

Southern Tasmanian Bowls Association Inc.

Trading as:

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President: Peter Kirby

Secretary: Rob McQuire



MINUTES OF THE DELEGATES MEETING HELD AT THE SORELL BOWLS CLUB COMMENCING AT 1.05 PM ON TUESDAY 27 MARCH 2018

Welcome: President Peter Kirby welcomed all delegates and Life Member Neil Clark.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Life Members Hedley Beechey, Tony Fulton OAM and Cath Smith and BTS Board Member Ailsa Milburn. Apologies were also received from Cygnet and Glenorchy City.

Attendance: The meeting was attended by 33 delegates present representing 20 clubs (Beltana, Bruny, Buckingham, Claremont, Cremorne, Derwent City, Dover RSL, Franklin, Geeveston, Glenorchy Rodman, Howrah, Huonville, Kingborough, New Norfolk, Orford, Rosny Park, Sandy Bay, Sorell, St. John's Park and Tarooona). Twelve interested men and women also attended the meeting.

Minutes: Moved Paula Hadley Seconded John Clark that the minutes of the previous Delegates Meeting held on 27 September 2017 be confirmed. Carried

Business Arising:

Bulk Discount on Club Insurances:

Bowling Clubs Insurance Brokers (BCIB) has not come back to Bowls Tasmania with a firm response and work has now commenced with BCIB and Bowls Australia for Bowls Australia to take on accident insurance for every club in Australia which will result in a considerable saving to clubs. The difficulty with this is that they are trying to work their way through different financial years and insurance renewals for each state and then each club within the state.

Clearance Policy:

At the Delegates Meeting in September 2017 the BTS Board advised that it would prepare a discussion paper on clearance fess for 2017-18 for discussion at the next Delegates Meeting. The discussion paper was in the form of an amended Clearance Policy which was circulated to Clubs prior to the Delegates Meeting. As there was no discussion on the amended Clearance Policy it was resolved to adapt the Clearance Policy.

Future of Pennant Survey:

At the Delegates Meeting in September 2017 the BTS Board advised that it would be preparing a discussion paper on the future of pennant for consideration by Clubs before further discussion at the next Delegates Meeting. A discussion paper was circulated to Clubs in December 2017 following which the major issues raised were placed into a survey which was distributed to members via Clubs in January 2018.

The results of the survey were distributed to Clubs at the Delegates Meeting.

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It is interesting to note that 649 or almost 35% of registered members answered the survey. In short that tells us that BTS can be 95% certain within a margin of error of plus or minus approximately 4.7 % that if all 1,880 members had filled in the survey the same answers within a range of plus or minus 4.7 % would have been given.

The survey shows that:

- Majority of members are happy with the status quo.
- Majority want a consistent state-wide Conditions of Play
- Majority want 21 ends of pennant.
- Majority want to do away with dispensations.
- Majority said no to open gender Wednesday and Thursday pennant.
- Majority want current restrictions in Midweek Pennant to remain as is – but want 12 players not 16.

Full results will be circulated to Clubs and put on the BTS website and Facebook page after the Delegates Meeting.

The next steps are as follows:

- The BTS Board will determine its position on matters raised.
- Clubs will be advised of the BTS Board's position by the end of April 2018 including implementation etc.

Huonville Dispensation:

At the Delegates Meeting in September 2017 the BTS Board was requested to review its decision to refuse a request from Huonville for dispensation for Thursday Women's Pennant Division 2. The BTS Board subsequently gave approval to allow Huonville to play a maximum of three men in Women's Thursday Division Two subject to a number of conditions:

Equal Opportunity and Bowlers in Wheel Chairs:

At the Delegates Meeting in September 2017, Stephen Lockley from Brighton advised the meeting that the BTS Board had rejected a request from Brighton that if Clubs do not have suitable bathroom facilities for wheelchair bowlers, BTS should relocate pennant games to a neutral club with compliant facilities. As the BTS Secretary did not have the relevant information on hand at the Delegates Meeting to fully explain the reasons for the BTS Board's decision, it was agreed that the BTS Board will revisit this matter and advise Clubs of the outcome.

The BTS Board had previously received a query from Brighton about the legal need for bowls clubs to provide facilities for handicapped players at their clubrooms. There are a number of handicapped players including those in wheelchairs who play lawn bowls, however, not every bowls club has all the necessary facilities including suitable entrances and handicapped toilets to cater for these bowlers.

It is understood that all new public buildings (including licensed premises such as bowls clubs) must provide buildings that are accessible to people with disabilities but it is not clear what the law in Tasmania is in regard to older buildings.

In Victoria the *Equal Opportunity Act 210* includes some exceptions which mean that discrimination will not be against the law in particular circumstances. Such circumstances include where it may be unreasonable to provide complete accessibility to existing public buildings.

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The BTS Secretary contacted Equal Opportunity Tasmania (EOT) to determine the situation in Tasmania and was advised that there are also exceptions under the Tasmanian *Anti-Discrimination Act 1998*. Section 48 provides that a person may discriminate against another person on the grounds of disability in access to public places if the provision of access would cause unjustifiable hardship. This does not stop someone lodging a discrimination complaint to Equal Opportunity Tasmania but would appear to give Clubs a reasonable defence.

Clubs were advised accordingly on 2 May 2017.

Brighton subsequently again requested the BTS Board to relocate pennant games to a neutral club with compliant facilities if a Club does not have suitable facilities for wheelchair bowlers. The BTS Board refused this request.

The BTS Board reviewed this matter following the last Delegates Meeting and resolved to re-confirm its position and advice to Clubs on this matter. Clubs were advised of the BTS Board's position again on 4 December 2017.

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Match Committee:

As per the attached report.

Selection Committee:

As per the attached report

Coaches Panel:

As per the attached report.

Officiating Panel:

As per the attached report.

MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE BTS BOARD:

Timing of BTS Women's Championships:

The move to Sunday's for most BTS women's championship events this season has not resulted in significant additional entries. It has also resulted in difficulties in getting clubs to host these events. The BTS Board has recommended that consideration be given to whether or not these championship events should revert to during the week rather than Sundays. It was suggested at the Delegates Meeting that the Singles Championships remain on Sunday's as the men's and women's finals being played together was good. It was agreed to ask Clubs to consider this matter and advise the BTS Board of their preference by 30 April 2018.

Timing of Greens before Pennant:

At its meeting on 19 February 2018, the BTS Board considered a letter from Glenorchy City which raised concerns that some Clubs appear to be presenting greens to opposing sides which are not running as would be expected – in other words they have been “doctored” to suit the home side.

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The BTS Board does not approve the “doctoring” of greens which is against the spirit of the game.

Clubs are reminded that Conditions of Play provide the following in regard to greens:

- It is expected that, under normal weather conditions, greens in Southern Tasmania should commence play at a speed between 12 and 16 seconds. Clubs, whose greens are consistently reported as being outside these guidelines, will be contacted by the BTS Greens Advisory Committee to discuss possible corrective action (Condition of Play 1.10.3).
- If a green is timed at less than 12 seconds or greater than 16 seconds, an explanation shall be provided by the home club on or with the result sheet. If that explanation is not accepted as satisfactory by the BTS Board, the home club will forfeit six points from each of its sides playing on that green on that day (Conditions of Play 1.12.3 (e)).

In particular Side Captains should time the green approximately 20 minutes before the commencement of play.

This information was circulated to Clubs on 21 February 2018.

Lack of volunteers for BTS Match Committee:

The BTS Board is concerned that no women are prepared to put their hands up to be on the BTS Match Committee to help run women’s championship events. Rob McGuire will not continue with this role next season. Interested people should nominate for the BTS Match Committee when nominations open next month.

Matters raised at Bowls Tasmania Regional Consultative Committee Meeting:

President Peter Kirby advised of the following matters raised at the Bowls Tasmania Regional Consultative Committee meeting held at Longford on 26 March 2018:

- Fixed Fee Capitulations will not happen in Tasmania in 2018-19. Bowls Tasmania is waiting for clarification of hardship dispensation guidelines before further consideration will be given to this matter.
- Junior State Wide Challenge in 2018-19 will be rotated around the regions instead of just being played centrally in Longford.
- Bowls Tasmania is developing a long-term calendar with the aim of not finishing the bowls season as early as is currently the case. Presently Bowls Tasmania try and finish the season before Easter each year and will investigate extending this to Anzac Day each year. The only issue with this is the timing of the Australian Sides Championship which may impinge on Bowls Tasmania dates.
- It has been agreed to form a committee to investigate the introduction of a consistent set of State-wide Conditions of Play for pennant that leads to State Pennant Finals. Each region will have two representatives on the committee which will be chaired by Rob McGuire (non-voting). The first meeting of the committee is scheduled for Thursday 19 April 2018.

GENERAL BUSINESS – RAISED BY CLUBS PRIOR TO MEETING:

Taroona – Condition of Play 6.5 (a) re opposite gender players in Women’s Thursday Pennant:

Taroona is concerned that Conditions of Play 6.5 (a) is contradictory and is intended to advantage the larger Clubs and is aimed at bringing the lower divisions of Thursday Women’s Pennant into a quasi non-gender specific pennant. The first sentence of the Conditions of Play requires that opposite gender players can only be used when no eligible same gender player is available but appears to be contradicted by the second sentence which states that there is no requirement that the same gender player be selected in a higher division in preference to the opposite gender player. Taroona wants consistency in the Conditions of Play and believes that opposite gender players should be used like substitutes in a Club’s lowest side.

The BTS Board had previously advised Taroona that, as restrictions are put on where certain Saturday Pennant men could play in Thursday Pennant, some clubs found that their men could not play in Thursday Women’s Pennant unless they could play in a higher Thursday division – hence the new Condition of Play. Allowing opposite gender players to play in a higher division than some women was also introduced so that Clubs could use a man to fill a gap in a team without necessarily disturbing a Club’s lower division side.

It was agreed to refer this matter to the BTS Conditions of Play Committee for 2018-19.

Sorell – Proposal to change starting time of Midweek Pennant to 11.30am:

Sorell has proposed that the starting time for Midweek Men’s Pennant be changed to 11.30am. This will ensure an earlier finish and allow players to avoid the growing traffic congestion in Hobart and suburbs. An alternative suggestion put forward at the meeting was a noon start. It was agreed that this matter should be circulated to Clubs that play Midweek Pennant for a decision.

Geeveston – Proposed changes to Conditions of Play:

Geeveston submitted a number of proposed changes to Conditions of Play as some of the existing penalties are too severe for genuine situations. The proposed changes are as follows:

- The existing rule in Section 3.20 (a) (iv) - Eligibility for Pennant and Finals -12 games. This rule could be relaxed to 15 games to allow for sickness or a change in performance. Sometimes a player’s performance declines through various reasons and they should be able to be selected in a lower team. Rule 3.20. (b0 (ii) covers any stacking of sides for finals.
- The existing Rule 3.20 [b] [iii] - Must have played 6 games to be eligible for Finals. Dispensation if granted should allow the player to be selected at his or her level of ability and not be restricted to the lowest side. (This would be stacking a team and goes against the whole concept of the previous rule.)
- Alteration to the Rule 4.5 - Selection Guidelines - Division 1 Thursday players should only be selected in A Grade on Saturdays. Example Division 1 ladies from Kingborough played in Division 4 on Saturdays. All B Grade Men and Women to be classed as equal to their selection on either day. Example Division 3 men and women equal not the present rule that Division 4 men are equal with Division 3 Women.
- Alteration to Rule 1.12.3 (d) - Ineligible Player - The offending team loses the rink and shots that the ineligible player has played in, not the punitive penalties in the existing rule.

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The BTS Board has already flagged that current penalties appear to be harsh and has already agreed to revisit them when Conditions of Play are being drawn up for 2018-19. It was agreed to refer all these matters to the BTS Conditions of Play Committee for 2018-19.

As there was no further business the President closed the meeting at 2.35 pm, thanked all delegates for their attendance and participation and thanked the Sorell Bowls Club for making its facilities available for the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: September 2018 – date and venue to be advised.



BOWLS TASMANIA SOUTH MATCH COMMITTEE

Match Committee Report for March 2018

The Bowls Tasmania South members of the Match Committee for the 2017-18 season were: Rob McGuire (Buckingham), Tony Hine (Derwent City) and Chairperson Ross Bannister (Derwent City). No ladies nominated for this committee which is very poor.

I would like to thank the members of the committee for their help and co-operation throughout the season and Rob for looking after the ladies championship draws. The committee would also like to thank all the clubs involved in championship events and pennant finals for the use of their greens. Our committee once again tried to spread the championships around different clubs this season. Our thanks also go to the members of those clubs for their participation as umpires and match managers in all events.

Congratulations to the winners of all of our championships and clubs that were successful in pennant finals as well as those that gained promotion.

The Champion of Champions singles champions event was played at the Kingborough indoor centre and a big thank you to the Kingborough Bowls Club for running this even though some players complained about playing indoors. This was due to Bowls Tas playing the finals on the March long weekend.

The singles championships this year have seen more changes to the format as players had to mark games so a round robin section was played on the first day.

Some bowls club has had pennant points taken of them this past season and other clubs have had point awarded to them when they have breached the conditions of play for pennant. The Match Committee and Bowls South can only apply the rules that are in the Bowls South Condition of play and cannot deviate from them.

Ross Bannister
Chairperson
BTS Match Committee

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Bowls Tasmania South **Selection Committee**

Women's Open Selection Report March 2018

Thank you to all the ladies who put their name forward for selection in the State Wide Challenge this season.

The first round was held at North Launceston Bowls Club on 29th October. The team started the day in great form and managed two wins and a draw, but the afternoon game resulted in a loss on all three rinks giving the South a score of 11 points.

Round two was hosted by Latrobe Bowls Club and the team had a tough round in the first game with a loss on three rinks. After the lunch break the teams regrouped and all played well to win on all rinks.

The final game in the series was held at Buckingham Bowls Club and the No 1 team started the day in fine form winning on two rinks against the North West. The North proved too strong in the afternoon game with all rinks going down. The No 2 team for the South managed one rink win against North West and one against the North.

Congratulations to the Northern ladies team for winning the series and the shield.

Thanks to our State Selector Leonie Price for her help and input into the trials and to our Manager Paul Hoddy for his assistance.

We look forward to a more productive season in 2018-2019 and hopefully see more new members participating in this event.

AILS A MILBURN
SELECTOR

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Bowls Tasmania South **Officiating Panel**

Officiating Panel Report March 2018

The Bowls South Officiating Panel have had a successful season and look forward to continuing to be a supportive and helpful body to all bowlers and administrators in the South.

Although the 'Side Captains Guidelines' had been updated there are several issues that are not being addressed by clubs:

- The Conditions of Play state that the timing of the greens must be 20 minutes before play commences and both Side Captains should participate.
- The Guidelines also expect Side Captains to check that their players are correctly attired as per Condition 1.8. This means that the Bowls Australia Logo Policy (Dress Regulations) will apply to all persons playing in BTS Championships and pennant competitions.
- The Conditions of Play requirement that if there is not a currently accredited umpire, at the host club, then a visiting currently accredited umpire must be used has not been followed in some instances.
- There also has to be a reminder to clubs that the Side Captain (Match Manager), the Green Superintendent or nominated representative may not be the Umpire.

The BTS website has been updated and clubs are able to access lists of Officials, Measurers and Markers to assist with the conduct of events held at their clubs.

The program of producing new Officials continues and thanks go to the untiring efforts of Ross Bannister.

Forums for Umpires and Measurers were held in the South, North and Eastern areas of the South and the regionalisation proved to be successful. Next season this program will continue and all qualified Officials are encouraged to attend to update their knowledge, especially when there have been changes to either the Laws or the Conditions of Play.

There will also be regional opportunities for all Officials and Measurers to update their skills with daytime on the green measuring forums.

My thanks go to the Bowls South Officiating Panel of Helen Ducker, Lee Cowie and Geoff Price and to the numerous Officials that have given their time to BTS Championship events and Pennant Finals.

Leonie Price
BTS Officiating Panel

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Bowls Tasmania South **Coaches Panel**

Coaches Panel Report March 2018

Last winter on the first Sunday in each month from May through to September coaching sessions were held at the new Howrah indoor centre. On behalf of the coaches that assisted with the training, I would like to thank the Howrah Bowls Club for opening their club on these Sundays and making it available for the coaching sessions and allowing members from other bowls clubs to come and use their indoor centre. These winters coaching sessions have already been organised for this coming winter and will be again at the Howrah indoor centre starting on the first Sunday of each month in May to September from 12 noon to 3 pm, so come along and improve your game, it is open to everybody from beginners to Premier players. Bowls South is covering the cost of the indoor centre so it is free to all participants at these coaching sessions.

The southern junior boys and girls also had training sessions over the summer month conducted by the southern junior Manager and coach Tom O'Brien at the Buckingham Bowls Club.

Our southern coach's committee members are more than happy to travel to any bowls club that needs help in running or organising bowls coaching sessions. If any clubs would like to organise a coaching day all they have to do is contact the Southern coaches' panel or myself.

Last year and again this year most of our southern coach's certification has or will expire, it is very simple to be requalified as a club coach by having your bowls club write an current competent letter saying that you have been actively coaching at your bowls club, fill out an application form, supplying a photo copy of your working with vulnerable people card and watch the coaches den videos on Bowls Australia web site. The recertification fee is \$25.00 to cover the cost of a new certification card. Not many of our coaches in the south have reaccredited which is very disappointing.

Some bowls clubs have had unqualified people coaching at pennant games, this is a breach of coaching principals and leaves the bowls club liable if something happens. So if you want to coach why not register in a coach's course.

If your bowls club does not have qualified bowls coaches, you need to talk to your clubs committee and arrange to get qualified. Every bowls club in the south should have at least two female and two male coaches in their club. If you would like to become a coach or know of somebody that would be a good lawn bowls coach please let me know and we can organise your registration through Bowls Tasmania for the next Southern Club Coaches course.

Ross Bannister
Bowls Tasmania South Coaches Panel

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