

Southern Tasmanian Bowls Association Inc.

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President: Peter Kirby

Secretary: Rob McQuire



MINUTES OF THE DELEGATES MEETING HELD AT THE BUCKINGHAM BOWLS CLUB COMMENCING AT 1.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

Welcome: President Peter Kirby welcomed all delegates and Life Member Tony Fulton OAM to the meeting.

Apologies: An apology was received from Life Members Hedley Beechey and Cath Smith. Apologies were also received from Barry McDonald (Claremont), Greg Coad (Cygnets), Don McVilley (Cremorne) and Mick Rodwell (Geeveston).

Attendance: The meeting was attended by 36 delegates present representing 24 clubs (Beltana, Brighton, Bruny, Buckingham, Claremont, Cremorne, Cygnets, Dover RSL, Franklin, Geeveston, Glenorchy City, Glenorchy Rodman, Howrah, Huonville, New Norfolk, North Hobart, Orford, Rosny Park, Royal Hobart, Sandy Bay, Sorell, St. John's Park, Tarooma and Tasman). Six interested men and women also attended the meeting.

Minutes: Moved Michael Sweeney Seconded Alex Stanelos that the minutes of the previous Delegates meeting held on 7 October 2019 be confirmed. Carried

Business Arising:

Natural Disaster Policy (Brighton)

Brighton submitted an agenda item – Natural Disaster Policy (due to the fires in January and February 2019) for the March 2019 Delegates Meeting – but had no representative at the meeting when this matter was raised. Accordingly it was agreed to leave this matter on the agenda until the October 2019 Delegates Meeting.

At the October 2019 Delegates Meeting, Kay Sproule from Brighton advised that Brighton was concerned that pennant was not cancelled when the fires were bad in Southern Tasmania in February 2019. Brighton was also concerned at the lack of communication from BTS when this happened and believes that BTS need to develop a natural disaster policy to cover such circumstances. The BTS Board agreed to investigate this matter.

BTS Conditions of Play 2019-20 provided the following:

- 1.12 Extreme Heat Policy
- 3.16 Games affected by a natural or civil disaster

When it became apparent that the fires in January and February 2019 were out-of-the-ordinary and could impact on players – some of whom were fighting fires, others could not or would not leave their local area and smoke impacted on the health of many bowlers - the BTS Match Committee had several telephone meetings and sent regular advice out to clubs:

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- All pennant games involving Huon teams whether they were being played at home or away were abandoned and pennant points were shared. If other Clubs were affected by the fires in any way, the BTS Match Committee accepted that these games could also be abandoned by mutual agreement and pennant points would be shared.
- Once the fire situation eased, all pennant games involving Huon teams whether they were being played at home or away were scheduled to be played as scheduled unless the Huon Clubs did not wish or were unwilling to play the games. In such instances the Huon Club was required to notify its opposition at least 24 hours before the scheduled start of play and any such games were deemed to have been abandoned and pennant points were shared. If other Clubs were affected by the fires in any way, the BTS Match Committee accepted that these games could also be abandoned by mutual agreement and pennant points would be shared.
- If air quality was deemed to be unhealthy when play at any games in Southern Tasmania was scheduled to commence (air quality level is greater than 100) any such games were deemed to have been abandoned and pennant points were shared.

The BTS Board believe that the above communications were more than appropriate under the circumstances. Actions required to be taken in any given situation may vary and it is difficult to adequately build them succinctly into Conditions of Play or a Natural Disaster Policy. Accordingly the BTS Board agreed to deal with situations as they arise and will not be developing a Natural Disaster Policy.

Proposed format change for Saturday Pennant in 2020-21 (Beltana)

The following Notice of Motion was submitted to Bowls Tasmania South by Beltana, Buckingham, Bruny, Cremorne, Franklin, Glenorchy Rodman, Howrah, Sorell and St. John's Park for consideration by Clubs at a General Meeting of the Association which was held on 17 December 2019:

- “That Bowls Tasmania South change Conditions of Play 2019-20 as follows:
 - 3.22 Promotions and Relegations
 - Section (a) Delete “EXCEPT FOR SATURDAY PENNANT COMPETITIONS AND”.
 - Section (b) Delete “EXCEPT FOR SATURDAY PENNANT COMPETITIONS AND”.
 - Section (c) Delete “EXCEPT FOR SATURDAY PENNANT COMPETITIONS”.
 - Section (d) Delete “EXCEPT FOR SATURDAY PENNANT COMPETITIONS”.
 - Section (f) be deleted.
- That ten teams per division be retained playing 18 rostered games.

The above Motion was Moved: Brian Green, Beltana Seconded: John Scott Sorell and was carried.

Accordingly Conditions of Play were amended and the proposed format change for Saturday Pennant was not proceeded with.

Saturday Pennant Division 7 reduced to two rinks in 2020-21 (St. John's Park)

At the Annual General Meeting in May 2020, St John's Park argued that Saturday Pennant Division 7 has struggled over the last couple of years to maintain numbers with several sides having to forfeit matches and drop out of the competition. St. John's Park proposed that Division 7 be reduced to 2 rinks (8 players per side), similar to Thursday Pennant Division 5. This would allow smaller clubs in particular to submit sides and keep members involved and active within their clubs. It would assist in maintaining the number of teams in Division 7 and reduce the number of forfeited games which will benefit all Clubs involved.

Moved: Lee Cowie Seconded: Margaret Cornish "that Saturday Pennant Division 7 be reduced to 2 rinks (8 players per side) in 2020-21". Carried

This is happening in 2020-21.

More opposite gender players in a Club's lowest team in Women's Thursday Pennant 2020-21 (Geeveston)

At the informal meeting held after the Annual General Meeting in May 2020 Geeveston advised that it would like BTS to allow more men to play in a Club's lowest team in Women's Thursday Pennant or preferably to open up Thursday Pennant as open gender. It was agreed to recommend to the BTS Board that Clubs be requested to vote on whether they want to be allowed to play two opposite gender players per rink in their lowest side in Women's Thursday Pennant.

At the BTS Board Meeting held on 15 June 2020 it was agreed to let this matter lay on the table.

BTS has spent a lot of time in recent years defending its actions before Equal Opportunity Tasmania. Allowing more men to play but then limiting how many, what grades they can be and what positions they can play is discrimination and would not be allowed by Equal Opportunity Tasmania. Accordingly the BTS Board took no action to implement same.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Match Committee:

Ross Bannister advised that entry forms for BTS Championships have been circulated to Clubs. Entries can also be submitted electronically on the Results Portal via the BTS website.

Selection Committee:

Despite several expressions of interest being sent out to Clubs, not all positions have been filled for 2020-21.

Coaches Panel:

Ross Bannister advised that the BTS Coaches Panel had conducted very successful and well attended coaching sessions at the Howrah Indoor Centre commencing in August 2020. BTS paid the Howrah Indoor Centre hire charges and provided the session's free-of-charge to those in attendance.

No courses for umpires, markers, measurers or selectors have been able to be run due to COVID-19 restrictions.

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Officiating Panel:

Leonie Price advised that:

- The Officiating Panel has recently produced a document “Roles and Responsibilities of the Officiating Panel” which has been approved by the BTS Board.
- There is a new International Technical Officer in Southern Tasmania – Michael Andersch who has moved from Sydney and joined Kingborough.
- Any current umpire, marker or measurer whose accreditation expired anywhere from March 2020 until October 2020 has had their accreditation extended for twelve months due to restrictions on conducting re-accreditation courses due to COVID-19.
- No Officiating Forums will be held before the start of the coming season.
- Side Captain Guidelines have been updated and have been sent to Clubs and can also be found on the BTS website.

MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE BTS BOARD:

Conditions of Play 2020-21:

Changes to Conditions of Play were summarised by the President and Secretary. Copies of Conditions of Play are currently being printed and will be distributed to Clubs at Opening Day.

BTS Coronavirus Policy 2020-21:

The BTS Board has developed a BTS Coronavirus Policy in response to concerns about the actions to be taken to stop the spread of Coronavirus whilst participating in lawn bowls activities in southern Tasmania. The BTS Coronavirus Policy is intended to provide an overview of the currently available information from the Australian Federal Government, the Tasmanian Government, Bowls Australia and Bowls Tasmania related to the virus and what measures and precautions members of the Australian bowls community should and where stated must put in place. This Policy is susceptible to changes with the introduction of additional or fewer governmental or Bowls Tasmania directions or guidelines. If so, BTS will update the Policy as soon as possible and advise Clubs by email.

The BTS Coronavirus Policy provides that clubs with more than one team playing at home can consider staggering start times to ensure that appropriate social distancing can be maintained on the green and in particular in the clubrooms. Clubs do not have to do this but host Clubs that choose to adopt these measures must advise BTS prior to 5 October 2020 which teams will be starting at other than the normal commencement time and at what times and can only change these times with approval by the BTS Match Committee.

Forms:

Initial Club Registration Forms, Register of Members and Championship Entry Forms have already been distributed to Clubs and are available on the BTS website. Pennant Cards were distributed to Clubs at the meeting.

Nominations for Men’s Midweek Divisions 3 and 4, Women’s Division 5 and Saturday Division 7:

Delegates were reminded that nominations for these Divisions close today Wednesday 30 September 2020. Rosters for these Divisions will be sent to Clubs by Monday 5 October 2020.

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Capitation Fees:

Delegates were reminded that Capitation Fees are due on Monday 5 October 2020 and must be paid prior to the first Pennant game.

Ensure all players are registered and cleared (if necessary) to play in 2020-21:

Clubs were reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that all players playing pennant have been registered to play with BTS and, if necessary, have been cleared. Playing unregistered players or players without a clearance will result in a loss of the match or matches.

An updated list of clearances received by BTS for the coming season to date has been sent to all Clubs and will continue to be updated and sent out weekly.

If a player has transferred to a Club and their clearance is not listed on the list, it has not yet been received by BTS and they cannot play in pennant until the clearance is received by BTS.

Interstate clearances must be approved by the individual players former State Association before they can play pennant in Tasmania.

Possible rotation of players in Saturday Pennant Division 7 in 2020-21:

The BTS Board suggested that Clubs could consider the possible rotation of players in Saturday Pennant Division 7 in 202-21 as follows:

- In Division 7 only clubs may play 5 players in any of their rinks.
- All 5 players must be nominated prior to the game and all listed on the result sheet.
- All 5 players must play a minimum of 7 ends.
- Rinks can only rotate players after the 7th and 14th ends.
- If the player coming in replaces a skip or a third they must take the position of the player they are replacing, if replacing a lead or a second they may change those two positions.
- All 5 players will be deemed to have officially played the game.

In lieu of the fact that Division 7 has been reduced to 2 rinks this helps Clubs with excess players accommodate them therefore reducing the risk of losing them. East Coast Bowls has adopted a similar format and has the approval from Bowls North. Score cards must list all players who played in a rink on the day.

It was agreed to trial this in 2020-21.

Study to determine why members stop playing bowls:

One of the objectives in the current BTS Strategic Plan is to conduct a study to determine why members stop playing bowls. BTS wants to work with Clubs to survey members to determine reasons why members have left their Club. The BTS Board will then collate results and investigate how to rectify any problems identified. It was agreed that the BTS Board will write to Clubs to start to get this underway.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Dumping of Bowls (Submitted by Glenorchy City):

Glenorchy City raised this issue as it believe it is time that Clubs within BTS addressed the issue of dumping of bowls with their members.

Bowls Australia (BA) has issued a Greens Protection Policy which is available from its website. This policy details the procedure to be followed where it is believed a bowler may be damaging a green due to incorrect delivery of their bowl and, perhaps more importantly, places an obligation on Clubs to assist bowlers to remedy the action or activity which is causing damage.

BTS has included a reference to the BA Greens Protection Policy in its Conditions of Play for the past couple of years. In January 2019, BTS also sent a memo to all Clubs which asked Clubs to work with their own members with suspect bowling actions and also outlined a process for reporting visiting bowlers whose bowling actions were likely to be causing damage to the green to BTS. Many bowlers, including bowlers from Glenorchy City, do not feel comfortable reporting suspect bowling actions due to the potential animosity such an action may cause.

At the time the synthetic green was installed at Glenorchy City, the installers told the Club that dumping of bowls would, over time, damage the sub-structure of the green. Accordingly, the Club took action to identify bowlers within their own Club with suspect bowling actions.

While Glenorchy City has addressed this issue with its own members it is obvious to the Club that other Clubs have not addressed this with their own members. Glenorchy City regularly see visiting members who dump their bowls badly. For the purposes of this discussion Glenorchy City define dumping as:

- Delivering the bowl more than 6 inches above the surface of the green; or
- Driving the bowl into the surface of the green.

The result of dumping over the years is that the surface of the Glenorchy City green has slowly deteriorated and there are now several faults evident. This can affect the course of the bowl particularly towards the end of its travel and is evident to the naked eye in certain light conditions,

The following recommendations were submitted to the Delegates Meeting and were agreed on by those present:

1. All Clubs identify their members with suspect bowling actions and work with these members to rectify their bowling action, including encouraging those members to use a bowling arm if necessary.
2. All Clubs be encouraged to report visiting players with suspect bowling actions, so this becomes the norm rather than the exception.

If this matter is not addressed and, once remedial works are done on the Glenorchy City green at the end of the coming season, the Club advised that it may have no option other than to fully enforce the BA Greens Protection Policy which includes forcing an offending player to retire from the game. However, the Club would much prefer that it does not get to this stage.

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Proposed format for BTS Women's Championships (Submitted by Howrah):

Howrah queried the playing of BTS women's championships through the working week. Howrah believe that they are not a true indication of the best bowlers in the South because most of our working women and students/juniors are unable to compete. BTS has six women in the current Tasmanian State Squad and if we are to give them and future players a chance to make the State or representative teams they must be given an opportunity to compete at the highest level we have in the South. Howrah believe that we should have more players in that squad given our higher population but a large number of women are unable to compete and develop confidence and self-belief without participation in these events. A few years ago BTS held all women's championships on Sunday's and Howrah believed that the numbers were quite good. The playing group was certainly different to most events.

Howrah suggested that there be two streams of competition for the BTS women's championships which could be brought together for finals. If women can enter on both weekdays and weekends no one will miss out. Given that the men's competitions are held at the same time, Howrah suggest that the Sunday games be held where the men are playing so it is not necessary to look for more clubs, greens, umpires etc. Howrah suggested that this be trialled in 2020-21 with the BTS women's triples championships.

Moved: Margaret Cornish Seconded: Stephen Foster "that the BTS Women's Triples Championships in 2020-21 be held as a two-stream competition as outlined above". Lost.

Lunch Break for Saturday and Wednesday Pennants (Submitted by Orford):

Orford argued that the afternoon tea break provided Clubs with the opportunity to hold raffles and provide bar services to players. In addition, the break provided time to interact socially with other bowlers. Given that due to COVID19 afternoon teas will not be provided in 2020-21, hence these opportunities will no longer exist. Additionally, Orford suggested that an earlier start time on Saturdays will allow bowlers to travel home earlier and still provide opportunities for Saturday evening functions.

Moved: Jill Morgan Seconded: Peter Hills "that given that the provision of afternoon teas is unlikely to be continued on Saturday and Wednesday Pennant Days, Orford proposes that the start time is amended to be 11.30am with a lunch break at 1pm with players providing their own lunch".

Lost

No afternoon tea for Saturday Pennant (Submitted by Taroona):

Taroona queried where this direction emanated from? If it is Bowls Australia, Taroona wondered whether the ruling applies to all States and, if so, why? Not all States are in the same position in relation to COVID-19. Furthermore Taroona queried how the decision affects club functions and fundraising - for instance, the popular trade table conducted by many clubs at Thursday pennant where homemade cakes as well as other goods are sold?

President Peter Kirby advised that following discussions at Regional Consultative Committee meetings all regions have decided to prohibit afternoon teas.

An easier way for Clubs to navigate these times could be to think of their business in two halves. For competition times such as Pennant, then you must operate the business under the Return to Play rules and your local Condition of Play. But then once the days play is completed your venue will continue to operate as a hospitality venue and under the hospitality regulations.

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COVID-19 makes it very difficult to serve afternoon tea like Clubs used to for a number of reasons – social distancing how Clubs serve afternoon tea and what they serve. Accordingly the BTS Board agreed to prohibit it altogether for 2020-21. Clubs were advised of this decision in August 2020 and no complaints have been received by BTS from Clubs regarding this decision.

Clubs can still run raffles and trade tables – these are covered in the BTS Coronavirus Policy.

Come and Try Day (Submitted by Taroona):

At a previous Delegates Meeting where much was discussed concerning methods to increase membership and attract new bowlers Taroona noted that many clubs considered “Come and Try Day” a waste of time due to poor turn up of prospective players.

The reasons Taroona believes early January, prior to the season recommencing following the Christmas break, would be a more appropriate time to hold the day are:-

- The greens are in good condition;
- The weather is more reliable;
- Players who commence practise in January have several months in which to make a decision as to whether they want to take the game seriously and, if so, would be well prepared to play in the following pennant season;
- Persons who have casually observed the game being played and may be mildly interested may take the opportunity to “give it a go”.

President Peter Kirby advised that BTS has tried to change this before with Bowls Tasmania without success. Bowls Tasmania is now running a “Come and Try Month” this year in October. It is disappointing to note that, as of late last week, just 4 of 27 Clubs in Southern Tasmania have registered to participate in this year’s “Come and Try Month”.

As there was no further business the President closed the meeting at 2.45 pm, thanked all delegates for their attendance and participation and thanked the Buckingham Bowls Club for making its facilities available for the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: February / March 2021 – date and venue to be advised.