



## Regional Consultative Committee Minutes Monday 20 May 2024

### Longford Bowls Club

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#### **PRESENT:**

Bernard Knight	–	Bowls Tasmania (Chair)	Peter Kirby	–	Bowls South
David Gewin	–	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
Lynne McDougall	–	BTAS Board	Jane Pickett	–	BTAS Board
John Glisson	-	BTAS Board			
Kerrie Lane	-	Bowls South			
Rob McGuire	–	BTAS CEO (Minute Taker)			
Carolyn Docking	-	BA Club Support Manager Tasmania			

#### **APOLOGIES:**

Nil.

Meeting opened at 11.15am.

#### **WELCOME:**

President Bernard Knight welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The previous minutes from the meeting on 22 January 2024 were accepted as tabled.

Moved: Jane Pickett Seconded: David Back.

Carried

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

- **Eligibility for B Grade Events** – At the January 2024 RCC meeting, the question was asked - should B Grade be Division 3 and below? The BTAS Board agreed that it would investigate this matter in consultation with regions.

BTAS has the following eligibility criteria in its Conditions of Play regarding this matter:

- *Players will be deemed to be eligible for B Grade events if they have played the majority of their games in the current season in Division 2 or below for Saturday Pennant and / or Division 3 and below for Thursday Pennant as at close of entries for an event.*

All three regions currently have basically the same eligibility criteria in their Conditions of Play. BTS has advised that it is considering a change for next season that Thursday Pennant Division 2 also be classed as B Grade. BTS does not get any Thursday Division 2 bowlers entering the Open Championships and they can't enter the B Grade Championships at present. Its B Grade Thursday Pennant Championships only attract four or five entries at present which is not enough. BNW suggested that it remain as is - B Grade has the majority of members. BN has also resolved that it remain as is.

At its April 2024 meeting, the BTAS Board decided that it will no longer run State B Grade championships. BNW advised that it will not be running B Grade championships next season either.

- **Venue for January Gala Week** - At the January RCC meeting, David Gewin advised that feedback from players indicated that it was difficult to find accommodation in Hobart in January 2024 for Gala Week. Could Gala Week in January be swapped with another region each year it is due to be held in Hobart? The BTAS Board agreed to look at this matter, but this has slipped through the cracks and has not been done. There is no rush as this won't happen again until January 2027. BTS advised that it doesn't matter where the championships are held in January each year – if players wait until the last minute to book your accommodation they will have problems.
- **Para Bowls Player Classifications on BowlsLink** – At the January 2024 RCC meeting, Lynne McDougall suggested that it would be good if para bowls player classifications could be added to Bowls Link. A list of Tasmanian players and their classifications has been provided to Lynne, and she has contacted them to ask if they have any objections to having their classifications shown on BowlsLink which will be updated in due course.
- **State Chair of Selectors** - At the January 2024 RCC meeting, the meeting was advised that Trevor Docking had recently resigned as State Chair of Selectors. The BTAS Board was reviewing the position description for the position. If regions had any suggestions or comments on the role, they were asked to contact BTAS ASAP.

The position description was changed to require the successful person to have done the Bowls Australia Selection Module, panel meetings should be done via Zoom and be held after SWC, championship events and State training sessions and not during same., the Chair is not required to attend all SWC, Championship events and State training sessions and the Chair is also to be a member of the BTAS High Performance Committee, a member of the BPL Committee and is a selector for the Tasmania Tridents team.

The position was advertised, and Phil Hobbs was appointed by the Board in February 2024 to fill the position.

- **State Satellite Coach** – At the January 2024 RCC meeting, the meeting was advised that Bowls Australia was about to advertise for the new Satellite Coach position in Tasmania. Only one application was received and who was deemed by BA not to be suitable.

It has been agreed with BA that it may be better to remove all BA work from the role and make it BTAS specific and pay the successful person an honorarium rather than a salary. A draft position description has been drawn up along these lines and it is hoped to advertise this job again soon.

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

- **Review of centralisation of Senior SWC** – At its meeting in May 2023, the Board agreed that Senior SWC will be centralised in the North for the 2023-24 season for a trial period of one season and then review the situation after that. In September 2023 the Board agreed that the format of both Open and Senior SWC be changed such that SWC for 2023-24 and 2024-25 would become four teams consisting of the State team, BN, BNW and BTS, instead of the current situation whereby the host region provided a “second” team for the next two seasons.

Regions were asked what their position was on Senior SWC remaining centralised in the North?

BTS advised that some of its players will not play if Senior SWC continues to be centralised in the North. It should revert to the way it was and replace the State team with a second team from the region but allow that region to play a number of Under 60 players who can be seen by the Selectors in the lead up to becoming eligible to play Seniors. BTS believed that it should not have to provide umpires in the North.

BN believe the model works well as is and should continue to be centralised in the North. It is better for the State Senior team to play together in SWC before going to The Nationals. The current model means BTS and BNW save money on accommodation.

BNW believes that centralised SWC works but BNW is not a fan of sending umpires to the North – it should provide its own umpires.

- **BTAS Audited Financial Statements 2023-24** – These were circulated prior to the meeting and questions on same were answered at the AGM.
- **Affiliation Fees 2024-25 and BTAS Budget 2024-25** – The Treasurer advised regions of Affiliation Fees for 2024-25 in April 2024 – which have been increased by 2.5% (compared to a CPI increase of 3.3%). BTAS is budgeting for a surplus of \$2,112 in 2023-24. Last year BTAS budgeted for a profit of \$6,762 and ended up with a profit of \$3,186.
- **Draft Calendars 2023-24 – 2025-26** – Draft calendars were circulated to regions before the meeting and no concerns were raised with them.

The change of dates for The Nationals 2024 will impact on the regions ability to schedule all games in the season given that they do not play on public holiday weekends and prefer not to play double headers. The BTAS Board will permit regions to play pennant whilst The Nationals are on provided that if a team has more than two players and/or officials absent because they are officially at The Nationals, that club can request the region to reschedule that game to another date and that request cannot be refused by the region.

- **Suspensions** – BTAS has been advised of a number of suspensions in the past couple of months. In the past, BTAS would as a matter of course normally endorse the club suspension as endorsed by its region and would advise the other two regions in Tasmania and ask them to advise all their clubs accordingly. If the suspension went beyond the BTAS boundaries, BTAS would advise Bowls Australia of the suspension.

In the case of one recent suspension, BA was advised of same but then contacted BTAS and wanted to know:

- What authority a club had to put a “whole of Australia” suspension in place.
- From a club’s point of view, what authority did it have to suspend someone.

BA is now investigating this matter further.

At its meeting in April 2024, the BTAS Board agreed that BTAS should work with BA and our own three regions to develop a policy or procedures that will allow clubs to impose restrictions on players that are endorsed by their region and, if necessary, other regions in Tasmania and BTAS. If the incident is serious enough to impose an Australia wide ban, then let’s work together with BA to develop procedures whereby enough information is provided to BA to enable it to endorse or impose that ban.

It was further agreed that this matter be raised at this RCC meeting with a view of forming a committee to establish a State wide policy that could be used by all clubs that protects members, supports clubs, and ensures that penalties, when required, are substantive.

The general consensus of the meeting was that such a committee should be formed (with one representative from BTAS and one from each region) and report back to the next RCC meeting with a draft policy – and such draft policy should be sent to BA for its consideration.

## **REGIONAL REPORTS:**

### Bowls North

- Written report as presented prior to the meeting.

### Bowls North-West

- Written report as presented prior to the meeting.
- David Gewin advised that it is looking at playing all BNW championships in the off-season next year.

### Bowls Tasmania South

- Written report as presented prior to the meeting.
- Peter Kirby advised that this will be his last RCC meeting as he is standing down as the BTS President at the BTS AGM in June 2024.
- President Bernard Knight thanked Peter Kirby for his fantastic involvement and the contribution he has made as BTS President over the last nine years and wished him well for the future.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- **Live Streaming Issues** – Aaron Page noted that BTAS was having some issues with live streaming. He suggested that BTAS investigate changing its internet provider to someone like Starlink satellite internet. To address the Facebook issues with Switcher Studios, he suggested that BTAS consider seeking streaming expertise to sort this out (which would come at a cost). It was agreed to investigate these matters.

- **Regional assistance for BTAS events** – Aaron Page suggested that regional officials who assisted running BTAS events should be provided with the same things such as meals etc that BTAS officials receive, and this should be built into BTAS Conditions of Play. It was agreed to investigate this matter.
- **BTAS Volunteer** – Rather than look for a volunteer, Aaron Page suggested that BTAS consider employing someone to help run Gala Week etc – for example Warren Groves – rather than trying to find a volunteer.

President Bernard Knight thanked everyone for their attendance, and thanked Longford for providing the venue and closed the meeting at 12.55pm.

Next Meeting: September 2024 possibly via Zoom.

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Signed by Chairman