

January 6, 2026

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MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD OF SOUTHWEST DIVISION OF BOWLS USA

The meeting on Google Meet was called to order by president John Billon at 5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Billon, Linda Roberts, Kelly Warren, Chuck Moffitt, Jackie Hogan, Howard Harris, Sheila Conti

OTHERS PRESENT: Shelley Cohen, Gary Barnes, Heather Stewart, Scott Roberts

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The board accepted the minutes of the meeting of December 1, 2025, without amendment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ladies Day: Shelley Cohen reported on the successful holiday party and noted that no Southwest funds were used for the luncheon. Santa Ana has expressed interest in hosting this year. Shelley will take a month to finalize the calendar and determine travel distances, possibly rotating away from Oaks North.

Discussion ensued on the composition of the Ladies Day mailing list during which Shelley confirmed that the list includes delegates and also advocates for Ladies Day.

Coaching: Scott Roberts reported scheduling an intermediate clinic for January 31st at the Groves, with some attendees coming from Santa Ana. The committee will follow up with Newport to schedule an intermediate class but currently have no other clinics scheduled, though they are open to setting up more if there is demand. Julia Gallo offered to rework materials from Adam Martin into a notebook format.

Tournament Committee Report: Anne reported that the tournament calendar has been approved by all clubs and will be presented to delegates at the AGM. She is waiting for an estimate from Sports Pins International for medals for the next two years. Anne confirmed that any North versus South tournament would not overlap with a Southwest tournament, and they are looking for available dates.

Anne raised the idea of a tournament concurrent with the LA 2028 Olympics, which she has also discussed with Vaughn Feather. Anne mentioned that the decision on the inclusion of lawn bowling in the Brisbane 2032 Olympics may happen in 2027, which dictates that serious discussion about the subject should be engaged in soon. Chuck Moffitt agreed to discuss the matter with a contact at the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee.

Digital Media : Gary Barnes presented a report on 2026 goals and a proposed 2026 live stream calendar. He also submitted a proposal for a live stream policy to be added to the tournament manual and included in conditions of play.

Linda Roberts suggested that the live stream policy be included in a Code of Conduct, which could then be referenced in the conditions of play. Kelly and Howard Harris agreed that the tournament manual is not the appropriate place and that a code of conduct, possibly under a new policies and procedures section on the website, would be suitable. Linda volunteered to draft the code of conduct.

AGM Packet and Deliverables: There was discussion among the participants concerning components of the AGM packet to be sent all the delegates. It was agreed that the packet would be sent out approximately ten days prior to the January 22nd AGM.

Division Shirt Update: Jackie reported that two designers are working on the division shirt project. Sample designs may be report to show at the next board meeting.

Website Progress: Guilia Gallo updated the group on the website, mentioning initially that two factor verification had been abandoned because of implementation issues. John polled the group; all responded positively. Giulia confirmed that all data is saved in Google Drive with geographic duplication and can be retrieved at any time, minimizing concern about losing data.

She is also working with Anne to automate tournament entry creation to avoid manual entries via PayPal. Heather Stewart is compiling tournament results from 1998 to 2019 into Google spreadsheets, which Giulia plans to link to the website and make easily accessible.

John Billon – Two Initiatives: John proposed having a contest for a Southwest slogan and presenting the idea at the AGM, with the board voting on the best slogan and awarding a bowl bag to the winner. John also elaborated on an "open house packet" he worked that will help enhance division open houses, which are scheduled for May 9th. The packet includes templates, suggestions for outreach, and the idea of creating an introductory level "instructor" position to introduce new people to the sport.

Kelly Warren – Kelly presented the proposed budget, which John noted was similar to the previous year. Chuck suggested comparing the current year's budget against the previous year's final numbers, ideally using a tool like Excel.

Update on History of Lawn Bowling Book: John indicated that the book appears to be cleaned up and that the recommendations were likely adopted, though some older pictures are grainy. John has distributed 26 books to the clubs through various channels. Kelly confirmed that a check for \$1340 was sent to pay for the initially contracted thirty copies that John is distributing. Chuck noted that the number of books printed was 120, which was unexpected. Linda moved to approve the purchase of an additional five books for distribution to the board, Anne Nunes, and Bill Brault. After discussion, the motion did not pass.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 P.M.

The next meeting of the board will be February 2nd at 5:30 P.M. on Google Meet.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Moffitt