



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

(Meeting held by “go-to-meeting” conference call on 11 October 2015)

PRESENT:

John Bell (JB) – President/Chairman
Andy Ewens (AE)-Regional Director
John McArdle (JM)-Regional Director
Karen Murphy (KM)-Regional Director

Colleen Gilbert (CG)-Appointed Director

APOLOGIES:

None

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gary Smith (GS) – Chief Executive
Roger Black (RB) - minute taker

1. WELCOME:

The President opened the meeting at 09.00 hours (UK time) and welcomed all to the “Go to Meeting” Board meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

The President asked for declarations of interest not already recorded.

KM – sponsored player with Aero Bowls.

CG – General Manager of Broadbeach Bowls and Community Club.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Tabled: Minutes of Board meeting March 2015.

It was confirmed that the action points had been attended to or were otherwise covered in the agenda.

The minutes were approved.

3. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Tabled: Report circulated in advance of the meeting.

In referring to his report, the Chairman stated that World Bowls is travelling in the right strategic direction and addressing the correct priorities. He acknowledged that World Bowls has limited resources but it should still be positive and confident, whilst being careful not to be too ambitious and overstretch itself. Clear focus is required so that any action undertaken is well thought out and implemented successfully. In this respect our concentration on financial management and income generation, global development, web site redevelopment, and events, as our main priorities is effective, and tactically sound.

The Board agreed with this direction.

Referring to the Development Strategy, which he thought had been well received by MNA’s and other stakeholders, he stated that it was essential that it continued to be fully implemented with maximum effort and commitment being required by the Board and its officers. He also referred to the imminent launch of the new much improved website, which he considers to be another

'signature' project, which can considerably profit World Bowls both in terms of income and image. .

Since the last Board meeting, appointed Director Heather Welch had relinquished her position on the Board.

JB thought that the Board now had a level of competencies that was sufficient for current needs and that there was no need at present to consider the appointment of another Director, bearing in mind the appointment of Hunter Johnstone (HJ) as our marketing consultant and the expert advice being received from our financial consultant.

4 COMMERCIAL REPORT

Tabled: The marketing document prepared by CG and circulated prior to the meeting. CG emphasised the need to produce an attractive document to present to potential advertisers and commercial partners. It was considered important for WB to decide exactly what benefits WB seeks from those approached. eg is it cash? Is it products? Is it other benefits?

Resolved:

JB,GS and RB liaise with HJ to produce an appropriate 'offer' document to approach potential advertisers.

5. FINANCE REPORT

Tabled: Income and expenditure statement, balance sheet and actual v budget for the current financial year to 30th September 2015, and financial forecast to 2020 had been distributed to directors.

GS referred to his meeting with the President and the WB financial consultant in Leamington, England.

Forecasting is now much stronger and covers the period up to 2020 and it will continue to be regularly updated by the Chief Executive in consultation with the President.

Appreciation was again recorded for the assistance to date provided by the financial consultant in the construction of the detailed financial forecasting system. It has now been confidently fully passed over to the Chief Executive to update, whilst he still remains available as and when required.

Proposals in relation to future affiliation fees were discussed together with the options that were available for presentation to MNA's bearing in mind the discussions that had taken place at the 2014 Council meeting in Glasgow on this subject.

Resolved:

It was resolved that the following proposals would be presented to MNA's.

1. that the annual fee would increase by 5p (£0.05) to 40p (£0.40) per registered member for 2017 & 2018.
2. The minimum annual fee to be increased from £50.00 to £60.00.
3. To increase the annual fee by up to a further 5p at the Board's discretion to a maximum 45p for 2019 and 2020.
4. Fees thereafter to be increased by up to 5p per registered member to cover 2-yearly periods eg 2021 & 2022, 2023 and 2024 etc at the Board's discretion.

Should the Board consider it necessary to present proposals in excess of the above, this would require Council approval.

Concern was expressed at the %age rate of decline in registered membership reported by Bowls Australia compared to other large MNA's and the detrimental effect on affiliation fee income.

6. DEVELOPMENT

Tabled: Reports from Regional Directors circulated in advance of the meeting.

JB referred to the development strategy, which he regarded as absolutely crucial to what World Bowls should be doing, and congratulated KM on the flying start she had made in the Oceania region with development visits to a number of the smaller nations.

On the European scene, arrangements are being progressed with the organisation of a major development seminar, supported by Bowls Scotland (BS). A meeting had already taken place involving the CEO of BS who was keen to see all European Nations being invited to participate, not only those in their early stages of development. This approach was fully endorsed by WB and the proposed agenda will be of benefit and interest to all nations irrespective of size. It was hoped a good response would be received from the Nations invited. AE would be making a presentation at the forthcoming European Bowls Union meeting at their championships in Israel. There was some concern with development in the Africa and Americas region. JM advised the Board that he had just returned from a meeting at the African States Tournament in Zambia where he again highlighted the launch of the Development Strategy and the opportunities it provides to seek assistance.

However, to date, only one MNA had responded and this was in an incomplete manner. This was considered particularly disappointing bearing in mind that practically all MNA's from the region who had attended the 2014 council meeting in Glasgow had requested assistance. AE thought that issuing a document on what WB was doing in Oceania and the European regions might kick start the issue in the African countries. In addition the countries already benefitting from these initiatives should be asked to report back on their perceptions of what had been achieved from the WB initiatives.

A newsletter on the new website and the development strategy results would be required in the near future following on the conclusion of the current initiatives.

JM added that he was concerned with the current situation in relation to the African States Zone VI Bowls Confederation and wished to discuss further in more detail with JB and GS .

The Americas being grouped with the African Nations was proving difficult. Distance and lack of finance were issues that needed to be considered.

The Americas do not sit comfortably with the African Nations and the Board would need to consider further the best way of resolving the difficulties to benefit all MNA's in this region.

GS raised the matter of Tonga's membership of WB and KM would follow this up.

The Board supported the proposal of the formation of an Oceania Association for bowls. GS referred to an existing organisation based in Melbourne and of which World Bowls is a member, The Olympic Sports Federation of Oceania (OSFO). GS would look out any previous information on this that may be of assistance to KM.

India was another country that required some attention particularly in the area of basic communication skills and administration structure and a visit would be considered to meet with them to try to assist in organising their infrastructure. KM would also raise the matter when in Hong Kong for the Classic with an Indian contact.

Action:

Feedback and reports required from MNA's on the results of development meetings and visits made to their Nations. KM to action.

Newsletter to be issued to include the results of any initiatives emanating from development meetings. JB to coordinate.

Arrange meeting between GS, JB and JM to take place during Atlantic Championships to discuss Africa and Americas matters.

KM to follow up Tonga's membership and Constitution.

KM to follow up the idea of forming an Oceania Association for bowls.

GS to forward documentation on file in relation to OSFO to KM.

KM to contact UAE and JM to contact Falkland Islands to bring WB up to date with their development status as their development member status is now due for review.

Resolved:

Both JB and GS would visit India for a high level meeting on their way back from Australia in April 2016.

7. WEBSITE

JB advised that the new website development had taken longer to come to fruition than had previously been envisaged but that after several meetings with HJ, the website designers, the project was nearing completion.

The new website aims to be a first class reference point containing examples of good practice, comprehensive information and innovation.

There is scope for website advertising and HJ are preparing a colourful information sheet – a Banner Rate Card - document which will be sent to all Directors detailing what would be available and the Directors were asked to make contact with potential advertisers who could use the website for advertising.

There was also a discussion with HJ on social media etc and it was felt that with the limited resources available it was suggested by HJ to leave this aspect in the meantime. This was agreed by the Board.

Action:

Directors to supply details of any potential advertisers to headquarters
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8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Tabled: Chief Executive's report plus Laws Committee report circulated to all Directors prior to the meeting.

Tabled: Report from technical consultants, working reference bowls, and table testing previously circulated.

Membership matters:

The CE had circulated an update on registered figures prior to the meeting. All 2015 outstanding affiliation fees now paid.

World Bowls Policies:

GS advised that the policies were due for review.

Resolved:

That the existing policies were adequate and would next be renewed in December 2016.
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Events:

2015 Pacific Games, Papua New Guinea and 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games, Samoa Full reports on these events had been received from Kerry Clarke OBE, technical delegate, and circulated prior to the meeting.

Both events were very successful and a lasting legacy for the sport in these countries anticipated.

Appreciation was recorded for the considerable assistance provided by personnel from Australia and New Zealand.

GS provided the Board with up to date details of the entrants for the 2016 World Cup. The defending men's champion, Iain McLean from Scotland is unable to attend.

The 2016 World Junior Championships "intent to enter" replies were detailed to the Board with disappointment expressed that several of the major MNA's having indicated that they were not supporting the event for a variety of reasons.

Other sanctioned events included the Japan Open in November 2015, the Asian Championships in January 2016 in Brunei, Tiger Bowls and China Open in March 2016, 8-Nations test event in Christchurch, New Zealand in March 2016 and the Dutch Open in May 2016.

A report had been received from Kerry Clark OBE, the WB IF delegate to the Commonwealth Games. It had been decided by the CGF that bowls would remain a core sport up to and including the 2030 games along with para bowls.

The hosting of the 2022 Commonwealth Games had been awarded by CGF to Durban, South Africa.

The CE confirmed that following the previous Board meeting he had discussed the proposal to appoint a deputy to our IF Technical Delegate to the CGF with the CGF Director of Sport. He

had seen no major issues in this regard should the Board resolve to progress such an appointment.

It was considered only appropriate to await decisions to be made at the CGF General Assembly held in September on a range of Commonwealth Games issues prior to considering this matter further. Now these have been reviewed the Board are happy to progress the matter

Action:

WB now ask for nominations for the appointment of a deputy to our IF Technical Delegate to the CGF

Although Scotland had initially indicated an interest in hosting the Atlantic Championships in 2019, it was ascertained there has been no progress with this expression of interest.

The Board considered that with the 2022 Commonwealth Games having now being awarded to South Africa, it was hoped that Bowls South Africa would reconsider hosting the Atlantic Championships in 2019.

The question of penalties for late withdrawal from events or non attendance at events etc was raised following on a request from Brazil who have had now to withdraw from the Atlantic Championships. The Board considered the circumstances of Brazil's withdrawal.

Discussion also took place on the issue raised by Bowls Australia in March about who should act as Tournament Director for WB events given that a lot of these are now held in Australia and the Southern Hemisphere. The Board confirmed that it considers our events are run very effectively. Furthermore it is acknowledged that our Tournament Director has also built up a very good productive relationship with the host venue clubs. The Board also reaffirmed its belief that WB events should be run by WB to maximise its brand and retain its identity. WB will however continue to minimise the costs involved.

Resolved:

The Board again confirmed that GS would continue as Tournament Director for World Bowls events. In doing so, it was highlighted that World Bowls Regulations state that the Board will appoint a Tournament Director for each World Bowls event.

The penalty for Brazil's withdrawal from the Atlantic Championships be £50.00.

The CE should accept the invitation from Brunei to attend the Asian Championships including attendance at the meeting of the Asian Lawn Bowls Federation Board of Governors.

That a meeting be convened in Cyprus with attending President from Bowls South Africa to discuss the 2019 Atlantic Championships.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) recognition:

Our Technical Delegate and CE have liaised closely in this regard and the latest news is that IOC have advised us that they are currently reviewing their recognition criteria and they now hope to issue the results to International Federations sometime during the 1st quarter of 2016.

Sport Accord Membership Application:

Subsequent to the March Board meeting, reports were received that Sport Accord was in disarray and deep differences had developed within their relationship with IOC. As a result, the Board agreed not to proceed with its previous proposals to seek membership of Sport Accord at this stage.

Bowls Testers and Manufacturers:

The Board considered the content and recommendations contained within the report.

Resolved:

That the report from the technical consultants and their recommendations be accepted.

Action:

A further 10 reference bowls to be manufactured by the existing designated manufacturer to be thoroughly tested by the technical consultants before distribution and use.

Illegal Bowls:

Following thorough consultation with World Bowls' legal advisors, it was agreed that World Bowls and its MNA's are only able to consider and control compliance with the Laws of the Sport in levels of play that fall within with their international and domestic jurisdiction and governance. The Board agreed that it is the responsibility of MNA's to police this matter within their own country.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

The Board require to review its Regulations with regard to "safeguarding" not only in child protection issues but including vulnerable adults etc.

This will highlight that MNA's require to have in place their own Regulations/Policies compliant with the legal requirements in their own countries.

Future Board Meetings Arrangements:

It was considered that this conference meeting had been more successful than previous efforts and therefore it was agreed to continue with more regular meetings using this system in between face to face meetings. It was confirmed that the next face to face meeting will be held in April 2016 at Broadbeach, Australia following the conclusion of the 2016 World Junior Championships.

Roger Black
Minute taker
18th October 2015