**Bowls Victoria - Ovens & Murray Region**

**72/10 HARRISON STREET WANGARATTA 3677**

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**MINUTES OVENS AND MURRAY BOWLS REGION**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OPENED AT 10.30am.**

**Sunday 6th June 2021**

**O & M Board members Present;**

**President Laureen Smith; Vice President John Fisher;**

**Secretary Graham Moore; Treasurer Bryan Smith;**

**Shaun McMahan, Loraine Stone & Patrick O’Shea**

**Delegates from Clubs To Be Present; Beechworth, Benalla, Bright, Chiltern, Club Mulwala, Corowa Civic, Corowa RSL, Corryong, Dederang, Kiewa Valley, Mansfield, Miliawa, Mitta Valley, Moira Benalla, Moyhu, Myrtleford, Rutherglen, St. James, Swanpool, Tallangatta, Tawonga/Mt Beauty, Tungamah, Wangaratta, Wareena, Wodonga, Yackandandah, Yarrawonga & YMGCR**

**Official Opening; President Laureen opened the meeting at 10.30am and welcomed all to the meeting**

**Apologies; 7 Clubs**

**Clubs Present; 13**

**Delegates Present; 30**

**Clubs not in attendance; 8 clubs**

**Other Apologies—Ross Rankin, Noel Murrell**

**Minutes of last year’s AGM ----Moved Wangaratta—Seconded Warena----carried**

**Anything from those minutes---nil**

**REPORTS;**

**PRESIDENT; Please President report attached**

**SECRETARY; Please see Secretaries report attached, Secretary imformed the members that only 2 applications for nominations had put in resumes—after a deep discussion it was put forward by Myrtleford that the secretary should notify candidates that more than one person as applied for that position and we require a resume, which will then be sent out to the clubs---all agreed**

**FINANCE;**

**Total Equity---$30,108.49**

**Income---$8,769.02**

**Expenses--$14,212.12**

**Net Surplus/[Defict]---[$5,443.10]**

**BVRR-----no meetings since last zoom meeting**

**PENNANT COMMITTEE; Please see report attached**

**CHAMPIONSHIP & SELECTION; Please see report attached**

**UMPIRES; report attached**

**GREENS; Pat rick requires immediate help for the coming season**

**JUNIORS; we require a junior coach**

**COACHING; we require a coaching panel**

**WEBSITE; Please see report attached**

**To accept all reports proposed by Dederang ----Seconded by Rutherglen----carried**

**NOTICES OF MOTION---none**

**ANY GENERAL BUSINESS-**

**Honorariums for season 2021/22------President, Secretary and Webmaster**

**President $1200.00**

**Secretary $1200.00**

**Webmaster $600.00**

**Moved by Myrtleford----Seconded Mansfield---carried**

**Delgates meeting closed at 11.15am**

UMPIRE REPORT

Season 20-21

The dramatically shorter season restricted the opportunities for us to conduct any umpire meetings. I think these are an important part of an umpire’s ongoing development and I hope that we will be able to meet at least once in the next season to provide a forum for discussion of laws and their interpretation and application.

Many thanks goes to all the officials who volunteered their time to umpire and mark for the state games and pennant finals. These games could not be played without you.

Anne and I, together with our other Presenters and Assessors have been training our new applicants and reaccrediting existing umpires.

I would encourage clubs to suggest to their officials that they set up a Bowls link account. If they do this, they will have access to their personal record and the date of renewal for their qualification.

This will make it easy for them to know when they have to reapply for reaccreditation.

Thankyou to Anne and Max, stalwarts on the umpiring front.

Laureen

PRESIDENT’S REPORT 20-21

Looking back over a very short season, running from late October 20 through to May 21, we managed to pack a lot in.

The Board recognized that our constitution had to be updated due to Bowls Victoria including a provision in their constitution allowing disciplinary action to be taken by regions. Due to COVID, meetings that had been planned to occur earlier in 2020 did not, so to be honest we were caught a little unprepared, but the review of the constitution has occurred. A draft copy was circulated to clubs and sent to Bowls Vic for approval, and I’m pleased to say that we will be presenting the final draft to today’s meeting to be formally adopted.

Congratulations to Pennant committee, Ross, Noel, Ian, Brian, Fran, Bev and Paul OVENS AND MURRAY BOWLS REGION

who managed to schedule and complete the pennant seasons. There were a number of changes introduced by the committee this year in response to the challenges COVID presented and as promised there is a survey on the webpage asking for feedback from players and clubs about the changes and what should or should not be brought forward into future pennant comps. The results of this survey will be a valuable resource for the pennant committee in their planning for 2021-22.

Many thanks to our retiring chair, Ross for his work over his time on the committee and particularly this last year. Also to other members who have not renominated, Paul Davies and Bev Reichman. Are you sure we cannot persuade you to continue?

Congratulations also go to our Championship /match committee, Shawn, John, Roger, Anne and Claire, who managed to schedule all state games, and with the cooperation of players, managed to get events completed prior to Bowls Vic closing dates.

Over the season I presented super veteran badges at a number of clubs, one of the perks of the job.

In my various roles over the season I attended:

-two days of State Championship Week (2019-20) held in Warrnambool

- one day of each Pennant State finals where Wodonga represented O&M and from what I saw played very well against tough competition

- all days of the Over 60’s

-all days of 20-21 State Championships

- all days region sides

pride in performing well and the depths of talent in our region in individual, team and side games.

I would like to thank Graham for his work as Secretary, our retiring treasurer Bryan for his work with the books and all Board members for putting their opinions forward in our Board discussions.

I cannot finish this report without acknowledging the contribution of John Fisher to the administration of O&M region over many years. I would be here for a very long time if I tried to document all of the committees he has served on so I shall simply say he shall be missed from the Championship/Match committee and from the Board.

For this region to continue to operate smoothly and for all of us to be able to continue to enjoy our sport we need people to put up their hands to fill the vacancies on a number of the committees. Many hands make it an easier job and you never know, you may enjoy the challenge. Please think about it.

**OVENS AND MURRAY BOWLS REGION INC**

**2021 AGM – WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

The past 12 months has been a difficult year for everyone in our region due to the pandemic. However, we were able to adjust our programme to complete our seasons Pennant, State and club champions events and the majority of clubs were able to run their club tournaments.

To assist all of this and to accommodate the numerous changes the website became an essential tool.

**Website.** The Region’s website has continued to develop, albeit slowly, as there is only so much that we can do under current access. Unfortunately, we do not have the access that Bowls Vic has and as a result the layout and graphical presentations are limited. However, the current access probably serves our Region’s needs.

I thank all clubs for providing details of their Club’s tournaments and supplying a copy of their Flyers. Only one request, if possible send your Flyers in PDF format which will save me time in converting them for posting to the website.

An additional enhancement to the website would be any news articles on happenings within your clubs. eg. club renovations, any major Grants received, special club or member events. A short report and photographs would be great.

A **Wanted and For Sale** column is available for members to buy and sell bowls equipment, feel free to take advantage of this access. Again, details and a photo would be great.

Any suggestions on developing the website further would be most welcome.

**Bowlslink.** The embracing of Bowlslink by our region certainly made the management of Pennant so much easier and less stressful. The additional members from clubs, gaining access to enable the entry of Pennant results, has been of great assistance and ensured timely entry of results after each game. It would be great if a club member in each Division was trained and provided access to enter/confirm results. This would overcome the time lag caused through waiting for results to get back to your club before the results are confirmed by your club representative.

The next advancement will be to use Bowlslink in the conduct of State and other Region events. To enable this members of the Region’s Championship/Selection Committee will require training and access.

**Media Input.** Each week the Pennant results are electronically sent to the Border Mail. Next season it is proposed that the results of State Events and any Tests also be sent to the Border Mail. However, for this to occur the Championship/Selection Committee would need to provide a report and where possible a photograph.

Thankyou for all who provided assistance and input to both the Region’s website and Bowlslink throughout the season.

**Noel Murrell**

Website Administrator

**OVENS & MURRAY BOWLS REGION**

**PENNANT COMMITTEE: 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT**

It is my pleasure to present the Pennant Committee’s Annual Report for season 2020-21.

Obviously, our most significant challenge last season was the spectre of the COVID-19 pandemic hanging over our heads. During last winter, and in the height of the pandemic in Victoria, the Committee formulated a series of plans and fall-back positions based on a number of possible scenarios. Our best option was for a season that started a little later than usual but still allowed for us to play two full rounds plus finals and finish before the end of March. This was our preferred position, and in the end, that was what we managed to achieve with the loss of only one round due to a short, snap lockdown in February.

The decision to reduce pennant games from 25 to 21 ends and to abolish afternoon tea during Weekend Pennant was made very early on in our COVID response planning and we were pleased that Bowls Victoria also adopted and recommended that to all the regions. The issue for us now is whether we revert to pre-pandemic positions or continue with the current format. A survey of clubs and affiliated members will be conducted so that next season’s committee has some tangible evidence on which to base its decision in this matter.

Compared to the last survey conducted two years ago, this survey will be brief and will only seek responses to about a dozen questions. We are hopeful that clubs will be pro-active in bringing this survey to the attention of all their members. We require and appreciate feedback so that on significant issues, the decisions that we make are

made in the interests of the majority of those who actually play in our pennant competitions.

Noel reports that he is pleased with the operation of BowlsLink and he now has few issues with non-compliance from clubs. The program is not perfect but it is continually being modified and improved so the work in progress continues.

Finally, my sincere thanks go to committee members Ian Bilney, Paul Davies, Fran Don, Noel Murrell, Bev Reichman and Bryan Smith for their contribution to the smooth working of the Pennant Committee and for their commitment to providing opportunities for those in this region to play pennant bowls. As in previous years, I would also like to thank Noel for all the extra work he does in his capacity as O&M Pennant Co-ordinator. He certainly makes the pennant committee chairman’s job much easier

Ross Rankin,

Chairman