



Founded in 1905

Southern Tasmanian Bows Association Inc

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Deputy President	Kerrie Lane	
Secretary	Paul Matthews	0409 703 073

Minutes of the BTS Board Meeting held on Monday 16 October 2023 at 4.30pm at North Hobart

Welcome

1. President Peter Kirby opened the meeting at 4.30pm.

Attendance

Present: Peter Kirby (President), Kerrie Lane (Deputy President), Deb Jeffrey (Treasurer), Paul Matthews (Secretary), Paul Hoddy, Barbara Rankin, John Scott, Ross Bannister (Chair Match Committee), Michael Andersch (Chair Officiating Committee)

Apologies: Brad Johns, Crystal Brooks, Anne Mullavey (BTAS Director), Bernard Knight (BTAS Director)

Confirm minutes of previous meeting

2. Paul Matthews moved that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2023 be confirmed. Seconded Ross Bannister. **CARRIED**

Business arising from previous minutes

3. **Expired Business Name.** The Secretary reported that he had successfully renewed our business name.
4. **Payment of affiliation fees.** The Secretary reported that he had emailed all clubs warning of the need to verify invoices if in doubt.
5. **BTS Strategic Plan.** A consolidated draft document will be circulated to the Board based on feedback from the first workshop. Another round-table meeting will be held on Monday 23 October at 6.00pm via Zoom. **ACTION: Secretary**
6. **NewsCorp (The Mercury) reporter.** Peter Kirby reported that the first column was submitted to *The Mercury* last week. Peter noted the success of Tony Vince, Shane Young, Steve Graf, Jacob Sheerin-Walls, Kevin Bowkett, and Lee Schraner in the Nationals being held in Western Australia.
7. **Representative uniforms.** The President has discussed this matter with ACEIT. This matter is ongoing. **ACTION: President**
8. **Sponsorship enquiry.** The Secretary noted that, contrary to the previous minutes, Chris Chalker has agreed to a sponsorship deal. Peter Kirby advised the meeting that the Premier Division will now be sponsored by Divergence Built.

9. **WWVP enforcement.** The Deputy President, in her report from the recent RCC meeting, advised that Bowls Tasmania would **not** be enforcing WWVP card compliance but warned that an inspector might visit, and fines were substantial. Ross asked if Side Captains should have a WWVP card. Michael advised that the legislation requires “sporting managers” to hold the card if you work with juniors in any way, but if your contact is with vulnerable people and that contact is “incidental” then the card is desirable but might not be a mandatory requirement. The Board resolved to advise clubs that the risk rests with the club as they appoint the Side Captain. Clubs should check what their obligations are. **ACTION: Secretary**
10. **Assessment of SWC changes.** The SWC Senior sides will play centrally in the North this season. It has also been proposed that SWC Open/Senior sides will include the State side in lieu of a “second side” but this is yet to be decided. The South asked how these changes will be assessed for their success (or otherwise). The Deputy President advised that Bowls Tasmania was not able to provide advice on how they will determine the effectiveness of the change(s).
11. **Pennant Review Working Group.** The Working Group is now working independently of the BTS Board. The WG met on Sunday 15 October for their first “official” meeting. Michael advised that the WG will survey individuals rather than clubs in the first instance, and survey clubs later in the process. However, the BTS Board is “hands-off” and will await developments.
12. **Howrah coaching initiative.** Barbara provided an article for the website which has been published.
13. **BowlsLink - Payment Gateway.** The Statistician advised that this BowlsLink payments were in place. We are still waiting for details on how we receive a report from Bowls Australia.
14. **BowlsLink - Archive/Duplicate players.** The Statistician advised it was not possible to delete members from the BowlsLink database. The matter of duplicate players has been referred to the developer – they will delete the duplicate account. He asked that clubs report duplicates to initiate this action. **ACTION: Secretary**
15. **BowlsLink - Pre-season audit.** The Statistician will conduct an audit of BowlsLink on 1 November to create a baseline for this season. **ACTION: Statistician**
16. **BowlsLink - 2-Factor Authentication.** The Statistician advised that 2FA only applies to club administrators, and it is not intended to be extended to competition administrators. Consequently, there is no need for advice to be included in the Side Captain’s guidelines. He also advised that 2FA will be available via SMS in the next update. This should be sometime in the week commencing 13 November 2023.
17. **Bowls Tasmania events in the South.** Ross advised that Beltana, Kingborough and Howrah have confirmed they can host Gala Week events in January. We have a few clubs still to respond, and we also have round 3 of the Open SWC in the South. **ACTION: Match Committee**
18. **Financial Management Policy.** This policy is still under development but an interim protocol that covers refunds of championship entry fees has been provided to the Board for ratification. **ACTION: Finance Committee**

Correspondence

19. The Secretary reported that there were 373 emails received (not counting 152 SPAM emails) and 219 emails sent between 13 September and 13 October 2023. Moved Deb Jeffrey, seconded Barbara Rankin, that outwards correspondence be endorsed, and inwards correspondence be accepted. **CARRIED**
20. The Board noted the following matters were actioned during this period:
- BTS championship venues all booked.
 - BTS championship singles open for entry/payment via BowlsLink.
 - Glenorchy City Council – Office rent (\$211.83 paid)
 - ASIC – Business Name renewal (\$98 paid)
 - Dept of Justice Association Annual Return (\$68 paid)
 - BowlsLink issues with 2FA code (resolved).
 - Pennant Review Working Group initial meeting at Nth Hobart
 - Affiliation Fee invoices sent to clubs.
 - Resignation – Carol Bannister (SWC Senior women’s selector)
 - Resignation – Carol Bannister (State Senior women’s selector)
 - Resignation – Michael Cawthorn (State Bowling Arm selector)
 - BTS Championships Online Links - testing
 - BowlsTAS Officiating Offerings – published to BTS website
 - Franklin – Request for Letter of Support (provided)
 - Howrah – School Coaching summary (published to BTS website)
 - Howrah – Enquiry re Minimum age of bowlers (answered)
 - Royal Hobart – Request for Letter of Support (provided)
 - Jo-anne Leslie (Brighton) – Eligibility for championships (answered)
 - J Carroll Publishing – Bowls Cards delivery
21. The Board noted the following **pennant**-related matters were actioned during this period:
- Pennant Rosters issued on 2 October (2 changes on 7 October)
 - Side Captains Guide 2023-24 issued.
 - Beltana – Interstate clearance for Keith Cunningham
 - Beltana – Change of club logo (answered)
 - Beltana – Thursday dispensation request (approved)
 - Brighton – Enquiry re special pennant roster requests (answered)
 - Brighton – Thursday dispensation request (no action required)
 - Brighton – Midweek dispensation request (approved)
 - Cremorne – Withdrawal from Saturday Division 7
 - Cremorne – Late withdrawal from Midweek Division 4
 - Cremorne – Dispensation request
 - Glenorchy City – Incorrectly entered into Saturday Division 6
 - Glenorchy City – The Role of the Game Day Coach
 - Howrah – Sharing positions request (approved)
 - Kingborough – Late withdrawal from Midweek Division 4
 - Orford – Dispensation request (rejected)
 - Rosny Park – Uniform dispensation request (approved)
 - Royal Hobart – Uniform dispensation request (approved)
 - St John’s Park – Withdrawal from Saturday Division 7
 - Tasman – Withdrawal from Ladies Pennant

22. The Board noted the following correspondence from **Bowls Australia**:
- Carolyn Docking – Club Support Manager (TAS)
 - Nationals – Live streaming schedule
 - Call for Director Nominations and 2023 AGM Motions
23. The Board noted the following correspondence from **Bowls Tasmania**:
- BTAS Weather Policy
 - Urgent submission from Bowls North regarding SWC 2023-24
 - Premier Division – Plans to live stream games.
 - Early starts for Bowling Arm representatives.
 - Bowls Tasmania Officiating Offerings – October 2023
 - Identification of disability bowlers
 - Agenda for RCC Meeting – 25 September 2023
 - Minutes of BTAS Board Meeting August 2023
 - BowlsLink login issues (several emails)
 - Bowls Tasmania Events in South 2023-24
 - Try Bowls Month October
 - Tasmania’s new Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework
 - BTAS Gala week in January 2024
24. The Board noted the following correspondence onforwarded by Bowls Tasmania:
- Grant Writing Workshops - Tasmanian Community Fund
 - Let Kids be Kids in Sport Workshop – Clubs Tasmania
25. **Question RE Reciprocal arrangements.** The Secretary advised the Board of advice from Liquor and Gaming Branch concerning reciprocal arrangements following an enquiry lodged to seek clarification of this term. The advice was:

If the club has a formal reciprocal arrangement in place with another club, then members of either club may visit without the need to record their detail in the visitor book of the club they are visiting. However, if there is no formal reciprocal arrangement in place a person is a visitor and as such must record their details in the visitor book, every time they enter that club, in the same way as any other non-member must do.

If the Southern Tasmanian Bowls Association has formal reciprocal arrangements in place between its member clubs, then this would allow members from any of the 27 individual clubs within the Association to visit other member clubs without the need to record their presence in the visitor book.

The Secretary asked about an association-wide agreement. It was resolved to advise clubs that BTS would develop a reciprocal arrangements protocol and ask clubs to “opt-in”. Deb noted that the licensee must be the person to opt-in (not the club) which means a new “opt-in” agreement will be required with each change of licensee.

ACTION: Secretary

26. **Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework (Tasmania).** The Secretary noted advice from Bowls Tasmania that Bowls Tasmania, its regions, and clubs who have junior members will have to comply with Tasmania’s new legally mandated *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework* which comes into effect from 1 July 2024. The Board resolved to send the advice to clubs.

ACTION: Secretary

Reports

27. **Finance.** Deb Jeffrey provided her report (see Appendix 1) and noted we must make the Bowls Tasmania affiliation payment of \$102,097 on 1 November. About four clubs are still to pay their affiliation fees. Deb moved that the financial report be accepted. Seconded Ross Bannister. **CARRIED**

The Board discussed the recalculation of affiliation fees for clubs who have lost significant numbers. It was resolved that the Finance Committee would consider requests on a case-by-case basis, but hardship would need to be demonstrated.

28. **Match Committee.** Ross provided his report for the Delegates Meeting, which is also valid for this meeting. All pennant special requests were accommodated. He suggested a possible solution for a Midweek Division 4 redraw but will need to check before releasing a new roster. His report is at Appendix 2.
29. **Officiating Panel.** Michael advised that he was finalising dates for the Umpires, Markers and Measurers forums. He spoke about the online courses available via BowlsLearn. His report is at Appendix 3.
30. **Coaches Panel.** Nothing to report.
31. **SWC/State Selection.** Peter advised that the SWC Selectors, Coaches, and Managers Duties has been reviewed. Pre-season meetings are awaiting Bowls Tasmania Board decisions surrounding SWC structure.

Ongoing Matters

32. **BTS Strategic Plan.** The Secretary advised that the President, Deputy President, Secretary, Treasurer and Chair BSOP met on 1 October to brainstorm our next Strategic Plan. The plan is still being developed (see item 5 above).
33. **Policy and Governance review.** The Secretary moved that we ratify the following documents:
- SWC Selectors, Coaches, Managers Duties (amended)
 - BTS Competition Entry and Participation Protocol (new)
- Seconded Deb Jeffrey. **CARRIED**

34. **Knowledge Sharing.** Nothing to report.
35. **Conditions of Play.** The Secretary noted the following items arising from correspondence (for consideration for next season's conditions of play):
- Opposite Gender eligibility (last season and relegation)
 - Early start arrangements – SWC/State players
 - COP 3.2(d) – Ambiguous reference to “lowest division” (see item 39 below)
36. **RCC Meetings.** Deputy President Kerrie Lane's notes on her attendance at the September RCC meeting are provided at Appendix 4. The next meeting will be held in Hobart in January 2024.

General Business

37. **Zone Liaison Officers (ZLOs).** The President spoke about a brilliant idea that came out of the first Strategic Planning workshop – that we improve communication with clubs by grouping clubs into four zones (North, South, East and Central) and appointing one general board member as a liaison officer for each zone. More detail is still to be formulated via the Strategic Planning meetings.

The Board can use the ZLOs to start conversations, share information, and bring clubs with common interests together. Michael suggested inviting the new Club Support Manager (TAS) - Carolyn Docking – to meet with the Board and help ZLOs in their new role.

38. **Membership status for board members?** The Secretary suggested this was not clear in the constitution and may require review. Paul Hoddy thought this might relate to bowlers paying affiliation fees in the past, but now clubs pay “blanket” fees. The Board resolved to review the constitution preparatory to the 2024 AGM.

39. **COP 3.2(d) – Eligibility.** Barbara noted that this clause was ambiguous. The Board resolved to read this condition as follows:

Where a club has more than one side in ~~the lowest~~ a division, players are not interchangeable, even as substitutes, after the fourth last pennant game.

40. **COP 2.4 - Determining the status of female players.** Paul Matthews noted that a dual-pennant player’s status was not being fairly assessed in Conditions of Play. For example, a bowler who plays Div 3 (Thursday) and Div 1 (Saturday) is still deemed to be B Grade based on Thursday pennant. Similarly, a bowler who plays Div 1 (Thursday) and Div 3 (Saturday) is still deemed to be A Grade based on Thursday pennant. If the bowler is picked on merit in both pennants, then the players should be considered A Grade. The Board acknowledged this anomaly but is confident that COP 2.4(c) provides adequately where confusion exists.

41. **Single Points of Failure.** Michael asked how many people know how to do some of the “specialist” jobs of the Association (eg: Build pennant rosters with special requirements). The Secretary undertook to add an item on succession planning to the draft Strategic Plan. **ACTION: Secretary**

42. **Nominations Committee.** The President suggested we create a committee that is tasked with canvassing volunteers to join committees, panels, or the board. As this also speaks to succession planning, the Secretary undertook to also add this item to the draft Strategic Plan. **ACTION: Secretary**

43. **COVID-19 Protocol review.** The Secretary asked that we re-confirm the BTS COVID-19 protocol as written (without amendment) and update the BTS website homepage with Tasmanian Government (health.tas.gov.au) advice that our current risk level is LOW. The Board resolved that this should be done. **ACTION: Secretary**

Next Meeting

44. The next meeting is planned for Monday 20 November. The Secretary will attempt to find a date/time that suits all board members including working members, and advise the details once finalised.

Closure

45. The President declared the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Paul Matthews
BTS Secretary

Appendices

1. Financial summary as of 30 September 2023
2. BTS Match Committee Report – September 2023
3. Officiating Panel Report – September 2023
4. Deputy President's report from the September RCC meeting

Appendix 1 – Financial summary as of 30 September 2023

Current Assets

	Actual	Last year	Variance \$
1-0000 Assets			
1-1000 Current Assets			
1-1100 Bank Accounts	\$129,001.91	\$216,085.98	(\$87,084.07) ↓
1-1165 Officeworks Gift Card	115.00	0.00	115.00 ↑
1-1200 Accounts Receivable	119,819.94	49,073.57	70,746.37 ↑
Total Current Assets	\$248,936.85	\$265,159.55	(\$16,222.70) ↓

Current Liabilities

2-0010 Current Liabilities			
2-1140 Accounts Payable	429.83	2,577.00	(2,147.17) ↓
2-1300 GST Liabilities	\$14,566.78	\$13,564.40	\$1,002.38 ↑
2-1500 Provisions & Accrued Expen...	\$1,320.00	(\$2,700.00)	\$4,020.00 ↑
Total Current Liabilities	\$16,316.61	\$13,441.40	\$2,875.21 ↑

Profit & Loss report

	Total			
	Actual	Last year	Variance \$	Variance %
4-0000 Income	\$147,324.39	\$144,144.26	\$3,180.13 ↑	2.2 ↑
Gross Profit	\$147,324.39	\$144,144.26	\$3,180.13 ↑	2.2 ↑
6-0000 Expenses	\$2,334.05	\$5,816.06	(\$3,482.01) ↓	-59.9 ↓
Operating Profit	\$144,990.34	\$138,328.20	\$6,662.14 ↑	4.8 ↑

NOTES:

- BT Affiliation payment due by 1st November – total \$102,097
- ATO September BAS has been lodged & paid – a total of \$3,698.00.

Deb Jeffrey
BTS Treasurer

14 October 2023

Appendix 2 – Match Committee Report

The 2023-24 pennant season is almost about to start.

The pennant draws are out after the closing of nomination for club pennant sides that closed on 30 September 2023 it was left this late because clubs still have trouble entering teams when they don't know how many players they have until the last minute.

Club BTS championships dates have been set and clubs nominated to hold them, this gives the host clubs plenty of leeway for organisation to host them as they need a match manager and umpires as well as some markers for singles games.

The BTS statistician has a big job now entering all the pennant teams and BTS championships into the bowls link. This is not a five-minute job and Paul will be flat out having it all read for the start of the bowls season.

This season due to the number of games and Bowls Tas competitions there will be a double header games on Saturday 20 January and Sunday 21 January to fit the season into the roster. Also, the 1st and 2nd semi-final will be on Saturday 6 April 2024 with the preliminary final the next day Sunday the 7 April 2024

There has been some discussion about the Thursday ladies round 10 pennant game that is scheduled to be played on Thursday 21 December is too close to Christmas. Clubs are reminded that they have the opportunity to arrange with their opposing team on that round to try and play them on another day, in saying this both clubs have to agree, or they will be played on the 21 December. They must let BTS know if any changes in play dates.

The BTS men's and ladies single have been moved from the end of the bowls season to the start and will be played in November 2023, the reason for this is that clubs have too much on at the end of the season and the singles are normally played over several clubs due to the number of entries and BTS struggle to find clubs to hold this event.

Ross Bannister
Chair, BTS Mach Committee

8 October 2023

Appendix 3 – Officiating Panel Report

Bowls Tasmania South Officiating Panel – BTS Board Meeting October 2023

Only a short update this month!

Just finalising the dates venues and notices for our Officials & Side Captains Forums. Kingborough, North Hobart Beltana and Franklin will be used this year.

Our forum agenda includes the requirement for Officials who we propose to allocate to BTS Events to hold a WWVP card. We will allow a grace period where application for WWVP has been made.

Leonie Price and I travelled to Burnie to run an full weekend course (Sat PM then Sunday AM & PM) for Markers, Measurers and Umpires. All 6 candidates completed the learning and theory testing online, however the bulk of the course was face to face time reinforcing behaviours, demonstrating and explaining measuring techniques and deep discussion of scenarios for these roles. Bowls NW are covering course costs for the candidates and our costs for travel and accommodation.

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

16 October 2023

Appendix 4 – RCC Meeting Overview

This was an excellent opportunity for me to not only meet some of the representatives from the other regions but also meet the BTAS Board members and what a great baptism of fire.

Some notes re the matters arising from the previous RCC minutes:

- Use of synthetic greens at BTAS events – it was agreed to amend the CoP – provided the surface is up to standard. (There was some discussion around what the standard was and how this was determined).
- Markers for BTAS Bowling Arm Singles – BNW and BN noted that this was part of the entry criteria, BTS commented that this could be provided by the host/s club/s. It was noted that they are required to mark at this event and if unable to then it is the player's responsibility to locate a replacement/stand-in marker.
- Calendars – Juniors has been moved from GALA week, so the games will be GALA week, Juniors then Penguin classic, this will enable juniors to compete in the other events.
- Lunches for SWC – BNW would like to see a canteen style lunch provided, this was noted as being difficult in providing the lunches at the same time in order for players to get back out on the green it would be difficult for clubs to fulfill orders. BTAS decided to leave this as is as is working well for the host clubs.
- BTAS Weather policy – this has been updated, BTS has gone a little further with temperature.
- Uniform Policy and BA logo policy – Question from BNW re the enforcing of this policy, especially around hats and socks. Michael Andersch commented that the Australian Open now only enforces the policy for players that reach later stages of their event/s e.g. final 32 as these players may be seen on TV etc. BA are doing a review of this policy, this is not however at the top of their priorities. BTAS has ruled to use the national policy and they may issue a written notification, if not adhering to the policy the player/team could be told to forfeit.
- Funding cuts & sponsorships – BNW asked if there was a sponsorship portfolio on the BTAS board, there is a shortage of board members and they have not allocated it to anyone, Rob does actively look at this within his remit.
- Selection policy and selectors – BNW questioned why selectors do not currently attend all state events and finals. BTAS have contacted all selectors and advised them of their roles i.e. they are required to attend state events and finals to ensure all players have been considered.

Matters submitted by BTAS Board

- CoP – events CoP will be completed by end October.
- Nationals 2024/25 – BTAS has been looking at the potential to hold these in Devonport at the Devonport Country Club. There was a contribution of \$300,000 from the WA Government for this year's Nationals. BA and BTAS are discussing this with Events Tasmania to see if there is funding available for 2024.

Financial position of BA

- 22/23 forecast of \$1.9m in deficit, originally reported a \$40K deficit. There has been some double counting of income etc., salaries under-estimated, BPL lost approx. \$40K, Australian Indoor lost money. The BA Directors hand most if not all of the staff at BA have been replaced. No real accounting expertise on the previous board. BA is looking at increasing the fees for World Championships and Australian Open, the structure of the BPL and other events. The removal of the RM positions etc. BTS asked was this just a quick way for BA to try and fix their errors as all they seem to be

doing was all financial related actions, they didn't seem to be considering the impact on the game of bowls and or the players.

- BA in 2019 took on the payment / partial payment of airfares for travel to sides championships, senior sides, para nationals and other various events this has been a contributing factor to the shortfall in their funds. A major review is to be done and each of the States and Territories have been asked to provide some recommendations, e.g. change the format of the nationals potentially to 5 a side format, change the funding to possibly 50%, user pays, holding events e.g. nationals every second year etc. One suggestion was to hold events around the country to help with some of the costs, or a percentage to be paid to each state/territory depending on their traveling distance e.g. mileage or something similar.
- BTAS has been asked to put forward some suggestions to BA as to the potential changes to event formats, funding, timing etc.

Regional reports

- BN – main discussion was around the SWC and the potential to have the State Team fill the forth side. This would mean that each of the regions would only fill one side and they would each play the State Team. This would provide the State Team with the opportunity to play as a team as there is no longer the TAS / VIC Test game.
- BNW
 - They no longer have a promotion / relegation process in their pennant competition. Clubs can nominate each year where they believe they fit in the competition and this will be considered.
 - No longer conduct a delegates meeting as there is no good communication process so they hold a meeting with club executives which seems to be working well.
 - A question was raised re BNW being required to be registered for GST as they have now gone over the \$150,000 threshold, they queried if the affiliation fees could be obtained directly from the clubs by BTAS. BNW have some queries within themselves as they have some people receiving large honorariums' which potentially should be changed to a salary. It was advised that clubs are affiliated with the region and the region is affiliated with BTAS, the payments would remain going through these channels.

General business

- Call out to clubs to inform BTAS if they have any disability bowlers.
- Bowling Arm question re early starts for Bowling Arm RRR, it was mentioned that you can ask for this if required.
- Weather policy was discussed earlier.
- Synthetic Green Policy – discussed under matters arising.
- Letter from Alison Venn – re uniform and selection – query re a travel uniform – Rob mention that this was offered and only one player took up the option. Some comments around players not being informed, there seemed to be lack of people reading information provided once being advised they are in the state team. Selection – a concern around someone being selected when they have not played in state championships, do not go to state training etc., it was mentioned that the selectors have a selection policy that they must adhere to and players must be selected on merit and fulfilling the selection requirements.
- BN – discussion re various championships, the regions do not all hold the same events e.g. South only has a Novice singles event at club level, there is no BTS Novice Singles event. It was discussed that each region has their own requirements and will depend on entries and interest e.g. BTS has combined the DL Reed Singles with the BTS Open Singles due to interest/entries.

- Cross Regional Dual members – BN queried the ruling around this. A discussion re the movement of players and that BN have a different set of rules to the other regions. BNW allow players to play across regions they must however determine which is their primary club. BTS allow players to play at 2 clubs e.g. where a club has no Thursday completion a player may play for a different club and then their home club for Saturday Open pennant. I was discussed that BN need to determine which is best for them and their players.
- BTS – how to enforce WWVP requirements – Michael discussed at length this requirement and the anomalies. BTAS has determine that all coaches and club board members must hold a WWVP card. Currently Rob holds a spreadsheet of people, this is currently being updated into BowlsLink to ensure it is the source of truth. Senior SWC assess the viability – they will review after the event – a lot of discussion was held around the potential of the State Team being included in the open side but this could also flow into the Senior SWC competition.

SWC format – this was discussed at length see some earlier comments

- It is a shame that BN raised this item and it did not come from the State Selectors Committee, although David XXXXXX from BN spoke to the benefits from their/his perspective. I understand BN have concerns they have lost some experienced players of late and may feel they are not as competitive as they believe they could be.
- It was raised that the State Team does not get any match play before they go to Nationals only practice session/s, since VIC has pooled with QLD and NSW to play a round robin series and pulled out of June/July test match with Tasmania.
- It would be pro-active and meet stakeholder engagement practice if there were some discussions held with players from the State and SWC teams across the regions to get their view of this and if they have any concerns or feedback. We have a depth of players with great experience that could add some insight into this and what the potential impact if any could be at the player level given this is where the impact will be felt.
- I understand this format has been tried before and there were some issues/concerns, e.g., the state team may be beaten by one or all of the SWC teams and this would not look good. Also, that by having the State Team play, each of the Regions has the need to find a small number of additional players, which in some ways is not always a bad thing.
- If the selectors did their selection based on merit the State Team should be able to compete successfully against the SWC teams. I can see that there may be instances where a player may not be available for state selection but could be available to play in the SWC, this is something that may from time to time happen.
- Different game formats are tried and then changed to suit different circumstances, even though this may have been tried before, situations have altered and maybe this could be reconsidered. I worked for a large corporate and during this time activities were centralized and de-centralized numerous times over my 42 year tenure, this is part and parcel of growth and improvement.
- From my personal perspective, I can see the benefits of having the State Team included as this would help to ensure selectors are selecting on merit and it would also give other players an opportunity to play against the best the state has. There is also the opportunity for selectors to see the contrast of skills and abilities between selected and almost selected players, dependent on rink draws. This may inform selectors of opportunity for making changes and strengthening the State side.

Kerrie Lane
Deputy President
25 September 2023