

Southern Tasmanian Bowls Association Inc.

Trading as:

Bowls Tasmania South

PO Box 832,
Glenorchy.Tas. 7010

Ph/Fax. 6249 1124
Mob. 0409 703 073

Email: bowls.south@bigpond.com

Website: www.bowlstasmaniasouth.bowls.com.au

ABN 12 820 830 594

President: Peter Kirby

Secretary: Rob McQuire



MINUTES OF THE DELEGATES MEETING HELD AT THE NORTH HOBART BOWLS AND COMMUNITY CLUB ON MONDAY 12 APRIL 2021 COMMENCING AT 1.00 PM

Welcome: President Peter Kirby welcomed all delegates to the meeting.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Life Members Hedley Beechey and Tony Fulton and Board Member Lee Cowie. Apologies were received from Cygnet, Dover RSL, Franklin, Geeveston and Sorell. Apologies were also received from Elizabeth Downward (Brighton), Rod Calnan (Sandy Bay) and Margaret Cornish (St. John's Park).

Attendance: The meeting was attended by 25 delegates present representing 15 clubs (Brighton, Bruny, Buckingham, Claremont, Cremorne, Glenorchy City, Glenorchy Rodman, Howrah, Kingborough, North Hobart, Orford, Royal Hobart, Sandy Bay, St. John's Park and Taroonia). Four interested men and women also attended the meeting.

Minutes: Moved Neale Hall Seconded Alex Stanelos that the minutes of the previous Delegates meeting held on 30 September 2021 be confirmed. Carried

Business Arising:

Study to determine why members 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. A draft survey questionnaire has been prepared for consideration of the BTS Board before being sent to Clubs. BTS wants to work with Clubs to survey members to determine reasons why members have left their Club. The BTS Board will then collate results and investigate how to rectify any problems identified. The Study will cover the coming twelve months.

Bowling actions that cause damage to greens:

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 is preparing a policy on this matter which will be completed prior to the commencement of next season.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Match Committee:

Ross Bannister advised that all BTS Pennant and Championships have been completed.

Selection Committees:

No reports received.

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Officiating Panel:

As per the attached report.

Coaches Panel:

The Coaches Panel ran two coaching courses at Cremorne and Kingborough during the season.

The Coaches Panel will be running free Winter coaching clinics at the Howrah Indoor Centre on the first Sunday in May, June, July and August from 12 noon to 3pm.

MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE BTS BOARD:

Afternoon Tea 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 on in 2021-22 particularly if playing 21 ends.

Orford would like BTS to consider starting all games – Wednesday and Saturday Pennant only - involving country clubs earlier than is currently the case – along the lines of the arrangements for Bruny. Orford will prepare an agenda item on this for the next Delegates Meeting.

Lunch and starting times for Thursday Pennant 2021-22:

Little changed for Thursday Pennant this past season – whereas Bowls North and Bowls North West started earlier and did away with their lunch breaks. Discussion took place on what Clubs want to do next season. Clubs generally start earlier now than the 11.30am 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. It was agreed that this matter should be taken back to Clubs to decide with a number of options offered.

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. The feeling of the meeting was that the focus of subscriptions should be on enticing bowlers to play and not discouraging them. Many Delegated present thought that the fairest way to charge Clubs would be on a per team basis.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Saturday Pennant Division 7 in 2021-22 (Submitted by Cremorne):

At the BTS Annual General Meeting in May 2020, it was agreed that Saturday Pennant Division 7 would be reduced to two rinks (8 players per side) in 2020-21. Prior to last season, Saturday Pennant Division 7 had struggled to maintain numbers with several sides having to forfeit matches and drop out of the competition. The change allowed smaller clubs in to submit sides and keep members involved and active within their clubs.

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Cremorne would like Division 7 games to be restored to three rinks (i.e. 12 players) and the ends played reduced to 15. Cremorne believe that with only two rinks playing there was not the same competitiveness as there was when there were three rinks in play and given the age of some of the players it is thought that a reduction in ends might help keep players in the game longer. Cremorne appreciate that Clubs can play a different player from each end or share a game but for some Clubs this may not be an option so a reduction in ends would definitely help older players keep playing.

This matter was discussed at length at the 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.

It was agreed that this matter should be taken back to Clubs to decide with a number of options offered.

Clubs with both synthetic and grass greens (Submitted by Cremorne):

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. Cremorne feel that it is not in the best interest of bowls and not fair that five clubs have the option of nominating two hours prior to a game commencing which green will be used. It is certainly a disadvantage to those Clubs who have only one type of green to choose from. No consensus was reached on this matter at the meeting.

BTS Tribunal Procedures (Submitted by Glenorchy Rodman):

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.

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 North Hobart Bowls and Community Club for making its facilities available for the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: September 2021 – date and venue to be advised.



BOWLS TASMANIA SOUTH OFFICIATING PANEL

Report April 2021

The Panel have continued to provide Officials for all BTS Championship events and to assist clubs where required.

The State-wide Senior Challenge at New Norfolk was covered and arrangements have been made for the Open SWC at Claremont on the 21st March.

The Champion of Champions Championship event to be held at the Buckingham Bowls Club on Friday the 19th March will also have all Officials and Markers organised.

The next edition of the 'Notes to Umpires' will be circulated to all registered Officials.

The BTS Pennant finals are now underway and the Panel will assist and supply Officials for each of the Clubs hosting these events.

There have been instances of the 'Umpires of the Day' not enforcing the Laws or the Conditions of Play as set out by Bowls South. All Officials are to be reminded that Officials should maintain a neutral stance when umpiring and all breaches of the Laws should be enforced or reported regardless of which team is at fault.

Leonie Price,
Chair
Bowls South Officiating Panel