

## WA's First Bowling Arm Representative Side in Moama



After twelve months of planning, training, and development the new WA Representative Bowling Arm Side – named the “Sandgropers” – showed up in Moama NSW to compete in the 2017 Australian Bowling Arm Challenge in September. 17 players including 2 reserves travelled by plane, car (one blew up on the Nullarbor!) and motor home to attend this event for the first time.

Phil Gude, State Coordinator for the Victorian Side, met the players and supporters that flew in to the airport and welcomed WA to the competition. The 2017 Arm Challenge was run by Bowls Victoria and the group did a tremendous job with Graham Bridge, CEO, as Manager.



The WA Sandgropers, managed by Laurie Blurton of Bunbury, ably co-managed by Judy Stein of Mundaring, and supported by Denise McMillan at Bowls WA should be very proud of their achievements in representing WA – the calibre of performance both on and off the green was exemplary. One day started at 9 am and ended at 10 pm – and players were still smiling albeit a little tired!

The National Title was won by Victoria whom has managed to keep the Title since the Challenge was created in 2013. Victoria is a very organized and well managed team who are selected by invitation.

It was a credit to WA players that the tournament was played on carpet surface – the more they played the better they got! One skipper over five games had a win and four draws! In another Singles section against South Australia, WA won all games with shots up 97 to 87.

The 2018 Challenge will be held in NSW at East Maitland Bowling Club and Sandgropers are already preparing for the event. A pressing decision to be made in the coming months is “Will WA host the 2019 National Bowling Arm Challenge?” Keep your eyes and ears open for further news in this area!

A huge thank-you to this year’s WA Bowling Arm Sponsors **Neometal** whose funding purchased uniforms for this inaugural team.



#### WA 2017 Representative Bowling Arm Side

Richard Young, *HALLS HEAD*

Kim Ward, *BINNINGUP*

John Thomson, *KWINANA*

Ted Bowman, *HALLS HEAD*

Bill Davies, *FORRESTFIELD*

Mil Borcic, *BINNINGUP*

Don Batt, *BUNBURY*

Der Overhue, *MEADOW SPRINGS*

Laurie Blurton, *BUNBURY*

John Lewis, *GERALDTON*

Kerry Ward, *EATON*

Grayce Mawhinney, *BUNBURY*

Trevor Rodda, *BUNBURY*

Stan Mawhinney, *BUNBURY*

Ray Barstow, *EATON*

#### RESERVES:

Judy Stein, *MUNDARING*

Eric Stein, *MUNDARING*

**NOTE:** Due to unfortunate circumstances two weeks before the Challenge, Barry Truman from Bunbury had to withdraw from the Side; Eric Stein from Mundaring was then added to the Reserves.