**Umpires Committee Report 2021/22**

Firstly, thank you to the members of the umpires’ committee for their cooperation and assistance throughout the season.

With two playing areas, it became obvious that we needed to operate somewhat independently in that Ballarat would arrange umpires for regional events being played in Ballarat and Highlands in their playing area. The same applied for the Pennant finals series.

Overall, I believe this was a successful strategy as committee members know who is available in their area and it meant that umpires were not required to travel excessive distances. There was one pennant final where an umpire was not appointed and for that we apologise. However, moving forward I feel this is the best way for the committee to operate.

In Ballarat we held one reaccreditation session with 16 umpires registering to reaccredit their qualification. Unfortunately, on the evening only 10 were in attendance. Another session will be organised prior to the beginning of the 2022/23 season and it is hoped that the 6 who were unable to attend will be available along with a number of umpires whose accreditation will become due during the coming season.

A number of clubs have indicated that they have players who are interested in becoming Umpires, Measurers or Markers, but only three applications have been forwarded from Bowls Victoria at this stage. In the Highlands area there are 4 players who have applied to become umpires, so accreditation courses will be run in both regions early in the new season.

Would all clubs please encourage members who you consider suitable for the task, to become Umpires, Measurers or Markers as the pool to draw from is decreasing in numbers and it becomes increasingly difficult to get people to officiate at games when they are either playing or wanting to watch their club in finals.

Please also remind players, where necessary, that the umpires are players who volunteer their time to ensure that games can go ahead and as such they need to be treated in a respectful manner at all times.

So it’s a very big thanks to the umpires, measurers and markers who agreed to officiate at games throughout the season, particularly those who were called upon and who were available on a number of occasions and we look forward to a successful 2022/23 season.

**Yvonne Clark**

**Chair**

**BHBR Umpiring Committee**