



Bowls Wellington

**Delegates Meeting Minutes**

23/6/20

Pelorus Trust Sports House, Seaview



**Present**

Board	S. Way (Chair), D. Jackson (President), G. Macgregor, S. Buckle
Life Members	D. McMurray, G. Macgregor
General Manager	N. Dixon
Clubs Present	19
Clubs not present	Eastbourne, Island Bay, Massey Ave, Newtown, Seatoun

**Welcome**

7:30 The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. She also thanked all the people and clubs who took the time to submit proposals and those clubs had engaged with their members prior to coming.

**Apologies**

John Carter (Bowls Wellington Life Member), Wayne Henshaw (Board/Upper Hutt)

**Obituaries**

A moments silence was observed for Eddie Thompson (Stokes Valley), John Hicks (Plimmerton/ Tawa Services), Katene Temara (Tawa Services), Jan Ferguson (Tawa), Elaine Anstiss (Hutt), Brian Fox (Hutt), Bill Macauley (Hutt), Bob Pearce (Lyll Bay), Benie Mitchell (Wilton), Michael O'Sullivan (Naenae), Bernie Weakley (Victoria), Noel Duff, (Johnsonville), Tony Ford (Island Bay).

**Previous Meeting's Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting held March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 were approved.

**Review discussion**

The chair began the discussion by introducing each submission, the Review Committee's recommendation and then opening it up to the floor for discussion. The Chair made note that the outcomes from tonight's meeting would subsequently go to the Board for ratification.

**Interclub to be played in 'Hubs' (submitted by Tawa, Petone Central Member)**

The proposal for a move to playing in hubs in order to minimise travel and traffic concerns was discussed with unanimous support for the status quo in that games are played on a home and away basis where possible.

For – 0

Against – Unanimous

**Outcome: Interclub for 2020-21 will remain as 'home and away' fixtures (where possible).**

**Interclub to be 8 Team Divisions (Euan Wong)**

The proposal and recommendation to move to 8 team divisions to make the hubs possible and to create stronger more competitive divisions was discussed. Some clubs mentioned that Wellington Interclub remains to be a popular and nationally respected competition and shortening it would detract from this and dilute the depth. There was also concern expressed that this would exacerbate the issue of stronger players leaving clubs to go to Premier clubs

For – 0

Against – Unanimous

**Outcome: Interclub divisions remain as 10 teams (where possible).**

**Interclub length change (Robbie Bennett)**

In order to align with the Bowls NZ Interclub pathway the Tournament Review Committee recommended that Interclub move from 25 shots, 21 ends and 18 ends for Singles, Pairs and Fours to 21 shots, 18 ends and 15 ends respectively. Clubs raised the point that playing a different length of game has not competitively disadvantaged Wellington bowlers nationally pointing to recent success. Consensus from clubs was that the format is good in its current format, players enjoy the current format, 21 shots would make the game too short, players will adapt if they are good enough to win the Wellington Interclub.

For – 7

Against – 32

**Outcome: Interclub to remain at 25 shots, 21 ends and 18 ends.**

#### **Reduce Bonus Point to 10+ for Interclub (Euan Wong)**

The change to bonus point submission was presumptive on changing the interclub match length (see above) to better align with the Bowls NZ pathway. With the status quo of game length being preferred, there was little discussion.

For: 11

Against 27

**Outcome: Bonus points to remain at 11+ for season 2020-21.**

#### **Reduce Interclub Double Headers (Plimmerton)**

Many clubs expressed that double headers had a negative effect on bar takings and opportunities for the casual player to have a roll up on Saturday afternoon. The General Manager raised the point that clubs had just voted in the previous season to move to Double Headers and an increase in single games would require further weekends potentially impacting club schedules. The move back towards single games however was noted that it would alleviate traffic concerns raised earlier.

For: 30

Against: 9

**Outcome: Interclub will have only a single double header in season 2020-21.**

#### **Bowls Wellington to make blanket cancellations (Tawa)**

The chair explained the difficulty of making blanket calls for all interclub due to the variability in weather in different parts of region and green conditions. Clubs favoured the ability to retain control of their own green closures for interclub. The Chair discussed the concept of having an online cancellation page on the website where clubs can post their cancellations. It was noted that the information would only be as accurate as that posted by clubs and the club would need to manage who has access and authority to post.

For: 6

Against 31

**Outcome: Clubs retain responsibility for opening/closing a green.**

#### **Hutt Valley Men's Pennants to move to 21 ends (Silverstream)**

Silverstream spoke to their submission stating that many of their members were still keen and ready to play another 3 ends at the completion of a match. There was good discussion with and between Hutt Valley clubs regarding a move to 21 ends with some Hutt Valley Clubs for and against the proposal. Some Wellington clubs did not have a strong opinion and abstained from voting. General consensus was that as it is the same competition, the same conditions should be adhered to.

For: 10

Against: 21

**Outcome: Men's Pennants to remain 18 ends**

#### **Men's Pennants to play 2 games per day (Petone Central member)**

The submission to follow the women's lead and play 2 games of Pennants was discussed. The consensus was that due to the social nature of the competition and the age of some of the participants, a single match was preferred.

For: 0

Against: Unanimous

**Outcome: Men's Pennants to remain 1 game per day**

#### **Introduce 2-4-2 format to Men's Pennants (Brent Slater)**

Introducing 2-4-2 Pairs into the Pennants competition in Division 4 (1 x 4 currently) was debated. The General Manager mentioned this could be introduced in Division 4, much in the same way the Quad division works in Interclub with 1 x 3 bowl pair and 1 x 2-4-2 pair.

For: 10

Against: 24

**Outcome: Men's Pennants remain exclusively a 'Fours' event.**

#### **Shorten Women's Pennants (Petone Central)**

A proposal to move from 18 to 15 ends was proposed and would alleviate any traffic concerns from players travelling home late in the day. There was mention that finishing on an odd numbered end

would be inconvenient. Regardless of how many ends, the concept of shortening games was unfavourable.

For: 2

Against: 22

**Outcome: Women's Pennants to remain as 18 ends.**

#### **Introduce a COC Finals Weekend (Bowls Wellington)**

The General Manager spoke to the proposal for a Champ of Champ Finals Weekend, which would provide a pinnacle event and also reduce the number of days required to complete the COC. The point was raised that if a player is in multiple events it may not be possible to complete it all in one weekend. The General Manager explained that we could play up to 4 rounds in a day and while there is a possibility someone is in the semi finals of all 5 disciplines and requiring more than two days, it would be unlikely. The question was raised whether this could be introduced for Open events, Wellington's 2/3 qualifying criteria means that the number of qualifiers for post section were too large to make this possible. Auckland and Christchurch do hold Finals Weekends but they restrict the number of qualifiers to ensure the number of post section rounds required to be played are controlled.

For: 35

Against: 4

**Outcome: A COC Finals Day will be introduced for 2020/21**

#### **Bowls3Five Finals to be played alternatively between Hutt and Wellington clubs (Bowls Wellington)**

There was discussion around neutral venues and whether neutral venues or alternating hosting is most appropriate was had. Alternating between Hutt Valley and Wellington provides clubs certainty about venue and rewards those that make the final rather than a neutral club who benefits. The point was raised that finalists are often not confirmed until the week prior to the final, by which time, securing access to a neutral and centrally located venue can be compromised.

For: Unanimous

Against: 0

**Outcome: Finals be played alternatively between Wellington and Hutt starting in 2020-21 with Hutt (open) and Wellington (Junior) as hosts.**

#### **Easter Pairs to be played over 3 days (Bowls Wellington)**

Currently, the Easter Pairs is played over 4 days. Gerry Macgregor explained a four day tournament is a big commitment and as a holiday, bowlers might like the opportunity to do other things. The point was also made that by playing Friday – Sunday, the Monday can be utilised as rain day if required. As

a three day tournament it would fall in line with other Bowls Wellington tournaments with section play on Friday and Post section to follow.

For: 31

Against: 0

**Outcome: Easter Pairs to be played as a 3-day tournament Friday-Sunday (weather permitting).**

#### **Holding over Tournament semifinals to the Monday (Miramar Club Member)**

Little discussion was required on this proposal with people working on Mondays and the potential for weather disruption pointing to why games Sunday games need to be maximised.

For: 0

Against: Unanimous

**Outcome: 3 games will be played on Sundays during tournament post section.**

#### **Postponed tournaments to be redrawn (Sheryl Young)**

Discussion around redraws took place with clubs noting the importance for fairness while acknowledging the need to have a cut off date to avoid multiple versions of draws circulating. Bowls Wellington proposed that when tournaments are postponed until later in the season a redraw is done 10 days prior, after which point no further redraws will be made. For tournaments rescheduled within 10 days, a decision of whether a redraw is required and the cut off date will be made at the time by the Tournament Manager.

No vote taken

**Outcome: Tournaments to be redrawn once 10 days prior to resumption (where possible and based on the original draw)**

#### **Player of the Year Points to be reviewed (Rob Ashton)**

Rob Ashton (Johnsonville) spoke to his submission about removing Player of the Year points for International selection. There was consensus from clubs that international players get significant recognition through their international success as it stands and that the Wellington Player of Year should be reflective of local success. There was also discussion and consensus around Wellington representative selection and whether this was unfairly weighted, given that players receive points for selection and wins.

For: 31

Against: 2

**Outcome: International points and Representative 'wins' to be removed from season 2020-21.**

### **Establishing a separate Male and Female Player of the Year (Rob Ashton)**

Rob Ashton referred to the smaller number of women playing bowls and that it is relatively more difficult for a male player to win this title due to needing to win a greater number of games over the season. The point was made that Bowls NZ have a separate male and female player of the year.

For: Unanimous

Against: 0

**Outcome: From season 2020-21, a Female and Male Player of the Year will be awarded**

### **De-Establish Jacgals (Rob Ashton)**

Don McMurray (ex-Bowls Wellington CEO) explained that Jacgals (Jack – Boys and Gals – Girls) came about due to often times in the past an unwillingness by experienced players to play with younger players. Jacgals would allow young players to play with their friends through the Jacgals 'club'. Discussion took place around how this is no longer the case with younger players being welcomed more and due to dual membership it has become easier to play with their friends.

For: 37

Against: 3

**Outcome: Jacgals be de-established.**

### **Other submissions**

The other submissions were referred to by the chair but stated that, unless someone wanted to discuss specifically, these did not warrant discussion and Bowls Wellington will action (or not) as appropriate.

### **Other business**

Don McMurray (Wellington Greenkeepers Association) encouraged all clubs to have representatives at the regular Greenkeeping Field Days. These are good opportunities for the club greenkeeper or anyone from the club who may be interested to come along and learn more about the art of greenkeeping. He also mentioned that it is important for the greenkeeper, particularly if he is a contractor, to keep records so that there is continuity and knowledge passed on to the next greenkeeper. All clubs were encouraged to attend the upcoming Annual General Meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 11am at Johnsonville.

Mike Carroll (Stokes Valley) expressed disappointment that the Champion of Champions were not finished. The General Manager explained that Bowls Wellington had worked with Naenae to try and secure access to the indoor facility for the three remaining Champion of Champion tournament but was not possible due to their being insufficient availability over the winter. Rob Ashton (Johnsonville)

suggested these could be played outdoor, which Bowls Wellington acknowledged to be worthy of consideration should such a situation occur again. Mr Carroll asked if the points for the COC events played not be considered for Champion Club of the Year. The General Manager said the points for Champion of Champion would stand as these tournaments had been completed and all clubs had an opportunity to compete.

General Manager indicated that a draft calendar was close to completion and available shortly but would now need to be amended to accommodate an additional 3 Saturdays for Interclub. He hopes to have this to clubs in the next week or so.

The Board Chair thanked the Delegates and observers for their contribution over the evening and wished everyone a safe journey home.

**9:25pm Meeting closed.**

DRAFT