22/05/2023

The Ballarat Highlands Bowls Region Gold Diggers 2022/23

The Gold Diggers had another great year.

Practice started in August at Sebastopol under the dome to prepare for the Doug Kneebone tournament in September, at Sunbury. It was a very successful day for our juniors with Mica Oswin, Addy Ryan, Oscar Jones and Dusty Taylor-Irwin managing Runner-ups.

We then went to Webbcona in October to continue with practice every fortnight. It was pleasing to see a number of new and very young bowlers coming along to attend these coaching days.

On February 12th we travelled to Smeaton to play Bendigo. They looked after us very well and provided us with great greens to play on. While the Gold Diggers played well we lost narrowly.

The Bill Holmes Junior ingles was played under the dome at Sebastopol; over two days. The final was played between Oscar Jones and Dusty Taylor-Irwin. Dusty was the eventual winner on this day. I extend my thanks to the Holmes’ family (Julie Moran) for their continued support.

As of the writing of this report we are still to play Geelong.

The Junior Pairs was played at Victoria, with Charlotte Morris and Oscar Jones being successful. Well done!

I would like to thank all the helpers in assisting to look after the Juniors. A special mention to Barry for his efforts in obtaining sponsorship and providing everyone with Diggers Caps.

Murray Alpen has been a member of the Junior Committee for a number of years and his efforts are very much appreciated by everyone. Murray has decided to step down at the end of this season and we all wish him well and thank him for his contributions, his bowling knowledge and his coaching efforts toward the Junior group.

Marc Oswin has been another strong committee member bringing his expertise and knowledge in the use of technology, which has been very helpful. I hope he can continue to be a very supportive member of the committee for years to come.

We do, however, lose two Juniors this year. Both Dusty and Oscar turn 18 (they have so much ahead of them in the sport of bowls and can only get better with experience. Both will be an asset to any club lucky enough to recruit them for their club). Both have won the Holmes Junior Singles, and both have represented Victoria. Dusty has won most every competition she has entered over her junior years and some more than once. I wish them every success for the future, and they will be missed. This leaves the spots open for our other up and coming juniors, who will no doubt fill their shoes and become as successful during their time with the Gold Diggers.

I would like to express my thanks to the BHBR for their support and assistance. In particular the Victoria, Webbcona and Sebastopol bowling clubs for the use of their greens and their support staff in preparing the greens for practice and tournaments.

To Daylesford Bowling club, we extend our thanks for their support in allowing us to hold the Junior Provincial Championships. It was an event that was well attended by many Juniors. After some great bowls played in this tournament, Bendigo were victorious.

Gerry Flapper.