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Chairperson's 2023/24 Annual Report

Members, I am very pleased to present the 2023-24 Asquith Bowling & Recreation Club Ltd. Annual Report to you and what a tumultuous year it has been for our club! Despite many roller-coast ups and downs, at the end of the year, I feel we have enjoyed good success in a difficult economic environment. We have finished the year in a good position but with lots more work still to be done.

The year started poorly for us with the sudden resignation of our CEO, Mr Peter McDade in August 2023. After some hastily convened board meetings, the ever-reliable Samantha Ali was appointed as Interim CEO of the club for a period of 6 months when a formal decision would be made. Around the same time, the board contracted out an independent recruitment agency to shortlist up to 3 candidates for this demanding role. No board member was involved in this process until the interview process occurred. After the 6-month period, Samantha advised the board that she did not want to be interviewed for the CEO position for personal reasons. The recruitment agency then gave us a shortlist of candidates and after an extensive recruitment and interviewing process, Mr. Greg Edwards was formally appointed CEO of the Asquith Club and commenced duties on the 25th of April, 2024 (Anzac Day). Greg brings a wealth of club management experience with him and on behalf of the board and all our members, we wish him every success as he tries to take our club forward financially, grow our membership and fulfil our vision statement.

Financially, we finished the 2023/24 year with a net trading **loss** of \$13,671 (-\$34,718 in 2023) but with an EBITDA **profit** of \$264,744 (\$233,177). The primary reason for our loss this year was a sharp decline in the Gaming area. Our total cash on hand position finished at \$671,630 (\$830,426). The main reason for the reduction in our cash holdings is because of the capital expenditure we spent this financial year (circa \$300,000) which included:

- A beautiful new alfresco deck;
- A children's playground;
- A large 41m water-proof cantilever shade cover over the decking;
- 3 new gaming machines;
- A new door to the alfresco area;
- New furniture, tables and chairs for the alfresco area and bowling greens;
- New outdoor blinds on the deck to help with the western sun in Spring and Summer.

I must go on record here and thank club members, Tony Macri, Mark Goddard and John Maher for their outstanding workmanship on the concreting and decking area and also a miscellaneous donor who contributed a substantial amount towards the cost of the cantilever shade cover. Thank you all for your outstanding efforts and contributions. Lastly, it is important to note that all the CAPEX items shown above have come from our own cash resources and we remain completely debt free.

Congratulations to our two bowling sub-clubs on another very successful year also. Our women were successful in winning their regional grade 3 pennants and went off to represent our club in the state playoffs at Ballina. Although they didn't come home with the flag, they acquitted

themselves very well. Congratulations to all bowlers in that side and to the Asquith Women's Bowling Club.

The open gender sides didn't do quite as well although the grade 6 side finished runners-up losing their 13th and last game of the season after being undefeated all season, and our grade 7 side made the finals playoffs with a very inexperienced side. However, all grades acquitted themselves very well and the club won and retained several trophies throughout the year. So well done to all our selectors and bowlers (including the 7 women) who participated in the open gender pennants this year.

I must thank President, Carol Huttary, Sue Harris and the AWBC committee for their untiring efforts this year and the AMBC led capably by Danny Beecroft (President), Scott Burrows (Bowls Secretary), and Michael Loneragan (Treasurer) along with their full committee for their outstanding efforts also.

Lastly, on bowls, a huge thank you once again to Tony Macri and Louise Cronan for their magnificent contributions with Twilight Bowls. This fun-filled program for 8 months of the year brings in new members and bowlers to our club every year. This year we made a profit of circa \$6,000 and contributed over \$6,000 in green fees. What a fabulous result! Thanks Tony and Lou for your efforts.

As always, a special thanks to our Life Member, Ross Irwin and his team for the outstanding greens they present to us every week of the year. We are very fortunate to have such a high-quality team doing the greens and surrounds. Please thank them all when you get the chance to do so.

To all our staff, thank you so much for your service and support to the members. I know our members appreciate your outstanding efforts in providing excellent service to us all. It's encouraging to note that over \$6,000 has already been spent on training and updating staff skills this year.

I can't leave the staffing subject without acknowledging the outstanding performance of Samantha Ali when acting in the role of Interim CEO. Sam literally had to pick up the many pieces left behind when our CEO departed suddenly, and simply did an outstanding job. Sam, the board truly appreciated your efforts in your time as our Interim CEO, and I know all our members really appreciated your efforts also. We, as a club are indebted to you greatly. Thank you.

To Dev and all his team in the bistro, thank you all as well for consistently providing excellent meals for our members and guests. The range of meals offered, and the pricing is very good also.

I also must acknowledge our fantastic sponsors for the 2023/24 financial year starting with Anthony from Bite-Me Bakehouse who is so generous to our club. Also, to Dion from Ekim Breweries and our other excellent sponsors in Dream Plumbing, Auto One in Waitara, Coolibah Building & Design, Hornsby and North Shore Skip Bins who all have provided excellent support for our club. Thank you.

It's the same for our wonderful volunteers. Thank you all so much for your efforts which are truly appreciated. Your efforts save the club lots of money with your time and various deeds you offer.

Next year is our club's 75th birthday and we have been busily planning lots of events and merchandise to make it a year to remember! Please get behind us and support your club in any way you can. There's lots of fun to be had including a dinner, merchandise, a book, and many events.

Unfortunately, as always, our club has lost some dear family members and friends this year. My sincere condolences go out to you all, your loss is our club's loss also. To those on the unwell list, get well soon. I wish you the very best of health and we all look forward to catching up with you soon.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the hard work of our new CEO, Greg Edwards and all your board members - Paul Willis, Richard Pilgrim, Gary Barton, John Maher, Michael Loneragan and Sarah Cormio. Thank you all so much for your significant efforts in a difficult year.

I would like to finish by thanking all our members for your continued support to our club and for me personally. It truly is appreciated, and I am honoured to lead such a great club with so many wonderful and outstanding people.

Steve Wilson
Chairperson.

ASQUITH MENS BOWLING CLUB PRESIDENTS REPORT

It is pleasing to see the hard work of the Mens Committee paying off. Although generally membership to the Mens Club has been decreasing year on year for the past 10-20 years, this trend has reversed over the past few years with membership increasing slightly. Like any sporting organization we can only survive if we keep looking to the future and looking at ways to improve our organization. In terms of sporting management, I would like to give a shout out to our Bowls Secretary Scott Burrows and his offsider Steve Thomson who do a fantastic job of managing and promoting the bowls program.

Although we have registered financial 'paper' losses over the past few years this is solely attributable to 'one-off' special circumstances which have bitten into our bottom line. These instances include a \$7,000 gift to the Club Ltd to repair C Green in 2022, purchasing uniforms for members, and forgoing any profits generated from the 2023 Pig and Duck Day to the Club Ltd. Other than these special circumstances our finances are managed expertly and efficiently by our Treasurer Michael Loneragan.

It was also pleasing to see some new Club Champions this year. For a club to be successful on the greens it is imperative that we have new players constantly improving, working their way up the grades and winning club events. So, congratulations to our newest first time club champions Andrew Thomson and Eric De Beer, winning the Senior Pairs (and Andrew winning the Minor Singles as well), and Craig Burrough and John Maher winning the Graded Pairs. This success has seen these players selected in some of our club teams competing in invitational tournaments – well done. Congratulations as well to all our Club Champions for your successful year as well;

Mixed Pairs – Quentin and Karen Price

Wally Hamilton Senior Pairs – Eric De Beer and Andrew Thomson

Doug Taylor Minor Singles – Andrew Thomson

David Haynes Graded Pairs – Craig Burrough, John Maher

Major Fours – Torin Chen, Quentin Price, Mark Conroy, Arthur Foy

Major Triples – Steve Thomson, Al Fawcett, Matt Wyatt

Major Pairs – Michael Barry, Torin Chen

Major Singles – Steve Thomson

Once again, we ran a couple of very successful tournaments during the year, the Bite Me Bakehouse Turnaround Triples and the annual Gourmet Day. Both days are an important day in our schedule, they help us with our bottom line and promote our club to all visitors.

They are also important events for the Bowling Club, bringing in much needed funds to keep the club trading. It is important that the Board and the Mens Club continue to work together to promote the continuing success of the Club, and the Mens Club note and support the major changes (improvements!) made to the Club during the past year. Although we lost a few Rinks off our A green the benefits to the Club overall are obvious.

Once again, we had several players competing in the Australian Open in June. As usual a good time was had by all with one of our players coming back with the ultimate prize. Congratulations to Louise Cronan for winning the Women's Fours. Louise bowls out of the Taren Point club these days, however she has grown up learning bowls at Asquith and competing for many years here and does put back at our club as a Committee Member on our Mens Committee and a member of our Match Committee. Also, congratulations to Tony Macri who had his best year with a Singles run to the round of 256.

Our thoughts are all with those members, current and past, that have passed away during the year. We all have mates that are no longer with us and we all remember the times when we could enjoy a game of bowls and a beer with them after the game. It was a big shock to all of us with the passing of our current Major Pairs Champion, Michael Barry. To have a current Club Champion pass is truly a sad day and he is missed by all. Also, news has only come recently with the advice of the passing of Garry O'Dwyer. Garry was a true stalwart of the club, a 7-day player. Garry won many club championships and was a champion bloke. He will be missed.

Finally, thank you to all our members for supporting bowls, and turning up to play each week, and I hope that you will continue to support our club well into the future.

Danny Beecroft
President
Asquith Mens Bowling Club

Women's Bowls PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023 / 2024

The past year has been quite agreeable for us bowlers, i.e. not too many hot days through the Summer months, not too many rained out days and, although still around for sure, COVID easier to handle.

The following is a number of issues that we have had to deal with and understand much more clearly:

Name change to METRO NORTH EAST REGION: As most of you are aware, we were part of the Northshore District for Women's Bowls NSW. It is now the decision of BowlsNSW (from 1st July 2024) to dissolve Districts throughout our State and form Regions only, ours to be known as the Metro Northeast Region. We will combine with the previous District of Manly-Warringah. I believe this change is worrying many of our bowlers as it will be necessary for them to travel further than previously. Many other Districts are experiencing greater boundary changes, i.e. the Southern Highlands District will combine with the Blue Mountains, what a distance for those bowlers to travel! As you will note our Region doesn't seem so vast now does it! For Championships and Pennants, we will bowl under the new Region name and then go straight into State level and compete there if we are fortunate to be winners.

UNIFICATION of our Men's and Women's Clubs into 1 Sub-Club – not happening for us as yet and it was put on hold. For some smaller Clubs unification has been voted on with a "yes" as their membership with both the men and the women is low so they need to survive by combining. The larger Clubs seem to be going along like us.

Our BOWLS CALENDAR: This has been a nightmare for our Match Committee, firstly with delays on decisions from BowlsNSW and then our Region. However, they have succeeded in overcoming many obstacles and have come up with setting out our events for the following year to suit our needs. They have realised that alterations may need to take place, owing to BowlsNSW changes. We should be thankful indeed to these ladies for their efforts on our behalf (namely Nerida King, Helen McClure and Tina Davis).

OPEN GENDER Pennants: We only had 7 women bowlers for the 2024 Pennant season, and I must say all those ladies enjoyed the experience. We are certainly hoping that more lady bowlers will join us for the 2025 Open Gender Pennants commencing in February. Please think seriously about putting your name up for selection at the appropriate time (most probably around November or December this year).

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU: I would now like to thank OUR WONDERFUL HARDWORKING COMMITTEE of the past year for their gallant efforts, also to their team members as well. We are also in debt to the raffle ticket sellers, the Welfare Officer, the Coaches, the Editor of our Boomerang publication (realising how much effort goes into its production), the Uniform Co-ordinator, the Librarian and last but not least the members of our Club who have helped out with the Asquith Girls High coaching on Mondays for 2 terms.

I would like to point out that many of the aforementioned are “doubling up” in the help they have been offering so maybe some other Club members could step forward and lend a hand, if only occasionally. We especially need help with selling our raffle tickets as our ladies who are in this job at present certainly deserve to retire. Assistance is also required with the coaching of the girls from Asquith Girls High.

I would again like to thank our Board, the Men’s Club Committee, their Bowling Secretary, and his off sider, our new CEO, Greg Edwards, and the rest of his staff for their help and advice throughout the year. Greg is certainly keeping himself busy within our Club and coming up with some new welcomed ideas for improvement.

I will be stepping down and wish my successor all the best and the enjoyment I have experienced as being the President of AWBC, a great and fun Bowling Club.

Carol Huttary
President 2023/24

School Bowls Program

The Asquith Club recognized the importance of introducing younger bowlers to our ranks. To achieve this goal, dedicated members from both the women's and men's clubs have generously volunteered their time to coach two local schools: Asquith Girls High School and Asquith Boys High School, as part of their school sports programs.

Asquith Girls High School has embraced the sport of bowls on Monday afternoons, with a remarkable turnout of sixteen enthusiastic schoolgirls engaging in coaching sessions and friendly participation. The coaching duties are expertly handled by the team of Carol Huttary, Sue Harris, Kerry Lombes, Beth Simmonds and Karin Guest, who supervise the girls during their participation.

Asquith boys High School continues their active engagement with Lawn Bowls and the Asquith Bowling Club. Recreational Lawn Bowles has remained present in the summer sport rotation with fourteen boys enrolled this season. Additionally, the yr12 Sport Leisure and Recreation class maintain their annual use of the greens for a core component of their senior course. The Winter grade bowls team had an impressive winter season, remaining undefeated until the finals where they faced a tough match against Normanhurst and narrowly lost. This collaboration not only introduces students to the sport but promotes physical activity and community engagement. Two of our junior members participated in the State Junior Championships - well done boys! The Coaching is overseen by Greg Lombes and a team of resolute volunteers.

In conclusion, our school bowls program has been a resounding success. It has not only introduced younger generations to the joys of lawn bowls but has also enriched our club's diversity and vitality. We look forward to continuing this program and fostering the love of bowls among students in our community

Gary Barton
Board School Bowls Liaison