



## Regional Consultative Committee Minutes Monday 16 January 2023

Longford Bowls Club

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### PRESENT:

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

### IN ATTENDANCE:

David Back – BTAS Board / Treasurer      Phil Prouse – BTAS Board  
Anne Mullavey – BTAS Board                      Leonie Price – BTAS Board  
Mark Strochnetter – BTAS Board – From 11am.      Gena Short – BTAS Board  
Vicki Bassett - Bowls North  
Dave Jeffrey - Bowls North-West  
Matt Burgess - Bowls Australia President – From 11.20am.  
Matthew Kennedy - Bowls Australia CEO  
Rob Soward - Regional Bowls Manager (Tasmania)  
Rob McGuire – BTAS CEO (Minute Taker)

### APOLOGY:

Jane Pickett – BTAS Board

Meeting opened at 10.35am.

### WELCOME:

President Bernard Knight welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular Bowls Australia CEO Matthew Kennedy and Bowls Australia President Matt Burgess who will be joining the meeting shortly.

### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The previous minutes from the meeting on 19 September 2022 were accepted as tabled.  
Moved: Ben Fidler      Seconded: Maxine Viney.    Carried

### BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

- Gender Identity – At the September 2021 RCC meeting, BTS advised that it had developed a policy to address this issue - a copy was sent to BTAS and regions. The BA Member Protection Policy addresses this matter, and it was agreed to take no further action, however, Peter Kirby believes that the BA Member Protection

Policy does not adequately address the matter. Rob McGuire advised that the BA Member Protection Policy has been replaced by the National Integrity Framework. At the September 2022 RCC meeting, it was also agreed that registration forms and BowlsLink needs to be amended to reflect more than just male and female. Rob McGuire has checked BowlsLink and it does offer more – namely male, female and other.

- 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.

BTAS has recently been advised that the only doctor providing classification services to the Disability Bowlers in Tasmania has resigned.

BTAS has also been advised that IBD (International Bowls for the Disabled) controls classification, and classifiers are independent officials, not technically owned by BA or any state. Accordingly this is their responsibility, and it is not up to BTAS to provide remuneration for their doctors.

- BN Survey Results – At the September 2022 RCC meeting, BN agreed to provide BTAS with an electronic copy of the survey results for distribution to regions. This has been done and has been sent to regions.
- BPL Tridents Merchandise – At the RCC meeting in September 2022, RBM Rob Soward undertook to contact BA again regarding the non-availability of Tridents merchandise from the BA Bowls Shop. Rob advised that he had done that but there was still only limited merchandise available due to a variety of reasons.
- Update of Conditions of Play for Statewide Events – The changes proposed by Peter Kirby have been made to BTAS Conditions of Play.
- All future Junior SWC at Longford – At the RCC meeting in May 2022, 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. 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. This has been done and agreed to commencing next season. Regions have been advised.
- Appointment of Elected BTAS Directors – A BTAS special general meeting was held immediately prior to today's RCC meeting which approved changing the current process of appointing Elected Directors if more than one person is

nominated for the position. Such appointments in the future will be made by the region with no need to be elected by the clubs located within the region.

- BTAS use of ITO's – At the RCC meeting in September 2022, BTS advised that BTAS should look at utilising the expertise of ITO's at BTAS events. The BTAS CEO undertook to meet with the two ITO's in Tasmania to see how they could be better used at BTAS events. This was done and it was agreed that we would let regions know that ITO's are available to assist at State events if required – they did not want to step on toes in the regions. It would be good if the ITO's are present and visible which they were at the recent Gala Week in Launceston. They could also hold “forums” in the regions at the same time.
- Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) Cards and Club Boards – At the September 2022 RCC meeting, BTS advised that it is having trouble with some clubs who do not believe that their Board Members need to have a WWVP card. BTS believes that BTAS policy in that regard is not being followed. What can BTAS do to make this happen?

The BTAS CEO has investigated this matter and it is apparent that the current BTAS Working With Children Policy (which was approved in October 2018) is out of date and needs to be reviewed and updated.

The BA Child Safeguarding Policy – Appendix 1 makes it clear that there are some roles that are child-related positions. These positions include people who have a perceived or actual level of authority (including from a child's perspective) and a person who has access to a child's personal information like where they live etc. This would include committee members potentially given they are “in charge” of the running of the club and could easily be perceived as a person in authority, particularly by a child. Lots of people make the mistake of thinking that if they do not have face—to-face contact with children unsupervised then they do not need to have a WWVP card.

The same thing applies to vulnerable adults who include people who may not be able to take care of themselves or who may not be able to protect themselves against harm or exploitation by reason of age, disability, mental illness and the like.

Some of the risks that could arise include:

- A club member using the membership details of a child or vulnerable adult to make contact away from the club itself and engage in inappropriate or unlawful behaviour.
- A club uses social media to promote activities and events and club members engage in communication online – again this can result in inappropriate or unlawful conduct either online or in-person.

Section 16 of the *Tasmanian Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013* makes it an offence to work with vulnerable people without being registered. Monetary fines are applicable to anyone caught offending. It was agreed that regions and clubs should be advised accordingly.

Sport and Recreation has advised that some of the activities that other sporting organisations are undertaking include:

- Training executive committees on their responsibilities.
- Providing resources like materials to include in newsletters, social media postings etc to promote the need to be a safe place for everybody and particularly children and vulnerable people.
- Developing appropriate policies.

Sport and Recreation is keen to promote awareness of responsibilities, including helping sporting organisations navigate the requirements and to support positive change so that sport can be safe and enjoyable. Sport and Recreation can offer child safeguarding training to small groups if that is of any help and the BTAS Board has already agreed to take this up when BTAS has updated its relevant policies.

- BTAS Bowling Arm RRR Points – At the September 2022 RCC meeting, BN asked if points gained by each region in the BTAS Bowling Arm RRR can be included in the overall points for State Wide Challenge (SWC) . One issue is that the overall winner is currently declared after the final round of Open SWC which will be held on 5 March 2023 – whilst the final round of the Bowling Arm RRR will not be held until 30 April 2023. BTAS considered this matter but agreed to leave it as is.

#### **MATTERS SUBMITTED BY BTAS BOARD:**

Nil.

#### **REGIONAL REPORTS:**

##### 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.
- Peter Kirby spoke positively on the affect of its grants to clubs for player participation and junior development to encourage increased participation in bowls activities within clubs. In particular its “five game rule” has been very positively adopted by clubs and has resulted in a number of barefoot bowlers and social bowlers trying pennant and liking it and have now become full pennant playing members.

- Peter Kirby further advised that there are now only five clubs in BTS that have more than one grass green available for BTS and BTAS events due to the number of synthetic greens being put in by BTS clubs. It is more and more difficult to find enough grass greens to host BTS and BTAS events on. It was agreed to discuss this matter further at the next RCC meeting.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

### **a. Centralisation of SWC**

BNW would like to centralise SWC in the North. This would reduce costs significantly for BNW and BTS. The regions have a duty of care to their players and returning to the North West after playing SWC in Hobart is an issue, particularly for Senior players. BN supported the proposal.

BTS was strongly against the proposal. It would result in travelling for all SWC for the South, it doesn't help promote the game in the regions, it is inequitable as SWC would no longer be shared around the regions and appeared to be all about money.

It is proposed that regions in turn would still provide a second team for SWC as is currently the case.

Moved: Ben Fidler Seconded: Maxine Viney "that State Wide Challenge be centralised in the North rather than rotated around the regions". Carried.

President Bernard Knight advised that this was only a recommendation that would now be considered further by the BTAS Board.

### **b. Development and Promotion of the Game**

BNW has currently purchased \$16k worth of live streaming gear (in conjunction with the North West Indoor Bias Association) to help promote the game in the North West. BNW wanted to know what BTAS was doing to develop and promote the game apart from its annual "Come and Try Month".

BTAS CEO Rob McGuire responded as follows:

- BTAS also undertake live streaming to promote the game – five grand finals were live streamed at the January 2023 Gala Week.
- The Tasmania Tridents in the BPL with local clinics being held throughout Tasmania is a great promotion of the game.
- BTAS has established a Junior Development Committee, a Bowling Arm Tasmania Committee and a Disability Bowls Tasmania Committee, all three of which have been created to help develop and promote the game to their respective audiences in Tasmania.
- Through BA, the RBM Tasmania, Rob Soward, assists clubs where required, amongst others, to help develop and promote the game.

It was agreed that responsibility for development and promotion of the game means that we all need to get involved – BA, BTAS, regions, clubs and members.

Concerns were also raised about what is available for players when they are too old to play in the Juniors. SWC Conditions of Play use to require regions to select a number of under 25 men and under 35 women in their teams but this has since been removed. This concern was also raised at a recent meeting with State Selectors and Coaches.

### **c. Juniors and The Nationals**

BNW raised concerns regarding Juniors at The Nationals in 2022 - no breakfast was provided at their accommodation and no transport was provided to and from their accommodation and the bowls club. BTS also raised concerns that the Juniors arrived too late to practice before The Nationals.

BTAS CEO Rob McGuire advised as follows:

- BTAS paid for breakfast for the Juniors at The Nationals in 2022. Their accommodation at Montego Sands Resort was in two-bedroom apartments with fully equipped kitchens and laundries. Money was provided to their match managers to purchase breakfast provisions – fruit juice, milk, cereal, bread and spreads etc – so that they could get their own breakfasts each morning, however they decided to purchase breakfast at nearby cafes etc each day (which were paid for by BTAS).
- Montego Sands Resort is less than a thirty-minute walk along the Esplanade to the Broadbeach Bowls Club. Bowls were able to be left at Broadbeach. It was thought that it was not unreasonable for our Under 18's to walk to and from the bowls club each day. In the end, some of the parents paid for taxis and Ubers.
- Delays in flights meant that the Juniors did not have as long as anticipated for practice before The Nationals 2022, but they were able to practice after the Opening Ceremony. In 2023, the Juniors will be flying into WA two days before the start of The Nationals which will give them one full day's practice.

### **d. Green Fees for State Events**

BTS again raised the issue of paying clubs green fees for hosting BTAS events. BTS is finding it difficult to get enough clubs to volunteer to host BTAS events. It pays its clubs who host BTS events.

BTAS CEO Rob McGuire supported paying clubs to host BTAS events and suggested that regions could be charged an additional fee each year based on the number of clubs that they have in their regions and that the money raised by that fee be distributed to the clubs that host BTAS events.

#### **e. Player Contributions for National Events**

BTS raised the issue of player contributions towards the cost of participation in Test Series against other states, and participation in The Nationals. Some players currently make contributions whilst others pay nothing whilst other players pay everything apart from airfares which are paid for by BA.

BTS recommended that all players be required to contribute towards the cost of attending The Nationals. BNW and BN did not oppose this recommendation.

The BTAS Board agreed to investigate this matter further.

#### **f. Markers for BTAS Singles**

Concerns were raised that competitors in the recent Bowling Arm State Championships were also required to mark a singles game in the sectional play part of the championships. It should be considered that markers be provided for all these games. It was agreed to refer this matter back to the Bowling Arm Tasmania Committee for its consideration and recommendations.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch at 12.30pm. The meeting reconvened after lunch at 1.15pm.

#### **g. Presentation and Question and Answer Session from Bowls Australia**

Bowls Australia President Matt Burgess and Bowls Australia CEO Matthew Kennedy were both present at the meeting. Both introduced themselves and provided information about their backgrounds. Matthew Kennedy then outlined progress with BA's new Strategic Plan, he provided key reflections of his time with the International Cricket Council, Tennis Victoria, Swimming Australia and his initial observations, opportunities and challenges with BA.

Both Matt Burgess and Matthew Kennedy then answered many questions raised by attendees on a wide variety of topics.

President Bernard Knight thanked Matt and Matthew for their attendance which was greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

Meeting closed: 2.30pm.

Next Meeting: TBA – May 2023  
Time: Immediately after Annual General Meeting.  
Venue: TBA

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Signed by Chairman