

MEMBERS UPDATE – May 2026

Dear Members,

Firstly, I hope this update finds you all well and enjoying the year both on and off the greens.

It has been some time since our last members update, and during that period there has been plenty happening around the club. From strong participation in our bowling events and competitions, to ongoing work behind the scenes focused on the club's future direction and financial sustainability, there is certainly much to share with members.

As always, the continued support, involvement and loyalty of our members is greatly appreciated by the Board, Management and staff. Our club remains a wonderful community built on friendship, camaraderie and a shared passion for the game of bowls and the club itself.

On the Greens – Strong Performances and Community Spirit

Congratulations to our Grade 3 Women's Pennant team on qualifying for the Regional Pennant Playoffs for 2026. This is a fantastic achievement, and we wish the team every success as they compete for a regional title and the opportunity to represent Asquith in the State Playoffs.

Unfortunately, our open-gender pennant teams experienced a challenging season this year following the success of winning two flags last season. A combination of injuries, illness and player unavailability impacted results throughout the competition. Despite the difficulties, we sincerely thank all players for their commitment, perseverance and sportsmanship during the season. We have no doubt the mighty Roo's will return stronger next year.

Congratulations also to Scott Burrows and the ABC Committee on the outstanding success of the Bite-Me Turnaround Triples Carnival. The event attracted 28 teams, including several visiting clubs, and was enjoyed by all who participated. The day ran seamlessly and was a credit to everyone involved.

A special thank you to Anthony and the team at Bite-Me Bakehouse for their generous sponsorship and catering support, including pies, sausage rolls and apple pies for afternoon tea. We also acknowledge the continued support of Hornsby RSL for sponsoring the event.

It was wonderful to see all three greens active and full of bowlers enjoying the day. The popularity of these events continues to grow, and both the ABC and Women's Bowling Club are already planning additional tournaments and carnivals for 2026. Thank you to everyone contributing to the continued success of bowls at our club.

Green Fee Adjustments

Following a review of operating costs associated with maintaining our greens, the Board has approved a modest increase to green fees, effective from 1 July 2026. This is the first increase in more than eight years.

The revised fees will be as follows:

- ABC Pennants / Social Bowls (Thursdays & Saturdays) – \$20 per player
- AWBC Pennants / Social Bowls (Tuesdays & Fridays) – \$20 per player
- Social Mufti (Mondays & Wednesdays) – \$15 per player
- Barefoot & Mufti Bowls (booked or special days) – \$15 per player
- Twilight Bowls – \$10 plus \$5 entry fee
- Carnivals & Tournaments – \$10 per player

These adjustments will assist in offsetting the increasing costs associated with maintaining our high-quality greens, including contractor expenses and rising material costs. We appreciate the understanding and ongoing support of all members.

Membership Renewals

Annual membership renewals are now due. The Board has approved only a small increase to all Membership categories for the 2026/27 year.

The updated membership fees are:

- Full Bowling Member (renewal only paid by 30 June 2026) – \$150
- Full Bowling Member (paid after 30 June 2026) – \$160
- Dual Membership – \$70
- 1-Year Social Bowler Membership – \$70
- 5-Year Social Membership – \$16
- 1-Year Social Membership – \$8

Members are encouraged to renew as soon as possible through the club office, preferably during business hours.

Club Operations & Financial Position

Off the greens, the club has continued to trade steadily, although financial pressures remain. Our third quarter accounts reflected a loss for the period, which is consistent with what has traditionally been a more difficult trading quarter, particularly in the years following COVID-19.

Management and the Board are currently reviewing several areas of the club's operations to identify opportunities for improvement and long-term sustainability.

Encouragingly, the club's EBITDA result (before depreciation) showed a profit of \$179,430, and cash holdings at the end of March stood at \$662,220. While this places the club in a stable position, we also must acknowledge the significant ongoing capital investment and maintenance upkeep the club faces over the coming years.

As discussed at the last AGM, it remains important that the club continues exploring opportunities to strengthen and diversify its income streams. The Board and Management have been actively investigating a range of commercial opportunities in recent months.

Once a preferred direction has been determined, members will be invited to a detailed presentation outlining the proposal and the reasons we believe it represents the best path forward for the future of our club. While no formal timeline has been set, we are hopeful this presentation will occur during 2026.

Courtesy Bus

Recently the Board made the decision to sell the Clubs courtesy bus which has seen unsustainable losses incurred over several years. This will occur in the near future. Management is in the process of establishing a club Uber service for all members who will be able to visit our club to and from their homes at a subsidised discount. We will update all members when this service is available.

Club By-Laws Review

The Board has recently undertaken a review and update of the club's by-laws. Once finalised, the updated by-laws will be displayed on the club noticeboard for members' information. These by-laws are an important document that helps the club continue to operate respectfully and effectively for the benefit of all members.

Thankyou

Finally, to those unwell, we wish you all a speedy recovery. Thank you to all members for your ongoing support of the club, our bowls community, and each other. We encourage everyone to continue supporting the club and to enjoy the friendships, facilities and hospitality we are proud to provide — including our excellent Bistro.

Steve Wilson (President).