



## Country Committee

**Minutes of the Country Committee meeting held at Bowls WA on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 commencing at 11.00am.**

### **1. Open Meeting and Welcome**

Ross Warburton (Chairman) opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance, in particular Board Members President Kerry Andersen and Finance Director Lisa Featherby.

### **2. Present**

Ross Warburton (Chairman), Jill Fotheringhame (SZ), Kevin Heberle (SZ), Bob Plater (SWZ), Anne Whyatt (SWZ), Doug Kelly (EZ Proxy), Irene Leahy (EZ Proxy), Sandra Trenowden (NZ), Norm Skoglund (NZ)

### **In attendance**

Kerry Andersen (Board), Lisa Featherby (Board), Ken Pride (CEO)

### **3. Apologies**

Jenni Bunce (EZ), Darrel Hudson (EZ)

### **4. Conflict of Interest**

Nil

### **5. Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**Moved:** Bob Plater (SWZ)      **Seconded:** Kevin Heberle (SZ)      **Agreed**

### **6. Business Arising**

#### **6.1 Guidelines for hosting events**

As per the September meeting the (SZ) had tabled Guidelines for hosting Inter Zone events and the committee was requested to approve or amend. There was discussion on whether these were mandatory requirements for the hosting of Zone events or merely some general Guidelines to assist new hosts. If the latter then definitive statements needed to be changed, such as, *all rooms MUST be air-conditioned* etc.

There was no point in having these in any form if they could be set aside by the host club/league/zone.

It was agreed to amend the document to be *Responsibilities for Hosting Inter Zone events* and that the Country Committee carefully review the nominated host venue so that it covers the requirements in the document.

<b>Action:</b> All Zone delegates to note and inform Zone committees of requirements.
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## **7. Matters for Discussion**

### **7.1 Country vs Metropolitan 2021**

Pieter Harris joined the meeting with a request from the state selectors to alter the number of players in the ladies Country vs Metropolitan game from (48) to (24). At present it has proven difficult to source (48) metropolitan players of sufficient standard to ensure the quality of the match. If reduced it would provide a much better opportunity for the state selectors to consider higher standard players playing each other, with a possibility of higher honours.

This was not a demand from the selectors but a request for support, to give higher credentialled country ladies the best opportunity to show their abilities to selectors.

**Action: Zone delegates (ladies) to take the request to their Zone meeting to seek agreement and if accepted to seek an alternate means of selecting the country team.**

### **7.2 State event fixturing**

Following a request from the ladies (EZ) Bowls WA were asked not to schedule state events over two weekends, given difficulties of travel and accommodation. Pieter Harris noted this occurred only for the singles and was determined where Australia Day fell – if a Saturday or Sunday as it was this year the event could not be completed in a single weekend. If it stretched into the working week this then caused still further issues with working women.

The request was noted but an outcome would be determined on where dates fell in any one year.

### **7.3 Country Week – two to a section**

The (EZ) ladies put forward a request to return to the outcome where if there were two players to a section then the section be decided by the *best of three matches*. This motion was not supported by the majority and hence it was defeated.

### **7.4 IZRR meeting – Kellerberrin**

Doug Kelly reported on the IZRR meeting held at the Kellerberrin Bowling Club, noting the main issues that arose and were discussed by the delegates; including the future of the Zone administrations, hosting of the IZRR in a more centralized location and information sharing from the top down which at present still seemed to encounter road blocks along the way.

The committee had considerable discussion on the way the country is currently administered and whether there were simply too many levels of administration, which caused inefficiencies and was costly to the club bowler. This was a nationwide focus at the moment as Bowls Australia wrestles with how the game can be governed more effectively at grass roots levels for the betterment of the sport.

Norm Skoglund noted that the day of the volunteer was effectively over and a new system of administration was needed to move the sport forward, particularly in the country with limited numbers and significant distances to travel for meetings.

This will be an on-going discussion at Board level with this committee involved in any suggestions for change and/or improvement.

It was noted however the event was very successful albeit very hot, resulting in a slower than usual green on which to play.

### **7.5 ILRR / IZRR fixturing**

A clash this year was caused by a date change; this should not occur unless ratified by the country committee who had an overall view of all fixtures. **NOTED. Any changes to the agreed dates at the May meeting must be approved by the Country Committee.**

### **8. Reports**

Zone reports were tabled, distributed and spoken to by delegates from the Eastern Zone, Northern Zone and Southern Zone with the South-West Zone providing a verbal report on recent activities.

### **9. General Business**

**Composite teams** – Anne Whyatt queried the inclusion of composite teams, which seemed to disregard the decision taken by the committee at its September meeting. Ross Warburton acknowledged he had approved the entry of two direct family teams after written requests were received. These teams had played previously and he gave permission believing this was not the intent of the new composite team ruling. Other composite team requests had followed the procedure agreed to at the September meeting; only direct family requests were agreed to.

**CCES** – the CEO noted the excellent work that Denise McMillan had done in detailing very specifically the processes to be followed for involvement in the CCES. Each Zone must now follow this process both for conducting the event and in any request for expenses to be recovered.

Any work outside of these documents will not be supported by Bowls WA.

**Donnybrook** – following a query Ross Warburton noted the current position of Donnybrook following their part move across Leagues.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.15pm.

**NEXT MEETING:      Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 11.00am (the morning of the Annual Awards Night)**