



NEWCASTLE DISTRICT BOWLING ASSOCIATION (ZONE 2) INC

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Minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee of the Newcastle District Bowling Association held at Association Headquarters, "Wal Young House", on Thursday, 19th June, 2008 commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: **President:** J.T. Smith (who occupied the Chair); **Vice-Presidents:** B. Alcock; K. Aspery; R. Brew; C. Burns; B. Carling; L.S. Coulton; **Sub-Committee Chairman – Coaching:** S.A. Starrett; **Junior:** W. Boyd; **Match:** D. Gilday;
Membership: B. Cooke; In attendance D.J. Broad OAM, Secretary

APOLOGIES: S. Clarke, Bar Beach; D. Hissey & T. Undery, Beresfield; R. Clayden, Burwood Colliery; A. Medland, Charlestown; G. Yates, Dora Creek Workers; B. Cartwright, Hamilton; S. Brown, Mayfield; M. Cuell, Mayfield West; B. Williams, Tea Gardens; W. Brogden, Water Board.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: A. Wright, Treasurer; K.M. Crossingham, Selection Committee Chairman.

CLUBS NOT REPRESENTED: Bayway Village; Belmont; Beresfield; Carrington; Catherine Hill Bay; Hamilton North; Heaton-Birmingham Gardens; Merewether; Morisset Hospital; Teralba; Tomago; Wangi.

OBITUARIES: The President referred to the death of the following and a motion expressing sympathy with the relatives was carried in silence:-

Wal Collier (Rathmines Memorial); George Fullick (Heaton-Birmingham Gardens); John "Neale" Davis (NDBA Life Member/Warners Bay); Rod Smith (Cardiff); Ken Hepple (Charlestown); Robert Leece (Burwood Colliery); Allan Webster (Heaton Birmingham Gardens); Archibald (Archie) Hastie (Fingal Bay); Shaun Dorsett (Windale/Gateshead); Barney Christian (Stockton).

MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 15th May, 2008 having been circulated to all members, were taken as read and confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

1. Answer to W. Shipley (Edgeworth) enquiry as to how many No.1 Grade Pennant Matches played on a Friday Evening is 8, which represents 6.67% of total matches played in a No.1 Grade (120).

EXECUTIVE REPORT:

The following recommendations were approved:

1. The Management Committee Meetings commence at either 6.00pm or 6.30pm. A vote to be taken on the preferred option, with the new starting time to commence at the August, 2008 Management Committee Meeting, viz. Thursday, 21st August, 2008. Moved P. Stamford, Water Board BC Seconded B. Kappler Dora Creek Workers BC that Management Committee Meetings commence at 6.30pm. – CARRIED.
2. Leave of Absence be granted to D. Gilday, Match Committee Chairman, from 26th to 30th June, 2008.

It was advised that:

1. The Inter-Zone Matches between Zones 2, 4, 9 & 16 on the 1st and 2nd November, 2008 will be played at Towradgi Park Bowling Club.
2. Visits to the NDBA Website were April 936; May 2,620 and June to-date 1,378.
3. Circular No.80/2008 details the 2008/09 Executive and Permanent Sub-Committees Nominations. Ballot Papers have been posted to all clubs for the election of the five (5) members for the Junior Committee.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

All of the Saturday and Mid-Week Pennant Competitions have now been completed and we extend our congratulations to the winners. Preparations are now underway by our 7 Saturday sides to represent both themselves and this Association in a quest to bring a State Flag to Zone 2 and we wish them every success in their endeavours. Once again Soldiers Point

BC is hosting special Pre-State Pennant practice matches on Sunday, 20th July and we thank them for their fine gesture in hosting and sponsoring this event.

The culmination of many months of planning and preparation came to a conclusion with the staging of the 2008 Premier League Final Series at Toronto Workers BC. To President Maurie Schoer and his organizing committee and club members we offer our congratulations for your efforts. The large and involved crowds on both days, plus the high standard of bowls presented to an enthusiastic audience, must have been a very satisfying feeling for all concerned. Toronto Workers certainly upheld the fine tradition set by Zone 2 clubs in hosting big events.

Last Saturday Wallsend BC celebrated its Centenary in great style. President John Archer of the RNSWBA was in attendance and performed a number of duties on the day. The club, in a great gesture, chose this day to name a green after Robert Sonter both for his successes on the bowling green and the countless hours he has spent in caring for the surrounds. Robert was very humbled by this honour and responded in a brief but heartfelt manner. President Tom Bailey and all of his organizing committee are to be commended for the most relaxed manner in which the day was conducted, which enabled club members and special guests to mingle in a most convivial way. On a personal note may I thank the club for the special presentations to John Archer and myself.

Special recognition to members of the bowling fraternity occurred this month. Heading the list was Terry McCabe's induction into the Hunter Region Sporting Hall of Fame in recognition of his Australian representation and his numerous successes in the sport of Lawn Bowls. Congratulations to Terry on this fine achievement. Also Warren Boyd, Alan Hextell and Kevin Aspery were awarded the Newcastle City Council Volunteer Recognition Awards.

Burwood Colliery BC President Bob Clayden and his members are still probably celebrating the club's first ever District Triples Title last weekend. Match Committee Chairman David will give you more details of the game.

On a sadder note the sudden loss of Life Member Neale Davis was felt by many in the bowling community. Neale gave great service to the NDBA in many roles such as Vice-President, Chairman of Junior Committee and as a member of both Match and Selection Committees. His fine work in the grounds of Wal Young House was also a valuable contribution.

I also have to announce this evening that the Club Macquarie Men's BC has ceased to function. The club was unable to find any members to act as office-bearers. We believe that many of the bowlers have joined nearby clubs and so will continue their involvement with our sport.

Tonight in your mail you will find two Circulars relating to our Annual General Meeting. One details a proposed change to our Constitution (Clause 33.) to bring the NDBA Constitution in line with that of the RNSWBA on the issue of Suspension and Expulsion. This Notice of Motion will be voted upon at next month's Annual General Meeting. The other provides details on Office Bearers and Sub-Committee nominations and the ballot required for the Junior Committee. A ballot paper was forwarded to your club yesterday, together with a stamped addressed envelope which is required to be returned to the Association Office by Thursday, 10th July, 2008. We also have one vacancy on the Coaching and Greens Committees.

The cycle of Annual General Meetings continues and we thank the clubs for their invitations to attend. As expected in these difficult times results generally are below previous years.

I also had the pleasure of attending the Newcastle District Cricket Association Presentation Night and a pleasing feature of this evening was a special award to Charlestown Greenkeeper Greg Geise for his great contribution to Newcastle Cricket.

At this stage we have had a small response to the farewell function for Mrs. Leslea Milburn at Windale-Gateshead BC on Thursday, 26th June. Clubs are asked to advise us by no later than Monday, 23rd June of their intention to attend so that all appropriate arrangements can be made for this function.

J.T. Smith presented K. Aspery with his Newcastle City Council Volunteers Award Certificate.

T. Dean, Wallsend BC thanked J.T. Smith, C. Burns, D. Broad & J. Archer (RNSWBA President) for attending their Clubs Centenary Celebrations.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer submitted a statement of receipts and expenditure for the month ending, 31st May, 2008 which showed a balance at bank \$18,127.31. Moved P. Long, Redhead BC Seconded J. Jordan, Kahibah BC, that the 2008/09 Budget as forwarded to Clubs on Circular No.61/2008 be adopted. - CARRIED.

REPORTS:

RNSWBA:

The meeting was opened by President, John Archer at 9.00a.m after the normal formalities (General Reports) had been read & confirmed the following topics were discussed.

MATTERS OF INTEREST

Chief Executive Officer: The Board has unanimously appointed Greg Helm as the new Chief Executive Officer of Bowls NSW. Greg had been working in the role of Acting Chief Executive Officer for the past six months and has gained experience with the Royal, first as Sports Development Officer and subsequently as Sports Development Manager. We wish Greg all the best in the new challenges that lay ahead.

Unification: The working party which consists of fresh thoughts and new ideas on taking our game forward as a unified body have many difficult hurdles still to overcome. The main challenge will be that major legal changes are still required from the current ladies association constitution before the introduction of a New Constitution for both our Organisations can truly begin. I will avoid any confusion or possible misunderstandings, by not reporting on future speculation or verbal comments from current meetings and will leave all news to future press announcements which will be under the joint signatures of the two Association Presidents.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Marketing & Promotion of Lawn Bowls: Meetings with Marketing Company “Brand New Alliance” have failed to assist our Association with a major sponsor for the “Premier League Competition & The Barefoot Bowls Concept”. Discussions & meetings will continue to pursue many opportunities from Companies & Business Outlets that will assist our Sponsorship needs towards our Seasons Programme. Major changes are anticipated for Premier League which, we hope will see the main focus shift back to State Pennants as the Blue Ribbon Event for each calendar year. Premier League has its place but the main membership has to be valued in our endeavours of taking our sport forward. The Executive realise that “Sponsorship Dollars” are a very important issue and as such have formed a working Committee to assist our New Chief Executive Officer and I am pleased to report that John Peek from Zone 15 and myself will assist the Association to retain our current sponsors while introducing more viable Businesses to involve themselves and adopt the opportunity of a partnership that we feel exists within our game.

BOWLS AUSTRALIA - Agenda Items of interest on Our Game;

Review of Our National Merchandising Program: As a Board Member I am greatly surprised that BA has conducted a review of the Program without reference to the major Stakeholders, the STA's. As you are aware, under the current Program, it was agreed between the STA's and Bowls Australia that 100% of profits under the National Merchandising Program are returned by Bowls Australia to the STA's.

Bowls Australia now recommends that surplus funds from 2006-7 Season, less a contribution fee of \$30,000 to assist in the Staging of two Development Officers in 2008 is unacceptable to our Association as it is contrary to the undertaking that 100% of funds be returned to the STA's. Their proposal also contains that there will be a base funding level allocated to STA's of only \$10,000 is totally inequitable and that the smaller bowling populations of Northern Territory and the ACT receive the same base amount as say, QLD, Vic and NSW is again unfair. To say that additional funds to the STA's will then be allocated using current registered membership, growth in participation etc. is unbelievable and totally unacceptable.

Both the NT and ACT could gain one new member in twelve months and their percentage growth rate would be fairly high whereas a one member increase in numbers of the larger states would hardly cause a ripple.

This needs more thought and further transparency with full disclosure of total revenue still to be shown.

Australian Junior Championships: Bowls Australia have proposed in another draft policy that now requires the “Host State” to be responsible or obliged to cover the financial costs of ground transport for athletes and coaching staff from all states and territories from the airport to accommodation and to & from the venue is again totally unacceptable. Accordingly, as Bowls Australia selected the venue for 2008 and the RNSWBA had no involvement or say whatsoever in its selection then Bowls Australia should continue to meet the costs involved as it has done in the past. We continue to struggle with the lack of simple communication needed from Bowls Australia before they go to print.

We have also been advised of further proposed changes to do with two other areas involving the

Australian Indoor Championships & Coaching Development and Funding

which again has issues that are totally unreasonable to accept? From this latest correspondence the Board has asked our State President, not to endorse any of their proposed Draft Policy Changes and we seek through written correspondence urgent

clarifications to what we see are a very big disadvantage to our Association and most importantly a retraction to all of their unreasonable changes.

I will keep you informed of the final outcomes?

Coaching Committee:

A very successful Re-accreditation Seminar was held on Sunday, 15th June at New Lambton Bowling Club where 9 coaches attended to gain accreditation as Level 1 coaches for the ensuing 4 years.

The course included information on latest techniques, discussion forums, practical on-green activities and questionnaire completion. (Bonus Points leading to Full Marks were given to all attending for their ability to scamper from the green to dodge the persistent showers that tried to have an adverse effect on the practical activities).

Appreciation is given to New Lambton Bowling Club for hosting the seminar and in particular, Greenkeeper Andrew, who unstintingly worked in totally unsympathetic conditions to ensure that the Seminar could proceed.

It is with pleasure that I announce that those coaches who sought re-accreditation will be recommended for continuing Level 1 status to the RNSWBA.

Coaching Seminar 3 will be conducted on Saturday, 6th September, 9.00am – 11.30am at New Lambton Bowling Club. This will be primarily for Bowlers who have a mobility problem; those who “dump” their bowl; those who may wish to use a fixed stance and those who wish to develop their expertise utilizing “Bowlers’ Arms” or walking sticks. It is also open to coaches who may wish to *assist* some of their members facing some *delivery difficulty*. (Sunday, 7th is Fathers Day.)

Match Committee:

The Saturday Pennant competition has now been completed with winners competing in the upcoming State Pennant playoffs in August 2008 and they are listed as follows:

- Grade 1: Soldiers Point
- Grade 2: Lambton
- Grade 3: Redhead
- Grade 4: Tea Gardens
- Grade 5: Wangi
- Grade 6: Burwood Colliery No.1
- Grade 7: Wallsend No.1

To all these sides we wish you good fortunes at the upcoming State Pennant playoffs.

The Midweek Pennant winners for 2008 are listed as follows:

- Grade 1: Kurri Kurri
- Grade 2: Wallsend
- Grade 3: Raymond Terrace
- Grade 4: Dora Creek Workers
- Grade 5: Belmont

A feature of the Mid-Week Pennant competition was that it was Kurri Kurri’s first No.1 Grade flag; Raymond Terrace’s inaugural success in any Grade; Dora Creek Workers first No.4 Grade Flag and Belmont’s first No.5 Grade Flag.

Clubs are also reminded of the option of applying this year for the regrading for 2009 for any players who may have played only 1 or 2 games in a higher grade in 2008 when filling in as a replacement and now having a higher grade than they usually would have. There is a specific form for this application and the State Match Committee will only deal with applications submitted on this form.

The second of our district championship events was concluded on Saturday, 14th June 2008 with the District Triples final being played at Redhead Bowling Club. Congratulations to the team of Neil Carroll, Trent Smith & Bill Siever of Burwood Colliery on defeating Jamie McHugh, Kevin Merriman & Gary Copping of Valentine 24/20 in the decider. The trio created club history by becoming the first Burwood Colliery bowlers to win the Newcastle District Triples Championship. A big thank you is to be extended to Redhead Bowling Club for hosting the finals series and to all the other club’s who have hosted rounds in this event please accept our thanks.

The State President’s Pairs and District Pairs, along with the State Senior Pairs Championship are all scheduled to commence this Saturday, 21st June 2008.

The closing date for this year’s District Minor Singles Championship is Wednesday, 2nd July 2008 with the first round expected to commence on Saturday, 19th July 2008.

Nominations for this year's Major Singles and State Senior Singles Championship closed yesterday, Wednesday, 18th June 2008.

The annual Zone 2 versus Zone 13 representative match to be played on Sunday, 6th July 2008 has been scheduled to be played at Toronto Workers Bowling Club.

Any clubs wishing to submit suggestions or changes for the 2009 NDBA Rules & Regulations and Season Program are urged to do so as per NDBA Circular No.54/2008 and be in the hands of the NDBA Secretary by Friday, 27th June 2008.

Delegates just an early reminder that the closing date for this years Three Threes competition is Wednesday, 6th August 2008 with the expected commencement date being Wednesday, 27th August 2008.

Selection Committee:

The Selection Committee met on Tuesday, 10th June, 2008 to select the Newcastle (Zone 2) teams to play:

- (a) Zone 13 at Toronto Workers Bowling Club on Sunday, 6th July, 2008.
- (b) The Junior Inter-Zone Sides Championship at Lorn Park and Maitland City Bowling Clubs on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th July, 2008.
- (c) A practice match against Soldiers Point No.1 Grade Pennant Side on Sunday, 20th July, 2008.

Circular Nos.75, 76 and 77/2008 contain full details of all fixtures.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORTS:

Match Committee

W. Shipley, Edgeworth BC, suggested that a draft of the 2009 Season's Programme be forwarded to Clubs as early as possible. This will allow the Club a better opportunity to submit suggestions for the 2009 Season's Programme. J.T. Smith advised that the NDBA Match Committee had to wait on the Royal & Bowls Australia Season's Programme, before they could make the recommendations for the 2009 Season's Programme. A draft Season's Programme will be considered at the July NDBA Match Committee Meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- 1. B. Carling advised that Advisory Committee Pamphlet No.4 Unfurling a Pennant was now on the NDBA Website.
- 2. J.T. Smith reminded Delegates that Entry Forms were now at all Clubs for the 2008 Mattara Carnival, including the Frank Neat Memorial Club Nominated Mens KO Classic Triples.
- 3. K. Rearden, Swansea Workers BC, requested clarification of membership & if a member could play in Association Events if he was unfinancial. J.T. Smith advised that a player must be a registered member of that Club to play in Club Championships or in Association Events – refer State Condition of Play 2.6 Players Eligibility.
- 4. A. Medland, Charlestown BC, enquired if Pennant Post Sectional Matches could be played on a Sunday afternoon. J.T. Smith advised that this would require a Rule Change & a Rules Change Submission would be required from a Club.
- 5. G. Bailey, Windale/Gateshead BC, enquired if 8 Pin Badges were available. J.T. Smith advised that 8 Pin Badges are currently being sponsored by Nelson Bay BC. Applications for 8 Pin Badges should be made thru the Association Office by submitting a copy of the relevant scorecard, which is forwarded to the Match Committee for approval.
- 6. Leave of Absence – B. Kappler, Dora Creek Workers BC, for the July Management Committee Meeting – APPROVED.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday, 17th July, 2008 commencing at 7.45pm. The next ordinary meeting will be held on Thursday, 21st August, 2008, **commencing at 6.30pm.**

CLOSED: The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

CONFIRMED.....(PRESIDENT)
21.08.2008