

Illawarra Blue Stars

Athletic Club Inc

Annual General Meeting

Beaton Park Leisure Centre

Tuesday 24 May 2022



CONTENTS

1.	President's Report	1
2.	Secretary's Report	2 - 12
3.	Financial Report as at 31 March 2022	13
4.	Income & Expenditure for Year Ended 31.03.2022	14
5.	Treasurer's Report	15
6.	Official's Report	16
7.	Fundraising Report	17
8.	Registrar's Report	18
9.	Coaches Co-Ordinator's Report	19 - 20
10.	Publicity Report	21
11.	Competition Co-Ordinator's Report	22 - 24
12.	Website Report	25
13.	Uniform Report	26
14.	Equipment Report	27
15.	Beaton Park Management Report	28 - 29
16.	Club Management Committee	30

Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club

President's Report

The opening of Season 2021/2022 looked to be promising after the disruption of the previous seasons but NSW Health Orders regarding community sport delayed the start. The club was unable to start until 31 October. Along with changing dates for vaccination mandates meant some athletes were not able to attend until later in the season.

We were still faced with COVID safe plans. We thank Ian Smith for his work to meet both ANSW and Beaton Parks strict conditions and for continually updating those plans.

The season progressed with good results throughout the first few months with a small number of teams attending state relays with mixed success. The rain played a part in the early season leading to the cancellation of a number of club events.

Our Open Day in November was cancelled due to uncertainty regarding numbers and the initial outlay required.

This was followed by the annual Track Challenge. Record entries and great results until the weather had its say. The massive storm which hit the area did untold damage and resulted in the postponement of the rest of the event. The 60m finals were held with the Sydney Track Classic and other finals were cancelled due to lack of programming space.

This event was the big fundraiser for the club for the season. Refunds and canteen sales affected profits, but it was still a tidy sum to assist administration, equipment purchases and presentation costs. Thanks to the efforts of many of our members and from the Dapto club for their support.

The Country Championships were successful for those able to make the trip. From all reports a good time was had by everyone.

The National Championships towards the end of the season saw several athletes meet qualifying standards. All athletes competed with the best in the nation. Well done to all the athletes.

National Masters was held with excellent results from many of our members with standout results from John Lamb, Mary Thomas and Lisa Quinn.

Tri-the-Gong was on again and we thank the 16 members who assisted at this fundraising event where without any outlay on the club's behalf we are able to raise much needed funds.

My thanks to the Board Members, officials and volunteers who helped make 21/22 a successful year. Special thanks to Rebecca for organising Cross Country and also Gianna for compiling our annual report as well as keeping the website up to date.

Finally, we look forward to next season, our 70th Season.

Sue Sundstrom
President

Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club

Secretary's Report

Once again it gives me much pleasure and gratitude in presenting this annual report for IBS for the season 2021/2022, and again it hasn't been a season of "free flowing". We have had the continual Covid disruption, we have had storms and we have had flooding, so what else can we ask for. Regardless the season 2021/2022 continued and Blue Stars did have a very good season on the track. We have had members in the All Schools, State and Australian Youth Championships and we have had Masters who have achieved outstanding results both at State and Australian level.

The club elected the following people onto the Committee for season 2021/2022:

President	Sue Sundstrom
Vice President:	Ian Smith
Secretary:	Valmai Loomes
Assistant Secretary:	Gianna Mogentale
Treasurer:	Jodie Sundstrom
Committee:	Lynda Douglas, Andrew Rodda, Sally Barnes

And I thank all of the above for their contribution and support throughout the season.

Most of our meetings were held by Zoom which has proven successful due to the travel many have to make for meetings.

My main concern for this season is the lack of junior members who have taken on other sports or have become very complacent due to the disruption with Covid. Many other clubs have experienced the same, and numbers are down in this area. Dual registered athletes are also down but Sue will give report on that in the Registration report.

Non-Amalgamation

The voting for the decision not to merge Little A's and Athletics Australia, is not only going to hamper the progress of our sport but it is also going to hinder the progression of athletes. At the moment we are seeing athletes compete now in two separate organisations with separate titles, etc. This in itself is not the way for junior athletes to go. Too much too early, can hinder the progress of the athletes, with junior athletes competing in both and becoming very tired, or they are having to make decisions. What a pity this didn't go ahead, merging both parties would have a combined titles and allowed athletes to move forward.

Associations Choice not Favourable

Athletics NSW's decision to change the format of both Premier League and the ordinary interclub meets was not accepted well by any of the clubs including our own. Our planned interclub on the format of the previous year was thrown out and at the very last minute it was discussed that our club would be responsible for the costings and doing the entries etc. After much discussion it was decided that our club would not go ahead with this event scheduled for November, due to many reasons:

- a. Our meet was on the same day with virtually the same events as a club very close to us, Sutherland. We, on many occasions try to support Sutherland, the same can be said for them supporting us, but to have a club so close to us with same events, meant both clubs would suffer entry wise. This was a gamble we did not wish to take. If this meet was at another

venue such as north, Mingara or Central coast, we may have thought otherwise as clubs would be catering for different clientele.

- b. The Association only told us about a few weeks prior to the meet we were to take the entries something that had never been discussed. If more notice was given, we would have done this and set up the system to do so, but not at the last minute.
- c. Upon reflection, this system does not work and in many cases, clubs were promoting events that are specialised and did not support the basics of providing for all Association members.

Overall, the Association meets were not accepted by clubs, and many were disgruntled with the format. Let's hope this goes back to the old format, and interclub as such is promoted for all clubs, for all abilities, for all athletes.

Winter Track and Field and Cross Country

These events were disrupted with rain, bad weather and Covid, and many rounds were not conducted. This season we are hoping that both programs will go ahead without any interruption. Our thanks go to Rebecca dos Santos for her cross country program that saw an additional course in Camden that proved popular among our members.

Rebecca will undertake this again for the season 2022 cross country.

We saw Sammy Jones compete very well in the winter with personal bests being recorded by this distance man.

Summer Season put back

Due to Covid and the commencement date put backwards by Athletics NSW, this too forced us to put our start date back a little, and again the program for the Association was not ready with events due to restrictions etc. This saw entries for State relays being a problem and our numbers were down for this popular event. For the first time we have not had masters' teams entered but again this was due to uncertainty, lateness and also Covid reasons. Regardless we fielded teams and all members are to be congratulated for putting their hands up to represent the club. Our season for the summer finally got underway, but it was a season that many had injuries, illness or were affected by Covid.

Once again, I have to appeal to members to ensure they support our club point score competition on Sunday. This program is put on for all our members and we hope that it is supported better in season 2022/2023.

We introduced the Pathways program in 2021/2022 and we hope this continues with more to add for season 2022/2023.

Your Pathway

Priding itself on delivering athletics to all age brackets, the program is designed to allow athletes to choose the pathway they wish to go, whether it be at club level only, interclub, major country and state meets, then onto the major Australian titles, and maybe international events, will be the athletes Choice.

On The Right Track: Reaching for the Stars

"On the Right Track with Illawarra Blue Stars - Reaching for the Stars" will provide not only competition, but also support areas to allow the athlete to develop and continue in the sport, no matter what the age or ability of the athlete.

* The "First Star" is for athletes from under 8, under 10 and under 12, where the club will offer regular club competition, with most events on an athlete program, on a regular Sunday afternoon and

competing at the same time as either older members of the family, providing support network with “buddies” of an older age bracket, and providing development and skills coaching in aspects of the sport. They can also compete in cross country and the winter track and field program that IBS offers to help them prepare for school carnivals.

** The “Second Star” will involve our under 12, under 14 and under 16 athletes, who will have regular weekend competition at club level, can choose to compete in Athletics NSW interclub and supported by IBS, will have access to coaches in all disciplines of the sport, have access to Illawarra Academy of sport through the Lone Star Program, will be encouraged to take part in Country titles and if they desire to contest All Schools, State Youth titles, and then if they reach the standard, to contest the Australian Youth Titles. If they only wish to compete at club level, they will still have the support of club competition, coaches etc. and the support to contest not only summer events but also the club’s winter track and field program and cross country.

*** The “Third Star” will be for under 18, under 20 and under 23.

Like the above they will have access to all club, interclub and major meets and will be supported all the way in the pathway they choose to follow. Support networks will also include club physio, and massage qualified personnel, and will have access to commence their junior coaching and/or officials accreditation. All abilities will be supported, no matter which pathway you choose to take and encouraged all the time.

**** The “Fourth Star” will be for Open athletes.

Like the above, they will choose the pathway they wish to take, be it at club level only, or if they wish to move onto major meets including Country and State titles and move onto National titles with full support and some may move to international level. Regardless of ability all athletes will be given the full support of the club to enjoy the friendship, competition and compete at the same time as maybe younger members of the family.

***** The “Fifth Star” will be for all masters’ athletes over the age of 30, of all abilities, to enjoy the friendship of the other members of the club, supported in making a transition from open athletes to masters athletes and continuing in the sport. Be it for fitness, enjoyment or moving on and contesting major meets such as Country, State, National and International competition. The Masters are an important “star” of the club. They will be supported to bring their children along to club meets and, in some cases, grandchildren. They will also be encouraged by the club for them to offer their support and assistance to younger members of the club.

***** The “Sixth Star” in the Pathway is to become either or both an official /coach of the club and enjoy the benefits of meeting new people, achieving accreditation in their chosen field and once again being fully supported by the club in general. This will build up our coaching and official structure with members being guided by officials holding those club portfolios to help them along the way.

Weather not Kind - Notification to Athletes

So far, the weather hasn’t been really kind to us as we have made our way back onto the track for the summer season, but at least we are back. If in doubt as to club meets being held, the Executive of IBS aim to make a decision on cancellation by 12.00 noon to enable travelling athletes time with travel etc. The club now has a number of travelling athletes including athletes from Ulladulla and the Batemans Bay area and it is great to have them join our club. Athletes and family will be made aware by posting on both Facebook and our website of www.illawarrabluestars.com.au

School students are now preparing for the NSW All Schools, the first major meet to be conducted by the Association. To be held late November and early December, the All Schools have been divided into two weekends to enable the association to conduct the event under the Covid19 Rules. See

Athletics NSW website and watch for opening of entries. The club is expected to be well represented at this major meet and many of the athletes are well up in the grading. One of the biggest meets held by Athletics NSW, this event brings together athletes from all over the State attending private, public and associated schools and it is here, that many of our senior athletes of today, have competed on the way to senior athletics.

State Relays

Rain and wind came, but that didn't dampen the spirits of athletes from Illawarra Blue Stars who contested the NSW State relay titles last weekend. Teams were down from the club due to various reasons such as injuries, non-vaccinated, and the time frame that clubs had to put teams in. Regardless, most clubs were down for the same similar reasons, but the competition was strong and healthy, and the titles produced some outstanding runs by teams, especially the Sutherland women's team who smashed one of the longest standing records in the books in the under 20 4 x 100m. But there was heartache, and none more than the open women's team from Illawong and University. Illawong, the clear favourite to take out the blue-ribbon event dropped the baton, whilst second placed over the line, University, ran out of their mark. This shows that teams are teams, and an understanding of one another is the key component to many relay teams.

Blue Stars' open men's 4 x 100m of Chris Devery, Cameron Chisolm, Lachlan Parry and Kyle Grubnic have been a team for many years and have never missed the final of the open men's 4 x 100m. Just making the final in 9th spot, the men lifted in the final and ran home in 6th spot, against some of the best relay teams not only in NSW but in Australia. Their understanding of one another has kept this team together and are a force whatever competition they contest. They all know there are some up and coming sprinters in the club and are kept on their toes with Corey Williams and Jonty Faulkner along with Liam Ryan pushing for a spot in this highly competitive squad of male sprinters in IBS. Faulkner, Williams and Ryan combined with Cameron Chisolm to make the final in the open men's 4 x 200m to take out a great 4th spot. Faulkner, Chisolm and Ryan then combined in a South Coast team with AW James McPaul to finish in 5th spot in the final of the open men's 4 x 400m. All three teams put in a great effort over the weekend, and it was great to see our open men's being so competitive in all sprint relay finals.

Chisolm had a full weekend and donned the tights to prevent injury in rain and wind. He combined with Corey Williams, who has been showing great sprint talent, and female sprinters Maddison Miller and Sarah De Vries to finish in 6th spot in the first ever mixed 4 x 100m. This event will prove a popular one, but with the number of events on, many clubs were stretched to find runners for all events. Adding the medley, it certainly does give athletes a great workout, but larger clubs are more dominant due to the numbers and being able to move athletes around. Regardless, our team was competitive and looks like an event that will not only be popular but one that engages both male and female athletes together.

Our women athletes were magnificent. Sportsmanship, the desire to compete against the best, and the willingness to support the club really shone out over the weekend. Combining with her club mates for the first time in three years, Toyah Edwards, together with Kaitlyn Neto, Sarah De Vries and distance athlete Jessica Hogg finished 11th overall in the 4 x 200m. The thrill to see 4 girls delighted they could have a run in such an event was fantastic. Sarah and Maddison Miller then teamed with sisters Grace and Ashlyn Adams to form the open women's 4 x 100m. Giving a lot away in age, with 17-year-old Ashlyn, and never having any baton changing together before the event, the girls took to the track against the very best but came out of it with smiles on their faces when they finished 10th overall. This type of sportsmanship is the highlight of this meet, and regardless of the outcome, both teams showed the character of competing together and supporting one another to form a team for their club, the idea that is behind these state relays.

It's Getting Close

The season progressed with entries opening up for Country and the announcement that Maitland would host the 2021/2022 Country titles. We had heard a little about this track and the facilities and we were not disappointed. What a great track, and Country was great once again. A few little hiccups as far as the Association's rulings as to ages of masters and the allowing of so many events for Little A's registered athletes were the cons of this meet. The number of events for little A's not registered with our Association is not warranted and many athletes have complained that the rights are not shared. If not registered with ANSW, these events should not be conducted. It took up time for the other events. On some occasions athletes were competing very late, especially on the final day.

Our accommodation caused friction between our Club members and the owners, and I have to say, our Club will not patronise this motel for a group booking again. Regardless, our members did well, even with late withdrawals due to Covid and injury. Our thanks go to the support crew who ensured our tents were up for our members and this was well received by all who were there. Our thanks go to Jack Rodda for the use of his tent which was combined with our own tent and others to give the much needed protection.

Lachlan Parry made his debut as a master's athlete taking out his events and it is great to see this talented sprinter making another pathway for himself in the sport.

But prior to Country we had the worst storm, and I don't mean Rohan Browning hitting the track

Our Illawarra Track Challenge was all planned and ready to go. We had an additional sponsor being Bellforce Meats sponsoring the Women's 60m. Our thanks go out to Nathan for his great support, and to our other sponsors, Bing Lee and Simon Hull Tiling. With the program going smoothly and record number of entries we were set for a great day. Heats and supporting events were underway, then bang, one of the biggest storms to hit Wollongong hit the Kerryn McCann Athletic Centre. Tents went everywhere, photo finish was upside down and laptops thrown down the stairs. Athletes, coaches and supporters were great in supporting our officials and supporters and helped us as much as possible, but the storm was too bad and cancellation of the finals of the 60m and mile were cancelled. Sadly, the day produced an injury to our own official Sally Barnes who was hit with the javelin (not in the storm). Sally is progressing well and has fought back and has continued to officiate at major State and National titles.

In talks with Athletics NSW and sponsors we decided to conduct the finals of the 60m in conjunction with the Sydney Track Classic and although it wasn't the same, at least it went ahead. The mile was cancelled as no free spot was available to conduct this event.

Season 2022/23 for the Illawarra Track Challenge will be bigger and better.

Congratulations to Brodie McCluskey who took out 3rd in the U16 women's 60m final whilst newcomer Jack West made the final in his first year with the Club for the men's 60m U16 final. Lauren Percival made the final of the women's U18 final but had to withdraw due to injury.

My thanks go to all our Club members who supported this event, to our officials and supporters for the great job they did on the Friday and on the day itself, to Sue and her helpers in the canteen for a wonderful job, and to all who assisted us to ensure our all equipment was put away out of the storm. To Dapto Little A's who assisted with officials as with Wollongong City Little A's who assisted with tents and equipment only to see some of the tents destroyed due to the storm. Insurance will cover this for them but the inconvenience of not having these tents for their own events, was an issue.

Our sponsors will be back for 2022/2023 and we may see some additional support for this event that will help us celebrate our 70th anniversary of our Club.

State Titles for our Athletes

The business side of the season is upon us, with the open men's and women's and U23 State Championships ready to take place next weekend. It is anticipated that many events will be wide open with a number of promising juniors now making the transition to senior or U23 competition.

Great to see so many of IBS athletes entering these titles. Great for experience, great to compete against not only NSW's best, but some of the leading athletes in Australia. The state titles will certainly give many an opportunity of seeing how they are progressing towards the Australian titles, some having already qualified and some on the verge of meeting the national qualifying mark.

How good is to see the talent in some of our open men, back again in one of their best events, the long jump. Chris Devery made his comeback to the event in the club's Illawarra Track Challenge, and showed he has big jumps in him as he progresses in this event. Joined by Kyle Grubnic, himself a former junior champ in the long jump, these two talented men will take on the best in the state, but both know that with more training behind them in this event the big jumps will certainly come out.

Adding to the open men, U23 athlete Corey Williams will tackle the U23 division, and a placing in this event and maybe a national qualifying mark is well within this talented young jumper. He will also contest the high jump and due to illness and injury, he is yet to make the qualifying mark for this event, but the state titles may just be the event he needs. With his speed and agility, he is on the verge of both events, but all three are looking forward to next season's state relays where they believe they will have a highly competitive long jump relay.

On the back of his country championship placings, Jonty Faulkner is again looking forward to racing against the "big guns" over the 100m and 200m, but will be highly competitive in the U23 division, a great division to lead into open competition. Faulkner has shown a lot of maturity this year, and is not afraid to race against the best, knowing that this is bringing out the best in himself.

Middle distance man Joshua Baulch made a return to the track with a fabulous 800m recording a solid 1.55 min, the ideal preparation for him as he heads into state U23 in the 400m and 800m events. A sub 50 secs on the same day as his 800m shows he is ready to go, and with the talent he has, will be a force in both events. Regardless of his placing in state, it good to see Joshua back doing what he does best, running solid 400m and 800m.

In the women, a change back for Grace Adams who will move back to the sprint hurdles (100m hurdles) after her national qualifying mark over the 400m hurdles at Country. Her good flat speed suits her perfect for the shorter hurdles and she has shown in the past that she is suited to the shorter hurdles. To see her tackling events at state level is a credit to her, showing determination and commitment to the sport she loves. Like her sister, Ashlyn Adams, will also tackle the short hurdles and she too will take on the U23 short hurdles.

The club's top hammer thrower, Kiahna Soroka, has had a bad season with a back injury and now a foot problem, both forcing her to miss lead up and club meets, but it is hoped this talented thrower will be able to make the titles and compete in her favourite event of the hammer. Many have not seen this talented young lady compete as yet, but her placing last year in the University Games indicates that once fit and healthy, she will be highly competitive in the hammer.

Regardless of placings etc, the club will be well represented and indicates that the progression to open level competition, by adding the U23 division, will keep athletes in the sport a lot longer.

This major event will be followed by the U14 - U20 titles bringing the talent of all these ages together and hopefully follow into U23 and open competition later on in their careers.

Weather hits State Titles

Some of the worst conditions for athletes to compete and officials to officiate greeted them on the first day of the NSW Junior State titles, (U14, U16, U18 & U20 male and female). Held at Homebush, the field and track was waterlogged and during the days, events were put back due to lightning and thunderstorms. Due to the number of championships being held during the month of February, it was vital for these events to go ahead. Some athletes relied on these titles to move forward to Australian titles, but for many, it was the end of a lot of hard work and devotion to make it to these titles.

Junior talent is in abundance in NSW but will be interesting to see how many move forward later into U23 and open, a transition that is not only hard to achieve, but one that is necessary for their careers to move forward in the sport of track and field.

Many junior athletes are contesting more events than most senior athletes, having combined both ANSW events and Little A's events, and burnout is of a high percentage as the athlete gets older.

A pathway to the older age brackets is great, and is encouraged, but too much high-level competition at a young age is sometimes detrimental in the long run.

It is great to see junior athletes moving on and recording PB's on improvement so that the interest in the sport is maintained. Congratulations to U20 hurdler/sprinter Ashlyn Adams who recorded personal bests in both the 100m and 200m recording times that will certainly improve her flat speed for her chosen event of the short hurdles.

She was joined by young newcomer to IBS Charley McGrath who ran a great race in her first year in senior athletics in the 400m, but her run in the 800m was impressive taking 3secs off her personal best, showing that this young athlete has a lot more improvement over this distance as she gets older and progresses through the club.

U16 athlete Joshua Smith surprised himself at Country in the pole-vault and he has followed this up with a great 4th in the State U16 men's titles, and also recording a personal best. With very little coaching and training in this event, he looks like he may have found his chosen event, and a lot more improvement is within this young man.

A silver medal to go with his personal best in the javelin, champion Alex del Popolo, a top ranking athlete and he will now head to the Australian titles full of confidence. Del Popolo has improved all the time since he moved in the higher age bracket of U20 and has applied himself to the new weight implement with ease. U18 women's javelin thrower Charlotte Smith finished in 6th spot in the final of her event, but there is plenty of improvement in this young javelin thrower also.

Great to see our sprinters do so well with many of them making the finals of their 100m and 200m showing they are among the best in the State.

U16 sprinter Brodie McCluskey made the final of both sprints, while training partner, Lauren Percival made both finals of the 100m and 200, finishing a good 4th in the 200m final. Both girls have qualified for Nationals. Joining them is another newcomer to Blue Stars and improving with every run, Emily Strecker who also made the finals of both the 100m and 200m in showing that a sub 13secs is well within this young athlete over the 100m.

One of the youngest competitors in the U14 triple jump, Pearl Stravoskoufis, had her first taste of senior athletics and handled it well. She is a highly talented young jumper and like all juniors now has the pathway to bigger and better things as she progresses through age brackets.

The State titles were challenging to all athletes, and it is a credit to everyone how they handled the conditions so very well. Our thanks also go to officials especially to IBS Officials Jodie Sundstrom and Sally Barnes who were officiating 2 and 3 days of the titles. Well done ladies.

Rain hits Club Events also

Meanwhile back at Kerryn McCann Athletic Centre on Sunday with a revamped program due to continual rain throughout the week. The infield was closed by Council, but athletes enjoyed a friendly, relaxed meet on the track with 60m, 100m, 400m and 800 being conducted.

On the eve of the NSW Masters titles in two weeks it gave our masters athletes the chance to have competitive runs over these distances. The club will be well represented at these titles, in a variety of events, and prepare them well to take on the best masters' athletes (30 plus) in the State. Great to see June Lowe back competing, having her first competitive run at Country. She will be joined by sprinter Gianna Mogentale who has had time away from championship events until country in January.

Masters take Honours at State, Yet Again

The New South Wales Masters Championships were held on the weekend at Homebush and there were some outstanding performances by these athletes who give it 110%. The masters are an important part of any club and certainly Athletics New South Wales. Illawarra Blue Stars have always been strong supporters of Masters' athletics and our athletes, at all times, are among the best in the State and this year they have once again proved this to the rest of the State.

How good is to see people making a bit of a comeback after a number of years away from the competitive scene, or an athlete who has suffered illness and returns to the scene once again. It is great to see a young masters' "rookie" become one of the best in her age bracket, whilst it is great to see people taking part in the sport due to the love of sport and picking up a medal in the process.

This happened to IBS athletes this year, but how good is to see a master's athlete who has spent most of her life on an athletic track and still performing well enough to take out 5 gold medals.

This is what Masters' athletics is all about, it is about sportsmanship, courage, determination and commitment to a sport they all enjoy and love.

Blue Stars had a good team of athletes in this year's titles, and it is great to see these people will be encouraging others to take up the sport at a later age, have fun, have success, and enjoy it.

The outstanding male from IBS has to be the 'master of our sport' but young at heart, John Lamb (70-74). John is set for the nationals and has come away with 1st in short hurdles in State record time, 1st in 300m hurdles, 1st in 100m, 1st in 400m, 1st in 60m and 1st in 200m. A fabulous effort against some quality fields.

Outstanding female was "rookie Masters" Lisa Quinn 40-44 who has made a transition from hockey to combine with her athletics. Her wins in the long jump and triple jump were a great bonus to her but her sprints with 2nd in the 100m, 2nd in 200m and 2nd in 60m bridging the gap each time, was great to see, and highlights she will be a threat come the national titles in late March/April.

Field Games exponent Mary Thomas 75-79 knows she has work to do prior to Nationals but Mary thrives on a challenge and come Nationals she is sure to be up there on the podium. She came home with 1st in javelin, 1st in shot, 1st in hammer, 1st in discus and 1st in the weight throw.

Great to see sprinter Gianna Mogentale 55-59 back in this form of high competition and her 1st in the 400m was impressive, but her 2nd in 100m, 2nd in 60m, 1st in 200m and 1st in triple jump, shows you can never write off a champion. She too, knows she has work to do to be once again on the top dais for her sprints, but this will come after a series of injuries she is just over coming.

June Lowe 65-69 is one impressive master's athlete and like her fellow club mates, she puts 110% effort into every event she contests. Her determination and love of the sport saw her take 1st in the javelin, 1st in long jump, 2nd in hammer, 2nd in 100m, 2nd in 60m, 2nd in weight throw and 2nd in hammer. Her return to top competition has given her the rewards she so greatly deserves.

Rina Flynn 55-59 is also one gutsy competitor, and she admits she loves the sport and the friendship that she has made over a period of time in our club and the sport. Rina puts in top efforts in all her events and possibly is in one of the highly contested age brackets. A 3rd in the 800m was a just reward for hard work, while she placed 7th in 100m, 4th in 400m, 5th in 200m and 5th 60m.

Andrew Rodda 50-54 had one of most contested men's sprints on the program but came away with 4th in 100m (after a dispute with the start of this event), 2nd in 400m, 5th in 60m and 4th in 200m. Andrew is a great worker for the club, and the community with his thoughts of his commitment towards the floods and his commitment through his work towards helping the people of the flood effected areas.

Colin Clarson 55-59 is one of the calmest and collected master's athletes around, but one who is committed to the sport. His injury at country robbed him of placings, but he made up for it with a great 2nd in the 400m, 4th in the 200m and 5th in the 60m against some of the best masters' athletes, not only in NSW but Australia.

Overall, the masters of our club have had a great championship and with some heading to the Nationals, others will finish off the season in a couple of weeks, knowing they have performed to the best of their ability over the three days of these highly contested NSW titles.

Track Challenge Finals 60m conducted, Mile to Come

The Finals of the State 60m were conducted at Homebush after heats had been conducted at the washed-out Illawarra Track Challenge.

Abbie Taddeo has done it again and has taken out the opens women's 60m for a record number of times, defeating Sarah Healey from Sydney University and UTS Norths athlete, Bronte Pickering. Competing for not only the State title but also for the Belforce Meats sponsored event, Taddeo has proven that she has consistently been one of the quickest female athletes over this short distance.

New names will appear on results for the men's 60m title with Eppings Carl Cooney-Ewings taking out the final from club mate Lewis Clabburn and Sam Zustovic from Athletics Wollongong.

Masters among the Best

Congratulations to all our masters' athletes who travelled to Brisbane for the recently held Australian Masters Championships: the end of season event that masters athletes welcomed this year due to the cancellation of the last two seasons. Masters' athletes were in full force at these championships and some brilliant performances were recorded by both male and female athletes from age 30 right through to one of the oldest athletes competing, as a "young 91-year-old" athlete. What a great joy it is to see people take to the track, take part in throws and decide to have a go at such events as jumps including the very hard polevault. Not only did the athletes perform well, but the friendships that were renewed at this meet after a 2-year cancellation, is what Masters' athletics is all about.

Blue Stars older members, Mary Thomas and John Lamb shone for the club, but it was a newcomer to masters athletics in the 45-year age bracket, that surprised many on her debut in National Masters titles.

Mary Thomas thrives on competition and although she hasn't been training much, she brought the best out of herself once again. With a bag of medals being brought home, this adds to her already impressive haul that she has of Australian titles.

Mary's wins were impressive as she had very good competition in her age bracket, but she added gold in the shot, gold in the discus, gold in the javelin, gold in the hammer and gold in the Throws Pentathlon with a championship record and a silver in the weight throw. Mary was also selected to take part in the Champion of Champions Throws. She now heads to Perth to compete in the Australian Masters Games.

Master of the sprints John Lamb was not to be denied at these championships and competed as well as any time I have seen him compete. His determination, grit and ability has to rank him as one of the finest masters athletes around and his win in the 100m (70-74) age bracket earned him the right to contest the Champion of Champions. John has brought home silver in the 60m after recording the same time as the winner, gold in the 100m and 200m and backed this up with a gold in the 400m. He also took gold in the 300m hurdles and broke 2 State records. His wins were very impressive and although he left Brisbane track a "little exhausted" he has come away with a fine result at national level.

Newcomer to masters' athletics and first time National Championships, Lisa Quinn has learnt a lot from the experience, but many now know this young sprinter can adapt very easily to major events. Her win in the Pentathlon in the age 45-49 was a good one, with individual wins in all the events in the 5-event title. Her win in the triple jump with a PB was also impressive as with a PB in the 800m of the pentathlon. Up against a class field in the sprints, Lisa adapted well and took silver in the 60m and silver in the long jump, with a bronze in the 200m with a PB, and bronze in the 100m. She added gold in the 4 x 100m relay (120 years), giving her a championship that showed she will be a threat as she progresses through masters' athletics.

Rina Flynn had waited two years for these titles and could not have been happier to be at a championship national title. Rina competed well in the age bracket, coming in 11th in her 60m, 11th in the 100m, 9th in the 400m and added a silver medal in the state team 4 x 400m, (age bracket 240yrs). This Blue Stars athlete, who is a very committed person to her sport, gives it everything in all her events, and to be selected in the relay (4 x 400m) and bring home the silver is a great reward for this athlete.

Andrew Rodda was up against some of the best athletes in the world for his age bracket, but ran well all week to gain 6th in the 60m, 9th in the 100m, 7th in the 200m, and ran fine legs in the relays to add to his tally, 1st in the 4 x 400m (age bracket 240yrs - 4 athletes age must add up to or be more than 240yrs) and then backed this up with a bronze in the 4 x 100m (age bracket 180 years). These two medals added to Andrew's list of achievements at national level, and to be amongst some of the best sprinters in not only Australia but also the world, shows he is amongst the best for his age.

Colin Clarson always enjoys competition and always gives his best regardless if it be at club level, State and now Australian. Colin ran a personal best in the 800m, 7th in the 400m, 8th in the 200m, and 10th in the 100m. Colin's all-round ability to tackle events from the short sprints to middle distance shows his versatility. Colin is one of the most respected athletes of IBS and is committed to the sport of track and field.

The above athletes have to be among the nominations for awards, come the Annual Awards and Presentation evening of the club on Saturday 4 June. This will bring all members of the club in line to receive a number of awards and at the same time, divisional age winners and runners up for the Sunday weekly point score to be awarded also.

Thanks to Everyone

Our thanks go out to both Jodie Sunstrom and Sally Barnes who both have spent countless hours at major State and Australian titles officiating. These two ladies have been committed to all events from club level right through to National titles, and it is these people who brave all forms of weather to ensure these major meets go ahead. Our thanks go out to them both, but also to our officials and helpers who have helped out each Sunday to ensure IBS conducts a weekly track and field program. To the club coaches, a big thank you for the wonderful work that you have put in with your athletes. Well done everyone, the summer may have been a bit of a disjointed season, but again, the club has pulled through in a very positive manner and the results of our athletes throughout the season has proven this. Thank you everyone.

Let's look forward to season 2022/2023, our Anniversary of 70 years as an athletic club and stay tuned for some great announcements.

I thank you all for a great season and thank the committee once again, the great support given to me, and especially in the time of an event, that I myself did not anticipate.

Valmai Loomes
Secretary

ILLAWARRA BLUE STARS ATHLETICS CLUB INC

ABN: 80 299090816

**FINANCIAL REPORT
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022**

Column1	CURRENT YR	PRIOR YR
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$11,037.55	\$6,993.35
YTD OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$2,652.55	\$4,044.20
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$13,690.10	\$11,037.55
REPRESENTED BY:		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
St George Cheque Account: 028298540	\$13,539.14	\$11,021.59
St George Express Saver: 429056525	\$150.96	\$15.96
Less Unpresented Cheques	Nil	Nil
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$13,690.10	\$11,037.55

I report to the Board of Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club Inc that I as Treasurer have prepared these documents and they represent the financial position at the end of March 2022

Jodie Sundstrom
Treasurer

ILLAWARRA BLUE STARS ATHLETICS CLUB INC

ABN: 80 299 090 816

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Column1	CURRENT YEAR	PRIOR YEAR
INCOME		
REGISTRATIONS ANSW		\$ 995.00
CLUB FEES	\$ 1,880.00	\$ 1,515.00
UNIFORMS	\$ 950.00	\$ 600.00
ENTRY FEES	\$ 210.00	
FUNDRAISING	\$ 1,572.06	\$ 5,487.09
INTEREST RECEIVED		
TRI THE GONG VOLUNTEERS	\$ 1,425.00	
NSW COUNTRY TITLES		
SPONSORSHIP	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,000.00
ITC		\$ 3,065.00
SCHOOL CARNIVALS	\$ 180.00	
Special Orders	\$ 1,180.00	\$320(canc cheques)
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 9,197.06	\$ 12,982.55
EXPENDITURE		
REGISTRATIONS ANSW	\$ 305.00	\$ 1,445.00
AFFILIATION ANSW	\$ 755.00	\$ 510.00
FAIR TRADING	\$ 47.00	\$ 47.00
UNIFORMS		\$ 1,641.00
ENTRY FEES	\$ 313.77	
OFFICIAL ASSISTANCE	\$ 300.00	
ATHLETES ASSISTANCE	\$ 450.00	
PRESENTATION	\$ 1,325.00	\$ 164.98
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 230.89	\$ 315.80
EQUIPMENT	\$ 160.00	\$ 475.94
ITC	\$ 1,983.12	\$ 1,907.00
NSW COUNTRY TITLES ADMIN		
SPECIAL ORDER(Jackets)		\$ 1,870.00
HALL HIRE/ GROUNDS		
WEBSITE	\$ 285.93	\$ 358.06
FUNDRAISING		
SCHOOL CARNIVALS	\$ 180.00	
OTHER	\$ 208.80	\$ 203.57
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 6,544.51	\$ 8,938.35
OPERATING SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	\$ 2,652.55	\$ 4,044.20

Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club

Treasurer's report

In 2021/2022 season we were able to show a surplus of \$2,652.55 which in reality is much larger when funds for Illawarra Track Challenge and Tri the Gong as well as the \$1,000 support grant from the NSW Government through Athletics NSW.

Jodie Sundstrom
Treasurer

Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club

Official's Report

Many thanks to all our club officials who helped out every week at both club meets and cross country as well as the ones who travelled up to Sydney most weeks to officiate at the Athletics NSW, Athletics Australia and NSW Little Athletics events.

A big thank you to our club officials, athletes and helpers who volunteered their time at the Illawarra Track Challenge. Without you the event would not have the success it was despite the horrendous weather conditions.

National Championships this season were held at SOPAC over 9 Days. We had one Official who officiated all 9 days as well as Sally Barnes who did 3 days.

Well done to Sally Barnes who is now well on her way towards her throws Level 2 accreditation.

We encourage all our club members who are interested in officiating to complete the on-line exams on the Athletics Australia website to start the process.

Jodie Sundstrom
Member for Officials

Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club

Fundraising Report

The 2021/2022 season for IBS we raised \$2,997.06.

Our major fundraising events were:

- Tri the Gong 2021- \$1,425
- Illawarra Track Challenge
- BBQ - \$1,572.06

The 2021/2022 season started late due to Covid restrictions, so we decided not to hold our annual Christmas Hamper raffle.

Fundraising monies is only shown from 2021 Tri the Gong and part of this money was returned to participants in this activity and The Illawarra Track Challenge BBQ which raised \$1,572.06.

Other Fundraising was Illawarra Track Challenge and 2022 Tri the Gong both of which provided a welcome boost to Club funds, but these has not been paid into the account as at 31 March 2022.

Thank you to the members who supported our fundraising. It does require all members to support to raise money for equipment, administration as well as Athletes and Officials support.

Jodie Sundstrom
Board Member for Fundraising

Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club

Registrar's report

Total of 64 athletes registered with IBS for this season. 28% male and 36% female.

Breakdown in registration categories remembering that both Open and Concession can include some of the Masters' athletes.

Open:	29
Concession:	11 (9 are U/19 Athletes)
Dual:	15
Community:	4
Volunteer:	3
Life Members	2

Sue Sundstrom
Registrar

Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club

Coaches Co-ordinator's Report

Once again, coaches have had a headache with their coaching groups. Due to covid and many other issues such as rain, non-use of field area, and many grounds coaches use being flooded etc. have added to the woes of the coach.

But in saying that, all coaches have done an amazing job preparing their athletes for the season, and some great results have emerged.

With the non-amalgamation of Athletics Australia and Little A's, it is another hiccup for coaches who are preparing athletes who are affiliated to both Associations. Coaches have to prepare the athlete for the event they feel is the most important in the athlete's career and pathway. Many coaches who do this will sit down with the athlete and try and prioritise the events they feel is most important.

But it is great to hear one of our own club coaches say that sometimes you have to forgo an event for the betterment of the athlete's long term future. This in itself is so important and the ability of the coach, along with the athlete, to map out a plan that will see them continue in the sport.

Many athletes of a younger age are preparing for today and not tomorrow, and have committed themselves to too much, too early in their careers. This is where the coach comes in, guiding them on a pathway, that the athlete remains in the sport, by seeing progress, improving at a slow but progressive rate, and above all enjoying the sport that it doesn't become a major focus in a young person's life.

Over the years, we have seen brilliant juniors, and we are seeing them now also, but will be interesting to see how many make the transition to either under 23 or open.

We are happy that a number of our athletes have moved from junior level to under 23 and open, and we hope this continues.

Coaches can spend many hours planning, guiding athletes and not only do we become a coach in track and field, but we also have a tendency to mentor many in other aspects of their lives. Disruption through lifestyle will and can impact on the ability of the athlete to move forward and succeed.

My thanks go out to all our coaches, and it is good to see a variety of coaches who can coach a number of areas.

But we need more, and we need to have a structure so that younger members are coming through to take on these roles.

2022/2023 will see this happen and we are now in the process of making sure this does happen. We aim to have as many coaches as possible, to coach young members, to then go onto older athletes and of course coaches in masters. This will take place this coming track and field season with us talking to people already who are prepared to make this commitment to our members.

Full details will be circulated at a later date.

My thanks go to people who have also assisted in coaching. These people are vital to the athlete. To our support crews, such as physios, massage and strength trainers, all are thanked for the time and effort put into our members. A big thank you for your time and commitment. To the coaches who travel with their squads to various meets, a big thank you. Not everyone can do this all the time, but it is great to see our coaches support their squads as much as possible.

Once again thank you for the commitment to our members. Keep up the good work and stayed tuned for some exciting additions to the area of coaching.

Valmai Loomes
Coaches Co-ordinator

Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club

Publicity Report

Publicity is hard to come by with our sport, but we have been lucky having the Illawarra Track Challenge to present to the media. This was covered well until the storm hit, and final coverage had to be cancelled. We had both TV and the Illawarra Mercury present, but like us all, had to scatter for cover.

Live Streaming

The live streaming of this event is very good, and we are grateful to James and Matt for bringing this together. Once again, the finals of the 60m and Mile would have been covered well but this was not to be.

Regardless, we cannot rely on this form of promotion as we are really speaking to the “converted”. Our sport needs more exposure to the general public, and we are lucky now that our Advertiser column each fortnight now goes into the Illawarra Mercury, giving us a broader coverage.

In this respect, we have been lucky, as many sports have to rely on journalists to come out and do a report on their activities and this is not possible. By us writing our column, it appears online for the Advertiser and also the Illawarra Mercury but for people who buy the Illawarra Mercury, they too see our column, that we try and maintain up to date reports and information.

Newsletters

We still try and maintain our club’s newsletters going out to all members who have given their email addresses, and at least 3 go out per year. We urge people to read these as many hours goes into preparing these and making sure correct information goes to our members.

A new approach was taken this season with a newsletter going to Little A’s clubs and inviting them to join us in competition and our events and to a degree this has worked. This also brings a strong unified approach to our sport and our club in general.

Once again word of mouth is the most important part of promotion. Our athletes need to spread the message of our club and our activities and encourage more to come along and join in.

It was surprising how many people from Sydney clubs were made aware that the country titles are a great event, and something some of them would like to take part in. This was after our coverage of country, so maybe Sydneyites may make the move.

We would have been able to spread the word a little more if our interclub did eventuate, but this was not to be.

Present in schools is a must, so targeting our schools whether it be by coaches or newsletter is a means we have to tap into for next season.

Once again, I thank Gianna for keeping the website up to date and also to herself and Bec for relaying messages through our club’s “IBS Current Members” page on Facebook. I urge all members to ensure your email is up to date so that you can be added for newsletters, face book, etc.

Valmai Loomes
Promotion and Publicity

Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club

Competition Co-ordinator's Report

Once again, the season has been disruptive in many ways. Our Sunday meets have been disrupted with rain etc, the Association's change of policy with Interclub meets, and once again that Covid name keeps popping up that has restricted some athletes from taking part in many events.

Regardless, we continue on, and once again Rebecca Dos Santos, with the help of her friends, put together a very good cross country program with the inclusion of a course in Camden.

Winter Series

Cross country is put on for not only the cross country runners but also for athletes to use for pre-season fitness and we encourage as many people to come along as possible.

Marking the courses takes time, and any little bit of help towards this is greatly appreciated. Our courses are varied and gives all athletes the chance to try many courses that maybe they don't include in their own training programs.

Thanks once again to Bec and her friends for the marking. I realise that it was hard on her with the birth of her young son Leonardo, but she has put her name up again for the coming season and we are grateful for this.

Winter Track and Field Program

Was disruptive due to rain and Covid restrictions, with only two of the 4 rounds being conducted. This is sad as this winter program is very popular and I know many were going to use this as pre-season for the summer.

Track and Field

Our season on the track has been just the same but we keep saying that more of our own club members should use this competition to their advantage. We have had members from other clubs come down to compete and very few of our own members have been in attendance. Club meets are so very important to the preparation of an athlete. With very few interclub/premier league meets being conducted in 2021/2022, it was unusual not to see more of our athletes take part in the Sunday competition. The Association change of policy as to clubs conducting an interclub meet was bad in many ways. Little did we know of the procedure until the very last minute, thus we had to say no to the proposed meet we had planned, especially when a very similar meet was pencilled in for Sutherland on the same day with virtually the same events.

We also need people to put up their hands to officiate. No club can operate without officials, and it seems to be the same people every weekend. Let's get some more people to support our good officials we have and take the burden off many who are there almost every Sunday.

Interclub

Although we were not popular with the Association as to cancelling, it has been highlighted that clubs need to know the procedure prior to committing to such a meet. Financially the club could have been held accountable for the costs, and we may have come out with a loss. Having a meet so close to one another does not help either club. If the other meet was planned for Mingara or somewhere else away from this area, it may have worked, but Sutherland is so close to our own track.

The Association's plans for delivering meets will possibly change this coming season 2022/2023 and let's hope so, as the planning, structure and organisation of such meets was a mess, and the athletes certainly didn't have the meets to attend that they usually do. Specialist meets are good, but something else has to be programmed in for the other athletes.

Let's hope this season coming 2022/2023 is a whole lot better.

Relays

Once again many were missing due to reasons such as Covid and it was a shame our numbers were down a lot compared to prior seasons. One that did show out was the lack of teams in the masters, something we have become known for the support we give to these divisions. Again, numbers were down, and members were not available. Members are now planning teams for next season, so let's hope this happens, and we come back in full force. Regardless, our teams who rallied around were a credit to the club, and at all teams gave 110% effort in each and every event they contested.

Illawarra Track Challenge

What a meet we were heading for, the program was good after a few shuffles around with the Association, our sponsors Bing Lee, Simon Hull Tiling and Belforce Quality Meats were all locked in and we were ready to go. The entries were great, the heats and supporting events were held and then "bang" the weather hit the Kerryn McCann Athletic Centre like we haven't seen before. People scattered, equipment and tents were blown away, but most of all, everyone was safe, and athletes fully understood the cancellation of the meet.

A sad side of the meet, along with the weather, was the injury to our club official, Sally Barnes. Our thanks go out to all who assisted, and the prompt attention given to Sally was to be congratulated. Sally is back up and officiating but has to be careful on where she is placed, but her progress, I'm pleased to report, is coming along well, and she showed this by officiating at all major meets including the Australian championships. With Athletics NSW we negotiated with sponsors etc to conduct the finals of the 60m in conjunction with the Sydney Track Challenge and although not on our own home ground, we are pleased that the event has been finalised. The mile has been cancelled for the season 2021/2022, due to lack of time within the summer program. But wait for 2022/2023, this event will be bigger and better. Our thanks go out to Dapto Little A's for their great support with officials and to Wollongong City Little A's for the use of some of their equipment and tents. Pleased to say they have placed claims in for the damaged tents. This was heading towards one of our best Track Challenges but wait for next season 2022/2023 as we have things planned so that it will make up for 2021/2022 meet. Weather cannot be helped, and I have to say a big thank you to all our members who firstly rallied around to prepare for the meet on the Friday, backed up and assisted on the Saturday, and then come the meet, many backed up as officials and volunteers. Thank you all, Jodie will report on our income from this meet, 70% to our club and 30% to ANSW after all expenses have been paid out. A big thank you to Sue for organising the barbecue and her helpers. This too Jodie will show in her annual financial report.

Congratulations to Brodie McCluskey who placed 3rd in the final of the U16 women's 60m, whilst Jack West made the final of his age bracket in the U16 men. Lauren Percival also made the final of the U18 women but had to withdraw due to injury.

State and Nationals

Great to see our members once again being up with the best when it comes to State and National titles. Well done to everyone who took part and to those who met the standard for the Australian titles, a big congratulations. To our masters' athletes who contested both State and National titles and have come home with a bag of medals. Great to see.

Country Titles

See report in Secretary's report. Great track and facilities at Maitland, again numbers were down with late withdrawals due to injury and sickness, but again our club rallied around and with the help of our members put together our Blue Stars Hub so that members were together and supported one another. Well done and thank you all.

Let's hope our competition is not hindered in any way, both for the upcoming winter program and the 2022/2023 season.

Valmai Loomes**Competition Co-ordinator**

Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club

Website Report

The club website should be the go-to for all members and the general public to obtain information on our club competitions, upcoming events, programs for both the summer track and field and winter cross country, rules and regulations of competition and much, much more.

We also have a Facebook page, which I believe is the preference for most members, though not all information is available there hence the reason for members continually asking questions about dates and times, etc for upcoming events. The website is regularly being updated with news and upcoming events from the Club's Secretary, and members should make a point of looking there first to find the information they require. If they are unable to find what they are looking for, then they should use the contact page with their inquiry and a response will be given promptly.

It is pleasing to see that we have been receiving many enquiries through our contact page from people outside our club and great to see that through this method we have also obtained many new members, not only locally but also further down south as far as Ulladulla.

Gianna Mogentale
Website Co-ordinator

Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club

Uniform Report

Our uniform has been warmly accepted by all members of the club and does look very good in competition. The three colours used are a reflection of the club over the years and incorporate the grey side panel in response to the older uniform that was worn many years ago on the formation of the club in 1953. The uniform during those years was all grey with a blue star. Over the years, the club changed to the two blues, sky blue and royal, thus we now have our uniform incorporating all three colours.

The crop tops are the most popular with the female athletes and I will need to source more of these for the coming season. Our singlet tops have also been popular, the men's in particular are very popular.

This season we have added to our uniform list a club jacket. Suited to the colder weather, the jacket is of high quality and is also shower proof and looks very smart. A number of jackets have been sold to club members already and this will be available to club members to purchase but must be ordered in bulk. If interested in the club jacket, please see me so that a bulk order can go through to the supplier. If anyone is interested the board members all have one so I'm sure they would be willing to show you to determine size etc.

Like all clubs, we do have an issue with orders, and I feel this may start to become even harder due to Chinese manufacturing. Our women's crop tops are a major issue comparing sizes etc and the supply is not too quick, so once again, the club will need to order a large quantity to have in stock.

All members are encouraged to order either throughout the off season or at the beginning of the season so that we have an idea of numbers etc to order.

Once again, I would like to say our uniform looks good, and presents well, and although we say to members to ensure they keep their uniforms for major meets, we do encourage our members to compete at club level either in a second club top, or something that is practical to athletics.

I urge anyone who has grown out of their uniform and wish to sell it to send me a message on either our Facebook page or our website and I will see if another member wishes to purchase it.

Gianna Mogentale
Uniform Officer

Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club

Equipment Report

A big congratulations and thanks to all those that helped through past season. A particular thanks to Andrew Rodda who continuously gave his all in setup and putting away equipment this year in addition to using his son's physio gazebo at the Track challenge and Country champs.

In respect to the track challenge, weatherwise the most challenging to date when it came to equipment with so many members and non-members set scrambling to save everything from the huge winds and rains.

With the coming year we will be setting some new goals in re-organising the cupboards and javelins. A full assessment of the equipment will be made to upgrade a various equipment.

Thank you again for all the help provided as we move to create new milestones.

Ian Smith
Equipment Officer

Pre-season and the big lift from shipping containers of all our gear following the refurbishment of the grandstand. A case of many hands making for a lighter lift.

Starting Blocks showing general and expected signs of wear. Spikes replacement overseen by Beaton Park as advised by Equipment officers.

Illawarra Track Challenge saw some carnage with multiple team shelters destroyed by the storm that hit Beaton Park like a wrecking ball on the afternoon of track Challenge. Some IBS shelters still undergoing repairs. Replacements not considered at this time with our physio team at Purpose stepping up to get IBS through the Summer Season.

Replacement hammer for 50+ men's masters age group yet to be purchased. No explanation available as to disappearance of the previous hammer.

Thanks also to Purpose Physiotherapy for the donation of the loan of team shelter at the Illawarra Track Challenge, the weekend away at Country Championships at Maitland and then again for State Championships in Olympic Park. Thanks again to Jack, Ben and the team at Purpose Physiotherapy.

Andrew Rodda
Assistant Equipment Officer

Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club

Beaton Park Management Report

Well, it is that time again, but we seem to be having the same issues all the time with what is happening on our track.

Firstly, nothing has been done with the bubbler. Although we complain, hassle and carry on, they seem to think that this bubbler is okay, when in fact, it is terrible, always hot and not suited to such an area.

Grandstand - have to say that the grandstand looks a lot cleaner, but do not really know what else has been done. The panels at the back of the grandstand have been replaced, and this has stopped a lot of water and wind coming in, and does look quite good, clean and tidy and rust has gone with replaced painted panels.

Under the grandstand has not been cemented and this is one area that we asked if could be done so that storage is bigger. Placing things on damp floors such as we do now, not only damages the equipment but also is not healthy in many aspects. This area is a big area and there are many things underneath there but are so hard to maintain and hard to keep clean and tidy.

Having spoken to Management, the cost of cementing and making this a little more practical was not in the budget.

Our layout in the main area is a lot better and having the shelving at the back is far better. The hurdles from AW are a nuisance, but they have nowhere else to go.

Communication with these meetings has basically been by email. Many things have been done such as remarking the track, pebbles around the high jump surface, complete netting for hammer cage and also new complete pole vault mats, that haven't been replaced for many years, possibly since 2000. After remarking the track, a notice went out to all clubs regarding the correct use of the track, such as starting from correct start lines, not using spikes that are above the 7mm, and using the circular lane one for basic training. It is up to us, and coaches, to ensure this is carried out, as many athletes are using the track incorrectly. 7mm spikes will be on sale at the little shop inside the Leisure Centre to ensure that the correct spikes are used. But preaching to the converted is not the way to go, a full use of track rules should be handed out to everyone as they come in, as many are not from this area, and some are not athletes.

Beaton Park Management have been very good, the staff have been wonderful, and we fully realise that this track is maintained to a standard that certainly clubs would not be able to do.

The closure of the infield over the last few weeks has been necessary. Some have asked why? but if they use it now, we may not be using it for a long time. Many clubs in NSW who have grass tracks have been in worse situations. Repairs to the infield after such heavy and constant rain takes a long time to repair if used in saturated areas. We have been lucky.

Have been seeing little bits and pieces take place that coincide with the plans they have for redevelopment, but not a great deal.

As we all know, things are done with money, and the budget put forward to Council on our club's behalf is how things are maintained. Jason, the manager does a great job here and communicates all the time on what we need but come big development projects like the increased size of storage etc must go through Government grants that Council pursues on our behalf.

It will be interesting to see when the Development starts to fully take place, and although we may not be impacted as many other sports in the complex will be, it will possibly be an ongoing thing for some time.









My thanks go out to the staff of the complex for their continual support of our sport, and in particular the support they give towards the Track Challenge. With torrential rain and storms, staff of the complex joined us to try and save as much as we could.

I feel we should have more “face to face” meetings, if not at least two per season just to make sure that all clubs are on the same page as far as improvements and developments are concerned.

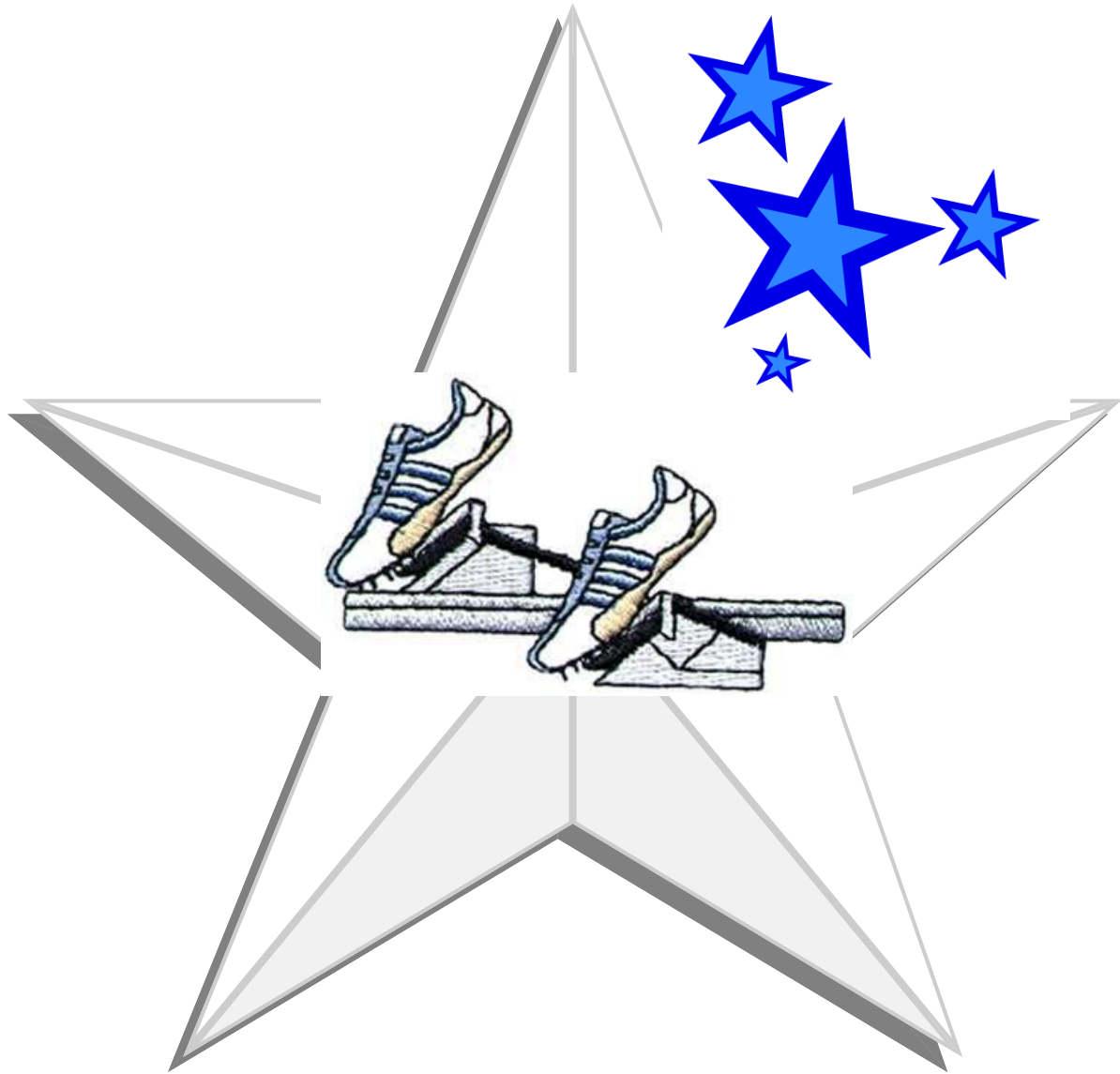
Valmai Loomes
Beaton Park Management Representative

Blue Stars Athletics Club
Club Management 2021-2022 Season

Executive and Management Committee

	<p>President</p> <p>Sue Sundstrom</p> <p>Other Duties: Registrar & Race Walking Co-ordinator</p>		<p>Vice President</p> <p>Ian Smith</p> <p>Other Duties: Equipment Co-ordinator, Public Officer & Protection Officer</p>
	<p>Secretary</p> <p>Valmai Loomes</p> <p>Other Duties: Public Relations, Competition Co-ordinator & Coaching Co-ordinator</p>		<p>Treasurer</p> <p>Jodie Sundstrom</p> <p>Other Duties: Official Co-ordinator & Fundraising Co-ordinator</p>
	<p>Board Member & Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Gianna Mogentale</p> <p>Other Duties: Website Manager & Uniform Officer</p>		<p>Board Member & Social Activities Co-ordinator</p> <p>Lynda Douglass</p>
	<p>Board Member & Assistant Equipment Officer</p> <p>Andrew Rodda</p>		<p>Board Member & Liaison Officer to Little A's & Assisting with Officials</p> <p>Sally Barnes</p>

Illawarra



Blue Stars