



MINUTES of the Board of BOWLS WA

Meeting held on Monday 25th November 2019 held at Bowls WA commencing at 7.45am.

1. PRESENT

Kerry Andersen, Ross Warburton, Debbie Capper Larry Bandy, Vince Del Prete, Marc Abonnel, Lee Bunney, Hendy Cowan, Lisa Featherby.

1.1 In attendance:

Ken Pride (CEO)

1.2 Apologies

Nil

1.3 Conflict of Interest

Nil

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 23rd September as well as the Special Board Meeting held on 14th October were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Marc Abonnel

Seconded: Larry Bandy

Agreed

2. STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DECISION

2.1 Coach / Selector interviews

The CEO tabled the recommendations of the interview committee of himself, Larry Bandy and Ross Dempsey. The recommendation that Therese Hastings (Ladies Coach) and Helen Stevens (Selector) were accepted, with the appointment for a period of two series ending on 31st October 2021.

The Board further considered the position of the Men's Coach and accepted a recommendation by circular resolution that Tony Hockey be appointed for the 2020 series.

The final position of Men's Selector remained open. The Over 60s and Under 18 appointments were currently being advertised and would close on 6th December. **NOTED.**

2.2 Staff leave – TOIL

The Audit, Risk and Finance Committee at their meeting of 14th October recommended to the Board a process of reduction and payout of TOIL for the staff. This recommendation was considered and accepted by the Board, being:

That all TOIL incurred be worked down over the winter months of 2020 and any balance accruing as at 1st October be paid out in cash as provided by the ACT. Following the 1st October cash out, the TOIL balance would be NIL and a new season commenced.

Action: The CEO to inform staff as required and set in place a system to reduce TOIL over the winter months.

3. STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 State Consultative Body meetings

The CEO tabled a summation of the SCB meetings held on the Gold Coast last month, attended by himself and President Kerry.

Major issues discussed included the progress towards the national affiliation fee and those areas that would form the *base services* provided by Bowls Australia, a federal grant received by BA towards the investigation of the most appropriate model of governance for the sport. BA is seeking an STA to be a "pilot study" for a more centralised model in 2020; this would most likely suit an ACT or NT given the simplicity of their operations. This continued a perceived push by Sport Australia to federalise sporting organisations.

Considerable discussion on the format of *The Nationals* and how that may be structurally best introduced in 2020, particularly the impact on the smaller STAs and how that would affect dual Over 60 and Open Series players. President Kerry strongly recommended the splitting of the two events into stand alone competitions to minimise the impact on smaller STAs and to maintain the integrity of the Open Sides Series.

Neil Dalrymple and Aiden Davis (BA) outlined the work being conducted on the National Marketing Plan including the spend on various areas within the media. A draft TVC was aired which received mixed reaction from the meeting, including BA Board members. Since that time some edits have been carried out to better represent a bowling club, albeit in a social sense. The campaign is scheduled to commence within days in the lead up to Christmas and then commence again post New Year into April.

There were further updates on HP Welfare Project, an Integrity Update on areas such as Child Safety, *Roll back the Clock and Jack Attack*, and an overview of the BA Strategic Projects on the radar for the next 12 months.

3.2 Operational Plan update

The October quarter update of the Operational Plan was tabled for the Board's information.

3.3 Bowls Premier League #10

The CEO and Larry Bandy attended BPL meetings with BA and the other franchise holders. Larry tabled a report on the event which was deemed very successful with the Perth Suns finishing 3rd after the qualifying rounds and just beaten in the elimination final. The meeting focussed on BPL#11 to be held for the first time at the Moama BC in late February, with all arrangements firmly in place. Fortunately, the Australia vs Rest of the World Challenge will act as a test event in coming weeks.

The CEO tabled a recommendation for the Perth Suns side for BPL#11 with no changes, although it was noted that Pieter Harris would be unavailable to Coach due to work commitments leading up to Country Week. All players are available.

The CEO also recommended a bonus payment be made to the team given the extra prizemoney earned, which was in line with the bonus paid in 2018 for the similar finish.

The Board endorsed both recommendations for the team make-up and bonus prizemoney. **NOTED**

The position of Coach will be worked through with a recommendation to be forwarded to the Board by Circular Resolution.

3.3.1 BPL Cup

The 3rd instalment of the BPL Cup was an amazing result for bowls in WA and for South Perth in particular. Discussion centred on whether a BPL Cup could be raised for the Moama event, which does cause issues for BWA as a state-based franchise – the other franchises as club based would find this an easier proposition. It was agreed that the winning South Perth team be offered the BPL Cup position, however all expenses would need to be met by the players involved. The Board agreed to this and the CEO would enquire as to their availability.

3.4 Murray League meeting – Affiliation Fees

The CEO and Larry Bandy on invitation from the Murray League attended a meeting at the Yunderup BC to address concerns in relation to the new affiliation fee. In addition to the Murray League clubs there were several clubs from other Leagues in attendance.

As expected, the meeting was a difficult one as clubs were informed on how the fee was arrived at, given past models were deemed unfair as to the basis they were charged on was in most cases, inaccurate information. It appeared the two primary issues that were of concern was the structure of the Base Fee and the disparity between the metro and country ratios per pennant place.

It was acknowledged that the Base Fee could be broader in its coverage with more levels from one to the next; this would be considered, and some models looked at in coming months. The issue of the disparity in ratio was already acknowledged by the Board as an issue and hence any future increases in TOTAL affiliation received, would be lesser in the country than the metro area. This would over time reduce the margin between the two.

The options available to the clubs were given, notably a part payment plan over several months and the League decided to meet at a future date to consider their options.

It was noted that as of today several of the Murray League clubs had paid in full or made arrangements to pay over a payment plan their affiliation fee.

Action: The Board requested the Affiliation Fee Committee meet as soon as able to consider any amendments to the current structure, most notably the Base Fee, for the 2020/21 financial year.

Larry Bandy and Hendy Cowan left the meeting.

4. REPORTS

4.1 President

President Kerry tabled a detailed report on a number of events, meetings and happenings over the past several weeks. In a strategic sense perhaps the most significant issue is the unanimous decision taken by the Women's NSW Board to begin proper dialogue with the RNSWBA with a view to unification.

A sub-committee is being pulled together for the task, which would be a great outcome for the sport in Australia.

4.2 CEO Report

Nothing further.

4.3 Bowls Management

The minutes from the meeting held 14th October had been distributed previously. An area that would again be reviewed is the current Heat Rules in the metropolitan pennant conditions of play, brought about by the unseasonably warm weather in November and the often-cancelled ladies Saturday afternoon pennant.

In addition, midweek pennant will be reviewed following a soon to be held meeting of the Bowls 2025 committee. Any recommendations from that committee will be considered at the BMC meeting in early December. The Board did not support any major changes to the format of the competition mid-year and would seek a full review via discussions at President's Forum in April/May.

4.4 Club Development

The Minutes of the committee had been distributed, with Vince Del Prete providing an update on the very successful Brad Hogg video. To date the video had been viewed 31,000 times with a reach of 80,000 including a number of shares within social media. A great outcome for the expense, with Brad continuing to promote the game through his own channels.

It was note that the Academy had also utilised Brad's High-Performance skills, with him attending an Academy session with coach Linda Warburton.

4.5 Country

Ross Warburton noted the affiliation fee issues particularly in the SW Zone, fielding a number of contacts on the matter. The growing emergence of over-arching sporting clubs taking over the bowls section and providing little opportunities for income generation was noted (ie bar takings), particularly in light of the affiliation fee being drawn almost exclusively from membership. An interesting emergence given the amalgamation of several country bowling clubs with other sporting venues in the town.

He attended the ILRR Pairs held at Waroona BC over the weekend and presented the trophies to the SW League.

4.6 Audit, Risk & Finance

Lisa Featherby tabled the accounts to 31st October which showed all areas on budget, with several areas such as sponsorship exceeding budget.

The CEO presented the 6-monthly update of the Actuals vs Budget which showed a healthy turnaround from the original February forecast deficit. It is likely that a solid surplus will be recorded at this time, with increases in sponsorship a re-adjustment of the depreciation for 158 Main Street and the RBM contribution waived by Bowls Australia. All these areas will contribute significantly to a better than budgeted outcome at year's end.

The CEO believed there should be no significant, unexpected expenditure for the balance of the year.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 The Nationals and World Championships

The President led discussion on forthcoming plans for the Nationals and future World Championships and where WA may fit in these strategic plans being proposed by Bowls Australia. General discussion on BA plans shared at the recent SCB meeting were expanded upon, including the funding required from Government and Tourism bureaus to entice these events to a home state.

The monies invested by Qld government and Gold Coast tourism were noted.

Continuing discussions with BA will occur as they liaise with Government departments.

5.2 Future of 158 Main Street

Marc Abonnel sought further discussion on the strategic future of the head office, the potential of moving to a bowling club and if those financial options existed, how would they be progressed.

President Kerry expressed a wish to have such items discussed in a more open setting, perhaps early in the New Year where a review of the strategic plan could take place, as well as consider issues of a strategic nature in more depth.

Action: The CEO to seek a suitable date in the New Year for a strategic discussion meeting.
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There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00am

Next Meeting: Friday 20th December at 10.00am – Board Room – Royal Perth Golf Club