



## DELEGATES INFORMATION SESSION NOTES

The Gippsland Region Board held an information session for club delegates and observers at Maffra Bowls Club on Monday 18 March 2024.

President Jan Morton opened the meeting at 10.02am.

### **Present**

#### *Board*

Jan Morton (President), Bronwyn Thwaites (Secretary), Colin Smith (Treasurer), Marg Brandhoj, Graeme Hemming and Dave Butterworth (Directors)

#### *Delegates and observers*

Jeff Amos (Yarram); Keith Pritchard (Sale); Maureen Kelly (Heyfield); Nannette Hamilton and Colleen Smith (Bairnsdale); Kerry Binotto and Shane Higgins (West Sale); Gordon Keddie (Stratford); Helen Everett (Bairnsdale Golf); Chris Wain (Metung); Karen Chenney (Orbost); Val Hardy (Paynesville), Jeff Wheaton, Mandy Pemberton and Phil Clifford (Maffra); Kel Brandhoj (Lakes Entrance).

### **Apologies**

Alison Harrower (Bruthen), June Richardson (Stratford), John Budge (Paynesville), Nigel Plunkett (Director), Steve Brill (Lindenow), John Crawford (Bairnsdale Golf), Chris Sherrin (Heyfield), Leigh Bryant (Sale)

### **Report from the President**

#### *Pennant review*

Jan Morton (JM) briefed delegates on the post season review undertaken by the Competitions Committee, noting there would not be many changes. In brief:

- Weekend Pennant - Region Division 1 to remain, some refinements to other division structures
- Midweek Pennant – some refinements to division structures
- recommendations to be discussed by the Board after the Information Session
- subject to Board approval, 2024/25 pennant structures to be distributed to clubs this week along with a request for sides.

#### *Conditions of Play*

JM advised that the 2024/25 Conditions of Play would be statewide, prepared by Bowls Victoria (BV), with Regions only able to include a temperature for the heat rule and perhaps divisional makeup. There will be no break.

### *State/Region events*

JM commented on the State events, which concluded with the Champ of Champs at Bairnsdale BC. She said that while there were some excellent matches and great bowling, the event was marred by some poor behaviour, including verbal abuse of a marker by a player and the failure of a runner up to attend the medal presentations. JM reminded clubs that abuse of officials will not be tolerated. Remaining events are the Region Pairs and Fours.

### *Region Sides*

JM advised that the 2025 Region Sides will be held in Ballarat from 10-12 January, with a revised format including each game being 21 ends rather than 15 ends, with three games over two days rather than one day. Pennant will resume after the Sides.

### *Other matters*

- JM reminded clubs that if they had an issue, the first point of contact is the Region, not Bowls Victoria. Matters directed to [gippslandbr@gmail.com](mailto:gippslandbr@gmail.com) will be referred to the most appropriate person within the Region or BV if required.
- JM strongly recommended that clubs get behind the BowlsLearn module for selectors, saying they would benefit if at least one person did the course and gained a better understanding of requirements for selection. See [link](#).
- JM advised that a number of disparaging comments by bowlers on social media had been removed recently and asked that clubs make their members aware of the GBR Social Media Policy.

### *Regulations review*

Bronwyn Thwaites (BT) briefed delegates on amendments to the GBR Regulations adopted by the Board following the review, key changes being:

- reducing the number of committees from four to three – Competitions, Representatives Sides (men and women), and Disciplinary – by dropping Junior Development
- establishing a new Junior Development Coordinator position, incorporating the former Committee's roles and responsibilities
- removing the reference to playing areas in the composition of the committees
- including junior events in the Competitions Committee's responsibilities as part of the Region's junior development push
- stipulating the process for hosting a State event including the GBR/host club's specific responsibilities
- including the detailed selection criteria for the Representative Sides in the committee's terms of reference
- establishing Board-appointed managers for the women's and men's Sides teams respectively, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

The amended Regulations will be implemented from 18 March 2024, with pdfs distributed to all clubs as well as being published on the GBR website.

### *Board elections/AGM timeline*

BT outlined the election and AGM timeline:

- 8 April closing date for special business Notices of Motion
- 8 April call for nominations for Board director and committee positions
- 3 May nominations close
- 12 May, AGM at Maffra BC, 10am.

In response to a question from Karen Chenney (Orbost) about whether clubs get to vote on Notices of Motion, BT explained that:

- the Board considers all Notices of Motion that are submitted as to whether they are valid for inclusion as special business, eg a Constitutional matter
- if considered valid, the Notice of Motion is included on the AGM agenda which is distributed to clubs in advance, thus providing time for clubs to consider their position on the matter.

### **Finance**

Colin Smith (CS) briefed delegates on the current financials, key points:

- balance on 18 March is \$18,073, compared to the opening balance at the start of the financial year of \$14,099
- in the Region's first two years, the GBR ran at an operating loss of \$5.7k and \$3.7k respectively
- a modest profit is expected this financial year.

In response to a question from Chris Wain (Metung) about how much money the Region needed each year, CS said it was important to have a healthy balance not only to cover costs but also to help clubs that were struggling.

### **Umpiring**

Marg Brandhoj reported that the Region now has three presenter/assessors – Chris Sherrin (Heyfield), Pam Carter (Sale) and Angela Boyd (Bairnsdale Golf), who would receive their training from BV after the Vic Open on a date to be advised.

### **Other business**

There was no other business.

### **Matters raised from the floor**

- *Alcohol consumption:* Nannette Hamilton (Bairnsdale) queried whether alcohol consumption was permitted during pennant and State events. JM advised that the pennant Conditions of Play stipulate no alcohol consumption is permitted on the green. Clubs can determine whether alcohol can be consumed on the banks. The GBR prohibits consumption of alcohol by players during any State or Region event.
- *Affiliation fees:* Phil Clifford (Maffra) raised the BV proposal to charge affiliation fees for all bowlers, including those who only play in corporate or Crackerjack events, suggesting it was a money grab that would severely impact smaller clubs if introduced. JM said the proposal was not supported by any Region and that BV had not yet provided sufficient information including whether a new membership category was likely. She said rather than a money grab, BV's objective was to capture quality data about participation in bowls in order to attract good levels of sponsorship and Government grants. However, there are alternatives to getting this information. JM intends to raise the matter with BV CEO Tony Sherwill during the Vic Open. In the meantime, clubs could consider other ways of running their corporate and Crackerjack events, for example by a third party.

### **Close of meeting**

JM closed the meeting at 11.10am, thanking all for their attendance and Maffra BC for their hospitality.

### **Next meeting**

AGM, Maffra Bowls Club, Sunday 12 May at 10 am.