



**Regional Consultative Committee Minutes
Monday 23 September 2024**

Via Zoom

PRESENT:

Bernard Knight – Bowls Tasmania (Chair) Michael Andersch – Bowls South
David Gewin – Bowls North West David Heron – Bowls North

IN ATTENDANCE:

David Back – BTAS Board / Treasurer
Lynne McDougall – BTAS Board
Kerrie Lane - Bowls South
Vicki Bassett - Bowls North
Rob McGuire – BTAS CEO (Minute Taker)
Carolyn Docking - BA Club Support Manager Tasmania (from 11.05am)

APOLOGIES:

Aaron Page – Bowls North
Leonie Price – BTAS Board Jane Pickett - BTAS Board
Tracey Little - BTAS Board

NOT PRESENT:

John Glisson - BTAS Board Phil Prouse – BTAS Board

Meeting opened at 11.01am.

WELCOME:

President Bernard Knight welcomed everyone to the meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The previous minutes from the meeting on 20 May 2024 were accepted as tabled.

Moved: David Gewin Seconded: David Back. Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

- **Venue for January Gala Week** - At the January RCC meeting, David Gewin advised that feedback from players indicated that it was difficult to find accommodation in Hobart in January 2024 for Gala Week.

Could Gala Week in January be swapped with another region each year it is due to be held in Hobart? The BTAS Board agreed to look at this matter. There is no rush as this will not happen again until January 2027.

BTS advised that it does not matter where the championships are held in January each year – if players wait until the last minute to book their accommodation they will have problems. In August 2024, the Board agreed that January Gala Week would continue to be rotated around the regions and the entrants be advised to book their accommodation early to ensure that they can find suitable accommodation at a reasonable price.

- **Para Bowls Player Classifications on BowlsLink** – At the January 2024 RCC meeting, Lynne McDougall suggested that it would be good if para bowls player classifications could be added to Bowls Link.

Lynne has obtained a list of IBD classifications for Tasmanian players and has listed their classifications on BowlsLink if the players agreed to do so. The only players not listed are the three players whose classifications are being reviewed at the 2024 Para Nationals.

- **State Satellite Coach** – At the May 2024 RCC meeting, the meeting was advised that it has been agreed with BA that it may be better to remove all BA work from the role and make it BTAS specific and pay the successful person an honorarium rather than a salary. The position was advertised to clubs and on social media. Expressions of interest closing on 16 August 2024 with no applications received. Since then, a late application has been received. The application has been referred to a small group of High-Performance Committee members and it is hoped to make an appointment soon.

- **Review of centralisation of Senior SWC** – At its meeting in May 2023, the Board agreed that Senior SWC will be centralised in the North for the 2023-24 season for a trial period of one season and then review the situation after that. In September 2023, the Board agreed that the format of both Open and Senior SWC would be changed such that SWC for 2023-24 and 2024-25 would become four teams consisting of the State team, BN, BNW and BTS, instead of the current situation whereby the host region provided a “second” team for the next two seasons.

At the RCC meeting in May 2024, regions were asked what their position was on Senior SWC remaining centralised in the North. BN and BNW were in favour of it continuing as is. BTS was against it. Both BNW and BTS believed that if it stayed in the North, they should not have to provide umpires for games in the North.

At its meeting in August 2024 the Board agreed that Senior SWC remain centralised in the North for another 12 months and be reviewed after that. The requirement that BNW and BTS be required to provide an umpire for each round of Senior SWC has been changed to ask them to provide an umpire each round if possible.

- **Statewide Suspension Policy** – At the May 2024 RCC meeting it was agreed to establish a State wide Suspension Policy that could be used by all clubs that protects members, supports clubs, and ensures that penalties, when required, are substantive. It was agreed to form a committee (with one representative from BTAS and one from each region) and report back to the next RCC meeting with a draft policy – and such draft policy should also be sent to BA for its consideration.

The committee has been formed (Rob McGuire Chair and John Glisson (BTAS), Barry Magnus (BNW), Vicki Bannister (BN) and Paul Matthews or Michael Andersch (BTS)) and met on 19 September 2024 to consider a discussion paper prepared by BTAS. Broad details of what should be included in the policy have been agreed upon, and Rob McGuire and John Glisson are working on a draft policy for further consideration of the committee.

- **Live Streaming Issues** – At the May 2024 RCC meeting, it was noted that BTAS was having some issues with live streaming. It was suggested that BTAS investigate changing its internet provider to someone like Starlink satellite internet. To address the Facebook issues with Switcher Studios, it was further suggested that BTAS consider seeking streaming expertise to sort this out (which would come at a cost).

Shane Gurr is now looking at a possible alternate internet supplier and how to live stream using You Tube (as BA does). The BTAS CEO is meeting with Ben Fidler in the near future to see if Facebook can still be used for livestreaming.

BTAS will not be using its live streaming equipment until these problems have been sorted out.

- **Regional Assistance for BTAS Events** – At the May 2024 RCC meeting, it was noted that regional officials who assisted running BTAS events should be provided with the same things such as meals etc that BTAS officials receive, and this should be built into BTAS Conditions of Play.

BTAS has investigated this matter and found that this is already in BTAS State Events Conditions of Play. The host club and host regions are advised of this prior to each event, but this will be reinforced further for future events.

- **BTAS Volunteer** – At the RCC meeting in May 2024, rather than look for a Centrelink volunteer under its Jobseeker scheme, it was suggested that BTAS consider employing someone to help run Gala Week etc – for example Warren Groves – rather than trying to find a volunteer.

The Board did make an appointment, but the successful applicant declined the position before she started. Workskills was contacted to see if they had anyone suitable on their books. Three potential applicants were contacted and two were interviewed but they were considered not suitable for the position.

At its meeting in September 2024, the Board agreed keep looking for someone suitable who qualifies under Jobseeker.

The Board has also earmarked \$10k in the current budget to employ a variety of expertise on an as-needs basis to assist me – for example assistance for competition management, live streaming, BowlsLink, running State events and for office administration.

MATTERS SUBMITTED BY BTAS BOARD:

- **Meeting with Regions** – The BTAS Board has previously met with Regional Boards to:
 - To enable BTAS and regional board members to meet and get to know each other.
 - To share information.
 - To identify and develop possible collaborative actions that may improve outcomes for both parties, and
 - To raise any issues of concern.

The BTAS Board last met with BTS in September 2021, BNW in January 2022 and BN in September 2022. It is now well overdue to meet with the regional boards again.

The BTAS Board has agreed that following dates be suggested: to the regions for future meetings:

- Meet with the BNW Board on the North West Coast in conjunction with the Open SWC round on Sunday 1 December 2024 – perhaps on Monday 2 December 2024 at the Devonport Country Club.
- In Hobart have a lunch meeting with the BTS Board at the BTAS Office conference room – on Monday 28 October 2024.
- Meet with the BN Board in Launceston on Monday 24 February 2025 before the final round of Senior SWC on Tuesday 25 February 2025.

REGIONAL REPORTS:

Bowls North

- Written report as presented prior to the meeting.

Bowls North-West

- Written report as presented prior to the meeting.
- President David Gewin noted that several topics for discussion – namely financial assistance for regions hosting BTAS events and for regions to provide general assistance to BTAS – has been covered in Business Arising above.

Bowls Tasmania South

President Michael Andersch provided a verbal report to the meeting which included:

- BTS has created a Club Liaison Program and appointed Board members to look after a number of clubs each to improve the Board's relationship with clubs.
- BTS has decided that Women's Division 2 and below will be deemed to be B Grade for all BTS championships.
- There is a conflict and problems between its constitution and policies regarding suspensions and clubs falling below a minimum number of members which needs to be addressed.
- BTS is concerned that the BA Member Protection Policy does not adequately address the issue of gender identity. Bowls England currently recognises that strength and stamina play a part in bowls, whereas this is not the case in the BA policy.
- The "five-game rule" was not being properly used by some clubs, and BTS has re-introduced pro-rate affiliation fees to address the issue.
- BTS Conditions of Play have been amended to allow morning, afternoon or evening finals.
- A Greens Committee has been formed to address a number of issues including green selections for finals.
- The BTS Presentation Dinner looks like being discontinued due to falling interest.

BOWLS AUSTRALIA CLUB SUPPORT MANAGER REPORT:

Carolyn Docking gave a brief outline of what she has been doing recently including:

- Assisting a number of clubs with their websites.
- Working with Tasman who are in desperate need of new members.

Carolyn advised that she intends visiting East Coast clubs in the near future.

Carolyn further advised that BA's Jessica Alvaro, the Bowls Link Co-ordinator, has resigned and will be sorely missed.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **Bowls Tasmania Invoices** – David Gewin asked if BTAS invoices could be amended to reduce the large number of "zeros" in the number – he thinks this can be done in MYOB settings. Treasurer David Back undertook to look at this request.

- **The Nationals 2025** – President Bernard Knight advised that BA's The Nationals 2025 will be held in Tasmania in November 2025 with the Devonport Country Club being the main host and the Burnie Bowls Club hosting the Para Nationals. BTAS will be setting up a local committee closer to the event to assist BA wherever required but in particular with sourcing of officials, volunteers and helpers for Para bowlers. Regional pennant will not be permitted to be played whilst The Nationals 2025 is on.
- **Funding for Tasmania Tridents in BPL** – President Bernard Knight advised that the Board is hopeful of receiving ongoing support and Tasmanian Government funding for the Tasmania Tridents. The Government budget papers include an amount of \$120,000 in the budget for Bowls Tasmania for the Tasmania Tridents. The budget has not been passed yet but at least funding for the Tasmania Tridents is in the budget.
- **Junior BPL Challenge** – President Bernard Knight advised that Bowls Tasmania will be entering a team in the Junior BPL Challenge which will be held as part of BPL#21 at Club Moama in February 2025. A qualifying event will be held in Launceston in November 2024 with the winning team representing the Tasmania Tridents in the national finals.
- **BTAS High-Performance Committee** – President Bernard Knight advised that the Board had established a High-Performance Committee which he is currently chairing.
- **BTAS President** – President Bernard Knight advised that this is his last year as BTAS President. He is required to leave the Board at the end of this financial year in accordance with the BTAS constitution. Accordingly, BTAS will have a new President next year. The Board is currently considering its options on who could be the President next year. His position on the Board and another currently vacant Appointed Director position will be available if someone outside the current Board is deemed to be suitable to take over the role.

President Bernard Knight thanked everyone for their attendance. He thought that the Zoom meeting had worked well and that more of these meetings could be held that way in the future.

The meeting closed at 11.55am.

Next Meeting: February 2025.

Signed by Chairman