



The Howrah Indoor Bowls Centre was opened on 19 October 2016 by the then Premier Will Hodgman and Mayor Dough Chipman. Since then the Centre has continued to exceed all expectations and all members involved in the initial planning and development of this valuable asset to the club should feel justifiably proud of their achievement. The future of Bowls Clubs will depend on the development of social bowling events and the IBC sets up Howrah to grow as a club for the enjoyment of all our members. (From the President)

Capital Works & Significant Dates

2016 – 2017 (Club's financial year)

Office and bar area completed

Utility and storerooms framed up

Carpet laid in the reception area

Subsidiary bar approved

2017 – 2018

\$50K grant to complete toilets, utility room and plaster storerooms

2018 – 2019

Bowls Australia Southern Regional BPL play off

Tasmania vs Victoria State Juniors ; Utility room completed and approved for food preparation

2019 – 2020

COVID-19 – IBC locked down on 18 March

2020 – 2021

COVID-19 – Re-opened 17 July 2020

Short winter program commenced

Night pennant game: Premier League Howrah versus Kingborough

Eastern wall windows tinted

2021 – 2022

Southern wall lined and painted

Participation of Volunteers

Running a full programme of events over autumn and winter requires significant numbers of volunteer hours. The current year (2021) required 350 hours of volunteer activity per week covering activities and duties such as match managers, roster draws, results, ladders, catering, bar, coffee machine servicing and cleaning. Below are just a few of our willing volunteers.



GOING FORWARD

Going forward, we have some major projects in the pipeline. These include a ramp to the grass green, LED Lighting in the IBC and upgrade to the IBC playing surface.

COVID-19

This was the biggest test the Club has faced in its history with lockdowns and strict protocols being adhered to. With the Club being in a strong financial position and the support of members, we were able to weather the storm.

Finances

The IBC is a valuable asset for the club.

The internal improvements over the past five years have increased the value of the asset well beyond the balance sheet value. The majority of these works has been completed by voluntary labour (notably John Sutcliffe). The support of “in kind” sponsors has been critical in completing work at minimal cost to the Club.

Total income from the IBC programmes over the autumn and winter seasons for the past 5 years can be broken down as such:

Match fees	\$206,000
Rink Hire	\$20,000
Coffee Machine	\$41,000
Bar	\$36,000
Total	\$303,000

Operating expenses to run the Club, including loan repayments, green maintenance, insurance, rates, electricity, lease and other fees over the same period added up to approx. \$290,000.

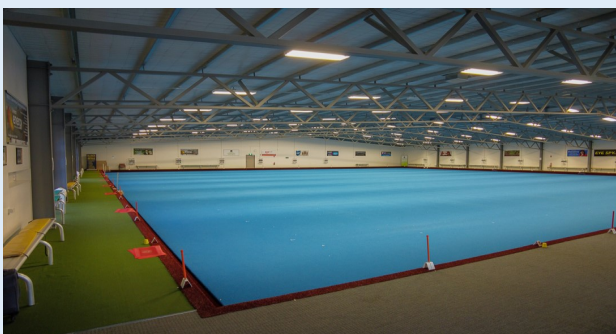
The IBC plays a vital role in allowing the club to meet all its financial obligations as well as provide future funds for necessary capital expenditure going forward.

Marketing of IBC for Club

An increase in sponsorship for the club (particularly over the past 2/3 years) has been possible because of the exposure available in the IBC, as well as support for the autumn and winter competitions.

The annual sponsors night held in the IBC recognises their contributions and provides networking opportunities across the many businesses.

There are 15 businesses with prominent signage in the IBC at the moment.



Competitions – Barefoot, Autumn/Winter

The IBC hosts social, casual, handicap and top-level competitions over autumn and winter, 6 days a week. The added bonus is that barefoot bowls is possible over those months, now running competitions on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

Over the 5 years we have been operating, the number of players using the centre (including pennant games indoors) averages 12000 p.a. This year 2021, we have seen a significant increase in those numbers, now approaching 15000 people in the calendar year.

On these numbers, we may be the busiest indoor sports facility on the eastern shore.



Community, Schools & Corporate

We host school activities from local schools (including Southern Support School), community groups, casual and social groups from other clubs as well as corporate groups for team bonding, special occasions etc.

Below are the Uniting AgeWell Mornington Community (Lilian Martin) who have made use of our facilities recently.

