**OVENS AND MURRAY BOWLS REGION**

**MINUTES**

**Pennant Committee Meeting**

**Wangaratta BC 10.30am – 30 Nov 23**

**Attendance:** Bryan Smith,Noel Murrell, Dave Crothers, George Peterson, Elaine Peterson, Ian Bilney, Graham Moore (O&M President)

**Apology:** Fran Don, Gareth Williams

**Meeting Opened:** 10.20am

**BUSINESS:**

* **Welcome** Bryan welcomed Graham Moore (Region’s President) and all in attendance.

**Correspondence**

* + Myrtleford – Complaint re dispensation to YMGCR player for Weekend catch up Round 1.
    - Pennant Committee formal response – accepted and endorsed by committee
  + O&M Secretary titled ‘Communication’ - re Pennant Dispensation process and no feedback to Board re meeting with NSW clubs.
    - Personal response by Noel Murrell – copy provided to all committee members.
    - Pennant Chairmans response to Region Secretary re N Murrell response
  + J Whitehead (Bowls Vic) – Email re response to Myrtleford (dealt separately as an Agenda item below)
* **Email J Whitehead (Bowls Vic.** The email from J Whitehead was discussed at length mostly centred around the tone of the email. The Committee was not happy with the obvious personal attack on Noel Murrell, Pennant Coordinator.
  + **Resolution** That the Board be requested to write to Bowls Vic expressing that a personal attack on one of the Regions committee administrators is not acceptable.
* **Pennant Conditions of Play** Review Clause 12.7
  + The committee conducted a review of Clause 12.7.
    - **Resolution Future Pennant Draws** To ensure that Clause 12.7 of Pennant CoP are not breached in future years – Commence all Divisions on the same week. In B Division it may be necessary to not accept late entries to ensure only Divisions of 8 Sides.
* **Pennant Issues** 
  + **Forfeits YTD** – There have been a number of forfeits this season due to lack of player numbers.
  + **Washouts** – Fortunately not too many
  + **Club breaches re CoP Clause 12.7.** All clubs that have A3/B3 Sides have breached this rule due to earlier starting date.
  + **Impact of Commercial Club joining O&M**. Discussion took place to address rumours and to ensure that the Pennant Committee are focused on options. If additional clubs from NSW joins our competition there may be a need to split our region in to two playing zones.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

* N Murrell advised that his intent is to not nominate for Pennant Committee 2024-25 season
* Minutes Board Meeting 20 Nov 23. President Graham Moore requested to clarify the following:
  + **Minute ‘Notes’ - Permits** (no detail recorded). The discussion was around Pennant Permits and Special Permits and that clubs and members not happy with these permits.
  + **Minute ‘Notes’** – it was noted item on ‘What O&M Does well’:
    - Pennant Committee runs well
    - Good BowlsLink administration

**Meeting closed:** 11.45am when Chairman Bryan thanked everyone for their attendance and input.

**B Smith**

Chairman

Pennant Committee

Ovens and Murray Bowls region Inc

**Email Response – N Murrell**

From: Noel Murrell <nmurrell@bigpond.net.au>

Sent: Friday, 24 November 2023 5:17 PM

To: 'Ovens Murray'

Cc: President Ovens and Murray Bowls (presidentoandmbowls@gmail.com); Bryan Smith

(bryansmith3691@gmail.com)

Subject: RE: Communication

Hi Glenice,

I take exception in your email and wish to make it clear as follows:

* I am very much aware, as are other members, of the Pennant Committees responsibilities and where it fits under the Ovens and Murray Board,
* You, as Secretary, get copies of all meeting Minutes/Notes and are info on all emails generated on all important Pennant discussions between Pennant Committee and clubs. There are times that any information is delayed whilst the committee endeavours to reach a consensus or an issue is resolved.
* The assertion that the Pennant committee has operated outside the day to day operations of the responsibilities of the Pennant Committee regarding NSW clubs is incorrect! You have jumped to a conclusion that the Pennant Committee formally met with NSW border clubs re them wanting to transfer to Victoria. To set the record straight:
  + The President of the Commercial Club phoned me to ask if I could join him and his secretary to find out about how we conduct Pennant as the Commercial Club was considering following Howlong and Lavington in transferring to Victoria. He made it very clear – this was to be an “unofficial get together”, over a cup of coffee, to gain an insight into our Pennant competition and did not want it to become public until he formally met with his committee. I invited Bryan Smith along as I felt it only proper. On arriving at the Commercial Club we were to find that Commercial Club had invited two members of the North Albury Club, the Commercial Club Ladies (a separate entity to the men’s club) and some additional interested members.
  + Immediately after the ‘unofficial meeting” I felt it right (not only as a phone call, as you put it) to advise Graham Moore (Board President) to what had occurred. To make it clear – the President of O&M was advised of the ‘unofficial meeting”. It was not necessary to advise you!
  + Clearly, the Pennant Committee will not be receiving any request from NSW clubs to transfer to Victoria. This will occur through the correct channels, clubs to Bowls NSW and Bowls Victoria. Once this occurs I am sure that Bowls Victoria will contact Ovens and Murray Bowls Region (Region President and Secretary).
* On the matter of “player eligibility”, as you stated correctly, it is a matter for the Pennant Committee. You are not privy to all the detail surrounding this matter (neither do you need to be at this time). You have been kept abreast (via email cc:) on this matter and the complaint received from Myrtleford BC. Again, the Pennant Committee is under no obligation to provide the Board details on Pennant Dispensations, nor provide details to opposing clubs (out of courtesy maybe). Dispensations pertaining to Pennant are provided to clubs on a regular basis, especially during finals and on player shortages. Dispensations and rulings pertaining to managing our Pennant Competition rests with the “Controlling Body”. If you received an ‘Official Complaint” and were not an email cc: on the complaint from the President of the Myrtleford BC why was this correspondence not passed on to the Pennant Committee? If you had taken note of my last email response to Myrtleford BC on their complaint and read all the relevant information pertaining to this matter you would be aware that there was very little option but to provide the “dispensation”.

I wish to express my dissatisfaction to your communication below and certainly your assertions, which are not based on facts but supposition. I would be most happy to tender my resignation from the Pennant Committee and other support functions. However, I will wait until after the Pennant Meeting this coming Thursday, called to discuss further the Myrtleford complaint pertaining to the dispensation given, which by the way has the majority support of the Pennant Committee. Added to the Agenda will be your latest communication.

I wish to advise that this email response should not be taken as the official response of the Pennant Committee. I am sure that you will receive this once we meet next Thursday.

Regards,

Noel Murrell

From: Ovens Murray <secretaryoandmbowls@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 3:04 PM

To: Bryan Smith <bryansmith3691@gmail.com>; Noel Murrell <nmurrell@bigpond.net.au>; Noel Murrell

<websiteoandmbowls@gmail.com>

Subject: Communication

Dear Bryan and Noel

At the O&M Board meeting held on Monday 20th November the issue of communication with the

pennant committee was raised.

The pennant committee is a sub committee of the O&M Board

The Board is aware that the pennant committee is responsible for the day to day running of the pennant competitions.

The pennant committee is to send a copy of minutes and supporting documentation to the Board after each meeting.

Recently an issue has come to the Board's attention when the pennant committee is operating outside the day-to-day operations of the pennant committee.

The issue is discussing with NSW clubs who are considering transferring to Bowls Victoria and no notification given to the O&M Board until after the event and then only as a phone call to President, Graham Moore

A club changing state affiliations is more than just a pennant issue.

The Board requests that any further communication with NSW clubs also has the Board included. Any information received by the pennant committee regarding transfer of clubs is to be forwarded to the Board as soon as it is received.

The other communication issue is within the pennant committee responsibilities of a player eligibility to play.

The Board and the Myrtleford Bowls Club should have been notified in writing of the dispensation given to Ian Febey to play .

With the Myrtleford Bowls Club not having the information in writing and nothing mentioned to them verbally on the day it has resulted in a letter being sent to the O & M Board from the Myrtleford BC

On the day following the game there were State championships being played with discussion happening between clubs not directly involved. If the Board had been given written notice, then any concerns would have been resolved at the time.

The Board acknowledges that the Pennant Committee runs the pennant competition well.

The Board trusts that the communication between us will be improved moving forward

Regards

Glenice Campbell

Secretary

Ovens and Murray Bowls Region

Ph: 0408 420 508

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**INITIAL RESPONSE – CHAIRMAN PENNANT COMMITTEE**

From: Bryan Smith <bryansmith3691@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, 24 November 2023 5:46 PM

To: Noel Murrell

Cc: Ovens Murray; President Ovens and Murray Bowls

Subject: Re: Communication

Hi Glenice. As Chair of the Pennant Committee I thoroughly endorse Noel's response. I am extremely unhappy with the tone of your email and as far as I am personally concerned the matter with Myrtleford has been resolved.

The communication between the Pennant Committee and the Board has been as required.

I strongly suggest you communicate verbally with myself and or Noel before penning emails that demonstrate misinformation

Bryan Smith