

YARRA BOWLS REGION



ANNUAL REPORT Season 2015/16

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President's report

As the season come to a close it is time to reflect on the year gone by and consider the future direction.

Thank you to all those clubs that assisted us with venues, officials, umpires & markers etc. throughout the season. Without your strong support we would not be able to complete the Region Championship events effectively.

Congratulations to all those participants who were successful in winning region championships this year, with the calibre of bowlers in our region it is an outstanding effort to win a region championship. It was particularly pleasing to see eight different clubs represented in the winner's circle out of the seventeen events decided.

Unfortunately participation numbers for the men's events fell this season by 11% and with the women's numbers also down by almost 14% it is a trend we would like to reverse in the coming season. As was the case in previous year's there were a number clubs that were not represented (excluding Champion of Champion Singles) in the Championships. I encourage you to challenge your members, particularly your female members, to enter next season so that we can continue to maintain a viable competition and provide players with an important development opportunity, in addition, to competing against well performed pennant and state representatives.

I would like to acknowledge the achievements of the following Yarra Region bowlers who achieved State Representation this season.

Brett Spurr and Josh Corless from Bundoora RSL were members of the Victorian Team that won the National Sides Championship in Canberra for the first time in 14 years.

Ray Jansen (MCC Kew Sports) and Mario Cipolla (Bundoora RSL) were members of the successful Victorian Over 60's Side.

Jody Nevill (Bundoora RSL) and Tayla Spence (Donvale) achieved selection in the Victorian Women's Side for a number of Test Series during the year.

Makayla Gibson and Jack Woodhouse both from Bundoora RSL were successful in representing Victoria in their respective Under 25's Sides.

We continued the pathway program in preparation for the Men's and Women's Victorian Region Sides Championships. For the first time this year the Men's event was moved from early January to the last weekend in April so that both events were held in the same month.

We averaged 24 participants at each of our sessions with some standout performances noted. Both Men and Women's programs were conducted over 4 sessions during February/ March with a final practice for the selected side in the week prior to the championships.

The Women's team had a number of changes to the successful 2015 side with 6 players representing the Region for the first time. Although we were not as successful as in 2015 there were a number of excellent performances which will provide us with a good springboard to do better in 2017.

The Men's team also had a number of changes from the successful 2015 side with 4 team members representing the region for the first time. In a very tightly contested section we missed out on qualifying for the Semi Finals by 2 shots. As in the women's event several members of our team performed with distinction. In addition, two of our rinks went through the event undefeated.

We plan to continue with the program next season with some minor changes to the process which we believe will enable us to achieve the ultimate success

Congratulations to John Roberts on being appointed as Chair- National Officiating Advisory Group, Chair Bowls Victoria Umpiring Committee and also Tournament Director for the 2016 Australian Open at Broadbeach Qld.

In addition, to the above John together with Bob Gilham and Graeme Evely conducted two full courses covering marking, measuring and umpiring during October 2015 and February 2016 as well as re-accreditation session in October 2015 and marking in November 2015.

This resulted in 47 new Markers, 40 new Measurers and 42 Umpires for our region.

An area that is causing me some concern is the level of communication between Clubs, Region and Bowls Vic. It is so important that information is disseminated appropriately among your members so that they have a full understanding of events that affect them within our Region. I would urge all Club Presidents to liaise closely with their communication officers to ensure this happens.

It would be remiss of me not to thank my hard working committee for the significant contribution they have made to the effective administration of the region over the last twelve months. Particularly our Secretary Peter Russell who maintains excellent communications with clubs and ensures appropriate operational standards are met. Our finances are in great shape thanks to diligent and effective management by Elaine Owens. Graham Down for his work in preparing draws etc. for our successful Regional Championship Program which saw all events completed within relative time frames. To Lysbeth Chittenden for her assistance with the Women's Region Side selection and the Championship program. Graham Howard for his work with region coaches accreditations together with his green's responsibilities I offer my thanks.

Finally, I would encourage all our clubs to attend delegates meetings to ensure they are up to date with what's happening at region level and contribute to the effective operation of Yarra Region.

Barry Ferguson (President)

Secretary's report

Our constitution provides for eight directors, four males and four females, each for two year appointments. Four positions were declared vacant, yet only three nominations were received, so Elaine Owens, Lorraine Burton and Peter Russell were elected unopposed.

Graham Down did not seek re-election and we thank him for his contribution over a number of years.

Our office bearers remained in their existing position: Barry Ferguson (Donvale – President), Lorraine Burton (Hurstbridge – Vice President), Peter Russell (Bundoora RSL - Secretary), Elaine Owens (Darebin City - Treasurer), with Graham Howard (Donvale), Beth Chittenden (Burwood District) as region directors.

During the season Mike Limosani agreed to fill a casual vacancy on the Board.

During the year the directors met to discuss region activities and events. Meetings were held on 13th July 2015, 7th September, 19th October, 7th December, 18th January 2016, 22nd February, 2nd May and 30 May.

We had planned a president and secretary's night in September, to coincide with the annual distribution of show bags (pennant documentation, match reports, etc.) but Bowls Vic encouraged clubs to pick up their own documentation earlier than expected.

So we moved the president & secretary's night to 9th November and only held one delegates meeting on 4th April.

Directors were quite active with email transmissions, and also received the general information forwarded to club contact officers, secretaries and delegates from time to time.

Our website is updated on a regular basis and contains a calendar of events, our constitution, the region event program, minutes of all meetings, entry forms, draw and results of region events, as well as information for prospective umpires and coaches. The site also contains links to club websites, bowls magazines and bowls forums. Our site is <http://www.yarra.vic.bowls.net.au>

Ideally we'd like more activity on our website, with more information available particularly with region events. We're exploring a how to load match results, which will also provide details of upcoming matches and allow players to picture the draw moving forward. That may also lead to increased spectators.

Consumer Affairs Victoria have moved to an online environment for annual reporting purposes to ease the burden of paper based administration.

One thing we contemplated was a post pennant season competition. This was emailed to clubs in February, with the view to providing a mixed gender competition. Unfortunately the response from clubs was not sufficient to get the program off the ground but is still worth exploring.

Lastly Eltham put forward a submission that the region conduct an open draw for all competitions, whereas previously teams in sectional play, were not placed in the same section if a team from that club was already allocated to that section. Information was provided to clubs outlining the pros and cons of the concept and asked to vote via email. The vote was successful 9 votes for and 7 against, with no response from 12 clubs. The region was disappointed with the number of clubs who did not respond, raising further concerns about the information flow. But the region will abide by the wishes of the membership and we thank Eltham for their proposal

Peter Russell (Secretary)

Treasurer's report

Although our expenditure increased this year we still are in a very sound financial position.

This extra expenditure was incurred by assisting the new Junior Bowls Co-ordinator by purchasing sets of bowls for his juniors who are new to our sport.

The Region Championships held at Swan Hill (Ladies) and Corowa (Men) are a major expense to all regions but with the subsidy from Bowls Victoria this assists with the costs that are incurred. All players were issued with new caps this year. This will be a further cost in future years. The men are in need of smaller sizes of their uniform and this will eventuate next year.

The honorarium payments were increased this year to the Greens Committee and the Umpires Panel. The Greens committee consisted of only two gentlemen this year who have to travel to all the 28 clubs in our region to undertake the inspection of their greens.

The Umpires Panel also undertook extra sessions to assist our members to qualify. The Region appreciates the efforts of these two committees for a job well done.

Once again we were able to cover the prize money to the winners and runner-ups of the State Games Championships without any change to this payment thanks to the entries received from the men.

Once again I pass on my grateful thanks to all those clubs that are using the electronic transfer system who pay their invoices by this method.

The Region at the end of the financial year has met all debts incurred and there are no funds outstanding.

Again I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the Board for their support over the past year.

Elaine Owens (Treasurer)

YARRA BOWLS REGION				
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE 1/7/2015 TO 30/6/2016				
INCOME				
Region Levy		9,276.00		
Regional Championship Entries		5,272.00		
Bowls Victoria Region Subsidies		2,250.00		
Bank Interest		48.31		
				16,846.31
EXPENDITURE				
Consumer Affairs		54.40		
Regional Championships Prize Money		4,800.00		
Regional Championships Men's & Ladies		5,415.70		
Betty Collins Entry		200.00		
Travel Expenses		350.00		
Insurance		1,056.00		
Junior Bowls		1,438.90		
Uniforms		1,100.00		
Pathway Lights Darebin		40.00		
Michael Barca Subsidy		250.00		
Honorariums	Greens	700.00		
	Umpires	900.00	1,600.00	
Website		1,100.00		
Postage Printing & Stationary		138.46		
Bank Charges		3.00		17,546.46
Loss				700.15
Balance as per Bank Statements 30/06/2015	Savings A/c	16,236.11		
	Statements A/c	200.00		16,436.11
Balance as per Bank Statements 30/06/2016	Savings A/c	15,585.96		
	Statement A/c	150.00		15,735.96

Form 1

Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012

Sections 94(2)(b), 97(2)(b) and 100(2)(b)

This form is required to be provided to the members at the AGM with the association's accounts.

Annual statements give true and fair view of financial performance and position of incorporated association

We, Lorraine Burton and Peter Russell, being members of the Committee of the Yarra Bowls Region, certify that—

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the Yarra Bowls Region during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2015.

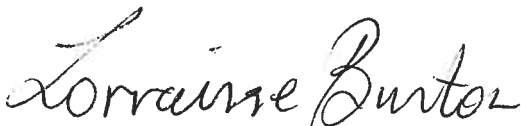
Signed:



Dated:

15 / 8 / 2016

Signed:



Dated:

15-8-2016

Match committee

Our year starts by creating a calendar of events, and pencil in dates and times for various events and activities. Then work backwards to determine closing dates for entries. Then there's the recording of entries, organising greens and the necessary rinks for play, compiling the draw for each of the events and the necessary liaison between all parties.

We like the idea of playing singles prior to Christmas and prior to any green renovations. We stuck with the format of playing singles in section of three, where the third player marks a game when not playing. This seems to work very well and is certainly less of a drain on administration.

Entries for our events are down on the previous year. Note Bowls Victoria decided to take back control of both under 25 single's competitions.

The men's fours ran at a loss of \$56, (entry fees less prize money), and the ladies' fours lost \$344 and ladies' triples lost another \$210. This is a concern as the directors feel there is an obligation to run the event but it's not commercially viable. These are expensive events to run, where combined prize money exceed \$1000. Ideally we need to have 20 teams in each to be viable.

An area of concern is that 13 clubs had fewer than 10 combined entries from up to 17 events. Need to work on increasing entries.

Sum of Teams	Year				
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Event					
Champion of champions - Ladies' Pairs	12	14	15	-	-
Champion of champions - Ladies' Singles	19	20	20	22	19
Champion of champions - Men's Pairs	18	16	17	-	-
Champion of champions - Men's Singles	23	26	23	24	23
Ladies' 60+ Pairs		10	10	16	14
Ladies' 60+ Singles	15	13	20	21	13
Ladies' Fours	10	9	7	10	8
Ladies' Novice	11	8	12	8	6
Ladies' Pairs	21	12	12	18	14
Ladies' Singles	16	16	15	23	13
Ladies' Triples	9	11	11	8	10
Ladies' Under 25	2	-	2	2	-
Men's 60+ Pairs	46	44	39	43	43
Men's 60+ Singles	48	50	44	50	49
Men's Fours	11	10	11	16	17
Men's Novice	-	18	13	30	18
Men's Pairs	57	44	42	41	40
Men's Singles	84	74	56	70	57
Men's Triples	16	25	22	23	15
Men's under 25	4	6	11	7	-
Mixed Pairs	-	-	-	26	32
Grand Total	422	426	402	458	391

Congratulations to the winners of the respective events, but thanks also to those who participated, and to the clubs for access to their greens, and providing the necessary administrative support for the events.

YARRA REGION – REGION EVENTS WINNERS 2015-16

Event		Champions	Club
Singles	Men	R Jansen	MCC Kew Sports
	Women	M Gibson	Bundoora RSL
Pairs	Men	I Ewing [S] A Marchioli	Bundoora RSL
	Women	C Spiteri [S] J Clinch	Bundoora RSL
Triples	Men	A Van Haaften [S] M Haigh B Wintrip (Sub for C Anderson)	MCC Kew Sports
	Women	J Nevill [S] P Skinner T Doolan (MCC Kew Sports: Sub for M Gibson)	Bundoora RSL
Fours	Men	R Jansen [S] T Ristic A McIsaac Graeme Spry	MCC Kew Sports
	Women	E Lewis [S] G Deveson N Langborne M Dineen	Bundoora RSL
60 & Over Singles	Men	T Ristic **	MCC Kew Sports
	Women	N Gerty	Richmond Union
60 & Over Pairs	Men	T Walker [S] T Castricum	Richmond Union
	Women	W Promnitz [S] L Rasmussen	Burwood District
Novice Singles	Male	D Murphy	Ivanhoe
	Female	Z Carter	Fairfield
Mixed Pairs		R Jansen [S] T Doolan	MCC Kew Sports
CoC Singles	Men	C McEvoy	Diamond Creek
	Women	T Spence	Donvale

** Tom Ristic was runner up in the Men's over 60 state singles

Greens

Thanks again for our team of volunteers who inspect the Yarra greens.

Clubs and Greens Directors are especially thanked for their making their greens available sometimes at short notice, this is appreciated.

The efforts of the hard work undertaken by Clubs, officials and volunteers and Greenkeepers is obvious by the standard of our greens.

Umpires

This season has seen the introduction of the new national official's accreditation scheme. We have worked hard to get the program and up and running and I believe it has been most successful.

In our Region we have 4 persons accredited as National Assessor and Facilitators for umpiring: John Roberts, Bob Gilham, Graham Evely and Helen Findlay.

Each candidate was required to volunteer three days for training and accreditation.

We have three International Technical Officials: John Roberts, Frank Camera and Bob Gilham.

The Yarra Region Umpires committee has conducted the following sessions this season:

- 2 full courses (at Ivanhoe BC) of Marker, Measurer and Umpire programs – October 7, 14, 21 and February 3, 10, 17. This resulted in 35 markers, 40 measurers and 31 umpires gaining accreditations in Yarra Region.
- A stand-alone markers program at Montmorency BC November 23, accrediting a further 12 markers.
- A reaccreditation course at Bundoora RSL October 26, at which 8 Umpires reaccredited as National Umpires..

In total, our programs this season has provided Yarra Region and its clubs with: 42 umpires, 47 markers and 40 measurers

All in all a very satisfying result for a lot of hard work.

I must acknowledge the assistance given to me by Bob Gilham and Graham Evely (Ivanhoe BC) who attended all sessions and Helen Findlay (Bundoora RSL) who assisted us at the last accreditation program and the reaccreditation program.

The candidates came from 16 different bowling clubs across the Yarra Region.

Thank you to Ivanhoe Montmorency and Bundoora RSL for allowing us to use their facilities free of charge.

John Roberts

The following display shows the breakdown of level 1 umpires, markers, measurers and National umpires within the region. Note level 1 was the former accreditation standard

Yarra Region Umpires Markers & Measurers

Row Labels	Level 1	Marker	Measurer	National	Grand Total
Ashburton Bowls Club	4				4
Auburn Bowls Club	3				3
Bundoora RSL Bowling Centre	10	9	3	3	25
Burwood District Bowls Club	3	4	6	4	17
Camberwell Central Bowls Club	2	1	1	1	5

City of Heidelberg Bowling Club	7				7
City of Melbourne Bowls Club	2				2
Darebin City Bowls Club	1	2	2	2	7
Diamond Creek Bowling Club	1	1	1	1	4
Doncaster Bowling Club	5				5
Donvale Bowls Club	7	2	2	2	13
East Ivanhoe Bowling Club	1				1
Eltham Bowling Club	3	3	2	2	10
Fairfield Bowling Club	2				2
Greensborough Bowling Club	6	6	5	6	23
Greythorn Bowling Club	1				1
Hawthorn Bowling Club	2				2
Heidelberg Golf Bowling Club	6	1			7
Hurstbridge Bowling Club	1		5	1	7
Ivanhoe Bowling Club	1	3	4	4	12
MCC Kew Sports Club	7	1		1	9
Melbourne Cricket Club Bowls Section	6	8	10	6	30
Montmorency Bowling Club	14	9	3	1	27
North Balwyn Bowls Club	12	1	2	1	16
North Bendigo Bowls Club	1				1
Rosanna Bowling Club	3	2	2	2	9
Templestowe Bowling Club	1	1	1	1	4
Yarra Valley CC Bowls Club	3	1	2	1	7
Grand Total	115	55	51	39	260

There are 124 males and 59 females with one of the various official accreditations. Note 41 officials have more than one accreditation.

Coaching & Development

Following on from the success of the "amnesty" to bring reaccredited coaches back into fold, we currently have a reasonable number of coaches in the Region but some clubs.

Yarra Region Coaches

Row Labels	Club Coach	Introductory Coach	Grand Total
Alphington Bowling Club	3	3	6
Bundoora RSL Bowling Centre	6	2	8
Camberwell Central Bowls Club	4		4
Diamond Creek Bowling Club	3		3
Donvale Bowls Club	12		12
Eltham Bowling Club	6	1	7
Fairfield Bowling Club	1		1
Greythorn Bowling Club	1		1
Heidelberg Golf Bowling Club	3		3
Hurstbridge Bowling Club	3		3
Ivanhoe Bowling Club	3	2	5
MCC Kew Sports Club	6		6
Melbourne Cricket Club Bowls Section	2		2
Montmorency Bowling Club	8		8
Rosanna Bowling Club	3		3
Templestowe Bowling Club	1	2	3

Yarra Valley CC Bowls Club	2		2
Ashburton Bowls Club	2		2
Auburn Bowls Club	2		2
Burwood District Bowls Club	1		1
City of Heidelberg Bowling Club	1		1
Darebin City Bowls Club	1		1
Doncaster Bowling Club	3	1	4
East Ivanhoe Bowling Club	1		1
Greensborough Bowling Club	3	1	4
North Balwyn Bowls Club	9	2	11
Grand Total	90	14	104

There are 69 male and 27 female coaches. There are also 8 members have dual coaching qualifications.

Members may be interested to know that there are a number of coaching videos found on YouTube:

- search for the "coaches den" for a series of Bowls Australia coaching videos, and
- search for "Lachlan Tighe" for a series of videos on warm up, practice techniques and zone of excellence.

Junior Development Squad

Richard Lovell (Doncaster) has been conducting training sessions for our juniors. Richard is also on the Vic Under 18 Development committee. The squad continues to operate although with small numbers, with training sessions and opportunities to play against other development squads. Participants do not have to be club members – school bowlers and barefoot bowlers can participate.

Note that the Victorian Under 18 Development Squad is selected from players from the 24 regional squads, and this also becomes a pathway to the Victorian Under 25 Development Squad.

This year we purchased some small set of bowls to assist with junior development. We're always on the lookout for junior players as we believe the squad environment gives those participants a change to play among their own age group

Sponsorship

We acknowledge our sponsors;

- Bendigo Bank – Doncaster East & Templestowe Village Community Bank Branches
- Doncaster Sporting Gear

Their support of Yarra Region is appreciated and assists in keeping our affiliation fee at the lowest level of fee charged by other BV Regions.

General

Yarra Region is evolving now as a significant participant within Bowls Victoria (BV) and looking to provide a greater voice.

BV Directors – Graham Howard (Donvale) and John Inglese (Richmond Union). Note Graham resigned from this position at the end of April 2016.

BV Coaching & Coaching Development Committee – Graham Howard (Chairman) and Barry Ferguson (Donvale). Note Graham also resigned from this position at the end of April 2016.

BV Umpiring Committee – John Roberts (Bundoora RSL) is Chairman.

BV Metropolitan Pennant Committee – Meredith Norton (Ivanhoe) and Graham Howard. Note Graham resigned from this position at the end of April 2016, and Peter Russell (Bundoora RSL) was the replacement on this committee.

BV Under 18 committee – Richard Lovell (Doncaster)

To assist in progressing Yarra initiatives to BV we have introduced a process to allow / support such action. In Yarra if members have initiatives / issues –

- These should be raised firstly with their club
- The Club should consider the concept and forward to Yarra a proposal outlining the issue – how it effects the game / recommendations etc.
- Yarra will circulate to all Clubs to review and respond, or advise their delegates of their club's position
- If majority of Clubs support the proposal Yarra will raise with BV.