



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

Meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 held at Bowls WA and commencing at 7.50am.

### **1. PRESENT**

Doug Kelly, Glenda Cooper, Terry Murphy, Gail Richardson, Vince Del Prete, Phil Manning, Lisa Featherby, Marc Abonnel

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

Ken Pride (CEO), Wendy Flack (by invitation)

#### **1.2 Apologies**

Nil

The President introduced and welcomed Wendy Flack to the meeting by invitation and hopefully she enjoyed the meeting enough to consider nominating for Board membership at the Annual General Meeting.

#### **1.3 Conflict of Interest**

Lisa Featherby had previously noted her potential conflict as a member of the State Team in relation to future costs.

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

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 were then accepted as a true and correct record.

**Moved: Glenda Cooper**

**Seconded: Vince Del Prete**

**Agreed**

#### **1.5 Actions from September meeting**

- . Future license of the Perth Suns (agenda item)
- . Bowls WA policies – completed
- . HP funding in budget (agenda item)
- . DLGSC Board Evaluation (yet to be forwarded to Board by DLGSC – CEO to follow up)
- . Website update – almost complete

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

#### **2.1 Budget 2024/25**

The 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the budget was tabled and discussed. There remained a need to bring the bottom line further towards a break-even point, noting that outstanding issues such as the BPL License, The Nationals player contribution and BA affiliation fee were now known.

The FAIR Committee would meet in March to produce a new draft of the budget for presentation to the April Board Meeting.

##### **2.1.1 Player contribution – The Nationals**

The CEO tabled a paper showing one possibility for meeting the confirmed Bowls Australia fee for participants in The Nationals. After much discussion on the financial ramifications and the equity of charging all participants, it was agreed that each participant would be required to pay an attendance fee of \$350.00 or the equivalent of the charge to be incurred by Bowls Australia. This would be a one-off charge and not for each event to be competed for (ie Sides Series & Australian Championships).

Prospective players in the state squads will be informed of the charge when squads are selected in late March. **NOTED.**

#### **2.2 Process for election of Board**

With the acceptance of the new Bowls WA Constitution, as per Rule 65 the Board becomes an interim Board until the elections at the July AGM. At this time all Director's will be offered the opportunity to nominate and face election as per the Constitution. The CEO discussed how the voting procedure may work, which is at the direction of the Board. It was agreed a numbering from most favored to least favored be employed, with the top three vote receivers elected for two-year terms, the next three for one

year terms. This would complete the election for the six elected Director's, following which the Board would consider a further three nominated positions at their leisure.

In the interim the CEO would investigate on-line voting opportunities rather than the previous mail and paper-based procedure previously required by the old Constitution.

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

#### **3.1 CEO/SCB meetings – Melbourne**

The President and CEO summarized the recent meetings held in Melbourne which included agenda items on:

- BA's latest financial update,
- The National Integrity Framework (NIF) and some requirements of Directors and Staff in integrity education,
- The work of two key committees looking at Affiliation and Business Models nationwide + Bowls Link and its future uses,
- Governance and the national move to Sport Governance Principles (which WA has been required to follow on a state basis for several years),
- The current status of World Bowls and work with the CGF in "rescuing" the Commonwealth Games.

It was at this meeting that the Player Contributions to the Nationals was confirmed. The following day the BA Board confirmed that The Nationals will proceed in 2024, with further information on a venue to follow.

#### **3.2 DLGSC Board Evaluation**

The survey is yet to be received by the Board – the CEO will follow up.

#### **3.3 BPL License 2024-2026**

The Director's had received a letter outlining the future business case of the BPL from Bowls Australia. It foreshadowed a move from 10 to 12 teams and an increase in the annual franchise fee and joining fee for any new franchises. It was noted that thanks to the good work of the President while in Moama for the recent BPL, the franchise annual fee will be reduced \$5,000 for each of the three single team states (ie Adelaide, Tasmania, and Perth).

The Board, after discussion and viewing the current financial position of the Perth Suns and its effect on BWA, endorsed the continuation of the franchise for a further two years.

<b>Action: The CEO to complete the BPL contract when made available by BA for a further two years.</b>
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### **4. GENERAL BUSINESS / REPORTS**

#### **4.1 President**

The President reported on a busy start to the year with:

- Attendance at the Men's IZRR at Manning BC, including the live streaming of the event given the assistance of Regional Men's Health,
- Conducting interviews for the state selector's positions,
- The national meetings in Melbourne as previously reported and
- Various STA Presidents' meetings via Zoom.

#### **4.2 FAIR Committee**

The Finance Director presented the accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> January and noted no particular variations. A positive sign was the upward trend of the investments and recent receipt of a larger than budgeted dividend from those investments. The transition from Bankwest to Beyond Bank is almost complete with some minor account tidying up to complete the process. At this time accounts payable via Beyond Bank are working as anticipated.

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

Vince Del Prete noted the discussion around the budget, with one of the major budgeted expenses being the Club Development Program funding of \$40,000. This amount was effectively the only amount spent by BWA in seeking to grow the sport and as a result needed to be built upon, not seen as a possible budget balancer. The program will be reviewed after the initial year in 2022, with a likely sharper focus on club projects that are believed to offer the best opportunity to grow the game and/or membership. It is likely the program will be run just prior to the next pennant season (Sept/Oct).

#### **4.4 Game Development**

Pieter Harris had completed a very detailed discussion paper on *The Future of Metropolitan Open Gender Pennant* for consideration in preparation for the 2024/2025 season. The Board were asked to read the paper and make comment, with it being distributed to clubs in the next several days.

Once clubs have had the opportunity to consider their position a Forum will be held to ratify the position for next season. One competition that is fixed is the current Men's Saturday Competition, which will move to be fully Open Gender in 24/25.

##### **4.4.1 Use of Laser Measures**

The Umpires Committee had again put forward a request to allow Laser Measures of all types able to be used by any player in any event. After consideration the Board would agree to the request and allow the Committee to communicate that to members as required.

#### **4.5 Board Meetings – Zoom**

Marc Abonnel sought the ability to have Zoom available for the rare occasions that time constraints made it difficult to attend Board Meetings in person. The CEO will make Zoom available when requested by a Board member.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00am.

**NEXT MEETING: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.**