



Southern Tasmanian Bowls Association Inc

Trading as	Bowls Tasmania South	ABN: 12 820 830 594
Mail	PO Box 232, Rosny Park, Tas. 7018	
Email	bowls.south@bigpond.com	
Web	BowlsTasmaniaSouth.bowls.com.au	
President	Peter Kirby	0400 914 818
Secretary	Paul Matthews	0409 703 073

MINUTES OF A DELEGATES MEETING HELD AT 1.00pm ON MONDAY 3 APRIL 2023 AT THE CREMORNE BOWLS & COMMUNITY CLUB

1. Welcome

The President, Peter Kirby, opened the meeting at 1.02 pm by welcoming members and guests, and reading an acknowledgement of country. He confirmed that we had a quorum of 13 for the meeting in accordance with section 25 of the constitution.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Brighton, Bruny Island, Claremont, Cygnet, Dover RSL, Franklin, and Geeveston, Apologies were also received from Paul Matthews (BTS Secretary).

3. Attendance

21 delegates, representing 13 of 26 clubs, attended the meeting. **Clubs represented:** Beltana, Buckingham, Cremorne, Glenorchy City, Howrah, Kingborough, New Norfolk, North Hobart, Oatlands, Orford, Rosny Park, Royal Hobart, Sorell and Tarooma. Also in attendance were Bernard Knight (Bowls Tas) and Therese Court (Buckingham)

4. Previous minutes

David Hogan (Beltana) moved, and Sylvia Monash (Tarooma) seconded, that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 September 2022 be accepted. **CARRIED**

5. Business arising from the minutes

No business arising from the previous minutes was brought forward for discussion.

6. Committee Reports

6.1 Match Committee. Ross Bannister reported on the season ending and the upcoming finals matches and their venues. Ross spoke to the difficulty having clubs make their greens and club available with a poor spring growing season for greenkeepers in 2022 dictating a high unavailability of grass greens end of season as renovations needed to

be commenced. Ross foreshadowed an increasing use of synthetic greens both in this season and oncoming seasons for finals and BTS Championships.

- 6.2 SWC Selection Committees.** Peter Kirby reported on the outcomes of the South participation in SWC and the success of the Women's Over 60 amongst their peers.
- 6.3 Officiating Panel.** Michael Andersch reported of the role and activities of the Officiating panel during the year and the wider involvement of its members in Bowls Tasmania activities amongst the North and North-West Gala weeks. Our regular forums were held early in the season and with Bowls Tasmania's support we managed to also host a forum in Burnie during the March Gala Week.
- 6.4 Coaches.** Ross Bannister reported on the coming winter coaching program and the likelihood of the monthly sessions continuing at Howrah Bowls Club.

7. Matters referred from BTS Board

7.1 Proposal to rationalise BowlsLink membership categories (Appendix 1).

Proposed Ross Bannister, and seconded Debra Jeffrey, that we rationalise BowlsLink membership categories.

Dianne Willet questioned the ability of an existing bowler to revert to a social and hence 5 game membership. Discussion ensued on the loopholes for the 5 game social membership category and ability of clubs to utilise non-bowlers was discussed amongst clubs and Chairman. The ability to use a former bowler who decided not to play and reverted membership to social was discussed. Peter Kirby foreshadowed the upcoming annual review of Conditions of Play will review the clauses around "5 gamer" provision with a view to removing some anomalies experienced in this past season.

The application of the membership categories at Clubs and need to align a Club's constitution category against the proposed rationalised categories was discussed.

Motion put to a show of hands.

CARRIED

7.2 Proposal to setup a "Restructure pennant" working group (Appendix 2).

Proposed Ross Bannister, Seconded Geoff Giblin (Orford) that BTS seeks expression of interest from Clubs to have representatives form a working group to review our pennant structure with player and club feedback to be sought to assist and guide final recommendations.

Ross Bannister spoke to the proposal and the apparent disconnect between a club position and that of the players. Geoff Giblin spoke to the opportunity this presented

with numbers of players declining generally. In Orford's case the more flexible start time that was put in place has pleased their players.

The meeting discussed this matter and decided to support the proposal.

CARRIED

7.3 Championship costs versus entries.

Debra Jefferies discussed that clubs, and our Association, are businesses and need to be business focussed. In excess of \$9,000 is handed out in prizemoney. Entries fees for events are just \$10, but 1/11th is lost in GST. The process of players submitting claim forms has alerted us that some players are not interested in the prizemoney for their championship wins.

Deb explained having the flexibility to reduce prizemoney paid out overall gives us the ability to constrain increases to affiliation fees. No changes are proposed to the payment made by BTS for the utilisation of the greens. Likewise continuing the support of junior bowls is critical for the games future so no changes are proposed there.

Delegates spoke to the view that players aren't in it for the money and they don't enter based on prizemoney. The badges and trophies are the more important thing. Peter Kirby cited a player's feedback that the badge, which remains with them in perpetuity, is treasured.

Peter thanked the delegates for the feedback which now enables the Finance Committee to take a position aligned to meeting sentiment.

8. General Business

- 8.1 **Bucks – Ladies Lunch Break.** Buckingham proposed that Thursday Ladies Pennant lunch break time revert to 1.00pm in the Conditions of Play if teams are not playing straight through.

Peter Kirby discussed the evolution of the starting time and lunch break commencement for Women's Thursday Pennant. Ross Bannister spoke to the poor understanding some Side Captains show of the provisions within the Conditions of Play. Delegate spoke with mixed views as the progress of games and ends completed based on the speed of the green.

The meeting discussed this matter and decided to include this in the remit of the working group to allow players and clubs to have further input to the decision.

- 8.2 **Bucks – Ladies Thursday Division 4.** Buckingham proposed that, instead of 2 sections as in season 2022-23, in 2023-24 there be a single section of more teams to enable better rostering and give players more variety of opposing players.

Clubs including Howrah, Buckingham and Glenorchy City who are represented in Division 4 spoke to the need for a principle of providing more variety by way of a single division as opposed to two sections.

Ross Bannister discussed the history behind the decision to use two sections. Templates for competition rosters have been located that allow us to have sections above the usual 10 sides.

The meeting concluded discussing this matter and decided to allow its voicing of options and opinion to be taken on-board by the Match Committee and BTS Board for 2023/24 season.

Other Matters

- 8.3 Protection of greens.** Peter Kirby spoke to the increasing adoption of Greens Protection reporting process to raise concerns of players “dumping” their bowls. Synthetic Greens do not show the immediate impact like grass surfaces. Orford’s Geoff Giblin spoke in support of the policy and need to direct bowlers to use bowling arms, as Berry Bowling Systems (the installer of Orford and four recent greens) has recommended.
- 8.4 Timing of greens.** Peter Kirby spoke to the need of Side Captains to make themselves aware of the provisions for timing of greens and its reporting to BTS. The BTS Secretary has fielded approaches from Clubs via email without the exercise of timing and reports by the Side Captains.
- 8.5 Bowls Tasmania vacancies.** Bernard Knight, Director Bowls Tasmania raised with delegates the vacancies Bowls Tasmania has advertised including the recently advertised the vacant Board Appointed Director. Sylvia Monash (Taroon) spoke to the reluctance of people to take on these types of roles due to meeting times being during the day on working days precluding them from considering them taking a role.
- 8.6 State Pennant finals.** Geoff Giblin of Orford queried the status with State Pennant finals and the continuation of the three rink per division. Peter Kirby and Bernard Knight spoke to the history of the change and the decision of Bowls Tasmania. Geoff was reminded by Peter that the State Pennant finals is a competition administered by Bowls Tasmania under their CoP and they have maintained its 3 rink structure despite representations from the South for changes, as Bowls Tasmania are able to do.
- 8.7 Coming up.** Peter provided a reminder to the delegates for the two upcoming important dates.
- BTS Presentation Night – Monday 6th May at Rosny Park
 - BTS Annual General Meeting – Sunday 28th May at 2pm (Venue is TBD)

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of delegates will likely take place in September 2023.

10. Closure

The President declared the meeting closed at 2.40 pm.

Minutes taken by:

Michael Andersch

Appendices

1. Proposal to rationalise BowlsLink membership categories (Appendix 1)
2. Proposal to setup a “Restructure pennant” working group (Appendix 2)

APPENDIX 1

Proposal to rationalise BowlsLink membership categories

PRINCIPLES

1. Two “playing rights” categories – Full Bowler and Junior Bowler
2. Two “no playing rights” categories – Social Bowlers and Non-Bowlers
3. Two “caveat” categories – Life Member and 5 Games Member

PLAYING RIGHTS CATEGORIES

PLAYING RIGHTS?	MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
YES	Full Bowler	Can play any form of the game
YES	Junior Bowler	Can play any form of the game (must be < 18 years)

NON-PLAYING RIGHTS CATEGORIES

PLAYING RIGHTS?	MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
NO	Social Bowler	A member who only plays club social bowls
NO	Non-bowler	A member who does not play bowls

CAVEAT CATEGORIES

PLAYING RIGHTS?	MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
YES	5 Games	Can be granted to “no-play” categories for 5 games
NO	Life Member	Can be granted to any category if a life member

- This creates 7 logical category combinations:
 1. Full Bowler
 2. Full Bowler / Life Member
 3. Junior Bowler
 4. Social Bowler / 5 Games
 5. Social Bowler / Life Member / 5 Games
 6. Non-Bowler / 5 Games
 7. Non-Bowler / Life Member / 5 Games
- The “5 Games” caveat is added/removed as required so doesn’t change the number of categories.

Paul Matthews
Secretary
Bowls Tasmania South

APPENDIX 2

TERMS OF REFERENCE - RESTRUCTURE PENNANT WORKING GROUP

Over the course of the past 10 years, BTS has twice surveyed affiliated clubs, presented an options for the structuring of pennant, and shared approaches from individuals and clubs to improve the structure of the pennant competition.

Affiliated clubs at the delegates meetings have largely voted to preserve the status quo for the competition structure of Pennant.

The BTS Board believe further consideration of the future of Pennant competition can only happen via a “Club Led Approach”. Hence the BTS Board proposes establishing a working group with representation from a range of its affiliated clubs to consider this matter. A workable number of 6 to 8 members should provide sufficient diversity without becoming unwieldy.

Primarily the working group will be asked to tackle the question: “Is the current structure of the Pennant competitions the most appropriate, giving consideration to the modern demands in the 21st century, the continuing decline of membership, and difficulties in attracting new bowlers to the game”.

As the group develops and forms recommendations, it should consider options to restructure all competitions within BTS control – Saturday Open Gender Pennant, Men’s Midweek Pennant, Women’s Thursday Pennant, **and** BTS Championships.

The working group should canvas club views and bowler views (preferably using electronic survey methods). The working group should investigate all three pennant structures with a focus on:

- Length of season
- Number of competing events in the bowls calendar
- Number of sides per division
- Number of rinks per division

The BTS Board are most interested to know what type of structure could improve the quality and participation of the competition. What do players believe needs to be done to enhance and improve the pennant? What do players believe are the main impediments to attracting more people to the game, clubs and participation in pennant?

BTS will make available its ZOOM account so that meetings can be held electronically allowing outlying regional clubs the opportunity to be included.

The BTS Board will nominate at least one representative to assist facilitate working group activities and manage the meetings on ZOOM. The BTS Board nominee will not be part of the working group. The working group will elect its own chairperson, independent of the BTS Board representative, and operate as a self-guided body.

In summary, this motion proposes delegates endorse the establishment of a working group to consider the future of pennant competition commencing in the 2024-25 season and

present recommended options to BTS Board Meeting (by November 2023) for ratification before taking a proposal a subsequent (probably March 2024) delegates meeting.

The BTS Secretary will seek nominations from affiliated clubs. The BTS Board encourages delegates to canvas their members to step forward and participate in developing options for shaping the future of BTS competition.

M. ANDERSCH
Chair, Officiating Committee

R. BANNISTER
Chair, Match Committee

P. KIRBY
President BTS