



Southern Tasmanian Bowls Association Inc

Trading as:

Bowls Tasmania South

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MINUTES OF A DELEGATES MEETING HELD AT 1.15PM ON MONDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT BUCKINGHAM BOWLS CLUB

1. Welcome

The President, Peter Kirby, opened the meeting at 1.150pm, welcomed members to the meeting and advised that a quorum was present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Bruny, Cygnet and Rosny Park, and from Bernard Knight.

3. Attendance

37 delegates, representing 20 of 27 clubs, and four BTS Board members attended the meeting. This represents a quorum in accordance with section 25 of the constitution. **Clubs represented:** Beltana, Brighton, Buckingham, Claremont, Cremorne, Dover, Franklin, Glenorchy City, Glenorchy Rodman, Howrah, Huonville, Kingborough, New Norfolk, North Hobart, Oatlands, Royal Hobart, Sandy Bay, St. John's Park, Tarooma and Tasman.

4. Previous minutes

Neale Hall (Glenorchy City) moved, and Anne Mullavey (Howrah) seconded, that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 April 2021 (as circulated with the notice) be accepted. **CARRIED**

5. Business arising from the minutes

President Peter Kirby spoke to the meeting about the following items of business arising from previous minutes (including business from the Annual General Meeting):

- 5.1 **Study to determine why members stop playing bowls.** A questionnaire has been developed and is available on the BTS website. All clubs are encouraged to ask departing members to complete the questionnaire.
- 5.2 **Bowling actions that cause damage to greens.** The BTS Greens Protection Policy has been approved and published by the board. This will be discussed further in general business.
- 5.3 **Afternoon Tea for Wednesday and Saturday Pennant post COVID-19.** No change – Clubs must still follow the BTS Coronavirus Policy as we're still governed by government regulations regarding the ongoing pandemic.
- 5.4 **Lunch and starting times for Thursday Pennant 2021-22.** Conditions of Play now reflect a starting time of 11.00am and a mandatory lunch break at 12.30pm.

Love this bowls

- 5.5 Fixed Fee Membership Model.** This issue will be renamed as the current terminology is inaccurate. A sub-committee has been formed to determine implementation requirements. It is hoped that recommendations will be forthcoming by early December.
- 5.6 Saturday Pennant Division 7 in 2021-22.** Some confusion existing surrounding previous decisions regarding Saturday Division 7 but Conditions of Play have been reset and Division 6 has been fixed as a ten-side competition. Division 7 is the lowest division for Saturday Pennant and can have as many sides as needed.
- 5.7 Clubs with both synthetic and grass greens.** Conditions of Play require clubs to nominate the surface each side will play on for the entirety of the season but does allow for negotiation and cooperation between clubs. Nominations must be with the Secretary by COB 11 October.
- 5.8 BTS Tribunal Procedures.** These matters were dealt with at the Special General Meeting held just before this meeting, at which all delegates listed above attended.

6. Committee Reports

- 6.1 Match Committee.** Ross Bannister provided the meeting with an update on the committee's activities. The roster for lower divisions will be out by 7 October.
- 6.2 Selection Committee.** Nothing to report.
- 6.3 Officiating Panel.** Leonie Price provided a report (see Annex A)
- 6.4 Coaches.** Ross Bannister provided the meeting with an update on the committee's activities. He encouraged clubs to build a coaching capability.

7. Matters referred from BTS Board

- 7.1 Changes to Conditions of Play for 2021-22.** Printed copies were distributed to Clubs at this meeting. They have been published to the BTS website. Peter Kirby ran through the changes since last season.
- 7.2** Initial Club Registration Forms, Register of Members, Championship Entry Forms and Pennant Results Forms have already been distributed to Clubs. Pennant Cards were also distributed to Clubs at this meeting.
- 7.3 Lower division nominations.** Club nominations for Midweek Divisions 3 and 4, Women's Division 5 and Saturday Division 7 close on 30 September 2021. Draws for these divisions will be prepared and circulated by 7 October. At this time, it is unlikely we'll be able to run a Women's Division 5 competition.
- 7.4 Capitation Fees.** The initial bulk registration of members, and commensurate payment of association fees, must be made by Monday 11 October 2021.
- 7.5 Registration / Clearance of players.** The Secretary reminded clubs that manual registration or clearance (that is, **not** via BowlsLink) will result in slower processing, and that it is the responsibility of the club to ensure their members were registered / cleared before they can select them to play in a pennant side.



8. General Business

8.1 Discussion regarding State Pennant Finals (submitted by Glenorchy City). The Glenorchy City paper was not circulated to delegates due to its late arrival, however, the board elected to accept the submission for discussion. The President briefly stated the case put forward and Leigh McAdam (Glenorchy City) moved, with Peter Krstic (Cremorne) seconding, that BTS advise Bowls Tasmania that we would no longer participate in State Pennant Finals while the Conditions of Play for that event remain unchanged. It was suggested that BTS and BNW hold finals in the interim but this suggestion was not voted on. The President called for a vote on the motion by Leigh McAdam after discussion had occurred.

CARRIED

ACTION: Secretary

8.2 Pennant – A Way Forward (submitted by Howrah). Steve Foster (Howrah) moved, and Anne Mullavey (Howrah) seconded, that we move to a 14 week season, with an 8 sides per division roster, and keep January clear for club/social events. The details of the paper are included as Annex B. The President called for a vote on the motion after discussion had occurred.

NOT CARRIED

8.3 Discussion of Greens Protection Policy (submitted by Cremorne). Don McVilly (Cremorne) moved, and Peter Kristic (Cremorne) seconded, that we add to clause 2.2.1 of the BTS Green Protection Policy the requirement to inform the umpire and side captains that a report would be made to BTS. Leonie Price (Officiating Panel) advised the delegates that this could still happen if the observer chose but BTS decided not to mandate this step in the procedure due to the possibility of confrontation that it would allow.

NOT CARRIED

Geoff Giblin (Orford) thanked the clubs that had agreed to an early start during Pennant season to assist Orford with their travel arrangements.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The board will meet in October and determine an appropriate time for the next meeting – sometime in February / March 2022. The board will also look to including future Delegates Meetings in the BTS Fixtures so that clubs have advance notice of upcoming meetings.

10. Closure

The President declared the meeting closed at 2.42pm.

Peter Kirby
President

Paul Matthews
Secretary

Annexes

- A. Officiating Panel Report
- B. Agenda Item 8.2 – Pennant: A Way Forward (Howrah's position paper)



ANNEX A

OFFICIATING PANEL REPORT

The Bowls South Officiating Panel consists of Helen Ducker, Michael Andersch and Leonie Price.

The Panel conducts meetings at least once a month through the bowling season and appoints Officials for all BTS championship Finals. The Panel appoints Markers for all BTS Singles and Champions of Champions finals, this initiative continues and ensures that singles finals have competent markers.

The Side Captain's Guidelines will continue to be upgraded and will incorporate the changes made to the Conditions of Play.

Details of procedures for results of Pennant Games to be entered in the Bowls Link Program are contained within that document.

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.

Forums for Umpires, Measurers, Markers and interested bowlers will be held during November, 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. Details of times and locations will be published shortly.

'Notes to Umpires' are sent out regularly, placed on the BTS website and sent to Officials via email (where available).

Should any players or Officials have questions pertaining to the conduct of the game please ask members of the panel for clarification, questions posted on any Social Media will not be elicit a response .

Leonie Price
Chair
BTS Officiating Panel
September 2021



ANNEX B

AGENDA ITEM 8.1 – PENNANT: A WAY FORWARD
(Submitted by Howrah)

Introduction:

Bowls membership is not increasing, and many clubs are treading water financially. Bowls within Tasmania fails to attract significant members in their 30's and early 40's and it is considered the traditional lengthy pennant season is no longer conducive to our modern society. The opportunity for social bowls during the summer period other than barefoot is limited within southern Tasmania.

Several other states have moved away from lengthy roster-based commitments to shorter rosters and the introduction of events that provide flexibility whilst catering for various skill levels, providing a better bowls product for members and increased funds for clubs.

Proposal:

- Reduce pennant rosters from 18 to 14 weeks.
- No pennant during January
- Eight teams per division

Rationale:

- The 18-week roster plus finals requires a high commitment from members and discourages potential younger family couples from joining. This is particularly relevant during the traditional January school holiday period when parents and grandparents desire time with school aged children.
- As a result, unavailability of bowlers is high during January, along with a reluctance from some to commit to pennant at all.
- Bowls Tasmania, Bowls Tasmania South, and individual clubs hold various events during the season adding additional commitment to players and volunteers, with January a particularly full month. i.e. gala week, state championships etc.
- If no pennant were played in January many of the events for elite players could be completed along with club championships etc.
- Clubs would also have an increased opportunity to conduct social, novice or novelty type events to raise much needed funds and hopefully help transition barefoot bowlers toward club events, increasing funds and membership.
- At present clubs have limited opportunity to run events to raise much needed funds during the limited bowls season in Tasmania. Pennant bowls does not provide significant revenue to clubs when compared to social or barefoot bowls. Having January free of pennant provides an opportunity for clubs to extend their funding base through innovation and creativity, whilst not competing with pennant. Most club volunteers are also active players, and we need to be mindful of not over taxing this valuable asset.

- A 14-week roster could be achieved easily by reducing pennant division team numbers to eight. This may also have the effect of strengthening the skill level of the top divisions, potentially improving the quality of the elite level in Southern Tasmania.
- The introduction of another division or even two pools of 8 within a mid- division (i.e.: Division 4) with a modified finals series would easily overcome the initial reduction in teams should it be required.

Potential issues:

- A reluctance to change. A failure to address the needs of the modern society and make bowls attractive to all potential bowlers will result in clubs folding or the sport reducing in relevance. The introduction of barefoot bowls is an example of innovation assisting established structures.
- Clubs being concerned with a reduction of 2 teams will be a short-term issue and it may result in the quality of players at the elite level strengthening. It should be remembered that most bowlers are not elite but participative.

Benefits:

- Pennant becomes a more attractive product for a wider cohort of bowlers.
- Clubs have an increased opportunity to raise much needed funds.
- More social and novelty events may encourage barefoot bowlers to transition through these events to pennant and/or club membership.
- The impost on club volunteers will be more evenly spread without the conflict between pennant and the large number of January events.
- Bowls Clubs and the sport of bowls becoming more attractive to younger adults with school aged children.