

Answering the Call: A New Chapter for Roxburgh Bowling Club

At the end of last season, our Board and members recognised that the club's greatest challenge was declining membership numbers. Over recent years, we had seen membership reduce due to people moving away, the loss of valued members and health-related issues. This placed increasing demands on a smaller group of members, many of whom were taking on multiple roles to keep the club operating. While their commitment has been remarkable, it highlighted the need to attract new members and secure the club's long-term future.

To address this challenge, the previous Board issued our AGM notice with an "SOS" call to the Teviot Valley community and an open invitation to attend. Our goal was to grow membership and build a sustainable future for Roxburgh Bowling Club.

In the lead-up to the AGM, many members actively promoted the club and encouraged others to get involved. We wanted to introduce more people to bowls and increase both our full and social membership.

The response exceeded all expectations. More than 13 people joined at the AGM, with additional membership applications received afterward. Most of these new members are either new to bowls or had recently participated in our Friendly Bowls series.

We have welcomed our new members, provided introductory information, and recently submitted an order for club shirts, which are supplied free of charge to all first-year members.

Our Opening Day is scheduled for 13th September and, as always, everyone in the community is welcome to attend. Our focus now is on understanding what our new members would like from the club and ensuring we provide enjoyable opportunities for participation and friendship.

There is already plenty of planning and discussion underway, supported by the enthusiasm of our new members and the experience of our existing members. Together, we have a fantastic opportunity to build an even stronger, more vibrant club for the future.

Since moving here permanently three years ago, I have often said that we live in a piece of paradise. This experience has reinforced that belief. It is not only the stunning scenery that makes this region special, but also the generosity and community spirit of the people who live here. When you ask for help and invite people to be part of your vision, the response can be extraordinary.

On behalf of Roxburgh Bowling Club, thank you to everyone who has joined, supported, encouraged, or taken an interest in our future. The response from the Teviot Valley community has been truly inspiring, and with the enthusiasm of our new members and the continued dedication of our existing members, the future of Roxburgh Bowling Club is looking bright.

Maree Bartrum, President, Roxburgh Bowling Club