



## **MINUTES of the Board of BOWLS WA**

Meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at Bowls WA commencing at 8.00am.

### **1. PRESENT**

Larry Bandy, Doug Kelly, Lee Bunney, Glenda Cooper, Lisa Featherby, Ross Warburton, Marc Abonnel, Judy Flanagan, Brian Lucas (from 9.00am), Vince Del Prete

#### **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 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were then accepted as a true and correct record.

**Moved:** Judy Flanagan

**Seconded:** Ross Warburton

**Agreed**

### **2. STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DECISION**

#### **2.1 Authority for President to Act**

The Board endorsed the President's authority to act on behalf of Bowls WA at the forthcoming Bowls Australia AGM, including the vote for Constitutional change and the election of Directors. **NOTED.**

#### **2.2 Governance Draft Action Plan**

Held over for the arrival of Brian Lucas.

### **3. STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION**

#### **3.1 President's Report**

President Larry tabled his report noting the importance of the Governance Review and work to come on a new Strategic Plan in coming months. In addition, the Board was asked to consider the challenge of falling membership numbers across the sport and the financial ramifications of that. Clearly there needs to be a greater return from "non-members" in whatever form that may take, with a responsibility on all governing bodies to seek to increase the visitation rate to clubs of this area of the market.

This will be a key point to consider in the discussions surrounding the strategic plan.

The CEO noted in discussion the need for greater club support. He recommended that the RBMs be invited to the November meeting to inform Board Directors of the presentation they give to clubs as part of the *Winning Drive* program.

<b>Action:</b> The CEO to invite the RBMs to present at the November meeting.
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#### **3.2 CEO**

The CEO tabled his report and highlighted the following:

- The Operational Plan and the actions up to and including the October quarter, following staff input into the various objectives set,
- A discussion around the services that Bowls WA would seek from Bowls Australia and the financial cost of receiving those services. This has been an on-going discussion with little headway for some years and continues to be raised at national meetings, still with no firm resolution. (VDP) noted the same issues occurred in Athletics where a National Charter was formed, clearly outlining each parties responsibilities. This may be a way forward for discussions.

- A recommendation to the Board that the Mini-Series that had been considered possible in May 2022, be cancelled due to costs involved in hosting other STAs and a Jackaroos squad. This was accepted with the CEO to inform all parties accordingly. **NOTED.**
- A recommendation to the Board that the *Live Streaming* of events be limited to the Country Week finals and State Singles events, each to be professionally produced by SEN. After much discussion on the benefits to the current bowling community vs the external non-bowling community, it was accepted that further data needed to be drawn from the broadcasts to better understand their value. As a result, it was agreed that a further two events be broadcast by SEN; the Men's and Ladies Pennant Finals and that funds be attributed to the Club Development marketing budget.

**Action: The CEO seek to contract SEN for the additional two events; the Men's and Ladies Pennant Finals.**

- The recently agreed *Industry Investment Program* contract was tabled for Board Directors to have a full understanding of the requirements of DLGSC for this the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the funding triennial. This will have quarterly updates provided to our Consultant with an acquittal of the funding received in mid – 2022.

*Brian Lucas joined the meeting.*

### **3.3 Bowls Management**

President Larry sought an update on the survey conducted by the Innovations Committee and whether the recent changes to pennant conditions of play superseded any recommendations. (MA) believed they did and there was not a great deal coming from the survey that had not been considered; perhaps the only outstanding area would be the *extreme weather* conditions of play, although no resolution was yet to be found.

### **3.4 Audit, Risk & Finance**

(LF) noted some variations to the budget, most particularly the saving of funds with the cancellation of the Nationals for this financial year and the boost to the dividends received from investments. The IOOF cash a/c showed a balance of \$65k which following advice would be re-invested into the balanced funds.

It was requested that Consultant Craig Lubich be invited to brief the committee at its next meeting.

**Action: CEO to arrange account briefing by Consultant.**

The accounts for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> September were accepted, with the mid-year review to be presented at the November Board Meeting. **NOTED.**

### **3.5 Club Development**

(VDP) directed the committee to the minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> October. Progress with Regional Men's Health Initiative presentation was gaining momentum with over a dozen now held or booked in in early 2022. Certainly, the presentations have been very well received by all in attendance.

### **3.6 Country**

(RW) noted that the Leeuwin League had moved to an Open Gender competition for this coming season. The South-West Zone has held an SGM to alter their Constitution to allow for funds upon the Zone dissolution to be distributed on a pro-rata rather than equal basis. The distribution of funds will not occur until a formal dissolution is agreed upon, this will be reconsidered at the conclusion of the 2021/22 pennant season, allowing for an administrative reforming of the Zone if need be.

If all is well the Zone will be dissolved and funds distributed in the second quarter of 2022. **NOTED.**

### **3.7 Governance & People Development**

President Larry invited (BL) to return to the *Strategic Item for Decision*, the Governance Review Action Plan and the four stages of that Plan.

(BL) had distributed his Action Plan which incorporated the recommendations made and Board approved PDP Review (Stage 1&2), governance recommendations made within the Sport Australia Governance Standards (Stage 3) and finally a higher test via the Standards recommended by the Australian Institute of Company Directors (Stage 4).

(BL) noted the differences in each of the Guidelines, including the personnel that would lead each of the individual initiatives and their supporting "teams".

The Board discussed the need for achieving the higher levels of standard in Stages 3&4 and although there was some concern as to the difficulty of the task, it was agreed that a staged implementation in a measured fashion would clarify the depth and breadth of the work as it progressed.

The Board therefore **RESOLVED** that the recommendations to work through the standards as shown in Stages 3&4 be accepted, with initial work on Stage 1 to commence as soon as practicable.

It was agreed that the December Board Meeting be set aside for this topic alone, with an update to be provided by the Governance Review Committee at that time.

<b>Action: The CEO to note for the framing of an Agenda at the December meeting.</b>
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Discussion then turned to the Strategic Plan 2017-2022, which would need to be updated in the next calendar year. The CEO reminded the Board that Bowls Australia were shortly to undertake their own updated Plan and as a result had requested the STAs who were due to update hold off to seek compatibility across the country.

Bowls Victoria and Bowls Australia had contracted Consultant Mike McLaughlin to guide their process, a Consultant who was well known by (JF) and (VDP) in work done with their sports. Following Bowls Australia's request the CEO will contact Mike McLaughlin through Neil Dalrymple and seek a process where he may act as BWAs lead Consultant in the Strategic Plan process. It was accepted that work on the Plan may not commence until the first quarter of 2022.

<b>Action: The CEO to ascertain costs/process for the use of this Consultant in formulating a new Strategic Plan.</b>
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*The CEO left the meeting whilst the Board discussed the performance of the CEO over the previous period.*

#### **4. GENERAL BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 CEO Annual Review**

Upon return President Larry commended the CEO on his performance and that of the BWA staff over the past year, acknowledging the good standing that WA has amongst its peers and that of Bowls Australia. The CEO thanked the Board for its support over this time and noted the importance of the work that was to come over the next 12 months with the completion of the tasks identified with the Governance Review, required Constitutional change and the formulation of another Strategic Plan.

The CEO was requested to bring his employment contract to the next Audit, Risk & Finance Meeting. **NOTED.**

##### **4.2 Player suspension – M Marinko**

The Board were notified of the suspension of player M Marinko from the Scarborough club.

##### **4.3 Volunteers function**

The Board had received an invitation to the Volunteers Function to be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December and were invited to forward a further invitation to a club volunteer if appropriate. Please contact the office with their RSVP and any further invitations.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.10am.

**NEXT Meeting: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021**