



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**(Meeting held by “Go-to-Meeting” conference call on
16 May 2022)**

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
Susan 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 12.00 hours (UK time) and welcomed all to the Board meeting, congratulating them on their re-election to the Board.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

No changes required.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Tabled: Minutes of previous Board meeting.

The minutes of the previous Board meeting held in February 2022 were accepted as a true record of the proceedings and accepted unanimously.

4. BUSINESS ARISING:

All business arising was to be covered in the agenda items.

5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

World Bowls Review and Recommendations.

DC referred briefly to the purpose and background of his visit to the offices of World Bowls

(WB) for the meeting and outlined to the Board his discussions with GS on the recommendations contained in the recent review relating to future staffing arrangements and the transition of GS into the role of Chief Operating Officer. He reported a positive meeting with GS, both recognising the need for some additional details to be considered such as a new contract for to be prepared for GS.

World Bowls Constitution Review.

DC advised the Board that a first draft revised Constitution had been prepared by Ian Fullagar, Lex Sportiva regarding and would be circulated to the Board. The main areas of change centred around the composition of the Board, the length of terms of Board Members and voting rights issues, all of which were expected to take considerable time to discuss and resolve. The Board were asked to consider the draft and to report back to DC. Thereafter, MNAs would be issued with the draft for their consideration. HW asked for clarification on the length of term for Appointed Directors and it was confirmed that the term of office for Appointed Directors is for period of up to 2 years and was open to re-appointment thereafter. SB advised that a Director was a Director according to Companies House and that there should be no differentiation between Appointed and Regional Directors. However, the Articles define both these positions.

Athletes Commission.

DC reported that he had met with Ellen Falkner whilst he was in Leamington Spa last week – she had spoken to several athletes from around the world regarding an Athletes Commission and had obtained extensive feedback from them of the review. Once the Commonwealth Games (CG) are completed she will provide a comprehensive report on her findings.

Expressions of Interest – Headquarters location, Marketing & Communications.

The Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the headquarters of the WB office and the outsourcing of the marketing and communications functions were referred to by DC and in principle the Board had approved the expressions of interest received from Bowls Australia subject to some further discussion on certain aspects. DC, HW and Neil Dalrymple (ND) of Bowls Australia (BA) had a meeting, the outcome of which was that ND will prepare a memorandum of understanding (MOU) specifying items such as reporting lines and staffing arrangements.

With regard to the setting up of the new WB headquarters, DC and BO along with ND will consider a plan for moving forward on the location.

Bowls in the Olympics Advisory Group (BOAG)

The minutes of the latest BOAG meeting had been issued to the Board by GS and the next meeting was awaited to discuss how best to proceed. There was agreement that the research phase should be adhered to, but that subsequent phases were up for debate. It was agreed that the biggest concern remained the lack of IOC recognition.

IH expressed concern about several “off-topic” discussion points within the BOAG minute that he felt did not further the main objective of succeeding in IOC recognition. WB has paid the SBP Advisory invoice for the first half instalment of their project fee relating to producing the World Bowls Olympic & Paralympic Business Plan 2022.

International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD)

There was no report but GS added that he was aware that IBD is pleased to be included in future

WB Championships. The ultimate aim was for them to become a part of WB other than as present, an Associate Member. Discussions continue with IBD.

Resolved:

Board approved the in principle the content of BA's expressions of interest regarding the re-location of the WB headquarters & Media & Communications.

DC and BO, along with ND to consider a plan for moving forward to the new location.

6. GOVERNANCE:

SB prepared a paper on the Governance structure that is required of a professional organisation resulting from some of the suggestions contained in the recent review. The paper contained a comprehensive list of roles and SB expanded on the contents, mentioning it contained the need for confidentiality agreements other than those already held for GS & RB, policies on IT, social media, emails, HR policies, updating of contracts affected by changes in UK employment legislation, along with certain other expenses and financial procedures. GS advised that a package of existing policies were already in place and detailed on the WB website, albeit requiring modernisation, which was a starting point for updating policies and GS agreed to forward SB a copy. DC and SB agreed to discuss further the way forward.

Action:

GS to forward copy of existing Policies to SB.

DC and SB to discuss the way forward.

7. REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

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

Europe:

GC provided a comprehensive and detailed report on the situation in his region commencing with updating the Board that the BIBC (men's body) had resolved to dissolve the organisation with not much more movement at the present time. GS flagged up the considerable anger and concern that had been expressed in the bowls media and on social media platforms from within the UK bowling fraternity in relation to the decision regarding proposed changes to the various British Isles International series. GC indicated more meetings and discussions were required and that the joint working party consisting of a representative from each of the bowling nations in the UK, chaired by Bowls England, had not even met yet.

The Bowls Europe Championships being staged in Ayr, Scotland has 17 countries participating in July 2022 playing in a new format but the para event had to be cancelled.

A coaching event prior to the Championships will be attended by 8 countries and although costings remain to be finalised it will be supported financially by World Bowls from the development fund.

A European Open 3-bowl Pairs event is being organised by Bowls Scotland to follow the above Championships and is attracting a good level of entries with a £1500 first prize.

GC attended the World Bowls Indoor Championships held in Bristol where he took the opportunity to meet with many IIBC and indoor officials informally to discuss the future and also met with officials and players from his region. Feedback on the indoor event from players and countries was recorded by GC in his report for consideration.

A proposed budget for the coaching event in to be held in Scotland prior to the Bowls Europe Championships would be submitted for consideration.

Asia:

CL advised that in China, the Asian Championships had been cancelled due to Covid-19 and that a Greater Bay Area competition between Hong Kong, China and Macau was planned for August 2022. At present Macau is unable to take part in events outside of Macau and are consequently concentrating on squad training.

Japan is due to host the 7th Japan International Open in Kobe City in October 2022, with invitations having been already issued.

Hong Kong has now resumed bowling activities and in Malaysia, now with a new Board and President ,are planning to organise the Asian Championships and the Asian Under 25 Championships in February 2023.

A development grant had been awarded to Singapore, hosts to the 2025 SEA Games, for coaching purposes.

The SEA Games in 2027 are scheduled to take place in Malaysia.

CL reported no updates were available from Brunei, India or Pakistan, nor from former Development Member Bangladesh or Development Member Sri Lanka. Updates were also unavailable from Taiwan, UAE or Vietnam, potential new members.

CL updated the Board meeting regarding his dealings with both Korea and Iran, the details of which are recorded in the CE's report under membership applications.

In conclusion, the upcoming South East Asian Games, which involves eleven Asian countries, will include bowl competitions.

Oceania:

BO provided a report for the Board in which he summarised a number of regional initiatives.

One such initiative, working with representatives from the Pacific Island Bowling Nations and after discussions with the Aucklands Bowls Club, was the development of a draft conceptual programme for discussion entitled 'Pasifica Bowls HUB' to grow the game in terms of participation, capacity, capability and funding - a paper outlining the concept was issued to the Board for information.

There were continuing discussions regarding the Strategic Review with each MNA and work was ongoing to maximise Commonwealth Games entries, albeit there were difficult issues with **Tonga** and **Niue** regarding representation opportunities.

Government aid funding opportunities with **Australia** and **New Zealand** continue to enable additional game development in each MNA with priorities including building administration, coaching, and playing capability, and funding for infrastructure.

Discussions included opportunities for developing para bowls in the Pacific Island MNAs.

Other initiatives included developing a "bowls set reuse" scheme, and an invitation to Australia, New Zealand and Cook Islands to present a workshop following on the 2022 CG with other meetings programmed also to take place.

In **Australia** BO advised he was working with Bowls Australia (BA) on funding applications

opportunities with the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade to aid Pacific Island MNAs' development. BA were following an intensive programme in preparation for the CG, which included test series in the UK and that BA and **Bowls New Zealand** were assisting with materials for promoting WB at the CG.

In **Fiji**, BO was assisting with development plans and was planning to visit the island after the CG, as he was with **Norfolk Island** in March 2023, **Samoa** in November 2022, and **Tonga** post Covid-19.

Additionally in **New Zealand**, the final selection of the NZ CG team was awaited with strong publicity around the selection of their Para Bowls team. A new hybrid artificial green was being developed which could be used for lawn bowls and netball for use in the Pacific Islands.

In relation to **PNG**, work was continuing with GS on the accreditation process for with the new Association in consultation with the PNG CGA through the CGF.

BO explained the background to the tensions that existed in islands such as Tonga and Niue regarding selection procedures for the CG and outlined proposed budgets for the future development plans for visits to Pacific Islands MNAs and the estimated foundation funding for the Pacific Lawn Bowls fund. Discussions continued on funding opportunities and from where the funding was potentially emanating. GC mentioned the limitation of the availability of current development funding and enquired as to where the WB funding was coming from. DC suggested that WB support in principle going forward with an application for funding as outlined by BO and that support is given to the Lawn Bowls Hub issue subject to WB being able to afford the finances. Approval was provided to BO to proceed.

WB was obliged to commit some funding otherwise there would be no support for Government funding.

BO appended proposed budget plans to cover visits to the Pacific Islands, attendance at the CG an estimate foundation funding for a Pacific Lawn Bowls Fund, subject to a business case presentation to WB.

Africa:

GB reported orally briefly on several matters appertaining to his region, which was now approaching their autumn season and which were purely of internal interest.

Americas:

IH provided the Board with his written report announcing that the Americas and Caribbean teams were looking to hold the first Zoom meeting with an item on their agenda about how to a Pan American bowling event.

In **Brazil**, a contact has been with the Government Ministry of Sport to try and find a way to make the sport more accessible to Brazilians as at present it is only available in private clubs. IH reported that in Canada, there was optimism that clubs will return to pre-covid-19, or even better, levels of membership with their National Championships taking place mid-August 2022, with the report highlighting other internal Canadian matters including information that para bowls development was progressing.

IH remarked that he had read with great interest the comments made by BO in relation to the amount of development grant being sought in Oceania and that Bowls USA would also like to make an application for development grants.

In response to a question from IH about the ability to listen to the Laws of the Sport in audio format – HW was able to confirm that Microsoft accessibility tools has the ability to read text.

8. MEDIA & PR & SOCIAL MEDIA REPORTS

The Board were provided in advance with the normal Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and Website statistics and GC provided the Board with a short update, advising some growth in the statistics. He also advised less than anticipated traffic and hits had been seen during the recent World Indoor Championships. This prompted GB to express some disappointment that professional live streaming at the World Indoor was not undertaken and that he thought this was a missed opportunity. As detailed in the previous meeting's minutes, GS highlighted that both that IIBC and the EIBA had previously indicated that either of these bodies would provide live-streaming but that problems with WIFI connectivity capacity and other technical issues had become apparent and it was decided that if it could not be undertaken in the desired effective professional manner, it would not be done at all.

9. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

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

Affiliation and Membership Applications:

Iran - GS reported that Iran had submitted a further Development Membership application - from Iran Bowls - in addition to the previously received 'on hold' application from Bowls, Billiards and Boules Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (B.B.B.F.I.R.) CL explained in detail to the Board the situation with the two competing organisations and the exchange of emails he has had with both. Both claim to be the official recognised body for bowls. Bowls Iran was a previous member of WB. The Iran National Olympic Committee (NOC) have been contacted to confirm or otherwise the status of the two organisations and have confirmed in writing that B.B.B.F.I.R. is the recognised body for bowls in Iran. GS was of the view that if Bowls Iran fail to produce satisfactory authentic documentary evidence from the NOC, then their application should be rejected.

They have been given 14 days to respond and if no such confirmation is received, WB will recognise BBBFIR as the official organisation.

Korea - An Associate Membership application has been received from Bowls Korea – CL recommended acceptance and the Board approved.

PNG - The end of the long saga relating to the required establishment of a revised national authority in PNG, acceptable for recognition by the leading sports authorities in the country in order that they may support a new application for World Bowls membership, was nearing completion.

Kuwait - An enquiry had been received from an individual currently based in South Africa wanting to establish the sport in Kuwait – GS responded, copying in the Regional Director accordingly.

India – GS informed the Board he had circulated to all MNAs their very short notice request for applications to secure provision of a suitably qualified Coach to particularly support their squad for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games. The end result was unknown.

Singapore - A grant of A\$1000 was approved for Bowls Singapore's Head Coach to attend an

Advanced Coach course organised by Bowls Australia.

In relation to other development matters, GC asked about potential links and association with short mat/carpet organisations and suggested that an approach should be made by the CEO to establish contact with the relevant short mat/carpet bodies to explore further. GS advised the Board that his experience and dealings with the World Short Mat body so far had resulted in a lack of cooperation and a reluctance to part with basic information on membership, affiliation etc. IH was aware of the position in Canada and of the view that the short mat market association in Canada would like an affiliation with WB, which he considered should eventually be taken over by WB. HW advised that the chair of Bowls Wales was involved with short mat bowling, with many clubs in Wales playing short mat bowls and were funded by Bowls Wales via Sport Wales. GS suggested, supported by IH, the next step was to contact each individual country for information.

GC enquired about the financial costs of the World Indoor Championships and GS advised that the final accommodation costs were still awaited from EIBA but the Board would be informed when all the information was to hand.

Election of President and Regional Directors:

GS reported that all current holders of these positions stood for election with no further nominations being received. The results have been duly declared and the following are duly elected subject to ratification by Council at the Council meeting to be held on 7 August 2022:

President: Darryl Clout (Australia)

Regional Director for the Africa Region: Gerry Baker (South Africa)

Regional Director for the Americas (including the Caribbean) Region: Ian Howard (Canada)

Regional Director for the Asia Region: Claudius Lam (Hong Kong China)

Regional Director for the Europe Region: Garry Collins (Guernsey)

Regional Director for the Oceania Region: Brett O'Riley (New Zealand)

Manufacturing, Testing and Artificial Surfaces:

All Bowls Manufacturers have settled their invoices relating to their first half instalment of their annual licence fee and Bowls Testers have settled invoices relating to their annual licence fee.

GS reported he met with the owners of Henselite Australia during their recent visit to the UK and added that they are keen to support initiatives of mutual benefit.

Directors were furnished with responses received from Bowls Manufacturers to the request seeking information relating to what offers they were making available, or would be willing to make available, to Member National Authorities (MNA's) to supply sets of bowls for coaching programmes for all age groups.

GS informed the Board that he has confirmed to Acousto-Scan Pty Ltd that their application to become a World Bowls Accredited Testing Organisation has been approved and they have now been added to the list of World Bowls Accredited Testing Organisations and that this group are planning to hold some type of round robin meeting amongst themselves in the near future.

Laws Committee & CGF Matters:

Kerry Clark, Chair of the World Bowls Law Committee, provided a report for the Board in which he stated the major activity that has engaged the Laws Committee since his last report has been the Review of the Laws of the Sport culminating in the production of Crystal Mark Fourth Edition, adding that this has been a mammoth task for the Committee, which was expertly led by

Committee Member, Allan Thornhill, and supported by all other Committee Members. The Committee exchanged hundreds of emails and held several zoom calls to reach consensus on the final recommendations. A considerable number of submissions regarding law changes have all been considered and a response has been provided to all who submitted proposals.

Kerry Clark added that he wished to express his sincere thanks to all Committee Members for their participation in this exercise, that many hours of voluntary time were devoted to the task and the World Bowls Board are fortunate to have such a dedicated team of professionals willing to commit to an exercise of this magnitude.

Commonwealth Games 2022

The report advised that planning for 2022 continues and Birmingham 2022 now has in place an enthusiastic team at their HQ to run the bowls event.

The Competition Manager is Matthew Pyle who is supported by Assistant Competition Manager Eleanor Skipp and a new addition Martin Gale who has bowls competition management experience as Technical Operations Manager.

Regular meetings are being held by video conference and GS is being included in all these conferences as he will be the Technical Delegate during the Games.

The only area of concern is the finalisation of the Conditions of Play (COP) and the publication of that document as advice from the Commonwealth Games Federation relating to new rules for substitutes and replacements is awaited. These are required because of the Covid testing policy that will operate at Games time.

The COP for 2022 will also be updated to confirm that a player in the Para Competition can use an artificial device (bowler's arm) to deliver the jack and bowls.

With regard to World Bowls Regulations, GS advised that during the consideration of forms required for the Commonwealth Games it has been identified that the following amendments are required to the World Bowls Regulations as follows:-

In Regulation 9.13 - the reference should be to Article 25

In Regulation 24.1.3 the reference now needs to be to Law 36.1

In Appendix B of the Regulations reference should now be to Law 36, not Law 54

The Board ratified these amendments which will now be issued to MNAs.

GS, as the appointed Technical Delegate during Games time, and Chief Technical Official Allan Thornhill attended the final day of a Test event at the Leamington Spa venue for the Lawn Bowls & Para Lawn Bowls in which Australia, England, Malaysia and Wales squads were participating as requested by the relevant CG2022 Host Organising Committee Competition Management.

This proved most beneficial in terms of feedback, identification of areas regarding some further attention and were afforded a familiarisation tour of the playing venue and surrounding area.

GS also attended a short virtual meeting relating to the Board's proposal to utilise the Games Family Lounge for promotional purposes.

DC referred to his recent visit to Leamington Spa and asked if GS could provide the Board with a copy of any available material that would give the Board an idea of the set-up and lay-out at Leamington Spa.

Kerry ended by advising the Board that this was his last written report to the Board and expressed his thanks to his committee colleagues, both past and present, for the support provided over the years.

He has chaired the Laws Committee since 2004 and has been involved in Laws Committee

issues (Laws and Constitution reviews) since 1990 and served on the Board of the various iterations of the International Organisations – International Bowling Board, World Bowls Board, World Indoor Bowls Council and World Bowls Limited.

He fulfilled the role of Technical Delegate at every Commonwealth Games since 1990 (apart from Melbourne in 2006) and has been on the Jury of Appeal at every Commonwealth Games and World Bowls event since 1988.

He concluded by wishing his colleagues and the Board well for the years ahead.

Additionally, a request had been made by the LC that they would like to place on record their thanks to the retiring Chairman Kerry Clark for the many years of service to the Laws Committee. Kerry's endurance as chairman, guidance, common-sense and leadership, especially through a number of Law reviews, has been educational as well as inspirational. The LC wish him all the best in his retirement which he thoroughly deserves and hopefully they can carry on the legacy he has left the bowls fraternity through the LC. These comments were endorsed by the Board and Chief Executive.

Resolved:

B.B.B.F.I R to be recognised by WB should Bowls Iran fail to produce authenticated documentation from the Iran NOC..

Bowls Korea to be admitted to Associate Membership.

Amendments to the WB Regulations agreed as above.

Action:

GS to advise MNAs of the amendments to the WB Regulations.

GS to pursue additional information regarding short mat.

Events

2022 World Bowls Indoor Championships - Bristol, England

GS reported that the inaugural annual indoor Championships, staged jointly by World Bowls & the International Indoor Bowls Council (IIBC) in Bristol, England proved to be an outstanding success. As agreed, WB was the lead partner for these Championships. The host club's management and the large contingent of enthusiastic volunteers did an exemplary job. There was an excellent entry of 64 competitors from 29 countries at the event and the quality of play was outstanding. GS was the Tournament Director, working effectively with IIBC, Host National Authority EIBA and host club personnel both in the lead up to and throughout the event to deliver a successful event. David Rhys Jones undertook the role of the WB media officer at the event issuing detailed daily summary reports globally. The Inside Bowls magazine has subsequently carried a very full report on the event. The only unfortunate feature was a lack of live-streaming of the event, which it was previously indicated would be delivered either by EIBA or IIBC, which was due to technical issues. The winners of the disciplines at the event were as follows:-

Women's Singles: Julie Forrest (Scotland)

Men's Singles: Michael Stepney (Scotland)

Mixed Pairs: Alison Merrien MBE (Guernsey) & Stewart Anderson (Scotland)

2022 World Singles Champion of Champions

These Championships are scheduled to be held at Naenae B.C., Lower Hutt, Wellington, New Zealand with the deadline for receipt of confirmed entries being 15th May 2022 – a reminder had been sent to all MNAs. GS continues to work effectively with Bowls New Zealand’s Chris Lander, the WB’s appointed Tournament Director for this World Bowls event.

2022 World Under 25s Championships

County Antrim IBC, Northern Ireland has agreed to host these Championships, with playing dates 5-9 December 2022 with overseas players official arrival being 3 December official departure 10 December, UK players official arrival being on 4 December official departure being on 9 December. As agreed, IIBC is the lead partner for these Championships and GS assumed that he will serve as the Tournament Director Assistant on behalf of World Bowls. GS is currently working through some details regarding accommodation and age eligibility with his counterpart at IIBC in order that both can finalise documentation and entry forms to issue asap to the respective MNAs. In accordance with the agreed WB Events Review recommendations, one condition of entry will be that in terms of UK nations with both indoor and outdoor MNAs only the indoor MNAs in the UK will be eligible to enter.

2023 World Bowls Indoor Championships

GS is currently in negotiation with Warilla Bowls Club, Australia and Bowls Australia regarding the hosting of this event ideally in April 2023. (Please note that it has subsequently been confirmed that playing dates will be 7-13 May 2023)

2023 World Championships

These Championships are scheduled to be held on the Gold Coast, Australia and all MNAs have been advised of the proposed dates, that Para disciplines as included at the 2022 Commonwealth Games will be included and that there will be the requirement to use red and blue sets of bowls at these Championships as has been initiated at CG2022.

There has been a very high level of positive responses to the request for MNAs to submit completed ‘Indicative Entries’ forms outlining the disciplines (including Para disciplines) they currently intend to enter. Confirmed entries will be required by the end of the year.

On 12 April GS forwarded to all Directors a revised draft hosting agreement for these championships produced by BA CEO Neil Dalrymple and WB for the Board’s consideration and approval or otherwise comment in order that it may be progressed for signature. The Board approved the agreement.

2026 Commonwealth Games

It has been confirmed that these Games will be hosted in Bendigo in the State of Victoria, Australia and Lawn Bowls & Para Lawn Bowls is included on the Games programme.

The CGF will be seeking details of the World Bowls IF Technical Delegate for these Games in due course.

Resolved:

The Board approved GS being the Assistant Tournament Director for the World under 25 Championships.

The Board approved a revised draft hosting agreement for the 2023 World Championships, produced by BA CEO Neil Dalrymple and GS.

10. FINANCE REPORT.

Tabled: The latest Financial Accounts to the end of April 2022 were circulated to the Board prior to the meeting and GS informed the Board he had just received the draft audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021- he anticipated the Board receiving a draft copy within the next week or so. The indication in the accounts was an overall deficit of around £5k, satisfactory bearing in mind the level of affiliation fees levied on member authorities had been at the discounted rate of 50% of that charged for 2020.

The Board approved an increase of mileage allowance to 45p from the current 40p.

In relation to future affiliation fees, the Board agreed after lengthy discussion that the level of fees for 2023 be fixed at the full level as charged for 2020. Fees for 2023 would be invoiced in October 2022 with payment due to be received by 15 December 2022.

Resolved:

Mileage allowance increased to 45p per mile.

Affiliation fees for 2023 agreed at the same level as at 2020.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS:

IH asked about the current position with GAISF and DC thought that they may go out of existence but another organisation would probably take over their role – internal and political matters came into play.

IH referred to the sleeping giant of the USA and had about 1500 non registered bowlers and about 15 clubs not in membership of Bowls USA.

CL was informed in response to a question that permission had been given by Companies House to refer to the organisation as World Bowls only and not World Bowls Limited.

GB enquired about ticketing/accreditation for the CG - GS confirmed that the deadline for accreditation had passed but that he could possibly be able to access the accreditation system if required. Ticketing for the Games is administered by CG2022 Organising Committee with details on their website. Ticket sales appeared to be going well.

Annual & Biennial Council Meetings

GS advised the Board that the Annual & Biennial Council meetings will be held at Woodland Grange, Leamington Spa on 7 August 2022. The Board agreed a start time of 9.00am but this would be subject to finalisation after consultation with the venue.

The agenda for the Annual Council Meeting is the adoption of the minutes of the 2021 ACM, approval of the 2021 audited accounts and the re-appointment of the company auditors.

The Council meeting agenda requires to be finalised for the Biennial Council Meeting to include adoption of the previous BCM minutes; adoption of the revised Laws of the Sport of Bowls - Fourth Crystal Mark Edition; required amendment to Articles re timing of Biennial Council Meetings to coincide with the now two yearly World Championships, necessarily removing the reference to Commonwealth Games; ratification of the results of the election of the President and Regional Directors; and Life Membership resolution (John Bell).

In addition MNAs would be given an opportunity of making presentations - Australia, New Zealand and Cook Islands had already expressed an interest in being allocated time for such presentations – there may possibly be others. GC and IH raised concerns about workshops as did BO on the concept of workshops and BO was of the view that the workshops should be more akin to case studies – digital, sponsorship, membership, high performance were listed as potential subjects. DC agreed on workshops with a theme on the transfer of knowledge between MNAs with a limit of 5/6 MNA's being involved to be conducted after the conclusion of the formal business of the BCM . Sessions would hopefully be recorded for the benefit of those non-CG MNAs and it was anticipated that those not attending the Council Meetings in person would be able to attend the meetings virtually. A finalised agenda would be prepared by GS for issue to all MNAs in accordance with the Articles once the Board finalised the meeting format and content of the agenda.

Roger Black
23rd May 2022