



Southern Tasmanian Bowls Association Inc

Trading as:

Bowls Tasmania South

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MINUTES OF A DELEGATES MEETING HELD AT 1.00pm ON MONDAY 21 MARCH 2022 AT ST JOHN'S PARK BOWLS CLUB

1. Welcome

The President, Peter Kirby, opened the meeting at 1.00pm by welcoming members and guests, and reading a welcome to country. He confirmed that we had a quorum for the meeting.

The President acknowledged Rosny Park, Beltana and Kingborough for their efforts in making Gala Week a success – it reflects well on the South. He extended his thanks to the Officiating Panel for organising the umpires and markers, and to those who volunteered their time to help make the week a success.

The President also acknowledged the efforts of the Statewide Challenge sides this year and informed the meeting that the South were the overall winners this year. Our Senior Men and Open Women won their sections.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Buckingham, Franklin, Glenorchy City, and from Don McVilly (Cremorne), Heath Seabourne (Dover) and Lorraine Walker (Kingborough).

3. Attendance

29 delegates, representing 16 of 27 clubs, attended the meeting. This represents a quorum in accordance with section 25 of the constitution. **Clubs represented:** Beltana, Brighton, Claremont, Cremorne, Cygnet, Dover, Glenorchy Rodman, Howrah, North Hobart, Oatlands, Orford, Royal Hobart, Sorell, St. John's Park, Taroona and Tasman.

Also in attendance were four BTS Board members (Peter Kirby, Paul Matthews, Ross Bannister and Michael Andersch), and Judy Holloway (Brighton), Bernard Knight (Bowls Tasmania), and Peter Hadley (Howrah).

4. Previous minutes

Phil Richardson (Glenorchy Rodman) moved, and Geoff Giblin (Orford) seconded, that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 September 2021 (as circulated with the notice) be accepted.

CARRIED

5. Business arising from the minutes

- 5.1 **Saturday Pennant Division 7 in 2021-22.** The Board presented the meeting with the plans (Appendix 2) to separate Division 7 from Saturday pennant and therefore cause Division 6 to be the lowest division in that pennant. There will be no promotions from Div 7 to Div 6, and no relegations from Div 6 to Div 7. As a result, both Div 6 and Div 7 will be able to have more than 10 sides in the competition. Similarly, in both Div 6 and Div 7, clubs would be able to enter two sides into a Division. The intention is to introduce this change for the 2022-23 pennant season.

Cygnnet asked who would be eligible to play in Division 7? The President stated his hope that each club would comply with CoP and select on merit, which would mean clubs would not be selecting higher players in lower grades but it was acknowledged that selection is a matter for clubs.

It was also noted that Saturday pennant and Southern League will be two different competitions so playing in one does not count as a game in the other for eligibility for finals but there is no restriction on picking players for either competition. If Div 7 players are called upon to play in Div 6, it will always be approved because the player is "going up". If Div 7 needs players in finals, players from the Saturday pennant will not be eligible unless they have played at least six games in Div 7.

Moved Geoff Giblin (Orford) that we accept the proposal. Seconded Phil Richardson (Glenorchy Rodman).

CARRIED

- 5.2 **Registration and Clearance forms.** The meeting was advised that there will no longer be a need to complete registration and clearance forms as these actions can be completed in BowlsLink. There is also no cost to player transfers between seasons. The BTS Statistician is available to help clubs with training in BowlsLink upon request.

Beltana asked about paying a club registration that includes players that have left the club. The meeting was advised that clubs can make a claim for a refund (taking into account the offset of players that were added after the audit) if they feel an adjustment is needed.

Orford asked about in-season transfer fees. The President advised that a fee of \$60 will be charged to the accepting club and the accepting club will decide if/how to recover that fee from the player they are gaining.

Beltana asked about the policy that denies the club the ability to refuse a clearance as this stops the club recovering debts before they are cleared to leave. The meeting was informed that the clearance policy will be reviewed given that the process has changed and this matter will be considered.

- 5.3 **Affiliation Fees.** The President advised the meeting that the BTS Statistician will run the final BowlsLink audit and send a list to each club for verification before BTS calculates the affiliation fee per club (which will not be due until October). The Secretary advised the meeting that archived members should NOT have a membership category with playing rights as it is believed this can skew the numbers higher. The fee will be based on the number of active bowlers with playing rights at the club divided into the total number of such players in the South. The percentage will be applied to the dollar value advised by Bowls Tasmania as the regional contribution to arrive at a club proportion of the total.

6. Committee Reports

- 6.1 Match Committee.** Ross Bannister advised the Board that all Bowls South Championships are finished except the ladies DL Reid singles and the Champion of Champions. As the final round of this season pennant has finished the finals are about to start and will be played under Conditions of Play rule 3.21.

Regarding BTS Pennant Finals. Ross Bannister explained to the meeting that first and second on the ladder play the second semi-final at the home of the first side. Third and fourth play the first semi-final at the home of the third side. If the first side loses their semi-final match, they do **not** get a second game at their home ground – they play on a neutral ground. If the second side lose their semi-final match, they play the preliminary final at the second side's home ground. Ross also noted that the finals calendar is dictated by Bowls Tasmania and BTS have to arrange our finals to finish before the Bowls Tasmania dates.

Regarding State Pennant Finals. State Pennant Finals will be held at Rosny Park and Beltana this season. Even though the September 2021 delegates meeting resolved to not participate in State Pennant Finals, **and** this has been communicated to Bowls Tasmania, State Pennant Finals are still planned and clubs will receive an invitation from Bowls Tasmania. Bowls Tasmania set the conditions of play – it is not a BTS matter despite repeated attempts to effect change – and they have decided to continue with a three-rink competition. Clubs have the option of declining the invitation if they do not wish to support, and play in, a three-rink competition. The President noted that the East will be represented in Division 3 (creating a four side contest) and Division 6 will be a two-rink contest.

- 6.2 Selection Committee.** Nothing to report although the President again noted the success of the South in the Statewide Challenge.
- 6.3 Officiating Panel.** Michael Andersch presented his report to the meeting. It is included at Appendix 1.
- 6.4 Coaches.** Ross Bannister reported to the meeting that a Markers course will be conducted on Monday 4 April, and a Coaching course will be starting on Monday 11 April at North Hobart. 20 officiating courses run in the last year but there are still clubs without authorised officials. Ross promised to run courses at individual clubs if they can get a few interested people.

7. Matters referred from BTS Board

- 7.1 Rename Saturday Division 7 to Southern League.** This item is dealt with at item 5.1 above.
- 7.2 Respect for bowlers using bowling arms.** The Board drew the attention of delegates to the letter from Bowls Tasmania (Appendix 2). This letter has been sent to clubs and has also been posted to the BTS website. The President encouraged all clubs to provide care and support for people using a bowling arm and actively discourage abuse of players using a bowling arm.

Cygnnet raised the matter of the protest they made in this regard and voiced their concern that nothing was done about sanctioning offending players and stopping this from reoccurring. Brighton advised the meeting that action had been taken with regard to the incident at Cygnnet and their club would be suspending membership if further incidents occur. Brighton's stance on this matter was welcomed by the meeting. The President undertook to take this matter to the BTS Board meeting with a view to improving the processes for investigating reports.

8. General Business

8.1 Tasman re shared points:

That not being able to field enough players to form a team is a forfeit, regardless of whether the reason includes COVID-related issues or not, and COVID-related shared-points games in 2021-22 should be adjusted accordingly. The President advised the meeting that the decision to allow shared points was made in consultation with the other two regions but in hindsight BTS would probably not make this option available again. It was brought in with the expectation that COVID impacts would be wider and more impactful on clubs and this (thankfully) didn't happen.

Given that the season is over, Tasman withdrew the motion to alter results.

8.2 Tasman motion re uniform policy for new bowlers:

That we relax the uniform policy to allow new players (in the lowest divisions only) to play with a club shirt, correctly soled shoes and a neat and tidy appearance for the first year so they can see whether bowls is something they would like to pursue without outlaying up to \$1,000 to be properly equipped to play the game. The President noted that the new affiliation model allowed clubs to be much more flexible with new members but this didn't answer the motion. Warrick Jones (Tasman) moved, and John Tapp (Dover) seconded the motion.

CARRIED

ACTION: BTS Board

8.3 Howrah motion re Ladies Pennant Lunch:

Stephen Foster (Howrah) moved, and Anne Mulraney (Howrah) seconded that lunchtime for Thursday pennant be moved to 1.00pm, so that half the game is played before lunch. Kim Spencer (Taroona) moved and Anne Clifford (Nth Hobart) seconded that the motion be amended to allow Side Captains to negotiate the time that lunch should occur as with Saturday/Midweek pennant competitions. Sally Giblin (Orford) spoke in favour of a set time and against the amendment.

Based on a reading of CoP 6.6, Howrah withdrew the motion, and Taroona withdrew the amendment.

8.4 Brighton motion re Green Speed:

Doug Holloway (Brighton) moved that when green speeds are timed under normal weather conditions by both Side Captains at below 11 seconds, opposition Side Captains have the right to refuse to play that pennant game with the points to be shared. Peter Hyland (Beltana) seconded the motion. Doug pointed out that bowlers with a physical impairment can struggle on such slow greens and can potentially incur an injury by playing on such slow greens. Doug also noted that if the green was below 11 seconds and it had not rained before the game it should be considered too slow under normal conditions.

David De Burgh (Cygnet) asked if the same rule would be applied to greens running over 16 so that this is a one-sided application of the rule to play but this was not considered when the matter was put to the vote.

LOST ON SHOW OF HANDS

The President asked if the meeting required a formal vote on this matter but the offer was not accepted.

8.5 Brighton motion re Dispensations:

Doug Holloway (Brighton) moved that the dispensation for a normally ineligible opposite gender player to play in the lower division on a Thursday ceases when that player has played five or more games at their Club's highest division. Geoff Giblin (Orford) seconded the motion.

CARRIED

ACTION: BTS Board

8.6 Buckingham motion re Midweek Pennant:

That the BTS Board consider a change to next season's Midweek selection to reinstate two A grade and two B grade players per team. The President asked that someone move the motion on Buckingham's behalf but no-one did so this motion lapsed.

Geoff Giblin (Orford) thanked the clubs for agreeing to early starts during the past pennant season as this was very helpful and most appreciated to the Orford players.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of delegates will likely take place in September 2022.

10. Closure

The President declared the meeting closed at 3.20pm by wishing clubs with finals hopes the best of luck. The President advised the meeting that:

- Presentation Night will be on Monday 9 May
- The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 5 June

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Peter Kirby
President

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Paul Matthews
Secretary

Annexes

1. Officiating Panel Report
2. Item 7.1 - Proposal to rename Saturday Division 7 to Southern League
3. Item 7.2 - Respect for bowlers using bowling arms

APPENDIX 1

Bowls Tasmania South Officiating Panel

Report to Delegates Meeting March 2022

The Bowls South Officiating Panel consists of Helen Ducker, Michael Andersch and Leonie Price. Wayne Cobbing and Janet Rutherford have been approached and agreed to join to improve the Panel's diversity.

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 experienced and credentialled markers. This year we saw a greater workload with the South's hosting of the March Gala Week for Bowls Tasmania with 22 individuals giving up their time to umpire and mark across the 3 venues and 14 events.

For the remainder of this season, we have the Pennant Grade Finals and State Final together with the upcoming Champion of Champions Finals this week at Buckingham.

The Side Captain's Guidelines will continue to be upgraded year to year from the feedback given at our Officials Forums held at the start of the season and for specific issues that cross the BTS Secretary's desk, Match Committee and Board's desks.

Forums for Umpires, Measurers, Markers and interested bowlers were held during November, encouraging an exchange of views and discussion on current and updated Laws and the Conditions of Play.

At our most recent 2021 forums, the application of the Uniform and Greens Protection Policy by umpires, particularly in the context of a home umpire during pennants, was discussed in depth. The ability to engage the side captains to determine the need to lodge an infringement report or use a softly-softly approach of a quiet word to a player (or their side captain) after the game was couched.

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 be unlikely elicit a response due to flavour of other comments by others.

Clubs are able to access lists of Umpires, Measurers and Markers from the BTS Website to assist with the conduct of events held at their clubs prior to the Semi-final and Grand Final (Panel appointed).

Michael Andersch
Chair, BTS Officiating Panel
mandersch@bigpond.com

APPENDIX 2

Item 7.1 - Proposal to rename Saturday Division 7 to Southern League

The BTS Match Committee has proposed that:

- Division 7 be renamed to Southern League and
- The Southern League operates separately but alongside the divisional pennant.

Primarily BTS formed the Division 7 under its structure to allow Clubs the opportunity to play a pennant format using 2 rinks if they had insufficient players to form a 3 or 4 rink side in the open gender competition.

The Southern League

The Southern League will continue to allow any number of clubs to enter one side or more. This copes with fluctuating participation of eligible members, whether it be new bowlers stepping up from barefoot, or aging members enjoying a less taxing competition.

The Southern League will be a standalone open gender competition played on Saturdays alongside divisional pennant and will draw upon elements of the Conditions of Play. At a Club level the selection and administration continues to operate as usual, as if it were a pennant side.

The Southern League side will comprise two rinks of four players (8 in total) as per Division 7. The BTS Match Committee will allow the Clubs entered to decide whether it continues with 21 ends or moves to 18 or 15 ends. (The Match Committee recommends 21 ends for 2022-23 season.)

Promotions or relegations will not operate into the divisional pennant. Hence a Club that gains sufficient players between seasons to fill 3 or 4 rinks, regardless of its ladder position from Southern League, will be entitled to apply for a Division 6 side in the pennant competition in the next season.

Clubs can enter more than one team in the Southern League. Whilst this implies capability to field a Division 5 or Division 6 side with 4 or 3 rinks respectively, this is not mandatory. This allows Clubs to account for week to week availability of players, depth of experience, their age and capability mix across its members, and enter teams in the competitions that best suits their structures.

Division 6

The change to rename Division 7 removes ambiguity as to the lowest division for pennant sides for Saturdays and, subsequently, the application of the Condition of Play.

Division 6 will remain as three rinks of four players. Clubs are allowed to nominate more than one team for Division 6 if they are capable of filling the three rinks across both sides.

The combination of Division 6 and Southern League with their flexibility assists Clubs in overcoming the impact of players movement; allows smaller Clubs struggling to fill three/four rinks to continue competing, and maximises the numbers competing each week overall.

The top side of the Division 6 ladder is entitled to promotion to Division 5 and likewise, last place on the ladder in Division 5 will be relegated to Division 6. The bottom side on the ladder

from Division 6 is not relegated to Southern League. Instead, movements to and from the Southern League are dictated by greater consideration as the size of sides (rink numbers) a Club is able to fill.

The BTS Match Committee and the BTS Board hope delegates embrace and support the name change, understand the drivers to it and the nuanced changes it brings as it operates alongside divisional pennant.

Ross Bannister
Chair, BTS Mach Committee

APPENDIX 3

Item 7.2 - Respect for bowlers using bowling arms

The following message was received from Bowls Tasmania on 2 December:

Dear Club and Region Secretaries

I would like to start this email with the forward from the Laws of the Sport of Bowls:

“No laws governing a sport can cope with every situation and the laws governing the sport of bowls are no exception. Unusual situations not covered within the laws can often arise. The Laws of the Sport of Bowls (“laws”) have been drawn up in the spirit of true sportsmanship.

So, if a situation arises that is not covered by these laws, players, markers, and umpires must use common sense and a spirit of fair play to decide on the appropriate course of action.”

Hence the passage “Spirit of true sportsmanship and a spirit of fair play” arise.

It has been a problem for some time regarding bowling arm use and the attitude of some players toward those bowlers using them. It has got to a stage that people are being abused, and derogatory statements are being made about the person and their use of an arm. This is not acceptable sportsman like behaviour.

Bowls Australia has approved the use of bowling arms and has made policies regarding the use and type allowed to be used. Bowls Tasmania as a result follow those policies and allow the use of such in any game – be it pennant or any other format of the game. The user does not now need a doctor’s certificate to use a bowling arm. It is not for the other players to decide whether they should be allowed. [The Bowls Australia Artificial Device Policy authorises the use of bowling arms and other aids.]

The use of words such as “cheat stick” are not acceptable in our game and should be dismissed from the vocabulary used by some. Should a person be subjected to this kind of behaviour they have the right to call the umpire and have it stopped.

Could clubs and regions please make sure that this is understood and adhered to by all clubs and players. It would be appreciated if Clubs could send this email out to all members who have an email address.

Bowling arms are keeping people in our great sport and should be given a fair go. You never know you may need one yourself one day.

Kind regards

Les Harrison
Director Bowling Arm Tasmania
Bowls Tasmania