



President's Report – Annual General Meeting 2022

Welcome Members, and a warm welcome to our Life Members who are here today.

I present my report for 2022 and I'm happy to advise Members that our Club remains in a financially strong position and has had solid growth since our last financial year. We've been pro-active in offering our Members and visitors a well-structured professional Club that is without doubt, the benchmark within Albury-Wodonga.

All Members should be proud of the strong administration team we have. We have focused on building strong growth in our membership base and I welcome all new Members to our Club. We currently have 140+ Members which is a combination of fully registered bowlers and social club membership.

We have, and will continue to build up assets for Members to enjoy now and into the future. We have exciting plans moving forward to strengthen our future at Bunton Park with upcoming projects and purchases to implement over the coming year.

Our core revenue for the Club, Barefoot bowls continues to grow each year and last year was no exception. The support from business groups and the like have created a culture over the summer months which provides both enjoyment to our visitors, and revenue to our Club. We have ensured that all barefoot bowlers have been catered for, so we maintain that fun and active brand that we provide. My thanks to go Frank Guivarra and Des Nelson for their fantastic work relating to everything barefoot bowls.

Moving on to Friday nights! These nights have proved to be a great social outlet for many. The Member's Jackpot Draw, plus meat and/or seafood raffles continue to be enjoyed by our Members and guests. It's fantastic to see more and more family members coming down and enjoying a few hours of fun.

Our 2022 pennant season was solid; the *Border Club Challenge* was obviously just a fill-in of glorified social bowls, but we congratulate Division 1 & 6 for winning their division. At the same time, we welcomed a host of Lady Members who elected to join our Club and be involved with pennant; they have slipped seamlessly in our pennant structure, and I thank all Members who have welcomed them warmly into the Club.

Again, I applaud the maintenance crew led by Mick Baz; they have done a wonderful job maintaining the needs of our Club. From line-marking to bottle & can collection, we thank each Member for their time and efforts. I also thank Gary Broad for his tireless work in maintaining the greens, the effort he puts in is huge and credit goes to Gary for the condition they are in and the time he spends maintaining them. In addition, I offer my thanks to Stephen Broad, Roy Dahmes and Ken Allen for their support as well. It's fantastic to know we have selfless Members who just give and give to this Club, and I applaud anyone who has at some stage, given their time in assisting this club.

I will speak on a negative note now, and I'll use my platform as President to address the "*elephant in the room*". Unfortunately, we know every Club has one. I'm going to address this matter because our Club doesn't need it, nor should my Committee be subject to it. I reiterate and state that it involves a minority, the 1% who continue to back-stab and whinge about anything and everything this Committee or any previous Committee has done.

I say to them "*Man up or shut up*"!!! The Club doesn't need you and quite clearly most of the Members know who the culprits are so maybe it's time to get your hands dirty and do something for your Club and not sit back, and bitch about it. I won't waste my breath any further on this matter, but as President I am obligated to speak on behalf of my Committee, and I'm sure I speak for 99.9% of Members too. We have a fantastic Club with a fantastic culture and if anyone thinks they can do it better, the chair is all yours at the next election.

Now onto my Committee, and I'd like to thank my entire Committee for their work over the past year, in particular, the Executive of Stephen Broad, Frank Guivarra and Clarrie Klepiak. All Members should be proud that we have a strong unified Committee that has delivered to its Members. I'd like to personally thank each person for their efforts and the passion and commitment you have given this Club. It's wonderful to know we have such loyal people who want this Club to succeed and give it their all. It would be remiss of me if I didn't mention and thank the wives and partners of the Committee Members for their tolerance, understanding and invaluable support.

I conclude my report and say "thank you" to my wife Angela who has supported me 100%, in my position as President; I spend a lot more time here over the core 6-month period than I do at home, and I thank her for the support and understanding.

Thank you.

Steve Martini

President