



Country Committee

Minutes of the Country Committee meeting held at Bowls WA on Monday 22nd February 2021 commencing at 10.00am.

1. Open Meeting and Welcome

Ross Warburton (Chairman) opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance.

Ken Pride introduced Owen Catto from the Regional Mental Health initiative “Working with Warriors” who briefed the committee on their work in the regional mental health space. It was noted that they will enter into an Agreement with Bowls WA for \$20,000 for each year of two years to support meetings/functions at regional clubs where talks will take place. Each League will be supported to \$1,000 per League to encourage events and meet any costs incurred.

Delegates were asked to take this information back to their Leagues and commence planning for a function – dates will need to be confirmed with the group via Bowls WA. (Note: Kaitlyn Tyrell will take charge of this in the BWA office).

2. Present

Ross Warburton (Chairman), Jill Fotheringham (SZ), Greg Carter (SZ), Bob Plater (SWZ), Anne Whyatt (SWZ), Doug Kelly (EZ Proxy), Jenni Bunce (EZ), Sandra Trenowden (NZ), Norm Skoglund (NZ)

In attendance

Ken Pride (CEO)

3. Apologies

Darrel Hudson (EZ)

4. Conflict of Interest

Nil

5. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2020 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: N Skoglund (NZ)

Seconded: B Plater (SWZ)

Agreed

6. Business Arising

6.1 Letter from Donnybrook BC

(RW) tabled a letter from Donnybrook BC seeking a permanent shift from the Blackwood League to the South West League (men only), following completion of their two-year trial basis by their 2nd division side. The matter will now be considered by the South West League and Blackwood League as required. (KP) noted to ensure that all parties followed the approved process when seeking to move Leagues, which is shown on the Bowls WA website under COUNTRY/Policies and Documents.

Action: South West Zone delegate to ensure procedures as required between the two Leagues and eventually Country Committee are followed as required.

7. Matters for Discussion

7.1 Country vs Metropolitan (ladies)

(KP) commenced the discussion noting the email that had been received from various Leagues in general support of the event. He also described the wishes of the State Selection team in the reasoning for the reduction of players from (48) to (24); that being to ensure the very best of both areas were represented (as available) for selectors to view against quality opposition. It was stressed that there is no age restriction as selectors will also be looking for possible representative players for the Over 60s side.

The (NZ – Sandra Trenowden) was strongly in favor of retaining the full complement of (48) players, which was supported by the emails received from Leagues in that Zone.

There was much discussion on the current and future playing of the event, with different sentiments offered.

To finalize it was agreed to reduce the event to (24) players per area for 2021 only and seek a review following this year, for discussion at the May 2021 meeting. **NOTED.**

The SZ noted how it had partnered with the SW Zone in selecting the additional four players to make their “3rd rink”, with SZ and SWZ assuming one full rink each – a very sensible outcome.

Action: For further review and discussion post event and at the May meeting.

7.2 Men’s IZRR Fours – rescheduling of event

Given the very full calendar there appears no room to reschedule this event, therefore it has been cancelled for 2021. However, the roster will be rolled over for one year therefore Busselton will be retained as Host Club for the 2022 event. **NOTED.**

7.3 Future of Zone Committees

(EZ) discussed how they were very comfortable with the current administrative structure with a Zone Committee sitting above the Leagues and they believed it benefitted the members.

The (SWZ) and (NZ) were further down the track in removing that layer of administration, however this was their position and did not impinge upon a retention by the (EZ) and/or (SZ). Unfortunately, a (SW) Zone Meeting that had been called to fully discuss the matter had been cancelled due to the recent lock-down and will need to be rescheduled for coming weeks.

All agreed to view the (SWZ) and potentially (NZ) in their progress towards change and decide their own positions following that experience. If that transition were to occur, then Bowls WA would seek a central contact point for distribution of League information. **NOTED.**

7.4 Country Week

7.4.1 Pairs format & Over 60s

(EZ-Men) had sought discussion on the playing of an Over 60s Pairs competition during Country Week in a possible 3x3 format. Given the length of the week and the current 2x2x2x2 format, it was thought an Over 60s shortened format may encourage further participation. (KP) noted that this had been included on the CW survey for men to complete, with the results to be considered at the May meeting. **NOTED.**

7.4.2 Composite Sides criteria

A general discussion on the difficulties in framing criteria for Country Week Composite Sides. It was noted that several individual withdrawals from club teams had necessitated a replacement from other club's to be improved, increasing the number of composite teams unintentionally.

(NS) believed it time Country Week moved on and opened the competition to allow for members to play with whomever they wished. (KP) noted it would certainly make the weeks leading up to the draw far easier to manage.

As such delegates were requested to take this issue back to their Zone and seek a position on having full Composite Sides able to enter Country Week with no restriction. A decision on this for 2022 will be made at the May meeting.

Action: Delegates as required for the May meeting.

7.5 Amalgamation of Ladies IZRR Pairs and Fours

(SWZ) suggested a playing of the ladies postponed IZRR Pairs prior to the Fours event. However, after discussion it was accepted that issues such as accommodation would be too difficult, and the event was cancelled for 2021.

7.6 Ladies Country Week Pairs 2x2x2x2

(SZ) sought discussion on the ladies pairs format to move to a 2x2x2x2 format such as the men, rather than a 3x3 as currently is the case. There is an opportunity to survey the ladies and see if there is any interest in including an Over 60s Pairs event in a 3x3 format, therefore allowing the open competition to move to a 2x2x2x2. (KP) agreed the office will distribute a survey as per the men and gauge reaction.

Action: (KP) to distribute ladies survey during the pairs event for further discussion.
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7.7 Ladies Metro Pennant vs Country Week

(SZ) sought clarification on the ruling around metro pennant and country week. (KP) confirmed that if you played Tuesday Metro Pennant you could not play Country Week – there were no other restrictions for Saturday metro players etc.

8. Reports

8.1 Eastern Zone

(JB) tabled written reports which were discussed as required – most of the items had already appeared in the wider agenda.

8.2 Northern Zone

(NS) and (ST) each tabled written reports which were accepted.

8.3 South West Zone

Verbal reports were provided, which noted (19) new Umpire accreditations and (12) reaccreditations in the Zone.

8.4 Southern Zone

Verbal Reports were provided, which highlighted a Life Membership of the Zone for Kevin Heberle – well deserved.

9. General Business

9.1 Letter of Thanks

The SWZ sought a letter of thanks to be sent to Elaine McDonald on the work she has done in the Zone over many years.

Action: (KP) as required please.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.15pm.

Next Meeting: Friday 28th May – a Joint Meeting with the Board – 7.30am for 8.00am.

Country Committee to otherwise commence approximately 10.45am.