



DELEGATES INFORMATION SESSION NOTES

The Gippsland Region Board held an information session for club delegates and observers at Paynesville Bowls Club on Monday 10 October 2022.

President Jan Morton opened the meeting at 10am.

Present

Board members

Jan Morton (President), Nigel Plunkett (Vice President), Bronwyn Thwaites (Secretary), Colin Smith (Treasurer), Peter Beesley, Graeme Hemming and Marg Brandhoj (directors)

Delegates and observers

Alison Harrower and Don Cameron (Bruthen); Chris Kyle (Howitt Park); Karen Chenney and Sue Robinson (Orbost); Jeff Amos (Yarram); Leigh Bryant (Sale); Judy Beesley and Sue Jenkins (Paynesville); Bert Middelhuis (Heyfield); Jeff Watts (Bairnsdale); Kerry Binotto and Shane Higgins (West Sale); Marg Robbins, June Richardson and Kathy Hiscock (Stratford); Peter Attard (Tambo Valley); Kel Brandhoj (Lakes Entrance); John Crawford (Bairnsdale Golf).

Apologies

Simon Alleaume (Lindenow), Chris Wain (Metung)

Report from the President

Pennant

Jan Morton (JM) provided an update as follows:

- The Conditions of Play (CoP) were distributed to all clubs in September, with the main changes being a start time of 1pm for Weekend Pennant and bowlers needing to have played six games (previously four) for their club to be eligible for to play in finals. Subsequently, an additional sentence was added to clarify Rule 6 Scheduled break. This was sent to all clubs last Friday.
- The earlier resumption date after Christmas was unavoidable because of two Vic Opens and the need to keep dates clear for wash outs. It is expected to be for this season only.

Novice Singles

JM reported that eligibility to play in this event has become a major issue. The Competitions Committee followed Bowls Victoria (BV) eligibility criteria, however BowlsLink data in relation to starting dates is flawed. This has resulted in some bowlers being declared ineligible to play when in fact they were eligible. The GBR has made numerous representations to BV to resolve the matter; to be discussed at the following Board meeting.

Region Sides

JM reminded delegates that Expressions of Interest (EOI) for selection in the 2022/23 Region Sides are being sought. The Sides championships will be held in Moama at the end of May 2023. So far, 32 players from across the Region have submitted an EOI.

Finance

Colin Smith circulated the finance report from 1 May to October 2022, highlighting:

- expenses of \$8.8k including catering, trophies, the member survey, uniforms, prize payments, the Geckos equipment trailer
- bank balance of \$9.9k.

He advised the invoice for the 2022/23 capitation fees would be distributed after the meeting; the fee was set a \$6 per affiliated member; no fee for juniors.

Junior development

Nigel Plunkett (NP) reported that the junior development program has been very successful this year, particularly being linked to the Victorian primary schools competition. Key highlights:

- the Gippsland Geckos competed in the Doug Kneebone Under 18s tournament at Sunbury, with all playing and behaving very well and learning so much about the game from their more experienced opponents
- the Region was indebted to Paynesville BC for its junior program which has 12 attracted junior members with four now playing Weekend Pennant; some parents have also joined
- about a dozen young people are taking part in Saturday training
- his program of visits to other clubs to promote the junior development program is very productive and encouraging.

NP asked clubs to consider writing a letter to the Region about approaching BV to waive the affiliation fee for junior members. At the suggestion of Marg Robbins, the GBR Secretary will draft a template letter for clubs to consider using.

Coaching

NP said the Region needed more coaches, particularly to provide support for the junior development program. He strongly encouraged clubs to encourage interested members to undertake a coaching course when next available.

Umpiring

Margaret Brandhoj acknowledged there had been delays with accreditation and reaccreditation. BV has nearly completed an umpiring course for Gippsland participants who agreed to be available to umpire at the Vic Open in Gippsland next March.

Other business

State events

NP said the Board was concerned that some clubs did not support the Region in hosting State events, disappointing given that some of the best greens are sometimes empty.

Contrary to what has been said by one club, the Region provides strong support to all host clubs, with Board directors and/or Competitions Committee members helping out with marking at singles events, entering results in BowlsLink if required, promotion and other tasks.

Leigh Bryant and Bert Middelhuis confirmed that at the State events each club recently hosted – Triples and Novice Singles respectively - there was great support from the Region.

JM said the wet weather meant that some east clubs were protecting their grass greens until later in the season. Other smaller clubs had offered to provide overflow capacity for the bigger events.

Greens inspections

JM advised that:

- a greens inspection course will be held at Paynesville Bowling Club on Monday 24 October to coincide with a BV inspection
- any club which has done a major greens renovation needs a level 1 inspection
- the Board will establish a Greens Committee to oversee greens inspections.

Communications

JM said the recently established email newsletter was opened by about 58% of recipients, a good response to date. However, many emails had bounced back, indicating incorrect information in BowlsLink from where the addresses are taken for the distribution list. Members can subscribe directly through the GBR website.

Delegates were advised the old GBR email address is no longer in use and therefore not supported. Current addresses are as follows:

- general administrative business – gippslandbr@gmail.com
- pennant, State events, BowlsLink – gippslandbrpennant@gmail.com
- website, including tournament flyers – gippslandbrwebsite@gmail.com
- finance – gippslandbrfinance@gmail.com
- junior development – gippslandbrjunior@gmail.com.

Close of meeting

JM closed the meeting at 11am, thanking Paynesville for hosting and for the club's hospitality.

Next meeting

To be advised.