

BOARD MEETING MINUTES (Meeting held by "Go-to-Meeting" conference call on 6 October 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 Hazel Wilson (HW) - Appointed Director Sue Beatt (SB) – Appointed Director|| Neil Dalrymple – CEO Designate

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES:

Apology received from Gerry Baker (GB) Regional Director for Africa. The President opened the meeting at 12.00 hours (UK time) and welcomed all to the Board meeting, introducing and welcoming Neil Dalrymple attending his first meeting as CEO designate.

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 May 2022 were accepted as a correct record of the proceedings.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

DC referred to the previous minutes, agenda item number 6, "Governance", that it was still ongoing and would be continued with SB and ND. SB had already been in contact with ND and had a list of policies that needed to be adapted to suit World Bowls.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President DC reported verbally to the Board, with his first comment appertaining to the recent Commonwealth Games, where most Directors were in attendance. He asked that thanks be recorded and minuted to all those involved in the organisation and running of the Games that had made them such a success. From a WB perspective, the Games proceeded very well overall albeit there were several hiccups outside of the control of World Bowls. The comprehensive reports seen since the Games from GS, GC and BO were to be brought to the attention of the 2026 Games organisers in order that some of the issues were handled differently - and better with transport arrangements in particular being highlighted. The greens used for the finals were commented upon, the performance of which resulted in criticism, were chosen predominantly to meet broadcasting requirements, although there was still high quality bowling. SB questioned a comment in a report in relation to the Birmingham Commonwealth Games from the Bowls England CEO about a reference to WB needing "to do more" and it was agreed he be asked to expand on this comment. BO added he too would be interested in finding out more about the comment.

DC then referred to meetings he and ND had with Ian Fullagar on the revised draft WB Constitution and that the draft had previously been circulated to Directors for comments and DC would recirculate to the Board. He asked that any such comments from Directors be received within a month. Thereafter a further version would be prepared. DC thought the key issues were the selection and length of terms of Board members, voting rights and the selection process for Board members. DC anticipated a revised draft be ready for early January 2023 for issue to MNAs.

Action:

Bowls England CEO to be asked by DC to expand on his comments on the need for WB "to do more"

Directors to look at revised draft WB Constitution and forward comments to DC.

6. WORLD BOWLS COMMITTEES INCLUDING MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

GS asked if all committees shown on the website were required and if they need to be reviewed. DC added that committees and their functions would be looked at under Governance and ND, at the request of DC, brought the Board up to date with what was being looked at in Australia on the Media and Communications area. A recent advert in this market in Australia had not been productive and there was no one in place as yet.

HW added there had been no further committee Media and Communications meetings, as agreed earlier by the Board, due to the WB review. HW added new, more professional looking email addresses, had been allocated to the Directors, and others, and were working well, thanking BA for their assistance in assisting in achieving this. HW was keen to push forward again with the committee and DC suggested ND and Aiden from BA be involved in future meetings. GS also reminded the Board several additions had been made to the Laws Committee since the retirement of Kerry Clark as its Chair with Allan Thornhill now being Chair of this committee.

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

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

Europe:

GC's comprehensive report for his region reported on the first British Isles joint championships held in Wales, which went very well albeit it was noted the men and women played different formats (number of ends etc.) and with the women's playing to time limits, all of which will be reviewed.

A coaching event was held in Ayr, Scotland in July 2022 on which GC provided a written report to the Board and, following on the coaching event, 17 countries attended the 2022 European championships held in Ayr, Scotland July 2022. 120 pairs then took part in a successful European Open held in Ayr, Scotland.

Included in GC's report were references to the British Isles Junior Internationals held in Ireland, an update on the British Isles working party of which he is the Chair and an update on Bowls Europe.

General updates were included on the activities of the full member MNA's in the Region as well as updates on development members MNAs. There were potentially ten new European members and contacts were known to GC.

Proposed budgets were recorded for possible coaching events in countries still to be identified. GC also produced an informative report on his attendance at the Commonwealth Games for the Board with detailed information on the World Bowls VIP Games Family Lounge.

GC added at the meeting that he thought communications should be opened up with the countries that had still not amalgamated to form one body. Only Wales and Ireland were left with separate bodies for men and women and that they should be encouraged to merge. Both DC and ND agreed but on a broader picture there were other opportunities mentioning crown green, short mat etc and that the sooner all came under the one umbrella, the better. HW advised that BowlsWales has commissioned a review of all bowls in Wales and this process is being conducted by an independent consultant. Surveys, forums and interviews were being held and it was agreed that it would be of value if World Bowls could have input. HW to arrange. In respect of the unification of the Welsh Bowling Association and the Welsh Women's Bowling association, this was already being investigated.

GS advised that there had been a tentative enquiry from the Faroe Islands and that previous attempts to communicate with the World Short Mat Bowls Council and national Short Mat associations had not even been acknowledged yet alone responded to.

Action:

The MNAs in both Wales and Ireland to be contacted to encourage amalgamation of the current separate ladies and gents organisations. Regional Director GC to action.

Asia:

CL provided the Board with a written update on the Asia region.

No updates were provided by Philippines, Pakistan, South Korea or Thailand although it was highlighted by GS that a new club, Crusaders, had been opened in the Philippines complete with a new artificial green.

China is to host an International event in late November to include **Hong Kong**, where normal bowling activities had resumed, and **Macao** continues with squad training. **Brunei's** only

synthetic green is being repaired to upgrade it for international tournament soon.

Japan is to host an International Lawn Bowls Tournament from 27th - 30th October at Kobe and the World Masters Games in Kansai has been postponed due to Covid-19 until May, 2027 after negotiations with the International Masters Games Association.

Malaysia is to organize the Peja Challenge Trophy in October 2022 and the Asia under 25 Championships in February 2023, during which ITO assessments are being organized for all interested Asian MNAs.

The **Singapore** Ladies participated in the 2022 Commonwealth games and the national squad and under 25 players are back in regular training for the Asia Championships and the 2023 World Championships.

To support the community outreach program and bringing more professionalism to coaching, Bowls Singapore has set up a training program for bowls coaches - 24 new bowls coaches have graduated from the program this year.

Iran continues the training of new players to get ready for international competitions and lawn bowls activities are back to normal in **Sri Lanka** with the organisation of a number of domestic competitions and participation at international events.

CL suggested that some Asian countries required WB assistance to promote bowls in their region, mentioning the South East Asian Games, played every two years as an example where more Asian countries participating would help and wondered what WB could do to assist in promoting the game. He would be present at meeting in Malaysia in February 2023 during the Asian Championships, and would explore this further.

BO advised that, in consultation with CL, he had arranged a meeting with the Secretary of the Bowling Federation of India when there in December suggesting that a concept of the larger MNAs "buddying up" with smaller MNAs would be investigated and what WB could do to facilitate these relationships. It was thought that all major MNAs would be happy to contribute to this concept. GS reminded the Board again that one major issue was the lack of a proper administrative structure in some MNAs and that this required to be addressed. GS added that **Nepal** had made enquiries about bowls.

Oceania:

BO produced for the Board a lengthy detailed and comprehensive report covering a wide range of bowling related matters.

The report contained a summary of the further developed concept of Pacific Bowls Hub with Bowls NZ and Auckland Bowls with input from Tonga and Cook Islands.

Included in the summary was information on a number of wide ranging matters as they affected the MNA's in the region – Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Cook Islands, Norfolk Island and Niue, Tonga, and Samoa were all referred to with details of what was relevant and of important in their respective countries.

An outline was also provided on the Pacific Cup proposal including all Oceania nations, with it being anticipated that the inaugural event would take place in April 2023.

Proposed budget plans for the remainder of 2022/23 were provided.

BO said that short mat/carpet bowls, virtually unknown in the Southern Hemisphere would be a great introduction to the smaller islands where there were existing facilities that could accommodate short mat/carpet bowls.

GS raised the issue of playing singles for entry into the World Singles Champion of Champions required consideration. Only in exceptional circumstances should a national singles competition not take place in the relevant country. This has a direct effect on some MNA's in the region – e.g. Malta, Niue and Tonga.

Africa:

GB reported to the Board that African countries had provided feedback on a positive and successful Commonwealth Games albeit with some reservations on the small size of sections and the use of end rinks for TV games. Mention was made of new applications for membership from Ghana and Nigeria and that RB was dealing with South Africa to arrange ITO assessment exercises in early 2023 with other African MNAs also expressing an interest in being included. Arrangements are at their initial stages for Laws Committee member Mark Cowan (Australia) to attend and undertake the assessment exercises.

Bowls South Africa has expressed interest in hosting a Junior World Championships team event and Namibia is to host the 2023 African States Tournament.

Americas:

IH provided a detailed report on his region commencing with reference to the first Zoom meeting of the Americas and the Caribbean MNAs which was well received and which will improve all communications between WB and the MNAs. A recent report in the Inside Bowls magazine on a Brazil/Argentina tournament went down well.

IH then provided updates on each of the region's MNAs.

IH had nothing to add to his written report but commented that the short mat version of the game was seen as ideal for Canada and northern parts of the USA. He included Argentina as well as there were only four private clubs. He thought the future of short mat was exciting, and affordable, but his experiences and conversations with Short Mat associations were not productive. GS confirmed that follow-up with Short Mat personnel had proved "difficult" and DC agreed and that WB should proceed, carefully, on their own to incorporate Short Mat where appropriate.

8. MEDIA & PR & SOCIAL MEDIA REPORTS

GC and Hunter Johnstone, the WB website administrators, provided the usual Twitter, Facebook and Instagram statistics with GC providing the Board with an update and explanation as to the detailed figures. GC continued to keep the growing social media accounts up to date, covering and sharing relevant articles and important information. SB mentioned the importance of keeping imagery 50/50 male and female, a percentage of youths, ethnicity and disability aspects were important to target and cover. HW added that TikTok was also one of the fastest growing platforms and should be a priority in the future.

9. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

Tabled: The Chief Executive's written, detailed and comprehensive report was circulated to all Directors prior to the meeting. The main points mentioned and detailed are recorded below.

World Bowls Office, Edinburgh

GS informed the Board that it has been indicated that the Sportscotland, Caledonia House building housing the office of World Bowls requires considerable renovation and updating work. A thorough assessment is ongoing to resolve whether it is worth the financial investment to retain the building and undertake the costly work or to relocate. It has been agreed that any relocation will still be on the east side of Scotland, presumably still in the general area of Edinburgh. It has also been indicated that current leases of office premises will be extended for a further year from the current expiry in January 2023.

Affiliation & Membership Applications

Iran - Further to the discussions at the previous board meeting, Bowls Billiards and Boules Federation of Iran (B.B.B.F.I.R) were finally approved as a Development Member.

A Development Membership application and payment of the application fee has been received from **Ghana Bowls Association** – application approved by the Board.

A further Development Membership application has been received from **Bowls Nigeria**. The application form and accompanying correspondence were copied to the Board. The membership application fee had now been received – application approved by the Board.

Papua New Guinea.-The long running saga relating to the establishment of a revised National Authority in PNG is now resolved and a completed Full Member application form, revised constitution, other supporting documentation and application fee received. The Board confirmed acceptance of the application.

All other enquiries regarding membership/development in countries received at headquarters continue to be handled in the appropriate manner in liaison with the relevant Regional Director. It was agreed to send to the newly admitted MNA's and PNG the information and application forms for the 2023 World Championships.

GS mentioned that there were concerns in the Bowls Canada report and at the Council Meeting over the 2025 World Championships taking place in Hong Kong with the ongoing political situation with China. A signed agreement had not yet been finalised with Hong Kong L.B.A. for the Championships in 2025 but now that the 2023 World Championships Hosting Agreement had been finally agreed, a copy would be sent to HKLBA to be used as a template for the 2025 Championships. CL advised that in his opinion, once Covid-19 had settled down, normality in Hong Kong would return. ND contributed by reminding the Board there was a lot of work to be undertaken in the lead up to World Championships and suggested that it would not be too soon for HKLBA to be urgently progressing all arrangements. ND added that he thought WB should be looking at the financial model for future Championships and as DC said, WB had been underselling such events – for further discussion in the future. CL confirmed that funding for the Championships in 2025 was all but in place.

Resolved:

Both Ghana and Nigeria to be admitted to WB Development Membership. Full Membership application by PNG approved by the Board.

Action:

GS to supply 2023 World Championships Hosting Agreement to HKLBA.

World Bowls Events

Close liaison has continued with Chris Lander, Bowls NZ's appointed Tournament Director for the 2023 World Singles Championships – all arrangements progressing satisfactorily. All arrangements are proceeding satisfactorily in consultation with the IIBC who are the lead partner of the 2022 Junior World Championships being staged at the County Antrim Indoor Bowling Club.

Initial information and 'Intent to Enter' form for the joint WB/IIBC 2023 World Indoor Championships, for which WB are the lead partner, have been issued to MNAs with a deadline date for return of completed 'Intent to Enter' forms being 31 October 2022.

WB received an overwhelming level of "Intents to Enter" the 2023 World Championships taking place on the Gold Coast, Australia. This has resulted in logistical and scheduling issues for Bowls Australia's Host Organising Committee, including the requirement to seek additional host clubs to be able to accommodate the Championships scheduling within the published playing dates of 29 August to 10 September 2023 inclusive.

The requirement to use red and blue sets of bowls at these Championships, which was seen to be a great success at CG2022 Birmingham has been communicated to MNAs and discussions have been commenced with the four Licensed Bowls Manufacturers regarding the supply to participating nations.

GS was approached by Bowls Cyprus to undertake the role of Tournament Director for the 2023 Atlantic Senior Fours Championships to be held at Athena Beach Hotel, Paphos in December 2023 and with the approval of our Europe Regional Director duly accepted.

Laws of the Sport-Fourth Crystal Mark Edition

Following the adoption of the above at the Biennial Council Meeting in August, considerable time has been spent with the printers on proof reading the content of revised Laws books. An initial stock of the 'clean' version of the booklets was now on order and has now been received. MNAs who organise the printing of their own version of the Laws books, and who require to include their approved Domestic Regulations have also been contacted. These MNAs have been instructed to submit their proposed Domestic Regulations to World Bowls as required for checking and approval by the Laws Committee. Once approved, MNAs require to submit to WB the number of Laws books they are having printed in order that the required invoice for royalties due to World Bowls can be issued.

Laws Committee

With effect from the Biennial Council Meeting, Allan Thornhill now chairs the Laws Committee. Current ITOs Shubhra Kathuria and Helen Stallard have now been approved as additional members of the World Bowls Laws Committee.

The Committee has continued to consider and respond speedily and effectively to all Laws queries received at WB headquarters.

A number of ITO assessments are in the process of being arranged in South Africa and Malaysia. DC reminded the Board that following on the appointment of two new members to the Laws Committee (LC), it was previously agreed that there would be, in the following twelve months, a review of the LC on their terms of reference, how members are appointed, the length of time served on the Committee and that those carrying out the review would be nominated in due course.

DC also asked about the arrangements for future ITO assessments and RB outlined the provisional arrangements being considered for carrying out assessment exercises in South Africa, India and Malaysia. Both Regional Directors for these areas had been copied into the exchanges of correspondence. Laws Committee member Mark Cowan from Australia would undertake the assessments in South Africa, Allan Thornhill in India and RB in Hong Kong/Malaysia.

BO raised a question on the decision to use coloured red and blue bowls at the Commonwealth

Games and 2023 World Championships and it was confirmed that this had been agreed, clearly communicated to MNAs and DC agreed it was non-negotiable. It was confirmed in response to a question from CL that the colours were to be predominately red and blue. Exact shades of these colours were not required to be specified and manufacturers were aware of the colours to be supplied.

Legal Matters

The Annual Return of details held by Companies House relating to WB has been submitted to Companies House and following the agreed change to the Articles as agreed at the Biennial Council Meeting, the revised Articles have been filed at Companies House.

Commonwealth Games

GS reported that the Lawn Bowls & Para Lawn Bowls events at CG2022 Birmingham were considered to be an outstanding success producing many great highlights. GS was appointed in 2022 as the WB International Federation Technical Delegate for Games Time when then current IF Technical Delegate, Kerry Clark CNZM, OBE advised that he would not be attending the Games.

GS also recorded the highest praise and appreciation for Allan Thornhill, Chief Technical Official at the Games, for all his hard work and efforts during the lead up to and throughout the period of the Games and equally for the outstanding job done by all the team of 36 ITOs during the Games. The Directors had been furnished with Allan's detailed report on the Games. With Lawn Bowls & Para Lawn Bowls having already been confirmed to be included on the Sports Programme for CG2026 Victoria, Australia WB have now entered a period of consultation with CGF including a review of the 2022 Games and considerations relating to future formats for our sport at the Games.

Daily transport across the Games was certainly a major issue and totally out of WB control and GS considered that failings in this area resulted in a lower than desired attendance from Games Family accredited officials/dignitaries with the WB sport's venue being remote from Birmingham where many were accommodated.

The other issue highlighted was some criticism of the standard of the broadcast rinks, despite the best efforts of the greenkeeping staff and the Host Organising Committee's Technical Operations Manager.

The usual protocols experienced at previous Games involving prior consultation with World Bowls regarding appointment of medals/gift presentation nominations was sadly lacking at the Birmingham Games and there were far too many occasions where WB directors were called upon at the last minute to step up to undertake these duties due to the non-appearance of officials/dignitaries appointed by CGF.

DC and GS have continued to be involved in the CGF's Strategic Plan - IF Focus Group meetings and it was recommended by GS that the WB incoming CEO should now be involved in future meetings of this Group.

Bowls in the Olympics Advisory Group (BOAG)

DC and GS continue to be involved in this Group, which is chaired by ND with the minutes of the previous meeting of the Group issued to Directors - a further meeting is being held later this month.

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

WADA has agreed their 2023 List of Banned Substances and Methods to take effect from 1 January 2023 and has now been advised to our MNAs and the website updated with the revised List.

International Bowls for the Disabled & Other Disability Groups Matters

A report from IBD President Paul Brown covering action and plans for the next few months has been circulated to the Board and included feedback from their athletes on B2022, attendance at the Asian Bowls Championships in Malaysia and participation in the Asian Para Games in October 2022. IBD continue to develop work with Bowls Canada on coaching related matters and a working group has been set up to ensure IBD's classification system meets IPC criteria. GS informed the Board he had a constructive meeting with representatives of the Deaf international body at the office of Deaf Action in Edinburgh. Discussions included details of the Deaf World Championships to be held in Scotland in September 2023 and what support World Bowls may be able to provide for these Championships. It is evident that there is a desire to forge a closer working relationship between World Bowls and this international body who had a representative attend the Biennial Council meeting in August.

Discussion document from the CEO Designate

ND produced a discussion paper to the Board prior to the meeting and added that he was pleased to outline some of his thoughts, ideas and focus areas for information and feedback. It was important from a financial view to explore ways to increase revenues.

ND then spoke in considerable detail on each of the different headings he thought were important and required attention. His vision for World Bowls is to improve the profile and standing of World Bowls and to make the sport and organisation more evident across the globe. They included updating the current strategic plan for the next three years up to 2025; the future staffing structure to be implemented based on financial capacity; the long term goal of unifying Bowls organisations engaging/partnering with IBD, IBBA, WBT (PBA), Crown green bowls, IIBC.; media and communications; preparation of sponsorship/partnership opportunities to increase revenue; development of a communications plan to better communicate with MNAs; continuing to operate BOAG seeking Olympics and Paralympics inclusion; creation of additional events and approaching major multi- sports events to see the inclusion of bowls.

He also added that he has had conversations with the organising committee of the 2026 Commonwealth Games about venues, maintaining contact with the relevant officials, playing formats and meetings were in the pipeline for further discussions. It was important for WB to continue to be part of the Commonwealth Games. Shorter, sharper, quicker, more interesting from a spectator and broadcaster perspective were concepts needing to be looked at and were proposals that international bowlers in Australia had contributed to.

SB spoke in favour of the shorter sharper concepts and though that WB should investigate the possibility of inclusion in the Invictus Games and ND confirmed that this was being explored in Australia through a contact.

IH commented on the rise of esports, gaming and that betting appeared to becoming more respectable. ND responded by commenting that Bowls Australia (BA) have been involved with betting for some time and that the Bowls Premier League (BPL) had appealed to a betting company but it had not taken off. The net revenue to BA from betting/gaming was negligible and although not to be entirely discounted, the Board would have to agree with any future developments. Both BO and GS contributed to the discussion on betting - BO expressing that he wondered whether it was the correct thing for the sport of bowls and that if betting was available, lots of options needed to be available. GS reminded the Board that betting was covered in the current Constitution and that the Regulations would require amending if it was to be allowed. GS also stated in relation to the potential changes to formats in the sport, that the Commonwealth Games were not World Bowls events and were subject to the requirements and schedules demanded by the CGF. It was not known as yet what the CGF thought of the recent Bowls events at Learnington Spa. ND advised that Bendigo has already had an initial assessment from a Government group and a range of issues had already been raised regarding the venue. The World Bowls Technical Delegate for the 2026 Games was unlikely to be appointed until 2023. It was confirmed that four greens were required at Bendigo for the 2026 Games and in the meantime

ND was the prime contact to answer any queries.

HW welcomed new, exciting formats but was concerned that countries may choose other sports for their athletes at the expense of competitors who could be included in the Bowls disciplines. GS's final comments referred to the suggested mixing of able-bodied athletes with para lawn bowls athletes as indicated in ND's discussion paper and envisaged major issues on how it would work in practice and highlighted that CGF had already confirmed that Lawn Bowls & Para Lawn Bowls would be on the CG2026 Sports Programme.

2022 Annual & Biennial Council Meetings & Game Development Workshop

The above events held at Woodland Grange, Learnington Spa on the day following the conclusion of the Lawn Bowls & Para Lawn Bowls at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. The Game Development Workshop part of the agenda was highly appreciated by all attendees. BO provided a detailed report relating to these events.

10. FINANCE REPORT.

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

GS advised in his written report that Bowls Manufacturers have been invoiced for the second half instalment of their annual licence fee and also that WB secured extra synthetic surface endorsements during the year, the most recent being for FieldTurf's BowlSpeed bowling surface. Details are all to be found on the 'Bowls & Surfaces' page of the World Bowls website. In October 2022, following on the meeting, each MNA will be issued a request for completion of their 2023 Annual Return of Registered Members and submission of affiliation fees with a deadline date for receipt being 15 December 2022. As previously agreed, by the Board the level of fees payable will return to those that were charged for 2020 i.e. the year prior to the two years when affiliation fees were heavily discounted to provide financial support to MNAs to assist them to recover from the pandemic.

GS informed the Board that there was nothing much to add to his report other than an updated revised financial forecast would be prepared, due partly to the CEO recruitment process. ND let the Board know that a new financial accounting system "ZERO" would be used in the future – 'Quick Books" is used by GS at present – and a few other new areas would be set up to suit WB operations switching to Australia in the near future with ND as the CEO.

DC asked that future affiliation fees be an agenda item for the next Board meeting.

Action:

Future affiliation fees to be an agenda item for next meeting. GS to forward an updated financial forecast to the Board.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS:

HW advised the Board that she was standing down from being the Welsh Women's Team Manager, a position held since 2008.

SB suggested that a different method of holding meetings be considered to replace the currently used Zoom – at a cost around $\pounds 120$ with more functionality provided.

GS raised the matter with the imminent WB changes that employment contracts required to be looked at and revised.

DC wondered if the word "Lawn" could be dropped from the title of Bowls and this was duly agreed.

R Black 12 October 2022