



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**(Meeting held by “Go-to-Meeting” conference call on
27 August 2021)**

PRESENT:

Darryl Clout (DC) – President/Chairman
Garry Collins (GC) - Regional Director
Brett O’Riley (BO) - Regional Director
Ian Howard (IH) – Regional Director
Claudius Lam (CL) – Regional Director
Gerry Baker (GB) – Regional Director
Hazel Wilson (HW) - Appointed Director

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gary Smith (GS) – Chief Executive

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES:

The President opened the meeting at 12.00 hours (UK time) and welcomed all to the Board meeting, especially Brett O'Riley to his first Board meeting since being appointed to the Board. At the request of DC, BR provided a brief background regarding himself to the other attendees.
Apologies: Roger Black.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

There were no changes required to that already recorded.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Tabled: Minutes of previous Board meeting.

The minutes of the previous Board meeting were accepted as a true record of the proceedings and approved unanimously.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

There were no matters arising not covered in the agenda.

5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

DC reported to the Board that since his election as President, invitations for Expressions of Interest to manage the World Bowls review were forwarded to 3 companies – Counsel Ltd, SBP Advisory and Sport Law – all of which had been recommended by Board members who

had received details of the 3 proposals prior to the meeting. DC first invited the CEO to provide a summary of his considerations regarding the content, then followed by inviting each director to provide their considerations. It was ultimately decided to accept the 'streamlined' option detailed in the SBP proposal and that DC would contact SBP to set up an initial meeting with the Board. DC reported that along with GS, they attended (virtually) the General Assembly of the International Bowls for Disabled (IBD). The meeting had been brought to his attention by Bowls Australia's representative, Neil Dalrymple, who suggested it might be a good opportunity to learn what plans IBD had for its future and how WB might figure in those plans.

During the meeting the issue of governance was raised and the fact that the sport was governed by a number of bodies, which might benefit from combining into one organisation to represent Bowls in all its forms worldwide.

Both DC and GS spoke to that subject and the idea was not dismissed out of hand, leaving the door open for further discussion.

DC's report included the issue, concerning both WB and IBD, of the Olympics and particularly the Paralympics. He stated it seems that both WB and IDB organisations are liaising with the International Paralympic Committee when there should be one united voice advocating for the sport. Again in his and GS's view, this campaign should be seen as a compelling reason for a single voice representing all sectors of the sport.

During that discussion Neil Dalrymple, BA, suggested that a committee be formed for the specific purpose of devising and delivering a campaign for Olympic and Paralympic recognition. Both GS and the President agreed - with DC agreeing GS offering his knowledge and experience in this area should such a group be formed.

DC believed that the Board should approve, in principle, the establishment of such a committee for the sole purpose of having our sport represented at future Olympics and Paralympics. This is an action high on the list of many MNA's and would be a signal that their wishes are being taken seriously at WB level. This was agreed by the Board and that Neil Dalrymple be asked to put together a Terms of Reference, a timetable for the campaign and suggestions for membership which would come back to the Board for approval.

DC concluded his report by advising the Board that GS and he were involved in an induction of the WB's newest Board member, Brett O'Riley.

Resolved:

World Bowls Review to be undertaken by SBP Advisory – DC to contact the company to set up an initial meeting with the Board.

The Board approved the establishment of a committee to devise and deliver a campaign for the sport to be represented at future Olympics and Paralympics.

Neil Dalrymple to be requested to put together Terms of Reference etc for approval by the Board.

6. REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

Tabled: Written reports from the Regional Directors were circulated in advance prior to the meeting.

Europe:

GC advised that generally Covid-19 continued to affect some members, the review into the British Isles International Series and Championships is still on-going and that new Directors are

being elected to the European Bowls Union in September 2021 with appointed directors to follow on.

General, concise updates for full member countries– mainly domestic matters and issues - were provided on all the MNA's in the region.

Associate member, France, continued to play events with Switzerland albeit Covid-19 has stopped progress with new clubs.

General updates were provided on Development members within the region and contacts were listed for potential new members with Luxembourg in particular being very active in engaging with other members to discuss progress.

Asia:

CL provided a short report for the Board highlighting that there were no updates available from Brunei, India, Macao, Malaysia, Pakistan and Thailand. China is to hold the 14th Nation Games in September, a tournament that Hong Kong have withdrawn from due to quarantine requirements, and in Singapore a number of similar competitions have been organized. In Japan, all national championships have been cancelled but in Singapore a number of similar competitions were organized. Bowls Australia has also provided training courses for Singapore via zoom for community coaches.

Contact has been lost with Bangladesh and no updates or feedback was forthcoming from Iran, South Korea or Taiwan. In the UAE, a formal organization will be established after the ?????

Oceania:

DC reported that there were no issues to report related to Australia, New Zealand, Cook Islands, Fiji and Tonga. Samoa had not responded to emails and Niue had made an application for a development grant.

There was a possibility of an Oceanic Championships post Covid-19 and Bowls Australia had delivered coaching courses in Singapore with Cook Islands next on a list to be provided with coaching.

WB continued to monitor the PNG National Authority situation with the PNG Olympic Committee.

Africa:

GB advised there was nothing to report in his region other than the African States event had been cancelled.

Americas:

IH provided a report on the Americas and the Caribbean. No report was available from Argentina or the Falkland Islands although in the former, amalgamation of the men and ladies organisations is still being progressed. Normal activity remains in Brazil and in Canada much of the report related to internal domestic matters. Planning is still on-going in Jamaica to start a high school league.

7. MEDIA & PR & SOCIAL MEDIA REPORTS

Detailed WB web-site statistics were provided for the Board by Hunter Johnstone, the WB web-site designers and GC provided comprehensive social media statistics and reports.

8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

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

World Bowls Office:

GS updated the Board on the position regarding the office premises located within Sportscotland, Edinburgh, Scotland - offices are still closed with only access allowed being for two hours on Wednesdays each week until further notice due to ongoing pandemic restrictions.

World Bowls Review:

Three expressions of interest received from companies detailing their proposals in this regard duly circulated to directors for consideration – additional details are recorded under the President's report above.

Affiliation & Membership Matters:

The latest details of registered membership were circulated to the Board for information.

Sri Lanka – Their Development Membership Application, application fee and constitution document had been received for consideration by the Board who approved the application to be readmitted as a Development Member of World Bowls. CL, Regional Director for the Asia Region, will liaise on a regular basis to monitor progress with meeting the requirements of their development membership. Additionally, it was stressed that more regular monitoring of the progress of all Development Members in meeting the criteria is required for this level of membership.

CL is also maintaining an on-going contact with Vietnam regarding Development Membership of that country

PNG - regular contact is maintained with the PNG NOC regarding the ongoing progress to resolve the constitutional issues relating to the MNA. Their 2021 annual return and 2020 & 2021 fees have still not been received and as such they remain suspended from membership.

Zambia – £3750 late withdrawal from events penalty invoices remain outstanding and the Board still await a formal response to the Board's proposals presented to Zambia B.A. They too remain suspended from membership.

Events:

World Bowls Events - The recommendations agreed by the Board were duly communicated to all MNAs in April 2021. This was followed up with a questionnaire to MNAs specifically on the subject of the Under 25s/Youth & Senior s events recommendations and the summary of the responses to this questionnaire were duly distributed to directors.

2023 World Bowls Championships - It has been announced that the revised World Bowls Championships will still be staged on Gold Coast, Australia from 29th August 2023 – 10th September 2023

2021 World Under 25's - It has been agreed that this event scheduled to be held at County Antrim IBC, N. Ireland in December 2021 has had to be cancelled.

2022 World Bowls Indoor Championships – GS, as reported at the April board meeting, had a conference meeting with the Secretary of IIBC and Chief Executive of English Indoor Bowling Association and it was agreed that Bristol IBC will host these Championships in April 2022.

2021 African States Tournament - this event, which was to be staged in Namibia, has now been postponed until 2023 on dates yet to be decided..

World Bowls Challenge – it was agreed that the Board would be required to make a final decision as to whether to proceed with this event in 2022. DC agreed to speak to Neil Dalrymple regarding cost allocation aspects.

IOC/IPC:

Since the last Board meeting it has been announced by IOC that Brisbane, Australia has been chosen to host the 2032 Olympic & Paralympic Games. It is recognised that Lawn Bowls has a fantastic opportunity to be a host city pick as a sport to be included at these Games and Bowls Australia has immediately initiated lobbying in this regard with WB doing everything it can to support that quest building upon the considerable WB efforts to date to seek IOC recognition. This was referred to during the discussions at the IBD General Assembly conference meeting on 22 August 2021- see also the President's report above.

International Bowls for the Disabled:

President DC and GS attended the conference General Assembly of IBD on 22 August providing input into the discussions as considered appropriate, with GS additionally outlining details of the World Bowls/IBD relationship from IBD's formation to the current time - see also the President's report above.

Anti-Doping Matters:

A number of TUE applications received at headquarters have been processed since the last board meeting.

Laws Committee & CGF Matters;

Kerry Clark CNZM, OBE (KC) provided a written report to the Board, advising that since the last meeting, there had been no activities requiring the input of the Laws Committee. With regard to CG2022, KC advised that he was having fortnightly meetings with the CG2022 Lawn Bowls Competition Manager, Kat Valk, and her assistant, Eleanor Shipp, dealing with operational matters as they arise. GS has also been involved in a number of conference meetings with KC and Kat Valk as was considered necessary regarding specific matters relating to the 2022 Games e.g. the greens at Leamington Spa and the use of coloured bowls proposal. KC acknowledged and appreciated the support from the Board on the proposal for the use of coloured bowls and that a meeting had been held with the manufacturers to discuss the matter – a response from them was awaited. KC, HW & GS represented World Bowls at this positive meeting. GS advised that Kat Valk has requested detailed feedback from the individual manufacturers by the end of the week following that meeting.

During the board's further discussions on this subject it was highlighted by both GS & HW that the representatives of the four bowls manufacturers who attended the meeting considered that they had no issue with production of required models and sizes of bowls in red and blue with these being stock colours. The manufacturers' main concerns revolved around the logistics and flow of information to the manufacturers relating to individual team members' requirements and associated timelines for production and delivery as well as costs, who would pay and settlement aspects. It was appreciated that sets would be heavily discounted and that some selected players would already be sponsored by individual bowls manufacturers. The question of availability of a stock of red and blue bowls from each manufacturer at the venue had formed part of the discussions at the meeting with manufacturers. Inevitably there will be some competitors arriving at the Games without pre-delivered sets of red and blue bowls, an especially important factor to consider for some of the smaller nations and even for those wishing to change bowls during the event. Considerations also included a rent and return system. Ultimately, the CG2022

Organising Committee will be presenting full details of the red & blue bowls package and information and timeline requirements to the individual national CGAs.

Following a request by Kat Valk to be involved in a greens inspection meeting at Leamington Spa, GS attended the meeting in early June along with representatives of CG2022 Birmingham, Warwick District Council, Bowls England and Green Maintenance Company consultants and staff, which was then followed up in July with a further requested visit to Leamington Spa during the hosting of a Home Nations Test Series to gather feedback on the greens' performance during actual high level play. Bowls England are currently conducting their national finals on the greens so no doubt there will be further feedback on the performance of the greens.

The COP for the games will then be signed off by the CGF and issued to CGA's and MNA's along with the information on coloured bowls. Both RB and Allan Thornhill (AT) have been kept up to date regarding technical official requirements for the games and both attended a recent test match series at Leamington Spa to familiarise themselves with the greens and facilities. KC concluded by referring to the announcement of the new CEO for the CGF.

The CGF President's recent article relating to the future of the Commonwealth Games has raised serious concerns regarding the hosting of future Games and associated further review of sports to be presented at future editions of the Games. GS indicated that it is evident that WB must continue to do everything possible to protect the status of Lawn Bowls within the Games.

The CGF has announced that there will be a review of the Commonwealth Youth Games and have announced that Katie Sadleir (NZ) has been appointed as the new CGF CEO.

GS advised that ITO Laws Committee Members Allan Thornhill and Roger Black conducted ITO accreditation/reaccreditations in England and Scotland in recent months.

Legal Matters:

GS confirmed completion of the necessary paperwork to Companies House for the changes to the Board composition - termination of appointment form for John Bell and appointment of Director form for Brett O'Riley and the annual return of Company Information held at Companies Registry have been completed and submitted.

Requirements to amend the Articles of Association - with regard to the requirement for changes in the Articles in the area of timing of the Biennial Council meeting, it was agreed that the review process could potentially result in a number of recommendations requiring amendment to the Articles in addition to the already identified requirement in relation to the timing of Biennial Council Meetings.

GS advised also that it can be anticipated that there will be other areas identified during the forthcoming independent review resulting in recommendations potentially requiring resolutions to be presented to Council relating to amendments to the Articles e.g. terms of office of directors to ensure not all directors can be voted out of office at the same time.

GS outlined the timings relating to the 2022 Commonwealth Games and that the bowls events are scheduled to finish on Saturday 6th August 2022. The Council Meeting would require to be scheduled for Sunday 7th August with the Board meeting then being on Monday 8th August and Tuesday 9th August.

Development:

The revised Development Strategy was launched in June 2021 with a link to the Development Strategy document embedded in the June newsletter.

Development enquiries received since the last Board meeting have been acknowledged in an appropriate manner and duly passed on to the relevant Regional Director for their action. In consultation with the RD for the Oceania Region, GS provided guidance to Niue LBA in relation to their Development Assistance Application aiming to provide the services of a qualified Coach from NZ.

The Bowling Federation of India conducted a successful virtual coaching workshop in late May 2021 with the programme for the workshop directed by leading coach Dr Simon Botha.

Bowls Manufacturers, Testers & Synthetic Surfaces

GS reported that invoices for the second half payment due of the annual licence fee will be issued to all Licensed Bowls Manufacturers in early September and that the Bowls Doctor (Barry Cox) has now ceased operation as a World Bowls Licensed Tester and has relinquished his Working Reference Bowl to the WB accredited consultant, Don Sherman.

Sportslabs based in Livingston, Scotland has now been accredited as a WB greens testing laboratory/organisation.

Liaison with specific bowls manufacturers has been required to obtain further standard unbiased and Working Reference Bowls for use in connection with Performance Standards testing by this new and a number of other accredited testing laboratories/organisations

Financial Matters:

GS confirmed that all the monthly accounts documentation for the current financial year up to end of July has been sent to directors, together with an updated balance sheet following receipt of the 2020 audited accounts.

In consultation with the accountants it was agreed that the 2020 accounts would include a provision for bad debts in relation to the Zambia and Kenya outstanding events late withdrawal penalty fees invoices, which were still outstanding for settlement as at the end of 2020.

The Board approved the 2020 World Bowls audited and finalised accounts. The 2020 accounts will now be able to be issued to MNAs with a date for the Annual Council Meeting to be conducted as still required by email arrangements with a voting/proxy form to approve the accounts and reappoint our auditors.

GS confirmed the bank accounts signatories had been updated following John Bell's resignation and appointment of GC to the Finance Committee.

The Board reconfirmed the previous decision that 2022 affiliation fees will be levied at the 2020 fees level less 25%.

Resolved:

Sri Lanka to be re-admitted as a Development Member.

The 2021 World under 25 Championship to be cancelled.

DC to speak to Neil Dalrymple (BA) to discuss financial arrangements for the World Bowls Challenge for consideration by the Board.

9. FINANCE REPORT.

Tabled: Financial documents for the current financial year up to the end of July 2021 were circulated prior to the Board meeting.

The Board approved the 2020 finalised audited accounts for signing and issue to MNA's.

GS will organise the Annual Council Meeting to approve the accounts and to re-appoint the auditors – voting will be conducted by email.

GS in addition will now progress the updating of the financial forecast, taking into account the decisions taken at the Board meeting and the recent announcement of the cancellation of the World under 25 Championships.

GS clarified for GB the item on the balance sheet for PAYE & NIC which relates to previous years' employment allowance considered by the accountants to be recoverable from HMRC.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS:

None

Future Meetings: Meetings to be arranged with SBP Advisory.

R Black

2nd September 2021