

# Gippsland Bowls Region Inc.



## Minutes of the Special General Meeting Maffra Bowls Club, Monday 22 February 2021

Chairperson Jan Morton opened the meeting at 10am.

### Present

#### *Board members*

Jan Morton (Chairperson), Shane Higgins (Deputy Chairperson), Bronwyn Thwaites (Secretary/Treasurer), Jeff Amos, Deirdre Relph, Nigel Plunkett, Marg Brandhoj, Judy Beesley, Colin Smith

#### *Delegates*

Karen Chenney (Orbost), John McBay (West Sale), Alison Harrower (Bruthen), Allan Watts (Yarram), Keren Blake (Sale), Ron Kyne and Nola Wheeler (Stratford), Chris Sherrin (Heyfield), Graeme Hemming (Maffra), Nanette Hamilton and Neil Hutchison (Bairnsdale), Chris Wain and Dorothy Schroeder (Metung), Chris Kyle and Nugget Campbell (Howitt Park), Sue Jenkins (Paynesville), Judy Mifsud and David Butterworth (Lakes Entrance).

#### *Observers*

Bert Middelhuis (Heyfield), Kel Brandhoj (Lakes Entrance), Ian Johns (Stratford)

### Apologies

Merrilynne and John Hayes (Golden Beach), Chris Bannik (Yarram), Gwen Hatcher (Orbost), Graeme Clark (Bruthen), Simon Alleaume (Lindenow)

### Business item: New Constitution

Jan Morton made the following opening remarks:

- This is an important day in the history of the Gippsland Bowls Region.
- Today, we are taking the first step towards amalgamating our existing two divisions – east and north – by adopting the Region's new Constitution.
- The Constitution is the legal framework under which the Gippsland Region Board will operate once it is lodged with and accepted by Consumer Affairs Victoria.
- I trust you have all taken the time to read the document thoroughly since we distributed it on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January.
- When developing our Constitution, the Governance Steering Committee used the model provided to all regions by Bowls Victoria and adapted it to suit Gippsland's specific needs.
- The Board approved the draft at our December meeting and sent it to Bowls Vic for review as required.
- On Christmas Eve, Bowls Vic CEO Tony Sherwill wrote to us advising the draft had been approved with no change.
- He also commented that our Constitution aligned both with Bowls Victoria's purposes and that of the 'contemporary governance framework' it is implementing.

- The resolution will pass on at least 75% approval of our delegates.

Before putting the motion, Jan asked for questions.

Nanette Hamilton (Bairnsdale) queried the 35-day period for submitting notices of motion for inclusion as special business at a general meeting.

Bronwyn Thwaites advised that the Board had taken a conservative approach on this clause and supported the period of notice recommended in the Bowls Victoria model constitution.

As there were no more questions, Jan asked delegates to approve and adopt the new Constitution for the Gippsland Bowls Region, as recommended by the Board and approved by Bowls Victoria.

Moved: Deirdre Relph; seconded Nigel Plunkett

The motion was carried unanimously.

### **Meeting closed**

Jan thanked delegates for their vote of confidence and closed the SGM at 10.20am.

### **Next meeting**

Annual General Meeting, Monday 28 June at 10am, venue to be determined.

### **Information session**

#### *Rules for Competition*

Jan Morton opened the information session by briefing delegates on the proposed 2021/22 Rules for Competition and Conditions of Play. She reported:

- the draft Rules were nearing completion after two meetings of the Steering Committee and numerous emails
- Bowls Victoria had advised against overlapping the Region's rules with theirs, which would be in a new and more user-friendly format for the next season
- the Rules being drafted were specifically for the Gippsland Region, with the majority under the Bowls Victoria Conditions of Play
- the major changes from existing rules are open midweek and Saturday pennant in both playing areas, with 21 live ends
- playing area and region events for men and women will be played concurrently and at the same club where possible, on weekends and some nights at venues with lights
- the Conditions of Play will be published on the Region website following Board and Bowls Victoria approval.

Issues raised by delegates included:

- separate rules for playing areas
- points awarded when games are abandoned
- heat
- playing 21 ends straight through on Saturday.

In response, Jan:

- confirmed it was always the Board's intention to implement the same rules in both playing areas to achieve a unified region
- the 75% rule would apply for abandoned games
- there would be some flexibility within the heat rules, including starting times
- the draft rules for Saturday pennant allow for 21 ends to be played straight through by team managers' agreement; if there is no agreement, a 15-minute break will be held.

One delegate suggested there should be more discussion on the move to 21 ends on Saturday, given that the majority of East Gippsland clubs supported 25 ends.

Board member and EGBD President Nigel Plunkett said East Gippsland clubs had been surveyed and the vote in favour of 25 ends was six to three with one abstention. In contrast, the nine North Gippsland clubs were unanimous in their support for 21 ends. In aggregate, the support for 21 ends is 12 for, six against, a clear majority in favour.

Jan advised that when making its decision, the Board acknowledged that **the majority of clubs across the region** supported 21 ends. Another consideration was the uncertainty about the future impact of Covid, with 21 ends being easier to manage under restrictions than 25 ends.

#### *Governance*

Bronwyn Thwaites provided an update on the draft Regulations, specifically:

- The Governance Steering Committee has been working on the Regulations since December, having met three times so far.
- The Committee started with a blank sheet of paper, with help from some guidelines provided by Bowls Victoria.
- The Regulations will be a companion document to the Constitution - effectively the Region's by-laws - providing a formal process for day-to-day administration.
- They will include details about a range of matters, including:
  - the Region's structure
  - the role of directors
  - the Board election process
  - the committees – how many, their role and composition
  - finance and assets management
  - delegated officer positions
  - disciplinary procedures
  - standards and policies.
- The Board will be briefed about the status of the Steering Committee's deliberations following the meeting.
- While the final document will contain a significant amount of detail, it will be structured in logical sections that can be read as a whole or independently, online or in print.
- The deadline for completion is the end of April and following Board approval, the Regulations will be sent to Bowls Victoria for review.

#### *Logo*

Bronwyn Thwaites provided an update on the development of the Region's new logo, highlighting:

- the new logo would replace existing Region and division logos
- Gippsport had been appointed to work with the Board on the design
- three design options had been developed for the Board to review after the meeting
- the logo would be adaptable for a range of uses including stationery, uniforms, signs, flags, the website and social media pages.

#### **Close of information session**

Jan closed the information session at 11am, thanking delegates for their attendance and comments.