pennant Bowls and Championship Section:

Nominations received for:

- President – Ken Eldridge
- Secretary - Jill Simpson
- Treasurer - Keith Williams
- Assistant Secretary - Pat O'Meara

There were no nominations for the Vice President and the two positions of ordinary committee members.

As there were less nominations than positions, there was no need for elections, and those candidates were declared elected.

Pennant Selection Committee Members:

There are five (5) positions available, and the following nominations were received:

- Wally Cerato
- Brian Dunn
- John Goldfinch
- Michael Meehan
- Helen Milner

As there was exactly the right number of nominations for positions available, there was no need for elections, and those candidates were declared elected.

Championship Match Committee Members:

Nominations received for:

- Ken Eldridge
- Elizabeth Bill
- Robyn Ham

As there were only three nominations for the four positions, there was no need for elections and those candidates were declared elected.

Non-Pennant Bowls and Social Events Committee:

Nominations received for:

- President – John Chandler
- Vice President – David Blyth
- Secretary – Robert Stephenson
- Treasurer – Kim Hemburrow
- Welfare Officer – Kay Chandler
- Catering Manager – Jan Shield
- Assistant Secretary – Ray Heller
- Committee members – Adrian Town, Gillian Town, Katie Taubert, Pat Ryan, Pat Taylor, Virginia McGuinness

As there was only one nomination for each of the Officer roles there was no need for elections and those candidates were declared elected.

(7) Appointment of auditor:

Refer to the Treasurers report. There were two motions.

- That the Club at this AGM ratifies the action taken by the Management Committee in appointing Quality Financial Solutions as its Auditor for the 2024/25 financial year.

  Moved: Barry Ferguson Seconded: Ken Eldridge Passed

- That the Club appoints Quality Financial Solutions as its Auditor for the 2025/26 financial year.

  Moved by: Frank Smit Seconded: John Blake Passed

(8) Special Resolution For Changes To The Constitution

This was for an amendment to membership classes to remove non-affiliated members and add social bowls members

No one any queries on this change which was explained in the notice.

In 2023 the Club introduced a new class of membership for not affiliated bowlers. This membership provided greater choice and flexibility for all members, especially newer bowlers. The club saved in affiliation fees and savings were passed on in lower Social (non-affiliated) membership fees. Bowls Victoria recently clarified definitions and introduced a limited range of participation types to be allocated to each membership, resulting in affiliation fees being charged for virtually all memberships, except for non-players. The Management Committee recommends removing our non-affiliated memberships and introducing a Social Bowls Membership. This membership will offer all the rights and privileges of a Full Membership, except for participation in Pennant, Club Championships, or representing the Club in regional, Bowls Victoria, or Bowls Australia events. To help attract and retain new members it is proposed to continue offering this membership at a lower fee compared to Full memberships.

Ian moved a Special Resolution to change the constitution as per the notice:

Add a new rule as follows:

3. (3) (a (ii) Social Bowls members

Delete the following rule:

3. (3) (a) (ix) Non-Affiliated members of all classes of member (where applicable)

Amend rule 3. (3) (d) to be as follows:

Social Bowls members shall have the right to vote and hold office in the Club and enjoy all the rights and privileges of membership, except are not entitled to participate in Pennant, Club Championships, or represent the Club in regional, Bowls Victoria, or Bowls Australia events as determined by the Committee from time to time.

Amend rule 3. (3) (e) as follows:

Any person who, in the Committee's opinion, has rendered exceptional service to the Club may, on the recommendation of not less than four-fifths of the Committee members, be elected a LIFE MEMBER on receiving the votes of at least three-quarters of the members present and entitled to vote at a General Meeting. A Life Member shall have all the rights and privileges of a Full Member, or at their choice a Non-Affiliated Full Member, including the right to vote and hold office and shall not be required to pay any annual subscriptions, but otherwise shall be subject to all other financial obligations.

Moved: Ian Bramstedt Seconded: Wally Cerato Passed

(9) Advise Annual Subscriptions and Joining Fee for the year 2025/26:

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FEES
The Management Committee advised the following fees for the 2025/26 membership year. Note that all amounts include GST.

Full Membership: $210
Social Bowls Membership: $150
Junior Membership (under 21 years of age): nil
Associate Membership: $20
Dual Registration Membership (secondary club): $100
Joining Fee: nil

(10) Items of General Business for which written notice has been received:

None received.

(10) Questions from the floor?

It was suggested and generally agreed upon that Bruce Hallman's name be used when referencing the covered green/dome.

(11) Close of Meeting.

At…05.20 pm