



Regional Consultative Council Minutes Monday 17 January 2022

Devonport Country Club

PRESENT:

Graham Hay	–	Bowls Tasmania	Peter Kirby	–	Bowls South
Phil Prouse	–	Bowls North-West	Greg Smith	–	Bowls North

IN ATTENDANCE:

David Back	–	BT Board / Treasurer	Les Harrison	–	BT Board
Anne Mullavey	–	BT Board	Sue Ross	–	BT Board
Gena Short	–	BT Board			
Dave Jeffrey	-	Bowls North-West	Maxine Viney	-	Bowls North
Rob Soward	-	Regional Bowls Manager (Tasmania)			
Rob McGuire	–	BT CEO (Minute Taker)			

APOLOGIES:

Bernard Knight	–	BT Board
Mark Strochnetter	–	BT High Performance Manager

Meeting opened at 11.15am.

WELCOME:

President Graham welcomed everyone to the meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The previous minutes from the meeting on 28 September 2021 were accepted as tabled.
Proposed: Peter Kirby Seconded: Greg Smith.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

- Gender Identity – BTS has developed a policy to address this issue and will send a copy to BT to send to the regions once the policy has been approved.
- State Pennant Finals – The BT Board has discontinued with Thursday State Finals but will continue with Saturday State Finals. BTS advised that it had sought positions from its clubs but only four clubs have responded to date. BTS advised that it is happy to accept BT Board's position regarding Sate Pennant Finals. BN advised that East Coast wanted to be promoted to Division 3 which will become a four-team round-robin competition.

- Amend SWC Conditions of Play to allow regions to swap players across rinks for the second game of each round of SWC – This has been done.
- Promotion and Relegation Conditions – At the last RCC meeting it was agreed to recommend to the BT Board that it should be left to regions to determine their positions on promotions and relegations and any other decisions in relation to local pennant. This was agreed to by the BT Board at its meeting in October 2021. All regions currently promote the top team.
- Remuneration for doctors providing classification services for disability bowlers – At the May 2021 RCC meeting, BN asked the BT Board to consider some remuneration for the doctor from Hobart providing classification services to the Disability Bowlers. At the September 2021 RCC meeting, it was agreed that the matter of remuneration for doctors providing classification services for disability bowlers should be put on hold until we see what happens following the appointment of Ellen Falkner MBE as BA's new High-Performance Manager - Para Bowls. Falkner commenced in the position in early November 2021 and will lead the planning and integrated delivery of athlete performance service support. It is hoped that BA will establish consistent rules and guidelines that will be applicable across Australia. This matter is on still hold at present.
- Disciplinary Procedures – At the last RCC meeting it was agreed to forward the BTS Disciplinary Policy to regions to see if it is suitable for adoption by all regions. The policy has not yet been received from BTS. Peter Kirby undertook to provide a copy of the BTS Disciplinary Policy to BT for circulation to the regions.
- Share Bowls Link expertise across the regions – At the last RCC meeting it was agreed that Bowls Link may be one area that expertise could be shared across the regions – for example could Paul Hoddy or similar expertise be employed across the regions. It was agreed that the BT Board should explore this option and report back to regions. This has been done and Paul Hoddy has advised that he is prepared to provide his expertise to BN and BNW for the same remuneration as he gets from BTS, namely \$5,000 per annum. BNW will raise this matter at its Board meeting that night. BN cannot see a problem with the proposal. It was agreed to get a firm price from Paul Hoddy. Would BT subsidise the cost of same? Other discussion took place on Bowls Link. It was agreed that it is essential that up-to-date electronic manuals be available to regions and clubs. It was further agreed to take this matter up with BA.
- Plaques for State Pennant Final Winners – At the last RCC meeting, BN advised that State Pennant Finals winners plaques were not provided to winners in 2021. The CEO undertook to investigate this matter and found that plaques were not provided to State Pennant Finals winners. This is now being addressed – the CEO is only waiting for player names from Lilydale before plaques can be prepared.

- State Selectors playing in State Wide Challenge – At the last RCC meeting, BTS raised a concern around State Selectors playing in the same SWC competition that they are selecting. Graham Hay informed the meeting that the BT Board had approved a change to its selection policy to prohibit State Selectors playing in SWC rounds to ensure that they are able to watch all the play and make fully informed selection decisions. The policy has not yet been updated.
- Reduction in Affiliation Fees 2021-22 – At the last RCC meeting, BN questioned if there would be a reduction in Affiliation Fees for 2021-22 as The Nationals have been cancelled for 2021 which will result in savings to the BT budget. BT Treasurer David Back outlined other negative changes to the 2021-22 budget but advised that this matter would be considered at the BT Board meeting to be held after the RCC meeting. No changes were made to the Affiliation Fees for 2021-22

REGIONAL REPORTS/QUERIES:

Bowls North

- Written report as presented prior to the meeting.

Bowls North-West

- Written report as presented prior to the meeting.

Bowls South

- Written report as presented prior to the meeting.
- Following a week's break due to the impact of COVID-19, BTS will resume pennant from the coming Wednesday.
- Jacob Sheerin-Wall will be the BTS representative on the Disability Bowls Committee.
- Four members have resigned from the BTS Board this year leaving just seven Board members.
- BTS does not wish to take up the BT offer to live-stream one of its Premier Division games in February 2022.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

a. BT Vaccination Policy:

A query was raised by a member – if they cannot play because they are not vaccinated, can they get some of their affiliation fees back. Bowls Tasmania no longer charges fees based on a per capita basis. It is up to Clubs to determine if they want to refund affiliation fees.

BN advised that there could be a problem with lunches for SWC with up to 130 people in clubrooms for lunch. Graham Hay advised that each venue has its own COVID-19 plan to deal with this matter.

BN also advised that it has players speaking to lawyers about the requirement to be double vaccinated as it is discriminatory. Graham Hay advised that this matter was going to be discussed at the BT Board meeting following this meeting.

b. Junior Participation:

Bernard Knight requested that a general discussion take place on junior participation initiatives around the State and what is being done to increase junior participation.

Rob Soward advised that the Education Department has a co-ordinator in each region working with schools and sports. Young people have more sporting choices now than ever before. The relationship between clubs and schools varies hugely. Clubs need to push the relationship with schools - it must be owned by the clubs. Rob Soward is keen to work with clubs to assist them particularly in setting up a schools' competition.

BNW advised that it is difficult to get people involved at a regional level with schools. Phil Prouse indicated that he would be interested to talk to the Education Department's NW co-ordinator.

BTS advised that we need to break the stigma that bowls is an old persons' game. We also need to move schools away from a "one-off" activity.

It would be good to involve schools with the Trident's clinics.

c. Support for State Selectors:

BTS queried who was responsible for meeting costs for State Selectors attending SWC and State events. In some instances regions are reimbursing these costs. It was agreed that BT will develop a policy regarding this matter as regions should not be responsible for such costs.

d. Playing One Short:

BNW advised that there is nothing in SWC Conditions of Play re playing one short. The procedure to be followed in such instances is laid down in Domestic Regulation 2.6.1 in the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

e. Affiliation Fees:

BN advised that it has lost 112 of its members (about 10%) to date this season which is a lot of lost revenue. BT Treasurer David Back advised that this matter would be discussed at the BT Board meeting following this meeting.

Meeting closed: 12.45 pm.

Next Meeting:
Date: TBA
Time: 11am
Venue: TBA – North-West Coast

Signed by Chairman