

OVENS AND MURRAY BOWLS REGION

MINUTES

Pennant Committee Meeting Wangaratta BC 10.30am – 26 Apr 24

Attendance: Bryan Smith, Noel Murrell, Dave Crothers, George Peterson, Elaine Peterson, Ian Bilney, Graham Moore (O&M President) Fran Don, Maurie Braden (observer)

Apology: Nil

Meeting Opened: 10.30am

BUSINESS:

- **Welcome** Bryan welcomed Graham Moore (Region's President) and Maurie Braden (President Wangaratta BC) to the meeting.

- **Correspondence**

- Restructure Proposal – Bernie Jones
- Restructure Proposal – Glenice Campbell
- Restructure Proposal – Brendon DeVries
- Complaint from CEO Bowls NSW – Tim Rowe
- Response by Noel to CEO Bowls NSW
- CEO Bowls Vic Response to CEO Bowls NSW
- Corryong – consideration to accept promotion

- **Outcomes of Meeting with CEO Bowls Vic and Regions Board**

Bowls Victoria had received a formal complaint from CEO NSW regarding the Region's meetings with NSW border clubs. Bowls NSW had received correspondence accusing our Pennant Committee (namely Noel Murrell) from poaching clubs and this prompted the CEO Bowls Vic to investigate the accusation as requested in the complaint.

The meeting with the CEO Bowls Victoria (Tony Sherwill) and the Regions Board was very constructive and it is felt that Bowls Vic now has a better understanding of the background and reasons for the meetings with the NSW Border clubs seeking to find a better bowls outcome for their members.

As a result of the meeting the CEO Bowls Vic correspondence was to be sent by Bowls Vic to Bowls NSW assuring them that Ovens and Murray officials had only met with NSW Border clubs when requested by them.

The issues addressed at the meeting with the CEO Bowls Vic were as follows:

- The Formal complaint from Bowls NSW re Noel Murrell and perceived poaching,
- The Region's Right to liaise with NSW Border Clubs when requested,

- The Controlling Body for Regional Pennant.
- The Pennant Permit system.
- **Pennant Conditions of Play**
 - **Bowls Vic draft of the proposed new structure of the Bowls Vic CoP** – The Region has received an outline document for the proposed new Bowls Vic CoP).

Action: *Committee members to review and provide feedback. The committee noted a return from Glenice Campbell (as an individual)*

- **Pennant Issues – Season 2023-24** The committee briefly reviewed our past season as follows;
 - **Number of forfeits** – The committee discussed the increased number of forfeits during last season.
 - **Washouts/heat-outs** – fortunately washouts and heat-outs were minimal.
 - **Myrtleford/YMGCR saga** – the committee briefly discussed this issue and have decided to move on.
 - **Liaising with NSW Border Clubs** – the committee has agreed to continue to liaise with any NSW Border club if and when approached. The Culcairn president still wishes the postponed meeting to go ahead. This will occur sometime after 11 May.
 - **Update on North Albury and Commercial Club Transfers**
 - **North Albury** – in process of applying. Possibly 3 Sides in Weekend, 1 Side Midweek,
 - **Commercial Club** – propose to apply late May early June once Pennant finalised. Propose 4 Sides in Weekend, 2 Sides Midweek.
- **Other Clubs Considering Transferring**
 - Culcairn and Walla still undecided,
 - No official word from Holbrook.
- **Pennant Division Restructure Options**

Proposals were received by the Pennant Committee from Bernie Jones (Wodonga BC), Glenice Campbell (Rutherglen BC) and Brendon DeVries (Tallangatta). The committee appreciates the interest by these members, and it is obvious that they had put a lot of thought and work in to their submissions.

Copies of the various submissions/options are attached.

Action: *All submissions were reviewed by the committee which noted that all had merit and would continue to be looked at as any restructure is developed.*

- As part of the review, what options does the Pennant Committee have?
 - **Maintain the current Structure** – modified to accommodate the new clubs and entries,

- **North South options** – 2 playing areas,
- **East West option** – 2 playing areas,
- **Creation of a Premier League** – The committee agreed that this can be done with any of the options.

Resolution *After much discussion the committee resolved that we continue to review the way ahead and as an interim we retain the status quo but possibly add a new Weekend Division A5. Work is still to be done on a 2 playing area option and establishing a Premier League. The 2 playing area option will only become viable if more NSW Border clubs transfer to Victoria.*

○ **Retention of 16 players in Weekend Pennant Division ‘A’**

Is it time to consider converting Division A to 12 players (3 rinks)? The committee has commenced discussions on whether it is now time to have Weekend Division ‘A’ to revert to 3 rinks. What would be the advantages?

- Would assist smaller clubs in fielding Sides,
- Allows for two games to be played on a 7 rink Green,
- Brings in line with State Pennant playoffs, and
- Ensures standardisation between Weekend and Midweek competitions.

Resolution *The committee decided that as this is a major change it should be broached with the clubs. It was decided that the proposal be put up for discussion at the AGM in June. All clubs to be notified in advance in order that they can direct their delegates on their clubs views for discussion at the AGM.*

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- President Graham advised that he would not be standing for President of Ovens and Murray. He has done 30 odd years on various committees and his health has slowed him down.
- Chairman Bryan sort the Intentions of current committee to not nominate for Pennant Committee 2024-25 season,
- Chairman Bryan thanked all current members for their support and efforts in managing Pennant over the past year.

Meeting closed: 12.10pm

B Smith
Chairman
Ovens and Murray Bowls region Inc