

Bowls Victoria - Ovens & Murray Region

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OVENS AND MURRAY BOWLS REGION DELEGATES MEETING SUNDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2023

AT

WANGARATTA BC AT 10.30AM

MINUTES FOR Sunday 19th February 2023

O & M Board members to be Present;

President Laureen Smith; Vice President Roger Mathers;

Secretary Graham Moore; Treasurer Patrick O'Shea;

John White, Neil Reid, Glenice Campbell, Cheryl Lewis & Loraine Stone

Pennant Chairperson; Bryan Smith

Match/Championship Chairperson Anne Miles

Pennant Coordinator Noel Murrell

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

Apologies; Jack Lia, neil Pryor, Pam Tobias, Sue Dawswon Nancy

Duursmond, Patrick O'shea, Lorraine Stone, Bryan Smith

Clubs Present; 14

Delegates Present; 20

Clubs with Apologies; Kiewa Valley, Milawa, Tungamah, Tawonga/Mt. Beauty

Clubs not in attendance; Beechworth Corryong, Dederang,

Howlong, Moira, Tallangatta, YMGCR

Minutes of last Delegates Meeting recieved

Sec. Graham Moore---Seconded by

Any Business arising from those minutes

REPORTS;

PRESIDENTS---

President Report 19th February 2023

This time of the year we are all very focussed on Pennant finals and the finishing up of our State game program. The success of both competitions highlights the excellent work done by our Pennant committee and the Selection/Match committee. Congratulations to everyone who has

experienced success in any of the State games, Pennant finals to date and/or have been selected to trial for region representation in upcoming events.

Behind the scenes the Board has been working to further define the role of the Board and the committees that run Bowls in O&M region.

I know I have said it before but we are at a “rough draft” stage for a comprehensive review of the region regulations. These regulations define the relationships and responsibilities of the various bodies in the region, the Board, the committees, the clubs and individual members.

I am hoping that we will be able to distribute a “cleaner” draft copy by mid-March for clubs to have a look at and give any feedback to the Board.

The Board has identified that decisions need to be made in regards to the financial future of the O&M region.

Our current income and expenditure, on a yearly basis, has led to a draw-down of excess reserves in the order of approx. \$2000 pa.

The Board has felt comfortable with this situation but if we wish to balance the budget, which we do, the income side of the ledger needs to be addressed. The affiliation model and fees that have been in existence for at least the last five years has worked OK and we haven’t heard any negative feedback from clubs, so we assume that the structure of the fee suits them as well.

The \$ amounts attached to each category have been reviewed and for season 2023-24 we are proposing to lift each membership band (1-50, 51-100 etc) by \$5 per 50. The minimum admin levy paid by a club with 1-50 members would be \$55 and the maximum for a club with 200 members would be \$220.

The other component of the affiliation fee is the “per side pennant levy”. The proposal is to increase the 16 a side from \$120 to \$135 and the 12 a side from \$100 to \$115.

These changes, based on current participation would cover the present deficit in our current expenditure.

Other changes that are being investigated is how to improve our bottom line to allow for the costs of livestreaming pennant matches and championship

games by the introduction of sponsors, but unfortunately it appears this will not happen in this season.

To move forward, the O&M needs people on the Board and committees with a range of skill sets and experience and we need turnover to have new ideas brought forward.

I will not be renominating for President at the AGM this year. I feel that five years of one person as President is ample. There will also be vacancies occurring in committees as other people also make decisions on their future involvement in the management of the O&M region. We will be on the lookout for people who could fill these roles.

In the O&M we have great players on the green and we have a core of dedicated people working off the green in our clubs and committees making O&M one of the best regions in which to play bowls.

Participation at all levels is key to maintaining the standards.

As the region events come to their conclusion, our representatives will be participating in Over 60's State on 15th March – 17th March, Champions week 22nd April-30th April, State Pennant Weekend 6th May – 7th May, Midweek 8th May- 9th May, and region sides 26th May-28th May.

Good Luck and Good Bowling to all.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of the season as we move into the tournament phase of the year.

Laureen

FINANCE—TBA

Treasurers Report:

Opening Balance---\$16,870.95

Income----Interest Feb. \$0.14

Income

Admin & Pennant Fees

Clubs Paid x 18-----\$7,360

Expenditure----Nil

Balance as at 18/02/23----\$24,231.09

- Accounts to be passed for payment-----Nil
- Term Deposit----\$13,292.51----Matures 08/11/2023

**Treasurer Patrick O'Shea---- moves the Faineance report be accepted
Seconded Chiltern-----Carried**

Secretaries' report; Various letters sent out including letter to BV regarding our disappointment in the format for the Special Permit PlayerLetter from Elite Sports, regarding game cards, letter from Dederang regarding complaint they sorted it , plus several emails from clubs. Several emails sent out to all clubs and Board Members

BVRR; Meeting arranged for March 8th both President and secretary will be attending

**PENNANT COMMITTEE; Bryan Smith / Neil Murrell
PENNANT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Summary of Season to date.

Fortunately, this season was not impacted heavily by Covid but our region was heavily impacted by the recent floods. To those clubs that were impacted we felt for you but thankyou for finding work around to ensure that you could still participate in Pennant.

To bring you all up to date and highlight some issues that the committee had to address:

- **Heat.** As you are aware we were required to mandate a number of early starts for Weekend Pennant due to the BOM prediction of high temperatures. This season, from club and bowler feedback, we made the call earlier in the week in order that clubs and players could make the necessary arrangements for transport and getting time off work. However, the early call this week caused some angst as one club believed that the committee made the call too early. At the time the decision was made the temperature predicted by the BOM was 41C at Yarrawonga with preceding days of high temperature. Subsequently, the BOM downgraded the temperature for Saturday at Yarrawonga. As at Thursday the BOM had still predicted 36C at 2.00pm in the Northeast of our region and possibility of it being higher. The decision for the early start was not made on temperature alone but due to:
 - Lead up temperatures across the region 3 days before.
 - The need to avoid players having to come back on Sunday as required for finals.
 - The impact on the Champion of Champion Finals,
 - The General Meeting on Sunday
- **Early Start Times Weekend Pennant.** The committee has received numerous request from players and clubs to commence Pennant earlier when

we reach hottest part of our season. Whilst this appears a great option there are still issues for bowlers working on Saturday mornings and those with young families tied up with junior sports. This will be addressed as part of the post season review.

- **Tawonga Mount Beauty.** We have received advice that due to decreasing membership Tawonga Mount Beauty will not be fielding a Side in Pennant next season. It is unfortunate that they have had to take this action but as we know this is a sign of the times.
- **New Greens.** Tallangatta installed a new synthetic Green at the start of the season. Kiewa will be installing a new Green before next season. Corryong has just completed a full season on their new Green. Additionally, a number of clubs are working on gaining Grants to establish undercover Greens and facilities to suit. Undercover Greens are long over due in our region so we wish these clubs success in this venture.
- **Trial Promotional Pennant Permit.** This trial was thrust upon us by Bowls Victoria and did cause some angst for the Pennant Committee. The committee has met with the Board and requested that a trial report be sent to Bowls Vic, which has subsequently occurred.
- **BowlsLink Entries.** Whilst there has been major improvement there is still a way to go to reach full efficiency. Two areas still of concern,
 - late entry of results which appears due to a specific person within clubs charged with this function. Clubs need to allocate Side Captains or someone in the side with computer skills to do this immediately after the game.
 - alignment of sides is still being overlooked along with late changes.

Pennant Finals. Congratulations to all clubs with Sides in the finals. Thanks to those clubs showing a willingness to host the finals and submitting their desire have a final at their club. This can only occur if participating clubs are close by or your club has suitable Greens ie. Participating clubs both have a synthetic Green. The committee does consider all clubs and feedback provided by clubs within your Divisions. A special mention to Howlong in their first season for having all their sides reach the finals.

A thankyou to all Club representatives, umpires, scoreboard attendants and staff behind the season at Host Clubs. This work is greatly appreciated.

Should any club or bowler have any suggestions on how to improve our competition going forward, the committee would be happy to hear from you.

Finally, thanks to everyone who has assisted the committee at club level to ensure the season to be a success and for not causing us too much grief.

The committee wishes to sincerely thank Noel Murrell for his forbearance, patience and expertise in coordinating Pennant for this season.

Bryan Smith

Chairman Ovens and Murray Pennant Committee

17 February 2023

CHAMPIONSHIP & SELECTION---Roger Maters

All games to this point have progressed well

The fours, triples, pairs, & 60 7 over pairs have been completed all other championship games are on track

UMPIRES; Laureen Smith---All Ok

GREENS; Only one complaint received re green this is in hand

JUNIORS---NA

COACHING---N?A

WEBSITE; Noel Murrell---

Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc

WEBSITE REPORT

This is a brief report on the Region's Website and BowlsLink, where its at and what we been achieved this season.

Website

The website is still attracting much interest and being used as our major communicating tool. The main uses are:

- To communicate the Region's activities,
- Pennant administration
- Notification of Club Events – please send Flyers in as a PDF

The information contained under the drop down menus on the Home Page are slowly being updated as time permits and the information is forthcoming. For those that have not noticed, the Past Champion History is now available but there are still some gaps. Your assistance to fill these in it would be appreciated.

- **Some stats of note** (as at 17 Feb);
 - Sessions 12,591 (156% vs. Previous 30 Days)
 - Pageviews 26,056 (166% vs. Previous 30 Days)
 - Avg. Session Duration 3m 29s

BowlsLink

It is encouraging how clubs and bowlers have embraced BowlsLink this season.

Pennant. Entries by clubs for Pennant has now matured and the number of errors have reduced considerably. However, some clubs are still tardy in entering their results – this needs to be addressed next season. Throughout the season the Pennant results have been forwarded to the Border Mail.

State Events.

As you are all aware the Region's Match Committee made the decision to only accept entries through BowlsLink. There is no doubt that this was the right decision. Whilst there was some confusion at the start of the season bowlers did not take long to gain competency in the use of the competition model.

I worked with the Match Committee to establish all the State Events on Bowlslink and assisted in administering all events including the Draws (done automatically by the system. Now that the competitions are now in the system we can use these as templates in the coming years. All I need now do is train the Match Committee to complete all tasks.

This season clubs and players were provided a hyperlink to each event simplifying entry process. However, there are a number of downsides with this option. As a result next season entrants will be required to log in using their personal accounts which will allow the downsides to be addressed and allow players to manage their entries eg. withdraw if necessary.

I am sure that the Match Committee have been happy with using BowlsLink.

I would encourage clubs to start using BowlsLink to advertise their tournaments and other events. The first season will take the longest to set up but for annual tournaments and events you will already have a template in the system. An additional benefit in using bowlsLink is the ability to collect entry fees at the time of entry by having the Club's Bank Account linked. Many clubs around Australia are using BowlsLink as their preferred entry option.

Finally, thanks to all clubs who have assisted by providing input to our website. Should you require assistance on any matter relating to the websites or BowlsLink do not hesitate to contact me.

Noel Murrell

Website administrator

Ovens and Murray Bowls Region Inc

17 Feb 23

All reports to be accepted moved;Wodonga

Seconded; Wangaratta---carried

General Buisness

New President for the following season 2023/24 Laureen as done her time so it will be a man this time---I would like to thank Laureen for what she as done and what she is still doing.

Match committee members required 2023/24 season as some our present committee are resigning as they to have done their time and got it all in order

Also please think about any position on any committee, new Blood is always welcome

General Business

Roger Maters would like to thank Anne & Clare for all the work they have done for the Match Committee –ALL AGREED

Meeting closed at 11.30am

Next Delegates meeting TBA

