

Bowls Wellington  
Delegates Meeting Minutes  
14/5/19  
Pelorus Trust Sports House, Seaview

## **Present**

Board	M. O'Connor (Chair), D. Jackson (President), W. Henshaw (Vice President), G. G. Macgregor, S. Way
Life Members	J. Harvey, D. McMurray
General Manager	N. Dixon
Clubs Present	24
Clubs not present	Workingmen's

## **Welcome**

7:35 The Chair welcomed life members John Harvey, Don McMurray, Delegates, board members and observers to the meeting.

## **Apologies**

Mark O'Brien (Island Bay)

## **Obituaries**

A moments silenced was observed for Brian Warburton (Tawa), John Callaghan (Whitby), Paul Beach (Upper Hutt), Lew Green (Upper Hutt), Peter Bowles (Stokes Valley), Charlotta Volpecelli (Island Bay), Ray Brown (Titahi Bay), Robin Byford (Titahi Bay), Yvonne Christopher (Johnsonville), Peter Greeco (Island Bay), Peter Marshall (Wilton), Sandy Batterston (Naenae), Meredith Dawson (Karori).

The previous Delegates meeting noted that Norm Lash has passed away, it was meant to be Norm Lust

## Previous Meeting's Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held March 19, 2019 were approved.

## Matters arising

None

## Tournament Review Recommendations

### 1. Interclub

The Chair acknowledged the previous discussions around the interclub fee and a decision on the cost of interclub will be referred to the board and communicated to clubs in due course. The Chair discussed the voting procedure, including relative voting strength and that votes are taken into account but any decisions will need to be ratified by the board as there may be external factors unbeknown to delegates.

#### A) Double Header Rounds

Good discussion was had as to the merits and demerit of double headers. Clubs in favour of double headers pointed to being able to free up more space in the calendar for club events (Island Bay, Eastbourne), and being able to delay the start of the season to better coincide with better weather (Lyll Bay).

Clubs opposed to double headers because Wellington's interclub competition is one of the best in the country and would have an adverse effect on the social aspect and club spirit (Victoria) and that many older players would struggle and may drop out (Seatoun)

If double headers, the point was raised that this would need to go to 'hub' venues where 4 teams gather to avoid travel (Wilton) and therefore interclub divisions would need to go to 12 or 8 teams (Silverstream)

Upper Hutt in favour of a mix of double headers and single games.

The clubs were split as to whether Interclub should be completed by Christmas or not.

**Vote – Majority (26 - 14) want to consider competition moving to double headers and single venues.**

#### B) 7's be graded as Premier, followed by Division 1, 2, 3 etc.. Divisions be limited to one team per club.

**General Consensus for such grading and restriction of one team per club per division**

Plimmerton floated the idea of the size of divisions being increased.

#### C) Quad Grade to have a men's, women's and combo grade

Eastbourne clarified that the definition of 'combo' is not necessarily 'mixed' but could be any combination of single gender or multi gender.

Gerry Macgregor reiterated that the purpose of the Quad is to deal with overflow of players, and clubs should still prioritise entering teams in to the 7s and 8s.

Victoria suggested scrapping men's and women's and just have an any combo grade.

**General support for all three grades as it allows smaller clubs to play interclub (Khandallah) and provides an outlet for those not super competitive but still want to play interclub (Eastbourne).**

- D) Top 4 Playoffs be dropped with the round robin winner declared champion

**Clubs unanimous in support of the play off structure. Reasons include keeping teams engaged until the end of the season (Stokes Valley) and finals day being a highlight of the calendar (Victoria).**

Victoria suggested men's and women's be at same venue if greens available.

- E) Promotion relegation be automatic 1 up/down.

Strong discussion was had between clubs. Point was raised that what would happen should a team not be able to be promoted/relegated due to already having a team in that grade (Lyll Bay). Johnsonville supported the idea of a play off rather than automatic promotion/relegation.

**General consensus that a team winning the division be automatically promoted. If unable to do so due to already having an existing team in the grade, then the next suitable qualifier (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> ... etc) would play a playoff against the relegation team.**

**Consensus this will apply to ALL divisions.**

- F) Postponement days to be retained and clubs to retain flexibility around rescheduling postponed games.

**Clubs unanimous in favour**

## **2. Programme**

- A) Open 4s to moved away from Christmas Period.

**Consensus was to move the Open 4s back to their original timing away from the Christmas period.**

- B) Bowls3Five to be retained as a midweek competition.

Eastbourne in favour this be moved to the weekend as was the case in another centre. The Chair said, as this was an official Bowls NZ initiative, that centre may have had written consent to play on a weekend.

Stokes Valley suggested Friday as a better day as it would encourage it to be a more social event and improve the experience. Friday somewhat supported by Victoria providing it stayed away from the Christmas period as this is one of the most profitable days/periods for the club.

Some opposition to Fridays (Island Bay) due to Friday being a good day for different club social events.

**Consensus that Bowls3Five remain a weekday event but clubs to have flexibility to arrange own fixture dates within a certain time frame. Further details to be explored.**

D) WKWM to remain in the programme but not affect open tournaments

The point was raised that during the season, an open event was held the day after the WKWM, meaning a tough schedule for rep players who wanted to enter both, especially when played out of town.

Victoria suggested the WKWM be a weekend rather than a Friday.

**The Chair spoke to the tightness of the schedule and that this is an unfortunate situation but ultimately can't be helped.**

E) Open singles be 2 out of 3 to qualify rather than 3 out of 4.

Point was raised that markers are a problem with many going home and not fulfilling duties. 2/3 should hopefully resolve this issue (Victoria). Island Bay suggested it should be a condition of entry to bring your own marker. Gerry suggested host club be responsible for organising markers in order to avoid those occurrences when both the players and clubs have both organised for them to be in attendance.

Wilton suggested sections of 6 with support of Johnsonville, with 4 playing and 2 marking.

Eastbourne believe 4 games is just too many to play in a single day.

Disagreement over whether a section of 6 it would take 4, 5 or 6 rounds to complete. Could potentially have implications on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day and venues if takes 5 or 6 rounds.

**Vote: Strong Majority (45- n/v) in favour of 2 out of 3. Needs looking into how this would work.**

### 3. Greens

A) Best Greens allocated for open events

Don McMurray (Silverstream) spoke that too many greens are heavily loaded and suggested clubs receive a hosting fee. Due to centre's limited resources, suggested the entry fee increased to cover this. The Chair acknowledged this and said it would be brought before the board.

It was noted that judging the 'best' green is difficult when you consider synthetic vs real turf?

Don McMurray (Greenkeepers Assn) mentioned that in deciding events, the quality of the greens is a major consideration when deciding where tournaments hold be played, however these change from season to season and throughout the season.

## Other Business

1. Chair reminded delegates that Bowls NZ CEO Mark Cameron will be here on June 30<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to meet all clubs and members and answer any questions.
2. Khandallah spoke to their large increase in membership from 30-60 in the last 12 months. They said this was due, in large part, to the 2-4-2 format. They have a new relationship with a local ballet club who are now also using the facilities. They mentioned there was nothing on the Centre's website regarding coaching. Nigel said he will look into the website issue.

3. Victoria suggested changing the Champ of Champs date order due to the 4s taking so long to finish. Gerry said these dates will ultimately be dictated, in part, by the Bowls NZ schedules.
4. Titahi Bay questioned the decision to not hold an awards ceremony this year. The Chair explained this decision was floated at a previous delegate meeting where it met with a favourable response. The recent Survey also supported not holding the event. The Board in making the decision considered these factors along with cost issues, lack of support and attendance. It was not a decision made lightly. The Chair said this is open for reconsideration for season 2019-2020.
5. Don McMurray (Greenkeepers Assn) spoke about the North Island Green Keepers conference and Nigel will send out a reminder to all clubs.

**Meeting closed 9:35pm**