



Meeting of the Bowls Management Committee held on Monday 9th December 2019

1.1 Open Meeting and Welcome

The meeting was opened by the Chairman Marc Abonnel at 9.30am.

Present

Marc Abonnel, Tony Hockey, Mike Goble-Garratt, Peter Collins, Jim Powell, Ross Warburton, John Bridge (proxy), Lee Bunney, Anne Lilley

In attendance:

Pieter Harris, Ken Pride

1.2. Apologies

Ross Warburton, Derek Boardman

1.3. Conflict of Interest

Ken Pride the CEO noted a conflict of interest in relation to item (2.2) the Appeal lodged by his club South Perth against the ruling by the Fixtures & Events Committee. **NOTED.**

1.4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th October 2019 were confirmed.

Moved: Lee Bunney

Seconded:

Jim Powell

Agreed

2. Items for Decision

2.1 Midweek Pennant review and recommendation

A recommendation from the Bowls 2025 committee had been previously distributed, following a meeting of that committee last week. In addition, the recommendation came with input from the Board, who discussed the matter at its November Board Meeting.

The recommendation entailed the removal of the extended pre-game trial ends and 1.15pm start, to the traditional two way roll up at 1.15pm, with a 1.30pm start. No other changes to the Conditions of Play were recommended.

The committee discussed their experiences with midweek pennant and in particular the trial ends. Although popular given the number of players who chose to avail themselves of the extra period of time, it had caused some unintended consequences. These included overcrowding on rinks, the use by some players of four bowls, a lack of patronage of club facilities pre-game to name a few.

After a vigorous discussion the recommendation was put to a vote by the Chairman, which resulted in the supporting of the recommendation 6-1, with one-member abstaining. The change will occur for Round 8 on the 9th January to allow for the information to be disseminated.

The office will now ensure both midweek pennant contacts and club secretaries are informed in writing, in addition to adding it to the BWA website.

2.2 Appeal: South Perth BC vs Fixtures and Events Committee

Chairman Marc Abonnel briefed the committee on the background of the Appeal, citing the current Bowls WA Policy, which was followed by Pieter Harris noting the guidelines as they appear in the Bowls WA Handbook. It was these guidelines which were quoted to South Perth in the original query on the inclusion of players Opie and Sharp and to which South Perth responded.

At this time the CEO Ken Pride left the meeting and Pieter Harris minuted the following.

After the facts were presented a robust discussion amongst committee members took place regarding the decision, including the subjectiveness of the current Policy and Selection Rules for a Graded Pennant Competition as stated in the Handbook.

Following this discussion, a vote was called by the Chairman, with a resulting unanimous position that the South Perth appeal be dismissed. Given this South Perth would lose its ½ point earned for the game which would be awarded to Osborne Park, their opposition.

The BMC members noted that the Appeal highlighted some deficiencies in the Policy and that a full review would be undertaken of the Integrity of Graded Pennant Policy as soon as practicable. This was particularly evident when players were unavailable when fixtures were moved from the original time and day.

Action: Pieter Harris to inform South Perth BC accordingly and amend the points allocation.
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CEO Ken Pride returned to the meeting.

3. Items for Discussion

3.1 Midweek Pennant

A general discussion on the midweek pennant competition occurred.

4. Items for Information

4.1 CEO

The CEO noted it had been a testing couple of months for the staff and noted various issues such as the changes to the Club Affiliation Fee, changes to the Metro Midweek Pennant Competition, a number of very hot days bringing into question the Extreme Weather Policy and the most appropriate way of dealing with such record temperatures in state events and pennant play.

4.2 Fixtures & Events

John Bridge noted the postponement of the Ladies State Pairs to a date in March due to the forecast of very hot weather that would severely hamper the running of the competition. This was seen as a pro-active move by the F&E committee.

A review of the competing teams in the pennant competition showed the following movement in nominated Sides:

- Men's Saturday - down 10
- Men's Midweek – down 6
- Ladies Tuesday – down 3
- Ladies Friday – down 1
- Ladies Saturday – up 12

There was a general discussion on the playing of pennant this week with several days to experience very high temperatures. It was likely at this time that Ladies Saturday Pennant will be abandoned with a forecast of 41C on Saturday and a series of 39C and 40C days leading up to it. The Men's competition was a little more difficult with no forecast abandonment set in the Conditions of Play. It was "generally" felt that a forecast of 40C would not cause a general abandonment but 42C would – 41C was a difficult decision given a process was in place to vacate the green at a temperature of 40C.

A close eye will be kept on developments over the next few days.

4.3 Greens & Infrastructure

Jim Powell noted that some research had been carried out with club greenkeepers in the metro area which showed there were:

- 31 F/T employees
- 5 P/T
- 27 volunteer greenkeepers
- 2 contractors

There were a few clubs that were seeking green inspections as new greens came to be used for the first time and these were being inspected as required.

4.4 Umpires

There continued to be on-going research into the WBGT meters and how they may be utilized in pennant competitions.

Some consideration is being given to running additional Officiating courses in the short term, although it is difficult to find a clear date and personnel to run the courses. On a query from Marc Abonnel it appeared there were sufficient umpires across the clubs to adequately cover pennant play; although some had the very minimum number which was affected if they happened to play away from home.

4.5 Country

No report

4.6 High Performance & Coaching

The CEO noted that key personnel for the High-Performance group had been appointed, with Tony Hockey the Men's Coach and Pieter Harris the vacant Selector's position. The Over 60s selectors positions had closed with Lindsay Thorn and Jaewyn Norton the Selectors to be ratified with the Board (since completed and approved).

The only outstanding group now is the Under 18 Coach and Selector, which will be considered in coming days.

Tony Hockey noted that the 2020 Coaching Program will be considered at a meeting of the Coaching Group on the 8th January. **NOTED.**

6. General Business

6.1 IRRR

Anne Lilley reported on meetings held with delegates for the four regions and outcomes for the IRRR. The event will be held on 18th-19th April at the Willetton BC. Information will be forwarded to all metro clubs on the 15th January, to be returned by the 13th March. Anne requested that a formal thank you be included in the Minutes for the support and guidance provided by staff member Denise McMillan. **NOTED.**

6.2 Change of Greens – state events

Peter Collins was requested to bring to the committee concerns on the required changing of greens for some participants in the recent Over 60s state events. This was noted but unfortunately required due to the uneven number and rinks space available. **NOTED.**

6.3 Workshop Expo

Pieter Harris informed the committee of a very exciting development; the planning of a Bowls Workshop covering different areas of the sport (Admin, Greens, Officials, Coaching) to which clubs will be invited to attend. The Workshops will be held at the Trinity Residential College in Nedlands on Tuesday 3rd March (during Country Week) in an effort to maximize participation. It is likely a timeframe of 12.00pm – 6.00pm will be used with a nominal fee to be charged to attendees.

Further information will be communicated as it comes to hand.

Marc Abonnel thanked the committee members for their work this year and wished all a safe and successful end to the year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.50am.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 10th February at 9.30am

