

Whitby Bowling Club 51st AGM

Minutes

Sunday 21st June 2026 2pm

Present: Alison Birrell, Diane Renshaw, Sue Down, Diana Young, Richard Young, Tere French, Ian Harden, Allan Cushnahan, Lynn Jull, Margaret Rew, Bob Jull, Janet Love, Rodney Strong, Mike Burke, Kevin Tandy, Sarah Haran, Liz Biss, Brian Burge, Trevor Deed, Betty Lawrence, Keith Lawrence, Henry Yee, Phil King, Mark O'Connor, Joy Creet, Doug Shaw, Maureen Baxter, Derek Baxter, Sonya McDonald, Hamish McDonald, Robert Hart, Phil Rhodes

Apologies: Steve Bullock, Glen Coshan, Christine Coshan, Craig Walker, Louise Ellis, Simon Ellis, Gay Cooper, Christine Cushnahan

Moved apologies Accepted Mark O'Connor/ Seconded by Alison Birrell

Confirmation of the previous Minutes:

There is one correction to the previous minutes:

Under Election of Officers it currently reads:

Secretary: Trevor Deed

This should read:

Secretary: Diana Young

Treasurer: Trevor Deed

Diana Young moved that the minutes of the AGM held on 29th June 2025 be accepted as true correct record, subject to the amendment that under Election of Officers the Secretary be recorded as Diana Young instead of Trevor Deed and that the Treasurer as Trevor Deed. Seconded By Sarah Haran Carried by a majority of hands

Matters arising from previous Minutes

No matters arising from previous minutes

Presidents Report was presented by Diane Renshaw and moved by Bob Jull moved that the Presidents Report be accepted and Seconded by Janet Love. Carried

Treasurers Report was presented by Trevor Deed

- Trevor informed those present that the Board is looking at what it will do with the **Pétanque Court**, parts of which have been identified as a **Health & Safety risk**. Options looked at to date have been expensive.
- Question from the floor asked how much of the membership fees go to **Bowls Wellington / Bowls NZ**. Trevor confirmed this is between **40 and 50%**. Diane informed members the proposed increase in fees is to cover the increase from Bowls Wellington and Bowls NZ for their affiliation and club competition entry fees and that the club is not looking to make extra from this.

Mike Burke moved that the Treasurer's Report and fee increased be accepted. Seconded by Rodney Strong. Carried.

Election of Officers:

Prior to the closing date for nominations, we received the following nominations for the Executive and Board positions:

President – Diane Renshaw

Vice President – Henry Yee

Secretary – *Vacant*

Treasurer – Trevor Deed

Board – Up to 4 positions

- Glen Coshan
- Hamish McDonald
- Diana Young

At that time, we still had vacancies, including no nomination for Secretary.

Since nominations closed, we have received two additional nominations from members who are willing to serve on the Board: **Rodney Strong** and **Robert Hart**. These late nominations are acceptable as we had unfilled positions, and they now complete the Board for the 2026/2027 year.

Regarding the Secretary position: No nominations were received by the closing date. However, I have since been formally nominated and seconded for the Secretary role for the coming year. This is on the understanding that some of the additional duties I have been carrying, which were not part of the Secretary's role, will be delegated to others.

As all positions are now filled, nominations from the floor are not required.

Diana Young declared the following members elected for the 2026/2027 year.

Executive Positions

President Diane Renshaw

Vice President Henry Yee

Secretary Diana Young

Treasurer Trevor Deed

Board Members – Up to 4 positions

- Glen Coshan
- Hamish McDonald
- Rodney Strong
- Robert Hart

Approved and Carried by a majority of hands

General Business:

Strategic Plan Update – Trevor Deed talked through the report provided by the Board detailing actions and outcomes aimed at delivering on the agreed priorities goals for 2025/2026 from the strategic plan.

- Allan asked, given the lack of women players this season, why the Club did not approach another club to combine teams. It was noted that this option was explored last season and at that time was unsuccessful. It was also noted that at a recent Delegates meeting, clubs in the Wellington region voted down the proposal to allow clubs with small numbers to join together so they could enter a team in e.g. the Wellington 4's event.

Other General Business:

- Allan made the suggestion that the Club Championships should be brought forward to before Christmas also suggesting the possibility of playing these events during the twilight hours. Diane responded that last year we tried to play many of our competitions that are open to both Full and Limited Bowlers before Christmas to see if it would encourage Limited members to join as Full playing and then be eligible to participate in Club Championship competitions. The Club also tries to

align its Championships events with the Bowls Wellington programme. Mark commented that it could be possible to hold events like the singles and pairs in evening hours.

Diane informed members present that the programme will be reviewed this year; that it is considered too many events are programmed and that Allan's suggestions will be taken into consideration.

- Keith asked whether, with the Club putting itself forward to host some of the National Bowls Fours and 2-4-2 event, would there be any closure of the green required for preparation. The response noted that this will be considered and discussed at Board level, and that the Club will always do its best to both support the Nationals and be mindful of our members.
- There was a brief discussion around **etiquette and rules** used by other clubs to protect their greens, and whether similar measures should be considered.
- Allan asked whether there was a contingency plan for the green should Glen step down from his role. The response noted that there are members willing to contribute, and that Glen is being encouraged to lead and allow others to support him. It was also acknowledged that succession planning is needed across several areas to keep members engaged and ensure a positive experience for everyone.
- Mark O'Connor shared that there are **438 bowling clubs** across the country and that Whitby Bowling Club sits within the **top quarter**. He congratulated members on this achievement and highlighted that the Strategic Plan and the progression of members were key contributing factors. He also commented that some centres are struggling because they have not adapted to the new direction of bowls.

Meeting was closed at 3.10pm

Presentation of Badges & Trophies

Badges were presented to all **Champ of Champ winners**, noting that their cups had already been awarded at the conclusion of each tournament.

Trophies were presented to the

- **Interclub of the Year** – Mens Division 2 Team – Simon Ellis, Craig Walker, Henry Yee, Hamish McDonald, Trevor Deed, Reece Wickenden, Kevin Tandy . Selector – Keith Lawrence
- **Club Person of the Year** – The 50th Jubilee Committee – Keith Lawrence, Sarah Haran, Mark O'Connor, Alison Birrell, Bob Jull & Diana Young

A **new trophy** was presented to the Club this year by the McDonald family — **Hamish, Sonya, Jessie, and Gentry** — in honour and remembrance of the beautiful **Kiwa**.

The meaning and purpose of this trophy, written by Hamish, was shared by **Diane and Liz**:

Kiwa is known as a guardian of the ocean, someone who stood for strength, depth, and care for others.

This taonga is gifted in memory of Kiwa, and it carries her warrior spirit along with a whole lot of aroha. It's about recognising people who, like Kiwa, remind us that no challenge is too big when you lead with heart and courage.

The person who receives this trophy is someone who brings out the best in others. They lift people up, tackle challenges with bravery, and show that real strength isn't about being loud or tough it's about resilience, kindness, and doing the right thing.

There's a whakataukī that says:

“He iti te kōpara, nāna i kakī te kahikatea” — The bellbird may be small, but it can make the tall kahikatea tree ring.

This trophy isn't just an award. It's a reminder that Kiwa's spirit lives on through the people who carry her name forward those who lead with humility, hope, and heart. By doing that, her memory stays alive in the most meaningful way, showing us every day that even small actions can make a big impact.

From nominations received the McDonald family chose Diana Young and Keith Lawrence to be joint recipients of the inaugural Kiwa Trophy.

President
Diane Renshaw

Secretary
Diana Young