



Western Province Bowls

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4 May 2024

WESTERN PROVINCE BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Council meeting held at Pinelands Bowling Club

on Saturday 4 May 2024 at 9:00am

Present:	President:	Gerrit van Milligen
	Vice President:	Tony Harland
	Treasurer:	Joy Calvert
	Executive:	Mark Gibbs, Danie de Klerk, Nico Taljaard
	Administration:	Chris Nurrish
	Council:	Bellville, Durbanville, Fresnaye, Glen CC, Kraaifontein, Kuilsrivier, Malmesbury, Meadowridge, Milnerton, Mowbray, Old Oak, Pinelands, Pollsmoor, Somerset West, Sunningdale & WPCC.
Apologies:		Mark Douglas, Grant Rightford, Marianna Kirsten, Janet Schmidt, Denise Vermeulen, Ian Travers-Phillips, Riva Myers, Edgemead, Goodwood, Helderberg, Stellenbosch.
No replies		Bergvliet, Constantia, Fish Hoek, Gordon's Bay, Helderberg Village, Oakdale, Parow, Plumstead, Strand, Wheatfield.

1.	Meeting Convened: The Notice Convening the meeting was read and the meeting commenced at 09h10.
2.	Roll Call (Attendance/Apologies recorded on arrival) 16 Clubs were present, and the meeting was duly opened. The President welcomed the Executive and club delegates to the meeting with special mention of the new members of the Executive and past Executive members Jenny Griffiths, Jenny Phillips, Mike Higgins & Chris Nurrish.
3.	Obituaries since 11th November 2023 12 Affiliated members has passed away since the Council Meeting in November 2023. The names were read out and Council members kept a moment of silence.
4.	Minutes Accepted Acceptance of Minutes of the last Council meeting of 11 th November 2023 – these were proposed by Durbanville and seconded by Malmesbury.
5.	Minutes of Executive Meetings The minutes of Executive Meetings held November, January and February had been posted on the WP Bowls website and circulated to all clubs.
6.	Matters Arising Milnerton queried the schedule for club visits Tony Harland referred to matter later in the meeting.

	Malmesbury queried the process followed regarding the complaint received about their green during Flag. Their green was running at 12 seconds which is within the acceptable parameters specified for competition greens. The meeting agreed that a specific protocol is needed for the making and handling of such complaints. All complaints must be through the complainant's club. This is to be addressed by the Executive. Meadowridge complained that despite promises recorded in Executive minutes and at the November Council, no management accounts had been circulated until now and neither had a budget been shared. Joy Calvert explained that the accounting system had been extensively modified and asked whether monthly management accounts were necessary – see 7a below.
7.	Executive Portfolios a: Finance – Joy Calvert: Joy queried whether monthly management accounts are needed and after some discussion Malmesbury proposed that accounts be published/circulated quarterly. This was agreed by Council. Meadowridge queried why no Budget was shown in the management accounts and Joy undertook that it will be shown in the next set of management accounts. Joy also agreed to add explanatory notes to the management accounts. b: Competitions – Nico Taljaard: Stated he is new to the executive team and still finding his feet and understanding what the role entails. The first things he realised are that: Competitions • There is a huge amount of work to be done. • That the team of Barrie Eksteen, Chris Nurrish, Marianna Kirsten and the Convenors of the Standing committees are doing a really great and important job for our District. • He is looking forward to contributing to bowls in our District. • We have just been through a busy period with the Disabled Bowls Nationals, the All Capes and the BSA Women's Nationals. • He is currently juggling a major work project in Durban with practising and playing bowls and is looking forward to retiring in two months' time and will have more time to make a contribution to the Executive team. • It has been a challenge to make the WPB calendar work while avoiding dates reserved for BSA Tournaments and events and we believe we should approach BSA for permission to play league matches during BSA Gold and Green Camps, the BSA Masters & International Events are taking place in other provinces. • In 2021 Mark Douglas started a process of consulting with our clubs on competition formats, conditions of play and calendar issues. This was not done this year but we will run the process this year with invitations to put forward proposals and inputs by the end of May and publish the discussion document with the inputs and proposed changes by the end of June 2024. This will be followed by a Workshop in July 2024 and the new season calendar and COP published in September 2024. • We currently need about 45 competition days in each season. • We need to investigate running a Western Cape Open event (similar to the Gauteng Open) possibly for the 2025/2026 season. • We need to align competitions with the Greenscare SC program. Graham Todd expressed concern that no WP male players were included in the BSA Masters and we need to seed our competitions to prevent our top players being knocked out in the round robins to enable them to build a record visible to BSA and the National selectors. Adré Barnard mentioned that most of the other Districts seed their top players. Technical

- **Technical Officials Convenor Jenny Phillips**
 - He has not spent time with Jenny but will get there and attend some of the SC meetings.
 - We need a training schedule to cover all levels (markers, level 1, level 2 and level 3 umpires) and there is a level 3 umpires course being presented by BSA in September/October. The qualifying criteria and applications have been published.
 - Courses should be presented in all parts of the District.
 - We need to coordinate the presence of TOs at all major events in the district.
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- **Coaches Convenor Jenny Griffiths**
 - He has not spent time with Jenny yet but will get there and attend some of the SC meetings.
 - We need a training schedule to cover all levels (level A, level 1, Level 2 and level 3).
 - Courses should be presented in all parts of the District.
 - Advanced coaching is needed for experienced bowlers and top league teams.
 - Practice routines and skills development exercises are needed for the off season.
 - There is a need for as Bowls Academy including coaching and development of upcoming young talented bowlers to be prepared for future district and national level teams.

Jenny Phillips and Jenny Griffiths pointed out that all the aims and schedules requested by Nico have been in place for many years and what has been missing is the involvement of the Executive in both the Coaching and Technical Officials work. He said that greater co-ordination is required.

c: New Market development – Gerrit van Milligen presented Janet Schmidt's report:

It has been a busy few months with regards to Marketing and Membership.

Marketing material for the Disability Nationals that were held in March were created and distributed. Assisting with markers, umpires as well as exposure before during and after the event. Driving blindies around to various clubs so that they could get their games / practices in.

The Mother City Toucher has started gathering momentum again after a bit of a hiatus over the December / January period.

We encourage your input and news to add to the newsletter. You can contact Taz directly with any interesting news.

Taz has been working closely with Eros School in Bridgetown. Eros is a school for children with Cerebral Palsy and teaching them to play bowls has been the highlight of their year.

Taz is constantly in touch with the Principal, teachers, club assistants and coaches from Wheatfield BC and the school. These have been identified for more focused and specialized coaching, theory lessons to take place at the school.

We are currently working on and hoping to have a fundraiser for the school on the 17th of June and are in talks with the school to arrange this.

Taz holds coaching sessions for these kids twice a week at Wheatfield, addressing the different phases of the learners at different times, with the help of the assistants that have been identified.

A number of these children have been added to the WP database and the number is growing on a monthly basis.

Everyone is invited to visit one of the coaching sessions to see what it is all about. Get involved if you can. Just image 80 – 100 new bowlers at our Wheatfield Club, a growing family indeed.

There has been an increase in membership across the district over the past few months, which has been keeping Taz on her toes. Business and Social leagues are definitely bringing new members into the sport.

Gordon's Bay Bowling Club has had a steady growth in numbers. They have started a few competitions bringing new feet to their club.

Taz has been helping introduce, train and coach newbies and then getting them to sign up as members of the club.

Great exposure is happening for this club. New sponsorships have been obtained so it's looking good for Gordon's Bay.

There have been a number of business leagues in the basin area this season and very successful ones. The idea is to have a Business League playoff where the top teams of each league play against each other for the top title of the area. The basin would be the starting block and once it is successful, we are looking to roll it out to other areas in the district.

Although we did not successfully kick this off this season, it is not off the table, and we are working hard to get it off the ground for the next season.

Our Facebook page was hacked some time ago. After many phone calls and emails to Facebook, we decided to rather just start a new page. A brand-new Facebook page and Instagram account were started just before the Ladies Nationals began and we were able to update it regularly with the news from the Ladies Nationals and other news coming in.

We have received two requests for help, both of which we are waiting for a date for a meeting:

Somerset West were approached by two schools for a demonstration.

Kraaifontein have asked for help to increase their female membership.

We are requesting that clubs please contact Taz if they need any help with setting up business leagues, increasing their membership, talking to schools in their areas. Taz Bright is here to help you and is just a phone call away. Her contact details are Taz Bright: bowls@wpbowls.co.za / 074.118-2753

Taz is employed to assist the District but without requests from our Clubs she does not know where to help.

Roux Vermeulen queried whether clubs gained full members from business leagues and the consensus was that very few new members are generated.

d: Juniors Development:}

e: Player Development:} Danie de Klerk: WP did well at the Inter-Districts with 5 out of 6 teams bringing back medals. Development has been neglected in the past. We are aiming to get WP players into the BSA Green & gold squads by running development squads for under 15/18, under 25/360 and Open players and will start in about 3 weeks' time. We will include skills training according to BSA standards plus technical and mental training. We are appointing a sub-committee to run this.

We will also make a WP High Performance Squad.

The Executive has formed a Players' Representative Committee to provide player feedback to the Executive.

Jenny Phillips and Jenny Griffiths pointed out that all the training and squads mentioned by Danie have been in place for many years and what has been missing is the involvement of the Executive in both the Coaching and Technical Officials work.

f: Marketing – This will be run by Grant Rightford

g: Club support Tony Harland: BSA will consider taking the differing weather seasons in the different Districts in allocating BSA Events in future calendars. Tony has visited 10 clubs in 2 sessions and will resume sessions on 21 May and 4 June and then move to the Northern zone clubs to ensure every club is involved. We are growing and membership numbers are rising, and all clubs Tony has visited so far are showing positive feelings and energy.

	Tony recommended that everyone read the article in the Mother City Toucher about running a Club successfully. There are differing views on the treatment of dual membership, and we perhaps need to convene a sub-committee to reach consensus on how clubs handle dual membership. We appeal to clubs to get their members involved on WP and BSA sub-committees to reduce pressure on members of the Executive. Tony Harland agreed to send notes on his club meetings to all clubs. Jenny Griffiths commented that standing committees need to interface with the Executive - Gerrit van Milligen will set up a meeting between the Standing Committees and the Executive. h: District Administration – Mark Gibbs: Mark paid tribute to Mark Douglas who has retired from the Executive and moving to Hermanus and then welcomed the new members of the Executive. Chris Nurrish will retire at the end of July and Denise Vermeulen at the end of November. The vacancy has been advertised and 5 applications have been received so far. Anne Carter (Sunningdale) commented on the excessive time new registrations are taking and this will be addressed between Janet Schmidt & Denise. i: Technical – Nico Taljaard: Greenscare has requested more involvement from the Executive team to the SC meetings and Marianna Kirsten will be attending the meeting on 6 May. He will be available to attend these meetings after July. The conditions of the greens at many clubs are the best they have been for many years thanks to the work of the Greenscare Standing Committee. The challenge is to find the balance between doing greens’ maintenance and the need to start using greens for district competitions as early as possible. We will encourage clubs to share information of projects (example contractors, costs, designs etc of banks) and pooling of chemical and fertilizer supply etc.
8.	Sponsorship D.C.A.S. funding – with help from Jenny Griffiths we submitted an application for funding and are pleased to report we have been awarded R 70K this year. Grant Rightford will take over Sponsorship from Mark Douglas and will promote the different levels of sponsorship envisioned by Mark Douglas. The sponsorship document setting out various levels of sponsorship will be finalised by Grant Rightford with assistance from Mark and this information will be shared with all clubs. We appreciate any assistance on sponsorship from clubs.
9.	WP Competitions All running well.
10.	Any other business A suggestion was made that we should consider running separate North zone and South zone Council meetings with sharing of minutes etc. This will be discussed by the Executive.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10h55