



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

(Meeting held by “Go-to-Meeting” conference call on 21 January 2018)

PRESENT:

John Bell (JB) – President/Chairman
John McArdle (JM) - Regional Director
Karen Murphy (KM) - Regional Director
Garry Collins (GC) - Regional Director
Claire Leonard (CL) – Appointed Director

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 Board meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

The President asked for declarations of interest not already recorded.
There are no changes to that previously recorded.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Tabled: Minutes of September 2017 Board meeting.

The minutes of the September 2017 meeting were approved unanimously as a true record with a comment being made by JB that prior to issue to MNA's, all Directors had an opportunity to comment on the minutes prior to distribution to ensure they were inclusive and agreed by all. The Board confirmed that the current method was acceptable to all. The background to the current system was to produce one set of concise minutes bearing in mind that English was not the natural language of all recipients. The ultimate decision on the final version was for the Chairman, after all Directors had seen and considered any issues arising.

4 BUSINESS ARISING

No matters arising that are not covered in the agenda or contained within the written reports. There were no outstanding actions.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The content of the report, although wide-ranging, had an emphasis on the Board's strategic and

operational plans, the production of which had, in his view, would strengthen the Board's ability to deliver actions and policies which will enhance both the status of the organisation and the wellbeing of the sport. However JB emphasised the fact that the actions identified in the Operational Plan can only be successful if it is absolutely clear how they are to be implemented. The Board endorsed this view and remained optimistic that the two documents would provide the organisation with a solid, but flexible framework to build on the successes and progress that has already been achieved.

JB highlighted the proposed formation of working groups (to redress key global issues - production of a WB coaching manual/qualification; identification of best practices to maximise participation, recruitment and retention of members; and the enhancement of the image and marketing of our sport) as action that needed very careful thought in order to achieve the most constructive outcome. The events programme and communications were also recorded as areas requiring attention, as were website enhancements, all of which were expanded upon during the meeting.

6. STRATEGIC PLAN & OPERATIONAL PLAN 2018-2021

Tabled: Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021.

JB referred to the current 2018-2021 Strategic Plan.

The publication of the strategic plan had drawn adverse comment in writing from Bowls Scotland (BS) resulting in an exchange of correspondence between BS and JB. The Board were unanimous in endorsing the content of the replies to BS by President JB. On a comparative basis, the strategic plan published by Bowls Australia was regarded as an outstanding document, and clearly reflected the scale of resources available. It was accepted that WB's operational plan could have been better presented. However it was considered that it was more important that it first and foremost reflected the effective actions which:-

(i) addressed the issues considered as distinct priorities and,

(ii) are achievable within the resources available. JB gave the following example which demonstrated this philosophy – the promotion and implementation of the WB Development Strategy, delivered on a regional basis, is seen as the key to not only strengthening small nations but also as an effective means of assisting development nations to achieve full membership. The latter having gained major significance in our effort to attain IOC status. Presentation issues could still be dealt with whilst the actions are refined.

The Board would adhere to the timeframes recorded on the plan but would carefully monitor progress, flagging up any areas not meeting defined deadlines, review and take appropriate action. Revisions could be down to competing priorities or issues beyond the Board's control. No other National Authority had made any comment on the issued plans. The idea behind the regional structure was to be able to utilise the expertise of "larger established" National Authorities which could be passed on to others. Bowls Australia were noted as an MNA that had provided appreciated assistance to KM in her dealings with MNA's in her region.

KM added that, with restrictions on manpower, there was no point in setting unrealistic goals. What was listed was regarded as achievable.

CL added that there was probably a perception across the world that WB was an extensive organisation which in reality it was not. WB have limited resources.

Resolved:

The Directors were asked to consider within their own regions what expertise was available in the global community and how the Board could utilise their expertise in areas such as recruitment, best practices, raising the profile of the sport etc.

The content of the Operational Plan will be subject to regular monitoring and will require to be updated when appropriate due to changing circumstances and personnel.

Action:

Both plans were to be re-visited and examined further to make them stronger in content and presentation.

7. MARKETING, MEDIA & PR & SOCIAL MEDIA:

CL confirmed that the website content had been updated as agreed at the last meeting – banners had been updated and all information was up to date. The full commercial strategy was being worked on and costs implications would be advised in due course due to the number of pages that would need to be added to the website. Bowls Canada had been approached regarding the use of their video and discussions were ongoing to obtain permissions prior to uploading onto the website.

The front page of the website needed to be re-vamped to take into account spikes in viewing numbers as it was accepted that the website was used at certain times of the year when events were in progress and the remainder of the time it was mainly a reference website. Changes in the website were to be driven by expectations and although the website could be improved with more video and movement without the need to spend too much, there was a great deal of resource input required and, with the relevant cost, it may not be possible to justify a great deal of expense.

The attraction of sponsorship continued to be difficult.

KM thought that Bowls Australia would possibly be able to provide videos for the use of World Bowls and would be contacted if necessary should Bowls Canada not be in a position to authorise the use of their productions. The live streaming of World Bowls events in Australia was also mentioned and appreciated by World Bowls.

Adverse comments on social media feedback needed to be closely monitored and GC had already removed inappropriate comments on the World Bowls social media feeds. Twitter and Facebook continued to be ongoing and GC reported considerable increases in activity all of which was monitored by GC on a daily basis.

CL advised that it appeared the public in general were now looking more at social media rather than websites and as an organisation World Bowls needed to be aware of this and the costs of managing these platforms.

Directors were reminded of the newsletter that remained on the website.

Action

World Bowls to form a working group to look at raising the profile of the sport, ascertaining the best practices that are being used to promote the sport as per the Operational Plan.

Directors were asked to provide any newsworthy items relevant to their region by the end of January 2018 for inclusion in the next newsletter.

8. FINANCE REPORT:

Tabled: All the financial documents in relation to the 2017 draft accounts and financial forecasts had been issued in advance of the meeting. The complete up-to-date financial

documents had also been issued but GS advised that the balance sheet would require amendment once the final audited accounts were received.

In relation to the forecast figures for 2018, GC sought clarification on several items that appeared in the accounts such as the costs shown for Board meetings and events and that to approve the budget he had to be aware of the details and not just headline figures. GS responded by providing the information requested. There were no “hidden” costs and the amount relating to Board meetings included business flights where journeys undertaken were in excess of 8 hours, a policy that was agreed by Directors some time ago. JB reminded the Board that any Director was free to contact GS for an explanation of any item of expenditure shown on financial documents.

Our financial forecasting consultant continued to provide valuable assistance to GS on preparing and regularly updating the financial forecasts who together with JB constituted the Finance Committee.

Resolved:

The forecast figures shown for the 2018 year were ratified by the Board as the initial 2018 budget and these figures would be inserted into the Quickbooks programme. It was agreed, after investigation, that there was no need to change auditors as was suggested at the last Council meeting.

Action:

GS to provide GC with a detailed explanation and a breakdown of expenditure details as requested.

The Board agreed they would recommend that the current auditors be reappointed at the April 2018 council meeting. GS would provide a report to the council on the reasons and background to this decision.

9. CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT:

Tabled: Chief Executive’s written, detailed report was circulated to all Directors prior to the meeting.

The report confirmed that following on the last Board meeting in September 2017, GS had provided the Board with a detailed and full list of his roles and responsibilities.

Affiliation & Membership.

An up-to-date list, current as at January 2018, had been provided to all Directors of the membership details for 2018. Swaziland had still to provide their 2017 and 2018 annual returns and were being chased up for these by JM.

Completed 2017 annual returns were outstanding from Korea, Zambia and Samoa although all had paid their affiliation fees. All outstanding returns and fees for 2018 were being followed up.

Following on lengthy and detailed enquiries by JM, the application from Jamaica for Development Membership was approved and they had paid the £25 fee to WB.

JB expressed the view that it was a positive move to establish a bowling facility in the Caribbean area. GS would stress the eligibility criteria for future participation in WB events. Jamaica LBA would also be reminded that within a 5-year period the Board would expect a fully Laws compliant lawn bowls facility to be established and that progress in this regard would be subject to monitoring and review by the Board. Should sufficient progress not be made, the Board will have the right to terminate development membership.

The draft agreement between the WIBC and WB had been finalised and a further constructive meeting had been held with the WIBC. The latter had expressed every confidence their membership was expected to confirm their full support for the agreement between WB and the WIBC at their AGM in April 2018 and a joint press

release had been issued after the WIBC Junior Championships which had been widely welcomed.

Manufacturers & Testers.

Henselite's test table at Fred Fern's Bowls Centre has been dismantled removed from the list of WB Licensed Testers.

The Malaysia test table is still not operational as there are ongoing negotiations between Malaysia LBF and Sime Darby regarding control and ownership and a further update is awaited from them. Once resolved, further training will be required for all individuals who will be involved in testing procedures. The 2016 & 2017 invoices for the annual licence fee remain outstanding.

The 2017 annual inspections of all licensed test tables (except the non-operational Malaysia table) and swap of Working Reference Bowls were undertaken by Ron Barron, Rob Curran & Bruce Barry, the WB technical consultants, with no major issues resulting.

World Bowls Performance Standards for Bowling Green Surfaces.

It was resolved at the previous board meeting to continue liaising with Keith McAuliffe to produce an agreed final document detailing the recommendations and proposed revised testing methods and performance standards. This has involved many exchanges to reach the latest version, which had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting. Advice was being obtained from the WB solicitors to ensure a disclaimer was inserted in the document to ensure there was no come-back on WB with regard to installation, shoddy workmanship, surfaces etc.

The recommended level of fees for endorsement was discussed and agreed at £2000 per annum for a full product certification. Approval on a provisional level would be set at £1000 and there would be no charge on an individual club.

International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD)

The IBD provided a short report advising that they have continued attempts to find a venue for our World Champs in 2020 – at the moment they are in correspondence with Malaysia and hope for a positive outcome.

During October 2017 the Asian region staged the first Asia Para-bowls championships in Korea which comprised 6 countries – Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Japan.

The entry was physically disabled bowlers and some 30 bowlers participated. IBD were represented on the arrangements and preparation for the Para Bowls at the Commonwealth Games. IBD is also attempting to contact potential members through the membership list provided by WB.

Laws Committee Matters.

Kerry Clark provided a short written report to the Board on matters dealt with by the Laws Committee since the previous meeting.

WADA/Anti-doping.

GS advised the Board that correspondence had been received from WADA querying why there had been no anti-doping testing in 2017 and why there had been no entries on their system for TUE's. There had been ongoing and recognised IT problems with the WADA ADAMS system which WB were aware of, but the problems had now been resolved and all TUE's granted since 2015 had now been uploaded onto the ADAMS system. GS also had advised WADA that the main WB events (World Championships every 4 years and the relevant qualifying events) meant that in 2017 there had been no

major events. WB paid their compliance monitoring fee to WADA annually and WADA have been advised why it was not seen as a priority to have testing in 2017. The cost of tests are in the region of £500/£600 each test and a reply was awaited from WADA on the response from GS.

However, testing would now have to be organised on an annual basis and the cost of testing was now a feature in financial forecasts.

Events.

A well-supported, extremely successful World Singles Champion of Champions was hosted at St Johns Park BC, Sydney, Australia. All involved at the host club did a magnificent job and this same club will be hosting this event again in 2018.

It was confirmed that artificial greens were acceptable in World Bowls events and were within the Laws of the Sport albeit it would not be appropriate to have a mixture of surfaces at the same event.

The Board received bid documents from four clubs in Australia, Norfolk Island and Cyprus for the 2019 and 2010 World Singles Champion of Champions. After due consideration by the Board the hosting rights were awarded to Adelaide Bowling Club, Australia.

Bowls Australia would be advised accordingly and asked to advise the other Australian venues of this decision.

GS would advise the other MNA's accordingly, appreciating and thanking them for their bids and support.

2018 & 2019 World Cup.

Following a lengthy period of negotiation between World Bowls, Bowls Australia and current host club Warilla Bowls & Recreation Club in relation to amendments to certain financial obligations of the three parties, the formal agreement was completed that will see Warilla continuing to host this popular event in 2018 & 2019. Entries for 2018 World Cup currently stand at 24 for the Men's Singles and 19 for the Women's Singles.

2018 World Youth Championships.

2018 is the final year of the current five year hosting agreement between World Bowls, Bowls Australia & Broadbeach B.C. It was agreed that World Bowls would not put a tender document out to MNAs to seek bids to host this event in future years. Based on experience in relation to MNAs' support for this event, and the imminent affiliation of a renamed WIBC to World Bowls, the event will require it to be at the forefront of the planned review of World Bowls events. Entries for the 2018 event stand at 18 for Men's Singles, 18 for Women's Singles and therefore 18 for Mixed Pairs.

2018 Commonwealth Games Gold Coast.

All arrangements progressing satisfactorily as confirmed in Kerry Clark's report forwarded to all directors under separate cover.

In liaison with Kerry Clark, the CG Technical Delegate and Mark Casey, CG2018 Bowls Competition Manager, matters such as the Jury of Appeal, format for the draw for each discipline and anti-doping have all been attended to and covered.

2019 Atlantic Championships

The Welsh B.A. has reported that all organisational matters are progressing satisfactorily with a further update regarding government grant funding expected in early 2018. WB will arrange to obtain an early indication from eligible MNAs regarding their

intended entries. Discussions are ongoing in relation to further ITO accreditation examinations in Wales.

2022 Commonwealth Games.

A recent announcement was made that the CG2022 will be hosted by Birmingham, England with the greens at Royal Leamington Spa hosting the Lawn Bowls events.

2023 Asia Pacific Championships.

A bid from the Chinese Multi Bowls Association via Hong Kong LBA had been received along with the appropriate application fee. The board agreed the award of hosting rights.

2023 Atlantic Championships.

No bids to host received by the original deadline date of 30 November 2017 and the deadline is extended to 28 February 2018.

2024 World Championships.

A bid to host the 2024 World Championships had been received along with the appropriate application fee from the Hong Kong Lawn Bowls Association. The board agreed the award of hosting these rights.

GS advised that attention and careful monitoring would be required to ensure that any artificial surfaces that may be used in the Asia Pacific Championships were up to standard. GS would consult with Keith McAuliffe.

Coordination would be required between greenkeepers in Hong Kong and would be monitored to ensure uniformity of greens.

RB confirmed that arrangements were already on hand to train and test potential umpires and ITO's, starting in March 2018.

Election Process for President and Regional Directors.

GS reported that the election processes had started in accordance with the timelines detailed in the Articles.

Regional Returning Officers have been appointed by the relevant MNA in each Region as follows:-

Europe (including British Isles)-Tony Allcock MBE (Bowls England)

Asia & Oceania-Neil Dalrymple (Bowls Australia)

Africa and the Americas-Charles Levy (Bowls South Africa)

The Regional Returning Officers have distributed all relevant documentation to invite nominations to the Full Member National Authorities in their Region. Closing date for receipt of completed nominations with accompanying resume was 13 January 2018.

GS, as the Returning Officer for the process for election of the President similarly distributed all relevant documentation to invite nominations to all Full Member National Authorities. Closing date for receipt of completed nominations with accompanying resume was 13 January 2018.

The closing date for the receipt of voting forms where any ballot is necessary was set at 22nd February 2018.

The Board resolved at their previous meeting to seek nominations for Development Directors, one for Asia and one for the Americas. Detailed roles and responsibilities were contained in a document issued to the relevant MNA's with invitations to nominate

suitable candidates. No nominations were received from the Americas and one was received from Hong Kong for Asia by the closing date of 10th January 2018.

GS reminded the Board that there is a reference in the Articles that the Board requires to contain a minimum of two of each gender. As KM is not standing for re-election, the Board will require to see the final list of nominees for all positions to consider how the gender requirement can continue to be satisfied.

At the time of writing this report the nomination details from the Hong Kong candidate had been circulated to the Board which agreed to delay the consideration of the appointment, bearing in mind gender issues, until after the April 2018 Board meeting.

A discussion then ensued on the current Articles relating to gender requirements and GS again highlighted the current requirement in the Articles that the Board requires to contain a minimum of two of each gender. Following on a full discussion it was agreed to present a proposal to the Council meeting that the Articles be amended to read that the Board comprise of a minimum of one of each gender.

A proposal would also be placed before Council to amend the restrictions in relation to Board member nominations and was to remove the wording in the articles which currently prohibits any current Director or Executive member of an MNA from being elected as a WB Director. Only current employees of an MNA were to be prohibited from being elected to the Board.

GS reminded the Board about the negotiations with the WIBC and it had been agreed that once they joined WB as an associate member that an additional class of membership should be considered to give them additional rights. The WIBC will be renamed International Indoor Bowls Council.

The Board agreed that they would recommend at the Council meeting that they should consider establishing a further class of membership which would provide for additional voting rights such as being able to nominate for Board positions and the right to vote.

IOC/GAISF

Following on the discussions and meetings with IOC/GAISF it was agreed that the cost of membership of GAISF, a pre-requisite to becoming a member of IOC, was expensive and at present the outlays could not be justified.

Nevertheless, discussions would continue with the IOC to determine a way forward for membership. GC intimated that membership of GAISF would nevertheless be a great benefit for many countries and potentially open doors to them for increased finance. It was important to have development members progress to full membership in order to increase the number of full members as a minimum of 40 full member nations of World Bowls who also need to be a recognised UN nation were needed to qualify for GAISF membership.

Ranking list.

GS had prepared ranking list for men and women based on Member National Authority rather than by individuals, in liaison with KM. The list was based on the results at the 2016 World Championships in New Zealand, supplemented by results and finishing positions at the associated qualifying events.

Miscellaneous.

GS asked Directors to copy to the office any relevant correspondence they had with the MNA's in their region in order to keep abreast of any ongoing developments and issues. It had been the practice in the past to prepare and issue a written report on any attendances at international events/meetings, copied to HQ, within a reasonable time. It was agreed that such reports should be produced within 14 days following such attendances. Similarly. Correspondence between Regional Directors and MNA's or their

officials should be copied to HQ in order that any files held are up to date, especially in relation to progress on development matters and for risk management purposes.

Coaching & Development.

The office continues to pass on development enquiries to the relevant Regional Director.

As agreed at the previous board meeting, KM the current Chair of the Coaching Steering Committee and the members of this Steering Committee are to progress the production of a WB Coaching Manual. GS had circulated MNAs to obtain any coaching materials currently being used and a number of MNAs have responded with their materials to supplement those from those MNAs who had already offered full use of their coaching materials to KM.

Resolved:

Jamaica LBA's application for Development Membership was approved by the Board. With regard to the final document relating to performance standards, the Board agreed that a disclaimer was essential within the revised document and it would be left to GS in liaison with JB to have a suitably worded reference to this within the finalised version after consultation with WB solicitors.

The recommended fee structure to be £1000 for a provisional surface product certification and £2000 for full surface product certification.

In relation to WADA, testing would have to be considered and be a pre-requisite at events on an annual basis.

The 2019 and 2020 World Singles Champion of Champions venue was Adelaide Bowling Club, Australia

Hosting rights were granted to the Chinese Multi Bowls Association for the 2023 Asia Pacific Championships.

GS to maintain contact Keith McAuliffe regarding greens in China and Hong Kong
Hosting rights were granted to the Hong Kong Lawn Bowls Association for the 2024 World Championships.

It was resolved that a proposal be made to the Council that the Articles be amended to read that the Board comprise of a minimum of one of each gender.

It was also agreed to present a resolution amending restrictions in relation to Board member nominations. This amendment would remove the wording in the Articles which currently prohibits any current director or Executive member of a MNA from being elected as a World Bowls director, leaving only current employees of an MNA as being prohibited from being elected.

Should JB not be re-elected as President, Council would be asked to agree a Board proposal that life membership be granted at the meeting to JB.

The Board will be supporting a nomination for Life Membership received and details will be issued to all MNA's with the agenda.

Council to be consulted regarding adding an additional class of membership should the WIBC at their April 2018 AGM agree to become members of WB.

Directors to keep the office informed and copied into the exchange of correspondence they had with members in their region.

GS raised the question of the voting rights of MNA's and it was agreed by the Board that a discussion be instigated and should take place at the April 2018 Council meeting that voting reverted to one vote per member nation on all matters as opposed to the current system of weighted voting based on registered memberships on all but election of President & Regional Directors.

The Board agreed the rationale behind the ranking list and agreed to its publication.

10. REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

Tabled: Written reports from the Regional and Appointed Directors were circulated in advance of the meeting.

Americas and Africa.

JM produced a detailed report on events taking place in Argentina who are in discussion with Brazil hoping to organise a third "South American Challenge" to take place in Buenos Aires. Players from Argentina took part in the US Open in Sarasota in November 2017 and hoped in the future to play more games involving USA and Canada and links were being considered with South African countries. They are also committed to facilitating opportunities to become accredited coaches, technical officials and greenkeepers.

Brazil hoped that they can continue a dialogue with WB and other American MNA's to continue to grow the sport and this included inviting players from the USA and Canada to participate in their organised events and tournaments.

In Canada, 2017 had been a significant year in investing in communications and promotions but this had not resulted in increased membership and a new strategic plan was to be developed to focus on increasing their membership.

The only Canadian para-bowls that are recognised are for visually impaired bowlers, run by a separate national sport organisation – Blind Bowls Association of Canada. Bowls Canada has been working with this group to find a way to better serve the existing para-bowlers and to provide services for other categories of disabled bowlers.

The MNA are in the process of drafting a regional coaching network and will be a key focus for 2018.

The MNA is currently working on a strategic plan for 2018 – 2021 and hope to align with the WB plan for the same period.

Kenya continues to organise internal events for their members and were medalists in several disciplines in the African States Tournament held in Johannesburg in 2017.

Malawi has difficulties with falling membership and receives little or no funding due to the state of the economy. They were able to participate, nevertheless, in the AST and saw a little success with some encouraging results.

Namibia hopes to grow the sport and have had discussions with the Namibian Sports Commission in an effort to obtain additional support from them in the future. They are hopeful of competing in the 2018 CG.

South Africa remain focussed on increasing membership numbers.

Swaziland and Zambia continue to be problem areas due to lack of communications although contact had now been re-established with Swaziland which would hopefully result in them completing their membership returns and payment of outstanding fees.

In the USA, 2018 looks promising for membership growth and organisational improvements and they are very active on several fronts to update policies and procedures on a wide range of bowling related aspects such as coaching, marketing, governance, green maintenance, school projects etc. Funding has been available to assist clubs in development and recruitment and the MNA is very active on other initiatives to increase interest in the sport.

Reports were received from Zimbabwe where it was hoped a change in Government will assist in their future participation in international events.

It was hoped that construction of a sports facility in mid 2018 in the Falkland Islands would result in a dedicated indoor rink in a sports complex.

JM also provided a report on the Zone V AGM held in Johannesburg and advised that there were prospects of a bowling green being built in Mozambique.

Asia & Oceania

KM provided a detailed written report and updated the Board on what was happening in her region. Much of the report centred on domestic issues and many of the MNA's in the region were in the process of preparing for the 2018 CG. Samoa had been awarded the Pacific Games in 2019 after Tonga withdrew and it was hoped that bowls would be on the programme of events. In India, Sunaina Kumari was elected as the Deputy President of the Asian Bowls Federation and the Vice President of the Indian Olympic Association. Dr D R Saini was elected as the assistant secretary of Asian Bowls. WB had sent a letter of congratulations to Sunaina.

The development strategy had been offered to many countries but there had not been a great take-up.

The artificial surface at Bukit Kiara in Malaysia was a cause for concern and KM was in discussions with Keith McAulife regarding the matter.

Bowls in Thailand was progressing and an international tournament was scheduled to be held there in July 2018. An invitation had been extended to WB to attend and was still to be considered as there was some doubt as to who actually sent the invitation and correspondence was awaited from Thailand.

Sri Lanka's 5 years development membership had expired and little had been done in the five years to develop the sport. Following on a full discussion the Board sadly decided to terminate their membership due to lack of progress. There was no reason to prevent them from re-applying in the future.

Further contact was to be made with Pakistan to ascertain their up-to-date position with regard to establishing compliant bowling facility and this would be re-visited and discussed at the April Board meeting.

Iran, as a development member, is to participate in the World Cup and communications with KM were upbeat. GS was to clarify their membership numbers due to some confusion on their annual returns.

KM advised that there was a need to progress the structure of Bowls Oceania further.

Resolved

The development membership of Sri Lanka was to be terminated.

Additional enquires to be made of progress in Pakistan to establishing a compliant bowling facility.

Clarification on membership numbers in Iran to be investigated by GS when they attend the 2018 World Cup.

Europe.

GC provided a detailed, comprehensive report on each of the MNA's within Europe and provided a general update on each one individually.

GC included in his report that there continued to be a problem with Portugal. Bowls Portugal is the member National Authority, although it is reported they have now have no base or bowling green. Bowls Portugal have drafted an agreement with Bowls Algarve, the other Portuguese organisation with whom they are in conflict, but despite efforts to reconcile the two, no progress has been made. The simple solution is seen as for the clubs in membership of Bowls Algarve to join Bowls Portugal, the recognised member authority. There was little foreseeable prospect of progress and it was thought that meetings via skype were appropriate to attempt to resolve the problem.

GC also referred to the meeting held with France in Jersey during the EBU championships with President JB and updated the Board on the progress to establish a bowling facility and that they plan to host an opening event between 31st May and 7th June, inviting a few countries, including WB to attend.

It was understood that Germany had progressed and had now established a bowling green. GC was corresponding with them on several matters as their 5-year

development membership is expiring during 2018. It was hoped that full membership, which was subject to normal conditions and criteria as outlined to the Board by GS, would be forthcoming in due course.

GC also reported on the position in Switzerland who wished to become a full member but were currently without a bowling green. They had made a lengthy submission appealing for full membership but without a fully compliant bowling green they were not eligible for full membership at present under existing criteria.

There were several potential new members within Europe that had expressed an interest in bowling and email correspondence had been exchanged with them albeit communications were proving difficult. They included Austria, Bulgaria, Sweden and Norway.

Outline budget plans for 2018 to take forward some of the European issues such as development and coaching and visiting Portugal to try to resolve their internal disputes were also produced by GC and would be expanded upon at a later date.

Action.

GC to arrange skype call with both Portuguese organisations to attempt to resolve the present dispute.

GC to advise Switzerland on their full membership request.

11. COACHING COMMITTEE & PLAYER' COMMISSION:

KM provided an update on the coaching development and that they were gathering resources from willing contributors with a view to compiling and collating the submissions to provide a suitable coaching manual.

With regard to advancing a player's commission it was agreed to leave this in abeyance in the meantime.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS:

President JB expressed grateful thanks to KM on behalf of the board, who was not standing for re-election, for all the sterling work she had undertaken during her term of office.

GS advised that he had received correspondence from Israel LBA seeking advice regarding invitations sent to the Israel PBA from the WIBC to participate in their world championships. The Board recommended that permission be given taking into account the ongoing negotiations with the WIBC. In future it was anticipated that future invitations would be sent to the National Authority and not the PBA.

Future Meetings

The next Board meeting was scheduled to follow on from the CG in Australia on 16th & 17th April 2018 at a venue still to be finalised.

The biennial council meeting on 14th April 2018 starting at 1.00pm would be arranged to be held at Helensvale BC, some 10/15 minutes from the CG village.

Roger Black
1st February 2018