



## **Meeting of the Bowls Management Committee held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

### **1.1 Open Meeting and Welcome**

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

### **Present**

Marc Abonnel, Peter Barnett, Ross Warburton, Tony Hockey, Ken Pride

### **In attendance:**

Pieter Harris

### **1.2. Apologies**

Jim Powell, Leonie Potts

### **1.3. Conflict of Interest**

Nil

### **1.4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

**Moved: Tony Hockey**

**Seconded: Peter Barnett**

## **2. Items for Decision**

Nil

## **3. Items for Discussion**

### **3.1 The Future**

(MA) noted the current work of the Innovations Committee, which had several items in the pipeline for presentation to the BMC and Board.

These included a full presentation of the recent Bowlers Survey for the Board, plus a summarized version for clubs. Flowing from that would be a list of recommendations for further consideration in addition to a club-based version of the High-Performance event "Bowls Blitz". It is hoped the survey could be tabled at the April Board Meeting with a full discussion on its findings at the May Board Meeting. If a Forum is to be held in late May / early June it could be discussed there.

One issue raised is the use of cross-gender substitution versus Open Gender bowls and how these may affect the current pennant competition. There was much discussion on the pro's and con's of each and the potential ramifications of further change. (KP) noted that it should be a strategic initiative to consider Open Gender bowls on Saturday afternoon at all levels, circumventing the issue of Equal Opportunity and the myriad of rules currently in the Conditions of Play on this area.

Finally, there was a lengthy discussion on the structure of midweek pennant and the proposal circulated by Cambridge BC to a number of Premier League level clubs. This sought a more regionalized north/south competition run in parallel with each other, the ultimate objective to lessen travel time. (KP) noted that such a proposal "if serious" could similarly be tabled and presented by the club at a Forum.

<b>Action: (MA) would make contact with Cambridge BC to ascertain their interest in a wider presentation.</b>
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<b>Action: (MA) to ask the Innovations Committee to consider Open Gender competition as our highest level of pennant play as a strategic imperative.</b>
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### **3.2 Introduction of WBGT meters**

(PB) tabled an independent series of points to consider if the Association were to introduce WBGT meters to metropolitan pennants. These were individually discussed and debated in relation to the ramifications for the existing competition.

A “number” that relates to the existing ambient temperature rules were stated as 30.5 (37deg) and 32 (40deg) which would be introduced for men’s and women’s competitions if the current structure remained. There was no suggestion of altering the current “forecast” general abandonment position for women’s pennant.

(PB) would return to the Umpires and/or Innovations Committee to firm up a specific recommendation and timeline for the introduction of WBGT meters.

<b>Action: (PB) as required for a further recommendation on introduction.</b>
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## **4. Items for Information**

### **4.1 CEO**

(KP) noted some of the more recent issues, which included:

- Human Rights Commission case and its effect on Greens,
- Equal Opportunities case and its effect on uniforms,
- Governance Review Project and a likely re-look at the structures of the BWA committees, Constitution and By Laws
- Awards Night nominations now available,
- AGM on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

### **4.2 Fixtures & Events**

(PH) noted the significant decrease in the number of men’s over 60s competitors, down from 207 to 128 and women’s 64 to 63. This may have been caused by the move from February, which was requested by a number of people due to heat, to the current date where a post – season event may find less favour. For further review.

There are a number of issues with post-season events due to clubs not having greens available, particularly over weekends. This is especially the case with grass greens.

### **4.3 Greens & Infrastructure**

No report.

### **4.4 Umpires**

(PB) noted various courses approaching including four potential ITOs that would if all successful give 10 overall. Reaccreditation course numbers were lower given the 12 mth extension provided by Bowls Australia.

An Umpires Course will be held at Guilderton following a request from Ian Hastings in early May.

### **4.5 Country**

Donnybrook are still seeking to enter the SWLeague from the Blackwood League on a permanent basis, this will again be discussed at the Country Committee meeting in late May.

### **4.6 High Performance & Coaching**

(TH) noted the 2021 coaching courses now appear on the website as do the Competition and Selection Modules. The high performance based event Bowls Blitz is fast approaching with four venues confirmed Mt Lawley, Willetton, Kardinya and Cambridge. The first event commences on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

## **5. General Business**

Nil

There being no further business th meeting closed at 11.30am.

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 9.30am**