



Bowls Scotland Board Meeting, 18th April 2018, 4:30pm

Harper Macleod Offices, The Ca'd'oro, 45 Gordon Street, Glasgow

Minutes v01

Attendees

Present:

Sue Beatt (SB)	Chair
Alan McMillan (AMcM)	CEO
Andrew Upton (AU)	Director
David Scouller (DS)	Director of Governance
Tom Hamilton (TH)	Director of Marketing, Branding & Communications
Bob Christie (BC)	Director of Development
Craig McArthur (CM)	Director of Finance
Robert MacPherson (RM)	Director of Competition & Events (Operational)

In attendance:

John Kemp (JK)	National Development Manager
Bill Knox (BK)	Gents President
Fiona Lilley (FL)	sportscotland (Partnership Manager)
Alison Deuchars (AD)	SSA, minute taker

1. Apologies Received from

None received

2. Chairs' opening remarks

SB welcomed everyone to the meeting, and gave a massive congratulations to the Commonwealth Games teams. Every member of the Bowls teams did themselves, Bowls Scotland and the country proud. It was a fantastic achievement.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest to be noted.

4. Previous Minutes – March

7th March 2018

The Board adopted the minutes of the March Board meeting

Proposed: CM

Seconded: AU

5. Matters Arising – action points

Action points resolved as per the Action Log

AU action carried over to prior to next Board Meeting

The following item was brought forward in the agenda.

6.2 Discussions

6.2.1. Development Staffing

JK gave a presentation on the developing role of Regional Development Officers (RDO).

JK stated that approximately 80% of clubs are out with the RDO regions and there is increasing demand for regional workshops in other areas. The plan is to deliver events and drop in sessions while continuing to work closely with the focus clubs.

The board agreed unanimously to support the Development Staffing proposal by JK.

JK left the meeting

6.1. Proposal

6.1.1. Finance Update

Paper has been circulated to the Board. CM confirmed that the notice of funding from sportscotland had been received and the budget for next year can be worked round this. CM indicated that membership numbers are down approximately 3%,. Competition entries are up slightly.

AMcM presented a spreadsheet showing current membership numbers by District. A discussion took place around the number of registered.

AU enquired if there is any explanation for the drop in membership numbers. CM said there was no obvious explanation and the percentage drop is on a par with last year suggesting that the rate of decline in numbers is slowing.

RM stated that a number of clubs are looking to offer a family membership and asked how the numbers would be captured in those instances. AMcM advised that clubs are required to register each playing member regardless of how the membership fee is paid.

BK raised the issue of some clubs not registering all their members.

6.1.2. Authorisation of Payments

The Board approved the payment

6.1.3. Honours Panel

Paper has been circulated to the Board. AMcM advised that it included a Candidate and Panel Specification and draft timescales.

A discussion around this point took place with a number of contributions.

The Board agreed the wording for the Candidate and Panel Specification section

BK left the meeting.

6.2 Discussions

6.2.2. Strategy Development

SB has copies of the Bowls Australia Annual Report and Strategic Plan for anyone who wants to read them. They are also available on the [Bowls Australia](#) website under the 'About BA' heading.

AMcM thanked everyone who attended the Strategy Development session and for

the feedback received.

RM stated that he had found it a little difficult to provide feedback as he was confused as to what was being asked. AMcM agreed there had been a degree of confusion and would revisit it.

AMcM stated that the four key areas are always going to be the same and there is a need to marry them up with the strategy document and check against the mission statement and values.

The Management Group will look at the mission statement to run through the next 4, 8, 12 years.

The current strategy has the building blocks to be taken forward over the next 4, 8, 12 years.

DS stated that the long term, 5 year project, to strengthen clubs was only now beginning to show returns in club membership numbers.

TH considered every area to go on well beyond 12 years and would be relevant throughout the life of the strategy and they are all good things for the bigger picture but was not sure how to break it down.

SB suggested contacting GP surgeries to push the health and wellbeing benefits of bowling could attract new members to clubs. TH said this had been tried but it can't be done by individual clubs but would have to be via Bowls Scotland as the SGB. Also, case studies and data is required to back up the health and wellbeing benefits of participating in bowling.

AMcM said that bowls has to be wary of moving to becoming a 'health product'.

First and foremost bowls is a sport and a by product of this is the health benefits.

AU stated that the approach to tackle a health agenda could be 'we are a sport but we can do . . . ' items linked to a health agenda. There are more bowls club members who are social bowlers gaining the health benefits than are competitive athletes. AMcM said the data was needed to back this up.

The Management Group will be looking at linking the documents to the strategy in the next two weeks

The board approved the strategy process

AMcM to look at clarifying the Strategy Development feedback

6.2.3. World Bowls (WB) Meeting

SB thanked the board for enabling her to attend Commonwealth Games 2018 and the World Bowls meeting that followed on from the Bowls competitions.

SB advised that it was a short meeting and was attended by 20 countries. Michael Cavanagh was very professional in shaking the hand of and congratulating John Bell on his appointment.

SB has also offered Bowls England assistance to Commonwealth Games Birmingham 2022 so they can make use of the expertise gained during Glasgow 2014.

AU noted that the WB Articles of Association have been amended and considered that the change to allow board members of governing bodies to sit on the WB board to be a positive step.

SB also highlighted the change in board gender make up as there is no longer a requirement to have a minimum of two women on the board. The amended wording states 'a minimum of one of each gender at all times'. Over the next two years WB decisions and voting will be made by email.

RM asked if there is any Scottish representation on the WB board and SB explained that WB is split into regions and Scotland is in the European Region represented by Garry Collins. AMcM reminded everyone that the directors of WB's are there for the benefit of WB, not Bowls Scotland.

6.2.4. Commonwealth Games 2018

SB reiterated that it had been a privilege to attend the games and that it had been good to meet the Bowls Australia (BA) representatives, Neil Dalrymple (CEO) and Darryl Clout (President).

SB also advised that she had had a good conversation with Stewart Harris (CEO sportsotland) and Mel Young (Chair, sportsotland) and though she had been put on the spot, she had been able to let them know that Bowls Scotland would like RDO funding to be extended.

FL intimated that a number of sports are saying the same.

SB considered that overall, the organisation was good though the days were long . Making contacts and talking to people at the event had been invaluable. AMcM stated that things are changing fast in the world of international bowls and that Scotland needs to stay one step ahead.

BC stated that it had been good that the bowls team had had an allocated physio and that a sport psychologist had also been available during the competition.

SB had enjoyed the colourful, vibrant atmosphere during the competition where music had been played throughout. BC said that Alex Marshall thrives on the music when he is playing and would like it at the World Indoor Championships. The Competitions Group is going to look into having music playing during the National Championships.

SB said she felt it was important that the Board do something to recognise the achievements of the Bowls team.

TH agreed it had been a phenomenal achievement by the team and that the success should be recognised. Clubs should be using CG2018 to promote their club and attract members.

BC advised that CG2018 athletes have to be available for media one month post games and it would be good to capitalise on this and do something before the end of May.

SB thought a dinner or lunch would be best as attendance at the AGM and Nationals is not really congratulating them.

AMcM suggested everyone to have a think about it and put forward ideas on how best to recognise the CG2018 Bowls Team.

Everyone to think about how best to recognise the CG2018 Bowls Team and put forward ideas.

6.2.5. Potential Partnerships and their impact

AMcM gave a presentation around the potential partnerships with SIBA, SYBA, SDS High Performance and other European Countries.

BC declared a conflict of interest with SDS.

Each potential partnership was looked at separately.

The risks of a partnership would be that not everyone in SDS agrees that this is the way forward and there are many different factions of disability bowlers. There may be insufficient investment to deliver the programme to Bowls Scotland standards.

AMcM advised that if the funding is right then this is more than likely that this plan will happen subject to board approval.

Other European Countries: There are discussions taking place with a few countries in terms of helping them grow lawn bowls within their country, support with website content and access to the the Bowls Scotland coaching system. All the approaches have come directly from the countries involved.

AOCB

DS will be attending an Equality and Diversity meeting on 26 April at West of Scotland Indoor Bowling Club. All those invited will be attending.

DS outlined that a risk register policy will be ready by the next Board meeting.

RM advised that he is waiting to hear about funding from the Hong Kong regarding their youth development visit.

FL advised that the SGB Governance conference will take place on Tuesday 15th May.

SB thanked AU for the hospitality and hosting of the meeting, also thanked FL for attending and AD for taking the minutes.

The meeting closed at 1947 hrs