



MINUTES of the Board of BOWLS WA

Meeting held on Monday 23rd March 2020 at Bowls WA commencing at 7.50am

1. PRESENT

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

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 24th February 2020 were accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved: Larry Bandy

Seconded: Marc Abonnel

Agreed

This meeting was conducted the morning following the Federal Government's requirement for all licenced clubs to close at noon the 23rd March – that day.

2. STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DECISION

2.1 Hosting of Forums

The CEO recommended that the Presidents' and Ladies Forums be set aside in their usual format, with the opportunity to run the meetings electronically to be explored. The Board agreed this was appropriate, given the important information that needed to be shared with clubs in hopeful preparation for the 2020/21 season.

Action: Appropriate electronic options to be explored for the Forums and possibly the Annual General Meeting.

3. STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 Country Bowls Administration

Following the February Country Committee meeting the CEO prepared a draft paper on ways he believed the administration of country bowls could be improved; in particular how information may better flow between members, clubs and Bowls WA.

The draft paper was tabled for preliminary discussion, although noted that at this time it was not a pressing priority. Doug Kelly noted that it is increasingly important that Bowls WA find ways and means to communicate with individual members; hopefully improvements within IT and the Bowls Link system will aid this aim.

Ross Warburton noted that when raised at the Country meeting there was general support for such a proposal to be fleshed out, which this draft proposal had sought to do.

For further consideration in the meetings ahead.

Action: To remain on the Board and Country Committee agendas for further discussion.

3.2 Club Affiliation Fee

The CEO referred the Board to the minutes of the Affiliation Fee Review Committee and the draft content of the Presidents' Forum accompanying information, which detailed the recommended direction to take for the 2020/21 club affiliation fee. The current model had produced outcomes that in some cases were un-intended, with some clubs paying a much higher fee than other clubs of similar size; particularly within smaller country leagues.

The model recommended incorporated the necessary requirements of providing budgetary certainty for Bowls WA and clubs, successfully utilising the current Bowls Link technology (although this will require further updates in the months ahead) and was simple to understand.

This will require a very specific definition of a member's *playing rights* that covers all clubs, large or small, metro or country.

Hendy Cowan recommended a minor amendment to the definition tabled which will be incorporated.

Action: The model tabled may now be presented to clubs in forthcoming forums for discussion.

3.3 BWA response to Covid-19

The Board discussed several areas that would be specifically affected by the onset of Covid-19 and agreed to the following actions accordingly:

3.3.1 Men's pennants

The CEO recommended that at this time all fixtures were postponed and as they became "due" each would be abandoned as required. This would ensure the season was not cut short and that the full number of rounds were played out according to the regulations detailed in the BWA Handbook. Once the season concluded next Saturday, with points evenly shared, that would then signal the opportunity to announce automatic promotions and demotions. These would be honoured for the 2020/21 season.

Those promotions and demotions that required the playing of one or more fixtures would be postponed until no further time was available; this would likely be 1st October, following which a decision would be made on any further action.

This remained in line with the requirements of the Handbook and regulations communicated pre-season.

The Board accepted this position, with information as above to be forwarded to clubs following the likely abandonment of Round 18. At this time however it was readily acknowledged that the priorities of the Association remained both the safety of the members and the financial sustainability of the clubs. **NOTED.**

3.3.2 Annual Dinner & Awards Night

With the announcement that casinos would be required to close by noon that day, the deposit for the Annual Dinner & Awards Night will be forthcoming; alternatively the event could be postponed up to 30th June 2021. Given the likely rush for function dates to be re-allocated for next year, it was resolved to transfer the deposit to a date in late May 2021.

Action: Aaron Delaporte to transfer the deposit to cover a function at a commensurate date in May 2021.

The CEO sought the Board's position on the various member and club awards for this season and whether they should proceed in some form. After discussion Vince Del Prete sought a paper from the CEO on his recommendations for these awards and how they may proceed or alternatively be scrapped for the year. **NOTED.**

Action: The CEO to provide recommendations on the Awards evening and outcomes for the possible recipients.

3.3.3 Bowls Australia events

Bowls Australia have informed us that both the World Championships, Australian Indoors and the Australian Open will not be played. An alternate date, effectively 12 months ahead has been recommended by World Bowls for the World Championships and likely the Australian Open will follow suit. These do not greatly affect BWA. A decision on the Nationals is yet to be made, but it is believed unlikely to occur given the necessity of STAs to secure scarce accommodation in the short term. State squad practice has been suspended until further notice.

Marc Abonnel queried whether the Association should be on the front foot and actively seek the cancellation of the Nationals, given the savings could well be used in other more pressing areas, such as club support. There was an argument that even if the event went ahead whether BWA should participate given the uncertainty around wider club and Association needs. The CEO will query the timeframes for cancellation with Bowls Australia and report accordingly.

Action: The CEO with Bowls Australia accordingly.

3.3.4 Government stimulus response

Information continues to be released by the Federal Government on support that will be directed to small business via a refund of their PAYG taxation from 2018/19. It would appear that this will greatly assist both Bowls WA and more importantly clubs in providing cash flow over the next 6 months.

Information as it comes to hand will continue to be fed to clubs via the email system, website and RBMs in as simple terminology as able. It appears that further forms will not be required which similarly will assist clubs that fail to see information that is being distributed.

3.3.5 BCiB advice

The CEO noted the clear advice that Brett Duprez of BCiB offered late last week, in that if bowls continued at a club against the advice of various authorities and a participant fell ill and sued the club it would not be covered by its public liability insurance.

Hence Bowls WA's position remained very clear in that NO BOWLS would be recommended including all forms of the game, social and roll-ups included. Staff had been informed of this position. **NOTED.**

4. REPORTS

4.1 President

President Kerry noted her attendance at Country Week (Men's) and reiterated the Association's appropriate stance on the cancellation of all forms of the game in order to protect members, staff and volunteers.

4.2 CEO

Nothing further

4.3 Bowls Management

No further report with the March meeting postponed.

4.4 Club Development

Vince Del Prete noted the minutes of the meeting held on 21st February for the Board's information.

4.5 Country

Ross Warburton noted the Country Committee minutes of the 24th February and discussions held on the future of Country administration. This was well received with the request for a paper to be provided for further discussion at subsequent meetings. This paper had been distributed in the first instance to the Board as a 1st draft document. This would remain on the Board and Country Committee agendas.

Men's Country Week had received very positive comment, particularly the greens presented and majority of meals.

4.6 Finance

The accounts for the period ending 29th February had been distributed, albeit noting the IOOF investment portfolio had deteriorated significantly over the past two weeks.

There would be a number of amendments in the actuals for this financial year, given the likely cancellations of a number of events leading up to the end of April. Similarly the budget for 2020/21 will have a number of known alterations such as the postponement of the Annual Dinner and Awards Night, the possible cancellation of the Nationals and costs associated with honorariums for various team management.

The CEO would look to clarify the actuals that are known for this financial year to give a more accurate indication of the end of year position and would commence a budget update as outcomes became known.

Action: The CEO as required for distribution to the Audit, Risk & Finance Committee. (Also an update on the Risk Register will likely be required !)

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Members suspensions

The suspensions of Peter Freund (Vic Park – Carlisle) and Ian Cartledge (Eaton) were noted.

5.2 Industry Investment Program (IIP) Review

Following this Board Meeting Ken Pride and Vince Del Prete will meet with Phil Gregson (DSR) for the annual IIP review in relation to funding for 2020/21.

Thanks to Vince for the work he has completed in advance of the meeting on behalf of the Board.

5.3 Manning Memorial BC redevelopment

Ken Pride had met with a representative of CCS Strategic who had been commissioned to consider the Master Plan for the area surrounding and including the Manning BC by the City of South Perth.

A most interesting meeting was held with the Minutes from that meeting included in the Board papers for information. No further action at this time.

5.4 Bowls WA Forum

Marc Abonnel congratulated the staff for the conduct of the inaugural club forum which was well patronised and very well received by those in attendance. Larry Bandy supported this having attended a number of the sessions which were well informed. It is hoped that this forum will continue; most likely in a pre-season time slot in 2021.

5.5 Future meeting dates

Future meeting dates will be advised as required; at this stage the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 20th April, but this will be confirmed or otherwise closer to the time.

5.6 Hendy Cowan – Board retirement

Hendy Cowan noted given the uncertainty of future meetings that this would likely be his final Board Meeting following mandatory retirement after ten years service. He noted how much he has enjoyed the experience and urged the Board to continue to seek opportunities to make clubs financially sustainable.

President Kerry thanked Hendy for his service over the period and hoped to be able to publicly acknowledge that on a future occasion; Board Members showed their support for the service offered by Hendy.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00am.