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CONFERENCE**

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## Welcome

Welcome to the January edition of the Bowls NSW Newsletter.

In this edition, we're excited to announce the upcoming Bowls NSW Online Conference which will take place on Wednesday 28th February. Coming off the success of our Member Conference in November 2023, we're providing members with updates on everything happening within Bowls NSW as well as hearing from key members of the bowls community. Registrations to the online conference are now open, so register your attendance today.

We're thrilled to announce the host venues for the upcoming BCIB Men's, Women's and Open State Pennant Finals. Pennants remains a pinnacle event in our calendar, and we look forward to working with our host venues in running the State Pennant Finals.

Entries into the State Junior Championships and the Multi-Disability State Championships are still open. Get your entry in before the closing date to secure your spot and your chance to compete for a State title.

## Des Skinner Awarded OAM



The late Des Skinner has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for his service to lawn bowls.

Des was an avid supporter of bowls at every level and devoted a large amount of his life to the promotion of the sport. Des served as President of Bowls Australia from 2012 – 2015, was a former RNSWBA Board Member and served in countless roles for many years within Newcastle District and Beresfield Bowling Club.

To be included in the Australia Day 2024 Honours List is a fitting

recognition for all that Des has done for the sport of lawn bowls.

Our congratulations also go to Kathleen Whiteley recognized for her service to community sports administration, particularly in Mounties Women's Lawn Bowls.

Arthur McCarroll and Gordon Gray were also honoured with an OAM for their service to the community through a range of organisations including Pitwatter Memorial Bowling Club for Arthur and Lake Cathie Bowling Club for Gordon.

# Join us for the Bowls NSW Online Conference

Bowls NSW is hosting an online Conference for members! The Conference will be held on Wednesday 28th February from 10am – 12pm and is an opportunity for members to hear from Bowls NSW as we provide an update across all areas of the organisation, as well as hearing from key members in the bowls community.

Included in the Online Conference will be presentations from

Bowls NSW President Dilys Kindleysides, Bowls NSW CEO Tim Rowe, Bowls Australia CEO Matthew Kennedy, ClubMap founder Terry Dillon, NSWCHS Bowls Convener Mick Devine and every Bowls NSW Committee Chair.

All content provided will be made available after the conference for members who cannot attend.

Register today to receive your Zoom link!

## **Bowls NSW Online Conference**

**Date: Wednesday 28 February**

**Time: 10 am to 12 pm**

**To register please click below**

**<https://bowlsnsw.jotform.com/240277759779073>**



***Bowls NSW President  
Dilys Kindleysides***



***Bowls NSW CEO  
Tim Rowe***



***Bowls Australia CEO  
Matthew Kennedy***



***ClubMap founder  
Terry Dillon***

## 2024-25 Season Calendar Released

Bowls NSW has released the 2024-25 season calendar. The calendar is available to view online on our Season Calendar page as a printable pdf document and as an editable excel document. The purpose of the editable excel document is to allow administrators to fill in the document with relevant event dates within their area.

Some points of note for the 2024-25 Season Calendar include:

The introduction of a Para Test Series for our KENO NSW Para Blues against Victoria. Additionally, a welcome

addition back to the event schedule is the Under 25s Men's & Women's Test series against Victoria.

Another new edition to the Calendar is the Inter-Region Sides Championship for Women. This event will run concurrently with the Men's event for the first time in the 2024-25 season.

Men's & Women's Pennant competitions will be now held in a different period of the season to the Open Pennant competition. Regions will be able to conduct these competitions without them

overlapping with each other.

The State Champion of Champions Singles & Pairs are now further apart in the calendar, meaning that dual qualifiers will have a longer time between their travel commitments to the State finals.

**To view the Bowls NSW  
2024-25 Season Calendar  
please go online to  
[bowlsnsw.com.au](https://bowlsnsw.com.au)**



# 2023-24 BCiB State Pennant Finals

## Venues Confirmed



### BCiB Men's & Women's State Pennant Finals 21st – 23rd May 2024

Bowls NSW is pleased to announce the host clubs for the 2023-24 BCiB Open, Men's and Women's State Pennant Finals. As our largest participation event, thousands of bowlers take to the greens for pennants and we look forward to seeing the qualified teams from across NSW converge on the following venues to compete in the State Finals. Event draws will be published on the Bowls NSW website shortly. The 2024 Platinum Pennant Finals host venue will be announced in the coming weeks.

Women's Pennant		Men's Pennant	
Division	Host Venue(s)	Division	Host Venue(s)
1	Charlestown & Lambton	1	Charlestown & Lambton
2	Soldiers Point	2	Cabramatta
3	Ballina	3	Belrose
4	Bateau Bay	4	Armidale City

### BCiB Open State Pennant Finals 28th – 30th June 2024

Grade	Host Venue(s)
1	Ettalong
2	South Tamworth & West Tamworth
3	Forster
4	Wiseman Park Wollongong City & Figtree Sports
5	Cabramatta & St Johns Park
6	Yamba
7	Merrylands & Guildford





# Junior Development Camp

Our Junior Gold Squad were put through their paces at the recent High Performance Camp held at Warilla.

The athletes heard some fantastic tips from Bowls Australia Selector & Assistant Coach Karen Murphy, former NSW representative Natalie Noronha, and Nutritionist Renee Kennedy.

Michael Wilks & Gavin Holburn from the Bowls NSW State Junior Committee were on hand to provide technique analysis, and match play drills to further hone the skills of these developing players.

Courtney Allouche, Bowls NSW Office manager, also attended as Team manager/ chaperone for the Junior girls Squad.





# State Junior Championships

## Entries Now Open



The Bowls NSW State Junior Championships have been revamped and will now feature seven categories across the event, which will be held at Warilla Bowling Club from 15-19 April. The singles discipline will now feature four separate categories – Boys U18 Singles, Girls U18 Singles, Boys U15 Singles and Girls U15 Singles.

The pairs discipline has been expanded to feature separate Boys and Girls categories, while the fours

discipline will remain an open event.

The Junior Championships is also now an entry based event, meaning any junior bowlers from across New South Wales can compete. Pairs and fours teams must consist of players from the same Zone. Players do not have to be from the same club. Players can also enter as 'single entries' into the pairs and fours events, and Bowls NSW will allocate players into teams where possible.

Entries into the State Junior Championships are now open and will close on Monday 26th February 2024.

Visit the State Junior Championships webpage for event information and entry portals.

See below the full event schedule for the 2023-24 State Junior Championships.

Monday 15 April	Tuesday 16 April	Wednesday 17 April	Thursday 18 April	Friday 19 April
Event	Event	Event	Event	Event
Boys Pairs Sectional Play	Boys U18 Singles Sectional Play	Fours Sectional Play	Post-Sectional Play – All Disciplines	Semi-Finals & Finals – All Disciplines
Girls Pairs Sectional Play	Girls U18 Singles Sectional Play	<b><i>**Further details will be provided on post-sectional rounds once entry numbers are confirmed.</i></b>		
	Boys U15 Singles Sectional Play			
	Girls U15 Singles Sectional Play			

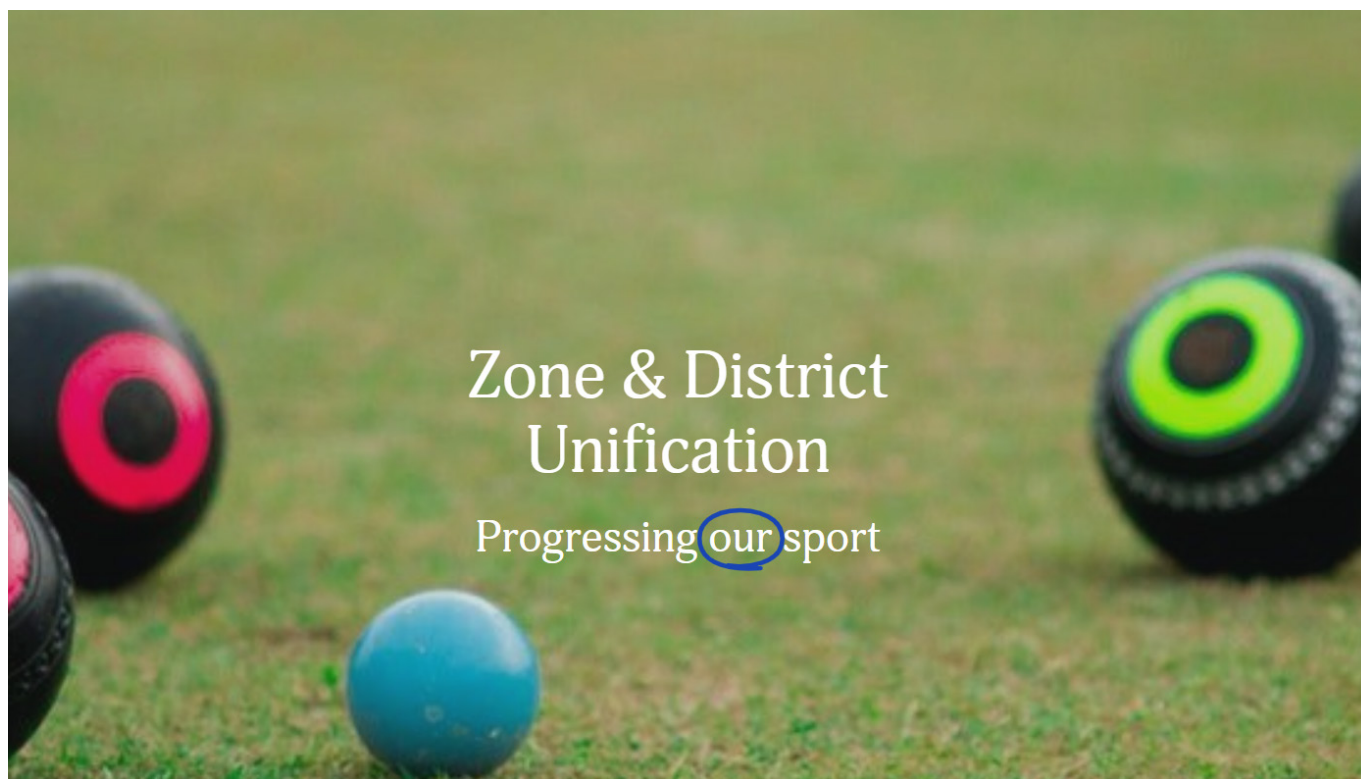
# Legal & Operational Checklist for Zones & Districts

Bowls NSW has sent out to Zone & District Secretaries a legal and operational checklist for establishing new Regional Bowling Associations. The checklist sets out the next steps that need to be taken by your Zone and District administrators in establishing the new Associations.

As there is a considerable amount of information to digest, a summarised checklist has also been included to help clearly outlined and simplify the process.

To view the legal and operational checklists in detail, visit our Zone & District Unification website.

<https://www.zonedistrictunification.com.au/news/legal-amp-operational-checklist-for-zones-amp-districts>

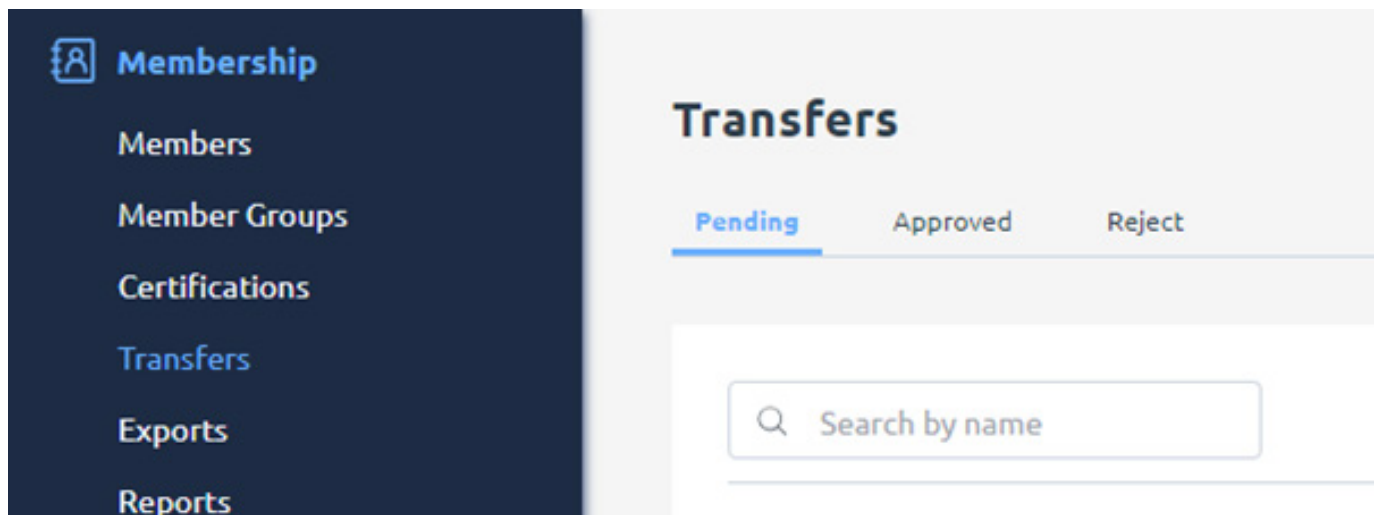




# BowlsLink with Benny

Welcome to the 2024 Pennants season! I know I live for pennants and it's the best time of the year for me. Of course, it is also the silly season with transfers coming thick and fast.

I'm sending out this brief note to all club administrators to have a look at your transfer list and approve or reject anyone leaving. We have a big list of players waiting for you to approve them and we don't want to have them miss out on a game because of this.



Any transferring players have to pay the transfer fee and we have quite a large list of players who we are waiting on to pay and get their transfer completed. To pay the transfer fee, click on this link below and fill out the form.

<https://bowlsnsw.jotform.com/form/231560994910056>

Make sure you get onto it quickly to ensure you get a game in pennants. As always, if you need a

hand please email us at: [bowlslink@bowlsnsw.com.au](mailto:bowlslink@bowlsnsw.com.au) and we're more than happy to help.

I've been out and about to start this year already visiting clubs, Districts and Zones and I've been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of members everywhere I go. Members are consistently improving their ability to utilise BowlsLink and understand the benefits it can provide.

A big thanks to Ann Richardson at North Ryde RSL Bowling Club and Michelle Robards from East Cessnock who booked me in for some great BowlsLink sessions.

My next big trip is to the North Coast. Their Match Committee have been working hard to book in venues and I'll update the membership when they're confirmed. It'll be a great trip and a brilliant opportunity to learn about the system we all use to manage our bowling. See you soon everyone.



# Andrew Lynn Celebrates 28 Years With Bowls NSW

It is humbling to reach the milestone of 28 years of working for lawn bowls in NSW.

A number of times people have said that I must have a great job, because I 'get to watch bowls.'

Such a statement often triggers the thought process that I have been fortunate to have the role that I do. Not because I "get to watch bowls", but because I get to live and breathe a sport that I have a passion for.

Those of us working on the events are usually the first to arrive (except of course for the greenkeepers, who often start insanely early) ensuring that everything is in place and set up ready for the day to get under way. And the day does not end with the final bowl coming to rest, there is always the task of ensuring that all results are correctly recorded, some preparation for the next day and a pack up.

I often joked that I didn't actually watch much bowls, maybe a lot of scoreboards and computer screens. In recent years, the screen has changed to the live-stream. The advance of technology in this sphere is amazing, where we are now broadcasting the action with ever improving quality.

In 1996, results from the major events were sent to clubs in a mail out, usually leaving the office on the Friday after the event and articles would appear in our magazine up to a month after. Nowadays, the action is live to your home and the results are almost instantly available. We have gone from all black with maybe the odd brown bowl here or there to a multitude of coloured and even multicoloured bowls. Colour has also exploded with our clothes. Colour had just started to come into our



attire in 1996, with most people still wearing creams- while today almost everyone plays in their coloured club uniforms. Even our footwear has changed, going from the dress shoe style to athletic footwear.

I've also been very lucky to have had some wonderful opportunities. It has been wonderful to take up the chance to become an International Technical Official, which has allowed me to umpire and mark at World Bowls events- including being given the honour to be the marker of the Final of two World Singles events.

I have also had the privilege to be a member of Bowls Australia's National Officiating Advisory Group.

It was a great experience to be a part of the team that coordinated the Sydney 2009 World Masters Games Lawn Bowls.

In recent years we have faced a time of incredible change and challenge, highlighted by the bringing together of the former Men's and Women's Association to form a single, united body to administer the sport in NSW and the disruption to not only our sport but our everyday lives by the

global pandemic. I am pleased to say that this has been faced head on and with overall positivity by all involved.

Despite all of these, the reason that I have a great job is because of the people that I get to work with.

Over the years there have been a number of members of staff who were not only great colleagues but great friends. While we have seen a few changes in recent years, I think the current staff team are all dedicated to doing their best and to doing the best for our great sport.

Our sport relies on an army of passionate volunteers and I have been fortunate to work with a number of these who all put in a mammoth effort to better our sport.

While I would love to mention many of the super people that I have had the pleasure of working with over the last 28 years, it would be too big of a task to narrow down the list to just a few.

I look forward to the chance to be involved in this great team that is Bowls NSW for at least a few more years!



# FROM THE FIELD TO THE FLOODS

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# 2024 NSW Indoor Qualifiers Confirmed



The 2024 Indoor Qualifiers have been completed with all twelve women's qualifying spots and nine men's qualifying spots confirmed for the 2024 Australian Indoor Championships to be played at Tweed Heads from 14-17 August.

Congratulations to the following players on making it through qualifying.

## Women's Qualifiers

Name	Club
Debra Johns	Soldiers Point
Kate Matthews	Raymond Terrace
Carolyn Glen	Kurri Kurri
Melanie L'Estrange	South Tamworth
Sherilee Stewart	West Tamworth
Kayla Courtin	Club Maitland City
Gail Page	Moruya
Erin Swatridge	St Johns Park
Brianna Smith	St Johns Park
Louise Cronan	Taren Point
Dawn Hayman	St Johns Park
Chanel Chakouch	St Johns Park

## Men's Qualifiers

Name	Club
Daniel Hill	Charlestown
Chris Ramage	Soldiers Point
Ben Twist	St Johns Park
Andrew Rees	Kurri Kurri
Joshua Ingram	Austral
Stephen Pell	Forster
Jeremy Henry	Warilla
Corey Wedlock	Warilla
Jack McShane	Merrylands

For more information please go online to [bowlsnsw.com.au](http://bowlsnsw.com.au)



# Multi-Disability State Championships Entries Open

Entries into the 2023-24 Multi-Disability State Championships at North Dubbo RSL Sporties are now open! We're thrilled to have the Multi-Disability State Championships form part of the broader Bowls NSW State Championships schedule for the first time when it is held from 12th – 16th March.

The 2023-24 Multi-Disability Championships will feature three events – the Open Singles, Reserve Singles and Open Pairs. Competitors can enter into the singles and pairs events, either as a team or a single

entry, through the Bowls NSW website. Included in the entry is a ticket to the annual Multi-Disability event dinner, which will be held on Wednesday 13th March at Club Dubbo. Additional tickets can be purchased by players.

## Classification

To compete in the Multi-Disability State Championships, competitors must be assessed by a medical classifier and technical classifier.

Any competitors that require classification can attend a classification session at Cabramatta Bowling Club on Tuesday 13th February. To register your interest in the session, fill out the form via the Bowls NSW website.

If you require any assistance with this process, call the Bowls NSW Head Office on 9283 4555.



# Spotlight on Coaches and Officials

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## Dave Marsh Club Coach Avoca Beach

Dave Marsh, affectionately known as Swampy, has gone above and beyond in his efforts to recruit new members for the Avoca Beach bowls community. Weekends find him at local supermarkets, tirelessly distributing pamphlets and promoting the sport on social media platforms like Facebook. His dedication to expanding the membership base showcases a proactive approach to community engagement.

Swampy's personality adds another dimension to his contributions. With an incredible sense of humour he brings joy and laughter to the club. This not only makes the sport more enjoyable but also creates a welcoming atmosphere for newcomers.

In addition to his coaching role, Swampy takes on the responsibility of organising Wednesday morning and Saturday morning bowls. This goes beyond the traditional duties of a coach, highlighting his commitment to creating structured and enjoyable experiences for the community.

Avoca Beach is indeed fortunate to have someone like Swampy, whose patience, humour, and multifaceted involvement contribute significantly to the vibrancy and unity of the local bowls scene.

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Do you know a local official or club coach who has selflessly volunteered their time to promoting bowls?  
We want to hear from you!

<https://bowlsnsw.jotform.com/233437192408861>

