



**Regional Consultative Committee Minutes
Monday 22 May 2023
Longford Bowls Club**

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

David Back	–	BTAS Board / Treasurer	Phil Prouse	–	BTAS Board
Anne Mullavey	–	BTAS Board	Leonie Price	–	BTAS Board
Jane Pickett	–	BTAS Board			
Vicki Bassett	-	Bowls North			
Rob McGuire	–	BTAS CEO (Minute Taker)			

APOLOGY:

Rob Soward – BA RBM Tasmania

Meeting opened at 11.45am.

WELCOME:

President Bernard Knight welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular the new Bowls North President, Aaron Page.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The previous minutes from the meeting on 16 January 2023 were accepted as tabled.

Moved: Ben Fidler Seconded: Phil Prouse.

Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

- **Use of synthetic greens for BTAS events** - At the last RCC meeting, 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 this RCC meeting.

Moved: Peter Kirby “that BTAS change its Conditions of Play to enable synthetic greens to be used for BTAS events”. Motion lapsed – no seconder.

President Bernard Knight advised that despite there being no seconder for the motion, this matter will be considered by the BTAS Board.

- **What is available for players when they are too old to play for the juniors –** SWC Conditions of Play use to mandate the playing of a number of younger players in their sides. It was agreed that if the players were good enough, they would be selected in regional SWC sides.
- **Green Fees for State Events** – This was discussed as part of the BTAS budget deliberations. Getting clubs to host BTAS events is not a problem at this stage so no further action was taken in this regard.
- **Player Co-Contributions for National Events** – At the last RCC meeting, all regions agreed that players should be required to contribute towards the cost of attending national events. The BTAS Board has not changed co-contributions for 2023-24, however, the Board believes that everyone should be equal – Open, Seniors and Disability players but not Under 18’s who should only pay half the adult rate. The Board will develop a three-year plan so that by then everyone pays the same co-contributions.
- **Markers for BTAS Bowling Arm singles events** – At the last RCC meeting, concerns were raised that competitors in the Bowling Arm State Championships were also required to mark their singles game in the sectional play part of the championships. Can 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. This matter was discussed at the February 2023 Bowling Arm Tasmania Committee meeting where it was recorded in the minutes that “...if they weren’t fit enough, then either get fit or not enter. It was agreed to discuss it further in a later meeting.” This has not happened. It was agreed to refer this matter to the regions for their thoughts on this matter – and request regions to “reply all” so that everyone is aware of each region’s thoughts - and discuss this matter again at the next RCC meeting.

MATTERS SUBMITTED BY BTAS BOARD:

- **Centralisation of SWC** – This matter was discussed at length at the last RCC meeting and all regions have forwarded submissions to the BTAS Board on this matter. President Bernard Knight advised that the matter would not be discussed at the RCC meeting again today unless regions had new information to add to their submissions.

Bowls North suggested that BTAS should explore the option of introducing the State team back into SWC instead of the region's second teams.

The BTAS Board will consider this matter and decide on same at its Board meeting which will follow the RCC meeting.

- **BTAS Audited Financial Statements 2022-23** – These were circulated prior to the meeting and questions on same were answered at the AGM.
- **Affiliation Fees 2023-24 and BTAS Budget 2023-24** – The Treasurer advised regions of Affiliation Fees for 2023-24 in April 2023 – which have been increased by 2.5%. BTAS is budgeting for a surplus of \$6,763 in 2023-24. Last year BTAS budgeted for a loss of (\$35,787) and ended up with a loss of (\$2,703). The CEO outlined the major changes to budget line items for 2023-24 as follows:
 - Increase in entry fees for State Championships in 2023-24.
 - Prize money for State Championships will remain unchanged, however there will be no prizemoney for losing semi-finalists in future.
 - Bowling Arm events at the Senior Championships have been dropped due to a lack of entries.
 - No SWC per event prizemoney will be paid in 2023-24.
 - Savings in accommodation for The Nationals by booking early and a proposed Test Series versus Victoria proposed to be held in Tasmania costs less than travelling interstate.
- **Draft Calendars 2023-24 – 2025-26** – Draft calendars were circulated to regions before the meeting. The major change is moving Junior SWC and the Junior State Championships from Gala Week in January each year and fitting these in as stand-alone events later in January each year. However, this clashes with the Penguin Classic which some of the Juniors enter as well. It was agreed to review the calendars to see if this clash can be avoided.

REGIONAL REPORTS:

Bowls North

- Written report as presented prior to the meeting.
- Changes to the BN Constitution were approved at their AGM.

Bowls North-West

- Written report as presented prior to the meeting.
- Pennant will be changing to nine team rosters in 2023-24. The CEO undertook to send sample matching rosters to BNW.
- BNW suggested that lunch for SWC be changed to canteen style food which would allow players to eat the foods that they wish to. It was agreed that the BTAS would look at this matter.

Bowls South

- Written report as presented prior to the meeting.
- BTS requested that BTAS prepare a weather policy. The BA policy refers to the Weather Policy of State Authorities as the guiding document for Controlling Authorities within each State. It was agreed that the BTAS Board would prepare a State Weather Policy which should include conditions for indoor centres, however, for State events the emphasis would be on delaying rather than abandoning play. Regions were requested to send a copy of their Weather Policy to BTAS.

The meeting adjourned for approximately twenty minutes for lunch at this point.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

a. Uniform Policy

BNW asked where regions stand in enforcing the Uniform Policy for pennant attire? With differences in the regions and the BTAS policy, it seems individuals are taking some extreme measures in their interpretations of the rules – including hat wear. BNW thinks there should be a unified front between regions and BTAS. There is a BA policy in place – the BA National Merchandise Program Logo Policy - however the biggest issue is who is going to police it? BNW believe that it needs to come from the top down.

It was agreed that the BA National Merchandise Program Logo Policy needs to be included in BTAS Conditions of Play and should include penalties for non-compliance. It was further agreed that BTAS should write to BA outlining our concerns over the policy.

b. Working with Vulnerable People Card

BNW asked who must hold a WWVP Card? This issue was raised at an BNW Executive Meeting and BNW want BTAS to clarify the rule on this. Do Club Executives need to hold a WWVP Card on Club Boards?

This matter was dealt with at the last RCC meeting and all regions and clubs were advised of the outcomes on 23 January 2023. In short, all Board members and anyone who interacts with children or vulnerable adults within clubs or regions must have a current WWVP card. 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. If regions or clubs are unsure whether a club is complying with the Act, they should contact Department of Justice - Consumer, Building and Occupational Services or BTAS.

c. Social Media Policy

BNW raised concerns regarding the increased use of social media within bowls. There has been an increased amount of 'un-kind' comments from individuals on matters of club greens, officials and even club sponsorship. BNW would like any group or page run by BTAS or regions to monitor their pages closely. BNW believe BTAS should assist the regions with an overall Social Media Policy to make a stand against this type of harassment, bullying and slander on social media sites. Individuals need to know they cannot just say what they like and not have any consequences to their comments.

BTS has a very good Social Media Policy and BTAs has recently updated its own Social Media Policy. Regions are free to use the BTAS Social Media Policy and amend it to suit themselves.

d. Funding Cuts & Sponsorship

Aaron Page queried the funding cuts in the budget, particularly in the area of high performance. Aaron questioned if BTAS is looking for sponsors and queried why there isn't a Sponsorship Portfolio on the BTAS Board. Should BTAS look at re-introducing the DJ Motors raffle or something similar? It was agreed that to refer this matter to the BTAS Board.

e. Selection Policy & Selectors

BNW advised that it was noticeable that not all Selectors attend relevant SWC or State Championship events, or if they do attend, they do not always appear to be watching players in action. This needs to be addressed, perhaps by the Chairman of Selectors. It was agreed to refer this matter to the BTAS Board.

f. Communication with State Players

Aaron Page raised concerns that there did not appear to be enough communication with State Players. There had been rumours of the cancellation of the Victorian Test Series and the introduction of player contributions – it would be better for players to be told directly by BTAS instead of hearing of these matters via rumours.

Meeting closed: 2.36pm.

Next Meeting: TBA – September 2023
Time: 11am
Venue: South

Signed by Chairman