



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

Meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Bowls WA commencing at 8.00am.

### **1. PRESENT**

Doug Kelly, Phil Manning, Glenda Cooper, Marc Abonnel, Terry Murphy

#### **1.1 In attendance:**

Gail Richardson (by invitation), Ken Pride (CEO)

#### **1.2 Apologies**

Judy Flanagan, Lisa Featherby, Vince Del Prete

#### **1.3 Conflict of Interest – Nil**

*President Doug welcomed Terry Murphy to his first meeting as a Director and to Gail Richardson who was attending as an observer, with hopefully a view to join the Board to fill a casual vacancy.*

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

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 were then accepted as a true and correct record.

**Moved: Phil Manning**

**Seconded: Doug Kelly**

**Agreed**

#### **1.5 Actions from June meeting**

The CEO confirmed there were no specific actions from the July meeting, but a number of the agenda items referenced recent meetings and events.

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

#### **2.1 BWA Policies**

The CEO noted the number of policy upgrades that have occurred and will continue to occur in the coming weeks. As a result it was recommended that the Board would review those policies at the December Board meeting en masse to clear for the following calendar year. **NOTED.**

#### **2.2 Board Portfolios**

As this is the first meeting following the Annual General Meeting, the following standing committee portfolios were allocated:

##### **Finance, Audit, Investment and Risk**

D Kelly, L Featherby, G Richardson (CEO, C Adams, L Rolt)

##### **Game Development**

G Cooper, P Manning (P Harris)

##### **Club & People Development**

V Del Prete, M Abonnel,  
T Murphy, (C Adams)

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

#### **3.1 Bowls WA Report to SCB**

The CEO tabled a report from the recent SCB meeting attended by himself and President Doug on the Gold Coast. The main items of discussion were:

- An update on BAs current financial position and the discussions around the RBM now Club Support Program (CSP) and need to reduce the costs assumed by BA on the running of The Nationals (each STA has until the 26<sup>th</sup> September to formally state their position),
- The continuing emphasis that is being placed on Governance and the move by the ASC for both National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) and State Sporting Associations (SSAs) to complete and seek to improve the Sports Governance Standards (SGS) scores. As in WA this will likely influence the funding from the Government bodies going forward. It was interesting that the ASC did not believe that BA had done enough with the STAs in this space and needed to improve.

- The expiration of contracts around the BPL, including that of the Perth Suns and that of BA with Sports Entertainment Network (SEN) who produce the content for television. Discussions with the franchises will occur over the coming weeks as to their intentions post June 2024,
- The likely re-examination of the affiliation fee model between BA and the STAs. This task will likely be taken on by one of the new strategic committees being set up by BA – a very difficult exercise to find equity amongst such differing STAs,
- The appointment of a Consultant to review all aspects of the National Merchandising Program (NMP) in order to seek greater growth of an important income generator for the sport. It was noted in discussions that Bowls is in a very unique place with the NMP which has not been able to be replicated across any other major sporting code.

### **3.1.1 Bowls WA Report to SCB**

The Bowls WA report to the SCB was also tabled and included the recent items taking up our attention such as Open Gender, Sports Governance Standards and how BWA have been required to cover off this requirement for four years and how BWA will look to meet any excess demand for the services of a 2<sup>nd</sup> CSM, particularly servicing country clubs.

### **3.1.2 BWA and BV response to The Nationals 2024+**

As previously mentioned, BA was seeking from all STAs a response as to where savings could be made in the hosting of The Nationals. The CEO after long discussions with staff and noting our own priorities tabled the BWA required response. In addition, Bowls Victoria had written via email to BA and all STAs stating their position which was effectively a “no change” stance. This will all play out over the next 4-6 weeks as BA consider what the 2024 version of The Nationals may look like. Again, a very difficult exercise given the significantly different financial capacity and priorities of the STAs.

## **3.2 Sports Governance Standards (SGS) report card**

The Department (DLGSC) had forwarded the overall report card for BWA on its recent SGS “score”. BWA was well placed with an average overall score of 2.95 / 4, with the national sporting average 2.65 and state average 2.83. There remained a number of areas that BWA can seek to improve relatively easily and this was part of the basis for the continued policy development noted earlier. As part of the FAIR Committee charter, this area of Governance improvement will continue to be a focus over the next six months. **NOTED.**

## **3.3 Constitution update**

The CEO updated the Board on the position of the Constitution update. A meeting was held with the Consultant, himself and Clive Adams last week, where the document was reviewed and amendments recommended. Version 3 had now been returned and a final review will be carried out before it is forwarded to the Board. Following the document will be forwarded to clubs who will have the opportunity to review and make any comment before a final version is forwarded as part of a SGM.

**Action: The CEO to forward finalised version to the Board as required for signing off, before distributing to clubs for comment.**

## **3.4 The National WA update**

The CEO provided an update on The Nationals preparation with all on-track for an excellent event. Much will depend on the weather, which hopefully will hold prior to and during the events.

## **3.5 Metro Forum and outcomes**

Although some time has passed the metro forum held prior to the AGM was very well attended with plenty of interaction on the topics raised. A formal position on Open Gender was reached as was the extreme weather condition of play and a shortening of the time prior to a pennant match that roll-ups could occur. All in all a very productive forum attended by over 80% of metro clubs.

# **4. GENERAL BUSINESS – COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## **4.1 President**

President Doug noted his attendance at the funeral of Dennis Katunarich and of the BWA Race Day at Belmont Park where a race was named in his honour as well as Kerry Andersen and her Hall of Fame ascension.

Much of the President’s time was taken up with BWA matters at a national level, including attendance and follow up matters from the Gold Coast SCB meetings.

## **4.2 CEO**

Nothing further.

#### **4.3 Finance, Audit, Investment & Risk (FAIR)**

The accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> August were presented, as were the Minutes of the FAIR Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> September. Staff will update the budget worksheet for the 6-monthly review and present to the November Board Meeting. However there were a number of positives with the attainment of Juniper as a new partner, the re-signing of BCiB for a further year and some financial benefits to flow on Live Streaming of country events courtesy of Regional Men's Health Initiative funding.

There is an over-spend on the Awards Night given the change of venue post budget finalisation, which should be rectified next year with the Juniper support.

The Investment portfolio was noted for the new board members, with a depressed level of dividends likely for the year. The 1<sup>st</sup> tranche has been received which mirror the lower levels on 2022.

The transference of \$400,000 to the cash account is slowly being returned to the operational accounts as required, however the CEO was confident that not all these funds would be required before the new affiliation fees kick in, in November. These could then be re-allocated to higher returning funds as required **NOTED**.

#### **4.4 Club Suspension**

The CEO noted the club suspension of Port Bouvard member Bart Mavrick for 3 months ending on 12<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **4.5 Club lighting levels**

Marc Abonnel noted the inadequacy of the acknowledged industry standard of 100 lux for club lighting. This standard was often relied upon by LGAs in the initial placement or upgrade of lighting for club greens and is clearly inadequate for anything nearing competition standard. Efforts should be made to increase this base standard put out by the lighting industry.

<b>Action: The CEO will investigate any options via BA and possibly Sport Australia.</b>
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#### **4.6 Umpires accreditation and expiry**

Marc Abonnel queries the issue of Umpire accreditation and expiry without receiving written notification. The CEO will investigate but believed it was caught up with the extension of accreditation by one year for STAs due to COVID; but was unsure how that affected WA umpires/coaches re-accreditations.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.40am.

**NEXT MEETING: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October from 8.00am.**