

Royal Western Australian Bowling Association Inc. T/As Bowls WA



MINUTES of the Board of BOWLS WA

Meeting held on Monday 21st November 2022 commencing at 8.00am.

1. PRESENT

Doug Kelly, Glenda Cooper, Vince Del Prete, Judy Flanagan, Marc Abonnel, Phil Manning, Lisa Featherby

1.1 In attendance:

Ken Pride (CEO)

1.2 Apologies

Lee Bunney

1.3 Conflict of Interest

Nil

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 31st October 2022 were then accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved: Vince Del Prete

Seconded: Glenda Cooper

Agreed

1.5 Actions from August meeting

The CEO confirmed the following from the actions noted at the August meeting:

- There were no outstanding matters raised by the Board on the committee restructure,
- The process of committee portfolio allocation would therefore be covered off in the main agenda items to follow,
- Given the delay in receiving the amended Constitution from the Bowls WA lawyers and the requirements for appropriate notice to be given to clubs for a SGM, it was likely that a meeting will be called in mid-February for a mid-March SGM,
- The operational plan is yet to be fully considered by staff, so will be held over for the December Board Meeting,

2. STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DECISION

2.1 Committee restructure

As noted above there were no further queries from the Board, therefore the revised committee re-structure was accepted, with the populating of the advisory committees able to commence.

2.2 Board Committee Portfolios

Given the acceptance of the committee re-structure, the CEO recommended the following Board Portfolios.

Game Development

Marc Abonnel
Glenda Cooper
Pieter Harris (staff)

Club & People Development

Vince Del Prete
Lee Bunney
Phil Manning
Aaron Delaporte (staff)

Finance, Audit, Investment, Risk (FAIR) (incorporating Governance)

Lisa Featherby
Doug Kelly
Judy Flanagan
Ken Pride (staff)

It was noted that given the Board still remained two Directors short, the important area of Game Development was lacking in personnel. Pieter Harris was currently seeking appropriate members who may be co-opted to join that committee in its strategic role.

It was agreed that the two vacant Board positions should be filled as a matter of urgency.

Action: The Board and Staff to consider appropriate individuals who may be able to fulfill the outstanding casual and appointed director vacancies.

3. STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

3.1 Bowls Australia President & Bowls NSW CEO

Doug Kelly was able to confirm the appointments of these two positions.

Matt Burgess and Tim Rowe were elected and appointed accordingly, with President Doug providing some background to the election of BA President Burgess, with whom he has made contact to congratulate him on his appointment.

3.2 Perth Suns BPL#16 and #17

The CEO gave a background report on BPL#16, with Coach/Manager Pieter Harris preparing a more detailed report.

The Board confirmed the selection of the same side for Moama in February, subject to their availability. It was noted that Pieter is seeking a replacement for himself for the Moama event. **NOTED.**

3.3 Open Gender – Country Leagues

Following a query from a League Secretary, the CEO made enquiries as to how far the Equal Opportunities Act stretched when ensuring that all players needed to be afforded the opportunity to play at the highest level.

He shared a response from the Bowls Victoria CEO, where open gender pennants had been played for a number of year, following a legal directive to do so. The response to that ruling in Victoria was that ALL pennant competitions were required to move to Open Gender formats, only events with a clearly define pathway fell outside of this ruling (ie state singles etc).

After much discussion the CEO was requested to seek a definitive ruling on what BWA would need to comply with, in the advent of a legal challenge.

Judy Flanagan suggested the first port of call would likely be an Equal Opportunities Helpline if available.

Action: The CEO to investigate the requirements of the Act outside of Saturday afternoon pennant.

3.4 LGBTQIA+ policy

The CEO had distributed an email from a member, concerned that there remained an unacceptable level of behaviour/discrimination towards LGBTQIA+ bowlers.

In discussion the Board was unanimous in its position that this continued behaviour was totally unacceptable and that the CEO discuss at a national level, whether it be appropriate that a national response be framed.

Action: CEO to add this to the forthcoming BA/STA CEO meeting agenda for a national discussion.

In addition, the CEO was requested to meet with the author (and others as required) to hear their concerns, note the action and position of the Bowls WA Board and consider a pathway forward following the national CEO meeting.

Action: The CEO as required.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

Committee Reports

4.1 President

President Doug informed the Board that he had held discussions with a major regional company to take a sponsorship to Live Stream the Men's IZRR at Denison BC. (The ladies are already covered within the BWA budget). A proposal had been drawn up and forwarded to the company.

In addition, he highlighted some of the key points made in the on-line Jack Hi which will shortly be released on the website.

4.2 CEO

The CEO tabled the terms of reference for the new Finance, Audit, Investment & Risk Committee plus the Governance Committee which would work in tandem with the FAIR group.

These would be reviewed at the next FAIR meeting in mid-December. In the interim further ToFR would be worked upon, in addition to the Explanatory Notes for the Constitutional changes. Again, these would initially be put before the FAIR Committee prior to the December meeting of the Board on the 23rd.

4.3 Audit, Risk & Finance

Director Lisa Featherby tabled the accounts to 31st October with minimal variations from the previous month, apart from the receipt of some unbudgeted sponsorship funds.

The investments had again started to improve, with a discussion to be had at the FAIR meeting, whether to seek to further invest any excess funds, following the receipt of affiliation fees.

The CEO noted that the 6-monthly review of Income & Expenditure would be presented at the December meeting. **NOTED.**

A proposal had been received from Mike McLaughlin in relation to the progression of a BWA Participation Plan. The CEO preferred to hold off at this time given the workload on current staff with other projects.

4.4 Governance & People Development

Nothing further at this time than previously noted in this area.

4.5 Country

Phil Manning was continuing to consider the most effective means of communicating with country clubs and members – the new committee structure may address this in their early meetings.

4.6 Club Development

The Committee has yet to meet following the shortened timeframe since the October meeting.

4.7 Club Suspensions

The Board noted club suspensions for Greg Douglas (VPC) and Steve Matthews (Nth Beach).

4.8 Board Meetings

Marc Abonnel queried the number of required Board Meetings going forward with the new structure. The CEO will add to the December agenda with a recommendation for 2023.

Action: The CEO for the December meeting to consider.
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There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9.45am.

Next Meeting: Friday 23rd December – 10.00am Royal Perth Golf Club