



Meeting of the Bowls Management Committee held on Monday 10th February 2020

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, Jim Powell, Lee Bunney, Anne Lilley, Derek Boardman

In attendance:

Pieter Harris, Ken Pride

1.2. Apologies

Ross Warburton, Peter Collins

1.3. Conflict of Interest

Marc Abonnel noted a conflict of interest for the Kardinya Appeal against the Fixtures and Events decision. **NOTED.**

1.4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th December 2019 were confirmed.

Moved: Mike Goble-Garratt

Seconded:

Anne Lilley

Agreed

2. Items for Decision

2.1 Kardinya Bowling Club appeal

Correspondence in relation to the appeal against a decision of Integrity Policy violation made by the Fixtures & Events Committee had been distributed to members. The matter was discussed at length noting the original explanation for the breach and the subsequent appeal. Fixtures & Events Chairman Derek Boardman noted the basis for the original decision and responded to several queries.

Noting that the club had acknowledged it had dropped players to boost a lower sides chances of success against a superior opponent, the Appeal was dismissed and the original penalty of loss of all points for the match stood. **NOTED**

Action: The CEO to write to all parties noting the outcome of the Appeal.

2.2 Amendments to the Integrity Policy

Mark Abonnel tabled recommendations to the Integrity Policy to bring it up to date to incorporate Friday night fixtures and the unavailability of players and potential of “dropping” to lower divisions. Various issues were considered including the proposed “rigging” of players becoming unavailable to artificially strengthen a lower division, but this was accepted as very unusual; particularly earlier in the season.

It was agreed that Friday night requests should be more critically examined and the requirement for pre-season arrangement enforced.

After discussion on what options were available it was agreed to accept the recommendations as tabled and bring them into the General Conditions of Play immediately, with all metropolitan clubs to be informed.

Action: The new Player Grading Guidelines to commence immediately and be distributed to clubs.

3. Items for Discussion

3.1 Damaging the Green

Marc Abonnel questioned the vagaries of this “rule” and how it seems to be treated differently at each club. Was there any objective measurement of how a green may be damaged and therefore action required by an umpire ? It was agreed that due to

a lack of evidence “on the day” and the subjectivity of the “damage caused” no further definition was possible and would remain a club issue in the main. It was also noted that only one lady had been disqualified from a match several years ago now, due to a suspect action.

3.2 BWA Club Information Conference

Pieter Harris reminded committee members of the conference and sought the assistance of their club’s attendance on the day. It was a great opportunity for learning from several very good presenters on the day and very important a strong turnout achieved.

4. Items for Information

4.1 CEO

The CEO gave an update on the major issues the Board is considering as well as some of the national agenda items which Bowls Australia is pursuing with the STAs, such as Governance Models and what best fits for our sport nationally. He will attend a meeting next week in Melbourne following BAs receipt of federal funding to consider the matter.

4.2 Fixtures & Events

The committee still lacks active members to share the load of attending and managing events; particularly around Christmas and this current period. It was clear that further members needed to be sourced in order to achieve a more active representation.

There was an opportunity to consider in the off-season how our committees worked and whether this was the most effective method of running BWAs operations; a strategic opportunity that may best be suited by a small sub-committee to consider options. **NOTED.**

4.3 Greens & Infrastructure

Jim Powell and Pieter Harris gave an interesting pictorial presentation on inspections made during the year on suspect greens. The use of the BWA tablets has now made recording and communication much easier with clubs on issues of concern, with a permanent record available. An updated audit on the types of surface at clubs was also distributed with a continued expansion of synthetic surfaces noted.

4.4 Umpires

Mike Goble-Garratt noted the impending visit to Perth of Mark Cowan who will consider the credentials of two ITOs for approval – pending World Bowls acceptance. A possible visit to the Pilbara is being considered to carry out Umpires/Coaching courses with a further Bowls Link training session. This has been on the cards for a number of years, so it would be a bonus if this does come to fruition.

4.5 Country

No report.

4.6 High Performance & Coaching

Tony Hockey noted the selection of the state squads for the 2020 Nationals in October and the forthcoming program of sessions; a number which will be carried out with Under 18 and Over 60s squads. The Country vs Metropolitan fixture will be the first formal hit out of the squads, albeit with some players unavailable.

The Academy is going very well with Tom Whitfield added following a good state pairs performance.

5. General Business

5.1 Forum dates

Likely to be the 11th and 19th May for President’s and Ladies respectively.

5.2 Disciplinary Hearing

The outcome of a Disciplinary Hearing was noted to the meeting and will be included in the Board Minutes.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.35am.