



**Regional Consultative Committee Minutes  
Monday 25 September 2023**

**Longford Bowls Club**

---

**PRESENT:**

Bernard Knight	–	Bowls Tasmania (Chair)	Kerry Lane	–	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	Lynne McDougall	–	BTAS Board
David Heron	–	Bowls North	Rae Simpson	–	Bowls North
Vicki Bassett	-	Bowls North	Michael Andersch	-	Bowls South
Mark Atkinson	-	Bowls North West			
Rob McGuire	–	BTAS CEO (Minute Taker)			

**APOLOGIES:**

Peter Kirby	–	Bowls South
John Glisson	–	BTAS Board

Meeting opened at 10.28am.

**WELCOME:**

President Bernard Knight welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The previous minutes from the meeting on 22 May 2023 were accepted as tabled.

Moved: Ben Fidler Seconded: Jane Pickett.

Carried

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:**

- **Use of synthetic greens for BTAS events** - At the last RCC meeting, Peter Kirby 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 and moved a motion to enable BTAS to change its Conditions of Play to enable synthetic greens to be used for BTAS events. The motion lapsed for lack of a seconder, however, President Bernard Knight advised that despite there being no seconder for the motion, this matter would be considered by the BTAS Board.

The BTAS Board has since agreed to amend its Conditions of Play such that there shall be no discrimination in favour of either grass or synthetic greens in the allocation of greens for BTAS events provided that whatever surfaces are used are up to a required standard on which to play the events.

Ben Fidler queried what a required standard would be and was advised that greens would need to be appropriate for BTAS events and that would be determined by the BTAS Match Committee in consultation with the host region.

- **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. It was agreed to refer this matter to the regions for their thoughts on this matter.

BNW advised that all players have Conditions of Play to read, and if they think they cannot compete under the conditions, then they should reconsider entering. Another idea was for the player themselves to try to find a suitable marker to stand in for them. If one discipline gets markers, then should not everyone, we all know how hard it is to find volunteers.

BN advised that it is clear in BTAS Conditions of Play that it is a requirement for players in bowling arm singles matches to mark games and players that enter are required to mark a match. If a player is unable to mark a game as per Conditions of Play, then they should consider not entering the event. If a player is unable to mark a game when required, they should find themselves a suitable replacement and inform the controlling body. Penalties should be applied to repeat offenders.

BTS believe that host regional bodies should provide markers for bowling arm and disability singles events.

The BTAS Board has agreed in all BTAS singles sectional play – and not just bowling arm events - that players should mark their game as required or find someone to mark that game for them. Conditions of Play will be amended accordingly.

- **Draft Calendars 2023-24 – 2025-26** – Draft calendars were circulated to regions before the last RCC meeting. The major change was 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 clashed 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. This has been done and there is no longer a clash.
- **Lunches for SWC** – At the last RCC meeting, 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 Board would look at this matter. This was done in May 2023. The BTAS Board has decided that meals for SWC players and officials will continue as is. A request to revert to tuck shop style food paid for by the players was considered but was rejected due to the difficulty that would have placed on host clubs to serve everyone in a timely basis in the limited time available for the lunch break.
- **BTAS Weather Policy** – At the last RCC meeting, BTS requested that BTAS prepare a weather policy. The Bowls Australia (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.

This has been done and was sent to regions prior to this meeting. It includes provisions for indoor centres. It is more flexible than the BTS Weather Policy which abandons play when the temperature gets to 35 degrees. The BTAS Weather Policy only requires play to be suspended when the temperature reaches 35 degrees until the temperature drops to 32 degrees. There is more urgency on BTAS to finish each day of its events than is the case for BTS events.

- **Uniform Policy and Bowls Australia's National Merchandising Policy** – At the last RCC meeting, BNW asked where regions stood in enforcing the Uniform Policy for pennant attire? BNW thinks there should be a unified front between regions and BTAS. 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.

This has been done and BA has advised that it already has plans in place for a complete and comprehensive National Merchandising Policy review and future planning process over the remainder of the year. BA believes that there are no easy answers. BA acknowledges that it must take the lead to tackle it; and will do so once it gets on top of some other more immediate needs.

BTAS Conditions of Play have been amended to include reference to the BA National Merchandise Program Policy and a further amendment is going to today's BTAS Board meeting which includes penalties for non-adherence.

Bowls North West advised that it is no good having penalties in Conditions of Play unless BTAS is going to enforce them. It was agreed that the BTAS Board would revisit this matter again.

- **Funding Cuts & Sponsorship** - At the last RCC meeting, Bowls North queried the funding cuts in the BTAS budget, particularly in high performance. Is BTAS looking for sponsors? Why isn't there a Sponsorship Portfolio on the BTAS Board? Should BTAS look at re-introducing the DJ Motors raffle or something similar? It was agreed to refer this matter to the BTAS Board.

This matter has been considered by the BTAS Board which has agreed that if cuts must be made, then they need to be made right across the board and that includes high performance. BTAS works hard to seek sponsors – and in the past twelve months has put sponsorship proposals before ACEIT, J Carroll Club Promotions, Henselite, Puma, West Coast Clothing, A-Hemp, Juicy Isle and Cadbury – unfortunately without a lot of success. The Board discussed a major raffle but believed that clubs would not support a DJ Motors raffle or similar.

Aaron Page questioned if cuts were being made across the board and if so, did they include the CEO salary and BTAS Board Honorariums. He also questioned who is looking after the Sponsorship portfolio on the Board. President Bernard Knight advised that we don't have a director specifically looking after sponsorship at present, but to contact him if anyone has any ideas on who may be interested in looking after this portfolio.

- **Selection Policy and Selectors** - At the last RCC meeting, 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.

The current Selection Policy requires Selectors to attend semi-finals and finals of State Championships, and to attend state trials, practice sessions and State-Wide Challenge events to assess the suitability of players for selection. This is not always happening. The BTAS Board has agreed that the RCC's concerns need to be communicated to the Chairman of Selectors and all Selectors – and this has been done.

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

- **Conditions of Play 2023-24** – SWC Conditions of Play for 2023-24 were sent to regions on 17 September 2023. Events Conditions of Play for 2023-24 are still being finalised but will be sent to regions after the October 2023 Board meeting.

The first rounds of SWC for 2023-24 will be played as follows:

- Juniors – North - Sunday 26 November 2023.
- Open – North – Sunday 3 December 2023.

➤ Seniors – North – Tuesday 12 December 2023.

All results will be entered online using Bowls Link, including the Juniors. Regions will be required to enter their teams in the system prior to each event. Regions must have people attending SWC who are able to access and properly document any rink changes on Bowls Link. Host regions will be required to enter the results into Bowls Link at the event.

- **The Nationals 2024 and 2025** – Following the success of the National Bowling Arm Championships in Devonport earlier this month, the Devonport Country Club (DCC) would like The Nationals to be held there in 2024 and 2025.

Around eighteen months ago, an approach was made by BA to the Tasmanian Government through Events Tasmania to hold the 2024 and 2025 The Nationals at the DCC. Events Tasmania advised BA in September or October 2022 that the event is of interest to them. They were happy with the proposal, and it aligns well with their strategic priorities, bringing in a substantial number of interstate visitors to regional areas of Tasmania. However, the States 'Event Attractions' budget, where it secures funds to attract new events such as this one, was fully committed for the period BA is looking at meaning it currently had no available funding for The Nationals. BA and Events Tasmania agreed to re-connect in six months when Events Tasmania would provide another update. This re-connection never happened.

BTAS has contacted BA again regarding the interest from the DCC and BA has agreed to make another approach to Events Tasmania. If BA doesn't get the dollars it wants from Events Tasmania, the DCC has advised that it will do what it can to raise the shortfall from the Devonport City Council and other sponsors. The DCC will also approach local MPs to try and get them to put some pressure on Events Tasmania through its Minister.

- **Bowls Australia Finances** – President Bernard Knight advised the meeting of the current financial difficulties being experienced by Bowls Australia and asked all present to treat the information as confidential at this stage. This will become public knowledge when Bowls Australia's financial statements for 2022-23 are tabled at its Annual General Meeting on 6 November 2023.

As a result of the financial difficulties being experienced by Bowls Australia, it is seeking input from State and Territory Associations on options going forward including The Nationals and discussions took place at the meeting regarding this matter. General thoughts at the meeting included the following:

- It appears to RCC members that the BA Board is placing too much emphasis on immediate cost cutting measures and saving dollars before focusing on its core business of bowls.
- The whole process of addressing the future of The Nationals has been too rushed.
- Consideration must be given to providing additional financial assistance to the smaller STAs to enable them to field sides at The Nationals.

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

## **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.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

### **a. Disability Bowls Tasmania Committee**

The BTAS Disability Bowls Tasmania Committee asked if regions at their next Delegates Meetings could ask clubs to identify possible disability bowlers within their clubs and provide details of these members to the Bowls Tasmania.

### **b. Bowling Arm Tasmania Committee**

BNW and BTS currently mandate early Saturday Pennant starts on request when SWC is being held in the South and the North West the following day. The Bowling Arm Tasmania Committee has asked if this can occur when it similarly has regional round robins the following day. It was agreed that this request should be directed to the regions by BTAS.

### **c. Bowls North West - Letter from Alison Venn**

BNW tabled a letter from Alison Venn querying:

- The BTAS decision to mandate playing uniform rather than have a separate travelling uniform.
- How can players be selected to play SWC and for Tasmania without playing pennant, and State Championships.

The CEO advised:

- A separate playing top was offered to all players in 2023 at a cost – just one player wanted to purchase one. It was then that the BTAS Board decided to make the state uniform plus black shorts or pants the mandated travelling top.
- Selection issues are a matter for Selectors and the Policy – the Selection Policy is quite clear on eligibility:

*Players registered as members of a Tasmanian bowling club and affiliated with Bowls Tasmania must be actively participating in Bowls Tasmania and Regional Authority competitions to be eligible to be selected to represent Tasmania. In determining this criteria Bowls Tasmania may consider extenuating circumstances as to why a player cannot be actively participating in that season and grant exemptions.*

Players are not required to play in regional and BTAS championships to be selected in the State side but those that do must enhance their chances of selection and those that don't certainly do not help their chances of selection.

#### **d. Bowls North West - BTAS and GST**

BNW advised that its income now exceeded the threshold such that it is now required to register for GST with the Australian Taxation Office. It has requested BTAS to bill BNW Clubs directly for affiliation fees owing to BTAS by BNW so that its income will go below the threshold for GST.

Treasurer David Back advised that BTAS affiliation fees are legally an expense for BNW and the amount payable by its clubs are income in its hands. It would be quite inappropriate for BNW to issue invoices in the name of BTAS. However, he advised that this matter will be discussed fully at the BTAS Board meeting following the RCC meeting.

#### **e. Bowls North – Novice Champion of Champions and Veterans Singles State Finals**

BN requested that BTAS conduct Novice Champion of Champions and Veterans Singles State Finals events. It was agreed that these events would not be held as BNW and BTS do not hold these events.

#### **f. Bowls North – State Wide Challenge Format**

BN presented a proposal regarding Open SWC for 2023-24 which recommends a change to the format of Open SWC for 2023-24 to become four teams consisting of Tasmania, Bowls North, Bowls North West and Bowls Tasmania South, instead of the current situation whereby the host region provides a “second” team. The BTAS Board agreed to consider this matter as a matter of urgency at its meeting following the RCC meeting.

#### **g. Bowls North – Sponsorship and Fundraising**

Aaron Page questioned why a potential sponsor who had contacted the BTAS CEO on several occasions to enquire about becoming a BTAS sponsor but had never been contacted. Aaron declined to name the potential sponsor when asked to do so but undertook to talk to the CEO after the meeting. The BTAS CEO advised that it was impossible to respond if he was not told who Aaron was referring to.

#### **h. Bowls North – Cross Regions Dual Membership**

Aaron Page advised that BN had received requests for players from BNW to play in both regions, however BN has prohibited this in its Conditions of Play. The BTAS CEO advised this is contrary to BA and BTAS policy. BA's Affiliation and Eligibility to Play Policy provides the following:

##### *6.2 Intrastate:*

*6.2.1 A player shall not be permitted to play Pennant for two (2) or more clubs which are each affiliated with the same STA in the same Bowling Season unless specifically permitted by the STA under the conditions of play applicable to the event.*

In September 2016, the BTAS Board resolved to allow players to register in two different regions for the purposes of playing pennant. This allows a player to be registered in one region for one pennant competition and registered with a second region for a different pennant competition. Players must nominate which club will be their "primary club". This will be the only club that players are permitted to play club championship games for. The region that this club is a member of will be the region that the player is permitted to represent or play regional events in. For this to take effect, players must complete the BTAS Permit to Play application form available on the BTAS website and return it to BTAS. Players must be registered and pay full affiliation fees in both regions to be entitled to play pennant for both clubs. They must also be submitted by both clubs into the database. Club fees are the decision of individual clubs.

BN was advised that the BA and BTAS policies override the BN Condition of Play.

#### **i. Bowls South – Working with Vulnerable People Policy**

BTS asked how BTAS is enforcing the WWVP requirements within its policies. The BTAS CEO advised that BTAS enforces the requirement for all BTAS relevant positions – it has a WWVP register (on an Excel spreadsheet) which is checked and updated on a regular basis. In addition, the CEO now adds any such WWVP details on BowlsLink. BTAS does not check that regions or clubs are following the BTAS directive. If regions or clubs fail to follow the policy, they are in effect breaking Tasmanian law. 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.



**j. Bowls South – Centralised Seniors SWC**

BTS asked how BTAS intend to assess the viability of all rounds of Seniors SWC being played in a central location (i.e., the North). The BTAS CEO advised that the BTAS Board has agreed to review how Seniors SWC goes in 2023-24. That will be in done by checking how each round goes , checking how the second “Host” team goes and consultation with regions at the end of the season.

**k. Bowls North – Replacement of player in State Under 18 Team**

BN asked BTAS to explain how a new girl was added to the State Under 18 team following the late withdrawal of another girl and the Under 18 State Northern Selector was not consulted in this matter. The new girl is not even a registered bowler.

The BTAS CEO was advised, following the late withdrawal, that there were no other girls in Tasmania available for selection. Accordingly, the CEO approached BA to see if it could assist in identifying available girls in other states. BA was unable to assist. The State Under 18 Coach and Team Manager then identified a girl from Longford who had attended State training and she was subsequently approached and indicated her willingness to compete. This matter was discussed with the State Chairman of Selectors and all Under 18 Selectors at a recent training run at Devonport, when a further two girls were identified by the State Northern Selector. The original selection was ratified, and the girl was subsequently registered with BN and BTAS and has been selected in the team.

It is agreed that lack of communication is the key outcome from this matter. BTAS needs to ensure that all Selectors are involved in such selection matters in the future. It was further suggested that a list of all registered Under 18 players should be provided to the Selectors before the State team is chosen in future.

Meeting closed: 2.55pm.

Next Meeting: TBA – January 2024  
Time: 11am  
Venue: South

---

Signed by Chairman