



Regional Consultative Committee Minutes Monday 16 May 2022

Kings Meadows Bowls Club

PRESENT:

Bernard Knight	–	Bowls Tasmania (Chair)	Peter Kirby	–	Bowls South
Phil Prouse	–	Bowls North-West	Maxine Viney	–	Bowls North

IN ATTENDANCE:

David Back	–	BTAS Board / Treasurer	Les Harrison	–	BTAS Board
Anne Mullavey	–	BTAS Board	Graham Hay	–	BTAS Board
Jane Pickett	–	BTAS Board (until 1.30pm)			
Dave Jeffrey	-	Bowls North-West	Vicki Bassett	-	Bowls North
Mark Strochnetter	–	BTAS High Performance Manager			
Rob Soward	-	Regional Bowls Manager (Tasmania)			
Rob McGuire	–	BTAS CEO (Minute Taker)			

APOLOGIES:

Gena Short – BTAS Board

Meeting opened at 11.57am.

WELCOME:

Newly elected President Bernard Knight welcomed everyone to the meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The previous minutes from the meeting on 17 January 2022 were accepted as tabled.
Moved: Maxine Viney Seconded: Phil Prouse. Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

- Gender Identity – At the September 2021 meeting, BTS advised that it had developed a policy to address this issue and has recently sent a copy to BTAS to send to the regions. It was agreed to leave this matter to the next RCC meeting to discuss further.
- Remuneration for doctors providing classification services for disability bowlers – At the May 2021 RCC meeting, BN asked the BTAS 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. It is proposed to invite Ellen Falkner to the next meeting of the Disability Bowls Tasmania Committee. This matter is on still hold at present.

- Disciplinary Procedures – At the September 2021 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 recently been received from BTS and has been circulated to regions. It was agreed to leave this matter to the next RCC meeting to discuss further.
- Share Bowls Link expertise across the regions – At the September 2021 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 BTAS 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. At the last RCC meeting it was asked if BTAS would subsidise the cost of same? This is highly unlikely given the current state of BTAS budget for 2022-23. A question was also asked if up-to-date electronic manuals could be made available to regions and clubs. They are already available – just click onto the green question mark symbol on the bottom right-hand page of any Bowls Link page and it will take you to the manuals. It was agreed that it was better to try and develop expertise in each of the regions rather than rely on one person for Bowls Link.
- Plaques for State Pennant Final Winners – At the September 2021 RCC meeting, BN advised that State Pennant Finals winners plaques were not provided to winners in 2021. This has been addressed and plaques for 2021 and 2022 were handed out at the BTS Presentation Night on 9 May 2022 and at the BN AGM on 15 May 2022. Plaques for BNW winners will be handed out at the BNW AGM on 6 June 2022.
- State Selectors playing in State Wide Challenge – At the September 2021 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 BTAS 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 since been updated.

- Support for State Selectors – At the last RCC meeting, 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 BTAS will develop a policy regarding this matter as regions should not be responsible for such costs. This has been done and a copy of the policy has been sent to all Selectors.
- Reduction in Affiliation Fees 2021-22 – At the last RCC meeting, BN advised that it has lost 112 of its members (about 10%) to date this season which is a lot of lost revenue. BTAS Treasurer David Back advised that this matter would be discussed at the BTAS Board meeting following that meeting. This was done but a 15% reduction in numbers is required to enable a refund to be considered by the BTAS Board.

MATTERS SUBMITTED BY BTAS BOARD:

a. Affiliation Fees and BTAS Budget 2022-23

Treasurer David Back went through the BTAS budget for 2022-23 pointing out the problems BTAS faces with an estimated deficit of more than \$31k despite increasing affiliation fees by 4.5% in 2022-23. The deficit can be overcome by increasing affiliation fees further, asking for higher contributions from State players attending national events or by reducing the number of entries we have in national events. David felt that it was important that RCC members had a chance to debate the budget.

Suggestions put forward by RCC members included:

- Schedule Test matches immediately prior to The Nationals as practice which would result in budget savings.
- Seniors used to pay all their costs to attend National events.
- There must be a competition for State players to strive for, however, the value of the Test series v's Victoria was questioned.
- It is difficult to take something away once it is provided to State players.
- SA charges registration fees for its social bowlers. Social bowls is on the increase, but it is only full membership members that currently contribute towards affiliation fees.
- Grants and donations need to be pursued to assist players attending national events.
- Long-term financial planning is required.
- How do other Tasmanian sporting organisations fund national events?

b. Draft Calendars 2022-23 – 2024-25

Discussion took place on the draft Calendars for 2022-23 – 2024-25 which were approved.

Bowls North West requested that State Pennant Finals be brought forward a week in 2023, however, it was agreed that they should remain as the weekend before Anzac Day if that weekend did not fall during Easter.

It was agreed to remove the Tasmania Master Games from the Calendar. The organisers of same are in discussion with BNW and have agreed not to run bowls on the Saturday (but it will clash with BNW Thursday bowls.)

c. Overall SWC Prize Money

At the RCC meeting in November 2020, it was agreed that SWC overall prize money would change from \$3,000 1st, \$2,000 2nd and \$1,000 3rd to a subsidy of \$2,000 per region to assist with offsetting some of the costs incurred by each region. Despite the above, SWC Conditions of Play were not amended to reflect the change of allocation. It was agreed that regions will consider this matter and discuss it further at the next RCC meeting.

d. Regional Junior Championships

The BTAS Board has suggested that regions consider changing their Junior Championships to a BPL Cup format to make them more appealing to competitors. It is entirely up to regions to decide whether they want to do that.

REGIONAL REPORTS/QUERIES:

Bowls North

- Written report as presented prior to the meeting.
- Over 100 members attended the BN AGM on 15 May 2022. Maxine Viney was elected as President. They have attracted younger members on their Match Committee.
- Survey has been completed and BN will share results when collated.
- Catering for Junior SWC – BN is concerned at the cost of meal provided at Burnie for Junior SWC compared to that provided by Longford for Junior SWC. It was agreed that what was expected to be provided should be detailed in SWC Conditions of Play.
- BPL and Tridents – BN queried several issues. Selection procedures – team selected by BTAS Board with only local bowlers to be selected. Merchandise – Rob Soward undertook to follow up with BA regarding the non-availability of Tridents merchandise from the BA Bowls Shop. Media – BPL#14 clashed with Seniors Championships and CEO conference on mainland which reduced the amount of media obtained. There will be significantly more media and social media coverage for future BPL events. It was advised that 5pm – 6pm daily is the best time to put posts on social media.

Bowls North-West

- Written report as presented prior to the meeting.
- Matters raised re State Pennant Finals dates and Tasmanian Masters Games have been addressed in the Draft Calendar 2022-23 above.

Bowls South

- Written report as presented prior to the meeting.
- Umpires for State Events – Conditions of Play require one umpire per green for State events. This is not enough as it does not provide time for any breaks by umpires. It was noted that some umpires at State events had other duties such as Match Manager and this should be discouraged. It was agreed to change Conditions of Play accordingly. Consideration should be given to involving ITO's in State events around the State – perhaps on the last few days of Gala Week and they be invited to run umpiring seminars in the regions. Les Harrison did not agree with this suggestion re ITO's.
- Conditions of Play for State Events – need to be revisited. There are gaps in the Conditions of Play. Peter Kirby undertook to provide more information to BTAS as it will be updating its Conditions of play before the start of next season.
- Junior SWC – BTS requested that Junior SWC in future be played in central locations such as Longford, Midlands and Oatlands to remove the need for overnight travel. It may require the need to move SWC2 away from Gala Week in January. Regions did not object to this proposal. It was agreed to refer this matter to the BTAS Junior Development Committee for its consideration with a request to make a recommendation to the BTAS Board.
- Bowling Arm Regional Round Robin – BTS lent its uniforms to players in the final round last season and recommended that other regions considered doing the same in the future.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

There was no general business - as all issues were covered above.

Meeting closed: 1.35 pm.

Next Meeting:

Date: TBA – September 2022

Time: 11am

Venue: TBA – possibly South

Signed by Chairman