



Founded in 1905

Southern Tasmanian Bowls Association Inc

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MINUTES OF A DELEGATES MEETING HELD AT 1.00pm ON MONDAY 25 MARCH 2024 at SANDY BAY BOWLS CLUB

1. Welcome.

The President, Peter Kirby, opened the meeting at 1.00pm by welcoming members and guests to the Sandy Bay Bowls Club, and reading a welcome to country.

Peter Kirby welcomed Bowls Tasmania President Bernard Knight and invited him to address the Meeting (as below).

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Paul Matthews (BTS Secretary), Bruny Island BC, Cygnet BC, Dover BC, Franklin BC, St. Johns Park BC, Phil Ions (Cremorne), Margaret Poulter (Glen City), Meekie Salter (Claremont), Pauline Connell (Kingborough), Kerrie Lane (BTS Match)

3. Attendance.

The President confirmed that we had a quorum for the meeting in accordance with section 25 of the constitution. 24 delegates, representing 17 of 27 clubs, attended the meeting. Also in attendance were BTS Board members Peter Kirby and Michael Andersch

Clubs represented: Brighton, Buckingham, Claremont, Cremorne, Glenorchy City, Glenorchy Rodman, Howrah, Huonville, Kingborough, New Norfolk, North Hobart, Oatlands, Orford, Rosny Park, Royal Hobart, Sandy Bay and Tarooma

4. Previous minutes.

Tim Morgan proposed and Phil Richardson seconded, that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 October 2023 (available on the [BTS website](#)) be accepted. There was no business arising from the previous minutes, not arising in reports. **CARRIED**

5. Committee Reports.

5.1 Match Committee. Ross Bannister provided his report (see appendix 1).

5.2 Officiating Panel. Michael Andersch presented his report (see appendix 2).

5.3 Coaches Panel. Ross Bannister provided his report to the meeting.

5.4 Statewide Challenge. Peter Kirby provided his report (see appendix 4).

6. Matters referred from BTS Board.

6.1 “5 Game Player” initiative. Michael Andersch spoke to the fact that in its second year, 133 players were used by Clubs under the “5 game player” provisions. 47 players became full members of their club. Michael indicated the Conditions of Play Sub-Committee will discuss the use of the category for former bowlers and bowlers taking a sabbatical for a year or two, who are still Club Social Members, being used at times over the pennant season.

7. Pennant Review Working Group.

Geoff Giblin updated the meeting on the progress of the group, with survey responses now being collected. Discussion and feedback with Clubs across the process has been positive. Delegates and Working Group members spoke to aspects of the survey, the collection and return and the number of responses and a sample size. Ian Birtwhistle mentioned around 300 as being a statistically significant number.

Delegates questioned the process going forward. The Working Group anticipated recommendations being made to the BTS Board over the next 3-6 weeks. Peter Kirby, Michael Andersch and Ross Bannister spoke to the capability of the BTS Board to make changes for the upcoming season being dependent on the breadth of the change. Geoff Giblin reminded the meeting of the expectation set to the Working Group and Clubs that changes would be made for the upcoming season.

The next step is compilation of the survey feedback and a further meeting of the Working Group to formulate the recommendations to the BTS Boards.

Geoff spoke to the shortcoming of the BTS structure in that the Clubs and their Boards will directly vote on changes the Survey outcomes recommends and have no obligation to align their decision-making and direction to the majority feedback of bowlers and survey participants.

8. Delegates Business.

8.1 Midweek start time. Howrah proposed the starting time for Midweek Pennant competition be changed to 12 noon with rollup at 11:45am. This information was distributed to clubs prior to the meeting. However, at the BTS Board meeting, held on 18 March, it was resolved to refer this proposal to the Pennant Review Working Group since their survey seeks to determine the preferred starting time for each pennant. Consequently, this matter was not discussed at the meeting.

9. General Business.

- 9.1 Bowls Tasmania.** Bernard Knight spoke to the position with the selection of the Tasmania representative side for the Nationals. Also, he drew delegates attention to a \$350 levy to be introduced by Bowls Australia and imposed on all bowlers attending the Nationals and his hopes that the selected bowlers' clubs will get behind them with financial support. Bernard also advised that the centralisation of the juniors playing out of Longford has been well received amongst the cohort of the players and their families. Also, anecdotal feedback from the trial of the Seniors SWC challenge centralised to the North is positive and regions will have an opportunity to formally respond.
- 9.2 Tasman Bowling Club.** Michael Andersch on behalf of BTS Secretary conveyed the content of an email from the Club, with apologies for not being able to attend, Warrick Jones, President advised that "our numbers are a major concern and that also includes our committee which now is down to four people". He asked that thanks be passed on to Kingborough, Glenorchy Rodman and Howrah for supplying subs on various occasions, and to Rosny Park for offering to play with less players if [Tasman] could not field a full team. "This sort of genuine assistance can only be good for the state of bowls in Tasmania."
- 9.3 BTS President.** Peter Kirby spoke to the fact that he will not be continuing in the role as President past the upcoming AGM and thanked fellow bowlers of their support and friendship over his term. Peter reflected on the challenges the roles provided over his term. Bernard Knight thanked Peter on behalf of the meeting, Clubs and their delegates and acknowledged his efforts over his term and the professional approach and the valuable input to the Regional Consultative Committee. The delegates applauded the acknowledgement in support.
- 9.4 Greens.** Stephen Foster (Howrah) queried the quality of the greens for sides competing in the Semi Finals. Ross spoke to the Conditions of Play which set the home ground for Semi-Finals and Preliminary Finals. Similarly, the climate conditions were not ideal for greenkeepers. The available options for Howrah in its match versus Huonville, who's green is of questionable standard, were discussed.
- 9.5** Anne Mullavey (Howrah) spoke of the completion of her term as Southern Ladies representative on the Bowls Tasmania board. Bernard thanked Anne for her work.

10. Closure

The next meeting of delegates will likely take place in September 2024.

The President declared the meeting closed at 2.15 pm.

Minutes taken by:

Michael Andersch

On behalf of the BTS Secretary

APPENDIX 1

BTS Match Committee Report - March 2024

The BTS Ladies and Men's Singles, Pairs, Triples, Over 60's and Ladies Fours championships have been completed. The Men's Fours, Mixed Pairs and Champion of Champions are still to be played. Once again, we can't hold these championships without clubs volunteering to host them, thank you.

The Ladies Thursday pennant finals have started with the Wednesday and Saturday finals to start when the scheduled roster games have finished.

The way the pennant finals work is in the first and second semi-finals with the teams that finished first and third gets home finals. In the preliminary finals the loser of the second semi-final gets the right to play at their club providing that they did not have the second semi-final there. In this case if the home club has lost the second semi-final, they do not get a second chance to hold the preliminary final at their club. The preliminary final game would be moved to a neutral venue to be played.

The reason the BTS finals are set up like this is in years passed we were not able to get clubs to host finals as clubs wanted to close their greens for renovations straight after the pennant season finished. This way it requires clubs who are in finals to keep their greens open and in reasonable condition.

This rule has been about for a long time but for some reason clubs and side captains don't seem to know about it.

The Conditions of Play is posted and sent out to clubs before the start of each season along with the Guidelines for Side Captains. It is the club's responsibility to make sure that every selector and side captain in their club has a copy and understands these BTS guidelines, especially for the last six games in pennant and finals rules.

There have been several protests against other clubs this season for playing ineligible players and points have been taken of clubs.

Some BTS pennant division has BYEs throughout the season and at the end of the pennant roster the BTS statistician calculates the average points and shots for BYE rounds and updates the divisions. What this does is give a "false" ladder until the BYEs are accounted for. It has been proposed for next season that the divisions with BYEs are updated each week to give the proper ladder results.

Ross Bannister
Chairperson of the BTS Match Committee

APPENDIX 2

BTS Officiating Panel Report to the Delegates Meeting

The Panel members are unchanged with myself as Chairman with Janet Rutherford, Wayne Cobbing, Leonie Price and Helen Ducker.

Our panel has largely wrapped up its 2023-24 season activities with Pennant Finals and Champions of Champions the last of the events.

Officials Forums saw a good turnout with an added forum held at Franklin with a green test for an umpiring candidate whose learning pathway included the BowlsLearn online modules for marking, measuring and umpiring.

Leonie Price and I assist Noelene Purton in the North-West run a weekend umpires course where all candidates completed their theory component online. The Marking and Measuring greens test component allow Presenters and Assessors to concentrate their guidance on the more physical aspects of the roles.

I do recommend Clubs encourage members to participate in officiating and build their stocks of measurers and umpires and using the BowlsLearn pathway which allows the theory components of the testing to be done independently, online and at one's own pace.

Michael Andersch
Chair, BTS Officiating Panel
25 March 2024

APPENDIX 3

Statewide Challenge Report

The 2023-24 Statewide Challenge series was one of little reward for Bowls South's sides competing in the Open and Seniors (Over 60's) Men's and Women's competitions, and Juniors. A lack of junior girls was a major problem for team management, which was overcome to an extent through the inclusion of several girls from St Helens. Hopefully, there will be a number of junior girls available for selection in the Southern region for 2024-25 as there are girls attending junior practice at Buckingham Bowls Club regularly, but who were not ready to participate in formal competition. It would be most beneficial to the BTS Juniors program if clubs could make a concerted effort to involve more juniors into our sport at club level.

Bowls North won the Statewide Challenge overall title on 194 points, followed by Bowls North-West on 163 points, and Bowls South on 113 points. Bowls North-West took out the Juniors on 45 points, from Bowls North on 40 points, and Bowls South on 22 points. In the Open Women, Bowls North finished on top with 42 points, followed by Bowls North-West on 32 points, and Bowls South third on 24 points.

In the Open Men, Bowls North was on top on 35 points, Bowls North-West on 27 points, and Bowls South third on 21 points. In the Seniors, Bowls North won the Women's section on 39 points, from Bowls North on 29 points, and Bowls South third on 14 points. Bowls North yet again in Senior Men on top with 38 points, from Bowls South on 32 points, and Bowls North-West third on 30 points.

The Open and Seniors Statewide Challenge competitions were impacted by Bowls Tasmania's decision to replace the regions' "second" side (which became the fourth side to ensure that the three regional sides played two games each round) with the Tasmanian sides. This meant that each region's best players were unavailable for regional selection, but it did also mean that fringe players were selected in regional sides, giving them an opportunity to display their abilities to State Selectors.

The premise for including the Tasmanian side as the fourth side in the Open and Seniors competitions was that it would give greater opportunity for the State sides to improve their teamwork and cooperation, while also giving the State Selectors six matches in which to confirm selections. The State sides did not participate in the overall standings, but each regional side accumulated rink points when they played a match against the State side.

While the Open Statewide Challenge continued as a true inter-regional competition, with each region hosting one of the three days of competition, the Bowls Tasmania Board resolved to conduct the three days of Seniors Statewide Challenge in the one central location, Launceston (all three days being played at the North Launceston Bowls Club). This arrangement was for the 2023-24 season only and is subject to a review by the Bowls Tasmania Board. No doubt there will be a number of submissions forthcoming from members of Bowls South's Senior Men's and Women's sides.

The Bowls South Board made changes to its Selectors, Coaches and Managers Duties Policy, firstly to strengthen the notion that State Selectors (South) are primarily Bowls Tasmania appointments, and most of their duties relate to actions required of them by Bowls Tasmania directive, except for acting as the Chair of the BTS Selection Panel for the section for which they are a State Selector. Initially, the State Selector has the task of nominating the three

selectors to select the side to represent Bowls South in that section of Statewide Challenge. If the State Selector nominates less than three regional selectors, then Bowls South will seek expressions of interest to fill the vacant selector positions.

A range of methods have been used by each of Bowls South's selection panels, from inviting players to nominate themselves to participate in selection trials, to players being invited to attend practice/selection sessions. There has been no direction from the Bowls South Board as to how selection trials should be conducted, with each panel deciding on the method that suits their needs best.

This season, the predominantly white representative uniform has been replaced with the purchase of the new Bowls South representative polo tops and jackets, from Aceit Sportswear. There is a reference for the polo tops and jackets to be purchased by members of Bowls South's representative sides rather than being retained by the Association and distributed to players as required. While the cost of purchase by the players for both clothing items has been discounted, it is expected that there will be savings to the Association over the long term due to there being no costs incurred for cleaning after each use.

Finally, congratulations to Phil Hobbs, Sandy Bay Bowls Club, for his recent appointment as Bowls Tasmania's Chair of State Selectors, replacing Trevor Docking (Bowls North-West).

Peter Kirby
Senior Men's State Selector (South)