



TRANMERE BOWLS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024/25

The first four of nine championships concluded before the Christmas break but were not without issues. The matches were scheduled to be played on 15 December immediately prior to the bowls section's Christmas lunch.

Open 100up

The first grand final match was the Open 100up between last year's runner up, **Peter Marshall and Roger Kairl**. Peter got off to a blistering start gaining a 20-point lead after just six ends played.

Roger then found the form that got him into the final and the standard of the match then rose to a first-class performance. Both players then bowled with precision constantly drawing close to the jack, but the 20-point lead Peter earned earlier was too difficult to catch up.

Peter went on to win by around that margin. Well done, Peter and well deserved.



Open Singles

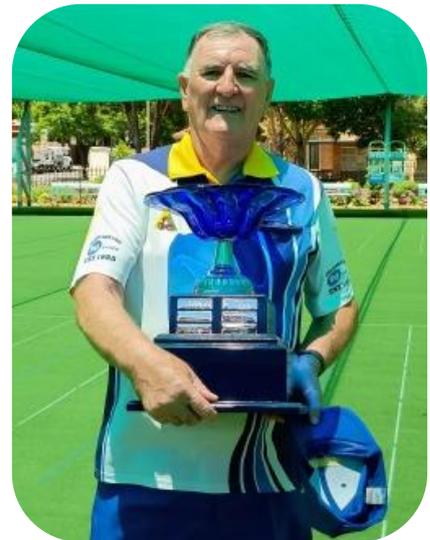
The next match played was the Open Singles between the club's two titans last year's runner up, **Eddie Dolan** and a regular final's contender, **John Feddersen**. A best of two sets match with a three-end tie breaker if required.

The first set saw John dominate playing wonderful draw shots to win the set easily. Not to be outdone, Eddie came back with a vengeance. Showing all the skills, obtained during his career to win the second set by a similar margin to his loss in the previous. The pair were well supported by the spectators watching great bowls.



The tie break's first end was one-shot to John. Eddie returned fire on the second end, with a terrific bowl resting next to the jack. Scores were level!

The third end of the tie break, Eddie bowled three amazing bowls all within a foot of the jack. Meanwhile, John had a bowl to the left of the head, one to the right and one behind. With John's last bowl he ran it through the head and knocked the jack to the right towards his bowl. Unfortunately, in driving he also knocked one of Eddie's bowls in the same direction. Eddie finished up with one shot and won the match. A superb match played by superb players. Well done, Eddie!



Men's Pairs

The only grand final match played as scheduled was the Men's Pairs between the pairings of **John Feddersen and Claus Schonfeldt** (2012/13 winners) against **Trevor Freeman and Bob Cecchi** (2017/18).

With the forecasted heatwave, the match started at 9am with a bevy of spectators braving the heat and much appreciated by the players. As the match started everyone was prepared for the heat with drinks, wet towels etc on hand.

Trevor and Bob flew out of the gate with some very good bowls creating an early lead. Their momentum stayed with them throughout the match preventing John and Claus from catching up. The match concluded after 14 ends given their lead was greater than eight shots possible. Well done Bob and Trevor!



Ladies' Pairs

The last of the championship matches was the Ladies' Pairs between **Louise Lycett and Julie McGirr** against **Brenda Porter and Sue Sanders**. A good size crowd showed up to watch an entertaining match. Best of 15 ends, the match started with many good bowls with Louise and Julie dominating the first half of the match establishing what looked like a comfortable lead.



However, not to be outdone both Brenda and Sue clawed their way back into the match. Both lifted and found a new level with many high quality bowls. Slowly they began to whittle down the lead that Louise and Julie established. Then a couple of big ends saw Brenda and Sue capture the lead and then extend it.



It was a great fightback and a well-deserved win. Well done to Brenda and Sue!

Footnote:

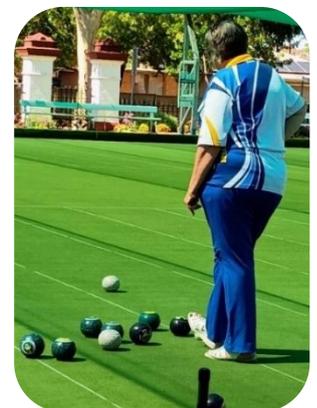
This is the first time since 2017/18 that the ladies' pairs final did not comprise players from the top side.



Coincidentally, in 2017/18 Sue Sanders won this event with Pam Fullarton. This is the third time Sue is a pair's champion – each time with a different partner.



It is the sixth time Brenda has been champion – the most of any of our current players and the most of any women players in the history of the club over the period for which we have information going back to 1988-89. It is possible there were ladies' pairs' champions prior, but we have no record.



Mixed Pairs

This year the mixed pairs match started 45 minutes prior to the other three matches being played to ensure all matches finished at around the same time. **Marg Filmer and Peter Brandon** took on the formidable **Mary and John Feddersen** and what a match it was. Neither pair dominated at any point nor did either take control of the match.



Mary and John had their noses out in front for most of the match but never enough to think they had it won. All four bowlers played at an extremely high standard and all contributing fantastic shots throughout the match. With two ends to go it was still anyone's to take the match. John and Mary had just a single lead. On the 14th end they scored two shots making it a three-shot lead with one end to go. Whereas Peter and Marg needed a three to force an extra end or four to win. It was a big ask as only ones and twos were scored for the whole match. Mary and John scored one on the last end to win the match 12 to 8. Well done.



Challenge Shield

This is the third consecutive year of the event. Louise Lycett who displayed some wonderful form for second half of the season was matched up against **John Lucas** who won his way into the final by defeating **Bob Aistrope**, last year's champion in the semi-final.

It looked like a great match-up and a close match was expected. John got off to a good start by scoring two shots in the first end of the first set. Unfortunately for John, Louise settled very quickly and took over from there winning the first set with three ends to spare.

John lifted in the second set as to be expected, but Louise kept the pressure on with some excellent draw shots. Louise took out the second set 7 to 3 to win the match. The current tally is now two wins to the ladies and one to the men.



Ladies' Singles

The first of two Blue Ribbon events for the day, the Ladies' Singles Championship was contested between last year's champion, **Claire Pope** and **Anne Lippis** a previous champion. Apart from being fierce opponents they are also great friends. Both are leads in their respective teams so excellent draw bowling was anticipated.

Once the match commenced both players were immediately all over the jack. The match was very nip and tuck for the first half with no-one taking control. Once both players reached double figures on the scoreboard, Claire found a way to bowl even better; she just took off to leave left Anne in her wake. Claire won 25 to 12 to win the event back-to-back. Well done.



Men's Singles

The second Blue Ribbon event for the day was the Men's Singles Championship between last year's champion **Peter Marshall** and **Roger Kairl** also a previous championship winner. Both players are skippers in the top sides for Saturdays and Wednesdays, so it was always going to be a tough match played by two worthy past champions.

It was also tough for both players due to one side of the rink being difficult to get a consistent line. This took away many shot options and required extra concentration and consideration - "am I going to go down this side or not?" Nevertheless, it was there for both players to deal with. As expected, once the players settled, they both bowled with precision. End-after-end there was three, four or five bowls within half a metre of the jack.

Just whose was shot was the question? The match remained tight with neither player dominating the scoreboard. Then Roger struck a purple patch towards the end of the match pulling out to a five-shot lead. This looked like it was going to be enough to hold off and win but not to be outdone, Peter settled and played a great end drawing three shots to make it 23-21 Roger's way. Roger held on and got his two shots to take out the match and win his second championship. Congratulations to both players.



Open Pairs Championship

The last championship was played some tens day after Grand Final day due to Roger and Peter already playing in other finals. **Marie Roberts and Peter Brandon** versus **Julie McGirr and Roger Kairl**.

The match got off to a great start. All four bowlers drew well. It looked like it was going to be a tight match. Julie and Marie were evenly matched and drew well. Peter also playing very well but Roger was on the next level. Five of Roger's first six bowls of the match were drawn within two feet or less of the jack and he maintained this level of excellence throughout the game.

Marie and Julie had a fair tussle taking turns at holding shot at the change of ends and despite Peter playing many great shots Roger was the soul destroyer.

Peter would draw within a foot, Roger – six inches, and this would go on for the entire game. This truly was an excellent performance from start to finish by Roger. Julie and Roger won the first set not needing to bowl the ninth end and went on to win the second set without the last two ends to be bowled. This was another example of a match where the score did not reflect how well the losing team bowled. Congratulations to Julie and Roger.



TRANMERE 2025

CENTENARY

SINGLES

CHAMPIONS

ROGER KAIRL

CLAIRE POPE



