

WESTERN PROVINCE BOWLS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Council meeting held at Pinelands Bowling Club

on Saturday 13th November at 9.30 am

Present:	Vice President:	Mark Douglas
	Treasurer:	Jenny Griffiths
	Executive:	Mark Gibbs, Marianna Kirsten, Ammie Carstens, Jenny Phillips Taz Bright
	Administration:	Denise Vermeulen
	Council:	Bergvliet, Constantia, CT Military, Durbanville, Edgemoor, Fish Hoek, Fresnaye, Glen, Goodwood, Gordon's Bay, Oakdale, Pinelands, Plumstead, Rondebosch, Stellenbosch, Strand, Wheatfield, WPCC

Apologies: Gerrit van Milligen
Bellville, Helderberg, Kraaifontein, Kuils River, Malmesbury, Milnerton, Old Oak,
SAPS, Sunningdale

No replies from: Gardens, Helderberg Village, Meadowridge, Mowbray, Parow, Pollsmoor,
Somerset West

1. Meeting Convened

The notice convening the meeting was read and the meeting commenced at 10.00

2. Roll Call (Attendance/apologies recorded on arrival)

18 Clubs were present, the meeting was duly opened. The Vice President gave apologies from Gerrit van Milligen (President) and took the chair. He welcomed the Executive and club delegates to the meeting.

3. Obituaries since 14th August 2021

14 Affiliated members had passed away since the AGM in August 2021. The name of Faan Oosthuizen from Stellenbosch was added to the list. The names were read out and Council members stood in a moment of silence.

4. Minutes Accepted

Acceptance of minutes of the last Council Meeting of 26th June 2021 – these were accepted at the AGM

Present the Minutes of Executive Meetings:

- 31st August 2021
- 28th September 2021
- 19th October 2021

Accepted by Rondebosch and seconded by Strand

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from any of these minutes.

6. Financial Statements

To consider, confirm and accept the Financial Statements of July - September 2021

Jenny G briefly gave a summary of the present financial situation. The association, at this stage of the year is showing a loss, which is very normal as the first few months of the financial year are always lean. Our main source of revenue is affiliation fees, and these are only invoiced out at the end

of November.

It has become very evident that we need someone to assist with administration in the district and interviews would be conducted in the next week and a suitable person will be appointed.

Proposed by Durbanville and seconded by Pinelands

7. WP Competitions

a. Flag, Muter and Trips league

A query was raised by Durbanville regarding the vote split and Mark D explained how it worked. This was in fact an Executive decision and the motivation for the vote was to gauge the feeling of the clubs. The process of reaching a decision was questioned and it was requested that more guidelines were given from the Executive in the future.

b. Fives

Although the mixed format met with some resistance, this competition proved to be very popular. It was explained that the format was an experiment, moving forward with international trends and had been decided on by the Competitions committee after feedback from the district. Entries had been similar if not more than the previous year. With the good support we struggled with green space and had a few clubs withdraw their greens after the draw came out. There was an objection raised by Constantia on green's availability and the R25 running costs for hosting clubs and their point was taken.

A query came from WPCC asking for clearer guidelines from the WP Executive regarding the gender mix for this competition. This will be looked at by the Competitions committee for next year.

8. Membership and Marketing

Under-45's

We see this as a huge sector of opportunity with people leaving other sports, and the potential to attract bowlers who may remain in the sport for many years. Unfortunately, the planned last Thursday events were put on hold during the previous Covid lockdown, but a lot of planning has taken place.

A new U-45's committee has been put together and is organizing roles including sourcing sponsorship.

On 9 December, a Christmas function is being planned to ensure continuity with everyone who has participated over the last year. The last Thursday events will continue from January, in at least 2 zones.

School Bowls

This is also a major opportunity, and we are hoping that the fourth wave being spoken about does not affect it again. Plans are on track to launch again in January. Good news from the Dominican school is that they are back practicing at Plumstead (something which was initiated by their teachers).

Disability Bowls

BSA has been pushing disability bowls because it is Disability awareness month and several options for events have been discussed. These generally involved the current disability bowlers, and it was decided that this would not really assist with growing bowls – especially trying to fit the events into a crammed calendar.

Work has instead begun on organizing a weekly or monthly event for disability bowls, including new and existing disability bowlers and other members.

Open Sessions

Several clubs are having success in attracting new members. Wheatfield started their Open Friday nights last week with great energy and members support and signed up 3 new members. The second event was last night, and it looks they will sign up another 16 members. Helderberg's event is going well and has strong attendance every week.

Constantia has been doing some wonderful things with this, including their Saturday morning Fun Day's.

If you want help with getting going with an initiative like this, please contact Taz and she will assist you.

Feet on Greens

To attract funding and sponsorship, and ensure government is aware of the viability of our clubs, we need to show that we don't only have 2500 members bowling at our 34 clubs. We have a lot more people bowling on our greens. The simplest way of doing this is to capture details of every person that steps onto a green at any club onto the BSA database. Please ensure that you capture the details of every person who bowls at your club and submit these to Taz on bowls@wpbbowls.co.za for capturing.

New Mother City Toucher newsletter

The first edition of our new format Mother City Toucher was sent out on Thursday to an initial mailing list of 196 people, including Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, Executive Members, Selection Committees, etc.

The focus in the newsletter is to provide direct feedback to members on what is happening in the district, including updates on district, club and national competitions, circulars, and news stories, etc. The first edition has a limited range of news, but we have had very good feedback on the concept. This was, in large part, a trial run to work out the new software, organize mailing lists and feedback forms, get verification of how the system works, etc.

A focus is on keeping it relatively short and free of long articles, with plenty of links to more in-depth data so recipients can choose what they want more information about.

All clubs are encouraged to get their members to subscribe going forward so we can have more direct communication throughout the district.

Clubs are also encouraged to submit anything that may be of interest throughout the district – including links to competition results, Facebook posts, etc.

9. Transformation and membership

Transformation is a big and sad word to use in our Sport of Bowls. There are a lot of questions to be asked but very difficult to explore or to answer or to action. We must put a huge effort in to attract more people of the previously disadvantage communities. Our affiliated clubs must play a big role to achieve this goal.

Must we focus on DEMOGRAPHICS or just People of Colour?

Our mother body, Bowls South Africa, do they conform?

WPB Executive are guided by our Constitution. Gender and race are well represented but can improve more with the right people. We must advertise or recruit people of colour.

Standing Committees.

Gender is well represented. We need to focus on people of colour so that they can be trained on all aspects of the game of bowls, administration and so on.

Inter District Squads.

We are doing well on this but the totals can improve particularly in the Ladies squad. What is the timeframe to get them on par?

What if SASCOC were to enforce their TRANSFORMATION CHARTER? We must think of the following:

- a) Gary Kirsten Foundation or Academy – can we do something similar?
- b) How do we get disadvantaged communities involved?
- c) Dept of Higher Education – is this not a place we need to put some effort? At Universities such as US, UCT, UWC, CPUT and TVET Colleges who don't have Bowls facilities.
- d) City of Cape Town and the other municipalities must come on board to create bowls facilities for the disadvantaged communities – how do we approach them?
- e) Cape Town Sport Council. Make use of their budget for the purpose of training of coaches and development
- f) The Western Cape Education Department need to be approached to get bowls introduced at schools.
- g) To make this happen we need sponsorship, and the SA National Lottery is a place we can approach

We need to assist Affiliated Clubs with the following:

- a) Marketing
- b) Approaching other sport codes and inviting those players who are retiring from their sport.
- c) Bring a buddy
- d) Open or fun days
- e) Parents bring children and grandchildren
- f) School children
- g) Businesses

10. Junior Bowls

The juniors sent two teams to the Envar Buys tournament hosted in Porterville recently. One Under 18 and one Under 15 team represented our district. Our Under 15 team returned with gold medals. To assist the juniors with skills development it was decided that we would have a junior practice once a month at Pinelands Bowling Club where varying skills would be catered for.

11. Vote for additional member on WP Executive

Nominees – Noel Solomon was appointed, receiving the majority votes for the vacancy. Thanks were given to Lesley Smyth and Soekie Fourie for making themselves available to the District.

12. Any other business

- a. A question regarding new members and affiliation fees was tabled and it was agreed that it would be considered for the next financial year.

The meeting closed at 10h50