



Minutes of the Annual and Biennial Council Meetings

**Venue & Date: Club Helensvale, Australia on
14th April 2018**

In attendance:

World Bowls-President/Chairman John Bell, Directors - John McArdle, Garry Collins Chief Executive/Company Secretary Gary Smith and Roger Black who had also been appointed to record the minutes of the meeting.

Member National Authority Delegates - 29 delegates from the following 20 Member Nations -Australia, Botswana, Brunei, Canada, England, Fiji, Guernsey, Hong Kong China, India, Ireland (men only), Malaysia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, PNG, Samoa, Scotland, South Africa, Wales (both men's and women's authorities) and Zambia.

Life Member Kerry Clark CNZM OBE.
Regional Director elect – Wayne Moffatt.

The following nations were represented by proxy - Argentina (men only), China, Cyprus, Ireland (women), Israel, Namibia, Spain and USA.

Scrutineers if required - Roger Black, assistant to Chief Executive Gary Smith, and Les Miller (President Club Helensvale).

The Chairman welcomed all the delegates and observers to the meeting and thanked the club for the use of their facilities and for providing pre-meeting refreshments.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Life Members Betty Collins OAM and Eleanor Allan, Regional Director Karen Murphy and Appointed Director Claire Leonard.

Annual Council Meeting Business

The minutes of the previous Annual Council Meeting held at the St Johns Park Bowling Club, NSW, Australia on 5th November 2017 (previously circulated), the approval of the accounts of World Bowls for the financial year ended 31st December 2017 (audited accounts previously circulated) and the reappointment of ERC Accountants as Auditors were proposed for adoption by Australia, seconded by Fiji and unanimously approved.

The formal business of the Annual Council Meeting was therefore concluded.

Biennial Council Meeting Business.

1 Minutes of 2016 Biennial Council Meeting

The minutes of the Biennial Council Meeting held at Commodore Hotel, Christchurch, New Zealand on 5th December 2016 (previously circulated) were proposed for adoption by India, seconded by Norfolk Islands and the proposal was unanimously carried.

There were no matters arising.

2 Adoption of President's & Regional Directors' Reports (previously circulated)

President John Bell advised the meeting that he was delighted and honoured to be re-elected as World Bowls President with a handsome majority. He referred to his report, which had been circulated in advance to all Member National Authorities (MNA's), and wished to take the opportunity to highlight some of the achievements made in key areas, which had been acknowledged by the majority on MNA's. In particular he mentioned the continuation of a robust financial management and forecasting system made possible by the CEO and the use of the former financial director of Bowls England. There was now a healthy balance in the accounts, which he hoped would be put to good use in the future implementation of action plans. The Development Strategy was active and helping the Developing Nations, exemplified in the improvement and success of the smaller Nations such as Norfolk Island and Cook Islands at the Commonwealth Games. There continued to be an increase in membership with Iran, Jamaica and Korea all becoming Development Members and interest was being received from other countries. The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) also provided a very good letter of support when World Bowls applied for recognition by the IOC. Congratulations were tendered to Kerry Clark CNZM OBE on his recent Order of Merit presented by the CGF. The President referred to the strong application for recognition presented to the IOC, which had been diligently prepared by the CEO. Furthermore, a good rapport had been established with the IOC, unfortunately complicated by the involvement of the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF).

The President also announced that following on lengthy negotiations with the World Indoor Bowls Council (WIBC), they had now advised, following on their AGM earlier in the week, that they had relinquished their world status and resolved to now affiliate to World Bowls. This would result in a fresh look at all world events and an opportunity to adopt the World Bowls Laws of the Sport.

A World Bowls Coaching Committee had now been established and was working on the production of a World Bowls coaching qualification and manual which would assist the smaller Nations. Additionally, following on discussions with the committee earlier in the week, it was hoped to coordinate and streamline coaching assistance requested through the Development Strategy. World Bowls had also facilitated the establishment of a Bowls Oceania organisation to promote and develop the sport in that region. A complete review of the events programme would be undertaken to make the sport more attractive to as many current and future stakeholders as possible and provide a higher profile of the sport. He also thanked Bowls England for their continued support, and Bowls Australia too for offering full support to World Bowls. The President was also appreciative of Bowls Queensland's offer of future assistance in new initiatives.

He emphasised that World Bowls is creating exciting opportunities to move the sport forward. However, in order to take full advantage of these it will require the sharing and pooling of resources across the world, which will hopefully herald a new era of global cooperation.

The President's and Regional Directors' reports (previously circulated) were adopted by the meeting on the proposal of Fiji, seconded by Malaysia.

4 Adoption of Chief Executive's Report (previously circulated)

The CEO referred to his report which had been previously circulated and thanked everyone for the support given to World Bowls. He thanked in particular Regional Director Karen Murphy and the support given to her from Bowls Australia during her period as a Director. He referred to the changes that had previously been agreed by Council and taken place relating to the fee structure. As a result, the current Articles now needed to be re-examined in the area of voting rights as affiliation fees were no longer linked to registered membership figures. He stressed that voting structures in organisations such as the Commonwealth Games and IOC were based on one vote per nation, regardless of size.

Furthermore, regional representation would need to be looked at, particularly in vast areas such as Asia, Oceania, Africa and Americas. Resolutions would be required proposing amendments to the Articles relating to the structure of the Board to ensure effective representation. Additionally it was thought that to wait until Council meetings, held every two years, for resolutions was too long a period to wait and that any changes and resolutions that were required on an on-going basis could be sent out to MNA's for consideration with examples given of changes in the Laws and minimum sizing of bowls.

These proposals presented by the CEO on behalf of the Board, were approved by Malaysia, seconded by South Africa and unanimously approved by Council..

The CEO also highlighted that he had received complaints from some competitors selected for certain World Bowls events that their National Authority had not supplied them with "Conditions of Entry" and/or "Conditions of Play" and requested National Authorities to ensure such information was duly passed on to their selected competitors

The events program was under review but events continued to be successful and well attended.

Another class of membership was considered to be required accommodate the affiliation of organisations such as the WIBC. The affiliation of International Indoor Bowls Council (IIBC) formerly the WIBC was a major achievement for the sport. A suitable press release would be issued in due course.

Kerry Clark CNZM OBE, Chairman of the Laws Committee, was then asked to speak on the proposal for the the manufacture of bowls smaller than that detailed in the Laws. The minimum size at present was 116mm but it was recognised that some "older" people and young players had difficulty even with the minimum size and manufacturers had been approached to design new smaller sizes of bowls. Kerry advised the delegates that some test bowls with a new minimum size of 112 mm (size quadruple zero) and 114mm (size triple zero) had been manufactured and trialled and asked that the delegates approve a change to the Law 52.1.6.1 to allow these smaller sized bowls of approved models to be used. Bowls England applauded World Bowls for this initiative and proposed acceptance, seconded by Fiji. The meeting was unanimous in supporting the change and the written report was accepted on the proposal of Wales, seconded by India.

5 International Olympic Committee (IOC) Recognition/GAISF Membership.

The President then referred to the comprehensive report completed by the CEO on IOC recognition. The Board now felt that the Council needed to be consulted as the eligibility criteria of membership of the IOC had altered considerably. Membership of GAISF was now a prerequisite to recognition by the IOC but came at a high cost.

At this stage World Bowls now does not meet the minimum criteria for membership of GAISF and all that was being offered was an Observer Status which carried no future guarantee on acceptance as a full member of GAISF.

The obvious advantage of recognition from the IOC for MNA's was status and the potential for funding but several countries were not Olympic countries with examples of UK countries Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales, Norfolk Island, Cook Island and Macao being given.

The Bowls Australia President added that in his view and experience with his involvement in another sport at International level (Softball) that dealings with the GAISF were difficult and found to be misleading on many occasions. The ground seemed to shift periodically and, at this point in time, Bowls Australia agreed that it was not the time to support spending considerable amounts on membership costs, but that it would be incumbent on World Bowls to monitor the position on a regular basis.

The CEO highlighted the conversations and exchanges he had with Mike Joyce of IOC outlining our concerns with GAISF and its inflexible membership criteria. GAISF were having their annual general assembly at the SportAccord convention in Bangkok later in the month providing a further opportunity for Mike Joyce to raise our issues with GAISF officials. The CEO had also discussed these with David Greemberg CEO of the CGDF who will also be attending the SportAccord convention and promised to raise our issues.

Fiji added that they would also consult with their IOC organisation for support.

The CEO responded to a question from Malaysia on the definition of development membership and that a period of five years was given to a development member to establish a laws compliant bowling facility. Regional Director Garry Collins added that Olympic status was important for many non Commonwealth Games countries as it had the potential for unleashing funds and that negotiations should continue.

6 Notices of Motion

Bowls Australia submitted the following Notice of Motion:-

1. Amend clause 20.6 as per below.
2. Delete clause 20.7 as per below.
3. New clauses 20.7 and 20.8.

20.1 Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution, the number of Directors shall be a maximum of seven, with a minimum of four Directors, being:- 20.1.1 the President who shall be Chairperson;

20.1.2 3 Regional Directors (one from each Region); and 20.1.3 up to 3 Appointed Directors. 20.2 The President and all Regional Directors shall be Affiliated Bowlers

20.3 Appointed Directors are not required to be Affiliated Bowlers.

20.4 There shall be a minimum of 2 Directors of each gender at all times.

20.5 No more than two Directors from the same Member Nation may serve at any given time.

20.6 An employee or director of a Member National Authority may not be a Director.

~~20.7 A member of the executive board of a Member National Authority may not be a Director.~~

20.7 A director or member of an executive board of a Member National Authority

may not be President.

20.8 If a director or member of an executive board of a Member National Authority is elected as President, they will have 90 days from the date of their election to relinquish their position with their Member National Authority.

Bowls Australia spoke in favour of their Notice of Motion and moved that the Notice of Motion be accepted. The Board supported the proposal and it was formally seconded by Norfolk Island and unanimously accepted.

The Board present the following resolutions for Council consideration:

Article 20.4 to be amended to read as follows:-

‘There shall be a minimum of 1 Director of each gender at all times. Article 20.6 to be amended to read as follows:

‘An employee of a Member National Authority may not be a Director

Article 20.7 to be deleted.

Gary Smith, CEO, spoke in favour of the Board’s amendment to the Articles and explained the rationale behind the proposal and this was unanimously accepted and formally approved by Bowls Australia, seconded by Malaysia. It was recognised that this was a delicate issue band that, at some point in the future, Bowls Australia thought the change may have to be revisited, a factor which World Bowls agreed with and was fully aware.

7 World Championships

Bowls Australia provided an update on the arrangements for the 2019 Asia Pacific (4th June – 12th June 2019) and the World Championships (23rd May – 7th June 2020). Venues would be Musgrave, Broadbeach and Helensvale Bowling Clubs. Strong committees had already been put in place. The colour of bowls being used by participating countries was mentioned and the difficulty in team disciplines from a spectator viewpoint was regarded as a problem, particularly during night games. They felt strongly that countries should have their own individual colour of bowls, nevertheless appreciating the problems that some countries would have in sourcing these. They were also of the view that clothing should be looked at with the country name and that of their players clearly shown on the back of tops.

Bowls Australia were of the view that Para bowls disciplines should be considered to be included.

2024 World Championships

Vincent Cheung, President Hong Kong Lawn Bowls Association, advised that considerations were well under way for the 2024 World Championships to be held in Hong Kong and the 2023 Asia Pacific Championships to be held in mainland China.

A fuller update will be given at the next Council meeting

8 Commonwealth Games

2018 Gold Coast, Australia

Kerry Clark CNZM OBE International Technical Delegate appointed by World Bowls to the CG provided an overview on the Commonwealth Games bowling events that had finished the day before the meeting, and that the nine days of bowls had been outstanding. The event was trouble free, well planned and acknowledged the work undertaken by Mark Casey, Chris Green and others. The sport was show-cased very well, good spectator numbers were evident and the feedback received was very positive. 43% of the ITO's were females, up from 23% in 2014. The CGF target for future Games being 50%.

47000 volunteers had applied to help out in the Games and 16000 were used overall.

He added that it would be his recommendation that the knowledge gained by the leading personnel involved in the 2018 Games should not be lost when considering the requirements for CG 2022 Birmingham.

2022 Birmingham, England

Tony Allcock MBE, CEO Bowls England, spoke briefly on the selection of Royal Leamington Spa as the bowling venue for the 2022 Commonwealth Games and advised that the Games would take place in August. Potential difficulties included travel from the athletes' village in Birmingham to Leamington. The venue at Leamington was not as spacious as at Broadbeach. Talks had already taken place with local officials regarding the event. He also agreed with Kerry's views regarding not re-inventing the wheel.

9 Life Membership Nomination (Details previously circulated)

Kerry Clark CNZM OBE was asked to endorse the nomination of Life Membership for Ian A Munro (Scotland) and highlighted his major contribution to the reviews of the Laws of the Sport. He was a willing contributor in his position as a member of the Laws Committee, an umpire at the highest level and was the head ITO at both the Delhi and Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

The nomination was proposed by Botswana, seconded by India and unanimously approved.

10 Ratification of the Results of the election for World Bowls President & Regional Directors.

President-John Bell (England)

Regional Director for Asia & Oceania -Wayne Moffatt (Australia)

Regional Director for Africa & the Americas -John McArdle (South Africa)

Regional Director for Europe including British Isles - Garry Collins (Guernsey)

The results were formally proposed by Australia, seconded by Hong Kong.

President John Bell then welcomed Wayne Moffatt to the Board who expressed his pleasure in being elected to the Board.

11 President's Closing Address

President John Bell closed the meeting by stating that World Bowls was very much aware of its responsibilities and it will do its utmost to drive our sport forward. He thanked the members for their contributions and support

The meeting closed at 1410 hours.

Roger Black
For Gary Smith
19th April 2018