



Bowls Wellington

Delegates Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 24th May 2022

Held at Pelorus House, 93 Hutt Park Road, Seaview, Lower Hutt

## Present

Board: Dayle Jackson (President), Susan Way (Chair),  
Sharman Buckle, Gerry Macgregor

Clubs: Hutt, Island Bay, Johnsonville, Khandallah, Lyall Bay,  
Massey Ave, Miramar, Petone Central, Plimmerton, Naenae,  
Silverstream, Stokes Valley, Tawa Services, Upper Hutt,  
Wainuiomata, Whitby, Victoria,

Life members: Trevor McComish, Gerry Macgregor, John Harvey

Apologies: Newton, Wilton, Ralph Vulu (Board)

## Obituaries

The obituaries had been noted and a minute's silence observed for;  
Ron Guy (Miramar), Harry Price (Naenae), Peter Lockett (Hutt), Betty  
Bowden (Lyall Bay), Bill Cunningham (Stokes Valley), Brian Biel (Upper Hutt)

## Confirmation of Minutes

It was resolved that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15  
March 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting

Island Bay/Petone Central

# General Manager Report

Sue Way (BoardChair) reported to the meeting that interviews have been held and the Board is upto the process of selecting a candidate and negotiation of employment package. Club will be notified once a General Manager has been appointed.

The question was asked when they might start, at this stage an August start is likely.

Bowls New Zealand has sent a notice out to clubs re a rise in the affiliation fee to be paid by Clubs to Bowls New Zealand. Their notice indicated a 4.9% increase. Bowls New Zealand have opted not to use the current CPI of 6.9% Bowls Wellington are likely to do the same.

## Bowls Wellington Season review - (attached)

### **1. Conduct a review of the Champion of Champion events format and dates in a survey format**

Discussion was had some clubs had discussed each of the proposed question put forward in the submission. Several clubs loved the new format and spoke about how it made the CoCs special.

23 for / 16 against that Bowls Wellington conduct a survey to send out the clubs

### **2. Change Interclub “any Combo” to “Mixed Quad”**

General discussion around why the need for the any combo it was generally agreed that the any combo gave small clubs other options. The emphasis was on having formats that allowed as many club members to enjoy participating in interclub events.

2 for / 36 against

### **3. Twilight Bowls 3Five, change format back to a tie-breaker end**

A discussion was had a generally the meeting were in favour of the original format of 2 sets and a 1 end tie-breaker. The meeting was impressed with the time that the individual, Yvonne Gibb, had put into the submission

41 for / 0 against to change back to 2 sets and a 1 end tie breaker.

### **4. Change format for premier Interclub play-offs to a straight semi final/final**

General discussion held about why the change this year, Gerry Mcgreggor spoke to the change.

38 for / 3 against to change the format to play the premier playoffs

**5. Bring the time limit in the men's Pennants finals to bring it into line with other centre events**

General discussion about the merits of no time limit in the final  
41 for / 0 against

**6. Champion of Champion events being held too early restricting club programs - Lyall Bay and Silverstream in support**

**7. Champion of Champions events being held too early in the season - Stephen Leitch**

6 & 7 A long discussion was held - Not voted on. Bowls Wellington needs to take this into consideration when setting the schedule

**8. Reward open tournament semi-finalists with a prize**

Allan Child spoke to this was happy even if entry money received back as prize would be acceptable. Plenty of additional discussion was held. Due to the amount of discussion a vote was held. Gerry Macgregor also spoke about why it was dropped and the logistics of catching players before they disappeared after losing the semi final  
26 for / 13 against

## General Business

Bowls Wellington asked by one of the greenkeepers, who was representing a club, that Bowls Wellington look at using only 7 rinks on Bowls Wellington events to save the ends of the rinks. This will be passed onto the tournament managers.

Presentation of the Bowls Wellington Administrator of the year. This was awarded to Gerry Mcgregor and Keith Johnson. Appreciation was shown by the meeting for Gerrys years of dedication to running Bowls Wellington Events. Both Gerry and Keith will be missed they have left big boots to fill

There being no more business the meeting was concluded at 9:50pm

Minutes confirmed as a true and correct record:

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Chair

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Date



# Season Review 2021-22



## **1. Conduct a review the Champion of Champions events format and dates – Individual: Lorraine Brennan**

*Conduct a written survey of clubs to assess the need for change in format*

Now the Centre has played Champ of Champs in two parts for two years we should survey clubs to see how they feel about the present format.

How big was the audience for the Finals events? Has the change been a success?

Many of our members believe we should return to old format of a C of C event played on one weekend as if a player is playing very successfully on Day 1 they have to wait 4 to 6 weeks before completing the event when the conditions will be completely different, their own psychological state may be different, they may not be available for an unknown reason and there is increased pressure with cameras etc.

Suggested questions:

Survey of Bowls Wellington Programme

1. Do you agree with Champion of Champions being played in two parts that is Day 1 and a Finals weekend on another weekend (as in the last 2 years)?
2. Do you agree that each Champion of Champions event should be played on one weekend?
3. What date or part of the season do you think Champion of Champions events should commence?
4. a) Did you have difficulty in completing your club championships in the last season?  
b) If yes, why did you have difficulty?
5. Is there any Bowls Wellington event you believe should be ceased?
6. Any comments about Bowls Wellington Programme

### **Review Committee Recommendation**

The review committee considers that a survey for clubs to complete is a good idea as part of the review process next year. Whilst this submission sees the need for change, most feedback received by Bowls Wellington was very supportive of the CoC program. It is agreed

timing is an issue and as can be seen from responses to other submissions, we will learn for the challenges caused by starting the CoC program too soon. Should the club delegates vote in favour of a survey for next review, the matter will be taken up by the pending new appointment to the Bowls Wellington General Manager vacancy.

Note the Centre's program must be finalised by the end of June to go into the printing cycle.

## **2. Change Interclub "Any Combo" to "Mixed Quad" – Petone Central**

*There is already a provision for a team of 4 men and a team of 4 women, and we do not consider that a team of just one gender should be able to compete in the Any Combo Quad.*

This season Khandallah won this section with a team of 4 men, however we had heard that there were reasons for this.

For us at Petone Central we had players who put their names forward to play interclub, but unfortunately there were not enough men or women remaining to field a full team elsewhere, so hence the Any combo.

Our 2 women that played in this event have made the comment that they were very disappointed about having to **play teams of 4 men frequently**. Why are the men not entered in the Men's Quad.

We also refer you to Bowls 3Five where teams must have one of each gender and then the third person either male or female. We would presume this is to make the competition fair across the board.

From the minutes of the last delegates meeting when this matter was raised, Bowls Wellington agreed to look to clarify on the definition of "Any Combo" in the condition of play next year.

It would be fairer to have at least one of each gender in the team, so that women are not playing just men.

### **Review Committee Recommendation**

The review committee notes that "any combo" can include a mixed team, just as it could be an all women team. The review committee would not support the notion that women bowlers were at a disadvantage playing men. The provision for "any combo" has been there to provide wider options for the smaller clubs, where, as in the example given here, Khandallah, to require a "mixed" team can preclude the opportunity for participation. The proposal is not supported.

### **Reasoning**

By way of background it is known that the Khandallah team started the year with a squad including women, but availability due to other commitments and illness/injury impacted selection. There were initially 2 women involved, one developed an illness and unable to play and the other wanted to play if her health improved, regrettably it didn't.

### **3. Twilight Bowls 3Five, change format back to a tie-breaker end** **– individual: Yvonne Gibb**

#### **Review Committee Recommendation**

*The full proposal from Yvonne Gibb is copied below. The proposal is well put together and explained. The review committee is fully in support, that is, the proposal to go back to a one end tie-breaker is endorsed and recommends the delegates support this change. The review committee supports option 1 as option 2 whilst not a full “3<sup>rd</sup>” set, would still require additional playing time.*

#### **Full Proposal**

##### **Problem with the changed tie-break format played in 2021/22**

Lots of people commented that the five end tie break format just wasn't as much fun because:

- The brilliant quick strategic format of the game was gone
- Playing the original format required a totally different strategy to a normal game of bowls (particularly with a sudden death one end tie-break) – it is an exciting format to play
- The new format became too long when the tie-breaker was played. Players also commented that it just felt like a three set game of bowls (and is almost as long as a normal triples game)
- it broke apart the wonderful socialising we had enjoyed after the Bowls3five twilight games in past years

#### **Solution**

##### **Option One: Return to the original format (preferred option)**

- Two sets of five ends followed by a one end tie-break
- This brings us back in-line with the official Bowls3five format
- This is the game people fell in love with when seeing it on TV!
- This is the game that people have really enjoyed playing on a Monday night over the past few years.

##### **Option Two: Change the tie-break to three ends (international format)**

- Adopt the international three end tie-break format used by the Professional Bowls Association (PBA) where only the ends won count (not the shots for each end) – first team to win two ends wins the game)
- This would make the game more strategic and the tie-breaks ends more meaningful than just playing a whole another five end set as a tie-breaker
- This could be a middle ground solution between those who asked for the games to be longer and those of us who really loved the more strategic short form of the game.

##### **Here is the detail of why I felt the five end tie-break didn't work:**

Bowls3five (in its original form) is a brilliant addition to game of bowls we all love. It is quick format of the game two five end sets and a one end tie-break - and easily understood.

In 2021-22 – the format was changed with the tie-break becoming a full five ends.

It is always good to try different things, but I felt that this change was detrimental to everything that we enjoyed about the original format of the game.

The change in the 2021-22 season was not as enjoyable for the following reasons:

#### Time taken

- The maximum time the game takes when in its original format (2 five end sets and a one end tie-break) is about **77 minutes** (presuming each end takes about 7 minutes)
- The maximum time taken this year (2 five end sets with a five end tie-break) was about **105 minutes** – as you ended up playing 15 ends – this is no longer a short form of the game and is getting close to a normal game of two bowl triples!
- Some people commented that they were glad they didn't have to play a tie-break because they didn't want to play that long.
- Rules became confusing – felt like a three set game of bowls
  - having a tied set then losing a set lost you the game (but did not give you the opportunity to play and win the third set to draw the game)
  - two tied sets saw you playing a full third set – which could still end up in a tied game!

#### Totally disrupted the wonderful socialising that occurred after Twilight Bowls for the past few years

- After every Twilight bowls game played in the Central Wellington section people gather to socialise and enjoy a few nibbles (light refreshments) put on by the host club.
- Previously with the original format – teams tended to wait around and watch the final tie-break end – cheers club mates on and then everyone went into the clubrooms, socialised and enjoyed some refreshments
- With the tie-break taking so long:
  - Some teams just left after the game as they didn't want to watch and wait around for half an hour
  - Some teams went in to socialise and left after a wee while
  - Other socialised and waited for over half an hour for the other teams to finish and come inside
- The servicing of food (which is often hot) also became quite tricky when trying to accommodate everyone's finishing times.

#### **4. Change format for Premier Interclub play-offs to a straight semi final/final – Bowls Wellington**

*Proposal that: the format of the Premier Interclub finals be changed from a scatter draw to a straight semi final and final with effect from the 2022-23 finals.*

It is understood the change to the scatter draw format was made to provide a better spectator experience, with the winner not being found until 3 rounds are played on the day. This has rarely happened, The result can be self-evident after 2 rounds. Further it can be clear after 1 or 2 rounds that possibly 2 of the 4 teams participating have no chance of winning at all. This in turn can mean teams with no chance of winning potentially not performing to their full potential in remaining games.

This year the format was changed on the day to semi final and final. It was forced on us given inclement weather over a period of 3 attempts to run the day. On that day the team managers were asked to give feed back to the Tournament Manager on the plying format to apply that day. 7 of the 8 teams recommended the change to the semi final and final format. It is not known why the one team didn't support this, noting the other team from that club there did support. In discussion amongst the teams and team managers, it was generally supported that this proposal be put through the review process to change the play off model.

The format in a semi final and final process would mean the top qualifier plays the 4<sup>th</sup> qualifier and 2<sup>nd</sup> qualifier vs 3rd. The winning semi finalists contest the final.

#### **Review Committee Recommendation**

*The review committee endorses and supports the proposed change to the Premier Interclub finals play off format.*



## **5. Bring the time limit in the Men's Pennants finals into line with other Centre events**

*Change from a time limit of 2 ¾ hours to no time limit*

There is no time limit in the final of any other Bowls Wellington event. The general view expressed by players to Bowls Wellington is that there should be no time limit in the Pennants finals.

This last season the Men's Division 1 final did not play out the 18 ends, due to the effect of the time limit. On the day, with a start time of 1pm, there are no light issues to be of concern with a no time limit approach.

### **Review Committee Recommendation**

*The review committee recommends there be a change to no time limit for the Men's Pennants finals.*

## **Submissions received not required to be voted on**

## **6. Champion of Champions events being held too early restricting club programs – Lyall Bay (Island Bay and Silverstream in support)**

*No actual recommendation other than reference to the CoC program being too early, with CoC Fours, first day scheduled 19 February 2022.*

### **Review Committee finding**

*We can learn from last year's scheduling, and a draft program will factor in a later start of the Champion of Champions events. Otherwise, most feed back received by Bowls Wellington was that the format for the CoC with the day 1 in each event followed by the finals weekend, was very well received. Timing is the challenge for not only Bowls Wellington but also all clubs to ponder on how things have worked previously and what might need changing. Bowls is more of a community game nowadays, with more demand on the Centre and clubs.*

### **Some background**

The centre program is a challenge to schedule given all competing priorities. This includes the availability of greens with the Green Keepers Assn last year asking for delay with the start of the Interclub. The scheduling of Bowls New Zealand tournaments adds to the programming challenge, including additional requirements this season, the World Champion of Champions singles event being one example. This next season has additional commitments to fit in from Bowls New Zealand, being (1) the World Bowls singles CoC [19-26 Nov 2022], (2) National Intercentre final from this season [15/16 Oct], (3) National Interclub final from this year [12/13 November] and then the

Intercentre and national Interclub again for this coming season, the Intercentre 16-19 March 2023 and National Interclub sevens 13-16 April 2023.

In the 2020/21 season we found the scheduling of games that weekend was challenging due to the need to play 6 rounds and after daylight saving had ended. The 6 rounds needed was as a result of 2 players being in 3 different events each and a number of others in 2 events. That finals weekend was held 24 & 25 April 2021 with the women's fours final being completed in the dark. The move to bring that event forward this year, 2021/22 was to contingency plan for potentially the 6 or even more rounds. However the experience this year was far simpler, with no one in more than 2 events and the weekend was completed needing 4 rounds, just 2 rounds each day.

Whilst the CoC first day play-offs started early, the reality is all clubs completed their fours by the day 1 event 19 February 2022. This next season it is planned for a later start, but given the additional Bowls New Zealand events, there may not be easing on program pressure.

## **7. Champion of Champions events being held too early in the season. – Individual: Stephen Leitch**

*The CoC event be pushed out to April/May to take pressure off the club program*

I believe that the Champ of Champs are too early in the Season.

And that it might be time to review the Champ of Champs in Full.

I would like to see it pushed out to April/May where they can be played on suitable days and take pressure off the std Club Program? At the moment it is all too much of a rush to clear the club championships, so we can make it to the Champ of Champ dates. This of course may not affect the smaller Clubs? We can still have a finals day in May.

These days the weather is still good in May and the wind is a lot less.

We can book the Naenae indoor green as a back-up with all clubs paying an entry fee to the Champs? If we have outdoor greens at that time even better.

### **Review Committee Finding**

**We can learn from last year's scheduling, and plan to delay the start of the Champion of Champions events. The response to the previous submission from Lyall Bay adds back ground here.**

**Playing into April and May means diminishing light becomes a factor as well as limited green availability due to greenkeepers wanting to close as early as possible to commence their maintenance programmes. The use of artificial surfaces is a growing trend but not seen as the answer in itself by many. It is signalled that clubs may well need to be more innovative with their programming. A move to holding the CoC finals indoors at Naenae has not considered as the ideal given most clubs are playing championship bowls on weed surfaces, but it has to be kept in mind as one option.**

## **8. Reward Open tournament semi-finalists with a prize – Individual: Allan Child**

*To reach a semi-final is an achievement worthy of some reward, especially given it is likely the “hardest loss of all to take”.*

It is understood that in Centre Open events the losing semi-finalists currently receive no “reward/prize” of any sort. To reach a semi-final is an achievement worthy of some reward, especially given it is likely the “hardest loss of all to take”.

The reward does not have to be substantial, and could be a cash amount equal to the amount of the entry fee, or it could be a “free” entry to a subsequent Centre Open event.

The advantage is it provides a consolation reward (albeit small) for reaching the semi-final of a Centre Open event, which is often quite some achievement. Gives a losing semi-finalist the feeling that it was not a complete waste of time of “almost” getting to the final.

The disadvantage is a financial cost to the Centre, which could be relevant if such a cost had a meaningful adverse impact on the Centre’s finances. If it is decided that the reward to the losing semi-finalists should be made, but that it should be by way of deduction from the winner(s) and runner(s)-up prize purse, then the winner(s) and runner(s)-up receive less accordingly.

### **Review Committee Findings**

The review committee is not in support of additional financial considerations for losing semi-finalists. It is believed most people do not enter Bowls Wellington tournaments for a monetary reward, but rather the winning of a title with the trophy and badges. There is also already recognition for the losing semi-finalists: a semi-finalist scores points towards the player of the year trophy as well as points for their club for the champion club of the year.