

Minutes of the Annual and Biennial Council Meetings

Venue & Date: Woodland Grange Hotel, Leamington Spa, England on 7th August 2022

President Darryl Clout welcomed all the delegates to the meeting, the first one to be held for several years due to the pandemic, and to those joining online from different parts of the world .

In Attendance

World Bowls - President/Chairman Darryl Clout,
Garry Collins (Regional Director for Europe)
Brett O'Riley (Regional Director for Oceania)
Sue Beatt – Appointed Director
Hazel Wilson – Appointed Director
Chief Executive/Company Secretary Gary Smith and Roger Black (Minutes)

Apologies – The Falklands Islands and Regional Directors Ian Howard (Americas including the Caribbean Region). Claudius Lam (Asia Region) and Gerry Baker (Africa Region) joined the meeting virtually.

Member Nation Delegates - 24 delegates from the following 15 Member Nations were in physical attendance:-

Australia, Botswana, Canada, Cook Islands, England, Fiji, Ireland (Men' Association), Jamaica, Jersey, Malaysia, Malta, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Scotland, and Zambia. In addition delegates representing International Deaf Bowls Federation and International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD).

The following nations were represented by proxy – Argentina, Cyprus, Guernsey, Ireland (Women's Association), Israel, Japan, Macao, Philippines and Zimbabwe.

In addition there were 14 delegates from the following 8 Member Nations who joined the meeting virtually:

Brunei, Hong Kong China, Iran, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand and Wales (Women)

Annual Council Meeting

1 The minutes of the previous Annual Council Meeting held on 1st June 2021 (previously circulated), were adopted unanimously on the proposal of New Zealand, seconded by Australia.

2 The approval of the accounts of World Bowls for the financial year ended 31st December 2021 (audited accounts previously circulated) were approved by Australia and unanimously accepted.

3 The reappointment of ERC Accountants as Auditors was proposed for adoption by Canada, seconded by Fiji and unanimously approved.

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

Biennial Council Meeting

1 Adoption of minutes of the 2020 Biennial Council Meeting (previously circulated)

The minutes (previously circulated) of the Biennial Council Meeting, held virtually, on 1st June 2020 were proposed for adoption by New Zealand, seconded by Zambia and the proposal was unanimously carried.

There were no matters arising.

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

President Darryl Clout referred to the departure of long-standing President, John Bell, and his subsequent election as President by the Board to fill the vacancy which was created, and then his re-election along with all other Board Directors. The Board also welcomed Brett O'Riley as the new Oceania Regional Director as well as Sue Beatt who accepted a role as an Appointed Director.

As MNAs are aware, the Board took the critical decision to commission an external review of governance, management and operations, which resulted in a report which was shared with all members and which recommended major changes to the way the sport is managed.

President Darryl wished to remind MNAs of some of those decisions and where WB are with their implementation.

Governance

The engagement of a lawyer with outstanding skills and experience in developing constitutions for sporting organisations – the Board shall share his work with everyone and seek input as the Board works to develop an up-to-date document, which more closely reflects the changes in the sporting and governance environment which have occurred since the current constitution was first adopted.

The Board has appointed a Director, Sue Beatt, with specific skills in the Human Resources area who additionally has a great deal of bowls experience.

The completion of an audit of the skills of our current Directors to inform WB's future succession planning and recruitment.

WB has held preliminary discussions with IBD to explore the possibility of closer and possible more formal working relationships, with those discussions ongoing.

Operations

The Board agreed to transition the current CEO into the role of Chief Operations Officer and advertised globally for a new CEO. Neil Dalrymple, current CEO Bowls Australia has now appointed to the position and will commence duties towards the end of the year.

Expressions of Interest for the location of World Bowls Headquarters were invited and the Board has subsequently accepted Bowls Australia's bid to relocate the operational base to co-locate with Bowls Australia.

Expressions of Interest for outsourcing of WB Marketing and Communications operations were also invited and has accepted Bowls Australia's bid to manage these tasks. Once that operation gets underway, WB will be able to develop the shared resources platform which will highlight member's successful case studies and provide quality coaching and officiating resources.

Commercial and Events

A Committee to investigate the possibility of recognition by the IOC and the IPC with a view to ultimately applying for a place on the Olympic and/or Paralympic Sports Programme in the future.

President Darryl believed this is a solid start, but only a start. There are still a number of the review recommendations which needed to be addressed, particularly in the area of Game Expansion and Development with work to be done on a 'new' product, which event organisers and broadcasters tell WB is critical for growth of popularity, revenue and

membership.

Looking to the immediate future, WB are fortunate that they are able to showcase the sport on a global stage at the Birmingham Games. The organisers are to be congratulated for the work they have done in getting to this stage despite all the obstacles that Covid presented. He wished all who have teams coming to the Games every success and looked forward to meeting as many as possible to discuss how WB can improve the sport and ensure continued growth.

The President wished to record his thanks to every one of who gives their time and talents to this goal, mentioning in particular his fellow Directors for their work within their Regions and encouraged all Members to access their skills and knowledge.

In addition he recorded his recognition of the work of Gary Smith, who has agreed to move to a new role in the organisation after 20 years as World Bowls CEO. His decision will allow WB to retain an incredible amount of knowledge and experience as a new CEO comes on board.

He also wished to recognise the work of the World Bowls Committees and particularly the Laws Committee, specifically mentioning the retiring Committee Chair, Kerry Clark, for his many years of service to this Committee and World Bowls in general.

Finally, he would encourage all members to let WB know if things could be done better.

President Darryl also reminded the members present of the key points and changes affecting World Bowls over the past 12/18 months.

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

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

The CEO's comprehensive and detailed report was circulated in advance to all MNA's and was formally approved by Cook Islands, seconded by Botswana.

5 Resolution to amend Articles of Association and associated proposal re amendment to the terms of office of the current President and Regional Directors

The following current Article

14.1 The Biennial Council Meeting shall be held at or around the time of, and at a location near to, (a) the Commonwealth Games or (b) the World Championships, every even numbered year.

requires to be amended due to the fact that World Championships are now being held every two years in the odd numbered years:-

so to read:-

14.1 The Biennial Council Meeting shall be held at or around the time of, and a location near to the World Championships, every odd-numbered year.

Gary Smith, CEO, presented the reasoning and rationale behind the proposed amendment and it was accepted on the proposal of Canada, seconded by Malaysia.

The CEO added that having just conducted the recent election process for President and Regional Directors, the Board seeks agreement from Council that the currently elected President and Regional Directors remain in their respective elected roles until the result of the 2025 election process. The rationale is that this provides stability and continuity in progressing the review recommendations and changes in staffing structure. Council agreed unanimously.

6 Adoption of the revised Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Fourth Edition (previously circulated)

The revised Laws were adopted on the proposal of Fiji, seconded by Australia.

7 World Championships

2023 World Championships update

Bowls Australia CEO, Neil Dalrymple, reported on the progress and planning of the Championships which started in 2012 with the bid process. Red and blue bowls were to be used as in the CG and para bowls were to feature in the Championships. The host clubs were well set up and major refurbishments were ongoing in some clubs, with improvement to selected greens being looked at where necessary plus an additional club venue. Bowls Australia's Event Manager Andrew Howie is available for any questions MNA's may have on these Championships.

2025 World Championships update

There was no update available on the Championships due to be held in Hong Kong China but it was confirmed that the surfaces used would be natural grass. It was agreed that the Board would require to consider contingency plans in the event of the current on-going potential problems within China relating to Taiwan and unrest within Hong Kong impacting on the Championships

8 Commonwealth Games

2026 Victoria, Australia

Bowls in the 2026 Commonwealth Games will take place at the Bendigo Bowls club, selected by the Victorian Government. GS reminded the meeting that several reviews had taken place over the years by the CGF resulting in changes made to formats, disciplines etc (coloured bowls, sets play etc) and that although bowls would be played in the next Games there may be changes to disciplines, formats etc - the CGF desire games to reach final stages as soon as possible to prevent too many "dead" games. There is a CGF strategic focus group in which GS and DC are involved. Feedback on the Games just completed from the CGF appeared to be good. MNA's would be kept informed of any progress emanating from the group and MNA's were to be encouraged to feed any comments they had into WB for consideration to the review of future Games.

9 Life Membership Nomination – John Bell

President Darryl spoke in great detail of the profile and considerable achievements of previous World Bowls President John Bell in the bowling world. He concluded that it gave him much pleasure to present John with a WB life membership badge and to convey life membership to John.

John responded with a short but humorous acceptance speech, congratulating President Darryl on his Presidency, Bowls Australia for stepping up to the plate to support World Bowls, his wife for her support and wisdom, Neil Dalrymple on his new appointment and for the honour bestowed on him, which he will always cherish. He also praised CEO Gary Smith and his Assistant Roger Black for all their efficiency, support and commitment.

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

President - Darryl Clout (Australia)

Regional Director for Africa - Gerry Baker (South Africa)

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

Regional Director for Asia - Claudius Lam (Hong Kong China)

Regional Director for Europe - Garry Collins (Guernsey)

Regional Director for Oceania - Brett O'Riley (New Zealand)

The results were formally proposed by New Zealand, seconded by Scotland and Malaysia and unanimously ratified.

11 AOCB

Regional Director Brett O'Reilly referred to the retirement of Kerry Clark, CNZM, OBE, Chairman of the Laws Committee, and that thanks should be recorded in the minute for his many years of service.

Malaysia asked as to the procedures for the selection of ITO's for the Commonwealth Games as none of their ITO's had been selected and Roger Black detailed the procedures followed. It was accepted, known and appreciated that well qualified ITO's were not selected due simply to the numbers required and the necessity to have gender equality.

President Darryl then formally closed the meetings at 9.55am.

Roger Black

7th August 2022.