



## **Minutes of the Gippsland Bowls Region Annual General Meeting Maffra Bowls Club, Sunday 12 May 2024**

Jan Morton opened the meeting at 10am with special mention to life member, Jeff Amos.

### **Present**

#### *Directors*

Jan Morton, Bronwyn Thwaites, Colin Smith, Marg Brandhoj, Graeme Hemming, David Butterworth

#### *Delegates and observers*

Shane Higgins (West Sale), Phil Clifford (Maffra), Kel Brandhoj (Lakes Entrance), Jeff Amos (Yarram), John Budge (Paynesville), Nannette Hamilton (Bairnsdale), Veronica Deery (Bairnsdale), Nigel Plunkett (Lindenow), Maureen Kelly (Heyfield), Kerry Binotto (West Sale), Maureen Petty (Stratford), Colleen Smith (Bairnsdale), Nev Irish (Sale), Peter Clark (Maffra), Chris Wain (Metung), Ray Crossley (Metung), Jenny Woolard (Paynesville), Gail McKenzie (West Sale), Bruce Hughes (Sale), Rhonda Hall (Stratford), Shane Kelly (Heyfield), Chris Kyle (Howitt Park), Nugget Campbell (Howitt Park), Kerry Binotto (West Sale), Michael Better (Lindenow), Jack Sharman (Lindenow), Leonie Flynn (Stratford), Richard Prideaux (Rosedale)

### **Apologies**

Karen Cheney (Orbost), Helen Everett (Bairnsdale Golf), John Crawford (Bairnsdale Golf), Chris Sherrin (Heyfield), Alison Harrower (Bruthen), Alan McDonald (Loch Sport).

### **Vale**

There was a minute's silence for all those members who died in the previous 12 months.

### **Previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2023 were previously circulated. Moved by Jeff Amos (Yarram) and seconded by Chris Wain (Metung), the minutes were confirmed. There was no business arising.

### **President's Report**

Jan Morton presented her report for 2023/24, made available to delegates and taken as read.

Moved by Shane Higgins (West Sale) and seconded by Maureen Kelly (Heyfield), receipt of the report was carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Colin Smith presented the Region's accounts for the period ending 30 April 2024. The top line financial results for 2023/24:

- income - \$12.4 capitation fees; \$5.9k State and GBR event entry fees; \$3.2k Region Sides travel subsidy; \$1k grant from Bairnsdale BC towards equipment purchases for the Geckos; \$1.7k for GBR apparel sales
- expenses – \$4.7k event hosting fees and prize money; \$1.5k net for Region Sides accommodation and lunches; encouragement grants of \$500 each to three of the GBR juniors and their families; \$2.7k for small flags, medallions and engraving; \$2.5k for apparel.

Colin reported cash at bank on 12 May 2024 of \$14.9k.

As there were no questions, he asked that his financial report be received. Moved by Shane Higgins (West Sale), seconded by Maureen Kelly (Heyfield), receipt of the report was carried.

### **Committee and other reports**

All delegates received written reports from the Competitions Committee (Jan Morton), Region Sides (Bronwyn Thwaites and Colin Smith), Umpiring (Chris Sherrin). Junior Development Coordinator Nigel Plunkett presented a verbal report, highlighting:

- regular training for the junior development squad (JDS) at Bairnsdale BC which is gradually building
- financial support from Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance bowls clubs towards purchases of bowls and uniforms
- strong commitment from parents transporting their children to training and trips to Sunbury, Bendigo and Sebastopol for U18 tournaments and championships.

Nigel reported the most satisfying aspect of coaching the squad was the significant improvement and confidence of the young bowlers, pointing to the strong performances at the Bowls Victoria (BV) Under 18 championships and selection of Ayla Romanin and Ella Kiss (Paynesville) to train in the BV Under 18 squad.

He thanked:

- Wendy Campbell and James McCausland for their coaching assistance
- Greenkeeper Darren Martin, Bairnsdale President Bob Tonnissen and others for providing quality facilities
- clubs now working with their local primary schools – Paynesville, Lindenow, Bairnsdale Golf, Stratford, Heyfield, Maffra, Metung, Lakes and Orbost
- the GBR for its continued support and commitment to junior bowls.

Jan Morton asked that all reports be received. Moved by Maureen Petty (Stratford), seconded by Maureen Kelly (Heyfield)), receipt of the reports was carried.

## **Election of office bearers**

Jan Morton handed over this part of the meeting to appointed Returning Officer Jeff Amos, who before declaring the election thanked the Board and others for their work while noting it was disappointing that more people did not nominate for positions.

As there was only one nomination for the vacant office bearer position, and none for the two vacant director positions, Jeff declared the following duly elected for a period of 3 years as stipulated in the Constitution:

- President Jan Morton.

## **Other business of which notice has been given**

There was no other business.

## **Next Annual General Meeting**

Sunday 18 May 2025, 10am, Bairnsdale Bowls Club (to be confirmed).

The meeting closed at 10.42am

## **General meeting**

Jan Morton opened the general meeting at 10.43am.

### *Survey*

Jan said the Women in Bowls survey reinforced the need for clubs to provide more options to women who wanted to play competitive bowls on weekends. She noted an attitude of 'no skirts in division 1' still prevalent in some clubs was no longer appropriate. Maximising the entire membership would not only make more players available but also improve the competition.

### *Pennant*

Jan said the pennant format for 2024/25 had been set, with an objective to streamline the competition in Division 1. Clubs have until 15 July to submit their preferences.

### *Pennant permits*

Jan reported that BV is considering changing the permit rule so that permits will only be approved for playing at another club outside the home region. Should this rule proceed, smaller clubs would be adversely affected as they rely on permit players to fill their teams. Jan has conveyed GBR's concerns to BV at the highest level.

### *Conditions of Play (CoP)*

Jan advised she had asked Bowls Victoria to consider including a rule for abandoned games in the pennant CoP.

## **Other matters**

In response to comments from Nev Irish (Sale), Peter Leslie (Sale) and Ray Crossley (Metung) about the need for more consultation with clubs about the format of pennant, Jan reminded delegates that:

- the Board has delegated the authority to the Competitions Committee to make recommendations on the pennant structure in the best interests of the competition
- all clubs were given the opportunity to submit comments for consideration by the Committee as part of its end of season review
- every submission was looked at closely and further consultation with individual clubs will be undertaken before the pennant structure is finalised
- BV stripped club delegates of their decision-making powers as part of the amalgamation process in 2021.

Maureen Petty (Stratford) suggested that those who are concerned about not having any say should consider standing for one of the vacant Board or committee positions when nominations are called.

## **Close of meeting**

Jan closed the meeting at 11.20am, thanking everyone for their attendance and contribution. She then presented the Men's and Women's Player of the Year medallions, Champ of Champs trophies and Region pennant premier plaques to club representatives.