

# Southern Tasmanian Bowls Association Inc.

Trading as:

## Bowls Tasmania South

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ABN 12 820 830 594

President: Peter Kirby Secretary: Rob McGuire



Minutes of the Board meeting on Monday 17 May 2021 via Zoom commencing at 4.33 pm.

**Present:** Peter Kirby (President), Ross Bannister, Lee Cowie, Tony Fulton, Paul Hoddy, John McKibben, Leonie Price and Rob McGuire.

**Observers:** Bernard Knight (Bowls Tasmania Board).

**Apology:** Pat Zapotocky (Deputy-President), Ailsa Milburn and Malcolm Salier.

**Minutes:** Moved: Ross Bannister Seconded: Tony Fulton “that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2021 be confirmed subject to changing the venue to Buckingham Bowls Club instead of “via Zoom”.” Carried

### Matters Arising:

#### Sponsorship 2019-20 and beyond

At the June 2018 Board meeting, it was agreed that this matter should remain on the agenda for future Board meetings. No further action was taken in regard to this matter at this meeting.

#### Coronavirus and Lawn Bowls Update:

The BTS Board approved its updated Coronavirus Policy as a result of the Government mandated use of the Check-In TAS app for contact tracing from 1 May 2021.

#### Fixed Fee Membership Model

The Bowls Tasmania Board has approved of a change in the model being used for Bowls Tasmania to a fixed fee model to raise affiliation fees. At the BTS Board meeting in April 2021 it was agreed that the BTS Finance Committee would meet as soon as possible to consider this matter further and submit a firm recommendation on how BTS intends to charge capitation fees in 2021-22 to this Board meeting so that it in turn can be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

The BTS Finance Committee met on 14 May 2021 and has recommended that:

- BTS continue with a per capita fee for collection of subscriptions in 2021-22.
- A sub-committee be established with the aim of preparing an argument for the Flat Fee model to be introduced in 2022-23. Terms of reference for the sub-committee are to be established but will include how the system operates in other states and how their “flat-fee” is decided.

The recommendations were endorsed by the BTS Board.

#### Damage to Greens Committee

At its meeting in November 2020 the BTS Board formed a Working Group to clarify issues in regard to bowlers’ actions that cause damage to greens. The Working Group held its first meeting on 16 February 2021 and a draft policy is being prepared by the BTS Secretary.

#### Survey to determine why players stop playing bowls

One of the objectives in the current BTS Strategic Plan is to conduct a study to determine why members stop playing bowls. Peter Kirby and Rob McGuire have prepared a draft survey questionnaire which was forwarded to Board members for comment before being sent to Clubs. It was agreed to approve the survey subject to adding a further reason “The season is too long”. It was further agreed to send the survey to Club Secretaries and encourage them to give it to any members who have stopped playing or who move to another club in the coming 2021-22 season. Alternatively it could be done verbally between the Secretary and the member and then forwarded to BTS for collation and action. The survey is also to be placed on the BTS website.

Bowling Arm Tasmania 2021 Program

At the January 2021 Board Meeting it was agreed that BTS investigate grant opportunities to purchase more uniforms to be able to provide uniforms for Bowling Arm representative sides. To date no suitable grant opportunities have been identified.

Selectors playing in SWC teams and RCC Meeting

At the March 2021 Board meeting, it was agreed to raise the issue of Selectors also playing in SWC teams at the next Regional Advisory Committee meeting. This did not happen but this matter has been added to the agenda for the Regional Advisory Committee meeting to be held on 25 May 2021.

Incident Glenorchy Rodman versus Buckingham 13 February 2021

Following receipt of appeals from Josh Baker and Shane Baker against the processes and penalties imposed by the BTS Tribunal, the BTS Board appointed an Appeals Committee to consider the appeals. The Appeals Committee conducted its hearing on 20 April 2021.

The Appeals Committee found that the BTS Tribunal Panel was not validly established in accordance with the BTS Disciplinary Policy, that both Josh and Shane Baker were denied natural justice and that there was at least apprehended bias on the part of the President in his chairing of the BTS Tribunal Panel. Accordingly the BTS Appeals Committee upheld their appeals and has advised that the determinations made and the penalties imposed on them are to be set aside. The bonds paid by Josh and Shane Baker are to be repaid in full. Penalties against Ricky Maughan and Isaac Maughan are also to be set aside.

The Glenorchy Rodman and Buckingham appeals against the \$500 fine imposed on both Clubs were withdrawn by the BTS Board in an out-of-session decision following preliminary advice from the Appeals Committee that these appeals would also succeed as the proceedings and the appeals have similarities to the Baker matter.

At its meeting in March 2021, the BTS Board agreed that flaws in the BTS Disciplinary Policy became apparent as the BTS Tribunal worked through the process. Time-frames were found to be either too long or, in other cases, too short. Incompatibility between Rule 32 of the BTS Constitution and the policy became apparent. It was resolved that Peter Kirby and Rob McGuire consider what changes need to be made to the BTS Constitution and the BTS Disciplinary Policy and report back to a future Board meeting. Work is progressing on this matter.

Approval to wear non-conforming footwear

At its meeting in April 2021, the BTS Board was advised that Brighton had sought approval for Jeanette Holmes and Lindy Brown to wear non-conforming footwear on medical advice. The BTS Secretary sought further information and no approval was given. It was agreed to seek photos of shoes and details of the medical advice received – however this information has not yet been received.

Incident Report Thursday Division 5 Grand Final at Glenorchy Rodman

At its meeting in April 2021 the BTS Board was advised that the BTS Match Committee had received an Incident Report from Howrah in regard to the Division 5 grand final at Glenorchy Rodman which in turn had been referred to Glenorchy Rodman for comment. Several ladies fell whilst using steps to get on and off the green. A response has now been received from Glenorchy Rodman and the steps have been inspected by Ross Bannister who advised that they have been professionally made out of aluminium and sit on the green and have a handle to hold on to and players have to step from the bank over the ditch on to the step. These steps can be used on any green because they are not a ditch step – but were used incorrectly as such at the Grand Final. The BTS Match Committee has agreed that the steps are safe and can be used providing they are placed on the green properly and not partly in the ditch. Glenorchy Rodman has agreed to amend the steps to give them additional stability.

Review of fees paid for hosting BTS Championships

At its meeting in April 2021 the BTS Board agreed that fees paid for hosting BTS Championships need to be reviewed, particularly for larger events shared over many Clubs which substantially dilutes the payments received by those Clubs. This matter was reviewed by the BTS Finance Committee who recommended to the Board that BTS should pay a fee of \$100 for every green used per day or part thereof and a fee of \$150 for use of Indoor Centres or Clubs using their lights to cover the cost of the power used. That would seem to be a fairer way of reimbursing Clubs and providing them with some incentive to host these championships. Junior championship fees will remain unchanged at \$150 per event. These increased fees have been built into the budget for 2021-22. The Board approved the recommendations.

### Matters raised at Delegates Meeting

The following matters were referred to the Board from the Delegates Meeting on 12 April 2021:

- Afternoon teas for Wednesday and Saturday Pennant post-COVID-19 - Afternoon tea was prohibited for Wednesday and Saturday Pennants this past season due to COVID-19. Discussion took place on what Clubs want to do next season. The overwhelming majority of Delegates present want this to continue in 2021-22 particularly if playing 21 ends.

Moved: John McKibben Seconded: Ross Bannister “that COVID-19 is still with us and is likely to be for the foreseeable future so afternoon tea will still be prohibited for Wednesday and Saturday Pennants next season due to COVID-19”. Carried

- Starting time for Thursday Women’s Pennant - Discussion took place on what Clubs want to do next season. Clubs generally start earlier now than the 11.30am scheduled start and like the lunch break as it gives them fund-raising opportunities. An earlier start may see some Clubs have difficulty in getting greens ready on time. Delegates agreed that this matter should be taken back to Clubs to decide with a number of options offered.

Moved: Lee Cowie Seconded: Leonie Price “to seek the opinion of Clubs re start time 11am or 11.30am and lunch break or no lunch break”. Carried

- Fixed Fee Membership Model - Bowls Tasmania has agreed to introduce a fixed-fee membership subscription model rather than the current per-capita membership model from 2021-22 and will charge regions accordingly. How BTS will charge Clubs has not yet been determined. Delegates believed that the focus of subscriptions should be on enticing bowlers to play and not discouraging them. Many Delegates present thought that the fairest way to charge Clubs would be on a per team basis. Refer to Matters Arising – Fixed Fee Membership Model above to see where the Board is at re this matter.

- Saturday Pennant Division 7 in 2021-22 - Cremorne would like Division 7 games to be restored to three rinks (i.e. 12 players) and the ends played reduced to 15. This matter was discussed at length at the Delegates meeting. It was suggested that there be two Division 7’s – one with two rinks and one with three rinks. It was also suggested that Division 6 be increased to more than ten teams to allow sides that want to play with three rinks to move up to Division 6.

The general consensus was that 18 ends would be preferred over the suggested 15 ends. Delegates agreed that this matter should be taken back to Clubs to decide with a number of options offered. The Board agreed to seek the opinion of Clubs re Division 7 as outlined above.

- Clubs with both synthetic and grass greens – Cremorne would like Clubs with synthetic and grass greens to have to nominate prior to the start of the season which green the game will be played on for each division. No consensus was reached on this matter at the Delegates Meeting.

Moved: Rob McGuire Seconded: Tony Fulton “that the following recommendation be added to the agenda for the BTS Annual General Meeting:

Conditions of Play 3.24 will be changed in 2021-22 such that:

Clubs with both grass and synthetic greens will be required to advise before the start of each season which surface each division will be playing pennant on. Changes to this will then only be permitted:

- By giving four days’ notice in writing to the opposite Club, or
- If the green is closed due to unforeseeable circumstances including inclement weather, or
- By mutual agreement between the side captains.” Carried

Ross Bannister wanted it recorded in the minutes that he voted against this motion.

- BTS Tribunal Procedures - Glenorchy Rodman believes that BTS needs to review its Constitution and Disciplinary Policy to ensure that any disciplinary action is taken in a timelier manner than is currently the case. A BTS Tribunal Panel should be established at the beginning of the season to assist in speeding things up. If members requested to attend a hearing do not attend they should be adequately punished. In football a tribunal and appeal will all be heard within a week so that any suspension commences before the next game is played and this should happen in bowls as well if at all possible. President Peter Kirby advised that this matter is already being looked at by the BTS Board.

### BTS position on State Pennant Finals

At its meeting in April 2021 it was agreed that it is the preference of the BTS Board that Bowls Tasmania abolish all State Pennant Finals. In April 2021, Bowls Tasmania issued a statement providing an update to all bowlers in Tasmania to inform them of where things are at regarding Conditions of Play and State Pennant Finals as a result of many negative and inaccurate posts on Facebook following the Thursday Pennant Finals in April 2021. Bowls Tasmania invited any Club or player who feel that they are not happy with the current situation to voice their concerns with their regions. BTS has subsequently received correspondence from Peter Krstic, Stuart Edwards, Mike Quinn and Rod Cooper which was noted. This matter is being further discussed at the Regional Consultative Committee meeting being held on 25 May 2021.

### **Correspondence:**

#### **Inwards:**

Bruny – Change of uniform - Approved.

Bowls Tasmania Treasurer – Affiliation Fees 2021-22 - Noted.

Bowls Tasmania – Southern Women Board Director Vacancy - Noted.

Bowls Tasmania – Champion of Champions information - Noted.

Glenorchy Rodman - Division 5 grand final at Glenorchy Rodman - Refer Matters Arising above.

Grant Alford – Response to BTS Board letter to JM Legal & Conveyancing - Noted.

BTS Appeals Committee - Decision re appeals from Josh and Shane Baker – Refer Matters Arising above.

Bowls Tasmania Treasurer – Census date for allocation of affiliation fees will remain at 31 March 2021 - Noted.

Bowls Tasmania – Bowling Arm Update – Agreed to send this information to Clubs.

Tony Fulton – Resignation as BTS representative on the Bowling Arm Tasmania Committee – Accepted with regret. It was agreed to refer the replacement of Tony on the Committee to the new Board.

Malcolm Salier – Fixed Fee Membership Model - Noted.

Bowls Tasmania – Notice of Bowls Tasmania Annual General Meeting followed by RCC meeting - Noted.

Buckingham – Response to BTS Tribunal Panel report – Noted.

Bowls Tasmania – Selector Vacancies - Noted.

Claremont and Kingborough – Thursday Pennant start times - Noted.

Bowls Tasmania – Query registration of Lilly Bricknell in Junior's. Lilly was not registered by Ouse last season as she did not play Pennant for Ouse but played SWC for the Southern Juniors. It was agreed to advise Bowls Tasmania that Lilly's non-registration should have been picked up early in the season if Bowls Link had been used for the Junior Statewide Challenge.

North Hobart – Approval to change bowls stickers - Approved.

Andrew Wilkie MP - Powering Communities Program 2021 – Sent to Clubs 11 May 2021 - Noted.

Cremorne – Seek vote at Annual General Meeting re notice synthetic or grass greens for pennant – Agreed – Refer Matters Arising above.

Glenorchy City Council – Volunteering Information – Sent to Clubs 12 May 2021 - Noted.

Anne Mullavey – Nomination for Bowls Tasmania Director position - Noted.

BTS Officiating Panel – Nominating Lee Cowie as its representative on the BTS Board 2021-22 - Noted.

Liz Rickards – Nomination for Bowls Tasmania Director position - Noted

Beltana – Copy of Annual Report and Financial Statements - Noted.

**Outwards:**

All Clubs – Reminder re Annual Presentation Night, Delegates Meeting Minutes April 2021, Information required for 2020-21 Annual Report, Elected Bowls Tasmania Director Nomination Forms, Reminder re Nominations for BTS Positions 2021-22, Notice of BTS Annual General Meeting, Board Meeting Minutes April 2021, Nominations for Pennant Teams 2021-22, Variation of Playing Times for Pennant Games 2021-22, Promotions and Relegations 2021-22 Season, Powering Communities Grant Program 2021, Glenorchy City Council volunteering information.

Bowls Tasmania – Invitation to BTS Annual Presentation Function, Appeals Committee decision re incident at the Glenorchy Rodman versus Buckingham Saturday Premier Division game, Approve change in census date, Interstate clearance Mick Sweeney.

Glenorchy City – Permission to play Jan Fletcher in Women’s finals if required without playing the required six games.

Brighton – Seeking further information on women wearing non-conforming footwear on medical advice.

Sandy Bay – Permission to play Edith Oseman in Women’s finals if required without playing the required six games.

Glenorchy Rodman – Seeking comment on Incident Report Women’s Division 5 Grand Final.

Ouse – Approval to change trousers from white to black in 2021-22.

Moved: Ross Bannister Seconded: Lee Cowie “that the inwards correspondence be received and the outwards correspondence be endorsed”. Carried.

**Reports:****Finance:**

Treasurer Tony Fulton forwarded his report to Board Members prior to the meeting. Moved: Tony Fulton Seconded: Ross Bannister “that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted and that accounts paid be approved”. Carried

Tony Fulton advised that the BTS Finance Committee had met on 17 May 2021 and approved a draft budget for 2021-22. Bowls Tasmania has advised that it will be recovering \$96,000 from BTS in 2021-22 for affiliation fees (compared to \$91,971 in 2019-20 and \$64,628 in 2020-21). Bowls Tasmania decreased its affiliation fees by approximately 30% in 2020-21 due to reduced costs involved with the cancellation of representative side competitions last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BTS has budgeted for a 5% decrease in membership numbers which is consistent with trends over the past ten years. The recommended increase in adult affiliation fees is \$3.00 per head (ignoring the one-off reduction in Bowls Tasmania affiliation fees of \$15 per head in 2020-21) which is consistent with two year CPI increases. No increase is recommended for junior affiliation fees.

BTS has budgeted for a loss of around \$7,500 in 2021-22 which represents several issues including Bowls Tasmania grants and subsidies which contributed to the excess of income over expenditure in 2020-21. These include a \$2,750 share of unexpended prizemoney during COVID and a \$2,000 subsidy towards Statewide Challenge costs.

Moved: Tony Fulton Seconded: Ross Bannister “that the budget for 2021-22 be approved and affiliation fees for 2021-22 for adult members be increased to \$83, that the affiliation fee for juniors remain unchanged at \$44 and that all other fees remain unchanged”. Carried

Moved Tony Fulton Seconded Ross Bannister “that the Board recommend to the Annual General Meeting that Honorariums and Allowances for 2021-22 remain unchanged as follows:

- President Expense Allowance \$600
- Deputy President Expense Allowance \$300
- Secretary \$10,000
- Executive Assistant \$1,000
- Treasurer \$3,000
- Statistician \$5,000
- Match Committee (Chair +3) \$1,200
- Publicity Officer \$250
- Coaching Panel Expenses (Chair +2) \$200
- Officiating Panel Expenses (Chair + 3) \$800”

Carried

**Clearances:**

Moved: Rob McGuire Seconded: Ross Bannister “that the following intrastate clearances be noted and the interstate clearances be approved:

- John Howard – New Norfolk to Claremont.
- James Howell – Buckingham to Sandy Bay.
- Roseanne McCann – Glenorchy Rodman to Burleigh Heads (QLD) (Interstate Pennant Declaration).
- Steve McCann – Glenorchy Rodman to Burleigh Heads (QLD) (Interstate Pennant Declaration).
- Win Yeung – Sandy Bay to Royal Hobart.”

Carried

**Match Committee:**

Nothing to report.

**Officiating Panel:**

Leonie Price advised that Michael Andersch who is an International Technical Officer has agreed to join the BTS Officiating Panel in 2021-22.

**Coaches Panel:**

Ross Bannister advised that approximately thirty players attended the first of the Winter Coaching sessions which was held at the Howrah Indoor Centre on 2 May 2021.

**Selectors:**

Nothing to report.

**Forward Planning:**BTS Strategic Plan 2019-23:

It has previously been agreed that time will be spent each Board meeting going through the Strategic Plan and allocating tasks as required. No action was taken on the Strategic Plan at the meeting.

**General Business:**Nominations for Board Positions 2021-22:

Nomination for Board positions closed on 14 May 2021. There are still vacancies for the Deputy President, Treasurer and a Male Board Member. In accordance with clause 11.3 of the BTS Constitution, nominations will be called from the floor at the Annual General Meeting to fill these vacancies. If no nominations are received they will be filled as casual vacancies by the BTS Board.

Calendar of Events 2021-22:

It was agreed that the BTS Match Committee should prepare a draft Calendar of Events for 2021-22 as soon as possible. Peter Kirby undertook to obtain a copy of the latest Bowls Tasmania Calendar of Events for 2021-22 which forms the starting point for the development of the BTS Calendar of Events.

Bowls Tasmania Director Position

Nominations for the vacant Southern female Bowls Tasmania Director position close on 18 May 2021. Two nominations have been received to date. The Bowls Tasmania Constitution provides that Directors are to be elected by the Clubs. Accordingly BTS is required to conduct a ballot with Clubs to let them choose who they want to fill the vacant position. It was agreed to send out nomination forms with voting to close on 28 May 2021.

Retirement from Board:

President Peter Kirby acknowledged that Life Member, Tony Fulton OAM, has decided not to seek re-election as BTS Treasurer, a position he has held for the past ten years, and for a total of fourteen years in all. Tony has been an outstanding BTS official having given outstanding and dedicated service to BTS over many years. Peter acknowledged Tony's immense skill in maintaining the Association's finances, as well as his well-considered advice on all matters relating to the management of bowls activity in the southern region of Tasmania.

President Peter Kirby also thanked and acknowledged the contribution put in by Deputy President Pat Zapotocky and Board Members John McKibben and Malcolm Salier who have all decided not to seek re-election to the BTS Board in 2021-22.

Date of next meetings: The next Board meetings will be held Sunday 30 May 2021 immediately after the Annual General Meeting and at 4.30pm on Monday 21 June 2021. A decision will be made closer to the day to determine if the June 2021 meeting will be held face-to-face at Buckingham or electronically via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 6.22 pm.

Confirmed ..... President: ..... / ..... / 2021