



Founded in 1905

Southern Tasmanian Bowls Association Inc

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Secretary	Paul Matthews	0409 703 073

Minutes of the BTS Board Meeting held on Monday 22 April 2024 at 5.00pm via Zoom

Welcome

1. President Peter Kirby opened the meeting at 5.00pm.

Attendance

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

Guest: Anne Mullavey (BTAS Director)

Apologies: Bernard Knight (BTAS Director), Crystal Brooks

Confirm minutes of previous meeting

2. The Secretary moved that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2024 via Zoom be confirmed. Seconded Michael Andersch. **CARRIED**

Business arising from previous minutes

3. **Hosting AGM.** The Board resolved to accept the offer from Kingborough to host the 2024 Annual General Meeting on 16 June.
4. **Medical cards.** The Secretary is working on creating a medical information option over the off-season. **ACTION: Secretary**
5. **Census of members.** The Statistician has extracted the data but is still to provide census data from BowlsLink. **ACTION: Statistician**
6. **Audit of BowlsLink Administrators.** The Statistician has extracted the data but is still to provide a list of administrators from BowlsLink. **ACTION: Statistician**
7. **New Constitution.** The Secretary advised that a draft new constitution had been provided to the President for consideration.
8. **Strategic Plan.** The Secretary advised that a draft new constitution had been provided to the President for consideration.
9. **Financial Management Policy.** This policy, and others that require review, will be actioned in the off-season.
10. **BTS Presentation Night.** The Secretary advised that all invitations had been delivered. He checked BowlsLink – it shows 12 bookings. By extracting the data into a spreadsheet and looking at the attendees, it reveals 37 people have booked to attend to date.

Correspondence

11. The Secretary reported that there were 456 emails received (not counting 67 SPAM emails) and 312 emails sent between 15 March and 17 April 2024.
12. **Resignation.** The board acknowledged the resignation of Barbara Rankin and noted its thanks to Barbara for her contribution to the management of the association.
13. The following correspondence was received from Bowls Tasmania:
 - Tasmanian Champion of Champions Championships
 - SWC Catering and Prizemoney 2023-34
 - Registered players – request for numbers
 - Paid Voluntary Work – Jobseeker Over 55s Paid Volunteers
 - Lynne McDougall (Howrah) – Elected Director nomination
 - Latest updates to BowlsLink
 - Bowls Tasmania Bowler of the Year
 - B Grade Eligibility for Championships
 - Notice of Bowls Tasmania's 2024 AGM (20 May 2024)
 - Notice and draft agenda for RCC Meeting (20 May 2024)
 - Bowls Tasmania Smoke Free Policy
14. **Tasmanian Champion of Champions.** This contest will be held on 5 May, but the Southern Champion of Champions winners will not be known until 1 May.
15. **Registered players.** The Bowls Tasmania request for numbers was referred to the Statistician who is still to provide a response. **ACTION: Statistician**
16. **Paid Voluntary Work – Jobseeker Over 55s Paid Volunteers.** Bowls Tasmania provided information to clubs about the potential to use Centrelink Jobseeker payments to cover volunteer work. The Secretary posted this information to the BTS website. Anne advised that the process of applying was straightforward. When the club is approved as a provider of volunteer work, the club can fill positions under this scheme. The Board resolved to register the association. **ACTION: Secretary**
17. **Elected Director nomination.** Bowls Tasmania sought endorsement of Lynne McDougall (Howrah) as the elected director (female/south) to the Bowls Tasmania Board. The Board resolved to hold this in abeyance as nominations don't close until 5 May.
18. **SWC Catering 2023-24.** Bowls Tasmania advised the proportion of costs to be paid by the south was \$3,833.50 (\$18.70 inc GST per head for 205 participants). The breakdown showed BN, BNW and BTS obligations but did not show the State side's obligation (see below).

	BN	BNW	BTS	State Side
Participants	202	251	205	Unknown
Contribution	\$3,777.40	\$4,693.70	\$3,833.50	Unknown

19. **SWC Prizemoney 2023-34.** The South received \$2,000 in SWC prizemoney. Bowls Tasmania also advised that prizemoney will not be paid in 2024-25 unless they can obtain sponsorship. Peter explained that Veolia sponsored SWC in the past, providing about \$10K per year, but when that ceased a few years ago, Bowls Tasmania continued paying prizemoney but has now decided it can no longer do so without sponsorship.
20. **SWC feedback.** Shane Young provided the Board with feedback regarding the centralisation of the Senior SWC in the North.

21. **Annual Report.** The Secretary is currently compiling information for the 2024 Annual Report and has sought reports from committees and input from clubs.
22. **Tribunal Panel.** The Board noted with thanks the help provided to Kingborough by Tribunal members to assist with an appeal against suspension.
23. **Championship bars/Large plaque badges.** The President advised that quotes were approved by the Executive Committee so that the orders could be placed. Ross moved, and John seconded, that this action be ratified. **CARRIED**
24. **Bye calculations.** The Statistician made the necessary BYE calculations but noted a better system will be applied next season - adjustments will be made each week rather than leaving everything until the end of the home-and-away season.
25. The Secretary noted the following correspondence from clubs:
 - Orford – Clarification of Finals Ruling
 - Sandy Bay – Consecutive sides in finals clarification
 - Glenorchy Rodman – Constitutional changes enquiry
 - Huonville – Veterans/Super Veterans enquiry
26. **Divergence Built Sponsorship.** The Secretary acknowledged that he failed to invite a representative of Divergence Built to the Premier Division Grand Final. The Deputy President advised that she had spoken with Chris Chalker.
27. **Winter Coaching.** The Secretary advised that winter coaching was on again this winter. The Board thanked the Howrah Indoor Centre for hosting this important training.
28. **Warnings.** The Secretary advised that two warnings had been issued for breaches of the Social Media Policy:
 - Brent Forsyth (Kingborough) – Facebook breach
 - Gordon Cooper (Kingborough) – Facebook breach
29. **Suspensions.** The Secretary advised that the following suspension of players were issued by clubs:
 - Matthew Featherston (Kingborough) – No bowls until 2 Sep 2024.
 - Tony Rowe (Kingborough) – No bowls until 3 Sep 2025.
 - Jamie Miller (Glen. Rodman) – Life ban from club premises/grounds.
30. **Protests/Concerns.** The Secretary advised of the following protests/concerns received since the last meeting:
 - Howrah – Standard of Huonville Green for Semi-Final
 - Royal Hobart – Use of Beltana for Ladies Division 4 Grand Final
 - Royal Hobart – Plan to hold 9.00am Open Gender Grand Finals
 - Buckingham – Glenorchy Rodman finals selection concerns
 - Player Infringement Report – Facebook comments (withdrawn)
 - Kingborough – Standard of Beltana Green for Premier Division Grand Final
 - Sandy Bay – Standard of Beltana Green for Premier Division Grand Final
 - Rosny Park – Rumoured plan to move Division 1 Grand Final
31. **Premier Division Grand Final protests.** An Executive Meeting was held via Zoom, and an in-person meeting with Kingborough and Sandy Bay representatives was held at Beltana. Both Claremont and Beltana greens were inspected/timed. See reports at Appendices 1 and 2. The following was discussed/suggested:

- Peter Kirby reiterated that Ross Bannister and the Match Committee acted in accordance with Conditions of Play and did a good job of accommodating the matches.
 - Peter and Ross both suggested cancelling the requirement for “neutral” greens for Grand Finals.
 - Ross advised that BN and BNW appoint the club for grand final matches at the start of the season and play on that green regardless of who makes the grand final.
 - Kerrie suggested distributing grand finals through various clubs, and include synthetic surfaces, even though this will place an added burden on umpires and match managers, and change the spectator experience as clubs with multiple sides competing may play at different venues.
 - Peter congratulated and thanked Kerrie and Michael for the work they did with the green inspections prior to the Grand Finals.
32. **Club Beltana – Letter of concern.** The Secretary read the letter, received today. The Board resolved to express, in the strongest terms, our support for Club Beltana and our thanks for their support of BTS finals, and their ongoing support of BTS events.
33. **Facebook vitriol.** Deb spoke passionately about the unacceptable commentary on Facebook and recommended the BTS Board take immediate action to address this toxic behaviour. Peter undertook to amend the *BTS Social Media Policy* to allow the Board more power to discipline members who breach these rules.
- ACTION: President/Secretary**
34. Moved Paul Matthews, seconded John Scott, that outwards correspondence be endorsed, and inwards correspondence be accepted. **CARRIED**

Reports

35. **Finance.** Deb Jeffrey provided financial reports for March 2024. Deb noted that working out budget and affiliation fees will have to wait until Bowls Tasmania advice is received. Moved Deb Jeffrey, seconded Brad Johns, that the financial reports be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**
36. **Match Committee.** Ross advised that Bowler of the Year awards will be resolved following the Champion of Champions results.
- Paul Matthews noted (from feedback received) that a semi/preliminary finals double-header caused headaches for players having to back-up in the preliminary final on Sunday, headaches for us in getting the word out about who was playing and where. The idea of holding morning/afternoon grand finals caused issues for people with other commitments in the morning and would have made for a long day for officials.
- Ross noted that promotions/relegations will result in some forced relegations this year. Paul Matthews suggested waiting for the PRWG recommendations before finalising the promotions and relegations. The Board resolved to advise clubs that this will be the case.
- ACTION: Secretary**
37. **Officiating Panel.** Michael provided his report. The Southern officials duties largely wrapped up with the Pennant Finals at Bucks, Claremont and Beltana well covered over the three playing days. Champion of Champions will be covered largely by the Kingborough contingent of markers and drawing in a couple of our preferred umpires to ensure a quality field of officials. I fielded a coaching law query from BowlsNW that was very much around recent local discussions on the limits of a coaches interaction. Leonie Price will publish a version of the feedback into her officiating offerings.

38. **Coaches Panel.** Ross advised that Howrah Indoor will again hosts winter coaching clinics over the off-season.
39. **SWC/State Selection.** Brad advised that the Open Men's and Senior Men's sides will hold selection trials in Devonport on Sunday and at Kingborough on 25 May. The Open and Senior Ladies will hold selection trials at Kingsmeadows on 5 May and may also hold trials at Kingborough on 25 May but this to be confirmed.

Ongoing Matters

40. **BTS Strategic Plan.** The Secretary and the President met via Zoom and agreed to create a cut-down Strategic Plan from the initial draft developed at the Strategic Planning workshop. It is with the President for review and will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.
41. **Policy and Governance review.** Underway.
42. **Succession Planning (Knowledge Sharing).** Michael suggested the incoming President (whoever that may be) will require assurance of continuity from other board members. Paul Matthews, Paul Hoddy, Kerrie Lane, and Deb Jeffrey stated they would be nominating to serve in 2024-25. Ross Bannister is happy to continue as Chair of the Match Committee but, if another person is appointed, he will support that person in learning the job. Brad and John indicated they would also renominate for the Board.
43. **Conditions of Play.** The Secretary noted the following items arising from correspondence (for consideration for next season's conditions of play):
 - COP 3.2(d) – Finals and two sides in one division
 - COP 3.29(d) – Preferential treatment / Greens allocation for finals
44. **RCC Meetings.** The next meeting will be on 20 May 2024 (the same day as the Bowls Tasmania Annual General Meeting). Kerrie and Peter will both attend. Peter asked for agenda items and the following items were put forward:
 - Ross asked for an updated/confirmed State calendar for 2024-25.
 - Paul noted that the North won all four adult SWC competitions and wondered if it was because they were playing on their own ground? Peter suggested it was because the South and North-West lost more players to the State side which weakened their sides more than it did the North.
 - Michael suggested Bowls Tasmania should investigate ways to overcome poor-quality internet for live streaming.
 - Michael also noted that Claremont declined to attend the State Pennant Finals again this year. Kerrie suggested the runners-up might be allowed to attend so that the south is represented and there is a three-way match to decide the state winner.

General Business

45. **AGM.** The Secretary noted that he will be in Queensland on 16 June. The Board decided that Michael would take the minutes at this meeting.
46. **Reporting in The Mercury.** Kerrie suggested expanding the reporting to cover other divisions (over the course of several weeks) so that the publicity is not so "premier division focussed". Peter undertook to widen his reporting as much as possible. Peter noted that he could only submit 400 words to *The Mercury* and this could be further reduced at the discretion of the editors, which is why his full report is published to the BTS website.

47. **Prizemoney.** The Secretary asked for clarification on prizemoney arrangements for the 2023-24 season. The Treasurer will consult with the Secretary.
ACTION: Treasurer
48. **Facebook.** Paul Matthews suggested moving to a Communication Tool and Noticeboard and closing the discussion group. Paul Hoddy agreed and noted that he'd been denying comments as required. The Board resolved to allow the 2 Pauls to consult and decide.
ACTION: Paul and Paul
49. **Board and Committee Restructure.** The Secretary advised that he was writing a paper to restructure the Board and Committees following attendance at the Bowls Australia CLUBMAP webinar on Committee Structures. He hoped to circulate the paper for consideration/feedback before the next meeting.
50. **Twilight Champion of Champions trophy.** Ross asked after the location of this trophy and Peter advised that he gave it to Stephen Foster (Howrah).
51. **Single Gender lowest division.** Paul Hoddy suggested making the lowest division on Wed/Thur open gender. This would negate the need for "Opposite gender substitution" rules in Conditions of Play and enable more clubs to fill their bottom side. The Board were open to the idea but decided to place it on hold pending receipt of PRWG recommendations.
52. **Last meeting.** Anne Mullavey advised the Board that this would be her last meeting as a guest since the Bowls Tasmania Southern Director (Female) will be filled by another person shortly after 5 May. The Board thanks Anne for her contributions to BTS meetings.
53. The President thanked Kerrie, Michael and all Board members who stepped into the breach during his absence.

Next Meeting

54. The next meeting is planned for Tuesday 21 May at 4.30pm at Club Beltana.

Closure

55. The President declared the meeting closed at 6.45pm.

Paul Matthews
BTS Secretary

Appendices

1. Deputy President's report re Premier Division Grand Final protests
2. Greens Inspection report for Claremont and Beltana

Appendix 1 - Deputy President's report re Premier Division Grand Final protests

Meeting Thursday 11 April 2024 at Beltana Bowls Club with 2 Sandy Bay Premier reps (Stuart Cashion and Andrew Norris) and 2 Kingborough Premier reps (Jason Fowler and Mark Burges) along with members of the Match Committee, Paul Hoddy, Rosie Geeves, Tony Davie and Kerrie Lane VP and Acting President.

In preparation for this meeting Michael Andersch and myself visited Buckingham Bowls Club as this was where the Final of the Wednesday Mid-Week Competition was held, we timed the green to use as a benchmark, then went to Claremont to time both of their greens and finally Beltana to time the Greens, please see details below around this.

I introduced myself as the current VP of BTS (Acting President in Peter Kirby's absence) and member of Match Committee, I began with stating that we had got together as both Sandy Bay and Kingborough Premier League players were unhappy with the Grand Final being played at Beltana.

Stuart Cashion began as he was of the understanding that his email may have triggered the discussions. There were also numerous comments on Facebook that may have also initiated discussions with some players and spectators. Some of these comments provoked an email from Rosny Park (Div 1) as they were concerned, they were going to be moved from Claremont across to Beltana – this fortunately was resolved with a personal phone call to Michael Kelleher (from Michael Andersch) and a follow up email from our Secretary (Paul Matthews) for which Michael was very appreciative of as per his email response.

Jason spoke on behalf of the KBCC and SB reps, his comments:

- Unhappy about playing the last 4 grand finals at Beltana and each time the greens have not been to their (Premier's) expected standard, when there are other clubs (Claremont) that have greens in better condition.
- There should be more transparency around the allocation and selection of greens for the grand final.
- Follow up communication should be done with clubs prior to finals to ensure greens are adequate, maybe there are other clubs now interested in hosting the finals – their greens could be in better condition than they had originally thought they might be.
- Concerns around Beltana having had Gala Week and the traffic causing wear to the greens, they believe this should have been considered, and an inspection should have been done prior to the grand final. There were some concerns with the games the week before and the condition of the greens at that point.
- They believe that deals are done with clubs, if they hold BTS and or other events they are promised grand finals matches – there is no consideration around what the state of the greens could be and the traffic across the greens.
- There used to be a Greens Committee, but this was abandoned as the Chairman of Match (Ross) didn't listen to their recommendations so they resigned, why don't we have something along these lines, people with some knowledge and experience with greens and their condition etc.

Regarding green selection, I mentioned that we go out to clubs early in the season and ask them to let us know if they would be willing to hold finals and the various BTS events. We unfortunately don't get a great response and generally the same clubs put their hands up. I do believe that we

could do some follow up communications with clubs to see if there are additional options and we could look at the greens leading up to events to determine the suitability of the greens.

There seems to be a lot of history with decisions that have been made and the Premier players don't believe Ross is fair in his judgements. The reps believe they are the ones that pull in the sponsorship, they are the ones advertised and livestreamed, they are entitled to have the best greens allocated to them for the finals.

I told them that we would take this back to the Board and ensure there would be more open communication around the clubs who have nominated for finals and BTS events and that yes, we could do follow up communications with them around their greens and to see if other clubs had maybe changed their minds. I would like to see the inspection of these greens done (before finals are confirmed with clubs) by appropriate Board members, someone from the officiating panel and match committee members as I believe the Match Committee members and the officiating panel need to get more involved in the allocation and selection of greens as we currently have no Greens Committee to provide recommendations. The umpires are responsible to ensure the greens are set up correctly and may also need to time the green. I would like to see the implementation of a Greens Committee looked at again for the future. I believe they could work along-side the Match Committee and Officiating Panel.

The representatives were pleased to be given the opportunity to discuss their concerns and it seemed to them to be finally listened to. They reluctantly agreed they would play at Beltana given I assured them things would change and we would take on-board their concerns.

I believe going forward we need to look at how we promote Premier and other Divisions. Unfortunately, we only write about Premier - there needs to be consideration of the other Divisions. I am not saying that we write about all Divisions, but I would like to see a write up of at least one other Division after the Premier write up, we could select a different Division each week and pull out some highlights. We need to stop putting Premier up on a pedestal and include all levels. We have a lot of other bowlers that need to be considered just as fairly as they are. In some ways we have created this issue and now we need to work better with it.

Kerrie Lane
BTS Deputy President

18 April 2024

Appendix 2 - Timing of greens for BTS Open Gender Pennant Grand Finals

Kerrie Lane and I attended both Claremont and Beltana Clubs to provide comparative data on the relative speed of the chosen greens. To assist provide a benchmark timing measure, the Synthetic Green as Buckingham BC was also timed.

Timing was completed using the ramp and ball approach, applied in a consistent manner across all greens and fully in accordance with the published Bowls Victoria Instructions and conversion charts.

Executive Summary: There was acknowledgement the Beltana greens were playable, but their condition relative to Claremont is poorer for grass coverage, appearance and pace. Premier League players are the belief they should be on the best greens and the standard of greens on which finals are hosted is higher than that for the pennant roster.

Results of measured timings are as follows.

Buckingham Synthetic on Rink 3

Ramp Position	Facing	Measurement	Speed (Secs)	Average Overall Measurement	Declared Green-speed
2 metre mark	North	8.90M	14.33	9.13	14.25
1/3 way up green	North	8.00M	13.33		
2 metre mark	South	10.28M	15.25		
1/3 way up green	South	9.34M	14.40		

Observations:

The distance and speed measured through the centre of the green away from the lines and typical placement of the mat and standing at the head see the centre of the green running 1 second slower than along the centre line at the typical area of mat placement.

Relatively even draw on both hands, but nap of the synthetic carpet results in wide and narrow side and this can be exaggerated if wind of same side or frustrating and challenging from opposite direction.

Claremont BC Top Green Rink 4

Ramp Position	Facing	Measurement	Speed (Secs)	Average Overall Measurement	Declared Green-speed
2 metre mark	East	10.40M	15.33	9.90	14.92
1/3 way up green	East	10.32M	15.25		
2 metre mark	West	9.50M	14.58		
1/3 way up green	West	9.40M	14.50		

Observations:

Free running green with good and even grass coverage. Measured at 3.15pm and starting to slow slightly. Would expect slightly higher speed at 1pm Saturday with no rain forecast and same preparation as on day tested.

Claremont mostly cut their greens (no rolling) with the base average firmness underfoot. Claremont had hand timed their greens before our arrival and the upwind and downward speeds

measured under each method were virtual identical, suggesting ramp method is reliable in producing good results (Ramp method unsuitable for needle punch carpet (KBC) due to known variations.

Claremont, Bottom Green Rink 10

Ramp Position	Facing	Measurement	Speed (Secs)	Average Overall Measurement	Declared Green-speed
2 metre mark	North	9.25M	14.62	9.11	14.25
1/3 way up green	North	9.30M	14.68		
2 metre mark	South	8.67M	13.86		
1/3 way up green	South	9.22M	14.34		

Observations:

Free running green with good and mostly even grass coverage. Some barer/darker patches with sandier appearance but there was no noticeable impact on rolling bowls and the degree of colour variation was minor.

Measured at 3.25pm and starting to slow slightly. Would expect slightly higher speed at 1pm Saturday with no rain forecast and same preparation as on day tested, as green had little if any patronage during day tested.

Beltana Top Green Rink 4 (On Boundary)

Ramp Position	Facing	Measurement	Speed (Secs)	Average Overall Measurement	Declared Green-speed
2 metre mark	North	8.35M	13.60	8.32	13.63
1/3 way up green	North	8.57M	13.80		
2 metre mark	South	7.70M	13.08		
1/3 way up green	South	8.69M	13.90		

Observations:

Both Sandy Bay and Kingborough Bowlers had been practicing. Hence measurement of pace too place on Boundary between Rinks 4 & 5.

There was acknowledgement the green was readily playable, but its condition relative to Claremont is poorer for both appearance and pace. Opportunity remains before Saturday for the green to dry more and it respond to further rolling to match day to speed up green.

Greenkeepers have identified the rinks for play on the day away for some more “tufty “ sections on its edges (I believe winter grass, but may be bent with its growth concentrated in scarifying ruts). Having personally practiced on the green with the South Over 60s side twice over the season, the green has responded positively to recent rolling and it is less two paced than at other times this season.

There was a clear theme in communication and discussions that Premier League players believe they should be on the best greens and the standard of greens on which finals should be played in higher than that for the pennant roster home and away matches.

Beltana Bottom Green

Ramp Position	Facing	Measurement	Speed (Secs)	Average Overall Measurement	Declared Green-speed
2 metre mark	West	7.15M	12.62	7.23M	12.68
1/3 way up green	West	7.60M	13.00		
2 metre mark	East	6.47M	12.06		
1/3 way up green	East	7.70M	13.08		

Observations:

Patchy green and dry areas across who of green with former scarifying marks more evident in dryer patches. The is an amount of transition of bowls as it passes through the differing grass giving a bumpy ride.

Similar quality to Huonville green inspected 2 weeks ago which was determine payable, but acknowledged less than perfect. Whilst speed is above the minimum parameter of 12 seconds, the bumpy condition; the fact this green plays host a final between Club with a higher paced synthetic (Ryl Hbt) and free running grass (Claremont) opens the opportunity for criticism.

Green was measured and 4.20pm and with lowering sun and it being late in day a better result would have been evident if earlier in the day. Opportunity for the green to dry and respond to further rolling to match day exists to speed up green.

Overall commentary:

The relative disparity between the speed and evenness of grass coverage on the 2 Club's greens is highly visible and undeniable.

BTS in conjunction with a selection of its Clubs needs to explore the opportunities to cooperate and produce better outcomes. A more standardized approach to the subjective elements of inspecting greens and narrating/reporting on their condition is required, and then more frequent inspection should inform Match Committee on its journey to greens and venue selection for pennant finals.

I sense a long term loss of greenkeeping skills and knowledge more generally and with access manpower and resources constrained over time . The nature of the times in which we live, and the capacity of clubs and their members to finance the full-time professional greenkeepers is not where it was in the heyday of the sport in the 60s and 70s.

Michael Andersch
Chair
Bowls South Officiating Panel