



## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**(Meeting held by “Go-to-Meeting” conference call on  
28 February 2022)**

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### **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  
Sue Beatt (SB) – Appointed Director

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Gary Smith (GS) – Chief Executive  
Roger Black (RB) - Minute Taker

#### **1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES:**

The President opened the meeting at 11.00 hours (UK time) and welcomed all to the Board meeting, especially Sue Beatt to her first Board meeting since being appointed to the Board.

#### **2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

Hazel Wilson – No longer Secretary Welsh Women’s Bowling Association.  
Sue Beatt – Chair of Bowls Scotland

#### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**Tabled:** Minutes of previous Board meeting.

The minutes of the previous Board meeting held in August 2021 were accepted as a true record of the proceedings.

DC advised that most actions recorded in the minutes have been completed – the WB review has been undertaken by SBP Advisory; a Bowls in the Olympics Advisory Group (BOAG), which has already met a couple of times, has been established to devise and deliver a campaign for the sport to be recognised at future Olympics and Paralympics; the responses to the questionnaire on

the subject of World Bowls Under 25's/Youth and Senior events recommendations had been circulated to the Board and further considerations in this regard would be subject to assessment priority considerations of recommendations relating to events within SBP's Review.

#### **4. BUSINESS ARISING**

IH queried the entry in the minute regarding a development application grant from Niue and was advised that no current application is held.

#### **5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President DC provided the Board with a comprehensive report in advance of the meeting in which he indicated that the finalisation of the SBP report has provided WB with an incredible opportunity to grow, promote, develop and safeguard the sport. His focus, shared by the implementation group of DC, IH, BO and the SBP team, is to plan a pathway to be in a position to take advantage of the opportunity.

He confirmed the Implementation Plan had been agreed by the Board as the best way to proceed and that prioritising each of the elements of the Plan would be critical. Work was already underway and/or been advanced in several areas:-

- a) A Melbourne based lawyer with more than 30 years' experience in corporate governance, sports law and corporations law has been engaged to assist with the review of the WB Articles. Both GS and DC have been in contact with him to outline the areas of governance documents which they feel need review. Key areas which have been highlighted include rotating terms for Board Members, voting rights and the role of the Council in relation to the role of the Board.
- b) The report also highlighted the appointment of SB as a new Appointed Director with specific skills in HR. SB has provided a template for the initiative addressing the Board skills audit to help inform future succession planning and recruitment.
- c) In addition, a meeting is scheduled with International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD) President, Paul Brown, to discuss the future relationship of both organisations.
- d) Draft Expressions of Interest (EOI's) to identify an appropriate and the most beneficial location for the World Bowls Head Office and for Marketing and Communications services have been prepared – approval for these documents to be distributed to MNAs was given by the Board.

GS suggested that a time-line for any proposed relocation of the World Bowls Headquarters Office should be included in the EOI in order that MNA's have sufficient time to consider the options available to them and any potential supporting funding agencies.

DC's report also mentioned other activities included participation in the Bowls in the Olympics Advisory Group (BOAG), Chaired by the Bowls Australia CEO which comprises of DC & GS representing WB plus representatives from a number of MNA's as well as SBP Advisory who have provided a comprehensive methodology for advancing this issue. A further meeting of this group will be scheduled within the coming weeks.

DC confirmed that he and GS shall be part of a briefing from the CGF on the Federation's future directions including progress with the 2026 – 2030 Strategic Roadmap as well as an update on the progress being made by the Birmingham Organising Committee.

In relation to the Commonwealth Games there are reports that the Victorian Government, the CGF and Commonwealth Games Australia (CGA) are in the process of preparing agreements to

host the 2026 Games and a formal announcement is imminent. This has subsequently been formally announced by CGF.

DC concluded his report by informing the Board he had been invited to attend the next edition of the Bowls Premier League to be held at the Moama Bowls Club and that he shall be involved in discussions with Club officials and Bowls Australia representatives to discuss the future of the World Bowls Challenge, the initial event having been held at the Club in November, 2019.

More information is recorded later in this minute.

IH expressed some concerns over potential changes in the methodology of electing RD's.

Removing a RD could be a retrograde step in his view. MNA's wished to be represented on the Board and the current system allowed for that. GS explained the background to the Regional structure for the benefit of the Board.

DC advised the meeting mentioned he had a meeting with Ellen Falkner regarding an athlete's commission and she is contacting some of the elite bowlers world-wide to ascertain their view on the review and their recommendations. There was in DC's view a need to establish an athlete's commission as part of the WB Constitution.

IH had reservations on weighting voting and wished to have it fully discussed at a future meeting. DC added that once a draft Constitution has been prepared, the Board will be given an opportunity to comment on it and discuss the contents. The issue of voting rights and some of the Constitutional changes have been raised by the major countries in the past, are important issues, and are open for discussion.

**Resolved:**

Documents calling for Expressions of Interest relating to the location of the World Bowls Headquarters office and Marketing & Communications services were approved to be issued to MNA's.

**6. REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:**

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

**Europe:**

GC's comprehensive report covered major changes to the British Isles Bowling Council (BIBC) (both men and women) following on a meeting earlier in the month and provided dates and venues of events arranged for the 2022 season – Home Nations Invitation Test Match, joint British Isles Championships and Home Nations Junior Invitation together with the responsibilities of the Host Nation. GC's report indicated BIBC would be officially dissolved with each country providing one representative to form a working party to develop a road map for future British Isles events.

Bowls Europe is planning the European Championships in July 2022 but the planned Para event is looking unlikely and may be cancelled.

A European Coaching forum had been held in December with further meetings being planned supported by Scotland and England

GC's report provided an update on each of the MNA's in the region with **Cyprus, Israel, Jersey, Netherlands, Hungary and Turkey** all interested in coaching in some form or other. A senior fours event in **Cyprus** was cancelled, **England** were planning to host a test series prior to the CG, and **Ireland** were planning a junior event in September 2022. Both **Guernsey** and **Isle**

**Of Man** had limited numbers participating in CG2022 but **Jersey** had a full squad. **Scotland** was to host the European Championships and **Wales** the joint BI Championships in July 2022. **Spain** were hoping to hold more events but remained affected by Covid-19.

A change in the personnel in **France** was adversely affecting communications.

**Switzerland** and the **Czech Republic** were both participating in the European Championships and progress was being made in **Germany, Portugal** and **Sweden**.

Although there was nothing to report on new members, contact names were known for a potential 10 new members within Europe.

GC alluded to the possibility of coaching events prior to the European Championships in July of this year and sought approval from the Board for similar costings as previously awarded from the development fund of £3k. Subject to completion of the appropriate forms, the Board approved.

### **Asia:**

CL provided a report for the Board, summarised as follows:-

No updates were available from Brunei, India, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, Bangladesh (whose previous Development Membership had been terminated) and Sri Lanka ( a current Development Member) and contact had either been lost or no updates were forthcoming from South Korea, Taiwan, and UAE, all potential Development members. Contact has been established in Vietnam but no progress as yet.

A report on Iran is expanded in the CEO report.

CL reported that **China** held the first competition in the Nation Games of China in September 2021 and it is anticipated that the same competition will be held in 2025. China will also host the Asian Championships in August 23 -29, subject to covid-19.

Bowling activities have ceased in **Hong Kong** from January 2022 due to Covid-19. It is expected that HKLBA, later this year, will form an Organising Committee for the 2025 World Bowls Championships.

In **Japan**, the 2021 World Master Games has been postponed until May 2026 but they have planned to organise the 7<sup>th</sup> Japan International Open Tournament in Kobe City in October 2022.

**Macao** has decided not to participate in any events outside of Macao.

In **Malaysia**, a new 16 rink indoor has been opened with another covered green under construction and later in the year they hope to organise under 15 and under 18 age group competitions subject to Covid-19.

**Philippine LBA** are to start introducing the sport to schools and universities with a meeting with the Federation of School Sports Association.

CL enquired about countries seeking assistance from WB to train coaches and was reminded that a World Bowls Development Strategy with a development application process existed and that MNA's were required to submit an application through the Regional Director to present to the Board. DC added that there was scope for coaching development issues to be dealt with in the Review recommendations. CL was asked to let GS know the countries involved and for what they were looking. He thought that countries such as Australia and New Zealand would be more than willing to be part of a programme that helped struggling countries in that area. GS thought centralising coaching exercises in Asia similar to the ones being held in Europe was the way forward.

## **Oceania:**

BO reported under the heading of “Regional Initiatives” that he was organising discussions with each MNA in his Region regarding the Strategic Review and that he was also looking for government aid funding from Australia and New Zealand to enable additional development in all the MNA’s. Para Bowls opportunities were also being discussed in the Pacific Islands MNA’s. DC mentioned Ellen Falkner, who had recently moved from England to Australia, and who may be a good source of information to develop Bowls generally and in particular Para Bowls.

**Australia and New Zealand** – BO is working with both MNA’s on funding opportunities to aid Pacific Island development and had made a presentation to Bowls NZ on the Strategic Review.

**Fiji** – Support is being provided with development plans, which included funding for an officer who could also support other South Pacific countries.

**Cook Islands** – Similarly with Fiji, funding models are being looked at for their Development Officer position and BO is liaising with regard to Commonwealth Games and potential pre-Commonwealth Games competition.

**Niue** – BO has assisted this MNA in their planning for the Commonwealth Games with continuing discussions on development opportunities.

**PNG** – BO and the WB CEO are working through the accreditation process with the new Association in consultation with the PNG Commonwealth Games Association.

Meetings are awaited with the executive of both **Norfolk Island** and **Samoa**.

With regard to possible new members, opportunities are being explored for Vanuatu, Pitcairn Island and Tokelau.

BO added that Covid-19 continued to be disruptive in the region, having a detrimental effect on CG training etc.

BO referred to the BPL that had recently been held in Moama - televised, good coverage and was, he thought, to be a great showcase for bowling.

## **Africa:**

GB reported that he has been in touch with the majority of MNA’s over the period and that all countries are continuing with their local and domestic events.

In addition the countries are in the process of finalising their teams to participate in the upcoming Commonwealth Games- various camps / squad sessions are on the go before the announcement of the final 10 participants.

**Zambia** has requested information with regards to possible construction of a new green and have been supplied with the contacts for both artificial and lawn surfaces..

**Namibia** - at previous international events one of their players has a unique delivery in that he lines up behind and off the mat - then walks on the mat and with a smidgen of a hesitation releases the bowl.

The South African Umpires Board has written a letter to the Province advising that he could be foot-faulted out of Birmingham CG, if selected, as his delivery could be deemed to be illegal. This has obviously caused a problem.

GB added that he was in the process of discussing the issue with RB to reach a satisfactory solution and would advise the relevant bodies in due course.

**South Africa** - all MNA’s have received the survey that was undertaken and GB was requested to attend and to brief the SA Board on its contents and thinking behind some of the recommendations. The CEO of Bowls South Africa (BSA) has given feedback that they are very

impressed with the presentation and content of the report. BSA have indicated that they will carefully study the report and highlight parallels where improvement to both the local structure and the game can be identified and implemented to effect welcome change that would hopefully benefit the game in general. In a nutshell BSA is supportive of change and that WB can count on their support going forward.

GB has been asked to chair a standing committee to investigate all SA events held under the jurisdiction of BSA and to present a paper by the end of August detailing recommendations for changes to formats / sponsorships / venues and anything else that could help these events in particular and BSA in general.

### **Americas:**

IH submitted prior to the meeting a detailed report on the Americas and Caribbean, summarised as follows:-

**Argentina** - Bowls continues to be played in private clubs and they will submit views on the Review.

**Brazil**-Clubs are returning to normal and several events are to take place – a long-standing Interstate Tournament and a Brazilian Cup. Brazil continues to think a Pan American Cup would be good for all MNA's in the Americas.

**Canada** - The Federal Government of Canada is offering financial support to National Sports Organisations and Bowls Canada Boulingrin (BCB) IS in the process of completing a new Strategic Plan. Covid-19 affected the winter short/carpet mat, which is played when clubs are closed over the winter months and when, traditionally, players head for warmer climates in the southern parts of America and become members of clubs affiliated to Bowls USA. The BCB website remains a source of information on BCB activities.

Included in the report provided by IH was the initial feedback from Canada to the SBP report. The **Falkland Islands**, a Development Member, indicated they had raised funds to build a 2 rink artificial green, were working to train a squad for CG2022 Birmingham and have two entries for the World Indoor Bowls Championships.

In **Jamaica**, also a Development Member, high school leagues continued to progress, two players were competing in the World Bowls Indoor Championships and there was continued interaction with a New Zealand coach.

**USA** – IH also attached an interesting and detailed report, copied to the Directors, of what was happening in the various different areas of the States – eg in the South East, bowling was fully operational but the pandemic continued to affect several clubs and membership had fallen as a number of bowlers from Canada did not travel to the region for the winter season. The South West area is hosting the USA Open in October 2022 with interest already from overseas players. In the North East, there has been some growth due in part to a new facility built in 2021. Bowls USA increased their affiliation fees for the first time since 2011 with little adverse comment.

IH emphasised that an application for development funding would be made for the re-organisation of BUSA via the use of consultants.

### **Resolved:**

Approval was given for expenditure relating to coaching costs incurred prior to the European Championships subject to completion of the relevant forms.

## **7. MEDIA & PR & SOCIAL MEDIA REPORTS**

The Board were reminded by HW that the media and comms group had not met, as was previously agreed, since the review had been commissioned.

GC provided the Board with a social media report which included up to date statistics relating to Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and GS had provided detailed statistics relating to the website activity. DC asked for an explanation of impressions - 1.4 million was shown in 2021 - and GC was able to furnish an explanation as to what the figures actually meant. information to the Board.

GS raised concerns relating to the British Isles events - referred to in GC's report - about what was happening at all levels with the British Isles International Series and moving forward, that the British Isles Bowls Council (BIBC) was being dissolved with a new group being formed to consider the way forward. There appeared to be a lack of communication to members from some relevant MNAs. SB and HW added that there had been no formal communication as nothing had been decided and GC was unable to provide any additional information. GS reminded the Board that all International events had to be sanctioned by WB.

## **8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:**

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

The Board was furnished with the latest details of registered membership, expanding and clarifying where appropriate as follows:-

A couple of MNAs still required to submit their completed 2022 Annual Return of Registered Members although they have paid their 2022 affiliation fees.

**Iran** – An application for Development Membership had been received from Iran (B.B.B.F.I.R.) for the Board's approval. Another organisation in Iran going by the title of Bowls Iran had also applied and correspondence had been on going with both. The application from B.B.B.F.I.R. is supported by the required letter of authorisation/recognition of the Iran National Olympic Committee (NOC) and Bowls Iran has been advised that World Bowls can only accept application from one national authority authorised/recognised by their NOC. GS confirmed that the membership fee had been paid by B.B.B.F.I.R.

In view of the conflict arising from two applications from Iran, DC advised GS to furnish the Board with the relevant papers in order for them to give the matter further consideration and to come with their approval or otherwise within a week. In the interim, the membership application would be held without any further action in the meantime. (Very shortly after the board meeting, CL received further correspondence from Bowls Iran, which supported the decision to put the application on hold pending receipt of verifiable confirmation from the Iran National Olympic Committee that the internal dispute between the rival bodies is resolved and their absolute final confirmation of which single body they recognise and authorise to administer and develop the sport in Iran).

IH wondered about the politics that may arise in the future with both Iran and Israel being members but WB had met similar problems in the past with other countries that had certain 'differences' and had dealt with it in the required manner when it arose.

**Tonga** - No 2022 affiliation fees or return has been submitted to date but bearing in mind the natural catastrophe that has taken place in that country recently, GS recommended that their

2022 payment be waived and that their 2021 registered membership figures be recorded for 2022. This was duly agreed by the Board.

**PNG** – PNG remained suspended from membership of World Bowls whilst they finalise the establishment of a new national authority in liaison with PNGSF & OC. The new body requires to apply for World Bowls membership. CG2022 Birmingham has received an indication that PNG intend to enter a number of the Lawn Bowls disciplines and WB have made them aware of the current unaffiliated status of PNG.

### **Legal matters:**

GS advised the Board that he submitted the required Appointment of Director form to Companies Registry following SB's appointment as a director for an initial period of two years. GS has been liaising with Ian Fullagar of Lex Sportiva, a legal company based in Australia in relation to his engagement to review the current World Bowls constitution in accordance with the Review Implementation Plan.

The Board were reminded of the Council meeting scheduled for 7 August 2022 and that this date dictates the various other deadline dates relating to the processes for the election of the President and Regional Directors, notice of the meeting, issue of agenda and presentation of resolutions to be considered by Council etc. as defined in the current Articles of Association.

### **World Bowls Office :**

The WB office along with all other tenants' offices at Sportscotland, Caledonia House in Edinburgh, has continued to be subject to the appropriate limited access since the last board meeting, although the operational requirements of World Bowls have continued to run smoothly during this challenging period without any major issues. It was pleasing to report that these restrictions are now gradually easing.

GS advised that the office lease in Sportscotland, Caledonia House expired in January 2022 and Sportscotland decided to grant a one-year extension to all tenants, which included a 10% discount on previous annual rental payment. The extended lease was duly signed and it was expected that there will be further details later this year from Sportscotland regarding the office lease to take effect from January 2023.

### **Bowls Manufacturers & Testers:**

The Licensed Bowls Tester, George Mackay in Edinburgh has advised that he will be ceasing operations in November 2022.

All Licensed Testers have now been invoiced for their annual licence fee at the same rate as levied in 2021 and all Licensed Bowls Manufacturers have now been invoiced for the first half instalment of their annual licence fee at the same rate as levied in 2021.

CL asked about the provision of coaching bowls from Manufacturers. GS confirmed that unstamped, smaller bowls were available and it was agreed GS would contact all Manufacturers to seek information on what offers they are already making or would be willing to make available to MNA's to supply sets of bowls to support coaching programmes for all groups.

### **Artificial Surfaces:**

Since the last board meeting GS has continued to deal with a number of enquiries relating to the above subject, liaising with Keith McAuliffe, the WB leading technical consultant, as considered appropriate.

Correspondence has been received from a company named Acousto-Scan Pty Ltd based in Australia, indicating that the company will be submitting a formal application to become a World Bowls Accredited Testing Organisation of synthetic bowling green surfaces. A formal request for the company to become one of WB's Accredited Testing Organisations has now been received and the company have provided all the required impressive supporting documentation.



The Board, having been issued with the relevant paperwork, agreed to allow GS to continue dealing with the application.

**Laws Committee & CGF business:**

GS reported that the Laws Committee has done another outstanding job in relation to the review of the Laws of the Sport and the Board had been provided with a copy of the revised Laws proposals and a full update regarding the detailed process and the applicable timetable the Laws Committee (LC) has been required to work to during the process in order to ultimately meet the deadline for the relevant resolutions to be presented to MNAs, as dictated by the date of the Council meeting.

Kerry Clark CNZM, OBE has advised that he will be retiring from his position of Chair of the World Bowls Laws Committee with effect from the August Council meeting. Kerry has been an outstanding leader of this committee for many years and his overall considerable contribution to our sport deserves the highest level of appreciation and gratitude. The Board has confirmed the appointment of Laws Committee member Allan Thornhill as the new Chair of the Laws Committee w.e.f. August 2022.

**WADA:**

MNA's were reminded that the 2022 WADA List of Prohibited Substances and Methods came into force on 1 January 2022.

Several virtual meetings have been held between GS and World Bowls' new WADA Sport Movement Relations contact and WB have been advised of the receipt of a further WADA Code Compliance Questionnaire for completion at a time dependent upon in which tier level WADA place World Bowls which has been intimated as a Tier 4 International Federation WADA Code Signatory (subsequently confirmed). GS added, having dealt with the previous complex, detailed and time-consuming questionnaire a few years ago, together with the corrective actions following completion of that questionnaire to ultimately achieve confirmation from WADA of World Bowls' full compliance at that time, that it will be another time-consuming exercise. GS will copy the questionnaire to the Board under separate cover for their information. Further meetings will take place with the WADA contact.

**World Bowls Events and 2022 Commonwealth Games update:**

Kerry Clark CNZM, OBE continues to act as the WB IF CG Technical Delegate through to Games time but he will not be travelling to attend the Games and the Board has approved the appointment of GS to fill the role of Technical Delegate during the Games. Having been appointed to this position, GS is now involved in the numerous, regular virtual meetings on the wide range of subjects relating to Lawn Bowls & Para Lawn Bowls at the Games, including areas relating to e.g. broadcasting, venue infrastructure and overlay, media, medical and anti-doping, COVID, transport, technical officials, field of play, the look of the Games, technology, communication, medal ceremonies, indicated entries, results service and more.

GS provided to the Board a comprehensive report and update on the 2022 Commonwealth Games. The Board felt it was imperative that the opportunity to promote World Bowls was maximised.

GS added that it was worth mentioning that by the end of April 2022 the Covid-19 protocols for the Games would be finalised and implemented even although the restrictions in England were mainly lifted. There would be testing every day and there were concerns about substitution rules should an athlete require to self-isolate. The CGF were now looking at their late replacement and substitutions conditions and would decide by the end of April if any changes were required. GS is the WB International Federation Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) for the Games and will be responsible for input of all WB accreditation requirements for World Bowls officials,

staff etc. to the online accreditation system by no later than 22 April 2022. The available accreditations to World Bowls are limited and fall into different status categories as dictated by the content of CGF'S Games Family Accreditation Manual.

At the request of DC, GS explained the detailed position with accreditation and what the differing accreditation included.

Exact full details of those directors attending the Games, for what period of the Games and what costs World Bowls is prepared to cover for required/desired attendance at the Games prior to the currently scheduled Council meeting on 7 August 2022 and any other required board commitments would be subject to further exchanges in the days following the meeting.

As indicated in the President's report, DC, Kerry Clark and GS will be attending a CGF seminar for International Federations in March for CGF to provide an update on the substantial progress being made by the Birmingham Organising Committee, provide an update on the CGF's future direction including progress with their 2026-2030 roadmap, provide further details on the CGF's Digital Strategy and discuss how CGF and International Federations can collaborate to maximise collective reach and exposure.

## **Events:**

### **2022 World Bowls Indoor Championships-Bristol, England**

All arrangements are proceeding satisfactorily, with an excellent level of confirmed entries covering 29 Member Nations. At the time of the Board meeting there were 29 Member Nations with consideration being given to ensure a final field of 32 in all disciplines. GS was appointed to be the Tournament Director of this event and will be assisted at the event by IIBC personnel. Arrangements are being made for live-streaming of the event through IIBC/Host National Authority EIBA.

The Board agreed that GC as the Regional Director would attend the event and be involved in opening/closing ceremonies and medal presentations. Should GC be unable to attend then HW or SB would endeavour to attend instead.

### **2022 World Singles Champion of Champions-Naena B.C., Lower Hutt, Wellington, NZ**

All initial information and the entry form for this event has been issued with closing date for entries being 15 May 2022. The Board has approved Bowls NZ's Chris Lander to be the Tournament Director for the event. BO will be attending the event to represent World Bowls.

### **2022 World Under 25s Championships**

IIBC is the lead partner for this event and it has been indicated by IIBC that County Antrim IBC, N. Ireland still remain willing to host this event during the usual December 2022 period.

### **World Bowls Challenge**

DC confirmed he had discussions with BA officials and Moama about the 2024 World Bowls Challenge, with a suggestion it was played immediately following on the BPL event held in Moama in February 2024. A request from Moama to hold the next three events including the 2024 Challenge was agreed in years where there were no CG or World Championships. The budget for the event would be re-assessed, set and confirmed to HW that there would be no overspend. It was also confirmed the decision to hold this event had been finalised following reviews with MNAs.

### **2023 World Championships-Gold Coast, Australia**

The Hosting Agreement for the cancelled 2020 World Championships now requires to be updated and GS will be liaising with the CEO, Bowls Australia to progress this matter.

The 2023 Host Organising Committee requires an early decision from the Board regarding the use of coloured bowls at these Championships and DC confirmed that he had spoken to BA and broadcasting organisations when at Moama and they were happy with red and blue bowls at the 2023 World Championships following on the precedent set by CG2022 Birmingham. DC was of the opinion that WB continues with the use of red and blue bowls at WB major events. HW, although in complete agreement with the principle, was concerned at delivery dates and the upfront cost involved. DC also stated that the non-Commonwealth Games countries participating in the World Championships had to be informed of the change to red and blue bowls. Arrangements would then have to be made with manufacturers in relation to supply and associated logistical requirements.

GS would now confirm with BA regarding the decision to use only red and blue bowls and also the inclusion of Para Bowls being incorporated into the Championships. Discussions with the IBD President indicated that these will be the same disciplines as being played at the Commonwealth Games.

### **2025 World Championships-Hong Kong China**

A formal hosting agreement requires to be progressed with HKLBA but GS recommended that this await finalisation of the 2023 World Championships Hosting Agreement.

### **Bowls in the Olympics Advisory Group (BOAG)**

DC and GS represent World Bowls on this Group, which is chaired by the Bowls Australia CEO. Valuable historical and well recorded information was provided by GS to the Group during the two meetings of the Group held to date. This has covered World Bowls' detailed GAISF/IOC recognition application process and the related barriers experienced, especially with regard to being able to meet the minimum criteria of these international bodies.

The minutes of the two meetings were issued to the Board.

### **International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD)**

DC and GS are due to attend a meeting with Paul Brown, IBD President, to discuss how the two organisations can best further develop the existing relationship, including consideration as to whether transitioning to a 'merger' of IBD governance and operations into World Bowls is the most appropriate way forward in our quest to achieve IPC as well as IOC recognition.

#### **Resolved:**

Board to consider the application for membership from Iran when the internal dispute between the relevant rival bodies in Iran is resolved.

GC to attend the WB Indoor Championships in Bristol.

2022 affiliation fees due from Tonga to be waived.

GS to copy the WADA questionnaire to Directors.

GS to confirm with BA regarding the decision to use only red and blue bowls and also the inclusion of Para Bowls disciplines in the 2023 Championships.

**Action:**

Application from Acousto-can, based in Australia, to become a WB Accredited Testing Organisation approved by the Board on completion of the necessary paperwork.

GS to contact Bowls Manufacturers to obtain details of availability and costs to supply sets of bowls to support MNAs' and their members' coaching and development schemes.

**Financial Matters:****9. FINANCE REPORT.**

**Tabled:** Financial documents for the current financial year up to the end of January 2022 were circulated prior to the Board meeting.

GS advised that a further set of monthly reports would be issued on the day after the meeting for the month ended February 2022. All 2021 financial documents are now in the hands of the WB auditors, ERC Accountants, and once any queries that may be received from the auditors have been satisfactorily resolved a first draft of accounts for the 2021 financial year will be received shortly thereafter as usual. On completion of the formal 2021 accounts, the Board will sign them off so that the final audited accounts can be issued to MNAs for approval at the Council Meeting in August and filed at Companies House.

Forecasts continue to be updated on an on-going basis as and when required with further updates being anticipated to be required as a result of financial implications of progressing and implementing the Review recommendations.

A discussion on the methodology of collection of and level of fees at the next Board meeting was suggested by DC but added that the system in operation at present remain for the next round of collection of fees but long-term consideration should be given to a different method of the charging of fees – perhaps returning to fees being paid dependent upon membership levels. GS and DC agreed to prepare a paper for the Board to consider alternative methods of calculating fees for consideration at the next board meeting.

DC also thought that the level of fees for hosting WB events was insufficient and required to be reviewed.

DC also queried Governance cost shown in the accounts and GS provided satisfactory explanations as to the entry and what it covered.

Following a request from the Laws Committee to increase the budget for ITO assessments in 2022, which was duly approved by the Board, it was proposed that the CEO be provided with a discretionary limit of £10,000 to process requests of this nature rather than having to gain Board approval. The Board ratified this proposal.

**Staff Matter**

GS had advised DC that in the first draft of the SBP Review document there was an error in the section relating to Succession Planning with there being a reference to the retirement of the current CEO being on the horizon in mid-2023 and this was changed in the final report to the latter part of 2024. It was highlighted that his State Pension entitlement date is now 66 in the UK having changed from 65 due to subsequent retirement age legislation.

**Resolved:**

GS and DC to prepare a paper for the Board to consider alternative methods of calculating

affiliation fees.

Level of hosting fees for major WB events to be examined.

GS provided with a discretionary limit of £10k for agreed projects.

## **10. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

SB, an appointed Director, asked for clarification on directors' voting rights at board meetings and it was confirmed that Appointed Directors have no vote on appointments, which is a matter for the Appointments Committee consisting of the President and the Regional Directors, but on other matters Appointed Directors do have a vote.

SB mentioned issues around Governance were mentioned in the Review Report and it was confirmed by DC that a group would be set up to examine and report back on this subject.

BO asked the procedures for Life Membership and GS outlined the procedures to the Board.

RB referred to the review of the Laws and the Board endorsed that the revised proposed Laws be issued to MNA's. Once the MNA's have given any final feedback on the proposed Laws amendments, the Board will be asked to approve the finalised Laws amendments resolutions prior to the submission to MNA's for approval and adoption at the next Council meeting.

IH mentioned that the WB magazine in April will feature the New York Lawn Bowling Club in preparation for their Centenary celebrations in 2023. Petitions have been in circulation seeking funds to renovate the club, situated in New York's iconic location of Central Park.

## **11. COUNCIL & BOARD MEETING ARRANGEMENTS:**

2022 Biennial Council Meeting (BCM)-In accordance with the requirements of the current Articles this meeting must be organised at or around the time of the Commonwealth Games at a venue in the general vicinity of the Games venue. As such, this meeting is scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> August, the day after the Lawn Bowls disciplines at the Games are scheduled to conclude and the day before the conclusion of the overall Games on 8 August. The venue for this meeting to be finalised over the forthcoming weeks.

The limited business of the Annual Council Meeting (ACM) i.e. approval of the 2021 audited accounts and reappointment of the auditors will as usual take place just prior to the conduct of the BCM.

In response to a question, GS informed the Board that in accordance with the Articles the agenda and business of the Council Meeting was ultimately what the Board decided should be on the agenda but must certainly include the ratification of the results of the required election process for the President and Regional Directors to be commenced within the next few weeks. Other resolutions that were presented by the Board and any MNA's presented in accordance with the Articles would also be required to be on the agenda e.g. Laws of the Sport amendments resolutions resulting from the Laws of the Sport Review. The Laws Committee's Laws Review timetable was necessarily dictated by working back from the date of the BCM.

An update on implementation of the recommendations resulting from the SBP Review Report would also be expected to be included on the BCM agenda.

GS confirmed that any changes to the Articles require to be voted on by the full MNA's at the appropriate time and when presented in accordance with the requirements of the current Articles. DC reminded the Board that not all MNA's would be at the CG, a view supported by all. GS informed the Board that proxies could be appointed if necessary by those MNAs not able to attend the Council Meeting in person or virtually.

It was agreed by all that it was desirable if possible that all MNAs and any non-attending WB Directors should be afforded the opportunity to attend the Council Meeting virtually, which would encourage attendance by more 'decision maker(s)' within each MNA.

There was general discussion on what level of presentations from individual MNAs could be included within the BCM agenda or within a beneficial 'workshop' for MNAs immediately following the formal business of the BCM.

BO suggested holding a meeting of players immediately after the Games would also be beneficial to discuss the Strategic Review but it was thought that this would be logistically difficult to arrange anytime during the Games with players' commitments and could sit more comfortably with a proposed Athletes Commission at a more practical time.

It was suggested that a straw poll be taken of the members to provide details of whether they intended to be present in person at the Council Meeting and if so by whom or, alternatively, if they intend to appoint a proxy. DC suggested that Regional Directors could ask their regional MNAs what their intentions and expectations were for the Council Meeting.

It was generally indicated that a face-to-face Board meeting was not required or desirable at the end of the Games in Birmingham and that a virtual meeting just before the Games would be more appropriate with a further virtual meeting to be organised at an appropriate point sometime after the Games. Some of the WB Directors indicated that they would not consider it necessary to travel to Birmingham just to be physically present at the Council meeting and in the absence of a face-to-face board meeting. It certainly would not be cost effective for World Bowls.

It was agreed that further consideration regarding the format of the BCM and Board meeting considerations would be subject to further consideration and exchanges between the Directors and the CEO over the forthcoming days.

IH expressed his concern at the timing of the meetings due to his location in Canada and Directors resident in various different time zones and it was agreed by DC that the timing of meetings would be looked at.

R Black

5<sup>th</sup> March 2022