



*'Enhancing the future of Bowls across the NW Coast'*

PO Box 417  
Ulverstone TAS 7315  
21 June 2023

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

## Bowls North West Inc

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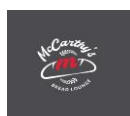
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# **Annual General Meeting**

## **BOWLS NORTH WEST INCORPORATED**

Venue: Ulverstone Bowls Club

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023, at 7pm

### **AGENDA**

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting
- 4 Business arising from previous meeting
- 5 Reports – President, Finance, CEO, Match Committee.
- 6 Election of Directors
- 7 Appointment of Auditor
- 8 General Business –
  - BNW Pennant Plaque Awards
  - BTAS Pennant Plaque Award
  - Sponsor Awards
- 9 Close of Meeting

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Firstly, I would like to thank Bowls North West and Member Clubs for the opportunity to be President for such a strong association.

Upon being elected at the AGM, I immediately set to work in organising club meetings for which a vast majority of the Board attended at some stage. Our Vice President Dave Jeffrey and CEO Tracey Little attended all meetings for the entire 14 clubs. I certainly appreciate the dedication and Tracey's swift organisation skills to ensure that this happened.

In my first 4 months, I worked very closely with the CEO, to formulate a survey that involved all Members that decided to participate, to work to a plan for the Association going forward. Upon receiving responses back, there were some clear results that certain areas of the Association didn't need changing but there are areas for improvement to be done going forward.

I would like to thank the CEO Tracey Little for her work this past season, Tracey certainly went over and beyond her duties, to assist in putting Bowls North West into a different direction and we worked tirelessly for a number of months to ensure we are in a position to be better for all clubs going forward.

I also would like to thank the past Board Directors that served, and also current Board Members, their work and effort at Board Level to make decisions for the betterment of the game.

My main purpose to was improve communication from the Board to the Clubs and with this we had VP Julie Schmidt (Liaise) with clubs on a regular basis and to report back to the Board. We also introduced Executive Meetings with club executives, and this paved the way for more transparent discussions with the Board and clubs. This has proved to be successful, and we will continue this practise going forward.

Our main aim this year from a board perspective is to ensure that we work towards implementing a clear process that's in the best interests of all clubs. We understand that this may not benefit everyone, and we aim to be fair in the process developed.

It was great to see our Wednesday competition increase the number of clubs and participants. It has proved to a be a successful year and we aim to increase participation for the coming season. Our Thursday Pennant was another great

year and Saturday open gender capped of a successful season. Thursday Ladies finished off a great season and BNW are currently working on a plan to look at ways to ensure long term viability and competitive in each division.

Bowls North West going forward will revamp the structure of our Bowls area with a new 9 Team structure where applicable for Saturday Pennant, Wednesday will remain the same with minimal changes after a successful change this year to a Division Structure which worked well, we thank all clubs for your input.

We increased our Sponsorship for the association, and we certainly appreciate the support from all sponsors to enable the association to prosper.

#### Our Current Sponsors

- Vincent Funeral Services
- Burnie Bowls Club
- McCarthy's Bread Lounge
- Smart Mortgage
- Leannes' Trophies & Gifts
- Aceit Sport

We thank our valued Sponsors and we appreciate the commitment given and we look forward to working with you in the future.

We also would like to thank our Partnership with the Tasmanian Indoor Bowls Council. Our joint venture into Live Streaming for Bowls in general has been a great plan for the future of our sports. This has brought bowls into the future with enabling us to showcase of respective sports. This will be a long-term partnership and we thank Anthony Kirkwood (President) for his work with us to enable this Partnership to go ahead.

Bowls North West Coastal sides had a great success this year. With some administrative changes made and more continued quality changes to continue, we will enhance our association going forward. We appreciate all individuals that worked for and with Bowls North West. Thank you for the time and effort given to undertake these roles.

I would like to thank all selectors for their dedication and time to undertake these roles as it is a very thankless task. Your work proved very successful.

To our Junior Section, we thank you for your great work and without naming you all, your work doesn't go unnoticed and Bowls North West Board appreciates the time and effort you give. This was another great success this year.

I look forward to working with the new Board, Coaches and other officials going forward to enhance our association for season 23/24.

Kind Regards

Ben Fidler

President - Bowls North West

## FINANCE REPORT

As at the 30th April 2023 our cash reserve is \$67,763.00. This has mainly been achieved by current sponsorship (\$21,500.00) from Vincent Funeral Services, Burnie Bowls Club, McCarthy's Bread Lounge, Smart Mortgage Services and Leanne's Trophies & Gifts. In-kind sponsorship for merchandise by Aceit Sport. Last season BNW was gifted a grant from Leonie Hiscutt and Felix Ellis of \$3000.00 to assist in the purchase of the Live Stream equipment. BNW wish to thank all Sponsors for the generous donations.

A joint venture with TIBBC has assisted both Associations to achieve the purchase of Live Stream equipment for our coming season. We thank TIBBC for their commitment in this adventure with BNW to Promote our sports together and into the future.

Clubs should be aware that with any loss of any sponsorship the bottom line will be greatly affected.

BNW Profit & Loss for the last six financial years

2017/2018 - **\$253.00** Loss

2018/2019 - \$9,278.00 Profit

2019/2020 - \$6,458.00 Profit

2020/2021 - \$11,289.00 Profit

2021/2022 - \$10,623.02 Profit

2022/2023 - \$25,453.00 Profit

BTAS Capitation payable fees - a full invoice sent to each club - set as at end of March 2023. All clubs are sent this invoice based on Bowls link Membership numbers in the past season – it is up to clubs as to how they pass on their set Club Membership fees.

BNW fees and levies –

Championship Levy – (per club) - \$40, Players Levy – (per person) - \$35 (Junior's \$0), Presentation Levy – (per team) - \$30, Team Levy – (per team) - \$30.

With BNW's change of Championships into Open Events, high numbers were entered in the Open section, but B Grade entries were minimal. BNW have decided this coming season all Events will continue as Open and B Grade for 2023-24. Prize Money for the events have been amended – allowing a tier scale of prizes awarded. This will allow for more players receiving prizes. BNW are hoping that more B Grade Players will participate in the event this coming season or B Grade events may revert to Champion of Champion in the future.

Entry into the Open events will remain as \$10/person and B Grade \$5/person each event. BNW thank McCarthy's Bread Lounge for their Sponsorship of these events.

Tracey Little BNW CEO



## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2022-23 Annual CEO Report to the Members of Bowls North West.

Firstly, I would like to thank our current and ongoing Sponsors – Vincent Funeral Services, Burnie Bowls Club, McCarthy’s Bread Lounge, Smart Mortgage Services, Leannes Trophies & Gifts and Aceit Sport. Without your generosity, our association would not be able to assist our member clubs.

I ask clubs and members to please remember these businesses and in kind, assist them back.

The Board would like to congratulate all the Winners of the BNW Coastal, McCarthy’s Bread Lounge Championship Events and Pennant Competitions. I have included the winning players and clubs below. Thank you to all the Clubs and Officials involved in running each event throughout the season.

### **BNW C of C Singles**

Men’s Singles – M Nitz (Burnie) – also winning BTAS C of C

Ladies Singles – G Fielding (Penguin)

### **McCarthy’s Bread Lounge Championships –**

Men’s Singles (Open) – J Walker-Davis

Men’s Singles (B Grade) – D Elliot

Ladies Singles (Open) – G Thow

Ladies Singles (B Grade) – B Rose

Men’s Pairs (Open) – S Armstrong & A Armstrong

Men’s Pairs (B Grade) – M Berechree & J Stronach

Ladies Pairs (Open) – E Moore & K Redman

Ladies Pairs (B Grade) – M Dawson & P Lade

Men's Triples (Open) – M Nitz, C Willcox & E Moore

Men's Triples (B Grade) – D Gilchrist, D Neilson & D Williams

Ladies Triples (Open) – M Gibson, T Little & G Fielding

Ladies Triples (B Grade) – K Gilchrist, P Lade & S Williams

Men's Fours (Open) – G Douce, R Richardson, J Simpson & T Docking

Men's Fours (B Grade) – D Gilchrist, D Neilson, H Compagne & D Williams

Ladies Fours (Open) – M Gibson, K Redman, T Little & G Fielding

Ladies Fours (B Grade) – B Rose, L Franklin, G Slatter & H Maxwell

Congratulations to the Winners of all the Pennant Divisions –

**Saturday Pennant** – Premier League (Devonport), Division 1 (Ridgley), Division 2 (Penguin), Division 3 (Sheffield), Division 4 (Latrobe) and Division 5 (Penguin)

**Thursday Pennant** – Division 1 (Penguin), Division 2 (Penguin), Division 3 (Sheffield) and Division 4 (Smithton)

**Wednesday Pennant** – Division 1 (Ulverstone), Division 2 (Sheffield) and Division 3 (Wynyard)

**BTAS State Pennant** – Division 2 (Penguin)

**SWC** – Junior, Open Men's & Senior Men, Open Ladies.

Congratulations to all the NW Bowlers who competed and won BTAS events throughout the season in various disciplines.

### **Match Committee** -

BNW would like to welcome the appointed Match Committee for Season 2023-24 - Dave Jeffrey (BNW Board Chair), Gloria Compagne, Darren Fielding, Greg Douce and Mick Filleul. Publicity Officer – Dean Gilchrist. Thank you for your work last season. This is not an easy job to do and often the members of the committee get unfavorable remarks made. We all need to understand, everyone is a volunteer and tries to do their best for all clubs on the coast. We thank Tony Strickland for his time as secretary last season. This role will now be taken on by me – CEO to make sure more open communication is maintained between the Committee and the Board.

## **BNW Initiatives – 2022-23**

### **Teal Week**

I would like to thank all Clubs who took part in the Pennant Teal Week – the Total Raised - \$11,942.95 for Cervical Cancer – Bowl Cancer into the Ditch. This was an amazing effort for our Charity. I am hoping we can continue with an Annual Charity Day/Week into the future. It is great to see the Association giving back to the Community.

### **Coaches Panel**

BNW would also like to welcome the New-formed Coaches Panel – Barry Magnus, Chris Dudman and Colin Willcox. BNW hopes these members on board will assist in our continued success with the regional events.

### **Director of Umpiring**

BNW would like to welcome David Gewin into his New-appointed role as the Director of Umpires. The Board has allocated funds to assist in the training of 28 new or reaccredited officials in the NW. We hope this will alleviate the need for the same volunteers filling roles time and time again. Thank you to all the Officials of BNW – Umpires, Measurers & Markers, your valuable time is not forgotten.

### **Executive Meetings**

BNW discontinued the Delegates Meetings and replaced them with Executive Meetings. This proved to be a good change, having the Executives of Clubs involved in some brainstorming for our sports future and opening a better line of communication to clubs and their members.

### **Open Championships**

BNW opened all Championships into an Open Entry style instead of the Champion of Champion. This allowed more participants to enter. Open was successful for its first year, but unfortunately B Grade entries were very low. We thank McCarthy's Bread Lounge for their Sponsorship. We hope this can be an ongoing arrangement.

### **Greenkeepers Committee**

BNW appointed a Greenkeeper Committee to assist in the allocation of games by a ranking system on which greens were the best to play on. The

Greenkeepers met and gave their opinions to the Match Committee. We thank them and their greens volunteers. All players should always remember without these people, we wouldn't have a surface to play on. Please be mindful in the future of remarks made, especially on the growing Social Media platform.

### **Live Stream Partnership**

BNW purchased the best up to date equipment for Live Streaming with the Partnership of the Tasmanian Indoor Bias Bowls Council. We would like to thank TIBBC and mention Leonie Hiscutt and Felix Ellis for their Grant in being able to have the funds available. Thank you to Harvey Norman for their assistance in the purchasing and set up also. BNW hopes that our ongoing partnership with the TIBBC will be a great initiative into the future, showcasing both our sports to the wider community – hopefully gaining members for outdoor and indoor bowls. This wonderful procurement of equipment will not only help promote our Sponsors (both BNW & TIBBC) but also promote our games in general.

### **Schools and Bowls**

BNW Sub-Committee chaired by Barry Magnus has been meeting with Nathan Dennis (Regional Sports Coordinator with Dept for Education) to discuss bowls in schools and kids in our clubs. A couple of plans have been talked about – Bowls Tasters – introducing bowls and Gala Days – interschool challenges. This will be an ongoing opportunity to get young children into our sport.

BNW Board has managed to form new panels and /or adjusted old ones to streamline BNW in going forward. With gaining Sponsors, keeping our fees to a minimum, offering paid Official training to our members, getting Bowls into schools, being Open and Transparent to our Clubs, BNW hope to have a good standing – financially and structurally into the future.

I would like to thank all the Board Members for their time, efforts and knowledge in assisting the NW forward into the future on the coast.

Thank you to the out-going Board Members, and Welcome to the new. I look forward to working with you all.

Tracey Little

**BNW CEO**

# **BNW MATCH COMMITTEE REPORT**

## **An overview of the 2022/23 season**

Clubs were generally well represented in the three Pennants available. Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday. This year Wednesday Pennant was made up of 3 Divisions, 1, 2, & 3. It would be nice to see more participation particularly from the bigger Clubs. Thursday's Div 4 was reduced to 2 rinks X 4 to assist Clubs field teams.

Most Clubs were active in staging Gala Days or Carnivals as well as RSL, Vets and their own Club Championships.

The MC did it's best to involve as many Clubs as possible in the allocation of Coastal Championships and Pennant Finals. Given the need for neutrality, travel and the best playing surfaces we believe this was achieved in a satisfactory manner. It was great to see South Burnie's greens return as a final's venue.

We acknowledge the Champion of Champions ended too late for some this year but gave those involved in State Finals a chance to tune up the week prior. We will endeavour to have an earlier completion date next year.

Club Championships for the Open category was successful under the new system, however 'B' Grade proved most disappointing. We recommend a warning to 'B' Grade that unless next year's event is better represented; 'B' Grade may be scrapped the following year.

We believe our commitment to Burnie Bowls Club and McCarthy's Bread Lounge as major sponsors was achieved in a satisfactory manner.

There will always be some Clubs or individuals who feel they were not treated fairly, we believe this to be unfounded. Individuals continue to abuse the MC on social media and this is disappointing.

Although Covid is still with us, it did not have the same devastating effect on the competition this year.

It is obvious some Clubs do not avail themselves of the information available in the BN West By-Laws. I refer in particular to rules around players moving up/down in the last six games, number of games required to be eligible to

participate in finals and the use of subs and how many and where they may come from. We will make a recommendation on changes.

The MC is recommending Divisions Premier down to 3 inclusive be made up of 9 teams, this will allow for 2 full rounds (16 games + 2 byes) over 18 weeks. Rostering will not only be fair to all but much easier to establish. Div. 4 & 5 would be formulated once the final numbers for all Clubs became clearer.

All things considered; we are satisfied with the season outcome.

Kind regards

*Tony Strickland*

Secretary - BN West Match Committee