



Bowls Scotland

National Centre for Bowling Northfield, Hunters Avenue, Ayr, KA8 9AL

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Bowls Scotland Board Meeting

Wednesday 14th of May 2020, 1730 hrs

Zoom meeting

Present:

Sue Beatt - Chair (SB), Alan McMillan – CEO (AM), Tom Hamilton (TH), Bob Christie (BC), Andrew Upton (AU), David Scoullar (DC), Arlene Ewing (AE), James Laws (JL), George McCartney, Fiona Lilley (FL)

1. **Apologies:** Sheila Cowan (SC)
2. **Chairs Opening Remarks-** SB welcomed all to the meeting.
3. **Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest.
4. **Board Report**

4.1. Clubs at risk

Clubs identified as being at risk in the last Board report continue to be monitored by the Development Team.

4.2. Refunds

The number of refunds on the Board was 695, this was updated to 747, following the submission of final figures after the report had been prepared. AM advised that the Finance officer has done a great job in processing so many refunds whilst also processing general payments during this time. SB asked AM to pass on thanks from the Board

4.3. Business Support Grant and 3rd sector Resilience Funds

AM provided an update on the amount of funding awarded and the number of clubs that have received funding. Further work is required to establish the number of clubs that received both grants.

4.4. Club Survey

The survey closed on the 30th April and a total of 617 responses were received. AM advised that Bowls England asked for a copy of the Bowls Scotland survey and put out a very similar survey to their members. AM asked Bowls England to share their responses to allow for a comparison and to look at the results from a UK perspective.

4.5. District Secretary Workshops

A total of 28 District Secretaries signed up to take part in 'getting back on the green' workshops. As well as providing the opportunity to gather feedback, the workshops provided a way for District Secretaries to engage with Bowls Scotland and each other during this time.

AM advised that early indications are that people are happy with the approach that Bowls Scotland are taking. AM advised that virtual meetings are the way ahead for District Secretary meetings, this will save on expenses and travel time and may encourage more people to participate. SB agreed with this approach.

4.6. Digital Scotland

Healthcare Improvement Scotland have been assessing whether community spaces including Bowling clubs could provide facilities that will allow Scotland's most vulnerable to get online and access the most up to date information on current health issues and connect with others during this period of isolation. A total of 32 clubs signed up to assist with this initiative.

5. Social Media Analytics

AM shared an updated report, the purpose of which is to analyse and review the effects Covid-19 has on Bowls Scotland media platforms compared to a normal bowls season. The report compared stats from last year and an increase in 'hits' across all platforms.

6. Scottish CEO Meeting update

AM advised that the group is looking to establish a forum to include the Governing Bodies in sport and decision makers to create a sector wide group that is able to discuss with MSPs collectively regarding sport funding. There is also a clear understanding that because of the pandemic situation people are walking, jogging and cycling more and therefore getting the basis to become more involved in sport. The forum is looking at how to capitalise on this across all sports. **Sportscotland** are involved in an advisory capacity.

7. Thanks to the staff

TH advised that we should not underestimate how well we have managed this process. Bowls Scotland have been quick to respond, engage and to keep the dialogue going with clubs. The level of positive feedback should not be underestimated. TH would like to thank everyone for all their hard work.

8. Budget

8.1. Furloughed Staff

A decision was taken to continue to extend the period for furloughed staff until the end of June.

8.2. Crisis Fund

AM shared the crisis fund paperwork (guidance and application) and explained that a panel will review submissions, decide which clubs will receive funding and how much. The GDPR Privacy Notice needs to be approved. It is anticipated that the crisis fund will go live at the end of this week or early next week.

8.3. GDPR Privacy Policy

AM shared the draft GDPR Privacy Policy. AM will circulate to the Board for review / approval.

8.4. Back on the Green

AM shared a diagram / poster 'look after yourself and each other' for clubs to display when the return to bowls is permitted. Guidance documentation has been prepared to assist clubs. This was shared with the Board and AM advised that the guidance has been shared with the Scottish Government.

FL advised that the sportscotland Facilities Team have been looking at whether clubs are safe to re-open depending on their state at the point that they were closed. This is across all sports and the Facilities Team will be preparing a guidance pack to educate clubs on what they need to do. The pack should be available this week or early next week.

FL advised that the Scottish Government want a consistent approach across all sports, so for example, if one sport is allowed to open the club house then all sports (named sports able to resume first) will be allowed. The Facilities Team have advised that clubs need to understand the level of cleaning and deep cleaning that will be required on a regular basis, for example, every time a toilet is used it should be deep cleaned.

FL advised that webinars are being used on 'how to open your club safely' and will go through a step-by-step process. FL advised that it is not practical for **sportscotland** Facilities Team to deliver this to every club however there will be a focus on the named sports that are able to resume first.

FL advised that there is a possibility that the National Development Officers could be on the webinars, along with the Facilities Team, to hear the content. This will then enable them to share through our platforms and online courses / forums for clubs.

The Facilities Team are using the phrase of 'zero tolerance' in relation to club hygiene, cleanliness and safety to reduce the potential for any outbreaks at clubs. Clubs need to be seen to take accountability and any necessary action.

AM advised that the feedback is that a number of clubs won't open until there is a vaccine, they are not willing to take on either the risk or the pressure. SB asked whether there was a corporate responsibility. TH advised that clubs need to speak to

insurers about public liability to ensure that they are comfortable to open the club house when allowed to do so. TH advised that there should be a clear and consistent message throughout documentation that the responsibility lies with the club and individual members.

There was some discussion around the implications of enforcing the rules and the various permutations around potential sanctions.

8.5. BIWBC / BIBC

AM advised that a paper was prepared and shared with the British Isles Bowls Council (BIWBC) giving an outline of what BIWBC might look like in the future. AM advised that there has been some consultation on the paper, and this has been sent to all the nations. A meeting of the BIWBC to discuss the paper will take place on Friday at 3pm. A meeting has also been scheduled to discuss the unification of BIWBC and BIBC.

8.6. BIWBC / BIBC

8.6.1. SB advised that she has written to the Presidents and Vice Presidents regarding the potential extension of their terms for a year because they have had nothing to do. SB advised that this would be fair because they haven't had a season this year. SB asked for approval for the roles to be extended to the 2021 season. This was agreed.

8.6.2. SB advised that the Board need to start considering what the arrangements will be for the AGM. SB advised that it would not be sensible to hold an AGM in November. SB has asked AM to check with Craig McKerracher whether the articles allow for this. TH advised that there are some special dispensations in place relevant to the current pandemic.

AM advised that this is an opportunity to look at what we do and how we do it. This is a new start so is this the time to say that we will change the process for presidents and vice presidents process? AU advised that the AGM should focus on this being a year of reflection, what a difficult year it has and look at the part that you played and the part you have to play for next season. This is a new start, a new opportunity and use it as your launching platform.

DS advised that it allows us to present the AGM in different way

10. Next meeting 27th May 2020.