

HILTON PARK BOWLING CLUB

YEAR IN REVIEW – 2024/2025



Hilton Park Bowling Club - Year in Review – 2024/2025

The past year at Hilton Park Bowling Club has been one of growth, resilience, and celebration. From welcoming new members to hosting spirited tournaments and vibrant social gatherings, 2024/2025 has highlighted the dedication, passion, and community spirit that define our club.

This year saw transformative improvements to our facilities, including the installation of a new synthetic green—enhancing playability and extending the bowling season. Our committee, volunteers, and members have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to support these initiatives, preserving the welcoming, inclusive culture that makes Hilton Park special.

This scrapbook captures the moments, milestones, and memories of the year—a heartfelt tribute to the sportsmanship, friendship, and teamwork that continue to drive us forward. As we look ahead, we remain committed to involving every member in shaping the club's future and upholding the traditions we all value.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to a successful and memorable 2024/2025. Here's to more great bowls, great mates, and great times in the years to come!

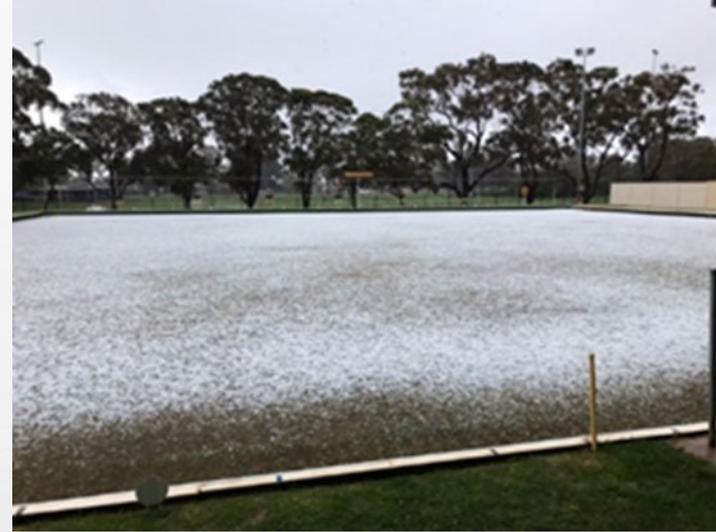


WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

As the summer season began, Hilton warmly welcomed a number of new members. Notably, we were joined by familiar faces from nearby clubs: Bryn Regan and Graeme Fewings from Kardinya, and John Townsend from Fremantle. Other new additions included Gabe Procino, David Millard, Jim McKee, Damon Rubery, and Richard Chapman.

At the same time, we farewelled longtime member Warren Edwards, who relocated to Fremantle. Warren's impact as a selector, skip, and generous supporter has left a lasting impression. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

C GREEN TURNS WHITE



The new synthetic surface on C Green proved a fantastic investment, enabling uninterrupted play throughout winter. In early September, a rare hailstorm momentarily transformed the green into a shimmering white sheet, but the resilient surface allowed play to resume quickly once the ice melted. Members embraced the opportunity for extra winter practice, with many noting noticeable improvements in confidence and consistency on the green.

STATE FOURS RECAP

Hilton Park's team—Craig Standley, Tony Maxwell, Steve Ivory, and Kym Robertson—competed valiantly at the State Fours in Ellenbrook. They began strong with a win in their opening match and delivered competitive performances in the following two games, narrowly missing out on advancement. One loss came against a strong North Perth team that went on to reach the quarterfinals. A fantastic team effort and a proud representation of the club.

MELBOURNE CUP DAY AT HILTON

Despite a smaller turnout than usual, Melbourne Cup Day on the first Tuesday in November was filled with energy and fun. Doug McKay masterfully coordinated a host of raffles, with many lucky winners walking away with prizes. Remarkably, Barney Young scored a major prize while holidaying in Vietnam—proof that Hilton's luck travels far and wide!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF TOMMY JAMES

Tommy James, a cherished member of Hilton Park since 1995, passed away peacefully this year. Born in England in 1936, Tommy emigrated to Australia and overcame significant health challenges to become one of Hilton's most respected bowlers. As the club's second oldest player, Tommy bowled with unwavering passion for nearly three decades.

To honour his legacy, the club has introduced an annual MVP award in his name. Tommy's dedication, kindness, and enduring spirit will forever be remembered—both in our hearts and on the green.



HOME IMPROVEMENTS AT HILTON PARK

This year brought a wave of improvements to both the clubrooms and the surrounding grounds:

- Inside: The hall and bar floors were thoroughly cleaned and polished. Unique, hand-crafted tables and benches made from old bowls were added, infusing character into the space. The committee room also received a long-overdue refresh.
- Outside: The Norm Watson Gardens were rejuvenated, with native plants replacing the ageing frangipanis near the can-bar. A formerly underused parking area near the exit gate was landscaped with shrubs, adding greenery and charm. Around C Green, limestone blocks were removed to improve access and visual appeal, replaced by tasteful new paving and a welcoming gate.

These thoughtful enhancements reflect the care and pride members and volunteers take in maintaining our club's appearance and atmosphere.



TOUGH TIMES IN EXMOUTH – SEPTEMBER BOWLS FESTIVAL

Twelve Hilton members ventured to Exmouth in mid-September to compete in the annual Bowls Festival, braving temperatures that reached 36–37°C. Despite the challenging conditions, spirits remained high. Craig Standley's rink stood out, finishing in the top eight and earning around \$600 in prize money.

While wins were mixed across the teams, camaraderie, cold drinks, and excellent food made for a fantastic trip. Plans are already underway to return in 2025!



FREMANTLE CUP VICTORY

Hilton had a memorable day at East Fremantle, claiming the Fremantle Cup with determination and style. For many players, this was their first experience on a synthetic surface, which played slower than expected. Nevertheless, Hilton's focus and teamwork carried them to a well-earned win. A return match at Hilton is being planned for spring 2025.



A HIDDEN TRIBUTE AT HILTON PARK



A new section of paving near the back stairs holds a delightful secret: the initials HPBC—Hilton Park Bowling Club—are subtly featured in the brickwork. But there's a second, heartwarming interpretation: those same letters match the names of four much-loved club dogs and their owners—Harry, Pete, Butler, and Chester. A cheeky paw-print tribute to the club's extended (and furry) family.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AND LIGHTS

The new season of Wednesday night social bowls kicked off on November 13 with a strong roster of teams and plenty of enthusiasm. Often dubbed barefoot bowls, social bowls, or corporate bowls, these events have become key to drawing in newcomers and building club culture. In fact, many of Hilton's pennant bowlers first discovered the sport under the Wednesday night lights.



Proudly hosted by Gary Melville and his partner Bobi Ward

NOVICES CUP – A DECADE OF TALENT AND SPIRIT

Over the past ten years, the Novices Cup has celebrated emerging talent and helped knit the fabric of our club. Each winner has added a unique chapter to Hilton's story:

2014 – Gary Saint: A valued clubman and greenkeeper, still a vital part of Hilton's top Saturday side.

2015 – Les Onley Jr.: Talented young bowler who has moved clubs, but the Onley family legacy continues.

2016 – Rob Fortini: Now a regular player and our Greens Chair, proving his long-term commitment.

2017 – No competition held.

2018 – Darren Mitchell: A competitive spirit with a memorable accent, now bowling at Melville.

2019 – Micky Glynn: A skilled player on the comeback trail following health setbacks.

2020 – Dave Van de Ven: Now Men's Captain and a renowned last-minute entrant—passionate and reliable.

2021 – Brett Parker: A confident player who has moved around clubs, possibly now at Cockburn.

2022 – Graham Burnett: Rebounded strongly after a major fall, delivering consistent leads.

2023 – John Jenkinson: A big personality who rose quickly and is back post-knee surgery.

2024 – Kevin Grant: A composed former UK police officer, now chasing a regular top-team spot.

CLUB EVENTS RECAP

While early intra-club competitions had modest attendance, the quality of play was top-notch:

- Men's 100 Up: Won by Tony Maxwell, showcasing his consistency and tactical play.
- Mixed 100 Up: Claimed by Michael Broadbridge, a fitting achievement for a strong season.

CLUB EVENTS RECAP

This year's Novices Cup featured 10 talented entrants—a sign of fresh energy in the club. Among the favourites were top-side players Glen Dwyer and Paul Saffioti. Glen exited earlier than expected, while Paul powered through to the final. Ultimately, first-year bowler Damon Rubery prevailed in a confident display, securing the title and a promising future at Hilton. Congratulations, Damon!

THURSDAY PENNANTS – A STRONG START TO 2025



The season began with a bang as all three Hilton Thursday teams recorded opening-round victories. The atmosphere post-match was electric, with bar singalongs and the ringing of the club bell marking a fantastic start. Confidence and momentum are building—go Hilton!

TOO HOT TO BOWL – JANUARY HEATWAVE

Extreme weather in late January forced the cancellation of bowls for the first time this season. With temperatures exceeding 40°C and oppressive humidity, player safety was paramount. The Tuesday Ladies match against Safety Bay and Thursday's games were called off. Australia Day falling in the same week offered bowlers a rare mid-season break.

NEW WORLD RECORD? SATURDAY SCROUNGERS SENSATION

Bryn Regan made headlines (and possibly history) at a recent Saturday Scroungers with a jaw-dropping 61-point performance. The previous high remembered was a visiting Spearwood player scoring in the 40s. Bryn's achievement was a showcase of precision and flair—a reminder that maybe it's time we kept official records!

STAYING ALIVE – A LIFELINE BEYOND BOWLS



Hilton Park Bowling Club continues to thrive not just through bowls, but through music. Our Friday night and Sunday band sessions draw huge crowds, keeping the club lively and financially secure. These gatherings offer something for everyone—dancing, drinks, and community connection—and have become essential to the club's social heartbeat.



TUESDAY LADIES – A REMARKABLE TURNAROUND!

After a tough relegation from Division Three last season, the Tuesday Ladies were invited back into the competition—and what a return it's been! The team has surged to the top of the ladder and is in the hunt for promotion. Grit, teamwork, and belief have defined this incredible turnaround.

CLUB FINALS RECAP

Recent club finals have delivered excellent competition and memorable moments:

- Mixed Pairs: Craig Standley and Debbie Beesley triumphed over Rod and Nat Butler.
- Men's Pairs: Gary Saint and Brian Smith edged out Steve Ivory and Tony Maxwell in a close contest.
- Ladies' Triples: Denise Hughes, Sharron Mitchell, and Bobi Ward claimed the title with a steady team performance.

AUSTRALIA DAY MEMORIES

One of the most enjoyable moments of the summer was the annual “Australia vs Rest of the World” match. Sunny skies, competitive bowls, and loads of laughs made for a classic Hilton celebration. Win or lose, the day was all about fun, friendship, and community.



FAREWELL TO LIFE MEMBER ROY ROWE

In early February, Hilton Park farewelled life member Roy Rowe, who passed away at 94. A Fremantle native and lifelong Hilton resident, Roy was a respected wharfie and dedicated bowler. B Green was named in his honour years ago—a testament to his influence.

Roy loved his fishing, his club, and was a regular at the bar well into his 90s. His funeral was followed by a touching wake at Hilton, beneath the “Roy Rowe Green” sign, where his family gathered to celebrate a life well lived and deeply connected to our club.



CLUB COMPETITION ROUNDUP

- Ladies' Singles: Liz Mann staged a thrilling upset to defeat favourite Judy Dean—a great reminder that in bowls, anything is possible on the day.
- Men's Fours: George Annandale, Scotty Cargill, Rob Fontini, and Michael Broadbridge cruised to a 24–6 win in the final after a hard-fought Friday night semi.



MEN'S SINGLES – A HIGH QUALITY FINAL

A new round-robin format saw 24 players split into eight groups of three. Standouts included:

- Quarter & Semi Finals: Michael Broadbridge bested Craig Standley in a blustery semi; John Jenkinson edged Graeme Fewings in a marathon 28-end thriller.
- Final: Broadbridge's long-end strategy paid off as he secured a 25–14 win over John Jenkinson. Congratulations to our club president on a well-earned title!

HILTON LADIES – A SEASON OF STRENGTH

Our Ladies team has had a breakout season, finished runners-up and showed real strength in every round. Their hard work, unity, and rising confidence were inspirational. This campaign is just the beginning of greater achievements to come—well done, ladies!



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MIXED FOURS – FINAL MATCH DRAMA!

The summer season's last final delivered edge-of-the-seat action. Craig Standley, Ian Gray, and the van de Vens were chasing a third straight win but were narrowly defeated 20–19 by Cat Fewings, Bryn Regan, and Jamie and Sharron Mitchell.

Cat's team held a six-shot lead going into the final end, but Craig's side was holding six when Cat's final bowl heroically removed one—securing a dramatic victory.

100 CLUB DRAW – CELEBRATION AND SUPPORT

A sold-out 100 Club dinner and draw brought a full house to Hilton. Thanks to all ticket buyers for supporting the club, and to:

- Damon Rubery & Chris Dwyer: For their effort in the kitchen.
- Scotty Cargill: For his entertaining commentary.
- Michael Broadbridge: Who shared touching anecdotes about legends Val Turner and George Annandale.

The top prize went to one of our loyal sponsors—helping ensure their continued backing of the club.



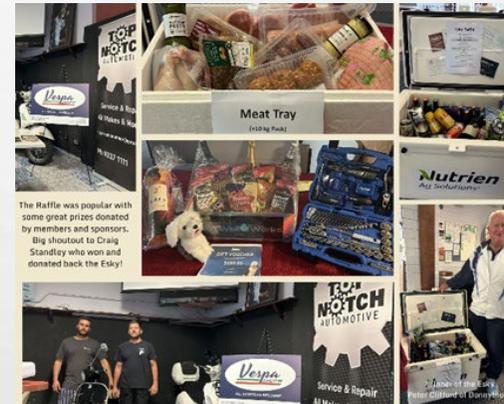
GARDEN HEROES – UNSUNG CHAMPIONS

Rain, hail, or shine—our garden volunteers show up every week, putting in over 10 hours to keep our grounds beautiful. Your dedication doesn't go unnoticed. Thank you for adding so much colour, care, and pride to Hilton Park.



HILTON CLASSIC – A MAY SUCCESS

Held May 3 & 4, the Hilton Classic brought 24 teams from across WA for two great days of bowls. Cooler weather didn't dampen spirits, thanks to stellar organisation, great food, and warm hospitality.



BARRIE LESTER COACHING CLINIC

A standout event this year was the inspiring coaching session with Australian bowls champion Barrie Lester. Thanks to the generous support of Jamie and Sharron Mitchell, members gained practical tips on technique, team spirit, and mental focus—what Barrie calls staying “in the blue zone.” The session emphasized communication, positive body language, and teamwork, leaving a lasting impact on players and the club. We’re truly grateful and excited to build on these valuable lessons moving forward.

Stay in the blue zone, Hilton!



CLUB WINDUP – A FANTASTIC DAY!

A huge congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Dave van de Ven and everyone involved in organising the Club Wind-Up. The day was a fantastic celebration of our club's achievements, with spirits running high and fierce competition on every green. The event perfectly captured the camaraderie, dedication, and passion that make our club so special.



CLUB CHAMPION EVENTS – 2024/2025

FREMANTLE CUP

WINNER: G PROCINO / D HUGHES / G MELVILLE / T
MAXWELL

MIXED 100 UP

WINNER: T MAXWELL
RUNNER-UP: R BUTLER

MIXED HANDICAP SINGLES

WINNER: T MAXWELL
RUNNER-UP: S FARRELL

MIXED PAIRS

WINNER: D BEESLEY / C STANDLEY
RUNNER-UP: N BUTLER / R BUTLER

MIXED FOURS

WINNER: S MITCHELL / J MITCHELL / B REGAN / G
FEWINGS
RUNNER-UP: D VAN DE VEN / M VAN DE VEN / I
GRAY / C STANDLEY

LADIES PAIRS

WINNER: S MITCHELL / J DEAN
RUNNER-UP: A MAURI / D HUGHES

LADIES TRIPLES

WINNER: D HUGHES / S MITCHELL / R WARD
RUNNER-UP: V TURNER / E MANN / J DEAN

LADIES SINGLES

WINNER: E MANN
RUNNER-UP: J DEAN

MEN'S 100 UP

WINNER: M BROADBRIDGE
RUNNER-UP: T MAXWELL

MEN'S HANDICAP SINGLES

WINNER: R FORTINI
RUNNER-UP: J JENKINSON

MEN'S NOVICE SINGLES

WINNER: D RUBERY
RUNNER-UP: P SAFFIOTI

MEN'S VETERAN SINGLES

WINNER: G FEWINGS
RUNNER-UP: G DWYER

MEN'S PAIRS

WINNER: G SAINT / B SMITH
RUNNER-UP: S IVORY / T MAXWELL

MEN'S TRIPLES

WINNER: G SAINT / S FARRELL / B SMITH
RUNNER-UP: D VAN DE VEN / J MITCHELL / G
DODD

MEN'S FOURS

WINNER: G ANNANDALE / S CARGILL / R
FORTINI / M BROADBRIDGE
RUNNER-UP: M DE LUIS / D MILLARD / R
BUTLER / T SIMPSON

MEN'S OPEN SINGLES

WINNER: M BROADBRIDGE
RUNNER-UP: J JENKINSON

SPECIAL AWARDS

LADIES BOWLER OF THE YEAR: DENISE HUGHES
BOWLER OF THE YEAR: T MAXWELL