

Southern Tasmanian Bowls Association Inc.

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Bowls Tasmania South

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President: Trevor Quilliam

Secretary: Rob McGuire



Minutes of the Special General Meeting of Bowls Tasmania South, held at the St. John's Park Bowls Club, St. John's Avenue, New Town commencing at 1.00 pm on Sunday 17 June 2012.

- 1. Notice of meeting:** The President read the notice of meeting and advised that a quorum was present.
- 2. Welcome:** The President welcomed members to the meeting.
- 3. Attendance and apologies.** There were 44 delegates present representing 23 clubs (Beltana, Brighton, Bruny, Buckingham, Claremont, Cremorne, Cygnet, Derwent City, Franklin, Geeveston, Glenorchy Rodman, Glenorchy RSL, Howrah, Huonville, Kingborough, New Norfolk, Oatlands, Orford, Rosny Park, Royal Hobart, Sandy Bay, Sorell, Taroonna.) 31 observers also attended. Apologies were received from Bob Almond (Berriedale), Gwen Jessup (Berriedale) and BTS Secretary Rob McGuire.

4. Notices of Motion

Moved by the Kingborough Bowls Club, Seconded by the Royal Hobart Bowls Club and supported by the Geeveston Bowls Club, Huonville Bowls Club and the Taroonna Bowls Club
"To repeal the decision to implement changes to playing conditions for pennant for the 2012-13 season as adopted by the Association and that the existing pennant format remain".

(The following motion was moved, and carried by the Board of Bowls Tasmania South at its meeting on 26th April 2012:

"For the 2012-2013 season men's and women's pennant shall consist of 8 sides per division, creating a "Premier" league plus divisions 1,2,3,4, plus more as required depending upon numbers. The pennant season will comprise 3 rounds of 7 games each. Clubs will be allowed to have no more than one side in any division with the exception of the lowest division."

The name "Premier League" may be changed to reflect a sponsor's name.

Love this bowls

In the men's competition sides will continue to comprise 4 rinks, except in the lowest division which will comprise 3 rink sides. In the women's competition sides will continue to comprise 3 rinks.)

The President asked all delegates whether they had received advice from their clubs concerning the matter to be voted on and received a positive response. A women's delegate expressed some concern that their men's and women's delegates may be voting against each other as the matters affecting them were different.

The President read a letter from Royal Hobart expressing the view that this meeting should not be held because the Board's action was invalid as it was taken without all affected clubs being afforded procedural fairness in its making. The President noted that his advice was that the Board acted in accordance with the constitution and proper processes were followed. He ruled that Royal Hobart's request be denied.

Questions from Bill Bale and Alex Stanelos re the President's decision were ruled out of order.

Alex Stanelos then spoke to the motion – generally voicing the concerns regarding men's pennant including concerns that:

- No club has any idea where their sides may play under the new arrangements.
- North has 960 men in 23 clubs, NW has 870 men in 15 clubs and South has 1470 men in 28 clubs – all are different – which area are we falling in line with?
- At the March 2012 Board meeting it was decided that a paper would be put for consideration by members and this was not done
- It is fair and proper to play a season for a known outcome and BTS should not ride roughshod over membership.
- Male bowlers are down in numbers over recent years and it would be wise to limit the damage in decline in numbers by voting for the motion.

Moved K Bailey – seconded C Wedd that the question be now put. Following procedural discussion the mover and seconder agreed to withdraw the motion to allow further discussion.

Peter Willson then spoke to the motion including the following points:

- 8 teams per division was tried some years ago and discarded after 1 season.
- 18 games is a long season to commit to and 21 games is unsupportable.
- The procedure used by BTS was incorrect and ignored clubs and delegates.
- Some difficulty is foreseen as the motion refers to both men's and women's pennant and this needs to be separated as the issues are clouded.

Grant Allford spoke against the motion and gave the reasons for the move as outlined in a circular to clubs following the proposal to change.

Elizabeth McKay (Buckingham) agreed that the men's and women's matters need to be separated.

Bill Bale moved that the motion be split into sections relating to men's and women's matters to resolve the problem. There was no seconder to the motion. Following discussion the President ruled the motion out of order.

The President then put the motion *"To repeal the decision to implement changes to playing conditions for pennant for the 2012-13 season as adopted by the Association and that the existing pennant format remain"*. The motion was passed 29 votes to 15.

The President then closed the meeting, thanking all members for attending and also thanking St. John's Park for the use of their premises.

The meeting closed at 2pm.