
ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22



Gippsland Bowls Region

Board 2021/22

President: Jan Morton

Vice President: Nigel Plunkett

Secretary: Bronwyn Thwaites

Treasurer: Colin Smith

Director: Marg Brandhoj

Director: Peter Beesley

Director: Keren Blake

President's Report

It has been a difficult and challenging year with Covid 19 delaying the start of the season and placing pressure on clubs to manage and maintain their pennant teams and then the weather created another challenge.

It is a credit to the clubs that we only had one round abandoned in North and one game forfeited in East for the season due to Covid. It was a season of change with region pennant finals contested for all Divisions for the first time, State events played as a Region and open Midweek pennant introduced.

I acknowledge and accept that area winners in pennant not being recognised on the day was a mistake and I hope presentations today will go some way towards rectifying that. In future area finals will have Division winners presented with flags on the day.

State events were accepted at region level with no big difference in entries. Midweek pennant saw a 30% increase in numbers across the region and while Midweek Division 1 had to be played at region level due to low entries all other Divisions had excellent entries with Division 2,3 &4 in East and Division 2 &3 in North. Weekend Pennant saw Division 1, 2, 3, & 4 in both areas.

Congratulations to all who have represented our Region over the season, and I must make a mention of those who went to Bendigo for State finals where they found accommodation had doubled in some cases from last year. It was an expensive week for many, and I thank you for your commitment.

Lakes Entrance represented Gippsland in Moama for State Pennant finals and achieved excellent results with Weekend pennant champions finishing second in their section winning 3 games and midweek narrowly missing the finals, a 2-shot loss in the second game was the difference between a final appearance or finishing second to Gisborne, (who went on to win the final), in the section.

To the Board members thank you, Bronwyn our secretary, we are very lucky to have her, she makes sure things keep ticking along smoothly, Colin our treasurer who has streamlined our banking and also managed our region side, Nigel for his outstanding work bringing our Junior development squad to fruition, Margaret assisting with umpire accreditation and junior development, Peter who organised the new region shirts, hoodies and caps with quite a few hiccups and Keren who assisted the competitions committee, umpired and managed region sides.

The competitions committee Pam, Brad, Col, James, who did a great job under ever changing circumstances of Covid and weather, every event completed and a successful and completed pennant season.

As I have stated before there can be no progress without change, change is never universally popular but going back is not an option. Constructive feedback is always welcome but negative and personal attacks will not be entertained or responded to.

We now look forward to the 2022/23 season.

Jan Morton
President

Treasurer's Report

I present the financial report for the GBR financial year ending 30 April 2022.

In the second year of the Covid pandemic and our first year of operating as a Region, I can report that we have finished the year in a solid financial position.

In the first few months of the year, the two divisions that formed the former Gippsland Bowls Region were formally wound up and all funds transferred to the GBR account. Prior to the various funds transfers associated with this process our cash on hand was \$6,913.68 at the start of the financial year.

Our primary sources of income for the year were two Covid grants totalling \$5,250, a sports grant of \$3,000 to promote junior participation and what is listed as region capitation fees totalling \$7,805. The capitation fees reflect what would have been collected from all 19 GBR clubs in total had we gone down that path. Instead, we utilised funds from the divisions to cover that cost to the clubs - \$3,175 from NGBD and \$4,630 from EGBD.

Our major expenditure items included:

- \$7,197 for pennant flags, banners, medallions and trophies
- \$5,931 for the design and supply of Region Sides uniforms
- \$5,698 accommodation costs for the Region Sides Championship at Echuca/Moama offset by a Bowls Victoria subsidy of \$2,800
- \$2,860 in cash prizes for State championship evens offset by entry fees of \$2,310.

Our net operating bottom line for the financial year amounted to a loss of \$5,767, but considering our cash bank balance of \$17,583 as of 30 April 2022, coupled with our once-off and substantial setup costs totalling about \$13,000 and the \$3000 grant that will offset costs associated with our junior Geckos program, the GBR is well placed financially as we move into the new financial year.

Colin Smith
Treasurer

Gippsland Bowls Region Inc.

Profit & Loss

May 2021 through April 2022

	<u>May 21 - Apr 22</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Apparel	1,489.50
Gecko Squad Fees	40.00
Grants received	8,250.00
Region Capitation Fees	7,805.00
State Event Entry Fees	2,310.00
Total Income	<u>19,894.50</u>
Gross Profit	19,894.50
Expense	
Accommodation Costs	2,898.36
Administration costs	100.10
Bank Fees	5.60
Cash Prizes - State Events	2,860.00
Catering	1,104.00
Consultancy fees	1,394.25
Flags, Banners Trophies	7,197.70
Freight and cartage	198.00
General expenses	101.90
Insurance	780.00
Postage	10.00
Printing and stationery	1,116.00
Rental property expenses	
Sundry expenses	189.00
Total Rental property expenses	<u>189.00</u>
Storage fees	600.00
Telephone	
Conferencing Costs	230.00
Total Telephone	<u>230.00</u>
Umpire Course Fees	665.20
Uniforms	
Apparel	280.00
Uniforms - Other	5,931.80
Total Uniforms	<u>6,211.80</u>
Total Expense	<u>25,661.91</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-5,767.41</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-5,767.41</u></u>

Competitions Recorder

In June 2021 I was appointed by the GBR Board as the GBR Pennant Recorder. Soon after the appointment my role was broadened to include all GBR competitions hence my role was retitled to GBR Competitions Recorder. I was also co-opted onto the GBR Competitions Committee as a member.

The transition of bowls competition management to BowlsLink commenced in the now defunct EGBD in 2019/20. The EGBD was one of the first areas to transition to full implementation of BowlsLink and my experience with the system and how it is integrated into management of bowls competitions was invaluable for this season.

PENNANT competition management

Once clubs had made submissions on their preferred sides in divisions, the Competitions Committee set to work to refine the makeup of the divisions and sides for both weekend and midweek competitions. While the grouping of sides in some divisions may not have appeased all clubs, I believe the result was fair and equitable.

I then spent around 100 hours of my own time creating the pennant competitions in BowlsLink. Some statistics:

- 2 competitions: Weekend and Midweek pennant
- 16 divisions
- 92 sides
- 1056 players (both midweek and weekend pennant, some players were entered in both competitions)

Each competition required formatting of the competition, creating fixtures, and entering club sides. Each club side required me to enter some players to enable club contacts to populate their club entries.

A major complication was that BowlsLink does not calculate the rinks required at a venue for each round of a competition. I designed an excel spreadsheet which completed this task semi-automatically so I could ensure there were sufficient rinks available for the sides allocated a match at a venue.

It was unfortunate that many hours of work were wasted when clubs forced changes upon the GBR, requiring changes to fixtures, division composition and side entries.

Leading up to the start of the season, I offered training to clubs either remotely using Zoom or I would make myself available to conduct training at their club. No club took up this offer. It became apparent that clubs should have taken this offer up, particularly some North playing area clubs who had not had any exposure to BowlsLink previously.

While the first few rounds of the season were hectic for me, clubs worked hard to get their sides entered the day prior to the matches and a very high percentage of results were entered within 2 hours of match completion. I am thankful for the hard work put in by club contacts and administrators.

Errors requiring my intervention in resulting was rare. Most errors were due to mismatching or rinks or mixing up the results of a rink. No major errors were detected by my surveillance through the home-and-away season.

Four weeks prior to finals I sent an email out to all GBR Club Secretaries to remind them of their club responsibilities around player eligibility for finals. It was unfortunate to receive one complaint of a club playing an ineligible player in a semi-final, requiring that club to forfeit a finals match which they won on the green.

Overall, I believe that BowlsLink was a great success in season 2021/22 for the following reasons:

- In-season management of the competitions was simplified and required low hours of administration when compared to traditional competition management techniques,
- Rapid access to results and ladders after a round of competition
- Efficient management of sides and players within a side
- Ability to access individual player rankings within a competition

STATE EVENT Competition Management

I was also responsible for the competition management of State events run within the GBR. Some statistics:

- 23 events
- 584 individual player entries

Much like pennant competitions, the workload required to configure the competitions in BowlsLink was significant. Each competition required around 5 hours to configure, then another hour or 2 after the close of entries to complete and disseminate the draws.

I have heard anecdotal evidence that some players did not enter due to a lack of understanding of how to submit an entry via the BowlsLink portal on the GBR website. I did however make it quite clear to clubs that I would be willing to accept entries via email and I would manually submit their entry on their behalf. I would estimate I afforded this service to about 15 people.

I am very grateful to Jan, Pam, Colin, and others who submitted match results into BowlsLink on the day of play.

In general

While BowlsLink is far from perfect, it is eons ahead of the dinosaur methods of competition management such as spreadsheets, yellow forms, and faxes. I'm sure it will continue to be refined and improved.

I would like to thank President Jan Morton for her steadfast leadership under extremely heavy pressure and scrutiny. She has received heavy criticism, much of which was completely unwarranted. I hope clubs understand that Jan's sole purpose is to improve the standard of lawn bowls in our region and to ensure players enjoy their participation in the sport. I would also like to thank other members of the Competitions Committee for their support – Colin Smith, Pam Carter, and James McCausland. Thank you.

I have tendered a nomination to be the GBR Competitions Recorder for the coming season and I hope to continue in this role for season 2022/23. I have enjoyed the challenge and technical aspects of managing the BowlsLink system coupled with my role on the GBR Competitions Committee.

Brad Lancaster

GBR Competitions Committee Member and Recorder

Competitions Committee

There were many challenges for the first GBR Competitions Committee.

Establishing the Rules for Competition under the new region arrangements was the first task. Establishing pennant draws and allocating state events required a lot of consideration of the 19 clubs within the region.

State Government Covid rules impacted the date we were able to commence pennant and schedule state events forced us to set up several contingency plans.

After many meetings and hours of consultation the season finally got underway early November. The reduced timeframe for bowls this season saw a heavy schedule of bowls over the summer.

Thankfully, clubs and players were very understanding of the situation and worked with us to complete what turned out to be a very successful season.

Region Grand Finals days for Midweek and Weekend Pennants were wonderful crowd spectacles with great bowls played.

Congratulations go to all the winners.

All those who went on to represent the region at State Championships gave their best and performed admirably.

Special mention must go to Rohan Kelly who won a silver medal in the Champion of Champion Singles and Jo Martin and Brad Lancaster who won silver medals in the State Mixed Pairs.

Marg Brandhoj made the semi-final of the State Singles and the Ladies State Fours team of Jan Morton, Pam Carter, Gail McKenzie and Julie Simic also made it through to the semi-final.

The Competitions Committee was a very cohesive group, supporting each other, sharing the workload and communication with clubs throughout the season.

The incoming committee will conduct a review of the year's performance. As always improvements and adjustments can be made to streamline the running of pennant, state and regions events in Gippsland. With the continued support and cooperation of clubs and players in the region the future of bowls in Gippsland is positive.

Pam Carter

Competitions Committee

Coaching and umpiring

Not been much transpiring in Victoria with coaching and courses during the last few seasons. This is due to several factors including:

1. the obvious Covid 19 pandemic. The uncertainty of being able to hold a gathering of people
2. Bowls Australia (note: it is a national course with BV running it) used the "Covid" opportunity to stop all training of new coaches and redesign the course. They put all coaching courses on hold.
3. The Presenters and Assessors, those of us who run the coaching qualifying courses have needed to re accredit and not been provided the opportunity. I attended a meeting of P & As in Melbourne and believe our re accreditation is underway.

At the meeting convened by Matt Ottobre (BV) we were able to discuss aspects of the course and make recommendations to Michael Beaumont (BA, responsible for the design of the coaching course). All the other States have similar opportunities to provide input.

It looks like (TBC) that the course will consist of 2 parts: an online section and an on green session with the P & A. The on-green part will take place on the accurate completion of the online part.

I am aware that there are just under 200 prospective coaches wanting to become accredited and re accredited. I understand the frustration in the bowling community regarding this. The P & As and BV are very keen to get things moving and I believe it is happening. Stay tuned.

Nigel Plunkett
Coaching

We have had a number of umpires and measurers re-accredited by me and Don Cameron, at this stage some of these are not showing up on BowlsLink, this is being rectified. 12 umpires have applied for new umpires and 2 for marker/measurer. I have not been able to run courses due to problems with my accreditation with Bowls Victoria and health issues. Hope to plan courses in the next couple of weeks.

Keith Pritchard
Umpire Coordinator

GBR Junior Development Squad inc. Gippsland Geckos U18 Squad Report

At last, we have the Junior Development Squad up and running in the Gippsland Region. It has been a long road to this point, in fact years have passed by with much discussion but not much action.

The need for a JDS has been evident for those years with the changing dynamic within the local community and the transformation of the world game. The JDS aims to help the GBR get on the “train” and catch up with “bowls movement” happening throughout Victoria, Australia, and the World. If we don’t board the train, change the look, and aims of our clubs then they, especially the smaller ones, will struggle to survive.

Our aim at the JDS is to not only attract the Juniors but also their family. Parents bring their children along and often stay. We need to target the adults as well! In the future I hope to be able to provide the opportunity for these parents to participate in bowls.

The GBR was fortunate to receive a grant to assist with the setup of the JDS. This has enabled us to gather resources (including a Geckos banner, Gippsport assistance with logo design, uniform subsidy) and a plan for the future. We were donated some coaching equipment by Jack Unmack and with my resources we have a good kit to use.

At the moment I am It, when it is committed to coaching, coordinating and running the JDS! I cannot continue to do it all and require assistance both off the green and on. If you are interested in participating, please talk to me and/or fill in the JDS application form and email it to the GBR. The existing East Section JDS is only half the story. A meeting held mid-season at West Sale BC to provide North Section clubs was not attended. No representative from the clubs turned up...

We need to mirror the success in the East Section in the North; after all it is the GBR Junior Development Squad and therefore it is a priority of mine and the GBR to get a North Section JDS underway early next season. I am keen to meet with club reps and coaches to facilitate the emergence of junior and family bowls in the North. Please contact me... I have attached a model of what we are trying to achieve in the Gippsland Bowls Region.

There are some promising young bowlers in the JDS so look out for them. Thank you to Paynesville BC with Sue Jenkins, Ivan Thompson and the other coaches who were instrumental in encouraging some students from Paynesville Primary to come to the Squad. These young bowlers are now bowling regularly at Paynesville BC (as members) and at the JDS. Ivan, Sue Marg and Kel Brandhoj have been helping at some of the JDS sessions. Thankyou.

The East Section Squad, in the off-season break, will start again in September (TBC). We will be looking for opportunities to take the squad down the line to mix with and compete against their U18 peers. Exciting for bowls in our Gippsland Bowls Region, lots to do.

Check out (and “Like”) the new Gippsland Geckos Facebook page (@GippslandGeckos) and visit the GBR website to view the JDS section. We are hoping to get our own page soon (TBC).

Nigel Plunkett
Coordinator & Coach



Region Sides

Women's

Fourteen players plus a Side Manager travelled to Echuca on 7 April for 3 days of tough competition against all other Victorian Bowls Regions. Sixteen regions in all playing in 2 different Sections.

The competition was never going to be easy coming up against very strong opposition in the likes of Bendigo Campaspe Goldfields, (our 1st game and eventual finalist), Eastern Ranges, Yarra and 2 of the Murray regions, in our Section.

After a slow start and some of the ladies struggling with their games, we had 2 losses (BCG & Wimmera), before our first win against Ballarat Highlands at Moama on the 2nd day. We then came up against the formidable Eastern Ranges (-15) and Yarra, which was a much closer game, going down by 7 shots overall.

On the last day of the competition, back in Echuca, we had a nail biting 1 point win over Ovens Murray – those last bowl wins are awesome! Rounding out our last day with all the ladies bowling well, we were defeated by Goulburn Murray by 9 shots.

Was the tournament a success for Gippsland? Probably not in the eyes of most people, but I saw the games through different eyes. We had successfully melded 3 teams of players from all over Gippsland into a cohesive unit who supported each other. I saw individuals overcoming nerves and frustration to end up bowling well and I saw skips encouraging and lifting their teams and being positive all the time. We may not have had the results we wanted but I believe we are heading in the right direction, and it is only a matter of time before Gippsland Region will be a force to be reckoned with.

This Region Sides Tournament is a prestigious State-wide event, and as such we must have the best players from our region representing us. We do not, like other regions, have a large pool to draw from, so I would encourage all Gippsland bowlers to get behind their Region Side as they represent us at this level.

Thank you to all the players for being an awesome group to manage and to the Gippsland Bowls Region for the privilege and honour you entrusted to me to manage this Side.

Keren Blake
Women's Region Sides Manager

Men's

The selection processes this year were by necessity cut short following the cancellation of the Region Challenge. There were no issues with travel to and from the venue and the accommodation was of a good standard.

Team performance was commendable. A 3-rink loss (one rink by one shot) to Bendigo Campaspe Goldfields in round 1 was followed by two 3-rink wins over Wimmera and Ballarat Highlands in rounds 2 and 3. A loss to Eastern Ranges despite winning 2 rinks in round 4. In round 5 we challenged Yarra in a loss that featured only narrow losses on two rinks. In the last two rounds against Ovens Murray and Goulburn Murray a draw and 3 narrow rink losses out of six rinks was a fair indicator of how well the team was playing. Overall, 2 match wins, 8 rink wins, and 1 rink draw and 6 close rink losses.

The selectors have held a debrief and noted various considerations for the 2023 Sides Championship.

Colin Smith
Men's Sides Manager

State & Region Event Winners 2021/22

Novice Singles	Sue Wright Bairnsdale Danny Downie Bairnsdale
Over 60 Singles	Marg Brandhoj Lakes Entrance Peter Gould Sale
Over 60 Pairs	Gail McKenzie West Sale Jan Morton Sale Ray Kennedy Sale Stephen Chalmer
State Singles	Marg Brandhoj Lakes Entrance Jack Sharman Sale
State Pairs	Colleen Smith Paynesville Rhonda Sadvosky Peter Hardy Paynesville Brad Lancaster Lakes Entrance
State Triples	Colleen Smith Paynesville Judy Beesley Rhonda Sadvosky Adam Easton Paynesville Bradley King Peter Hardy
State Fours	Julie Simic Sale Gail McKenzie West Sale Pam Carter Sale Jan Morton Sale Alan Schwennensen Paynesville Ken Perkins Colin Smith Peter Hardy
Mixed Pairs	Jo Martin Lakes Entrance Brad Lancaster
C of C Singles	Gail McKenzie West Sale Rohan Kelly Heyfield

Region Fours

Marg Gladman West Sale

Rhonda Cook

Kaye Thompson

Gail McKenzie

Max Duggan West Sale

John Skeen

Chris Hunt

Russell Lambourn

Region Pairs

Lina Rosati Lakes Entrance

Jo Martin

John Marshall Stratford

Ian Johns