

Western Australian Bowling Association Inc. T/As Bowls WA



MINUTES of the Board of BOWLS WA

Meeting held on Friday 23rd December 2022 commencing at 10.00am at the Royal Perth Golf Club.

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 21st November 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 November meeting:

- The CEO had met with a prospective Board Director who would give due consideration to joining the Board over the next few weeks. Judy Flanagan will in due course follow up.
- Items regarding Open Gender, LGBTQIA+ policies and Board Meeting schedule for 2023 will be covered elsewhere in the agenda.

Phil Manning joined the meeting.

2. STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DECISION

2.1 Committee restructure/Terms of Reference

The CEO had previously distributed the various Terms of Reference relating to the new Committee structure.

Marc Abonnel queried whether the Board should be more proactive in the re-appointment of the Auditors and how long they should be appointed for. Given it was specifically noted as a responsibility of the FAIR Committee, this was accepted as an agreed process. (MA) also queried the appropriateness of the CEO acting as Secretary of the FAIR Committee and whether there was any conflict perceived. (VDP) noted that this should be primarily a Minute taking role in the new structure and this would be seen as appropriate in most sports.

Given the above the Board **RESOLVED** to accept the Terms of Reference as presented and move to the commencement of committee meetings as required.

Action: The CEO to replace the current documentation in the Governance File with the new Committee Terms of Reference and seek to populate committees with appropriate members as required.

2.2 BWA Constitution & By Laws

As above the CEO had previously distributed the recommended amendments to the Constitution & By Laws to the Board, which has as directed the summation of changes which would be presented to the clubs included. The CEO noted the timing for

approval of Constitutional change would likely be mid to late March, given the lead time required for a Special General Meeting to be called.

The Board **RESOLVED** to accept the changes as put, acknowledging the changes to the Constitution had been further reviewed and accepted by Bowls Australia's legal counsel.

Action: The CEO to seek an appropriate date to call a SGM for the presentation of the new Constitution to clubs.

2.3 Application for an Associated Club – WA Sandgropers Arm Bowlers Association

The CEO noted that an application to join Bowls WA as an Associated Member had been received from the Sandgropers Arm Bowlers.

The requirements of an Associated Member had been received and as a result the Board were happy to endorse their application accordingly.

Action: The CEO to inform the WA Sandgropers of the decision accordingly.

3. STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

3.1 Open Gender

The CEO had sought advice from Bowls Australia's legal counsel on the specific wording of the *WA Equal Opportunities Act – Sport* and its requirements for Bowls WA. Also tabled was a very informative document produced for Bowls Victoria on matters of Equal Opportunity in Lawn Bowls – albeit referring to state based legislation.

Given the best available advice, which had proved very hard to find, and following discussions with staff about the various consequences involved, the following was put to the Board for consideration:

Tuesday Ladies Pennant – no changes to the existing going forward,
Thursday Men's Pennant – no changes to the existing going forward,
Saturday Ladies Pennant – move to a Ladies only competition from 2024/2025, with Cross Gender Substitution permitted within a club's lowest Side,
Saturday Men's Pennant – graduate to an Open Gender competition (2nd division and below) for 2023/2024,
Saturday Men's Pennant – move to a fully Open Gender competition for 2024/2025.

In addition to the above staff would need to work on recommendations for transferring between competitions (Saturday) by ladies and a re-think on finals qualification between competitions.

After discussion the Board accepted these recommendations and **RESOLVED** for them to be implemented as above.

Action: The CEO with Staff to consider ramifications within and across competitions as required.

3.2 LGBTQIA+ policy

The CEO had raised the matter at a national CEO's meeting with Bowls Australia. It was agreed that the matter was requiring a national response, with each STA acknowledging issues surrounding the area of inclusivity.

As a result Bowls Australia will discuss with the relevant Bowls National Integrity Officer a communique and possible educational program going forward. The CEO had informed the respective members accordingly who were satisfied with the progress made. **NOTED.**

3.3 Men's IZRR – CBH Group

The President noted the support to be received from the CBH Group in the live streaming of Day 1 of the Men's IZRR in Denison. This was a new initiative and one that would be well received by country bowlers. Professional services will be used in the production of the broadcast.

3.4 Claremont Bowling Club

The CEO brought the Board up to date with the happenings at Claremont and the agreement struck in relation to excess funds being quarantined in the BWA Balance Sheet.

3.5 RWABA – 125th anniversary

Pieter Harris has noted that 2023 will mark the 125th anniversary of the original RWABA. Some initiatives will be communicated to the membership, which revolve around the selection (often by public vote) on country, metro and open teams over that period. More will follow.

3.7 Swan Bowling Club appeal

The CEO tabled the response to the Swan Bowling Club appeal against shots lost to the Instantaneous Penalty Rule – the appeal was dismissed.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS REPORTS

4.1 President

President Doug provided his report which included attendance at Government House for Association's that had Royal Patronage and interesting discussions had with other Royal clubs.

4.2 CEO

Nothing further.

4.3 Finance, Audit, Investment and Risk

Lisa Featherby noted the Minutes of the FAIR Committee from earlier in the week, which focussed on the half-yearly financial review of the accounts. The variations to budget were noted with the most significant being the loss of Investment Dividends due to the state of the world economy over 2022.

The end result showed a slightly increased deficit, although it was acknowledged that as per previous years, a number of minor expenses would likely not occur reducing the size of deficit to a manageable break even point.

The improvement in capital appreciation of the Investments was noted which showed a welcome improvement after a number of months of decline. The accounts to 30 November were accepted, noting that all clubs had now completed their affiliation payment, apart from one or two on a payment plan. **NOTED.**

4.4 Club & People Development

(VDP) noted the Minutes of the committee meeting held on 5th December, with no queries arising.

4.5 Presidents' Cup

The invitation from the Morley Bowling Club to enter a side in the annual Presidents' Cup was acknowledged. The team of Lisa Featherby, Judy Flanagan, Marc Abonnel and Glenda Cooper was selected to represent the Board with distinction.

4.6 Board Meeting schedule 2023

After discussion the CEO will draw up a schedule for Board Meetings in 2023. It was agreed that seven (7) meetings will be held interspersed with Standing Committee responsibilities.

The next meeting will be on Monday 27th February at 8.00am.

4.7 Country Week Booklets

The matter had been discussed at Finance and the Board level previously. It was accepted that fixture books of any kind become out of date the moment they are printed; noting that metro pennants had not had a printed fixture book for some years. It was again **RESOLVED** to not print a paper based booklet for 2023, but maintain the fixtures in an up to date fashion on the BWA website. **NOTED.**

4.8 Thursday Pennant start time – February

Pieter Harris, Clive Adams and Troy Kinnane joined the meeting to discuss the issue of the February start times. For the avoidance of any doubt the members involved themselves in the discussion, with the outcome to "soften" the stance of altering the start time to 1.30pm – although BWA would fully support clubs who completed the trial time of 4.00pm, which would also be the "default time" if agreement could not be reached between clubs. **NOTED.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.32pm with the President thanking members for their service and commitment to the Association – Merry Christmas and a safe New Year to all.