



## Gippsland Region Board summary

The Gippsland Region Board (GBR) met on Monday 20 March 2023 at Paynesville Bowls Club. The following is a summary of matters discussed and decisions made.

### **Bowls Victoria Regional Representatives (BVRR) meeting**

Jan Morton briefed the Board on the BVRR meeting held via Zoom on Wednesday 8 March.

Key issues:

- *60+ Singles and Pairs* will not continue as a regional event, to be replaced by an Over 60s statewide carnival at a time and venue to be decided, with more prize money and livestreaming.
- *Novice* similarly will also be changed from a regional event to a statewide carnival with increased disciplines such as pairs, mixed pairs and/or master/apprentice pairs. The eligibility period will be greater than the current two years.
- *Region Sides* will be two tiers as previously announced (gold and silver) but following feedback from the Regions, including Gippsland, BV has agreed that the winners in silver will be recognised with a trophy and medallions and the top two will be guaranteed promotion to gold tier the following year. The event will be moved to January next year, possibly held at a metro venue.
- *VBL* may be expanded from the existing eight sides, with BV aiming for a team in each Region. Commercial clubs in GBR may be approached to be one of the 16 franchises.

The changes follow an extensive external review of Bowls Victoria events with a view to making them more commercially viable, competitive and attractive to more bowlers.

The Board agreed that by not running the 60+ and Novice events, the Region will have a less crowded calendar next season.

### **Pennant survey**

Jan tabled the results of the online pennant survey, highlighting:

- A total of 286 responses were received, 232 from Weekend Pennant players and 179 from Midweek players
- Weekend Pennant – the majority (56.6%) prefer eight sides in each division and 14 rounds of home and away; 62% prefer 1pm start time
- Midweek Pennant – the majority (57.4%) prefer six teams in each division and 10 rounds home and away
- Merged Division 1 for Weekend Pennant – 131 say no; 114 say yes.

The results will be referred to the Competitions Committee for consideration when determining the structure and schedule of the 2023/24 pennant season.

## **Governance**

The Board noted the timeline for the 2023/24 elections and 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Key dates:

- Tuesday 21 March – call for notices of motion
- Sunday 16 April – closing date for notices of motion; call for Board director and committee member nominations
- Sunday 30 April – AGM business notice distributed to clubs
- Wednesday 10 May – nominations for director and committee positions close
- Sunday 21 May – Annual General Meeting (Paynesville BC), 10am.

## **Smoking/vaping**

The Board noted there were complaints from some spectators about players smoking or vaping behind the rinks at the Region Fours event at Paynesville. It reminds clubs to ensure that players adhere to the smoking/vaping rules stipulated by Bowls Victoria and to provide clear designated smoking area signage.

## **GBR apparel**

The Board noted that an order for GBR branded hoodies (with or without zips), beanies and caps will be made soon. Clubs and players are asked to check the GBR Facebook page for details.

## **Next meeting**

Monday 24 April at Maffra BC, 10am

**Bronwyn Thwaites**  
**GBR Secretary**