

Meeting Notes: O&M Pennant Committee

Meeting held at Rutherglen BC, Wednesday, November 25th

Present: Ian Bilney, Paul Davies, Fran Don, Noel Murrell, Bev Reichman, Ross Rankin, Bryan Smith.

Business:

- Ross Rankin was 'elected' Chairman for season 2020-21.
- It was agreed that in the event of poor air quality due mainly to smoke (as for the situation that occurred last summer), any decision on whether play is to proceed will be made by the Pennant Committee based on the best advice from the EPA, and NOT by the umpires at each venue.
- Back-up days have been scheduled for Saturday, March 6th and Tuesday, March 9th. It was agreed that the first round of the season lost to inclement or extreme weather would be the one played on these back-up days.
- There was discussion re the possible impact that Australia Day celebrations may have on mid-week pennant matches on January 26th. It was agreed that this was an issue for individual clubs and players. Clubs are reminded that starting times may be adjusted if players are unavailable due to Australia Day events. We don't believe that there will be a significant disruption as it will involve few players and celebrations such as breakfasts are unlikely to take place this coming Australia Day.
- Discussion took place about our heat policy. Committee members were reminded that it is the temperature forecast for Yarrawonga that will determine any course of action that we may take. This weekend looks problematic at this stage and a mandated 10:00 am start seems highly likely. Clubs are reminded that they do not have to play at the mandated time if they both can agree on an alternative. If they cannot agree, then the mandated time becomes the default position.
- Noel raised the possible issues that might arise with mid-week pennant on Tuesday, January 12th and the scheduling of Champions Week by Bowls Vic. Champions week is not a protected event. It was agreed that it was up to individual players as to whether they play O&M pennant or Champions week in much the same as it is those players selected in State teams. However, it was also agreed that no club should be severely disadvantaged by the loss of players who are, in fact, representing the O&M Region. It was agreed that the Pennant Committee would allow the re-scheduling of pennant matches to avoid such a disadvantage. In the first instance it is up to each club to try to resolve any issue. The Pennant Committee may only become involved to resolve an impasse.
- There was considerable discussion, but no actual resolution, to the issue of players rolling-up on the green prior to pennant play. It was agreed that we seek clarification of this issue. The old rule was that *roll-ups were permitted*

for home team players only, up to one hour before the start of play, as long as this was not on the same rinks that pennant was to be played on. This rule was removed from the O&M rules some years ago, not because the rule changed, but because it was superfluous as this was the stated rule in the Rules of Bowls. It was agreed that we investigate what the current Rules of Bowls and that they should be adopted by the O&M and communicated to all clubs and players.

Ross Rankin

Chairman