

A BOWLS WA PUBLICATION



jackhi

Edition 135 • September 2024

**Australian
Open
Champs!**



'Butler serves it up...and Krissy breaks the drought!'



• BowlsWA Awards Night 2024 – p13-15 •



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Jack Hi Editorial

with **Clive ADAMS**



It's been a big few months as we celebrate some wonderful successes in this edition of Jack Hi.

We take a look at the wonderful display by Laura Butler, our Australian Open Women's Singles champion, as well as Kristina Krstic's effort to finally break her Australian Open title drought.

The Bowls WA Awards Night was another special night, hosted at the iconic Optus Stadium for the second successive year. The stadium lit up in the colours of our key partner Juniper was something to behold – in this edition, we re-live some of the great moments through the images captured on the night.

State event winners, remarkable pennant performances, a brand new Bowls WA Board and plenty more in this edition of Jack Hi.



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Submissions

Clubs are reminded that the copy deadline for the next issue is 23rd October 2024. Please email club articles to Clive Adams: clive@bowlswa.com.au



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Our Cover



• Laura Butler's and Kristina Krstic's success.

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All issues of Jack Hi are available from our website:
www.bowlswa.com.au

Appointment of New BowlsWA Board



Introduction to new BowlsWA Board

Under the requirements of the new Bowls WA Constitution, at the recent Bowls WA AGM, a new Board was elected to guide Bowls WA through the next period. All existing members were required to re-nominate, with six successful candidates appointed.

As per requirements, the three nominees receiving the highest number of votes would be granted two year terms on the Board, whilst the next three highest vote earners would be elected for a single year term.

Re-elected Bowls WA President Doug Kelly is excited about the new board commenting, "the newly elected Board are capable, enthusiastic and determined to take bowls forward as we address challenges and changes that lay ahead".

We take the time now to introduce each of them, and get to know them a little better...



Doug Kelly, President (2 year term)

Having held a position on the Bowls WA Board since 2019, Doug was elevated to the Presidency following the unfortunate passing of President Larry Bandy. Doug is an enthusiastic ambassador for Bowls WA, but more importantly for the sport of bowls.

Doug is always keen to visit clubs, often jumping on the green to join members for a social game or a game of scrungers (he sometimes even wins!), but brings with him a wealth of experience and knowledge of both metropolitan and country bowls.

A country boy at heart, Doug is a great example of the wonderful volunteers in our sport and is currently bowling at both Osborne Park and Meckering clubs.



Wendy Flack, Deputy President (1 year term)

Wendy had an exciting 2023/24 season as she was at the helm of one of our Nationals 2023 host clubs, Sorrento. The Club did an amazing job bringing together copious amounts of volunteers to execute what was a very successful event.

Another with a country background, Wendy has held many volunteer roles throughout the wheatbelt area (1985-2004), and further roles in the metro area since 2005.

Wendy has passion for inclusion and has a keen interest in encouraging more people to get involved in the sport of bowls.

Wendy was added to the Board as an observer initially before being elected at the recent AGM.



Vince del Prete, Board Member (1 year term)

Vince has been a valued member of the Board since 2014, being part of the Governance Committee, and the Chair of the Club and People Development Committee – a role he will continue in the current Board structure.

Vince's experience initially with the Department of Sport and Recreation (2008-2016) and now as CEO of Athletics West is a crucial cog in Bowls WA's operations. His knowledge of the sporting landscape in Western Australia, having worked with many different sports throughout his time, provides important guidance in areas such as human resources, governance and strategic planning just to name a few.

Vince is a keen member of the Bassendean Bowling Club.

Appointment of New BowlsWA Board



Lisa Featherby, Board Member (2 year term)

A champion bowler in her own right, Lisa has been a member of the Board, and Chairperson of the Finance, Audit, Investment and Risk Committee (and its variants) since 2015, making Lisa the longest serving elected member of the Board.

Another Board member with a country background, Lisa's knowledge and experience of the financial workings of the Association, as well as its investment portfolio, is of critical importance to the financial wellbeing of Bowls WA.

Lisa is passionate about growing the sport of bowls, attracting new people and engaging with the wonderful people already involved.

Lisa is a star on the green for her home club Mosman Park (and of course Dowerin), and can often be seen visiting clubs for events, be it looking for State titles, or enjoying a more social gala day atmosphere.



Phil Manning, Board Member (2 year term)

Unashamedly Country, Phil Manning brings plenty of bowls experience, both in a playing capacity and off the green, to the Bowls WA Board.

Hailing from Moora, Phil has played at both League and Zone level, and debuted for WA in 1985 alongside some of the games' greats in Robbie Ball, Graeme Wishart, Lindsay Thorn and Past President Larry Bandy.

Phil has a greenkeeping history, but was also President of his club for three years, and held a position on the Club Board for 18 years.

Phil brings a sincere, approachable mindset to the role. As he enters his second term on the Bowls WA Board, his enthusiasm is contagious.



Gail Richardson, Board Member (1 year term)

Gail stepped up, and was appointed to the Board, following the 2023 Bowls WA AGM, when a call was put out for additional Board members. Hailing from Adelaide, South Australia, Gail's financial background having run her own business in the fashion industry has been a welcome addition.

Adding to her business background, Gail has also been successful in the sporting arena, in the world of Dragon Boat Racing. Gail travelled to Hungary in 2013 to represent Australia in the Auroras Dragon Boat campaign.

Having relocated to Perth in March 2021, once WA would let people in again, Gail now calls WA home and is a wonderful member of the Bowls WA Board, and the Yokine Bowling Club.

The Bowls WA Board is driven by the Bowls Constitution, By Laws and Strategic Plans as published on the Bowls website at www.bowlswa.com.au. Bowls WA has recently refreshed the front page of the website, making items easier to find, with a fresh, more modern approach. Bigger buttons, and a special area for highlighting items of key interest are key additions as well as highlighting the National Integrity Framework policies that are crucial to the sport's governance. ,





AGM reveals successful year for BowlsWA

The July **Annual General Meeting** formally concluded a successful year for the Association, with a strong financial outcome, excellent on-green performances by a number of individuals and teams and an exciting new project in the pipeline.

Off the Green the solid surplus and continued growth of the Association's investment portfolio continues to provide current and future financial stability. Albeit assisted by a home nationals and the deferment of club development support, expenses remain under control with a strong book of supportive sponsors, continued patronage of events and one of the lowest affiliation: total income ratios in the country; important when affiliated membership continues a gradual decline.

The Association also enjoys terrific financial support from the state government via **DLGSC** both directly and indirectly through **CSRFF** and **CNL** grants to clubs. It is through these grants that clubs are able to improve critical infrastructure that often falls out of the financial reach of the club through its own means.

2024 will present greater financial challenges with the Nationals scheduled for the Gold Coast before a return to a home series in 2026. In addition, the Association moves to a more usual July/June financial year which will see a significant deficit given the initial 14-month financial year and the additional two months of expenses with very little winter income generated.

On Green there have been some special performances which will be hard to match.

WA's Reward for hard work

Our ladies Laura Butler and Kristina Krstic had wonderful seasons both locally and in national competition.

Much is written elsewhere in relation to these performances and certainly will be hard to replicate going forward.

Our representative sides were also rewarded following a winter of hard work and given the efforts currently underway, similar performances will be anticipated this October at the Gold Coast/Tweed Heads Nationals.

There is no doubt there is significant across the board improvement in WA's performances both individually and at team level in the various national competitions.

It's almost hard to remember that only three short years ago, the sport was put on indefinite hold due to COVID!

New Grant to further Bowls awareness in communities

It is some time since we had a project that focused specifically on improving our participation levels.

The **Reflecting and Respecting our Community** project, made possible by a three year grant from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC), is a bold step to seek participation from the LGBTQIA+ community, in addition to seeking a closer tie to the many Retirement and Lifestyle Villages (RLV) that house the traditional bowls demographic.

Importantly the project will seek to link local clubs to both communities in an effort to increase initially participation and eventually membership.

For obvious reasons the RLV targets will be those that have their own bowling community on-site, but are yet to join a club. The offer of specialist coaching will be part of the offer to this group. Initially the work undertaken will focus on the metro and south-west regions, but success will lead to a rolling out in other regions across the state in due course.

Funding will also allow a new (0.6FTE) staff member to take charge of the program and we very much look forward to introducing he/she to clubs upon appointment. Further information can be read elsewhere in Jack Hi.

Partnerships renewed for 2024-25

It is pleasing to report that partnerships with AFGRI, BCiB (Country Week) and Dyanamic Bowls Uniforms (State Championships/Perth Suns) have been renewed for 2024/2025.

These partnerships are critical to keeping costs as low as possible for the member, both in affiliation and entry fees and we thank those companies for their continued support.

One opportunity that is available is the naming rights of our Bowls Premier League side the Perth Suns. If you have or know of a company that would benefit from over 20 hours of live television coverage, live-streaming to the world and our own social media and website coverage, contact the office for a discussion.

BPL#20 kicks off on 11th November at Club Pine Rivers in Queensland.

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Achieving 10 Years of Inclusion at State Level

The 2024 All Abilities State Championships celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a presentation by President Doug Kelly at host venue Kardinya Bowling Club. This fantastic event caters to players who are deaf, have an intellectual or physical disability, or have a vision impairment. Players compete in Singles and Pairs.

2024 ALL ABILITY STATE CHAMPIONSHPS RESULTS			
CATEGORY	GOLD	SILVER	EQUAL THIRD
DEAF SINGLES	Kate Leese <i>(Eaton)</i>	Gavin Powell <i>(Lake Monger)</i>	Peter Johnston <i>(Cockburn)</i> Gregory Strachan <i>(Leeming)</i>
DEAF PAIRS	Andrew McLean <i>(Lake Monger)</i> Peter Johnston <i>(Cockburn)</i>	Gavin Powell <i>(Lake Monger)</i> George Ravlich <i>(Cockburn)</i>	
INTELLECTUAL SINGLES	Paul Hynd <i>(Spearwood)</i>	Joe Lehane <i>(Gosnells)</i>	Andrew Maddy <i>(Kardinya)</i> Tye Angel <i>(Safety Bay)</i>
VISION IMPAIRED SINGLES	Calvin Rodgers <i>(Harvey)</i> Director: Jason Scheutjens	Lesley Schilders <i>(Port Bouvard)</i> Director: Ross Waller	John Weir <i>(Perth & Tattersalls)</i> Stephen Duval <i>(Mandurah)</i> Director: Ross Waller
COMBINATION Pairs <i>(Intellectual + Vision)</i>	Calvin Rodgers <i>(Harvey)</i> Director: Jason Scheutjens Sharon Wernrdley <i>(Mandurah)</i> Director: Dot Waller	Julie Srhoy <i>(Spearwood)</i> Paul Hynd <i>(Spearwood)</i>	
Physical Singles	Eddie Gollan <i>(Thornlie)</i>	Adam Eksanow <i>(Nungarin)</i>	David Stephen <i>(Morley)</i> Jodie Nikolic <i>(Yanchep)</i>
Physical Pairs	Ashley Armstrong <i>(Cape)</i> Neil Richardson <i>(Mandurah)</i>	Wayne Allsopp <i>(Dowerin)</i> Jodie Nikolic <i>(Yanchep)</i>	

Bowling Arm State Singles

The 2024 Bowling Arm State Singles held surprise after surprise with a mix of new and returning players ending up in the Quarter Finals on day three! In a final twist it was Bill Taylor (Warnbro) that became the overall winner adding to his win in 2021!



Women's IRRR 2024

Beautiful Mosman Park Bowling Club was the background for the 2024 metropolitan Women's Inter Region Round Robin.

Northern came through the winner, for three years running, of both the main IRRR event and the All Star event.



For information on Inclusive Practices please contact Denise McMillan on 0449 619 841 or denise@bowlswa.com.au



Courses for New Umpires

The 2024-25 season is fast approaching and the Bowls WA State Umpire's Committee has planned courses for new umpires and for current umpires who wish to reaccredit. Forums have also been planned for existing umpires and players.

Self-paced Learning Online

There are three Self-Paced learning courses planned for those who wish to accredit as a National Umpire by completing the online component followed by an on-green component.

Three on-green components of this course have been scheduled for September, December and Feb/March.

Those who wish to accredit using the online version must apply to Bowls WA well in advance of the on-green component.

Face-to-face Accreditation

This is the preferred method of accreditation and there will be one course before Christmas and one in the new year. This course is conducted over three consecutive weeks.

Reaccreditation

Four reaccreditation courses are scheduled for September and November and numbers are limited for each course. More courses will be made available if there is a need.

Umpires Forums

Two forums are planned in October. These forums will commence with revision of measuring skills followed by a seminar where laws and scenarios are discussed.

Umpires and players are invited to attend.

Umpire Development Group

The Umpire's Committee have recognized a need for the formation of a group who may wish to further their 'National Umpire' skills with the vision of becoming 'International Technical Officials' in future years.

This group will meet twice a year – at the start of the season and towards the end of the season. Some members of the group have only recently achieved their accreditation as a National Umpire and others in the group have more experience. We are all learning from each other.

Anyone interested in joining this group is asked to contact Bowls WA for further information.

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www.bowlswa.com.au/nationalintegrity



WARRIOR WELLBEING ARTICLE

Visiting Your GP – Tips for the Average Bloke

BY THE REGIONAL MEN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE
September 2024

We often talk to blokes about the importance of visiting their GP for a routine service visit or *check-up* regardless of whether they feel unwell or not. These visits help you to stay health aware and if you do have specific risk factors, such as a family history of a certain disease, then regular check-ups may help your doctor pick up early warning signs. For example, high blood pressure may be an early warning sign of cardiovascular disease. For a lot of blokes this visit can be a bit daunting and at times a confusing process.



First and foremost there are a lot of benefits in having a regular GP and practice that you visit. It gives you the opportunity to build a relationship over time, to the point where you are more comfortable talking openly about things. Your GP gets to know you and will have a better understanding of your health needs and concerns. Your medical history also stays under the one roof making it easier to keep things up to date.

With the average GP consultation time being around 10 to 15 minutes it's important that you have a clear idea of what you want to talk about (write a checklist starting with the most concerning issue). Usually for two or more health issues you will need to book a longer consultation time. Be prepared.

For a general health check, your doctor will want to talk to you about a range of stuff including your medical history, your family's history, your lifestyle, diet, weight and how much you exercise. Be honest about your health and your concerns and most of all, don't worry too much about being embarrassed. Doctors are usually very difficult people to shock and more than likely have seen or heard it all before.




We all need to take responsibility for our own health and wellbeing. A lot of guys have no idea of what their blood pressure is normally or what it means for that matter. You need to get to know your normal parameters and other things like cholesterol and PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) blood tests so you can engage in conversation with your GP about them. It often helps to keep your own record of results and a list of any medications you may be on and what they are for.

As we get older, we inevitably encounter the increased risk of developing health concerns such as prostate issues (over 40 years). Most GPs are pretty good at prompting us when needed but we still need to be an active participant. Don't feel intimidated, you have the right to request certain tests and question things the doctor suggests. After all, this is about you and your GP working together.

We recommend that under the age of 50 you should have a routine service visit at least every two years and for those over 50 at least once a year.

When visiting your GP, be prepared (take your own checklist) and be involved, it's your health, you are the expert on you.

As always, remember ... before it all gets too much...
Talk to a Mate@!!

 @RMHL_4blokes
 Working with Warriors Podcast
 regionalmenshealth.com.au



What a remarkable season for Laura!

Laura Butler has had a remarkable 12 months, starting in June last year with a 2023 Australian Open fours title, and a stellar performance to reach the 2023 Australian Open Singles semi-finals. Butler then represented Switzerland at the World Championships on the Gold Coast making the quarter finals in a pleasing performance.

Last month on the Gold Coast however all the hard work paid off with Butler capturing the coveted Australian Open Women's Singles crown, alongside reaching the semi-final of the Women's Pairs and the quarter-final of the Women's Fours.

That all mounted up to Butler becoming the first Western Australian representative to win the Australian Open Player of the Tournament Award. A remarkable achievement.

Butler's singles run at the Australian Open over the last two years is nothing short of sensational. Wins over Kelsey Cottrell (in this year's final), Chloe Stewart (both years), Lynsey Clarke, Kristina Krstic and Bolivia Millerick plus a host of others underline the sheer brilliance of the two performances. A shots for of 390, and against of 237 produces a margin of 153 shots in that time, over 19 matches.

This year's title came against an opponent who, just the night before, had been crowned current World Number 1 on World Bowls' new rankings system and is one of the finest players ever to grace the greens, Kelsey Cottrell.

Butler's performance in the final was simply outstanding. The early stages belonged to Butler pushing out to a handy 4-0 lead before Cottrell started to find her range and closed the gap. Despite the pressure Butler continued to back her game, playing aggressively when needed and playing precise draw shots at other times.

Trailing 16-19, Butler seized on an opportunity when Cottrell dropped her first two bowls of the end short. As Cottrell tried to find a close bowl with her third, she over-corrected leaving Butler with three shots. A miss with Cottrell's last, left Butler a chance for four, which while she failed to convert, left the scores at 19-19.



• **Laura Butler, winner of the Australian Open Women's Singles title.**

The final end saw Butler sit Cottrell's closest bowl to hold two shots, and despite being right in the area, Cottrell couldn't change that with her last and Butler took the title.

In the post match interview, a teary Butler paid tribute to the support she had received throughout the tournament, something Western Australians are renowned for.

Rewind a couple of weeks however, and there's a sliding doors moment for Butler in her section rounds that might have seen things end very differently.

Playing against Alison Hall from Victoria, in a high quality match to determine the section winner, Butler had the lead 19-17 as the bell went to signify the final end of the timed match.

Hall held one shot and an umpire was required to measure for second shot. Butler came up with that measure – had it gone the other way, Butler would've exited the competition right there and would never have known what she would've missed out on. Remarkable.

Butler will certainly have some stories to tell her little one that rode with her throughout the event, with Laura and husband Blake due to welcome their first child into the world in the coming months.



Kristina and Ellen victorious in pairs

After a remarkable 2022, one could've been excused for thinking Kristina Krstic had achieved nearly everything there was to achieve in the sport – a Commonwealth Games Gold Medal, plus a host of WA State titles, but there was a burning desire festering for an Australian Open crown.

Heading to this year's Australian Open, Krstic had completed a near perfect WA 2023/24 season – wins in four of the five major events with only the pairs eluding her clutches, so the form was certainly there, but the weight of six lost Australian Open finals, across multiple disciplines, was strong, fueling a desire to grab a maiden title.

Joining her great friend and Commonwealth Games Champion partner **Ellen Fife** in pairs, the tag of event favourites always hovers close. It seems it is something that sits comfortably with the pair however and the sectional rounds proved no trouble for the duo, progressing easily with a hefty shots margin.

Perhaps the test for the tournament arrived in a second knockout round match against Adele Pershouse and Tilly Oreo. Down on the scoreboard and facing an impossible escape on the second last end of the match, Krstic played a remarkable draw shot to claim shot and re-ignite the pair's chances of a win.

The final end saw Pershouse changeover down, but play a weighted shot to land a bowl and roll in for shot – Krstic's reply looked close, got the tiniest slide off a front bowl and landed the shot bowl to reclaim shot and take the win. Just another of those moments in a title race where you need things to go your way.

That match was the difference maker for the champion pairing as they stormed their way into the final defeating Lynsey Clarke and Kelsey Cottrell 22-6, and Chloe Stewart and Katelyn Inch 21-14.

There's a poise and a confidence about how Krstic and Fife go about it these days – a confidence that says we are here to win, and you are going to have to play very well to challenge that – that confidence was on display again in this year's final.

Four shots on the first end of the final put the writing on the wall early against World Champion Tayla Bruce and Australian Singles Champion Jessie Cottell. Each time Bruce and Cottell challenged, Krstic and Fife had the answers, and by the halfway point it was a clear lead 11-5. That extended to 15-5 and eventually the title – Krstic's first at Australia's biggest event.

"I'm extremely happy to win with my best friend" said Fife, with Krstic commenting on the confidence that playing with Fife gives her.

The pair also joked about having Fife's impending little one on their side, with Fife due to have her first child in the coming months.

The win capped off a great fortnight for WA, with **Calvin Rodgers** securing silver in the Vision Impaired Singles, and of course, the wonderful performances of Laura Butler across all disciplines.



• Ellen Fife and Kristina Krstic win the exciting pairs final.





BowlsWA Open Gender Changes – FAQ

1 Why have we gone down the Open Gender path?

Given bowls is not a sport in which strength, speed or stamina play a role, legislation requires that Bowls WA's highest level competition be available to all to play in. The highest level competition has been deemed to be the Saturday pennant competition.

2 Why the big change this year?

There isn't a big change this year – the changes essentially amount to one division on a Saturday, and a raise in the Tuesday and Thursday competitions by one division. Lower Saturday grades have been playing Open Gender for the last few years now, with very little complaint coming through to Bowls WA.

3 Why not just make everything Open Gender? Is that not the fairest way?

As we have explored Open Gender eligibility, Bowls WA has regularly received complaints from women's teams that are 'forced' to play against full teams of men. The fear in going completely Open Gender is that it will likely hinder the development of female bowlers who may not be placed in back-end roles of teams.

This is often a numbers game as our current cohort of bowlers is dominated, in numbers, by men.

Hence, again we have maintained a female Saturday competition, and put limits on Tuesday to continue development.

4 Why is there still a Saturday Women's Competition as well as an Open Gender competition?

Clubs voted significantly in favour of retaining the Women's Saturday competition, which has been the strongest growing competition of all Metro competitions over the past few years.

The 'Men's' competition has been progressively moving to Open Gender over the past four years without the loss of many players to the sport.

Prior to the introduction of Open Gender, there was a steady decline in team entries – this decline has settled under Open Gender. In fact, Open Gender may well be getting people a game of bowls that might otherwise be missing out.

Feedback to Bowls WA has been strong in indicating that female players would leave the sport if the only option provided is to play with men.

This does not appear to be the case for men required to play alongside women. As per question one, there is no automatic right to a single gender competition, but these can be offered if there is appropriate demand – through survey feedback from clubs, the demand is there for the Women's Saturday competition.



5 How do we select sides for the Open Gender Saturday competition?

Selectors need to select sides the same way they have always done – select the best combinations you can from your available pool of players. Your available pool of players has changed – it now includes both men and women.

6 Why didn't I get a say?

It is impossible for Bowls WA to collate the thoughts and views of every individual in the sport. Therefore, clubs are asked to bring their members' thoughts to Bowls WA through surveys and forums so decisions can be made based on collated feedback.

It is also impossible for every member to get the exact competition that suits them perfectly. Some level of compromise is always required, and is normally possible.

All decisions must be made with the future of the sport foremost.

7 What is the end goal here?

The end goal is to have sustainable competitions. Both Tuesday and Thursday competition numbers are boosted by allowing a level of Open Gender play, but maintaining the traditions of women's Tuesday bowls and men's Thursday bowls. This may change over time, and the numbers entering each of the competitions will dictate that, as will the numbers for the Women's Saturday competition.

Winners crowned at Awards Night

A magnificent night at Optus Stadium for the Juniper Bowls WA Awards Night for season 2023-24 has seen our season's champions honoured in fine style.

With 250 people in attendance, the night was highlighted by the induction of Noelene Abe into the Bowls WA Hall of Fame – the 43rd person to receive the honour.

The John Ravlich Award (for the Most Outstanding Player with a Disability) was presented for the first time, with Calvin Rodgers taking the prize, and Bowls WA's own stalwart Liz Rolt was honoured as she recently celebrated her 30th Anniversary working for Bowls WA – a remarkable achievement in itself.

Cody Packer and Kristina Krstic were front and centre at another Awards Night taking the two biggest individual honours for the season, the Rosenthal Medal and Connie Hicks Brooch respectively.

Both had record breaking performances, with Krstic's amazing run of 4 of the 5 major State events being simply outstanding.

From a Country perspective, Matt Mitchell pocketed his third Male Country Bowler of the Year Award, and Linda Warburton capped off a wonderful year, and a return to the country, taking the Female Award.

Rounding out the individual playing awards, Lisa Featherby's brilliant season was rewarded with the Female Over 60's Player of the Year Award, while Bill Brandsma picked up the male equivalent.

Of course the two combined to win both the Over 60's Mixed Pairs and Open Mixed Pairs this season.

From a Club perspective, Cockburn took out the Metropolitan Club of the Year trophy with another impressive season rewarded, while the Small Club of the Year went the way of two clubs – North Perth and Victoria Park Carlisle – both have stood out as clubs on the rise and were, deservedly, equally acknowledged for the award.

Country Club of the year was a back-to-back win for Pinjarra. Standout performers at Men's Country Week, backed by more growth and development this season again made the club shine, with Margaret River acknowledged as the Small Country Club of the Year.

The Juniper Awards for the people at our clubs went the way of Vicki Eva (Official of the Year), Chris Tibbits (Coach of the Year) and Matt Whitely (Volunteer of the Year) – all richly deserved.

The Under-18 player of the year was once again Callum Alberti.

Congratulations to all our winners – you have all made a wonderful contribution to bowls in WA. A big thank you to the Optus Stadium staff for once again looking after us in sensational style, and once again to Juniper for its assistance in making the Bowls WA Awards Night another special night on the calendar.

- A glowing Optus Stadium, unusually setop for an Internation Soccer match, held the night following the BowlsWA Awards Night.

Hall Of Fame

Noelene Abe



• Noelene Abe with her Hall Of Fame award.





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Men's State Triples

Joy for Jones in first state success

As much as we marvel at the stars of the sport that win multiple State events, we also love to see new names get the opportunity to etch their name on one of the coveted trophies.

Entering the Men's State Triples final, just two of the six combatants had tasted State event success, with State Skipper **Anthony Williams** having a State Pairs title to his name and **Miles Kemp** having won the triples in the 2015-16 season. To add further intrigue, father and son combinations winning State events are few and far between, so the added interest of **Wayne Neilson** playing with his son **Wes** just added more spice to a fantastic final.

The event had turned into somewhat of a war of attrition with a massive final day seeing teams play four matches on the final day.

Williams, alongside Kemp and Australian Softball Hall of Famer **Nathan Jones** made up one combination and whilst Jones was yet to taste State bowls success, he certainly had the big game experience that comes from representing Australia over many years. Their opponents – **Wayne Neilson, Wes Neilson** and **Lloyd McKay**.

Wayne another with plenty of top level bowls experience but never having tasted State success, and looking to do something special alongside his son, Wes.



• **Nathan Jones, Miles Kemp and Anthony Williams.**

Neilson's crew had survived a first round scare, recording a draw against the talented crew of **David Goddard, Callum Williams** and **Calvin Rodgers**, before escaping with the section, whilst Anthony Williams team had found their closest match in the knockout rounds, home by just one over **Chris Schell, Cam Green** and **Scott Thomson**.

An entertaining final saw Williams' crew just too strong running out 21-12 winners to see Williams and Kemp capture another crown, and Jones take his maiden State title. Deserved winners who will now progress to the Australian Championships in the hope of securing gold on the Gold Coast.

Women's State Triples

Star trio take triples

Often when teams or individuals win State events it can come down to one moment, early in tournament that determines their fate – this happened to both teams that appeared in the Women's State Triples final, and it happened in the very first round.

Kristina Krstic, teaming with the super combination of **Laura Butler** and **Therese Hastings**, survived a first round scare against Forrestfield's Debbie Maxwell, Stella Dyson and Dale Maxwell, sneaking over the line 11-10 before closing out the section to progress. Whilst it turned out that a loss in that match most likely would've seen them progress regardless, the early round scare certainly sparked them into action.

The trio's eventual final opposition Helen Morss, Lisa Brannan and Helen Heal had their own scare, losing their first game to the same 11-10 scoreline, with Scarborough trio Casey Gilchrist, Jeannie Gullotti and Sue Robinson proving just too strong. Unfortunately for the Scarborough crew, they let their next game slip, and it was the Morss trio that took full advantage to progress.

It seemed that the close calls then saw both teams ensure that would simply not happen again, with the closest match for either team in the lead up to the final being Krstic's four shot win over Manning's Liz Matthews, Sharon Lynch and Sue Hogg.



• **Laura Butler, Therese Hastings and Kristina Krstic**

The final was somewhat one way traffic with the class of Krstic's trio showing out in a 23-8 scoreline that left little in doubt. For Krstic, a remarkable win to cap off one of the most dominant seasons seen in WA bowls history. Krstic's triples title joined her State Singles, State Fours and Champion of Champion Singles titles to complete wins in four of the five major events.

Looking further at this triples team however, reveals Hastings already a Bowls WA Hall of Fame member, and Krstic a certainty sometime in the distant future when retirement comes calling. Butler is the Australian Open Singles Champion, as well as a multi-State champion herself, and would also seem a likely Hall of Famer when the time comes. A quite remarkable trio!

Knott victorious in Masters Singles

A strong field assembled for the **Mount Lawley Men's Masters Singles** and with Cody Packer out of the equation this season, a new winner was guaranteed.

The event does have an endurance aspect to it, with the first day's sectional rounds followed by a big final day with four matches on the cards for the eventual finalists.

What ensued was a battle of attrition with some very talented players falling by the wayside as the finals drew near.

The last 16 round alone saw two close battles for the eventual finalists with Manning's **Shane Knott** home 21-17 over 2022 State Singles champion **David Downey**, and alongside it was Sorrento's **Paul Knight**, runner-up to Packer last year, home by the barest of margins 21-20 over home club champion Paul Sinden.

Knight then faced another State Singles champion in Blake Nairn in the quarter finals, getting over line 21-14 in an impressive display, while Knott eliminated Doubleview's Gavin Faulkner, champion of this very event in 2022.



'The semi-finals were simply elite battles'...

The semi-finals were simply elite battles. Knott had a commanding lead before Cambridge's Clive Adams charged back into the contest.

A 19-12 lead had disappeared, but it was Knott that managed to land on the front of the jack on what would be the final end to hang on for a well earned victory.

In the second semi-final it was Wagin star Warren Holt holding sway, by a similar margin, only to see Knight make a stirring comeback that would prove game winning. That left Knott looking for his first Masters Singles title, against Knight looking to make amends for the previous year's runner-up finish. In fading light and with Mount Lawley's magnificent LED lights ablaze, it was Knott that produced a sensational display in the final.

Knight tried everything, with tightly packed heads the run of the game, but it was Knott that proved too strong completing a 21-14 victory and taking the title.

WA BOWLS RANKINGS

Based on prestigious events over 3 years

MEN			
Rank	Name	Club	Total
1	Holt, Warren	Wagin	244
2	Trehwella, Daniel	Mount Lawley	178
3	Knott, Shane	Mount Lawley	174
4	Nairn, Blake	Cambridge	163
5	Leggett, Ben	Mount Lawley	149
6	Bates, Russell	Doubleview	140
7	Brandsma, Bill	Kalamunda	113
=8	Adams, Clive	Cambridge	104
=8	Butler, Blake	Manning	104
=8	Mitchell, Matthew	Emu Point	104
=11	Jones, Nathan	Manning	96
=11	Kemp, Miles	Manning	96
13	Opie, Justin	South Perth	95
14	Walker, Scott	South Perth	88
=15	Ball, Brad	Pinjarra	87
=15	Leeson, Joel	Denison	87
17	Giudice-Nairn, Shane	Geraldton	85
18	Trotter, Jon	Geraldton	68
19	Williams, Anthony	Doubleview	66
=20	East, Jack	Osborne Park	64
=20	Neilson, Wes	Bassendean	64
=20	Rowland, Darren	Mount Lawley	64

WOMEN			
Rank	Name	Club	Total
1	Krstic, Kristina	Manning	379
2	Featherby, Lisa	Mosman Park	364
3	Butler, Laura	Manning	289
4	Packer, Hailey	Manning	209
5	Ace-Watson, Chris	Mosman Park	189
6	Leahy, Irene	Boulder	160
7	Hastings, Therese	Manning	158
8	Warburton, Linda	Brunswick	148
9	Heal, Helen	Manning	132
10	Andersen, Kerry	Mosman Park	112
11	Morss, Helen	South Perth	109
12	Masters, Amanda	Osborne Park	101
13	Smith, Lisa	Perth & Tatts	99
14	Arndt, Irene	Safety Bay	88
15	O'Brien, Robyn	Manning	83
16	Chalmers, Pam	Osborne Park	80
17	Smith, Cathie	Mosman Park	73
=18	Blackwell, Kaye	Mt Pleasant	64
=18	Saunders, Shaan	Osborne Park	64
20	Saunders, Debbie	Cambridge	58

Opportunity!

Stirling Bowling Club is looking for an enthusiastic person to run their social bowls and events for their club.

The club's wonderful indoor complex presents a great opportunity to have more bowls happening at the club.

Contact Arthur for more information on 0429 663 241

Men's Champion of Champion Singles

What a Champion...Knott!

The **Champion of Champion State Singles** is arguably the most challenging title to win each season, with a field that reflects some of the most in-form players in the State.

When one considers that every player that enters their Club Singles effectively enters the Champion of Champions at the same time, it is actually a huge field that goes looking for this title.

In somewhat unusual circumstances, the two finalists in the Men's event this year will both be representing Mount Lawley next season, but neither did so last season. **Ben Leggett** was the first to make the move, from Joondalup to Mount Lawley for the coming season, after which it was confirmed that **Shane Knott** would make a similar move, from Manning – certainly a unique situation.

In looking at the path to the final for both players, Leggett certainly had to do it the hard way – a round of sixteen clash with defending champion **Jack East** which he won very impressively 21-11, followed by a semi-final matchup with one of the most consistent singles players in WA, **Warren Holt**. A closer, more hard fought win ensued with Leggett over the line 25-21 to book his place in the final.

Knott had a more comfortable pathway through, winning each of his knockout rounds by double figures, although still against strong opposition.



• **Shane Knott and Ben Leggett.**

Harvey's **David Goddard** is never easy to put away, but it was Knott simply too strong in the semi-final battle, home 25-15.

Knott was then able to establish a dominance early in the final, pushing out to a lead that Leggett couldn't bridge. The 25-16 scoreline underlining Knott's brilliance, but equally underlining Leggett's fantastic season where his previous potential has evolved into State event victory and finals appearances.

Women's Champion of Champion Singles

Krissy class on show yet again!

Incredible, ridiculous, phenomenal, amazing – the superlatives just roll off the tongue for a player that has reeled off a near perfect season, capping it off with a most dominant victory to take the **Women's Champion of Champions Singles title**.

Kristina Krstic's performance in winning the title, one that she had yet to taste success in, is as much a microcosm of the achievements this season as anything else could be. No player managed more than 13 shots in any match against Krstic throughout the tournament, and some remarkable scorelines against quality opposition just underlines the dominance Krstic currently has in the women's game here in WA and beyond.

Armadale's **Belinda Lehman** was the player who, in the round of sixteen, was able to pinch 13 shots off Krstic before she got to the 21 needed for victory, but after that it was simply 'get out of the way' as Krstic stormed into the final with 21-3 and 21-6 back-to-back victories.

Tasked with the final challenge to stop Krstic from another title was **Amanda Masters** from Osborne Park. Masters path to the final had seen her overcome Geraldton's **Jill Adam** in the round of sixteen, Gosnells' **Marianne Cameron** in the quarter and North Beach's **Rinske Butcher** in the semi-final.



• **Amanda Masters and Kristina Krstic.**

Unfortunately for Masters, Krstic's form proved just too difficult a hill to climb in the final with the Australian Jackaroo and Commonwealth Games Champion home 25-11. Another dominant display from a wonderful ambassador for our sport that continues to create records that will be almost unbeatable in the future.

Men's Novice Champion of Champion Singles

Michael West heading in right direction

As his name suggests, clearly **Michael West's** career is headed in the right direction after a wonderful display to claim the State Novice Champion of Champion Singles title this season.

The event pits bowlers that are newer to the sport, but nevertheless champions of their club amongst those fellow new players, in a battle for the ultimate champion, and it never lets us down.

Leading in Kardinya's second team, 1st Division Blue South last season, West's discipline as a lead was on show throughout the tournament, eventually overcoming another fast-riser in the sport, **Ty Vandertogt** from Osborne Park, 21-15 in a high standard final.

West's run through the tournament was impressive despite an early sectional round loss to Victoria Park Carlisle **Cody Rowe**, which could've de-railed West's hopes from the start. Instead, West rallied for a big win in his second sectional match and that was enough to see him safely through. Another of West's impressive wins came in the semi-final against Innaloo's **PJ Gallagher**. Gallagher is a newcomer to the sport crossing over from the short mat game where he is a multiple World Cup Champion. Gallagher was impressive in the recent Australian Indoor Singles Qualifying and looks to have a great future in the sport. West took him out to the tune of 21-10 in a very fine display.

Forrestfield also featured in the semi-finals, with Heath Rabey going down in a close one, 21-19, against Vandertogt.

The Forrestfield club continues to shine, having attracted many new players to the sport in recent years, and Rabey's performance will only encourage those players to push for more success.



• Michael West.

Women's Novice Champion of Champion Singles

Sue comes through for title

Many players might be a little unfamiliar with the Comet Bay Bowling Club, tucked away but doing great things down in Singleton. A hive of activity really and a place that bowlers should put on their list to visit.

Suzanne Aitken has certainly done her best to put the club on the map with a fantastic win in the Women's Novice Champion of Champions. Aitken overcame Osborne Park's **Tanya Peden** in the final 21-14, leaving Osborne Park with runner-up performances in both the men's and women's novice events this season.

Aitken and Peden were impressive throughout the event, both moving through their sectional rounds, and initial knockout rounds, without too much concern. As is often the case in major events however, things get more difficult and both faced tough challengers in their semi-finals.

First it was Peden needing overcome Sorrento's **Shonah Buckley**. Buckley, who started her bowls career at Cambridge before moving to Sorrento for more opportunity, is a natural talent and very capable. This makes Peden's 21-13 victory all the more impressive.

Alongside, it was Aitken in a tough battle with Warwick's Julie Cusworth. Warwick is another club that attracts new members each and every year, so quality new players coming through is no surprise.

In the end a 21-18 win for Aitken saw her safely through to the final, that she would eventually win and take the title. For Peden's Osborne Park, an encouraging performance for both of its entrants and it can be confident in its batch of upcoming players.



• Sue Aitken.

Mixed State Pairs/060s Mixed State Pairs

State Mixed Pairs Champions double – age doesn't matter

When it comes to Mixed Pairs here in Western Australia there's only two names to talk about – they are **Lisa Featherby** and **Bill Brandsma**.

In the space of just a fortnight the pair firstly claimed the Over 60's State Mixed Pairs title and then backed it up by winning the Open State Mixed Pairs too. A remarkable achievement against two quality, and large, fields.

First it was the Over 60's Mixed Pairs, and despite some big wins come finals time, the champion pairing did not have it all their own way on the path to the pointy end. A last 16 encounter with 2021/22 champions **Fred Flanagan** and **Judy Flanagan** left Featherby and Brandsma having to pull out all the stops to fall over the line 17-15.

Just as they were breathing a sigh of relief, getting through to the quarters, the pair found themselves in another tight tussle, this time against **Jim Bowden** and **Jan Glasson**.

Again, it was the key experience that shone through with the State representative pairing prevailing 15-13.

In the other half of the draw, it more clean sailing for their eventual finals opposition in **Chris Margin** and **Chris Ace-Watson** – comfortable wins in the last 16 and quarter final



• **Bill Brandsma and Lisa Featherby – Pairs Champions!**

The difficult sets play format used for the State Mixed Pairs makes for a challenging time, with many games hanging in the balance, and many going to a dreaded one end tiebreaker situation. The format requires different strategy and producing the meaningful bowls when they matter.

Featherby and Brandsma were once again brilliant in their execution, working their way past one of the tough combinations in the field in Hailey Packer and Jack East, through in a tiebreak, before grabbing a straight sets victory over Joel Leeson and Dot Glass in the quarters.

A titanic battle with **Warren Holt** and **Jacinta Zadow** then presented in the semi-final and once again it was the Featherby/Brandsma combination getting the job done when it counted, home again in a tiebreak.

On the other side of the draw, **Wes Neilson** and **Deb Saunders** were getting things done, albeit in a different manner. Rather than finding their way to tiebreaks, the pair was drawing a set and winning the remaining set to find their way through. It happened in the last 16 and the semi-final as they eliminated Scarborough duo **Paul Walker** and **Kiera Redden**.

Remarkably it would happen once more in the final, with the first set drawn, before Featherby and Brandsma would complete their amazing double by winning the second set 6-5.

Attention will now turn to the Gold Coast in October as the pair goes looking for that Australian title.



• **Chris Ace-Watson,, Bill Brandsma and Lisa Featherby.**

matchups had their confidence sky high before they found their match against South Perth duo **Derek Angell** and **Liljana Djukic**. A huge battle ensued and it was Margin and Ace-Watson home by the barest of margins to claim a place in the final. Next door, Featherby and Brandsma had cleared away against North Beach's **Mark Douthie** and **Rhonda Prosser**, another talented duo, pushing out to an eventual 21-5 victory.

Whilst the final ended up a one-sided affair, it was still a great display with Featherby and Brandsma completing victory and taking the title 22-6 in the final scheme of things.

Two weeks on, with a different format and different set of opposition, the pair would go on to win the Open State Mixed Pairs, this time qualifying to play for Western Australia on the Gold Coast later this year, looking for an Australian title that many would feel is a distinct possibility.



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STRENGTH WHEN YOU NEED IT

State Scene – Open Series Teams

Open team selections for Tweed Heads

The WA High Performance Panel have been burning the midnight oil to select the Open State Team combinations that will represent Western Australia in the National Side Series at Tweed Heads from Thursday 17th to Sunday 20th October.

The recent Bowls Blitz showed the selectors what strong squads WA has, with all players, a realistic chance to make the final teams.

However, only 12 men and 12 women can be selected with the remaining squad members being desperately unlucky.

There are two changes in the WA Women's seeing **Shari Solly** returning to the team after a strong season, while **Debbie Saunders** will make her debut as a lead at Tweed Heads. Debbie has worked particularly hard on her game the past couple of seasons and thoroughly deserves her opportunity.

WA Women's State Team			
	Rink	Rink	Rink
Skip	Lisa Featherby (Mosman Park)	Hailey Packer (Manning)	Kristina Krstic (Manning)
Third	Shari Solly (Osborne Park)	Helen Stevens (Osborne Park)	Chris Ace-Watson (Mosman Park)
Second	Denise Kelly (Mosman Park)	Kaitlin Tyrrell (Manning)	Lisa Brannan (Mount Pleasant)
Lead	Jenny Parker (Mosman Park)	Debbie Saunders (Cambridge)	Lisa Smith (Perth & Tatts)

The WA Men's Team sees four changes from last year. **Russell Bates** returns to the team after a great season which included a State Pairs title.

Shane Giudice-Nairn, **Ben Leggett**, and **Brad White** will all make their debut at Tweed Heads.

Shane and Ben won the State Fours together and both featured in the back end of other tournaments during the season.

Meanwhile, Brad had a terrific Bowls Blitz which backed up his Pennant season where he was instrumental in helping Doubleview take out the Premier League Flag.

The teams now look forward to two and a half months of hard work before they strive to continue the improvement of WA in the last few National Side Series.

WA Men's State Team			
	Rink	Rink	Rink
Skip	Anthony Williams (Doubleview)	Blake Nairn (Cambridge)	Jack East (Osborne Park)
Third	Shane Giudice-Nairn (Geraldton)	Brad White (Doubleview)	Clive Adams (Cambridge)
Second	Warren Holt (Wagin)	Bill Brandsma (Kalamunda)	David Downey (Manning)
Lead	Ben Leggett (Mount Lawley)	Scott Walker (South Perth)	Russell Bates (Doubleview)



060s National team selections

The last of Western Australia's State Teams for the Nationals at Tweed Heads in October has been selected.

The Over 60's teams are always difficult to select with brand new 60 year olds becoming available each year and many of our Over 60's getting better with age.

This year will see five men and four women making their debuts in the Over 60's competition, with one of those being a very familiar name to those who have followed the Open State team over the years.

WA state games record holder, **Graeme Wishart** (Victoria Park Carlisle) will pull on the black and gold again and from all reports is jumping out of his skin to get back into battle.

Steve Rushforth (Cambridge) comes into the team to play third to Wishart with another debutant **Geoff Main** (Kellerberrin) playing second. Denison's **Peter Leeson** will

get his first taste of state bowls playing second to fellow Batavian, Geraldton's **Brad King**.

Rounding out the first year men is **Paul Davies** (South Perth) who will lead for the experienced **John Goddard**.

The WA Women's Over 60's team has rejuvenated after a number of high-profile retirements from last years team. **Maggie Newton** (Leeming) and **Sian Smith** (York) both take a thirds position, with Smith playing with promoted Skip **Pam Chalmers**. **Jennie Bruce** (Busselton) has earned her second's position through some great results over the last couple of years. Bruce is joined in the rink by first timer **Wendy Stower** (Mosman Park) who has been in fine form over the last Pennant season. Both players will play with **Linda Warburton** (Brunswick) who has returned to the team after playing in the Open team last year.

WA Men's 060s State Team			
	Rink	Rink	Rink
Skip	John Goddard (Osborne Park)	Brad King (Geraldton)	Graeme Wishart (Vic Pk Carlisle)
Third	Kevin Pickering (Osborne Park)	Paul Knight (Sorrento)	Steve Rushforth (Cambridge)
Second	Steve Cerff (Doubleview)	Peter Leeson (Denison)	Geoff Main (Kellerberrin)
Lead	Paul Davies (South Perth)	Ross Bolton (Cambridge)	Jerome Clayton (North Beach)



WA Women's 060s State Team			
	Rink	Rink	Rink
Skip	Kathy Gobbart (Gingin)	Pam Chalmers (Osborne Park)	Linda Warburton (Brunswick)
Third	Maggie Newton (Leeming)	Sian Smith (York)	Rhonda Prosser (North Beach)
Second	Jill Adam (Geraldton)	Rinske Butcher (North Beach)	Jennie Bruce (Busselton)
Lead	Irene Leahy (Kalgoorlie)	Pauline Bourne (Sorrento)	Wendy Stower (Mosman Park)



State Scene - U18s Team

Talented U18s State team

The Bowls WA High Performance Panel is excited to announce the **Under 18 team** that will represent Western Australia in the National Under 18 Championships at Club Tweed on October 9th and 10th.

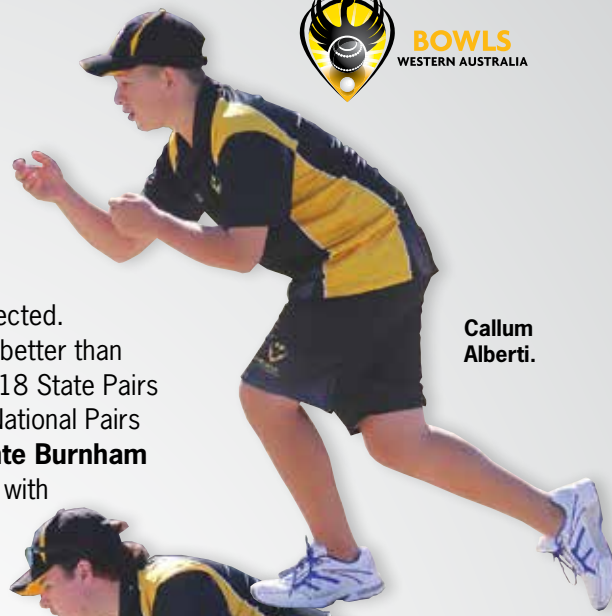
The Boy's team sees all our Under 18 State Championship winners being selected.

Callum Alberti (Osborne Park) will again play the singles, looking to go one better than last year in the Nationals at Sorrento. Callum will then combine with his Under 18 State Pairs winning partner **Edan Manifs** (Osborne Park) in an attempt to bring home a National Pairs title. The WA Under 18 State Triples Champions, **Harper Wass** (Coorow), **Dante Burnham** (Cockburn), and **Jarrood Steele** (Doubleview), will stay together for the triples, with Edan joining them to Skip the Fours.

The girls have a combined team with four WA players and one from the ACT. WA joined with the ACT last year to great success and we look forward to that relationship again. ACT will take the singles position as well as the Skip in the Triples.

Drew Gunson (Maylands) and **Sophie Hays** (Joondalup) will combine for the pairs and are sure to be much more confident after last year's experience at Sorrento.

Sylvia Burgess (Cockburn) and **Eleana Manifs** (Osborne Park) will be attending their first Nationals and will compete in the Triples with ACT and be joined by Drew and Sophie in the **fours**.



Callum Alberti.



• **Jarrood Steele.**



• **Sophie Hays.**

Under 18's Boys State

Singles: Callum Alberti

Pairs: Callum Alberti (sk), Edan Manifs

Triples: Harper Wass (sk), Dante Burnham, Jarrod Steele

Fours: Edan Manifs (sk), Harper Wass, Dante Burnham, Jarrod Steele

Under 18's Girls State Team

Singles: ACT

Pairs: Drew Gunson (sk), Sophie Hays

Triples: ACT (sk), Sylvia Burgess, Eleana Manifs

Fours: Drew Gunson (sk), Eleana Manifs, Sylvia Burgess, Sophie Hays.

State Scene - Para Team

Influx of new bowlers adds more interest

Congratulations to the following eight players selected to represent Western Australia at the 2024 Para Nationals.

This event will be hosted for the first time at Broadbeach Bowling Club on the Gold Coast between October 9th to the 12th. The game format is Singles and Pairs in both women's and men's disciplines within the B5 to B8 International Bowlers with a Disability Classification System.

An influx of new classified male players has added dimension to the selected side with an even representation of country and metro bowlers. The country bowlers are all first time selections for WA representing **Capel, Nungarin, and Mandurah**; while the metro bowlers see the return of **Eddie Gollan** and **Travis Ellison** (who last year played as a country bowler for Katanning), and another new metro member to the side in **David Russell**.

Congratulations to all selected players – we look forward to **seeing you in action on the Gold Coast!**

Men's Selections: Ashley Armstrong (Capel), Adam Eksanow (Nungarin), Travis Ellison (Como), Eddie Gollan (Thornlie), Neil Richardson (Mandurah), David Russell (Swan)

Women's selections: Jodie Nikolic (Yanchep), Diana Nixon (Kardinya).

Reflecting and Respecting Our Community

Bowls WA is excited to announce the successful acquisition of a grant through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and LotteryWest that presents a valuable opportunity for Bowls WA and our clubs to grow our target markets and introduce new people to the sport.

DLGSC's Inclusive Participation Grant targets low participation groups and encourages sporting bodies to:

- Provide inclusive participation opportunities for people from low participation groups to engage in sport and/or recreation activities
- Build the capacity of skills and knowledge of the sport and recreation workforce to develop and implement inclusive environments, operations and/or participation opportunities
- Develop partnerships between sport and active recreation organisations and community service providers to develop and implement inclusive environments, operations and/or participation opportunities.

Bowls WA's **'Reflecting and Respecting Our Community'** project will extend over three years (and beyond) and will consist of two streams, initially targeted to the Metropolitan area and South West WA:

- **Seniors:** Through the provision of quality coaching programs, Bowls WA will assist clubs to engage with local Retirement and Lifestyle Villages, some with bowling facilities of their own, to introduce more Seniors to the sport of bowls.
- **LGBTQIA+ Community:** Through the initial provision of quality education and information forums, Bowls WA along with industry partners will build the capacity within our clubs to cater for a more diverse membership base.

Both streams reflect Bowls WA's Strategic goal of 'Connecting more people through bowls in more ways, more often', and with the vision 'For all Western Australians to connect with bowls during their lifetime'.

Bowls WA President **Doug Kelly** is excited by the opportunities that the grant brings, and how it complements the strategic goals of the Association.

"Bowls WA sees these initiatives as a wonderful way to broaden our horizons and introduce more people to our great sport. Our Strategic Plan as well as the Bowls WA Club Development and Modernisation Strategy carry strong statements regarding attracting new people to our sport, and building the capacity within our clubs to do so," said Doug.



"We know our clubs are a strong part of local communities throughout Western Australia, but we are also aware that we are quite traditional in our methods and our target markets. These initiatives will challenge that mindset in a positive and supportive way to assist our clubs to be more relevant in a changed and more diverse society."

In the execution of the grant, Bowls WA will be employing a part-time staff member who will drive the outcomes of the project. The role will support clubs through the project's three-tiered accreditation process, encouraging clubs to become more open and inclusive as they progress through the tiers. Information forums and marketing assistance will be provided to assist clubs throughout the process.



Bowls WA CEO **Ken Pride** added, "We only need look at our recent Club of the Year Awards to see that clubs that have been willing to explore different ideas and implement different plans have succeeded and are thriving. We certainly encourage more clubs to think about growing their membership base by challenging the status quo and appealing to a wider audience."

It should be noted that while the scope of the grant opportunity targets the Metropolitan area and South West WA, learnings and education provision will be offered beyond this scope, and all clubs will be given the opportunity to benefit from the outcomes achieved.

More information to come on this exciting opportunity.

Watch the Bowls WA website and social media in the coming weeks and months as we rollout the **'Reflecting and Respecting Our Community'** project.



Country Catch-up

Binningup Bowling Club – a small Club, big Heart!

The Binningup Bowling Club is gearing up for another big season following an amazing run last year.

Of the five pennants on offer to them they grabbed four of them, including the Tuesday Women's 2nd Division flag, Men's Saturday 2nd Division, plus the Men's Tuesday 2nd and 4th Division flags. An amazing achievement in the club's 30th year and we wait to see what the new season brings!



Middelton Beach's unbeaten run

Another club looking towards another big year is Middleton Beach. Imagine going into a new season knowing that you had a completely unblemished record last season – no pressure!

That's exactly the situation for Mid Beach's 3rd Division, who last season achieved promotion into 2nd Division without losing a single game.

A close run match with Denmark put that record to the test in round 11 where Mid Beach got over the line on the very last bowl to keep a remarkable unbeaten season intact.

New challenges for the new season on the way!



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