

**2022-23**

**Annual Report**



## President's Report 2022/23

The past year has been less challenging than the previous. Covid is still with us, but the programs for the region and state were not impacted as before. In fact, we had significantly more entries in our state events which is very encouraging and some great results in both Midweek and Saturday pennant.

Sadly, the Board and committees lost three valuable members in Keren Blake and Peter and Judy Beesley, all of whom who have relocated. They provided valuable input to the Board's and Committee deliberations and their support for the Region's development and knowledge of bowls will be missed. We wish them well.

Graeme Hemming and David Butterworth stepped up to fill their Board positions and I would like to thank them for doing so and for their work.

Several of our clubs were involved in the Victorian Open 2023 hosting events. All reports received back from players have been positive which is a credit to those clubs. The event will be bigger and better next year, and I am confident there will be more entries.

Our junior program has gone from strength to strength under the guidance of Nigel Plunkett and his team of dedicated volunteers, thank you all. Our inaugural Junior Championships were run at Bairnsdale and several of our juniors also competed in the Vic Open 23 under 18 events. Paynesville Primary School were runners up in the State primary school competition which is a credit to the school and volunteers from Paynesville bowls club who coach and guide them.

Once again, we have not received nominations for some committees and officer positions. Sponsorship, media, and website coordinator roles are all being managed by board members which is not ideal, and the workload is significant for some. Please talk to me or any board member if you are interested in assisting.

Pam Carter has been certified as a Level 2 Greens Inspector which means clubs can call on her for inspections and advice regarding modifications for their greens. Our level 1 green inspectors will be conducting inspections of greens before pennant and competitions commence.

Board directors have undertaken a director train course as advised by Bowls Victoria, which we have found very useful from a governance perspective. Some including me have completed the risk assessment module as well. Again, we encourage club office bearers to undertake this online course.

On the communications side, I am pleased that our email newsletter is going well and thank you to those who have provided positive feedback about it. However, although we have more than 1100 subscribers, about half do not open the newsletter email. We ask that clubs advise their members to resubscribe if they have changed their email address or unsubscribe if they are not interested in receiving the newsletter.

In conclusion, I have some more thanks:

- Secretary Bronwyn for all the work she puts in and all directors for giving up their time to be a part of the Region board
- the competitions committee, who have managed pennant and all events this season most of them while trying to play as well
- our green inspectors, good job on the inspections that were done
- Brad Lancaster, our pennant recorder and BowlsLink guru who set up all our pennant and state and region events. Brad juggles this with his job workload and we really appreciate what he does
- our valuable sponsors, Lakes Entrance BC, Bairnsdale BC and The Sign Shop for their contributions to our junior squad, Darren and Jo Martin DM Pro Turf for their sponsorship toward the cost of the newsletter.

**Jan Morton**  
**President**  
**Gippsland Bowls Region**

## Competitions Committee

There were 32 teams in East Saturday pennant and 24 in North.

Midweek had 6 in Region Division 1 and 18 in East section and 18 in North section. **This compares to 32 teams in East Saturday Pennant and 27 in North in 2021/22 and Midweek 7 teams Region Division 1, 18 in East Section and 14 in North Section Midweek in 2021/22**

There was a small survey put out to all newsletter subscribers which received 287 responses as follows:

- East – 168 and North 118 (286); **232** played weekend pennant, 179 played midweek and 9 did not play pennant.
- Weekend Pennant Divisions (255)  
8 sides in each division – 144  
6 sides in each division – 111
- Weekend Pennant Length of playing season (249)  
8 sides 14 rounds – 139  
6 sides 15 rounds – 29  
6 sides 10 rounds – 81
- Preferred starting time weekend pennant (255)  
11am – 95  
1pm - 160.
- Midweek Divisions (216)  
8 sides in each division – 92  
6 sides in each division – 124
- Midweek Pennant Length of season (223)  
8 sides 14 rounds – 94  
6 sides 15 rounds - 34  
6 sides 10 rounds - 95
- For six side divisions preferred finals format (237)  
Top 3 preliminary and section final – 132  
Top 4 semi-finals, preliminary and sections finals – 105.
- Would you be interested in a combined East & North Weekend Pennant Region Division 1 (**270**)
- Yes - 114  
No - 156

In response partly to the survey results but more importantly communication from clubs and individuals post survey, the following will be implemented in Pennant season 2023/24:

- Midweek pennant will be Divisions of 6 and 10 rounds home and away then top three finals. This will be reviewed at the completion of the season.
- Weekend Pennant- the option has been given to all clubs who want to enter in Division 1 to play a Region competition. The very positive response has indicated that this will likely happen in the next season, with the format and finals setup still to be finalised. The committee will advise the board in due course of their final decision for approval.

There has been much conjecture and misinformation regarding this, but the bottom line is clubs have the option of entering or not. If Region Division 1 happens there will be no area Division 1 competition in either playing area. This will be expanded on at the general meeting after the AGM.

### State Events

The Bowls Victoria State Championships were conducted at Bendigo and Bendigo East Bowling clubs. Our results as follows:

- Women's 60+ - Singles Julie Simpson Silver medal
- Mens 60+ Singles, Women's, and Men's 60+ Pairs, Men's Fours, Mixed Pairs, Women's Triples, Men's Singles, Men's Champ of Champs - round of 16
- Women's Fours, Men's and Women's Pairs, Women's Champ of Champs – quarter finalists
- Men's Triples – semi-finalists (defeated on extra end)
- Women's Singles – withdrawn

## **Vic Open 23 held in Strzelecki and Gippsland**

### *Gold Medal*

- Leonie Flynn (Stratford) & Phil Crowder (Karingal) Mixed Pairs

### *Silver Medal*

- Jo Martin & Julie Simpson (Lakes Entrance) Women's Pairs
- Jan Morton (Sale) & Thor Shannon (Essendon) Mixed Pairs
- Macey McCausland (West Sale) & Isaiah Bettess (Mildura) Junior Pairs

### *Quarter Finalists*

- Jan Morton (Sale) Women's Singles

### *Round of 16*

- Men's Pairs - Michael Better & Jack Sharman (Lindenow), Jason White & Michael Dee (Stratford),  
Men's Singles - Josh O'Brien (Maffra) and Brad Lancaster (Lakes Entrance)

### *Round of 32*

- Mixed Pairs - Jo Martin (Lakes Entrance) & Wayne Barnes (Traralgon)
- Men's Singles - Jack Sharman (Lindenow)
- Women's Singles – Leonie Flynn (Stratford) and Jo Martin (Lakes Entrance)

### *Round of 64*

- Men's Singles Mick Dee (Stratford) and Jason Smart (Loch Sort)

### *Section Winners*

- Mixed Pairs,- Ron & Julie Orchard (Maffra)
- Men's Pairs - Geoff Landy & Scott Manson (Maffra)
- Women's Pairs - Jan Morton (Sale) Irene Attard (Clayton)
- Men's Singles - Adam Easton (Paynesville), Wayne Morris (West Sale), Jason White (Stratford), Peter Gould (Sale), Shane Dove (Sale), Scott Manson (Maffra)
- Women's Singles - Janelle Abraham (Sale), Gail McKenzie (West Sale)
- Men's Triples - John Parker (Pakenham) Daniel Carroll (Heathmont) Brad Lancaster (Lakes); Bruce Melrose, Stephen Chalmer & Andrew Bell (Sale); Michael Morgan, Neil Watts & Wayne Lynch (Yarram)

### **State teams and Trials**

Brad Lancaster made the city v country team, and this year Country were Victorious. Jan Morton was a member of the Victorian 60 + team which defeated NSW in August 2022, going on to becoming National Champions in October. Jan has again been selected in the 60+ squad for 2023.

Julie Simpson and Rohan Kelly were invited to trial for the team this year but because of commitments and health reason were unable to take up the invitation.

### **Pennant State Finals**

Lakes Entrance were our representatives in both Weekend and Midweek. The midweek team missed the finals by a heart breaking 1 shot and the weekend team lost two games by 2 shots. Wins in those two games would have set up their last game as a playoff for the final. Congratulations to all team members for such great results.

## Region Sides

The region teams have been selected and will compete at Echuca and Moama on 26, 27 and 28 May.

### *Women*

Jo Martin, Marg Brandhoj, Judy Beesley, Gail McKenzie  
Jan Morton, Pam Carter, Mary Wyndham Smith, Colleen Smith  
Leonie Flynn, Marge Nathan, Kirstie White, Julie Simic  
Emergency Janelle Abraham

### *Men*

Stephen Chalmer, Nathan Stewart, Wayne Morris, James McCausland  
Brendan Addison, Rhys Selleck, Jason White, Peter Gould  
Jared Sergi, Geoff Aiken, Nigel Plunkett, Brad Montant  
Emergency Adam Easton

## Gippsland Bowls Region Player of the Year

Women Jo Martin – Lakes Entrance

Men Rohan Kelly - Heyfield

## Pennant 2022-23

### Weekend

<b>Division 1 East</b>	Lakes Entrance	<b>North</b>	Sale	<b>Premiers</b>	Lakes Entrance
<b>Division 2 East</b>	Howitt Park	<b>North</b>	Sale	<b>Premiers</b>	Sale
<b>Division 3 East</b>	Paynesville	<b>North</b>	Sale	<b>Premiers</b>	Sale
<b>Division 4 East</b>	Bairnsdale	<b>North</b>	Sale	<b>Premiers</b>	Sale
<b>Division 1 Midweek</b>				<b>Premiers</b>	Lakes Entrance
<b>Division 2 East</b>	Lakes Entrance	<b>North</b>	Stratford	<b>Premiers</b>	Stratford
<b>Division 3 East</b>	Bairnsdale Golf	<b>North</b>	Maffra	<b>Premiers</b>	Maffra
<b>Division 4 East</b>	Bairnsdale	<b>North</b>	Maffra	<b>Premiers</b>	Bairnsdale

## **Junior Development and Coaching Officer Reports**

For the Gippsland Bowls Region AGM, 2022/23 Season

### **Junior Development**

The junior development portfolio of the GBR has been progressing slowly. We now have juniors registered in our Region, some of whom are playing pennant for their clubs. It will always be difficult attracting young bowlers due to the lack of presence in the school programs, and media compared with the other major sports. Bowls Victoria need to pull their finger out with this matter.

I believe we, the local regional bowlers and our clubs need to lead the way by changing the attitude within our clubs and make them more attractive to our community families. I believe changing our membership categories would be a good start.

Some of the GBR clubs have embraced the idea of juniors in the club and can see the benefit of having young people around the place, not just grumpy old men and women. I commend Paynesville Bowls Club for their efforts and congratulate Ivan on his appointment as the Junior Coordinator/Coach.

I have previously sent correspondence to clubs asking them to provide me with the name of a contact/coordinator for junior bowls. Sometimes I wonder where all those emails disappear to in cyber space. I got a few replies and not all positive or supportive.

I reiterate that junior development in the GBR is dependent on the clubs embracing the idea no matter how tentatively. Please contact me if you require assistance. When asked, I did contact Maffra Primary and St Mary's on behalf of the Region and Maffra Bowls Club with positive results. It is not always easy getting hold of someone in these schools – they are busy places.

The GBR Junior Development Squad and Gippsland Geckos are taking an off season break and will get together again prior to the start of next season. We have been training twice per month on average from 9am till 10.30am on Saturday morning at Bairnsdale Bowls Club.

Wendy Campbell, coach at Bairnsdale has come on board as a permanent member of the squad's coaching team. Thankyou to Wendy for the commitment.

Thanks to Bairnsdale Bowls Club for the use of their facilities. Thanks to Bairnsdale's greens manager Martin Srocinski and greenkeeper Darren Martin and his team for their support and understanding and allowing us to use the greens on the Saturday morning before pennant.

The Junior Squad has also been donated equipment over the season including bowls sets, bags, measures and other sundries. The Region, specifically the Squad appreciate the generosity of these people.

The Geckos U18 Squad travelled to Club Sunbury for the Doug Kneebone Tournament and Daylesford Bowls Club for the Junior Provincial Championships. Both were successful team trips and our new young bowlers performed very well.

With these experiences under their belt, several squad members entered the Vic Open and ventured over to Bendigo for the State Under 18 Championships. On all these trips our young bowlers competed against older, far more experienced and equipped bowlers, some of whom are and have previously represented Victoria in the State U18 Squad. Well done to all of them.

The inaugural GBR Junior Championship in singles and open pairs was held recently at Bairnsdale Bowls Club. A successful day with some excellent bowls being played by our juniors. The Singles was won by a promising young bowler, Tristan Russell from Stratford Bowling Club – look out for him in the future and

well done to Stratford for the support they provided. Equally promising was runner up Ayla Romain from Paynesville.

Ayla had her revenge when she and Leah McLeish from Paynesville won the inaugural pairs title. Both singles and pairs winners received a medal from the Region and their names on the two perpetual trophies. Hopefully this event is here to stay, bigger and better in the future. If a club is interested in hosting the event, please let me know.

I have been in discussion with Bowls Victoria re-establishing an U18 event east of Melbourne closer to the Gippsland Region. The question asked is do you have a roofed venue... If we are successful in attracting junior events, then they will be staged at Traralgon and Morwell Bowls Clubs. Until we get rooves in our Region, I believe this to be a good result. Come on Lakes, Bairnsdale, and Sale, which one of you can get a roof over a green first!

If you would like to have the Junior Development squad visit your club, please let me know. We could attend for a promotion day or any other event.

### **Coaching Officer Report**

We have some new coaches in the region this season as I have run a Club Coach's session at Traralgon and Morwell Bowls Clubs but there are still some bowlers who are yet to attend a course. There is a course being planned for the near future, possibly in June.

The Club Coaching Course is very accessible with half on-line and a day on the green. Region bowlers need to understand that the course reinforces "how to deliver a session affectively" not "how to bowl". There are also some important legal aspects that need to be addressed prior to coaching a prospective bowler that are explained. All clubs need a suitably qualified coach registered on their books.

Please don't hesitate to contact me re coaching matters including assistance with the on-line section of the course or any day-to-day questions at clubs.



#### **Nigel Plunkett**

Coaching Coordinator &  
Junior Development Committee  
Gippsland Bowls Region  
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## UMPIRES REPORT 2022-2023

Gippsland had quite a few umpires awaiting re-accreditation and new umpire applications this season. There was a backlog due to not having an assessor in the area readily available. The applicants willing to umpire at the Vic Open were reassessed at Traralgon late last year by Bob Carlson, John Roberts and Lorraine Dowson, who kindly gave their time to get this done. Unfortunately, this still left quite a few applicants to be put through, this should be put in motion soon.

We do have interested parties wanting to become Presenters and Assessors in the Gippsland area, then, hopefully, all the umpires will have their re-assessments completed and the up-and-coming umpires will be assessed.

Marg Brandhoj.



**Gippsland Bowls Region Inc.**  
**Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison**  
**May 2022 through April 2023**

	<u>May 22 - Apr 23</u>	<u>May 21 - Apr 22</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Apparel	701.30	1,489.50
Gecko Squad Fees	80.00	40.00
Grants received	0.00	8,250.00
Region Capitation Fees	7,374.00	7,805.00
Region Event Entry Fees	1,040.00	0.00
Sponsorship Received	1,050.00	0.00
State Event Entry Fees	5,060.00	2,310.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>15,305.30</u>	<u>19,894.50</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	15,305.30	19,894.50
<b>Expense</b>		
Accommodation Costs	0.00	2,898.36
Administration costs	0.00	100.10
Advertising and Promotion	588.06	0.00
Bank Fees	7.00	5.60
Cash Prizes	3,225.00	2,860.00
Catering	1,687.00	1,104.00
Consultancy fees	748.00	1,394.25
Entry Fees Geckos	148.90	0.00
Fees and permits	111.20	0.00
Flags, Banners Trophies	554.99	7,197.70
Freight and cartage	0.00	198.00
General expenses	200.00	101.90
Hosting fees - State & Region	2,415.00	0.00
<b>Insurance</b>		
Professional indemnity	825.00	780.00
<b>Total Insurance</b>	<u>825.00</u>	<u>780.00</u>
Postage	0.00	10.00
Printing and stationery	522.52	1,116.00
Rental property expenses		
Sundry expenses	0.00	189.00
<b>Total Rental property expenses</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>189.00</u>
Storage fees	600.00	600.00
Telephone		
Conferencing Costs	302.00	230.00
<b>Total Telephone</b>	<u>302.00</u>	<u>230.00</u>
Trophies	2,683.60	0.00
Umpire Course Fees	0.00	513.90
<b>Uniforms</b>		
Apparel	1,080.64	280.00
Uniforms - Other	3,318.70	5,931.80
<b>Total Uniforms</b>	<u>4,399.34</u>	<u>6,211.80</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>19,017.61</u>	<u>25,510.61</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>-3,712.31</u>	<u>-5,616.11</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>-3,712.31</u></u>	<u><u>-5,616.11</u></u>