



Ivanhoe Bowling Club Inc.  
Annual General Meeting  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Annual Report



## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Chairperson: John Mehan

Secretary: Bronwyn Bannan

Treasurer: Pam McColl

Bowls Director: Cliff Lynch

Functions Director: Pam McColl

Membership Director: Alan Willocks

Property Director: Warrick Carbis

Tournaments: vacant (John Mehan)

# LIFE MEMBERS

## Recreation Association

1921 A. Ford  
1922 H.W. Hacket  
1992 H.A. Head  
1995 C.N. Bull

## Bowling Club

1989 E.C. Blackford  
1989 I.G. Cleeland  
1989 F.Tilson  
1990 Mrs R. Cheldrick  
1991 G.Taylor  
1996 K.N.Macaulay  
1997 Mrs B.L. Wood  
1998 K.R.Hobba  
2012 P.Mithen  
2013 I.H.Penney  
2014 F.D.Whillans  
2014 D.Chesterton  
2016 A.Clark  
2016 R.Gilham  
2017 D.Hingst

## **Chairperson's Report**

May 2022

I am pleased to present my sixth report as Chairperson of the Ivanhoe Bowling Club for the year ending 31 March 2022.

Our great Club founded in 1912 has faced many challenges over the past 110 years. The ongoing COVID issues has led to a new Pennant bowling model with a reduction in games for all sides except for Saturday Division 1. As Covid restrictions were progressively eased during the year, we returned to a normal operating model.

The Club has finished the year in a strong financial position with cash reserves increasing from \$67.3k to \$77.8K, an increase of \$10.5K.

I would like to acknowledge retiring Directors Alan Willocks and Cliff Lynch. Alan has been a Board member for 14 years and Cliff 4 years. Both have made a significant contribution.

### **Bowling**

Saturday highlights included the first side finishing 5<sup>th</sup> after a slow start to the season and the fourth side finishing 4<sup>th</sup> and the Tuesday second side also finished 4<sup>th</sup>. Our Thursday 7 a side team were runners up in the Side 1 grand final.

At the end of the season Club Coach Brayden Ellis announced he was moving to Moonee Valley BC. Brayden, a two-time Club singles champion will be missed, and we wish him well in the future.

During the year, the Selectors faced many challenges, and I would like to acknowledge their efforts. We were able to field full teams each week despite Covid impacting availability.

This year our Tournament program limited with only the MND event and Good Friday being run.

Our social bowls program has been very successful. During Winter, with Frank Whillans as coordinator Tuesday and Thursday Pairs was popular. Our Wednesday Triples coordinated by Ray O'Halloran was well supported with strong fields including many players from surrounding clubs. Thanks to both Frank and Ray.

We should not forget the Umpires and a special mention to Bob Gilham for being available each Saturday.

## **Bowling Facilities**

We have again enjoyed playing on a well prepared green and we acknowledge the efforts of Nathan Swincer and Greg Payne. A new three year contract was negotiated with Nathan during the year. The Club will provide the equipment and green maintenance to ensure our major asset continually improves.

The Clubhouse and surrounds continue to be well maintained and presented. We have met with Council and requested LED globes for our green lighting, solar panels, and safety rails between the synthetic and grass greens.

I would like to acknowledge Warrick Carbis, Jim Gray and their team of helpers.

## **Engagement with Local Community**

The Club continues to increase its profile in the community. Engagement with the local community covers a wide range of activities including sponsorship, membership, social membership, and interaction with our local neighbourhood.

Sponsorship is vital and we are fortunate to have retained most of our sponsors. Bendigo Bank remains our largest sponsor with \$4,000 being received. Where possible please consider Bendigo, whose support is based on our support of the Bank.

We are in discussions with Bunnings Fairfield in respect to a financially viable model for us to continue with the BBQ's. We are hopeful that we can return to the more profitable Preston store when it reopens in Bell Street.

## **Finance Update**

During the past year under Pam McColl's financial leadership our financial position remains strong.

At the end of the financial year, we have \$78K in the bank compared to \$67K last year. Our revenue increased by \$30K with bar sales up \$9k, subscriptions \$3K, grants \$8K, functions \$5K and comp fees \$3K.

Your Club generated a small surplus of \$8K compared to \$5K last year.

The Club has held its membership fees at its current level for eight years and there will be no increase in the coming year. Match fees will remain at \$10.00 per game.

## **Succession Planning**

As a Board and Club, we need to look to the future, encourage and identify our next generation of leadership. We are all volunteers and for the Club to prosper we need your help. I have advised the board that I will not be standing for re-election after my term expires at next year's AGM.

## **Ivanhoe Bowling Club/ East Ivanhoe Bowling Club Update.**

As previously reported Council has reversed its decision to consolidate Bowls at John Street. This means that both IBC and EIBC will operate as separate Clubs. The other change is to increase the number of Netball courts from two to three at Ivanhoe Park and it is likely that EIBC will lose part of their green and caretaker cottage. The Tennis Club will lose their two courts at Ivanhoe Park.

The overall development plan has a target budget of \$15M with spending from both Federal and State governments required to fund all the initiatives. Recent advice is that the Plan should be approved this year, but it highly unlikely that any redevelopment will occur across all sports on the three sites until 2024 at the earliest. It has taken 4 years of meetings/discussions to get to this stage!!!

The positions that will become vacant at the AGM are:

Bowls Director

Secretary

Membership Director

Functions Director

The remaining Directors are:

Chair                      John Mehan

Treasurer                Pam McColl

Property                 Warrick Carbis

Tournaments   Vacant

In closing I would like to thank all Directors for their hard work and members for their support. We are a Club with a proud history and will continue to be an important sporting club in our local community.

**John Mehan**

**Chairperson**

## Secretary's Report

I have been undertaken the secretary role since 2016 and I am standing again this year.

This last year many of the community events we have been involved with were not run due to COVID restrictions.

Duties of the secretary involve correspondence, preparing for and maintaining records of meetings and ensuring that the Club is run in accordance with its Constitution and By Laws and that the Club is informed of changes to all Federal, State and Local regulations.

Our club documentation can be found on our Club Website and it is important that all members are aware of our club policies and procedures.

### [Notices and Documents access - Ivanhoe Bowls Club](#)

New Child Safe Standards come into effect 1 July 2022. Ivanhoe Bowling Club will need to review and adapt our current child safety policy, practices and organisational culture to comply with the new Standards.

The new standards set out minimum requirements and outline the actions organisations must take to keep children and young people safe. They provide more clarity for organisations and are more consistent with standards in the rest of Australia.

The new standards although similar to Victoria's current Child Safe Standards have some key changes.

The new requirements ask organisations to:

- to involve families and communities in organisations' efforts to keep children and young people safe
- for a greater focus on safety for Aboriginal children and young people
- to manage the risk of child abuse in online environments
- in relation to governance, systems and processes to keep children and young people safe.

Ivanhoe Bowls Club is also registered with Good Sports - Australia's largest community health sports program – which has been helping build strong community sporting clubs across Australia for over 20 years. Being part of Good Sports shows our community our club is a welcoming place, helping to bring in and keep members and volunteers and that we care about their health and safety

Our Good Sports policy outlines our club commitments regarding responsible service of alcohol, smoking, transport and our fair play code of conduct. These policies are also needing review and will be a task for the new board.

Thank you to those who support the secretary role. Working fulltime it can be hard to be around the club as much as I would like. I would like to work with someone who is willing to take on this role in the future.

**Bronwyn Bannan**

## **REPORT FOR THE AGM 2022 FUNCTIONS DIRECTOR**

I have now had the role of Functions Director for a couple of years and will now be passing the baton to someone new.

Covid threw up a lot of challenges for everyone, with a number of functions cancelled as restrictions came in again early August 2021. It is difficult to estimate the loss to the club for those months but would have been between \$5000-\$10000.

However, one big bonus after lockdown finished, was the eagerness of people to see each other and the ability for the clubhouse to host functions under the space requirements for functions. Yet again when restrictions were eased and density limits allowed and the clubhouse opened, we were inundated with requests. Private as well as business functions, particularly large birthday parties, which were still restricted in home settings, we even had a function for a large family on Christmas Day.

Barefoot bowls become popular again and many tried bowls for the first time. A great new innovation introduced by Brayden Ellis and John Higgins is the monthly Social Bowls nights for locals. We have signed up some new social members that are keen to give bowls a try.

I would like to thank Brayden Ellis for his coordination of bar staff, ordering for functions and barefoot bowls supervision. I would also like to thank all the volunteers that assisted at the bar, making salads, ordering soft drinks and other pantry items, and other jobs.

The clubhouse and the willingness of club members to give their time are a wonderful asset, those who have hired the venue have commented on the friendliness and efficiency of our volunteers.

I wish the new Functions Director best wishes and hope they enjoy their new role. I will be able to assist them and can answer any questions that may come up and hopefully they too will develop their confidence in the role.

**Pam McColl**

**Functions Director**

## **Bowls Director's Report**

### **Saturday Pennant**

This season the club again entered 4 sides in Saturday pennant. There were not enough available players for all of the sides to be of 4 rinks so the 4th side was entered in division 6B, a standalone division with no promotion or relegation.

BV pulled a shifty by unilaterally and without consultation declaring that only premier and division 1 would remain as sections of 10 sides with all others transitioning from 10 sections of 8 to 8 sections of 8 in 2022/23. Some extremely harsh relegation rules resulted.

**First side, division 1:** After promotion the previous season, early results were not promising with successive losses in the first 4 rounds. The first win was in round 5 and a draw followed in round 7 which still left the side in last place and facing relegation. They had better results in the second half of the season and with a round to go was 8th but still in danger of relegation. However an 18 point win in the final round propelled them to 5th with 7 wins and a draw for the season.

**Second side, division 3:** At the half way point of the season the side had won just 2 games. Three wins in the last half was a slight improvement, which included wins over 2 of the finalists, but was not enough to avoid finishing 7th and thus relegation.

**Third side, division 4:** Had a reasonable season with 7 wins and 7 losses and a positive shot difference to finish 5th. They were a good chance to make the finals but a narrow loss in the last round to the eventual 4th placed side prevented this. Due to the harsh relegation rules for this season the side was relegated. The harshness of the rules can be seen in the fact that all sides apart from the 2 section grand finalists were relegated.

**Fourth side, division 6B:** Did well to finish 3rd with 9 wins and 4 losses with one other match not played due to COVID. Their good season ended with a 44/67 loss in the section semi-final.

### **Tuesday Pennant**

The club entered 3 full sides of 12 players and 1 in the 6-a-side competition which involved 2 rinks playing triples.

BV's decision to move to 10 sections of 8 to 8 sections of 8 in 2022/23 also applied to Tuesday. The relegation rules were just as harsh.

**First side, division 1:** The side had struggled in previous seasons as several premier clubs stacked their sides with premier players leaving others mostly outclassed. The same thing happened again this season and with several Tuesday regulars not playing the going was very tough. Despite some excellent rink wins (cop that premier players!) only 1 side win was to be had and the side finished last. They should have a much easier run in division 2 next season.

**Second side, division 2:** The side was last after 5 rounds with just a single win in the 1st round. Things improved steadily thereafter to finish 4th on 7 wins and 7 losses. Their semi-final was away at North Balwyn to whom they'd lost 25/79 earlier in the season. The result was a little closer going down 46/71.

**Third side, division 4:** The harsh relegations rules for this division meant this side was relegated despite finishing 5th with a 6/8 win/loss record.

Fourth side, division 6-a-side: This is another of the standalone competitions with no promotion or relegation. Finished 7th with 4 wins, just 3 points short of a place in the finals.

### **Thursday Pennant**

The 2020/21 season initiative of having a Thursday morning pennant with sides of 7 playing as 2 pairs and a triples was better structured this season as it involved 2 full round robins of 14 matches, multiple divisions and sections and divisional finals.

We had a single side in division 1 which finished 2nd in their section after some indifferent home- and –away results. It was in the finals that they hit their straps. Convincing wins in their 2 sectional finals matches was followed by another in the division semi-final. In the division grand final they found Berwick just a bit too strong and lost narrowly.

### **Night Pennant**

The night pennant side was the best performed for many years finishing in 2nd place to contest the division 1 finals. A preliminary final win saw them through to the grand final where they led for most of the day before being overrun in the final few ends.

### **Club Events**

Max McGuire and Laurel Montgomery each won their first singles titles.

Men's Singles	Max McGuire	David Purves
Women's Singles	Laurel Montgomery	Anne Greening
Open Pairs	Graeme Bertram / Alan Willocks	John Higgins / Cliff Lynch
Mixed Pairs	Anne Greening / David Purves	Laurel Montgomery / Ken Montgomery
Minor Singles	Ken Montgomery	Pam McColl
Open Triples	Bronwyn Bannan / Cliff Lynch / John Higgins Bruce Trippett / Doug Sexton / Jack Lydiate	
Handicap Singles	Warrick Carbis	Cliff Lynch

### **Region Events**

The best performed players were Brayden Ellis and Alan Willocks who were runners-up in the open pairs and Cliff Lynch runner-up in over 60s singles.

### **Region Sides**

Brayden Ellis and Bronwyn Bannan were both selected for the first time in the Yarra region side after performing well at the trials. Bronwyn played in all of the sectional games, Brayden played twice as the travelling emergency player.

### **Tournaments**

The Bendigo Bank sponsored Classic Fours on Good Friday was another successful day with 24 teams participating. Fish and chips for lunch provided by a local merchant and supplemented by salad and dessert whipped up by Lois Maguire led kitchen team was to its usual high standard.

Neither of the Cup Day triples in November and the Division 2 and below fours in February was held due to COVID restrictions and uncertainties. In their place a new bowls format was tried in a tournament in May sponsored by John Hymet's Logical Choice Finance. This involved 3 bowl triples (a rarity in Victoria but very popular in NSW and Queensland) coupled with the use of 2 live jacks neither of which was centred after delivery. All rinks were used to accommodate the 26 team entries.

Despite the initial confusion most players soon adapted to the unusual conditions where a consistent line and length were difficult to establish as the jacks were typically far apart and not on the centre line. Skips found it particularly challenging as decision making regarding drawing/driving/adding/defending had to be made on both jacks with mistakes being potentially very costly. The measuring process took a little longer than normal as shots had to be determined on both jacks but this was offset by a rule which deterred players from unnecessarily visiting the head.

Comments on the day were all positive. It is expected that a tournament with these unusual playing conditions will be regularly played in the future.

## **Cliff Lynch**

### **13<sup>th</sup> Annual MND Bowls Fundraiser**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual MND event raised \$3075.65 and as a result of these events over the years, \$37972.30 has been donated to MND Victoria.

A special thank you goes to Laurel, Debbie, Ann, Sue, Brayden Tia, Adrian and John Angus for their help. Without their help these events would not have been possible.

I would also like to thank the sponsors of the event, the club members who buy the raffle tickets and especially the people who organize the teams.

Thank you

*John Higgins*

### **Tuesday Night Pennant**

Congratulations to the team on coming runner up in the section 1 premiership and thank you to all involved in Tuesday night pennant.

A special thanks to Tia for doing the bar and Laurel for doing the cooking at the games played at Ivanhoe, Bronwyn for collecting the money each week and to all who filled in when required.

The season was certainly a success because we also achieved the following.

- Over a \$1000.00 was generated in income for the club.
- Brad, Rob Antrim and Tom Price returned.
- Several players gained experience in playing in positions they do not normally play in.

Please promote the idea of playing Tuesday Night pennant to anyone who may be interested in giving bowls a go but can't play Saturdays or Tuesdays.

Once again thank you to all who were involved. I trust you enjoyed the season as much as I enjoyed being involved and watching the development of players.

**John Higgins**

## **Tournament Report**

The 2021/2022 season faced many Covid related challenges.

The Motor Neurone Disease tournament was a major success again. Over the years this event has raised over \$33,000 and a great credit to John Higgins.

The Ivanhoe Classic Fours was held on Good Friday, sponsored by Bendigo Bank with 26 teams from over 10 different Clubs competed in a highly successful day.

Thanks to all coordinators and helpers.

The 2022 Classic will be run on April 16 with a full field.

A new event will be held on May 7 sponsored by John Hymet's Logical Choice Finance business. Thanks to John.

After three years as acting Tournaments Director, it would be great if a member could step into this role.

**John Mehan**

## **Membership Director Report**

I was appointed as the Membership Director in May 2018. The position is up for up for election this year. I am not seeking re-election to this position or to the Board.

### **Membership numbers**

I would like to formally welcome all of the new players to the club. We attracted 18 new members this year. We received applications for 7 playing members and 11 social members. All were approved.

By the close of 2021/22 season we have 123 members:

Bowling members - 91                      Social members - 31                      Junior - 1

Three players transferred to other clubs.

The member clearance process has been revamped by Bowls Victoria.

- The process is now done on line. A clearance form is non longer required to be processed.
- Intrastate clearances are triggered by the player's new club.
- Player receives an email as does the new and current club.
- Approvals are given in the Bowlslink database.
- Clearance fees are now \$20.

The club is always working to build its numbers of bowling and social members. Loss of players to relocation, transfers to other clubs or due to ill health means that we need to aim to get at least 10 new players every year. You can help with this by providing names to the Membership Director of people who you know who might be interested in talking about their options at Ivanhoe.

### **Impact of COVID-19**

The club instituted COVID management practices in line with the Government requirements and guidelines. The club operated as "Physical Recreational Facility" which required that all people visiting the club were required to have valid vaccination certificates.

Several Ivanhoe players have had COVID during the year. This had impact on the players themselves. It also had a big impact on non infected members at Ivanhoe and other clubs who were required to get tested as they were deemed close contacts.

The club closure due to COVID-19 required a change in operating procedures for new member applications. The By-Laws were changed in 2020, so that new applications can be sent as an email notice. This is now standard practice for application notification to members. It is working well. The club put its sponsorship Plenty Valley FM Radio on hold as a cost saving measure during COVID-19.

## **Recognition of members**

Some members do an extraordinary amount of volunteer work for the club and their contribution is really appreciated. There is still plenty to do and I would encourage all members to volunteer to undertake activities in the next financial year.

Doug Sexton continues to do the almoner's role.

## **Social Member recruitment drive**

John Higgins in partnership with our Michelle Barry (social member and neighbour) have instigated a regular get together at the club for our neighbours. Starting in March this year, successful events have been held on the 1st Friday of each month. It is hoped that this will be an ongoing activity throughout the year. Ten of the participants have joined up as social members.

## **Introducing people to Bowls**

The Come Try Bowls and Get on the Green programs were not run this year due to COVID.

John Higgins ran a program for 4 students from Ivanhoe Grammar on Tuesday evenings.

Motor Neurone Tournament Fundraiser: This was the 13th annual event organised by John Higgins to raise awareness and funding for Motor Neurone Disease. The event again raised over \$2000.

## **Super Veteran bowlers**

The Club is proud to acknowledge six bowlers who turned 80 years of age during the season. They are Michael Madden, Jim Gray, Fotini Bourtzos, Bob Muir, Bruce Trippett and Frank Whillans.

## **Membership fees:**

The club is pleased to confirm that fees will remain the same for 2022/23 season.

Full bowling - \$250 (\$235 if paid by 30 June)      Social bowling - \$160      Full time student - \$145

Junior - \$55      Social (non bowling) - \$25      Indoor biased - \$50

## **Website and social media:**

The club maintains a website [www.ivanhoe.bowls.com.au](http://www.ivanhoe.bowls.com.au) hosted by Bowls Victoria. The site is regularly updated by Alan Willocks. The site attracts a lot of traffic for people enquiring about functions. The Contacts enquiry form added last year has worked well. The club is using TeamApp for everyday contact with members.

## **Alan Willocks**

## **Membership Director**

## **Maintenance Report 2021/2022**

Apart from general cleaning and maintenance there were no major projects requiring attention during the year.

A meeting was held with Alida McKern, our ward Council member in early April and the Club has requested replacement of our outdoor lights with LED globes, solar panels, and safety rails between the synthetic and grass greens.

The Club received a federal grant of \$9,000 and we have installed a new security system which will be in use shortly. We also replaced the main bar fridge and upgraded our kitchen appliances.

It was pleasing to note that our many visitors for functions appreciated the standard of the clubrooms.

Thanks to Jim Gray, Cliff Lynch and Rob Waddell and the many helpers.

## **Warrick Carbis**

### **Green Report**

Not a lot to report. The greens are going well and I think the grass has run pretty well all season. It's relatively healthy and almost problem free. The only real issue of late has been some fungal disease that has shown up since Christmas. For anyone interested I have had a disease test done and it is "Rhizoctonia Solani" or commonly known as "Brown Patch or Rhizo". It is quite common in bowling greens. We have had this in the past and managed to treat it successfully. I don't think it will be a long term issue or have any major effect on the bowls. It has been treated and I expect that I can get on top of it before the end of next season without it having any significant impact on the bowls.

We will probably use this Christmas break to renovate the green. (Probably scarify, core, top dress and maybe laser level) so we may be closing the grass and relying on the synthetic only for this Christmas period. This is something that needs to be done regularly on this type of grass for its continued health and longevity. It will certainly help with getting rid of the disease scarring if there is still any there at Christmas time, as well as preventing future problems.

As usual we have recently changed direction to east/west play from now until the beginning of next season. I hope everyone will be understanding and adhere to the board for direction of play and opening times. There are red lines and black lines to indicate which end of the green we are using. (Please speak to Jim or myself if this is confusing for anyone).

It is important to play east/west through the winter for us as we can't do it through the season with the shape of our green. If we were to continue north/south throughout the off-season then the areas around northern ditch would become badly damaged very quickly.

I would also like to thank the number one greens director (NOGD) Jim Gray. As always, he has done a great job and has been very easy to work with.

Nathan Swincer

## **REPORTS ON GRASS GREEN--GARDEN--CLUB BBQ AT BUNNINGS**

### **The Grass Green**

With compliments paid by other club members during pennant and social games as to what a wonderful surface our grass green is to play on, does give me great satisfaction and well worth the times spent to help prepare the green for all occasions. These positive comments are always passed on to our Greenkeepers Nathan and Greg.

I take this opportunity to thank all you members for your co-operation, patience and understanding; you, as members of this club are also involved in maintaining the good condition of our green, by observing the times and direction of play as per "The Grass Green Bowling Program" sheet, which is on display on the window.

I like to thank Anne Greening for suggesting that should the green be ready before 3pm, to advise members via "TeamApp." As it turned out, an excellent idea.

Many have noticed, that there are "blotches" all over the grass green. It is a disease that affects many tiffdwarf greens. I cannot pronounce the name of the disease, but it's something like "wheelbarrow" backwards. However, it does not affect the running of the green. The Greenkeepers have this under control.

During the winter months, between May and September, the direction of play will be EAST/WEST; this way, we can avoid wear in the North/South direction. By the end of September, the green should be back to nearly its best.

### **The Garden**

Very little has been done this season, due to restrictions and weather conditions. Before the new season begins, there will be a working bee by the garden committee.

Thank you to Cliff Lynch, who donated a large quantity of mulch, which will be put to good use. Very much appreciated.

### **BUNNINGS BBQ**

I have been informed (much to my surprise) a number of our members are not aware of our club fundraising BBQ at our new location: Bunnings Fairfield (opposite the former Darebin Bowls Club). We can rectify this. Our BBQ at Bunnings is held twice a month...Saturdays during non bowling season and Sundays during pennant season. There are 3 shifts of 3 hours, starting at 8am to 4.30pm. There are 4 team members per shift: 8am-11am...11am-2pm and 2pm-4.30pm. The more volunteers we have then each team can do once a month rather than the current once a fortnight.

Should you be interested, please contact either myself, Sue Evans or May Irvine.

Results of the BBQ in future, will be on "TeamApp." In the last 4 BBQs: Jan. March (2) and April, we raised \$2,653. The amount we raised helps our club to improve facilities and also

purchase various items for use to the community, such as purchasing biased rubber bowls for kids to play with their parents on the synthetic green.

I take this opportunity to thank John and Jeanette Solyom for their part in volunteering their time in our BBQ activity. John has been ever reliable and Jeanette always ready to fill in whenever we are short or at the very last minute.

A letter of thanks, on behalf of the club, has been forwarded to them. We wish them well.

**Jim Gray (NOGD)**