



BOWLS SECTION

MULGRAVE COUNTRY CLUB



ANNUAL REPORT

SEASON 2022 / 2023



Mulgrave
Country
Club

Your Club

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Report compiled by Shane McCluskey

Bowls Committee

Chair – Shane McCluskey

Deputy Chair – Vacant

Administration Manager – Peter Coe

Administration Support Manager – Julie King

Financial Manager – Ravi Khazanchi

Support & Provisions Manager – Dennis Jeffrey (mid-term appointment)

Pennant Manager – Jeff Van de Steenoven (mid-term appointment)

Social Bowls Manager – Dianne Quigley

Midweek Social Bowls Manager – Brian Milnes

Championships and Tournaments Manager – Christine Battersby (mid-term appointment)

IT Manager – David West

Overview of Season 2022-2023

Finally! Bowlers were able to enjoy a full and uninterrupted bowls season. It is sometimes easy to forget the Covid related interruptions that plagued the last few seasons, this season however was more akin to what we know and love about the sport.

For the first time Mulgrave bowlers were able to enjoy their bowls during Winter here at the club instead of the usual migration to other clubs and venues. The then newly installed Green 1 provided the ideal alternative and saw a full green on Winter bowls days. Great for Mulgrave bowlers but also yet another increase to club revenue by virtue of the bowls section. A windfall that otherwise wouldn't exist without the synthetic surface. A scenario that has already been seen to be repeating this Winter bowls period.

As is becoming all too regular, we lost a number of bowls friends over the last year including John Chambers, John Sedgewick, John Gillespie, Alan Dodd, Nick Carter, Rocco Lamattina, Kay Phelan, Christine Day, Ron Battersby and Jack Martin. Our deepest sympathies are extended to partners, families and friends on behalf of the Mulgrave Country Club Bowls Section.

Pennant results resembled a little of a roller coaster. Saturday was dotted with section finals for Sides 3 & 6, relegations for some and a new competition landscape for Side 1 who travelled all over Melbourne and were unlucky not to make finals. Midweek saw Sides 1, 3 and 5 all compete in finals whilst Thursday resulted in all sides in both Spring and Summer competitions reach finals and were not far off multiple premierships. It would have to be said it was a season of overall improvement with some relegation outliers. Rather than that being seen as completely negative, it should be seen as an opportunity to band together even stronger next season and aim for promotion and a return to those divisions where our sides belong.

A collective vote of thanks to all Selection Committees for your hard work and dedication.

Congratulations to Janet Morrison on her selection and efforts in the Victorian Para team at the Gold Coast. Commiserations to Alison Meakin who withdrew from that team due to injury. A great effort by both ladies to make that team. A special mention to Rob Jago, Norm Whitehead, Wayne Frazer and Kevin Jago for making the BPL state final round.

All Club Championships have been able to be played and completed thanks to the great work of Christine Battersby aided by Sue Miller and David West. Congratulations to all Winners, Runners Up and Participants. It has been a great championship series with full results recorded later in this annual report. A special mention to Christine Battersby for her amazing season culminating in reaching the Region 'Champion of Champions' semi-final.

From a club perspective the Bowls Section facilitated the hosting of numerous external events such as numerous Eastern Ranges Bowls Region Championships, Pennant finals, Bowls Victoria State Novice final series, Christian Schools bowls day and of course the Vermont South Challenge which saw a victorious Mulgrave on the night.

Brian Milnes and his band of helpers broke all records this year hosting around 1,000 corporate bowlers. A huge effort that went like clockwork and resulted in yet another injection to club revenue on the back of Bowls Section volunteers. Thanks to Brian and the Corporate bowls team.

Barefoot Bowls featured for the first time at Mulgrave over February and March of this year and could hardly have been any more successful. Greens were overflowing with bowlers of all ages and abilities each night of the program. The one thing they all had in common was the glowing endorsement of their lawn bowls experience with us. We will look to continue and even enhance that program next season. Thanks to Rob Jago and Kenny Pattison who were the key drivers of the programme and our thanks goes to them as well as all the other bowlers who assisted from time to time.

Our greens I don't think have ever been in better shape. Kudos to Jason, Michael and Stephen Staff for their collective efforts in getting them to such a quality state. A fact that drew many plaudits from visiting bowlers during the many events hosted at Mulgrave.

Our club coaches continue their great guidance to new and existing bowlers. We are fortunate to have an array of bowlers who also contribute significantly via their coaching capacity. A special thank you to Norm Whitehead who has been Club Coach for the last number of years. Norm has been a great asset to the club and his full support for the Committee in searching the coaching landscape speaks volumes for his commitment to be constantly improving our section and its prospects into the future.

Of course, groups such as our Bowls Section don't exist and get administered by accident, nor without significant effort. To the many volunteers that continually step up to assist without wish for reward or recognition, thank you so very much on behalf of each and every bowler.

To our hard working Committee. Your unwavering dedication, effort and commitment to continuous improvement is immense. You have gone above and beyond in the various roles you occupy, without the deserved accolades or recognition. On a personal level I am extremely appreciative of your candour, support and trust during my time as Chair. The Bowls section and its members are truly fortunate. To Committee members past and present...thank you!

To our fantastic bowlers. It has been an honour and pleasure to serve as Chair. A role I have really enjoyed and will be forever appreciative of the support from bowlers during that time. I am sure the incoming Chair will be afforded that same support. My hope is that my time as Chair has been a net positive contribution.

Finally, my fervent wish as I vacate the position of Chair is that our Bowls Section continues to consolidate, grow and thrive. An aspiration that would be greatly assisted by a shift in club philosophy. One that puts at the forefront of the clubs aims and goals the notion of being the premium sports offering in the region backed by equally premium sports facilities and a sharpened focus on members who participate in sport under the Mulgrave banner.

Looking forward to seeing you on the greens soon.

Shane McCluskey
Chair Bowls Section

BOWLS ADMINISTRATION

Report compiled by Peter Coe

There has been a slight decline in membership from last year with active membership at 163 (47 women and 116 males) at the end of the year as compared to 171 at end of 2022. Main movement was 13 inward transfers and 7 outward of which 3 were interstate, 7 new registered bowlers, 23 did not renew their membership and unfortunately this year saw 3 of our bowls friends pass away. We regularly see a number of bowlers not renewing each year due to their age, physical condition or moving away from the area. Our club like many other clubs has an aged population, 21% are over 80 years of age (down 5%) while only 5% are under 60 (unchanged).

We currently have 12 registered coaches and 13 registered umpires. We need to increase our numbers in these areas and are always looking for suitable candidates to be trained.

The first three rounds of the State Novice Finals were hosted by Mulgrave in the middle of February. We hosted 13 Metropolitan pennant finals on 7 occasions. Thanks to all who provided assistance on these days.

A number of our bowlers competed in the Australian Open, Victorian Open or ERBR championships. Our ladies club singles champion Christine Battersby reached the semi finals of the ERBR Champions of Champions.

Peter Coe
Bowls Administration Manager



Christine Battersby reached the semi finals
Of the ERBR 'Champion of Champions'

Club Singles Champions -
Shane McCluskey & Christine Battersby

PENNANT BOWLS MANAGER REPORT

Report compiled by Jeff van de Steenoven

Season 2022/23

The position of Pennant Manager was not filled at the last AGM and I took on the role during the year.

A more normal lead-up to the Pennant season meant we were able to organise and participate in practice drills, matches and prepare the greens in a much more normal timeframe. The introduction of the new synthetic green replacing Green 1 meant that members were able to bowls almost all through winter, which was a fantastic bonus and everyone is enjoying the new surface.

Weekend Pennant

Mulgrave had 6 sides competing in the Weekend Competition this season with mixed results.

Side 1 in division 1 played 18 rounds of bowls with 2 of those rounds played on a Sunday. All other sides played a 14 round competition. From next season all divisions will contest a 14 week season followed by finals.

The overall sentiment is that Mulgrave is on the improve, with many already looking to next season. Sides 3 & 6 both did really well falling agonisingly short in the sectional grand finals. Sides 1 and 4 finished a very creditable 5th, Sides 2 & 5 had a tough season and will be relegated. Side 3 will be promoted next season to Div 3, so will Side 2's relegation from Div 2, Mulgrave is likely to have two teams in Division 3 next season. Many thanks to Barry Fleming and his Weekend Selection Panel for very good year.

Midweek Pennant

Mulgrave had 7 sides competing this season with all sides playing 14 rounds. Side 1 played in finals and had a double chance however were not able to overcome some significant outs and will look to improve next season. Side 5 had a heartbreaking loss in the finals and Side 3 had a close result go against them in the post-season to end Mulgrave Midweek season. The results are very good, overall. Many thanks to Sue Miller and her Midweek selection team on a wonderful year.

Thursday 7 a side

Mulgrave had 3 sides in the Spring season, posting wins in the GF for Sides 1 and 2. In the Summer season Mulgrave looked to repeat the outcomes, with 2 teams competing, however it was not to be, with both going down in the GF. Overall 2 great seasons, with 4 GF appearances from 5 teams entered and 2 Grand Final wins. Many thanks to Jan Whitehead and Graeme Cobbett, our Thursday selection team on an outstanding year.

Appreciation

I would like to mention the new Pennant Bowlslink officer, Wayne Frazer who has seamlessly assumed this role, after taking over mid year from Stephen Castle. Part of this role is to ensure that all teams are entered into Bowlslink prior to the commencement of pennant games then updated with the results as the games are completed. Thanks to Wayne for his hard work. Steve supported the bowlslink activities for many years and performed the Pennant Manager role, which was very much appreciated. Steve's training and assistance has been invaluable for both myself and Wayne.

A mention of thanks also to the members who assist with kitchen duties, serving tea and coffee to the visiting teams and keeping the kitchen spotlessly clean. Pauline Williams, Joan Jeffrey, Joan Goodrem and Sue McCraith have been a great help.

Jeff van de Steenoven – Pennant Bowls Manager

WEEKEND PENNANT SELECTORS REPORT

Report compiled by Barry Fleming

2022-2023 Selectors

Selectors ; Barry Fleming (Chair), Barrie Carson, Adrian Goldsmith, Mario Mastromanno, Ray McKean, Leon Ross, Norm Whitehead (Coach)

Overview

At the commencement of the process in July to determine the number of sides to enter, we took into account the number of bowlers who had indicated they wished to play plus the effects that COVID was still having in the community. We entered 5 full sides of 16 bowlers and one side of 12 bowlers.

Our club had a number of bowlers join just prior to the season commencement and it was investigated if we could increase side 6 to 16 a side but the only section available with a bye in that division was made up of clubs mainly on the other side of the city and it was deemed that our bowlers would not wish to travel that far for half of the rounds therefore, we stayed with our original numbers. This unfortunately meant that we had to rotate bowlers through sides to try and give all bowlers as many games as possible but on some occasions it meant we had a number of bowlers that played as reserves on a Saturday and we thank Graeme Findlay and Mik Tuz for organising them each week. We even lent bowlers to Burden Park and Dandenong Club when they were short and we thank those bowlers who agreed to assist those clubs.

Our main aim was to ensure we kept division 1 and of course win as many games as possible for Mulgrave CC. Our number 1 side not only avoided relegation but just missed out on playing sectional finals, a truly great effort. Unfortunately, our sides 2 & 5 struck very good sections and will be relegated but every week they gave it their all for Mulgrave

Sides 3 & 6 were magnificent and both played in section grand finals but could not go on to the division finals. Side 3 will go up next year but as side 6 was in a 12 bowler competition they can't go up. We were really proud of all sides especially these two and must thank all the spectators that supported them in the finals, it was true Mulgrave spirit.

Side 4 had a finals berth in their own hands but could not defeat Coatesville 2 at Coatesville in the final round to ensure a finals appearance but still had a good year finishing 5th.

I am sure that with the synthetic green allowing many bowlers to play and practice all winter, this along with Norm's coaching drills improved our skills and hopefully next season Mulgrave will be even better again.

Appreciation

The selectors would like to thank Lyn Kelly who once again assisted with the stats in a trying season with not all sides playing the same round each week. David West once again did a sterling job amending the software to accommodate the revised BV scheduling. Thanks also to Pauline Williams and Molly Simpson together with our other special ladies who helped in the kitchen on Saturday's.

Next season

Like all clubs we need bowlers so it is up to us to look out for bowlers to join Mulgrave CC and if we all help in this regard Mulgrave will only go even further next season.

Barry Fleming
Chair, Weekend Pennant Selectors

WEEKEND 2022/23 SEASON RESULTS AT A GLANCE

SIDE	DIVISION	LADDER FINISH	FINALS	OUTCOME
1	1	5		Remain in Div 1
2	2	7		Relegate to Div 3
3	4	3	Section runner-up	Promotion to Div 3
4	5	5		Remain in Div 5
5	5	8		Relegate to Div 6
6	8-12 a side	3	Section runner-up	No movement

Division 1 has 10 sides per section, while all others only have 8 sides



Weekend Pennant sides - Section Runners-up
Side 3 Division 4 Section 8

Side 6 Division 8 Section 7

MIDWEEK PENNANT SELECTORS REPORT

Report compiled by Sue Miller

OVERVIEW OF SEASON 2022/2023

Well, another season of Midweek Pennant has come to an end.

The pre-season 9 a side competition managed to get off the ground in September. It received a lot of interest and all those who were keen were given a game on a roster basis. There were mixed reviews after the 3 weeks and it will be interesting to see if Bowls Vic run it again next season.

The 14-week season commenced on 11th October 2022 and with declining numbers we could only submit 6 sides of 12 players and a '6 a side' (triples). At times, it was difficult to fill all positions, so many thanks must go out to all the emergencies who helped us out when we were short of players or when someone withdrew at the last minute. Without your help we may have had to forfeit games. Also, thanks to those bowlers who acted as Team Managers, Umpires and the Controlling Body.

Returning to selection this year were myself and Pauline Coe and we were joined by Graeme Cobbett, Don Matthews and Morris Le Page.

Chris Day's health took a decline due to an illness and she could not complete her two-year term. Sadly, she passed away early January 2023.

OVERALL RESULTS

At the end of the home and away season:

Side 1 finished 2nd on the ladder and played the first sectional semi - final against Clayton. Although they lost, they were given a second chance to play Keysborough. Unfortunately, they lost this one as well, but it was a great effort to get to the finals.

Side 2 finished 7th and will be relegated to Division 2.

Side 3 finished 2nd and beat MCC to go straight into the Section Grand Final. They met up with Burwood District and although they were beaten by only 4 shots, they put on a great game and will be promoted to Division 2.

Side 4 finished 6th and their win in the final game of the season meant they avoided relegation.

Side 5 finished 4th and their win over Cheltenham on the last home and away game saw them qualifying for a semi - finals match against Ashburton. They could not get over the line though, but again, a great effort to get to that stage.

Side 6 finished 8th and will be relegated.

Side 7 finished 5th and did really well considering the teams were not consistent each week. We were also able to give many new bowlers a chance to play their first pennant games.

Some really close finishes and a lot of positions on the ladder came down to the last couple of games. Congratulations to each and every bowler for your perseverance and dedication.

APPRECIATION

I would to thank my team for supporting me during the season and for their hard work and commitment. Pauline and Graeme who organised the printing of the cards, labels and writing up the boards on Monday mornings. To Morris and Don for collating the score cards after pennant. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes that many are not aware of, however we all enjoy selection and the results of our hard work can be quite satisfying.

I must also give thanks to David West for his IT expertise. He was always available to guide us when we struggled with the computer work.

SUMMARY

In summary – this season we seemed to get back to some normality after the previous two seasons due to Covid restrictions etc. We managed to get through every obstacle that presented itself to us and it showed how resilient we all are.

We can now look forward to the 2023/2024 season with a little more certainty.

Sue Miller
Chair Midweek Pennant Selection

MIDWEEK 2022/23 SEASON RESULTS AT A GLANCE

SIDE	DIVISION	LADDER	FINALS	OUTCOME
1	1	2	Section Prelim. Final	Remain in Div 1
2	1	7		Relegate to Div 2
3	3	2	Section Runner up	Promotion to Div 2
4	3	6		Remain in Div 3
5	4	4	Section Semi Final	Remain in Div 4
6	4	8		Remain in Div 6
7	6-a side	5		No Movement

Each Division contains 8 sides.



Midweek side 3. Division 3 Section 6
Section runner-up.

Supporters at Midweek Section Final



THURSDAY 7-A-SIDE PENNANT SELECTORS REPORT

Report compiled by Jan Whitehead

OVERVIEW OF SEASON 2022/23

The Thursday 7's Midweek Competition this Pennant year consisted of two 6-week mini seasons; Spring completed before Christmas and Summer began in the New Year.

We had 3 sides in the Spring competition which ran for the 6 weeks with 2 finals. Sides 1 and 2 were victorious in their Grand Finals which were played at Ashburton, winning against Coatesville and Clayton respectively.

The Summer Season saw us fielding only 2 Sides for six weeks of home and away games, with Side 1 finishing on top of the ladder and Side 2 third. Each side was able to play off in a Semi-Final and proudly, we made it into the Grand Final which was played at Noble Park on 16th March. Unfortunately, this season both sides were runners up for the flag, despite battling hard.

MIDWEEK CLUB BOWLS MANAGER

Report compiled by Brian Milnes

OVERVIEW 2022/23

This year has been very successful for Midweek Bowls. The completion of the synthetic green in middle of March 2022 enabled us to play our Saturday & Wednesday bowls programmes for the full year in lieu of having to stop late June then not resuming Wednesday bowls till during September or October.

MIDWEEK TRIPLES.

Midweek bowls continues to be a popular and social game with up to 60 players most weeks. We are fortunate to have the support of a number of volunteers to run this each week for the benefit of all. No doubt a lot of time is spent in collating the teams for these days. We have created a jackpot draw every now and again which has attracted instant appeal with jackpots of \$600 or more. Teams for these Jackpot days are made up with single entry using a draw with Paddle Sticks. It is pleasing to see the number of new bowlers joining our Club and our older members making them feel welcome addition. The much anticipated and welcome new synthetic green has allowed us to play all year round.

SATURDAY WINTER BOWLS

Our Saturday winter bowls programme commenced during April 2022 and we were able to play until the end of July at which time practice for pennant took over. Even though we play outside, we lost very few days due to the weather. When the grass greens closed during June, we were able to continue on the synthetic but limited our numbers to a maximum of 64.

Our Saturday winter bowls has now recommenced for the winter of 2023 with quite a number supporting the day on our synthetic green. We anticipate in excess of 60 players will come along on a regular basis. Single entry only and with a Paddle Stick draw that is well controlled.

CORPORATE BOWLS.

Corporate Bowls is an important part of our club and an opportunity to showcase our great facilities.

The Corporate season commences in November with a large number of events during December then flowing on in January and declining during March. A small number of events were cancelled due to either the heat or rain.

As we are coming to a close to the season for corporate clients, may I thank our team of volunteers who assisted in making these days or evenings a great success resulting in many repeat bookings. We had 38 bookings for 985 clients generating an income of \$9,985 to benefit the bowls section.

APPRECIATION.

Last but not the least a big thanks to all who assisted and made the Management of Midweek Bowls a pleasure during the year.

Brian Milnes
Midweek Club and Corporate Bowls Manager

CHAMPIONSHIPS & TOURNAMENT MANAGERS REPORT

Report compiled by Christine Battersby

OVERVIEW OF THE SEASON

I took on the role of Championship Tournament Manager after the 2022 AGM.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

We have continued with the same championship procedures that were put in place last year – eg. no entry fees and no prize money, round 1 for all events on a nominated day with finals dates set. All the rounds before the finals to be played at participants mutually agreed match times. Many of the finals dates were not met as the rounds were behind schedule and were required to be extended to a later date.

RESULTS OF EVENTS

EVENT	WINNER	RUNNER UP
MENS SINGLES	SHANE McCLUSKEY	ROB JAGO
LADIES SINGLES	CHRISTINE BATTERSBY	EVELYN MARTIN
MENS PAIRS	KEVIN JAGO JOHN SWALE (s)	BRIAN KINGMAN WAYNE FRAZER (s)
LADIES PAIRS	JAN BOURKE EVELYN MARTIN (s)	NORMA DOUGLASS DORIS AMY (s)
MIXED PAIRS	HELMA SIMPSON TONY BUCKINGHAM (s)	LORRAINE CAMM WAYNE FRAZER (s)
OBE	NORM DAWSON	JOHN PILGRIM
PROPORTIONAL	BOB PRATT	STEPHEN CASTLE

TOURNAMENTS

This year an Open Pairs Tournament was conducted on the Sunday of the Queens Birthday weekend. This was possible as we had the synthetic green available and we had 20 teams entered. Thanks to John Pilgrim for all his work in the organising of this day.

EASTER MONDAY 2 BOWLS TRIPLES.

It was a very successful day with 30 teams taking part (90 bowlers). We had representatives from fifteen (15) outside Clubs. The weather was overcast and cold, but we managed to get through

the day without any rain. The lunch catered for us by the Mulgrave Country Club was very nice, and I would like to thank the Club for their sponsorship of this event with \$2,000 prizemoney.

We had planned to also run the "Lendlease Retire in Rowville" event this year but were unable to obtain sponsorship, so it was cancelled.

Christine Battersby Championship and Tournament



Men's pairs champions
Kevin Jago & John Swale (right
side) & runner ups Brian
Kingman & Wayne Feazell



Women's Pairs Champions
Winners Evelyn Martin &
Jan Bourke on left
Runners up Doris Amy &
Norma Douglass



Proprietary Final
Winner Bob Pratt
Runner up Stephen
Castle



Norm Dawson winner
OBE Championship.
John Pilgrim runner up.



Mixed Pairs. Runners up Wayne Frazer & Lorraine Camm (on left). Winners Helma Simpson & Tony Buckingham



Competitors in Queens Tournament held June

SOCIAL BOWLS MANAGER REPORT

Report compiled by DIANNE QUIGLEY

We have experienced a very successful Social Bowls Season during the 2022/2023 Bowling Season.

To re-ignite energy and enthusiasm into our Monthly Happy Days, the Social Committee decided to change the format to single entry and using the Paddle Stick method and playing 2 bowls Triples instead of fours. This change proved to be very successful and our numbers increased each month. October/ November had 42 players each month, December 48, March 56 and April 48 players. We weren't able to hold Happy Day in February due to our hosting the State Novice and Pennant Finals.

Our Jane McGrath Pink Day (December Happy Day) was a great success. Many thanks to Doiraine Sidbottom who organized the Silent Auction, Janet Morrison for her lucky numbers and pink tricketts and to all bowlers who donated fantastic items for the silent auction and raffle table. We raised \$1,420 through our activities and the Club rounded the figure up to \$3,000 which was donated to the Jane McGrath Foundation.

Our Vermont South Challenge was hosted by Mulgrave in January this year. We had 60 bowlers from each club participating with many supporters from both clubs enjoying our BBQ Meal and watching the bowls. A big thank you to John Pilgrim for helping organize this event and to Barrie Fleming and Mick Crawley for cooking the BBQ. Mulgrave was successful in winning the trophy for the 2023 Challenge.

Sadly the weather interfered with our Cumberland View/ Mulgrave Challenge in February. We all enjoyed a delicious BBQ meal including dessert with lots of social interaction between the bowlers. Our 2024 Cumberland View/Mulgrave Challenge will be hosted by Mulgrave.

During May 2022, 60 plus bowlers and partners spent the week at Cobram where we played a two day challenge against Cobram and won the trophy. On the Friday we competed against Tocumwal and were again successful in winning the trophy. Great meals and company were enjoyed by all who attended.

We are all looking forward to our Cobram Week away this year from Monday May15th until Saturday May 20th. We will again have 2 full bowling days at Cobram playing triples and fours and one Happy Day format bowling against Tocumwal. We have 56 bowlers & partners attending and are looking forward to retaining the trophies. A big thank you to Casey Cooper who several years ago instigated the change to Cobram and for organizing the accommodation and catering for the

bowler's lunches. Our Social Committee has been very busy organizing different aspects of our Cobram Week away.

A very big thank you to our Social Committee members who are: Doiraine Sidbottom, Jeanette Milnes, Casey Cooper, Barrie Carson, Lynette Snart, Eileen O'Donnell, Graeme Cobbett & Gail, Jan Delaney and Anne Fitzmaurice. We could not manage without our IT guru in David West who does our monthly draws and controls the Electronic White Board.

Thank you everyone for making our Social Bowling Season so successful.

Dianne Quigley, Social Bowls Manager



Bowlers at Cobram.



Enjoying after the game



Cobram & Tocumwal trophies.



Bowlers at Tocumwal.



Mulgrave – Vermont South Bowls challenge.

SUPPORT & PROVISIONS MANAGERS REPORT

Report compiled by Dennis Jeffery

During August 2022 I took over the role of Support and Provision manager from June Van De Ven due to her resigning from the bowls committee for personal reasons.

June and her loyal assistant Susan McCraith have done a wonderful job over many years managing clothing and products for our members. I would like to thank them both for their loyalty and commitment to the bowls section.

Review of Season

We had a very good year with the sale of club clothing totalling \$4,500. This included sales of the old blue below waist club clothing and old white club uniforms

There was only one purchase order for club uniforms during the year totalling \$3,127

Hoodies were offered to members on a pre order basis and orders totalling \$1,670 were placed. These are largely a winter or cold weather item and our next order still requires another 4 more orders before we can proceed with the next purchase.

We purchased 10 of the royal blue anti cancer council hats selling for \$40 each and they sold within two weeks of purchase. They were a very popular item and we will review the need for them again at the beginning of the bowls season. These are not a normal stock item but we purchase when sufficient orders are received.

The purchasing of bowls products from our suppliers for the year totalled \$938 and sales to members \$1,150

During the year we reviewed all our prices for clothing and products and with the increase for new stock we had to raise prices on some of our items due to the increases in manufacturing costs from our suppliers. Our sale prices need to be able to cover the cost of the goods.

The sale of Grippo bowls grip was the most popular product sold through our store.

We offer all **Bowls Club Members** a fair and reasonable price on all items trading through our wholesale bowls websites companies which carry a wide arrange of products.

Members please note that we are still trading as normal in the off season so if you require any products please ring Dennis or Joan Jeffery on 0438602592 or by personal contact with us while socialising at the club.

Bowls clothing and products sales set up in the members' area operates on Saturday mornings from 11.00am to 1.00pm approx during the pennant season.

Appreciation

I would like to personally thank Joan Jeffery and Maureen Fitzgerald for assisting me in managing the Saturday bowls shop during the season.

Going Forward

The Bowls Committee are looking at ways to provide bowls products to our members. If you need a particular product or item and we haven't got it in our store, please let us know and we will endeavour to get it in for you.

Dennis Jeffery, Support and Provisions

CLUB HEAD COACH REPORT

Report compiled by Norm Whitehead

As my fourth and final year as Head Coach at Mulgrave Country Club comes to an end, I again thank you for putting your faith in me and for your encouragement and support.

I've been privileged to have met and worked with many enthusiastic people and for such a great club. We should never lose sight that it's a first-class venue, with some of the best greens around and we should promote these assets to everyone. Comments from those attending finals and barefoot bowls recently, reinforce that our great club is something to be envied.

COACHING & TRAINING

With the all-year availability of Green One, coaching has taken place in one form or another for virtually the whole year.

My program officially started in August with skill and drill sessions twice a week for an hour each time. These were structured in a format where bowlers worked in pairs to practise certain shots from 'heads' I had set out for them. The benefit of these was that I chose drills that I thought were needed, initially based on skills to brush up on and latterly performances from the previous week's pennant games. Everyone practised the same shots or scenarios. Bowlers were mixed in their paired groupings and the more accomplished players were generous in their encouragement of the new ones. Team and club spirit was fostered as some players met for the first time and shared the drills. I was able to roam, encourage and give suggestions as drills took place. I thank those who participated and took the sessions seriously. Most nights were well attended, with the green full, often using half rinks as well.

On Thursday nights, once teams were selected, structured sessions were followed by team practice. This is another important part of our training for pennant performance where sides can work on their weaknesses and begin to 'gel' as a group. Learning how to get the best out of your teammates by working on respect, trust and communication is a winning prescription. If we are to improve our pennant performance in the future, purposeful team practice is vital.

Throughout the whole season coaching was available as one on one and in small groups. I appreciate those who recognised they had concerns and availed themselves. None of us are perfect and often it's just a small thing that needs 'tweaking' to make such a big difference. Saying this, one disappointment for me this season was to hear that some from the top sides thought the drills sessions were 'not worth it.' I assure you that even the top international players consistently work on their physical fitness, skills, and knowledge and, "you reap what you sow."

APPRECIATION

Over the course of the season, we had many new bowlers join the club and I thank Laraine Pile who spends a lot of time on the greens, introducing them to the game. Some of these went on to play pennant and hopefully will continue to avail themselves of coaching as their involvement in competition grows. Once again, Alison has been working with those wishing to develop skills in the use of the bowling arm. We thank her also for her dedication here.

I know our other club coaches have offered help to players along the way and I encourage you to listen to advice from them. Find someone who is qualified and you are comfortable with and work on your delivery and game together. It's best not to take on advice from everyone or you will end up being totally confused and your game will suffer. The club coach will be the best one to approach in the first instance.

We are indebted to coach, Stephen Castle for stepping in when I was out of action at the end of September following my surgery. I thank him and Graeme Cobbett and others who helped me with the drills and coaching sessions whilst I recuperated.

LOOKING FORWARD

There is a need for more workshops and information sessions covering the rules, etiquette and strategies involved in bowls games and I regret that we didn't have enough time for these. Hopefully bowlers will be enthusiastic and interested enough to attend if they are offered in the future. Again, no one can ever know everything!

In order to keep our great club progressing, the bowls committee is advertising the head coach position; a decision I support. I have enjoyed my time as coach and hopefully have had a positive effect on the skills and enjoyment of our bowlers.

I will always be happy to help anyone in the future. Good bowling everyone.

Norm Whitehead, Head Club Coach



GREENS DIRECTOR REPORT

Report compiled by STEPHEN STAFF

Greens Director – Stephen Staff
Green Keeper – Michael DiMattia

The summer season just completed was, from the green’s perspective, most satisfactory. It helped greatly that for the 2nd year in a row the weather “gods” were kind to us.

The artificial green has settled down and is performing as expected. It has its own maintenance programme which we are adhering to. The 2 Tiff Dwarf greens were running extremely well throughout the whole season. Green 3 had a major renovation over the Christmas period which was successful. For the immediate future we shall (subject to weather) strive to keep the 2 grass greens open for play for the winter programme. However once we enter the dormant period more play will take place on the artificial green.

Before I close my report I would like to extend a personal thank you to those members who helped us in various ways when asked to do so. Finally to Michael and Jason, our greenkeepers, on behalf of all the bowling members a huge thank you for a job well done.

Stephen Staff
Greens Director



FINANCIAL REPORT

Report compiled by Ravi Khazanchi

Due to the change in the Accounting Software platform and outsourcing of some of the Accounting functions, the fourth quarter financials have not been released by Accounts as at the date of this report. As such the full year Income and Expense statement will be published at a later date. Finances have continued to be managed with a good governance process and the final results are expected to be within the budget for the year.

Bowling Section's "Income and Expense" report is split into two parts namely 'Sports Section Controlled' and 'MCC Controlled'. Only the Sports Section Controlled Accounts will be the published under the Bowls Annual Report.

Primary Revenue Categories for 'Sports Section Controlled':

- Club membership Fee (\$20)
- Fee charged per Corporate Bowler
- Raffles (Pink Day – All donated)
- Merchandise Sales (Clothing and Products)
- Sundry others (Green Fees for hosting finals etc)

It was a tremendous effort by the Corporate Bowls team in hosting a record number of Corporate Bowlers this year accounting for most of the Revenue for the section.

Major Expense Categories for Sports Section:

- BV Pennant Entry Fees and Eastern Region Fees
- Kitchen Supplies
- Sponsorships (BV Novice Tournament, Prizes for Easter Monday) and Barefoot Promotion
- Entry Fees for members participating in Prestigious tournaments
- Donations (Jane McGrath)
- Miscellaneous Others (including Player Subsidy, Umpire and Coaches Accreditation, best rink Vouchers etc.)

Budget for 2022-23

Sports Controlled Section: Loss (Shortfall of Income over Expense) (\$19,340)

MCC Controlled Section: Loss (\$147,637)

**Ravi Khazanchi,
Financial Manager,
Bowls Section.**

MULGRAVE COUNTRY CLUB – BOWLS SECTION FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2022-2023

Lawn Bowls



Income & Expense Statement - Sports Section

	Year 2022-23		Notes
	Actual	Budget	
Members Subscriptions	1,045	2,340	
Corporate Bowls Income	8,517	7,000	
Green Fees	2,816	1,000	1
Merchandise Sales	6,263	1,600	2
Pink Day Raffles Collection	3,429	3,000	
Sponsorship & Advertising	-	1,500	3
Tournament Fees	2,187	3,120	
Sundry Income	2,261	120	
Total Income	26,519	19,680	
Advertising and Marketing	3,634	5,600	4
Catering Costs	9,169	10,000	5
Donations	3,429	3,000	6
Entry Fees	3,400	3,150	7
Equipment & Consumables	1,738	2,000	
Merchandise Purchases	13,906	1,800	8
Subsidy Payments to Players	1,500	1,450	
Trophy & Awards	4,469	6,500	9
Other Expense	3,753	5,520	10
Total Expenses	44,997	39,020	
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	(18,478)	(19,340)	



For the financial Year ending March 31, 2023, the Bowls Section posted a deficit of \$18,478 compared to the budgeted deficit of \$19,340. The result included a one-time expense for \$11,250 towards write off of very old Merchandise stock. Excluding the one-time item, the deficit for the year was \$7,228, over \$12,000 better than the budget. This result is a tremendous effort by Bowls members, helped greatly by a record Corporate Bowls income.

Bowls section continues to support its members, the community and activities in promoting the club through the following activities:

- Sponsorship of Bowls Victoria Novice Tournament
- Donation to the Jane McGrath Foundation
- Sponsoring prizes for the Easter Monday Tournament (open to all Bowls Vic members)
- Weekly 'Best Rink' prizes incentive to the members for Pennant games

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

INCOME

1. *Green Fees*: For hosting Pennant Finals as well as hiring to external parties
2. *Merchandise Sales*: Sold a lot of very old Merchandise stock at clearance prices
3. *Sponsorship & Advertising*: Budgeted Lendlease sponsorship for a tournament which was not renewed

EXPENSES

4. *Advertising and Marketing*: Expenses related to 'Novice Sponsorship' and Barefoot Bowls
5. *Catering Costs*: Tournament Catering, Kitchen Supplies and BBQs etc
6. *Donations*: All Raffle collections for Pink Day Tournament are donated to the Jan McGrath Foundation. There were two such Tournaments this financial year (April 2022 and December 2023)
7. *Entry Fees*: Costs for Pennant Entry Fees to Bowls Vic and entry Fees for members playing in prestigious tournaments
8. *Merchandise Purchase*: Includes one-time expense for \$11,250 towards write off of very old stock
9. *Trophy and Awards*: Best Rink Vouchers for Pennant games and sponsoring prizes for the Easter Monday Tournament. Budget also included prizes for a Lendlease Tournament
10. *Other Expenses*: Include Eastern Ranges Bowls Region Fees, green fees for Mulgrave playing Pennant Finals at other clubs, BV Clearance Fees, Repairs and other Sundry Expenses.