



MINUTES of the Board of BOWLS WA

Meeting held on Monday 23rd October 2023 at Bowls WA commencing at 8.00am.

1. PRESENT

Doug Kelly, Lisa Featherby, Glenda Cooper, Marc Abonnel, Terry Murphy, Gail Richardson, Vince Del Prete (by Zoom)

1.1 In attendance:

Ken Pride (CEO)

1.2 Apologies

Phil Manning

The President welcomed Gail Richardson to her first formal meeting as a Director, having filled a Casual Vacancy. In addition, the President noted that due to family commitments Deputy President Judy Flanagan had notified him of her intention to resign from the Board. The President thanked Judy in her absence for her support over the past two years.

1.3 Conflict of Interest – Terry Murphy in relation to Como BC response to the Constitution.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 18th September 2023 were then accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved: Glenda Cooper

Seconded: Marc Abonnel

Agreed

1.5 Actions from September meeting

- Constitution comment

The Draft Constitution was forwarded to all clubs for any preliminary comment. Some clarification on various issues, plus the comments received in writing below.

- Club Lighting Lux upgrade

Yet to be addressed with Bowls Australia.

2. STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DECISION

2.1 BWA Constitution

The CEO noted that written queries had been received from the Como and Melville Bowling Clubs which centred primarily on the appropriateness of the size of the quorum(s) for Board Meetings. In considering the relevant Rule 38 (3) for adjourned meetings the Board agreed that the requirement of (2) Director's to form a quorum was insufficient and upon further inspection believed the Rule was not required at all. It was agreed that Rule 38 (3) would be removed. **NOTED.**

Melville BC also queries issues around Country Leagues/Zones and voting rights which the CEO would clarify with the Club Secretary following the meeting.

Action: The CEO to confirm amendments made to the Como and Melville Bowling Clubs.

An additional point raised by the Melville BC was the use of the term "clear days". A clarification of the term will be added to the Definitions at the front of the document. **NOTED.**

Director Terry Murphy believed that the move from eight elected and two appointed directors to become six elected and three appointed directors would weaken the input of the affiliated clubs and was directly against the premiss of Bowls WA's mission of the development and support of our club network. After much discussion on the background of the change and the advice received from a previous consultant, it was moved by Terry Murphy that:

As shown currently in Rule 23 (1) the balance of Board Director's be returned to 8+2 from the submitted 6+3 in the Constitution.

The motion failed to receive a seconder and the Motion lapsed.

Director Terry also sought amendment to Rule 35 (1) that requires 48 hours notice to Director's in the holding of a Board Meeting, which he believed made it difficult for country directors to attend. President Doug believed this rule would only come into play in an emergency such as used in the passing of past President Larry Bandy. On all other occasions the CEO sent out a meeting schedule months in advance for Board Directors to follow.

Irrespective Terry sought an amendment to change the Rule to seven days rather than the recommended 48 hours and so Moved a motion that:

Rule 35 (1) be amended to be seven days rather than the current 48 hours

The Motion failed to receive a seconder and therefore lapsed.

Thirdly Director Terry sought the ability of members to nominate from the floor of an AGM, should a Casual Vacancy arise. Discussion followed with Terry firm in the belief that more "club representatives" be sought to fill the Board. The counter argument was that if this was permitted no background checks would be able to be carried out as to the person's bone fides, nor would country clubs be able to consider the matter, given their absence and their prior ability to vote in or otherwise candidates who had nominated through the normal processes.

Terry sought to move a Motion that would:

Permit Casual Vacancies on the Board to be filled from the floor of the AGM.

The Motion failed to receive a seconder and therefore the Motion lapsed.

Given the removal of Rule 38 (3) as previously noted the Board agreed to move to a Special General Meeting to seek the members support in the passing of the Constitution. **NOTED.**

Action: The CEO to seek an appropriate date for the holding of a Special General Meeting for the purpose of passing the submitted Bowls WA Constitution and forward to the Board in order to form a resolution.
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2.2 By Laws

The CEO tabled an amended set of by laws for the Board to consider noting that areas of repetition such as committee terms of reference and disciplinary processes had been removed, either because they already appeared in other documentation or would move to a specific policy footing. It was acknowledged that the modern governance procedure was to move by laws into specific policies and this process would commence with the balance of the document.

As such the Board were satisfied with the process and agreed to accept the by laws as they were presented.

Action: The CEO to update areas where the by laws are currently published.

2.3 Disciplinary Action & Disputes Policy

As noted above one of the by laws that has been removed is the section dealing with Disciplinary Action & Disputes. This area has now been updated and transitioned to be a Policy as per modern practice.

The Board accepted the updated Policy which now will be added to the Policies file.

Action: The CEO as required.

2.4 Transition Banking provider

It has previously been noted that Bankwest will be transitioning in coming months to the Commonwealth Bank, which would not provide some of the services currently enjoyed, including the closing of the local Bankwest branch.

Liz Rolt has researched the various options and settled on Beyond Bank as the best fit for the Association. The CEO as is required sought the Board's approval to make arrangements for the transitioning of the Association's banking services from Bankwest to Beyond Bank.

It was so moved that management seek to transition the Association's banking from Bankwest to Beyond Bank as required.

Moved: Terry Murphy

Seconded: Glenda Cooper

Agreed

Action: The CEO progress the transition as required from Bankwest to Beyond Bank
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3. STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

3.1 The Nationals

Following the completion of The Nationals the CEO sought opinion on the success or otherwise of the events.

Responses appeared to be very positive on the vast majority of what could be considered KPIs and no doubt all will learn a great deal from the hosting of the events in preparation for 2026. The clubs should be congratulated on the countless hours that were dedicated to the event(s) which had received very positive reviews from the controlling body BA.

It will be interesting to see if able any reports carried out by Tourism WA or the acquittal of grants received by BA.

Action: The CEO to write to the three host clubs congratulating them on the conduct of their events.
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3.2 Club Affiliation totals

The CEO tabled the latest club affiliation totals. These have been forwarded to clubs to ensure the accuracy of their database prior to the annual affiliation invoice. Unsurprisingly there has been a flurry of transfers and upgrades in recent days. The deadline for the clubs to accurately have their database up to scratch is midnight tonight.

3.3 Claremont Bowling Club

The CEO gave an update on the liquidation of the Claremont BC following advice from the liquidator Mann Judd. Clearly finalisation of this is still some months away. **NOTED.**

3.4 SGS Scorecard – Cockburn BC

Marc Abonnel reported on Cockburn's use of the Sports Governance Standards report by the Cockburn Board. The document was very beneficial in pointing out areas that may be improved upon as well as areas that the club was successfully undertaking. Marc believed it is a very useful tool for clubs to measure their governance standards at a single point in time and then set about making improvements. **NOTED.**

4. GENERAL BUSINESS – Reports

4.1 President

President Doug noted the bust past weeks with attendance at a number of events including:

- VIBBWA championships,
- The opening of the new Westonia green and roof structure,
- Attendance at the various opening and closing ceremonies for The Nationals, including attendance at volunteer thank you functions,
- Meetings with other STA President's while in Perth and discussion on various national matters,

He also congratulated staff on the significant amount of work carried out in the lead up and during The Nationals – it was certainly noted and reflected significantly on the success of the events.

4.2 CEO

The CEO noted that the various player of the series awards will be presented at a small function to be held on Wednesday 1st November at the Mt Lawley Bowling Club. This will reduce the number of awards presented at the Awards Night which have become quite lengthy on the night.

Board Directors are welcome to attend by RSVP to Clare in the office. The evening commences from 6.00pm.

4.3 FAIR

Lisa Featherby referred to the accounts to 31st October noting all is in line with the budget, with some minor expenses encountered with The Nationals (practice day lunch etc). The cash held is at its lowest ebb for the year, with affiliation fees now due to flow over the next month. A decision on investing those funds in the Strategic Cash Plus Fund will be made in December.

Next Board Meeting will see the 6-monthly Actual vs Budget review presented which will give a better indication of how we are tracking this financial year. Nothing further to report at this time.

4.4 Club Suspensions

The club suspensions of Graeme Fewings and Bryn Regan of Kardinya were both noted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.56am.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 27th November from 8.00am.