

# Annual Report 2022



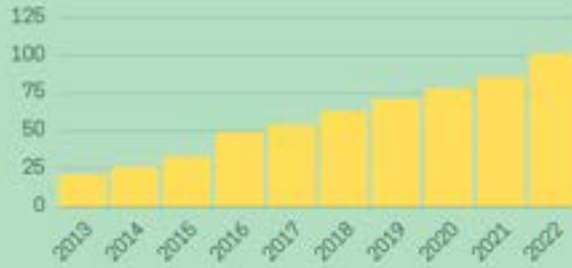
Image Kingsley Flett



# 10 year Growth

## Courses in Australia

**101  
TOTAL**



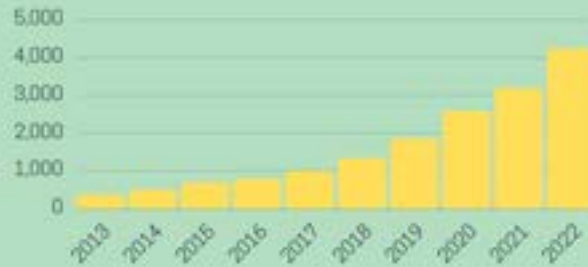
## Tournaments on ADG tour

**85  
IN  
2022**



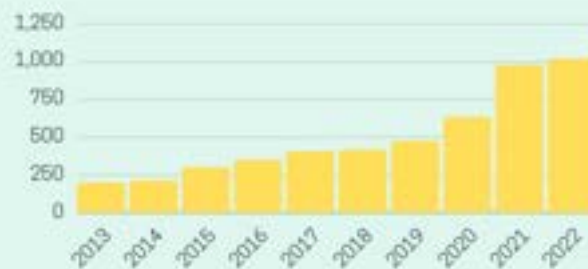
## ADG members

**3178  
TOTAL**



## Tournament players

**1018  
IN  
2022**



# From the Board

## President's report

Manning the check-in desk at Tunnel Ridge Ranch for the Australian Disc Golf Championships gave me an opportunity to reflect how far we have come since the last time a November Championships was held. Did you know we now have over 100 courses across the country and more than 1000 different people played in a tournament in 2022? But enough of now and the future, back to reflection...

In 2019, Mount Gambier hosted the big show and it was the biggest ADGC we had ever had, hitting 100 competitors for the first time. We played four rounds over three days across two courses and it was shot-gun starts for all divisions. At the time we celebrated the Australian Disc Golf Championships Facebook page reaching over 6,000 people with 4,704 post engagements.

This year, 100 players was the expectation for most majors and both our 2022 and postponed 2021 Championships pushed towards 200 competitors. With this growth came the need for a tiered registration system, caps on divisions to allow representation across the whole player landscape and eight solid hours of tee times. The facebook page reached almost 50,000 people with 27,960 post engagements. Events that large need an army behind the scenes to run smoothly and, at Landsborough, the "Volunteal" army numbered close to 30. There were camera crews and photographers covering every inch of the course, retailers and sponsors selling their wares and over 70 paid spectators, coming to support their friends, family or just coming to the course to see what it was all about. As people finished their rounds on the final day, they traded boots for thongs, grabbed lunch from the on-site catering and sat down to cheer others as they came in to the 18<sup>th</sup> basket. The atmosphere was amazing.

It is a sign of our growth, the legacy of those who have run these events before and a look at what is to come.

- Luke Turnbull, ADG chairperson



Image Kingsley Flett



Image Kingsley Flett



Image Kingsley Flett

## 2022 ADG Board

Chairperson	Luke Turnbull
Vice chairperson	Ken Summers
Treasurer	Martin Ryland-Adair
Secretary	Emilie Cameron
Director of competitions	Paul Arden
Director of communications	Kingsley Flett
Director of development	Nicolas Gregg
ACT representative	Tom Rugg
QLD representative	Simon Tanner
NSW representative	Kevin Costa
VIC representative	Matt Hill
TAS representative	Edward Hesline
SA representative	Ryan Nicholson
WA representative	Dave Kynaston
WFDF representative	Sue Summers

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## Farewelling Board Members

We have a number of our hardworking board members stepping down this year. While it is always hard to see board members leave, this year, after everything the last few years has brought, seems particularly so.

Nicholas Gregg leaves the board after just this year. In that time he implemented a development survey which was sent to all clubs and gathered results which will inform our direction and policies for years to come. Matt Hill is stepping away from the board and onto the tournament committee where he will continue supporting disc golf events and influencing the future of our sport. Tom Rugg is well known and loved on the disc golf scene. He is stepping down as ACT rep. Tom is an integral part of disc golf in the ACT, In recent years he has stepped into the role of club president, major event TD and league coordinator as well as being the state representative on the board. He has certainly earned a bit of a break.

Ken and Sue Summers are also stepping down this year. Ken joined the board in 2018 as Vice chairperson. He brought a lot of experience across multiple disc sports as well as the corporate world to the role. As well as his expertise the board valued his passion and commitment to raising the profile of disc golf. Sue has been involved with the board since 2020. She brought a much needed female perspective and sense of fairness and inclusion. Ken and Sue will continue to support disc golf through their many other committees and boards and we wish them good luck in these endeavours.

Sadly the board will also be saying goodbye to Kingsley Flett. It is hard to put into words the impact Kingsley has had on the disc golf scene here (especially since he is the one we usually turn to for this stuff!). He captured the spirit of our sport for 5 years through his photos and words, elevated our social media presence to what it is today and taught everyone a lesson in the value of good storytelling. No one who has been to our Facebook pages, Instagram or website can deny the power of the work that he did for us. We know it was not easy - he was the one who followed an event from planning to long after the competitor's were safely back home, the one left to craft a tricky document and the one travelling long distances, lugging a heavy camera and posing behind a tree to capture the perfect shot- but he did it for the love of this sport and this community. His opinions and insights on all matters were valued and sought by the board and he will be very missed.





# Board Restructure

The growth of our sport over the last few years has brought with it an increase in administration and development needs. This has prompted the current board to discuss and adopt a change in the way we operate and are structured. This change will allow more people to be involved and help the board to achieve more through the creation of committees with specific roles.

The new structure will consist of:

1. **ADG board.** The board will be made up of chairperson, deputy, secretary, treasurer, director of competitions, State representative liaison and director of communications. These positions are voted in by ADG members each year. The focus of the board will be overseeing disc golf activities in Australia. The board will meet once per month via zoom.
2. **Tournament committee.** A committee of 4 members will be created to focus on events. They will be responsible for setting the annual schedule of events, coordinating the tour, reviewing tournaments, assisting with the running of larger events and recommending and implementing changes to the tour. The director of tournaments will sit on both the ADG board and the tournament committee. Committee members will be appointed by the board following the AGM based on an application. Membership will be reviewed each year.
3. **State representative body.** 1-2 people from each state and territory (preferably from different clubs) will sit on the state rep body. This body will meet to share ideas, discuss how things are going and what they need and hear what the board is working on. The state representatives will be the primary contact for clubs and players in their area. The state representative liaison will coordinate this body and also sit on the ADG board. For states with an elected state association one of the positions will be selected by the state association. If there are more than 2 applicants to be state representative for a particular state or territory then members from that state will be able to vote for who holds the positions.



Image Kingsley Flett

# Tour changes

This year a sub-committee of board members was formed to review how disc golf events and the Australian Disc Golf Tour are structured. Their recommendations were adopted by the board and the first phase of these changes will come into effect from January 2023. To further inform changes to the structure of our competitive events offering, ADG is in the process of developing a detailed "Player Pathways" document which will help lay out, in a similar fashion to larger more established sports, the ways in which players progress through different phases of competitive Disc Golf in Australia.



Image Kingsley Flett

## Motivation

Disc Golf in Australia has undergone tremendous growth in the last decade. The last two years in particular have seen a significant increase in demand for high quality tournaments and opportunities for players at all levels of the sport to participate. The ADG Tour was established 15 years ago and while it has evolved over time, much has remained the same since its inception. This overall structure has served us well in establishing the sport, however, we have reached a point in our growth where more fundamental changes are needed to move forward.

Two competing requirements have begun to emerge. That of offering the most skilled players an opportunity to compete in a meaningful format while in contrast, allowing the widest possible base of players to build their skills through competition on a regular basis. After reviewing the current structure of ADG events and taking into account the recent and expected growth of the sport in Australia, we have identified some gaps in our player pathway, as well as some areas of improvement administratively, that we believe need to be addressed going forward. ADG wishes to meet the demands of players at different stages of development in a way that can scale as the sport continues to grow. After much consideration the ADG Tournament Committee has determined that to address these concerns a new competitive structure must be phased in.

## Goals

The goals that we set out to achieve with this new structure are as follows:

- To accommodate the future growth of the sport
- To establish a structure that supports both large and small events
- To provide more people the opportunity to play at the ADGC
- To encourage more local events that are accessible to local players
- To provide an avenue for top level players to play at a high level
- To create more consistency and branding at ADG run events
- To simplify the language around the naming of our events

## Event structure for 2023

### Australian Disc Golf Championships

Two events held at the same location, one weekend apart

-ADGC Div 1: (MPO, FPO, MP40, MA1, FA1, MA40)

-ADGC Div 2: (MA2, FA2, MA3, FA4, MA50, FA40, MJ15, FJ15)

ADG to handle registrations

-qualifications, quotas, waitlists, associated emails, messages etc

Events capped at 150 people each

Minimum of 3x 18 hole rounds

Points included in 2023 tour with base rate of 150points

EBFs charged at \$15 per player per day

PDGA Sanctioning B-Tier (minimum)

Non-playing TD

### ADG Majors

6 events held around the country

- 1 per state except ADGC host

ADG to handle registrations

-qualifications, quotas, waitlists

Minimum event capacity of 144 players

Minimum of 3x 18 hole rounds

Points included in 2023 tour with base rate of 120points

EBFs charged at \$8 per player per day

PDGA Sanctioning C-Tier (minimum)

Non-playing TD

### ADG Tour events

Minimum Divisions offered: MPO, MP40, MA1, MA2, MA3, MA40, MA50, MJ15, FPO, FA1, FA2, FA4, FA40, FJ15

Minimum of 2 x 13 hole rounds

Points included in 2023 tour with base rate of 100points

EBFs charged at \$7 per player per day

PDGA Sanctioning C-Tier (minimum)

### ADG non-tour sanctioned events

Not part of tour

No division requirements

Can be traditional format, doubles, matchplay etc

EBFs charged at \$3.50 per player per day

Does not need to be PDGA Sanctioned

### ADG sanctioned leagues

Not part of tour

Regular scheduled local competition

EBFs charged at \$1 per player per league event

Does not need to be PDGA Sanctioned

# Annual Highlights

## TDs - Taking it to the Next Level

(Story Dave Kynaston)

What's better than a casual round of disc golf? Two or three rounds in competition with your peers and rivals, that's what! It gets the blood pumping, sharpens the focus and motivates you to work to improve your game.

By the end of 2022 there will have been in-excess of 85 ADG sanctioned disc golf events in Australia this year. Each one is only possible due to the work of the Tournament Director (aka TD), and often an Assistant TD and supporting volunteers.



Image Kingsley Flett's camera

Towards the end of 2021 ADG implemented a new structure for (ADG) sanctioned events, to meet the demands of the ongoing growth in our sport and to start a transition to a more mature competitions structure. Perhaps the biggest change for 2022 was the introduction of a single State Major each year, as each states' pinnacle annual event. With this came a prestige step-up and additional player capacity requirements which the clubs and TD's had to adapt-to and find a way to work with. All who attended these events will attest that your TDs rose to the challenge with capacity, organisation, communications and event presentation taken to (very) impressive new levels.

Here's a shout out to the TD's and assistants for the six State Majors this year, each one a stand-out landmark event – we thank and applaud your amazing work:

- Tom Rugg for The Sizzler – Weston Park, Yarralumla – ACT
- Matt Green for The Two head Open – Poimena, Austins Ferry – TAS
- Patrick Thorpe and Matt Hill for The Vic Open – Victoria Park, Ballarat – VIC
- Reece (and Keenan) Vellios for The Perth Open – Pinelines, Gidgeggannup – WA
- Sharon and Kevin Costa for the NSW Open – Molong – NSW
- Michelle Schulz and Ryan Nicholson for Eruption 2022 – Crater Lakes, Mount Gambier – SA



And the TDs for the two Australian Disc Golf Championships events held this year. Years of planning and work was put it by these TDs and the large teams of volunteers – the ‘next level’ was smashed and we thank you.

- Patty Robinson and Andrew Ferguson - 2021 Australian Disc Golf Championships, Inverleigh – VIC
- Adam Lowe and Patrick Ferris Jr - 2022 Australian Disc Golf Championships – Tunnel Ridge Ranch, Landsborough - QLD



Let's also celebrate the TDs that took-on more than one event his year.

- TD for one event and Assistant TD for one event - Charl Du Plessis, Matt Hill, Paul Noesen, Tom Rugg
- TD for two events - Aaron Moreton, David Heath, Jackson Adams, John Schlobohm, Johnathan 'JJ' Johnas, Matt Green, Patrick Thorpe, Patrick Willson, Phil Tweed.
- TD for two events and Assistant TD for one - Matthew Wallis Priit Koiv, Kevin Costa, Michelle Schulz, Ryan Nicholson, Ken Summers.
- TD for three events - Brett Chambers, Connor Donnelly, Jonathan Dragt, Sam Rubock
- TD for five events and Assistant TD for one – Jeff Brunsting

Last year ten new TDs were certified through the ADG Mentoring programme. Congratulations and thanks for stepping up to:

- Jordan Wheeler - WA, Patrick Willson – WA, Brian Clevenger – QLD, Jason Vidot – QLD, Sean Gottschling – TAS, Thomas Clevinger – QLD, Janet Ford Adams – VIC, Julie O'Donoghue – WA, Leroy Sharrock-VIC, Peter Barry - VIC. And extra special thanks to the experienced TDs who mentored them through the process.

And the many more TD's and Assistant TDs who gave up their time this year to facilitate our competitive play, you are truly appreciated:

Oliver Mundy-Castle, Mike Spangenberg, Michael Van der Linden, Nathan Thomas, Brittini Ramsey, Jason Browne, Rhys Kruger, Scott Ryan, Lisa Wallis, Emilie Cameron, Sue Summers, Dale McFarlane, Hayden McPherson, Chris Hart, Andrew Stanley, Jason McCormick, Todd Chapman, Leroy Sharrock, Robert Lambert, Simon Tanner, Curtis King, Clayton Beck, Sam Ockerby, Allen Brunsting, Kairi Koobakene, Kris Kohout, Carey Edwards, Joseph Doran, Ashley Gabe, Chris Barr, Keron Redman, Peter Barry, Trent Pease, Wade O'Shannessy.

The work of the TDs for each event is varied and all encompassing. From access permissions to marketing, merch, registrations, communications, admin, course preparation and set-up, trouble shooting and in-event adjudication, sponsorships, prizes, trophies, reporting and even catering! It's a labour of love for sure, but a huge amount of work none-the-less, and we thank and applaud every one of you that has made an event, big or small, possible this year.

# Spirited Australian Disc Golf team take 5<sup>th</sup> place

(Story Kingsley Flett, Emilie Cameron and Maria Berry)

Representing our country, with that coat of arms over the heart, makes every single throw matter like it's never mattered before. In August the members of the Australian Disc Golf team rode the emotional highs and lows together for a week of intense competition at the WFDF World Teams Disc Golf Championships.

The World Team Disc Golf Championship is a bi-annual event presented by the World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF). Unlike most disc golf tournaments this is a team event with a matchplay format. Teams compete against other countries head-to-head in both singles and doubles rounds with points from all matches counting to the end result. This year the event was held in Bračdin Croatia across 2 courses. Twenty six teams competed including top ranked Finland, and Ukraine. Australia were ranked 11<sup>th</sup>.

The team, nicknamed the Sugar Gliders, was selected in January. It comprised Chris Hill (NSW, Captain), Aaron Moreton (Qld), Chris Finn (WA), Darren Stace-Smith (VIC), Dave Perry (VIC), Gina Hill (NSW), Jonathan Jonas (NSW), Luke Bayne (Qld), Paul Noesen (WA), Sarah Lee (SA), Sue Summers (WA) and Ken Summers (WA) as team manager. Coming from around the country the team used zoom and slack to get to know each other and held a training weekend in Newcastle in July. Coming together before the event in Croatia to practice, bond and receive the respected green and gold jersey.



Before the event Australian Team Captain Chris (Chilli) Hill made a bold prediction: “My personal goal for the event is for us to make the top 8 teams. And then we are just 3 wins away from winning the whole championship... Who knows what might happen! I believe this is the strongest team Australia has ever had and all players seem to be in good form. Let’s show the world what Aussie disc golf can do. “

After losing in heartbreaking fashion to eventual bronze medalists Canada in the quarter final, the Sugar Gliders won in a tense playoff for 5<sup>th</sup> place against Germany to finish the event. The team also won the the spirit award, as voted by all the competitors at the event. That’s a strong endorsement for the culture of the team and how they represented us all. Well done to The Sugar Gliders from everyone in Australian Disc Golf.

Team member Aaron Moreton said of the event: “ Winning the Spirit of the Game Award was a great way to top off the event. I know the team holds this recognition in high regard because it is earned through character not skill and assessed entirely by your opposition. I’ve always believed that Australians pride themselves on fairness – so to be awarded this medal only further confirmed this belief. But this was not the highlight for me. Nor was the 5<sup>th</sup> place finish. Rather, I hold the bonds I’ve made with my teammates as the highlight of the event. I’m proud to call each one my friend and these are relationships for life. Together we rise, together we fall, and together we rise again.”



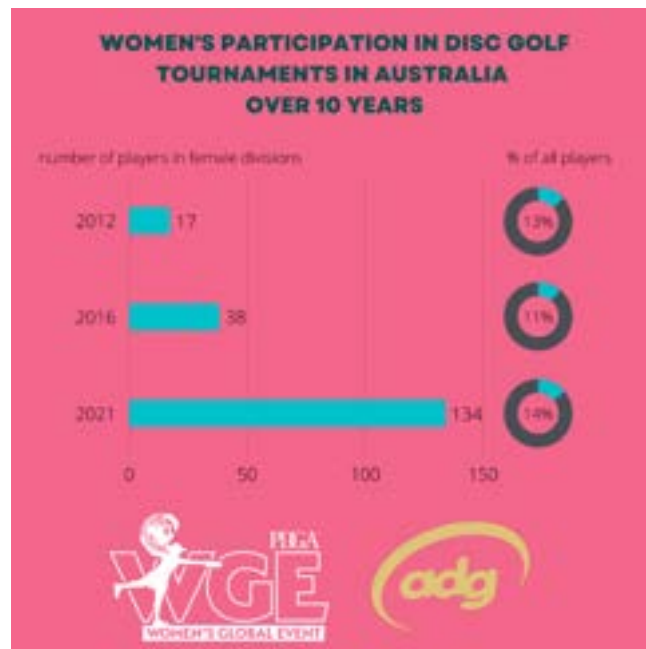


# Women take the stage

(Story Kingsley Flett, and Emilie Cameron)

In August, 100 women across Australia played together as part of the women's global event. The event saw 129 events and 3305 women around the globe compete in a PDGA ratings-based scoring system involving 23 divisions. Australia contributed 7 events: the WGE – Run the Chains at Chichester presented by Julie Ormston & partners, Melbourne Celebrates, Adelaide Parklands, WGE Sydney 2022 Presented by Disc Connection, Dubbo, Run the Chains at Mundaring and Koala Park.

The past few years have seen huge growth in our sport around the world. In Australia our numbers have increased about 300% since 2016. This includes an increase in the number of players in female divisions. In 2012 there were just 17 women who played a tournament, that rose to 38 in 2016 and in 2021 there were 134. While it is great to see this growth happening, women remain at just 14% of all players. This is a problem seen around the world and in other sports such as traditional golf. Through the efforts of many volunteers nation-wide, this imbalance is being gradually redressed with initiatives like women's leagues and social days in Adelaide, Melbourne and Perth. In May this year ADG held a women's workshop to help create connections and share ideas. Sarah Lee, Sue Summers, Gail Lynch and Cassie Sweetten spoke via zoom about running leagues and events, applying for grants and improving your game.



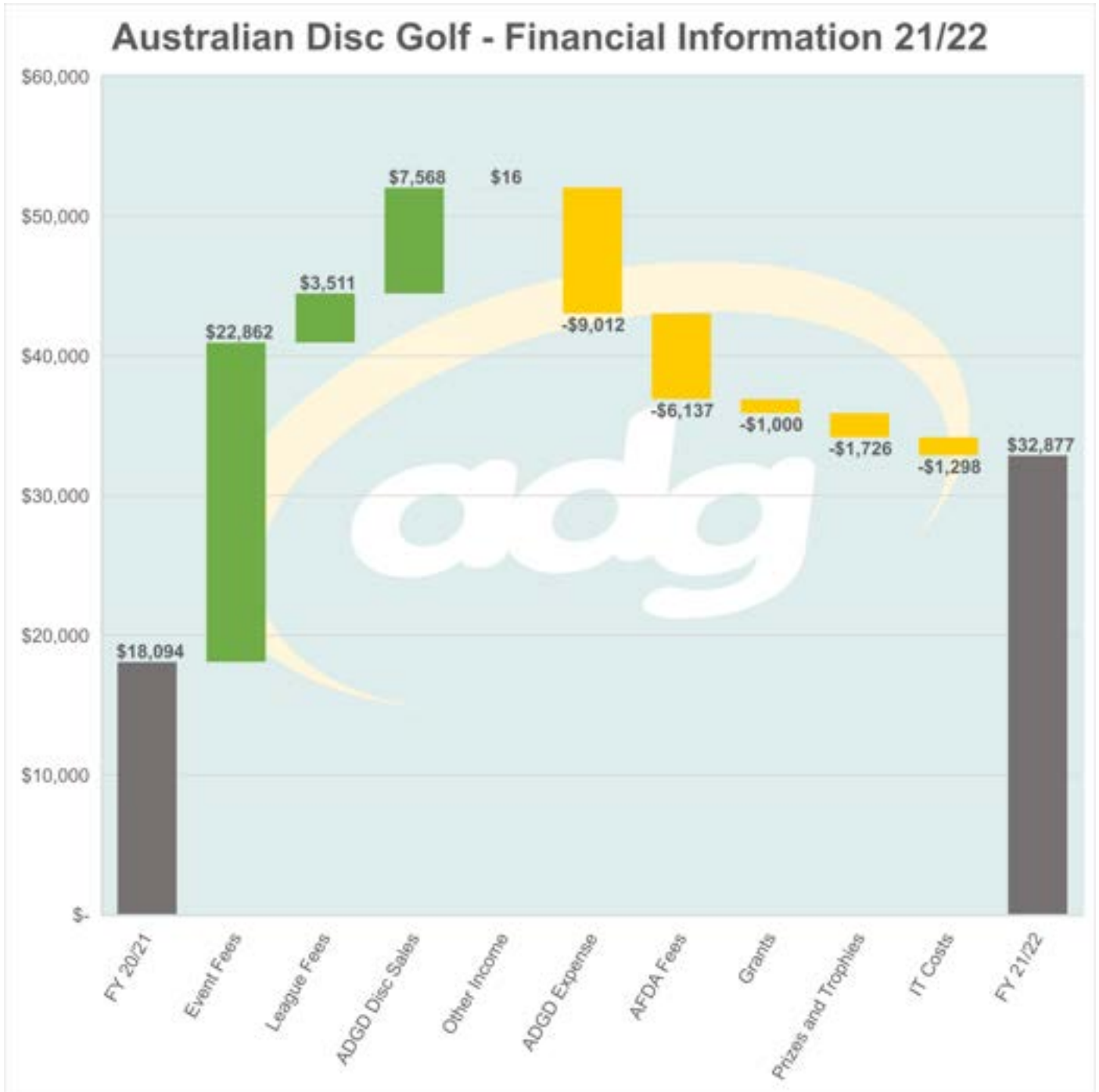
Women's Global Event is central to this approach to increase numbers. In one sense it is an opportunity to encourage new women to try the sport, but the event also encourages Disc Golfers across Australia to reflect on how we can make the sport more inclusive of women and how to make their experience in the game more comfortable and enjoyable.



WGE started small in Australia, with one event and 3 female competitors in 2012. In 2014, 2016 and 2018 there were 2 events and 19,7, and 26 competitors respectively. The event more than tripled between 2018 and 2021 with 7 events and 87 competitors and this was built upon in 2022. Encouraging too, was the fact that 5 of the 7 events in 2022 had women as their tournament directors: Sue Summers in Mundaring, Julie O'Donoghue in Chichester, Janet Ford Adams in Melbourne, Emilie Cameron in Koala park and Lisa Wallis in Sydney. Stand out performers this year were: Gina Hill – 3rd in FA1, Cassie Sweetten – 55th in FPO, Gail Lynch – 4th in FA70+, Jessica Holman and Lydia Philpott both finishing in the top 40 of FJ15 and, playing in her first ever tournament 81 year-old Merle Milentis, who finished 17th in FA70+.

# Financial Report 2021/22

The ADG financial year ran from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. As of the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 ADG held \$32877.19 in its bank accounts. This is compared to last year's financial position of \$18094.01 as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.





The growth of player numbers over the last few years has translated into an increase of people playing sanctioned events. This year ADG event based fees amounted to \$22862.17 as compared to \$9594.24 last year. Income from league fees also increased to \$3,511 up from \$770. It should be noted that we added an extra reporting date for leagues this year to capture numbers up to May 2022. This has increased the league fees collected in this reporting period and will reduce those collected in the next period.

The MOU between the AFDA and ADG continues. This year ADG/AFDA renegotiated new MOU fees. The new fees are \$0.55 per competitor for league days, \$0.60 per competitor for an X-tier event, \$1.20 per competitor for B and C tier tournaments, \$2.40 per competitor for A tier tournaments, \$3.00 per competitor for Major Events and \$3.60 per competitor for The Australian Disc Golf Championships. These new charges were applied as of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022 and the increases were absorbed by ADG. These charges are per event not per day. In the reporting period we paid AFDA \$6,137 in fees. This included \$2223.50 from 2020 and \$3913.70 from 2021. We currently owe the AFDA \$8451.80 in 2022 MOU fees which will be paid early in 2023 where upon I would expect the amount owed to be over \$10,000.

A significant income was also seen with the sale of Aussie Disc Golf Day discs; however, this was done to offset ADG purchasing the discs and on-selling at a subsidised price to events around the country.

Other expenditure items included \$1,726 in prizes and trophies and a \$1,000 grant for promotional material. There has also been an increase in IT costs in 2022 with improvements to our website hosting and an expansion of our email capabilities.



Income	2020/21 Amount (\$)	2021/22 Amount (\$)
<b>ADG EBF Fees</b>	9594.24	22862.17
<b>ADG League Fees</b>	774.5	3511
<b>Other</b>	58.91	15.66
<b>Disc Sales</b>	0	7568
<b>Total</b>	<b>10427.65</b>	<b>33956.83</b>

Expenditure	2020/21 Amount (\$)	2021/22 Amount (\$)
<b>prizes and trophies</b>	653.97	1725.87
<b>Grants</b>	1000	1000
<b>2020 ADG MOU Fees</b>	0	2223.5
<b>2021 ADG MOU Fees</b>	0	3913.7
<b>IT costs</b>	124.03	1298.41
<b>Other</b>	164.68	23.17
<b>Disc Purchases</b>	2842.12	9012.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>4784.8</b>	<b>19196.82</b>



## 2023 MAJOR EVENTS

FEB 25-26	ACT DISC GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS
APR 22-25	VIC OPEN
JUL 7-9	QUEENSLAND OPEN
SEPT TBD	PERTH OPEN
SEPT 30- OCT 2	NSW OPEN
OCT TBD	SA OPEN
NOV 18-20	AUSTRALIAN DISC GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS MA2, FA2, MA3, FA4, MA50, FA40, MJ15, FJ15
NOV 24-26	AUSTRALIAN DISC GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS MPO, FPO, MP40, MA1, FA1, MA40

[https://www.australiandiscgolf.com/sanctioned\\_events](https://www.australiandiscgolf.com/sanctioned_events)



# IT'S COMING HOME



#ADGC2023

