



Sydney Rams Tenpin Bowling Inc
AGM Meeting Minutes & Election of 2024 committee
Monday November 18, 2024 7.00 pm

VENUE
 ATTENDEES
 APOLOGIES
 Quorum
 NEXT Reformation MEETING

[Newmarket Hotel, 1st Floor, 549 Gardners Road, Mascot NSW 2020](#)

50% of membership required (15 Attendees) – See attached
 3 February 2025

No	Items	Discussions and Decisions	Who	Status
1	Previous Minutes	Move acceptance of the previous minutes AGM dated 20 November 2023 Moved: LG Seconded: AG	All	All Committee
2	Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurers Reports Moved: NC 2nd: DA • Secretary Report Moved: NC 2nd: DA • Vice Presidents Report. Moved: LG 2nd: MM • President’s Report Moved: MM 2nd: GB 	NM NM KS DK	
2	Election of Committee for 2024	ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE Nominations are now open	All	
	President Nominations:	Darren Keper has nominated himself to stand as President again Other Nominations: Voting: Yes: 18 No: 0	NM	
	Vice President Nominations:	Kim Shephard has nominated himself to stand as Vice President again Other Nominations: Voting: Yes: 18 No: 0	NM	
	Treasurer Nominations	Position is Vacated and looking for nominations Other Nominations: none received – Norman to continue in acting role Voting: Yes: No:	NM	
	Secretary Nominations	Norman Mitchell has nominated himself to stand as Secretary again. Other Nominations: Voting: Yes: 18 No: 0	NM	
	Outcome	The new committee was voted in as follows: President: Darren Keper Vice President: Kim Shephard Treasurer: Norman to continue in acting rold Secretary: Norman Mitchell	NM	
	Other items	Presentation Night update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held at Graphic Arts Club - Guests to pay \$80 per head - Plenty of parking - 3 course and includes drinks - Min spend of \$5k Mardi Gras Parade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nothing to report and will discuss at Reformation meeting 	NM DK KS	



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		<p>Fair Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Payment carried over from last year - Volunteers will be needed to man the stall - More details at Reformation meeting <p>Maccabi Start Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DK spoke to HS about the times and they have agreed to start at 6pm so they will be finished by 8pm - Also mentioned about once they have finished that they make an effort to clear the lanes faster <p>Declining Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our numbers have dropped and we need to start building them back up - Smallest number of bowlers in around 20 years - Number of factors – cost of living etc - Do a survey of leaving members to see if there are issues - Offer an induction of new members – etiquette and rules and possible tips on bowling - Check with Savva to advertise the league on the screens - Advertise early and look at advertising on Grindr, social media, newspaper <p>Gender Neutral Trophies 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General discussion but it was decided that we would vote for this issue at Reformation meeting <p>Possible changing to Cash prizes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NM mentioned that we could possibly stop the weekly cash draw and use that as an incentive cash prize to attract new bowlers. 		
2	Close of Meeting	8pm		

Presidents Report – 2024 AGM Sydney Rams

- Unfortunately we dropped from 13 teams last year to 10 teams this year - declining member numbers is becoming a growing concern
- In February we couldn't have our regular annual stall at the Mardi Gras Fair Day to promote the league and seek new members due to asbestos in Victoria Park
- A successful Mardi Gras Tournament was held in March. Thanks to everyone that participated and special thanks to Norman Mitchell for all his effort organising and running the tournament.
- The 2024 Inter-league Tournament with Maccabi NSW league was held in June with Sydney Rams league winning the tournament for the fourth time in the tournament's 6 year history. Thanks to everyone that attended and donated prizes for this tournament.
- On Sunday 30th June we hosted a Sydney Rams Open Day, sponsored by TBA Australia, to encourage new bowlers to both the sport and the league
- Three successful Bring-a-Buddy nights were held during the year in April, July and October. Special thanks to our donors of prizes.
- The annual Charity Bingo Night held in August was a huge success raising \$3045, with \$1600 being donated to the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation and the remainder for Sydney Rams. Special thanks to everyone donating prizes and to our fabulous performers.
- Participation by Darnley VanCuylenburg and myself in the NSW State Tenpin Bowling Championships at Tenpin City, Lidcombe in February
- Darnley VanCuylenburg competed at the Seniors' National Championships in Perth in September completing his first NSW representative competition. He hit a personal best of 265 and scored over 200 in more than 14 games, which is over 15% of his games. He was proud to have been part of the men's team that was the runner-up and to have achieved third place overall (ladies' and men's teams). To top it off, he was selected for the All Stars team (top 6 out of over 60 participants) in his first year, surpassing many experienced bowlers. This has not been done for over 15 years.
- A large number of Sydney Rams bowlers competed in the Greg Small Tournament hosted by Maccabi NSW league in October with Darnley VanCuylenburg finishing in second place and Craig Haskard (former Sydney Rams member) finishing in third place for the Men's handicap division.
- Thank you to Lyndon Gaskin and Kim Shephard for their generous donation of wine during the year as prizes for the Bring-a-Buddy nights and Inter-league Tournament. Thanks also to the Polly's Club for their long-standing support of Sydney Rams.
- Picnic in Turruwul Park, Rosebery in October attended by about 15 people. Thanks to Norman Mitchell for organising the day.
- Presentation night on Saturday 30th November to be held at the Graphic Arts Club, Mascot
- Thanks to Savva and his Manhattan Super Bowl team for continuing to host us year after year.
- Thank you to Norman and Kim for their enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to the committee. Special mention to Norman who has performed two roles this year as Club Secretary and Club Treasurer.
- Looking forward to an exciting 2025

Secretary Report/Financial Report – 2024 AGM Sydney Rams

I won't go over everything of what Darren & Kim and talked through, but I would like to thank everyone for participating this year and for everyone who donated prizes over the year.

Summary of Financials for 2024

Our opening balance as at 01/01/2024 - \$1,188.75

Fees received from weekly bowling \$24,005.13, paid out \$19,845.00 - \$4,160.13
Out of that \$4,160.13 we paid out \$1,500 for weekly cash draw. Amount made for Rams - \$2,660.13

Macabbi tournament – Rams and Macabbi shared the profit which equated to \$67.05 each

Mardi Gras Tournament – Profit of \$61.85 after lane fees, medals and lollies

Bring a Buddy nights – 4 over the year. 2 paid for and 2 free. Rams profit \$2,219.52
Could have been more but low numbers for the 2nd free night.

Bingo – Rams profit of \$1006.76 and we made a donation to BGF \$1,600

Presentation night - \$5,000 for the room booking which includes food and some drinks.

Trophies are approximately \$3,000

Team/player numbers are a concern, and we need to look at doing something to bring those numbers up.

Possible advertising on Grindr or other social media platforms.

Advertising earlier (Will set up reformation and BAB night for January and start promoting in December).

Thanks for Darren & Kim for their efforts on the committee.

Financial Report for Rams 2024

Item	Description	2024 Actual	Explanation/Comments
Income			
1	Income from League bowling nights	\$ 24,005.13	
2	Rams Membership Fee Collected	\$ 208.00	
3	TBAL Fee collected	\$ 1,350.00	
4	Donations	\$ 107.16	
5	Maccabi	\$ 2,094.10	
6	MG Tournament	\$ 2,710.10	
7	Bingo	\$ 2,805.76	
8	BAB nights	\$ 3,401.27	
9	Interest	\$ 15.93	
10	Presentation night guests	\$ 136.99	
	Totals	\$ 36,834.44	
Expenditure			
1	Lane Fees paid on League bowling nights	\$ 19,845.00	
2	Lucky Draw Pay out	\$ 1,500.00	Taken out of cash each week
3	TBAL membership	\$ 1,350.00	
4	Rams IT fees	\$ 29.88	google Monthly
5	Stationary/Stamps/Advertising		
6	Rams Presentation night trophies		
7	Rams trophies others		
8	MG Tournament	\$ 2,648.25	Lanes \$2042, Medals \$426.25, Lollies/prizes \$180
9	Fair Day	\$ 422.10	Fair day Gazebo and Table and donation of \$100
10	Bingo	\$ 1,799.00	Includes \$1600 donated to charity
11	Legal expenses	\$ 188.17	Insurance for Fair Day \$91.75 & Fair Trading \$96.42
12	Lollies	\$ 185.07	
13	Account Fee	\$ 55.00	CBA
14	Comm Biz Fee	\$ 21.73	Commbizz fees
15	Square Fees	\$ 500.33	Taken out before transfers
16	BAB nights	\$ 1,181.75	2 nights free and paid 2 nights \$405 & \$621
17	Maccabi	\$ 2,027.05	
18	Presentation night	\$ 2,500.00	Deposit paid for Graphic Arts club
19	Picnic	\$ 164.41	Food etc for picnic
20	Memberships	\$ 151.69	IGBO
	Totals	\$ 34,569.43	

Sydney Rams Financials 2024

Description	Amount Received	Amount Paid	Difference
League Bowling	\$ 24,005.13	\$ 19,845.00	\$ 4,160.13
Rams Membership	\$ 208.00		\$ 208.00
TBAL	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,350.00	\$ -
Maccabi	\$ 2,094.10	\$ 2,027.05	\$ 67.05
MG Tournament	\$ 2,710.10	\$ 2,648.25	\$ 61.85
Bingo	\$ 2,805.76	\$ 1,799.00	\$ 1,006.76
BAB nights	\$ 3,401.27	\$ 1,181.75	\$ 2,219.52
Lucky Draw prizes		\$ 1,500.00	-\$ 1,500.00
Total	\$ 36,574.36	\$ 30,351.05	\$ 6,223.31

Date	Amount
Balance 18/11	\$ 7,496.43
Week 32 Bowling night 18/11	\$ 1,774.50
Week 32 Bowling night fees	-\$ 783.00
Trophies - Presentation night	-\$ 3,000.00
Dinner - Presentation night	-\$ 2,500.00
Fair Trading	-\$ 120.00
Other - Possible Drinks Presentation	-\$ 500.00
Balance 31/12/24	\$ 2,367.93

SYDNEY RAMS TENPIN BOWLING INC – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024

First, I would like to congratulate and thank all members of Sydney RAMS for their continued support and loyalty to our League. Whilst we have experienced some shrinkage of membership, the League remains focused on addressing this issue and ensuring a continuation of our traditional friendly bowling sessions. The prospect for 2025 seems assured and solid.

MEMBERSHIP & League Size:

We started 2024 off with 12 nominal teams. With a few adjustments, this was maintained throughout Season 1. Season 2 saw a diminution of numbers and the League shrank to a level of 30 members – the lowest size we have seen in the past 20 years. Some team consolidation ensued and the numbers remained reasonably constant through the rest of the year.

There are numerous issues that have contributed to this unusual shrinkage including :

- High interest / mortgage/ rental rates, resulting in a tighter economy (less disposable income) with higher prices for most everyday items.
- Cancellation of 2024 Fair Day, due to the existence of asbestos in Victoria Park.
- Later finish time for Season 2

Events and Recruitment:

In a first (which we expect to repeat in 2025), we ran a 'Bring A Buddy' in late January 2024, prior to Reformation. This was enormously successful with in excess of 35 bowlers turning up. There is value in this format, in that it creates awareness in the community, prior to Reformation – and wins new bowlers!

Two other 2024 Bring A Buddy events were also run – each being very well attended.

We also ran our usual Fair Day Stall in mid-February, despite the cancellation of SG&L Mardi Gras 4 days prior to the event. Instead, we partnered with 11 other sports and participated in a pure Sport-themed 'alternative' Sport Fair Day, in co-operation with **Emerald City Kickball**.

Whilst approximately 900 people attended throughout the day, the short timespan hampered awareness and advertising for the event at Rushcutters Bay Park. I would like to especially thank Darren, Norman, Keiran, Alex and Gary for volunteering their time and effort. Of course, our thanks also go to Emerald City Kickball for organizing the event and providing tents and equipment.

With 80-100,000 visitors, Mardi Gras Fair Day is our primary recruitment tool for attracting new members. Funds for the cancelled 2024 event have been brought forward by SG&L Mardi Gras to cover the 2025 event, so no RAMS funding will be incurred for this event in 2025.

We will be going all-out at Fair Day 2025 to replenish our membership numbers. Using our QR app*, we will aim to attract as many new members as possible and return the League to our pre-COVID numbers.

- *Our QR code data collection app for cell phones collects Contact detail from prospective new members at events such as Fair Day and other related social events.

Traditionally, we have used our socials (website, Facebook, Instagram etc) to advertise our Bring-A-Buddy and Reformation Night.

- I have suggested to the Committee that we begin advertising earlier in December / January and use a more engaging strategy **highlighting available positions for individual and Team memberships.**
- We will also seek to **target co-operation with organisations** such as Harbour City Bears, SGLBA, BGF, the Polly's Group to further promote the League.

Our 2024 Mardi Gras Tournament and Maccabi Challenge Tournament occurred and were well-attended and fun. Darren / Norman will mention these in detail.

We also ran our highly successful and well-attended Bingo! Night with BGF (Bobby Goldsmith Foundation) as the beneficiary. Revenue from the event was split between BGF and Sydney RAMS. It would also be appropriate to thank all volunteers and the generosity of our Teams for the effort expended at the 'Bingo!' night. The venue for Bingo came free of charge, enhancing returns.

October saw wonderful weather and approximately 15 members turned out for a great, sunny Sunday for the annual Sydney RAMS Picnic. I am particularly grateful to those volunteering on the day for their assistance. Regrettably, I was unable to attend due to being present at the Federation of Gay Games Annual General Meeting in Washington, DC.

Thanks also go to Life Member Lyndon Gaskin for his continued donations to RAMS functions and his unwavering dedication to organizing theatre group tickets throughout the year.

The strength and support of our current membership has been particularly important to RAMS over the past two years post-Covid. Our Committee is most grateful for your continued belief in the Sydney RAMS group and we recognize and thank you accordingly.

While in recognition mode, I would like to extend our collective League 'Thank You' to Savva and the staff of Manhattan Superbowl for their continuous support of Sydney RAMS. The fact that we have bowled at Manhattan since late 1993 underlines the strong relationship and support that exists.

PERFORMANCE:

- During the year, I attended all Committee meetings. I also attended and assisted (planning and execution) in each and every social event.
- I ran the voting system for Sport Person of the Year Award.
- Part of the planning / execution Committee for all social events with Darren and Norman.
- Whilst like all NSW incorporated bodies, our Constitution is simply based on Fair Trading's model Constitution, but customized - given we do not currently permit Absentee or Proxy Voting. This issue may be raised at future RAMS discussions however.
- During the year I also donated 84 bottles of wine (7 dozen) – which consisted of a dozen bottles as prizes for events:

2 Bring A Buddy, 1 Maccabi tournament, Mardi Gras Tournament, Bingo and 2023 EOY Presentation events

I would like specifically to thank my fellow Committee members for their enthusiasm, inventiveness and commitment to our organization during 2024. We have worked well together.

ELECTION

I wish to stand for re-election for the position of Vice President for the 2025 season. As a founding member, 2025 is a critical year for Sydney RAMS in terms of recruitment and I relish the opportunity to follow through on this. We cannot run the risk of shrinking further – a return to growth in membership is essential to the continuation of our League.

In addition to the Sydney RAMS items mentioned above, I

- continue my duties with **IGBO** as your Sydney RAMS representative.
- contribute as the Chair of the IGBO / FGG Committee, as well as
- roles with the Membership Committee, Marketing Support Committee and Technology Committee
- am a Life Member (2018) of IGBO

I participated in numerous IGBO Conference calls during 2024.

I also continue my duties with the **Federation of Gay Games**, being a

- member of the Site Selection Committee as well as a
- member of the FGG Sport Committee.
- was publically thanked by FGG for successfully running GG 11 Guadalajara Bowling in the recent FGG 'Participate' Newsletter.
- Site Selection for the 2030 Gay Games is almost complete with the 6 in contention cities to be narrowed to 'Top 3' on December 04. The cities competing are **Perth**, WA, **Auckland**, NZ, **Capetown**, SA in the Southern Hemisphere – and **Denver**, CO, **Edmonton**, CA and **Taipei**, TW in the Northern Hemisphere.

As an original founding member of Sydney RAMS (1983), I am a committed and dedicated team member as well as a representative for community rights and representation within our sport. I look forward to your continued support for our upcoming 2025 year. Thank you.

Kim Shephard – Sydney RAMS 2024 Vice President