



# Bowls Scotland

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

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## **Bowls Scotland Board Meeting**

**Wednesday 17th of June 2020, 1630 hrs**

### **Zoom meeting**

#### **Present:**

Sue Beatt - Chair (SB), Alan McMillan – CEO (AM), Bob Christie (BC), Andrew Upton (AU), David Scouller (DC), Arlene Ewing (AE), James Laws (JL), Margaret Halliday (MH), Marella O'Neill (MO), John Anderson (JA), Fiona Lilley (FL)

1. **Apologies:** None.
2. **Chairs Opening Remarks-** SB welcomed the Presidents / Vice Presidents to the meeting, reminded them that everything being discussed was confidential and asked how they were doing and how their clubs were doing.  
SB praised the work undertaken by Bowls Scotland staff for the help and support provided to clubs especially in relation to obtaining grants. The amount of funding has currently reached over £5,000,000. This is welcome especially under very difficult circumstances.
3. **Declarations of Interest** – The only declaration of interest was from BC regarding the employment policy.
4. **Previous Minutes** – Approved- TH and DS.
5. **GDPR**  
AM advised that Harper Macleod has completed some work on our Data Protection Policy and Employee Notice. AM asked for the Data Protection Policy update to be approved.
  - Policy approved- unanimously
6. **COVID-19**
  - 6.1. Board Report
    - 6.1.1. Club Support
      - Over £5,000,000 in grant funding received to date by clubs. Some clubs may have received funding but have not advised us about this so the figure could be more.

- The National Development Officers have been working with clubs who are applying for the grants. AM explained that sums of £10,000 and £25,000 were available depending on the rateable value.
- Glasgow City Council area has been a challenge. Processing of applications has taken longer than expected. This may have been attributed to the amount of businesses applying for grants in this area.
- Whilst the sum awarded to clubs is welcome, there is some concern that over the winter months leading up to next year's membership income for clubs, is when clubs are going to have to use their grants. Some clubs are struggling, some have taken membership fees however some rely on income from their bar.
- AM is not aware of any other sports that have received the level of funding awarded to bowling clubs.
- Woodend B C (TH club) received £25,000. Grant tracker spreadsheet to be updated to reflect this.

#### 6.1.2. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Grant

- This fund is useful for those clubs that were unable to secure a Business Support Grant.
- The figures are lower in terms of what the clubs can apply for this, however approx. £177,000 has been granted so far to bowling clubs through this fund.

#### 6.1.3. Joint funding from both grants

- £5.3m awarded to clubs, that have confirmed receipt of a grant, with some clubs receiving both grants

#### 6.1.4. Club Refunds

- Some clubs have not provided bank details and will therefore receive their refund slightly later. This is being progressed.

#### 6.1.5. Number of clubs opened during Phase 1

- AM advised that approximately 235 clubs have opened in phase 1.
- A number of clubs may have opened however there are clubs that have not advised Bowls Scotland.
- Some clubs are awaiting further guidance from the Scottish Government prior to deciding.

#### 6.1.6. Clubs at risk of closure

- AM shared information regarding the number of clubs that have indicated that they are at risk of closure. 7 have been highlighted.
- The National Development Officers continue to support the clubs within this category.

#### 6.1.7. Development Update

- Daniel Baker is delivering Zoom training sessions with a view to upskilling clubs and volunteers. Feedback has been very positive.

#### 6.1.8. Team Scotland Awards

- Applications are being submitted.

#### 6.1.9. Club Leader Sessions

- These will be held later in the year

#### 6.1.10. COVID19 Club Survey

- 615 clubs responded.
- Satisfaction on how Bowls Scotland had responded to the COVID-19 pandemic was very high.
- A further survey will be undertaken before season closure. The aim being to compare some results and include some additional questions.
- AM circulated more information on this and the Board will read this in their own time.

#### 6.1.11. Staff Wellbeing Survey

- A further survey would be issued to allow for a comparison.

#### Phase 2 – Getting back on the green (DS sessions)

- Feedback has been positive towards the sessions.
- DS sessions will continue throughout the various phases.
- There has been more engagement and moving forward, we will be looking at how to continue to engage with District Secretaries.
- JA advised that the Zoom meetings have given people a 'bigger voice' and that having meetings in this way would save money and time.
- MO advised that the Zoom meetings were good however it would be useful to alternate between Zoom and face to face meetings. It is useful for new DS to have an opportunity to have a discussion with more experienced DS and the site meetings provide an opportunity for this.

#### 6.2. Two programmes will join with Try Bowls

- 'Thank frontline workers' initiative:
  - Encouraging clubs to offer free membership, until the end of the season.
  - Definition of frontline workers to be decided by the clubs offering the membership.
  - This would be based on a 'come and try' basis in the hope that some or all may return next season as full members.
- 'Come away in, the kettles on' initiative:
  - This initiative was about getting people out of their house and getting them into the bowling club.
  - Bowls Scotland are keen to get clubs to offer their facilities.
  - The hope would be that people might decide, through time, to join having had an opportunity to come along with no obligation and enjoy the social aspect (mental wellbeing, community context, social interaction).

#### 6.3. Club Compliance

- 12 clubs have allegedly not been compliant with the guidelines set out e.g. bar open, clubhouse open, holding competitions, toilets open etc.
- There is a mix of evidence supplied from 'hear say' to the Police being involved.
- Wider discussion regarding how best to progress this. Agreed AU would draft a letter.

#### 6.4. Staffing

- 3 members of staff on Furlough until the end of June.
- Discussion will continue regarding Furlough at the next management meeting

## 6.5. Social Media

- AM shared a report showing updated stats.
- Facebook appears to be the favoured platform at the moment.
- TH asked for a copy of the report. AM sent a copy during the meeting.

## 6.6. BIWBC

- There has been a proposal put forward to the BIWBC to modernise the format for both U25s and Seniors.

Due to the sensitivity of the next items the Presidents were excused to leave the meeting.

6.7. Draft Budget 2020/2021- a wide ranging discussion took place with an updated version of the draft budget being submitted for approval to the August Board meeting. It was agreed that whilst the projected over commitment of £176,127 should be reduced, it was also agreed that even with commitments to support clubs and other COVID-19 initiatives the current reserves could cover this cost.

- With the current budget deficit situation improving due to a number of support packages, if there was no improvement in the draft budget the deficit could still be covered by the current reserves and be able to deliver the reserves policy commitments. However, it was fully agreed that by the time of the August Board meeting that AM and the staff would work on decreasing the deficit of £176k.
- There were a number of areas where savings could be made due to new ways of working.
- Staff spend showed an increase due to additional staff in posts (HP para post, HP ops Manager and the C&E Officer post). These posts are covered through **sportscotland** funding.
- AGM – possibility of virtual. Cost saving. To be investigated further. AM to contact Harper MacLeod regarding articles allowing for a virtual AGM and the mechanic
- AM will do further work on budgets with a view to reducing costs.

## 7. A.O.C.B.

AM advised that he had attended another World NGB's CEO meeting. There has been lots of discussion around technology to capture scores, to book rinks, and allow players to analyse their game.

AM advised that we have reached out to the Scottish Short Mat Bowling Association. A meeting has taken place and the Association are keen to have further discussions. The intention is to look at a partnership between the Scottish Short Mat Bowling Association and Bowls Scotland.

## 8. Next meeting August 19<sup>th</sup> at 1730hrs.