



WESTERN PROVINCE BOWLS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WESTERN PROVINCE BOWLS ASSOCIATION HELD AT WESTERN PROVINCE CRICKET CLUB BOWLS CLUBHOUSE ON SATURDAY 16 AUGUST 2025 AT 09h30

PRESENT: Gerrit van Milligen – President (GvM), Anthony Harland – Vice President (AH), Joy Calvert – Treasurer (JC)
Executive: Edward Douglas (ED), Jonathan Cochrane (JLC), Marianna Kirsten (MK), Mark Gibbs (MG), Nico Taljaard (NT)
District Administrator : Debbie Phillips (DP)

Apologies: Doreen de Power (HLM), Gardens Bowling Club, Graham Ward (NSC Disability Bowls), Parow Bowling Club, Sergio Martinengo (HLM)

1. To read the Notice Convening the Meeting

The notice convening the meeting was read by Debbie Phillips (DP) and the meeting opened at 09h30.

2. Welcome by the President to Life Members, Past Executive Members, Council Delegates

Gerrit van Milligen (GvM) welcomed Honorary Life Member, Trish Young, past Executive Members, Council delegates, visitors as well as representatives from sponsors Personal Trust. He expressed his gratitude to clubs for their ongoing commitment and reminded everyone of the importance of respect, constructive engagement, and unity within the province.

3. To call the roll of Delegates (recorded on arrival)

29 Clubs attended (out of 33): Bellville (2), Bergvliet (2), Constantia (2), Durbanville (2), Edgemoed (2), Fish Hoek (2), Fresnaye (2), Glen (2), Goodwood (2), Gordon's Bay (1), Helderberg (2), Kelvin Grove (1), Kraaifontein (2), Kuils River (2), Malmesbury (1), Meadowridge (2), Milnerton (2), Mowbray (2), Oakdale (2), Old Oak (2), Pinelands (1), Plumstead (2), Pollsmoor (1), Somerset West (2), Stellenbosch (2), Strand (2), Sunningdale (2), Wheatfield (2) & WPCC (2). A quorum was confirmed.

Also in attendance:

Honorary Life Members: Trish Young

Representatives: Alan Phillips (Technical Officials), Ann Carter (Sunningdale), Bob Standen (Technical Officials), Claire Cowan (WP Players), Colleen Bryant (WPCC), Eddie Phillips (Coaches), Eddie van der Heiden (Disability Bowls), Elma Louw (Mowbray), Paulina Dockendorff (Ladies' Selection/WPB Competition Secretary), Trevor Wheeler (Greens Care), Taz Bright (M&M)

Nominees: Anina Black (Old Oak), Jonathan Cochrane (Edgemoed), Joy Calvert (Pollsmoor), Marianna Kirsten (Plumstead), Anthony Harland (Durbanville)

4. To receive Apologies

Apologies were noted. No apologies were received from CT Military and Helderberg Village.

5. Record Obituaries for the year

GvM stated that the list of members who had passed on during the period 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025 was included in the Annual Report and asked DP to read out their names. A moment of silence was held in honour of those who had passed.

6. Address by Mark Gibbs, Director of Personal Trust

Mark Gibbs (MG) addressed the meeting, highlighting the long-standing partnership, the value of traditional personal service, and the importance of sponsorship in sustaining WPBA activities. Thanks were also conveyed to Greg Nasson, who sent his regards. GvM then expressed sincere appreciation to Personal Trust for their continued support.

7. To read, consider and confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (18 August 2024)

The minutes of the 118th Annual General Meeting held on 18 August 2024 were taken as read. There were no amendments or objections from the floor. Proposed by Goodwood, seconded by Mowbray. Minutes were confirmed.

8. To consider and adopt the Annual Report for the year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

GvM expressed his appreciation to the Executive, Standing Committees, Admin and all involved in the compilation of the Annual Report, with a special word of thanks to Mark Douglas. The Annual Report was taken as read.

Meadowridge queried membership numbers (pg. 29 & 74) and requested clarification, for example Kelvin Grove has 24 members when they have many more members than that. Joy Calvert clarified that the membership numbers are only full playing members. Unfortunately, the Bowls SA database does not have the option to draw membership reports as at a specific date, so there are differences in numbers depending on the date the report was drawn and when members move to other clubs, join or resign.

Discussion on affiliated vs. non-affiliated members took place. Clubs were reminded that affiliation is required for participation in any WP Bowls and club competitions.

Correction noted page 23: several obituaries from Stellenbosch (Gerry Rosendorff, Johan Schwartz, Lynn van der Vegte and Johann Gerber) were listed incorrectly under Somerset West. Laurie Gorridon from Pinelands and Franz Faber from Durbanville were added.

There were no further amendments or objections from the floor. Proposed by Goodwood, seconded by Mowbray. The Annual Report was adopted with noted corrections.

9. To present recommendations of the Executive:

9.1 WP Competitions and Calendar

Nico Taljaard (NT) presented the following:

Extensive consultation held with clubs (including July workshop and survey).

League Format Decisions:

Only one game on Saturday afternoons (14h00 start). Proposal considered to play two games on opening day or second day to shorten season. Referred to Executive for final decision. League season scheduled to start 10 January 2026.

Competition Structures:

Premier League: 10 teams; lower divisions: 2 sections of 10 teams each.
Normal promotion/relegation rules to apply.

Bowls per Discipline:

Pairs: Return to Four-bowl format (Mixed Pairs: three-bowl to align with Nationals).

Trips: Three-bowl confirmed (95% support).

Fives Championship:

Remain gender-specific competitions.

Dual Membership:

Despite majority vote from clubs in the survey for restrictions, status quo will be retained to support smaller clubs.

Calendar Notes:

October reserved for club events/green renovations.

WPB Fours & Trips scheduled for November.

No WPB competitions in December (except WP vs Boland friendly).

Other Matters:

Stricter enforcement of withdrawal fines and disciplinary processes for late/no-shows.

Clarification of movement of players between sides/leagues (return to pre-2024/25 rules).

Slow play and unsporting conduct highlighted as serious disciplinary issues.

Playoff games: no time limits except for large first-round days.

GvM thanked NT for his efforts in preparing the draft calendar and facilitating workshops. Final decisions to be confirmed and circulated.

9.2 WP Affiliation Fees

The Executive proposed an increase of 6%, which is in line with inflation. Joy Calvert (JC) confirmed WP Affiliation fees will be R335.00. GvM asked for the members' agreement and there were no objections from the floor. Proposed by Gordon's Bay, seconded by WPCC. The proposal was approved unanimously.

10. Finance

10.1 To consider, and if approved, adopt:

The audited WP Bowls Association's Financial Statements for the year 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

GvM thanked JC for all the hard work put into managing the finances and getting the Financials to the auditor.

JC presented the audited financial statements for the year ending June 2025. Audited financial statements were circulated in advance.

WPBA remains financially sound, with a slightly better than budgeted loss which is a positive move in the right direction. Income was primarily derived from affiliation fees and tournament levies, while expenditure included administration, development, and inter-district participation. Clubs were informed that financial statements would be circulated regularly to ensure transparency.

Members noted errors (e.g., formatting error on page 8, 89 cents per share discrepancy to be referred to auditor by the Treasurer).

The President asked for the members' agreement in approval of the Audited Financial Statements and there were no objections from the floor. Proposed by Gordon's Bay, seconded by Goodwood. The Audited Financial Statements were adopted with noted corrections.

10.2 The 2025 – 2026 Budget

JC tabled the draft budget with some inaccuracies acknowledged. The draft budget was circulated in advance.

JC asked the meeting if there were any questions or comments on the budget. Durbanville queried why there was a difference under National Competitions and JC responded that WP Bowls hosted the Women's Nationals in Cape Town. Bellville queried the amount under Ladies Fives and JC responded that there were some inaccuracies that will be corrected. Under 45's will come out as there is no tournament planned. WPCC asked about salaries and JC responded that the discrepancy in salaries budget is because for part of the year we were paying four staff members. Going forward we will only be paying two. Eddie van der Heiden requested that the Disability Bowls budget revert to R6000. This was not spent in the last season as they had received alternate funding.

Bob Standen from DSC Technical Officials queried why the Standing Committees were not required to submit a proposed budget for the new season as this will give a more accurate picture. JC will request submissions from all standing committees.

Focus on increased fundraising. Previous event poorly supported – appeal made to clubs for stronger support in future WPB fundraising initiatives. Fundraising income target set at **R17,500**, but expected to increase with better support.

It was unanimously decided that JC would make adjustments, rework the budget and a revised version circulated for approval before next Council meeting where it can be adopted.

11. Motions for approval and adoption:

GvM presented motions discussed at Executive level, which have been forwarded via WPBA to the Western Cape Provincial Bowls Association for consideration at the BSA AGM.

11.1 To be presented at BSA AGM (BSA Agenda Points 7.1 - 7.8):

- 7.1 Motion 1: Change to Constitution – By Bowls SA Executive**
Financial Year Amendment – Change from April–March to calendar year (Jan–Dec).
WPBA Executive supports (administrative).
- 7.2 Motion 2: Increase of 10% in Affiliation Fees – By Bowls SA Executive**
Affiliation Fee Increase – Proposed 10% increase.
WPBA Executive opposed. Suggested **6% increase** instead.
- 7.3 Motion 3: BDSA to be accepted as an Associate Member – By Bowls SA Executive**
Associated Memberships – Recognition of BDSA, Vision Impaired, and PBA as associated members of BSA.
WPBA Executive supports.
- 7.4 Motion 4: U35s – ID players – by Western Cape Bowls**

Under-35 Player Eligibility – Proposal that players already selected for senior Gold Squad, District A-sides, or Proteas should **not be eligible for Under-35 teams** for that year.

Rationale: creates opportunities for emerging talent.

Debate: some members argued the best players should always represent; others argued for development opportunities.

Decision: proposal to be forwarded for further debate at BSA AGM.

7.5 Motion 5: Playoff for Bronze Medals in all Bowls SA Competitions – Nationals and Inter Districts – by Western Cape Bowls

Bronze Medal Playoffs – Suggestion to introduce playoff for 3rd/4th place rather than awarding two bronze medals.

Even if it does not carry as a formal proposal, but it is to spark discussion nationally.

7.6 Motion 6: ID Players Automatically Certified as Level 1 Coaches – by North West Bowls

Automatic Coaching Certification – North West motion that players with four years of Inter-District experience automatically qualify as Level 1 coaches.

WPBA opposed: good players are not automatically good coaches.

7.7 Motion 7: Membership Fees – by Northern Cape Bowls

Affiliation Fee Collection Method – Motion to revert to individual member billing (previous system).

WPBA opposed: current system working well, more efficient and transparent.

7.8 Motion 8: Membership Fees Clubs – By Northern Cape Bowls

Affiliation Fee Collection Method – Motion to revert to individual member billing for Country Clubs (previous system).

WPBA opposed: current system working well, more efficient and transparent.

11.2 Motion from Goodwood Bowling Club

Goodwood Bowling Club submitted a motion to amend the WPBA Constitution:

Wording Amendment – Removal of phrase “*on or in any public platform or place*” from the disciplinary clause. Supported unanimously. Amendment adopted and will be included in the draft Constitution currently under review.

11.3 Motion from Goodwood Bowling Club

Goodwood Bowling Club submitted a motion to amend the WPBA Constitution:

Circulation of Minutes – Formal requirement that minutes be circulated and published on the website within 14 days of meetings. Supported unanimously (noting financial reports may follow less frequently). Amendment adopted and will be included in the draft Constitution currently under review.

12. Presentation of Long Service Awards and Certificates

GvM awarded the Executive Trophy for the Ladies’ Section Club of the Year to Durbanville Bowling Club and the John Edwards Trophy for the Men’s Section Club of the Year to Goodwood Bowling Club.

Long Service Recognition: Anthony Harland (AH) called on MG to present an award on behalf of the Executive to outgoing President, Gerrit van Milligen, in recognition of his long service to the WPBA. MG

thanked GvM for 12 years of dedicated service in various roles (as Executive, Vice-President, Acting President and President). GvM was presented with a special WP Bowls Merit Badge by MG in appreciation.

13. To elect Honorary Life Members

GvM thanked the Executive for the Merit Award. He then announced the Executive's proposal of a member for Honorary Life Membership, and he asked DP to read the motivation.

The Executive Committee of the Western Province Bowls Association would like to nominate the following individual for Honorary Life Membership of WPBA:

Sylvia Burns

Sylvia Burns started playing bowls in 1994 and has contributed immensely to our sport over the three decades that she has been a part of the sport.

Her international and national accolades include:

- *Atlantic Bowls Championships – won the silver medal in the Women's Fours in 2007 in Ayr, Scotland. This event was a qualifying event for the World Outdoor Bowls Championships and was originally called the Atlantic Rim Championships for women only until 2007.*
- *World Outdoor Bowls Championship – won the gold medal in the Women's Triples in 2008 in Christchurch, New Zealand.*
- *Atlantic Bowls Championships – won the silver medal in the Women's Fours in 2009 in Johannesburg, South Africa.*
- *Atlantic Bowls Championships – won the bronze medal in the Women's Triples and the bronze medal in the Women's Fours in 2015 in Paphos, Cyprus.*
- *World Outdoor Bowls Championship – won the bronze medal in the Women's Triples in 2016 in Christchurch, New Zealand.*
- *First selected to play for South Africa in 2004 and was awarded her Protea Colours in 2006.*
- *National and District – numerous National and Western Province titles.*

Sylvia has devoted a lot of time to our sport of bowls and to WP Bowls, always competing in WP competitions and representing the District in provincial and national events over many years. Sylvia has also served as a Ladies' Selector for Western Province.

We firmly believe that her achievements and service to the sport of bowls is such that Sylvia deserves to be recognised by WP Bowls as an Honorary Life Member.

GvM asked the meeting to vote on the nomination, and the proposal was unanimously approved.

GvM thanked the meeting and stated that the Honorary Life Membership award will be presented to Sylvia Burns in due course and mentioned that it is a great honour to have another Honorary Life Member of WPBA.

14. To deal with any Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

GvM then gave his Outgoing President's Address. He delivered a heartfelt farewell, reflecting on:

Achievements:

- o Successful competitions calendar
- o Youth and development growth
- o Financial stability and sound governance
- o Support for club facility upgrades

Challenges:

- o Negative impact of public criticism on social media
- o Difficulty in recruiting and retaining Executive members
- o Strain on volunteer leadership

He urged members to foster respect, constructive criticism, and a supportive culture to protect WPBA's reputation and future.

15. To elect Executive Committee Members for the incoming season 2025 – 2026

15.1 The Executive Committee as per the WPBA Constitution

Before the election took place, GvM explained that the nomination received from Anina Black was invalid in terms of the Constitution, as the nomination was not signed by her mother club. However, as this was merely a technical issue, he asked Council if they would accept Anina's nomination at this point. It was unanimously agreed that Anina's nomination would be accepted. Following the nominations and confirmations, the following Executive Committee was elected:

- **President:** Anthony Harland
- **Vice-President:** Marianna Kirsten
- **Treasurer:** Joy Calvert
- **Executive Members:**
 - o Edward Douglas
 - o Mark Gibbs
 - o Nico Taljaard
 - o Jonathan Cochrane
 - o Anina Black

GvM expressed gratitude to MG and NT, who had considered stepping down but agreed to continue, providing continuity and experience.

15.2 Outcome of the election announced, and badges presented to the new Executive Members

Hence the full Executive Committee for the 2025-2026 was announced as:

President	Mr Anthony Harland (Durbanville) – unopposed as President and elected for a two-year term
Vice-President	Ms Marianna Kirsten (Plumstead) – unopposed as Vice-President and elected for a two-year term
Treasurer	Ms Joy Calvert (Pollsmoor) - unopposed as Treasurer and elected for a two-year term
Executive Members	Mr Edward Douglas (Constantia) - in second year of term Mr Mark Gibbs (WPCC) - in second year of term Mr Nico Taljaard (Somerset West) - in second year of term Mr Jonathan Cochrane (Edgemead) - elected for a two-year term Ms Anina Black (Old Oak) - elected for a two-year term

GvM handed AH the President's badge and AH presented GvM with the Past President's badge. AH then presented the Treasurer's badge to JC and Executive badges to Jonathan Cochrane (JLC) and Anina Black (AB).

AH then gave his Incoming President's Address. He expressed appreciation to his wife, Denise, Durbanville Bowling Club, and colleagues for their support. He outlined his vision and goals:

1. Membership Growth:

- a. Address decline by engaging smaller clubs to understand retention challenges.
- b. Highlight importance of qualified coaches in growing membership.

2. Relationships:

- a. Improve trust and communication between clubs and Executive.
- b. Commit to more regular forums and transparency.

3. Projects for Next Quarter:

- a. Finalisation of new Constitution (to be shared with clubs before adoption at SGM).
- b. Financial review: further cost reductions and alternative income streams (beyond subs & sponsorship).

He emphasised the need for unity, respect, and teamwork to move WPBA forward, and committed to quarterly progress updates.

16. Any other matters

Bergvliet - Social Membership Rules: Clarification requested on national guidelines; WPBA Constitution limits to 3 hours per week. BSA guidelines to be confirmed.

Durbanville - Financial Reporting: Treasurer confirmed monthly statements will be distributed going forward.

With no further business, the new President, Anthony Harland closed the meeting at 10h45, thanking all delegates for their contributions and wishing clubs a successful season ahead.



Anthony Harland

WP Bowls Executive President

29 August 2025

Date



Debbie Phillips

WP Bowls District Administrator

29 August 2025

Date