



# Bowls Scotland

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## **Bowls Scotland Board Meeting**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021, 1730 hrs**

### **Zoom Meeting**

#### **Present:**

Sue Beatt - Chair (SB), Alan McMillan – CEO (AM), David Scouller (DC), George McCartney (GM) Kim McAully (KM) Fiona Lilley(FL) Andrew Upton (AU) Sarah Pryde-Smith (SPS) Tom Hamilton (TH) Arlene Ewing (AE) John Anderson (JA) Margaret Halliday (MH) Ron McArthur (RM) Marella O'Neil (MO)

1. **Apologies:** N/A

2. **Chairs Opening Remarks-** SB welcomed all to the meeting. SB announced to the board herself, AM, KM and SPS have been attending the Scottish Sports Association Leaders Forum. SB explained the forums are with a variety of different political party MSPs in which attendees from different SGBs ask a number of questions. AM shared the questions asked by Bowls Scotland were:

- Why is BBC/STV and radio stations increasing the amount of football coverage but decreasing the amount of other generic sport coverage?
- Why is more money going into the NHS and less money going into sport? AM stated he understands the reasoning in increasing funds for NHS in a pandemic, however, less money is going into sport when it is evident sport can help with mental health, health problems, diabetes, loneliness etc.
- AM explained there was a synergy between all political parties regarding sport and the importance they identify this with will helping governing bodies.
- SB highlighted to the Scottish Sports Association leadership forums, that while it was good to put a strong emphasis on helping young people from deprived areas, providing them with free sport up to age of 16 there was little emphasis on older people who are on a fixed income.

3. **Declarations of Interest-** There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Approval of Previous Minutes-** Previous minutes unanimously approved by board.

5. **Proposals**

### 5.1. Social Media Policy

SB asked the meeting to provide feedback from the Social Media Policy. AU expressed his concern about point 7. AM agreed on amending point 7 to follow what AU is suggesting and then the board to agree electronically. The board unanimously agreed.

## 6. Discussion Points

### 6.1 Capitation Update

SPS provided the board members with a capitation update, stating:

- Capitation is now at 816 clubs, just over 50,000 members (8.94% decrease from previous year in terms of overall membership)
- Clubs still sending in their paperwork over the last week it has increased from 816 to 823
- Return of competition fees to clubs will start at the end of May
- AM explained, Bowls Scotland are encouraging clubs to contact former members and ask for the reasons as to why they are not re-joining in 2021.

### 6.2 COVID Update

SPS provided a COVID update, explaining:

- COVID guidance for clubs is now sitting at version 3. More information expected Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April from **sportscotland** around further updated in preparation of going into level 3 on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April.
- SPS also highlighted Bowls Scotland offered 6 COVID sessions for clubs to help them better understand the guidance. 210 clubs attended the sessions which were delivered by the National Development Officers. This will be offered throughout the season.
- A launch of the Club Crisis Fund again in mid-May (round 3)
- 670 COVID officers, which is mandatory for all clubs to have if they plan on having bowling activity happening at their bowling club.
- TH asked board members and presidents to help ensure the clubs they are members of, have COVID Officers in place.
- RM asked if District Coordinators could have a report which states which clubs have and have not got COVID officers. SPS to action.

### 6.3 Risk Register

- AM highlighted the risk register had not being updated in a while. AM and SPS have updated the 2 financial risks.
- SB discussed about creating a subgroup to focus specifically on the risk register. It was agreed the subgroup would consist of KM, DS, AM, AE and SB and the group would meet on a quarterly basis. AM to send out potential dates for these meetings to the subgroup attendees.

## Presidents Leave the Meeting

### 6.4 Financial Update

KM provided an overview of the finance report, stating:

- The agree budget for 2020-21 predicted a large overspend based on normal activities. KM, AM and SPS reviewed the figures and the figures show a predicted overspend of around £20,000, based on the flexibility of being able to use the **sportscotland** investment underspend on other areas. KM stated this will be

subject to agreement with **sportscotland**. KM also stated Bowls Scotland are in a position where they shouldn't need to use all of their reserves to cover the contingency provision.

- KM mentioned that the key message was around Bowls Scotland being able to increase capitation/membership fees will be important.
- A number of the Board outlined that their clubs had received another substantial payment from their local authority directly into their bank accounts and that many clubs were now sitting on very healthy bank accounts. However it was recognised that this was different in certain local authorities and a number of clubs were still in financial difficulties, hence the continuation of the Bowls Scotland Crisis Fund.

### 6.5 Partnerships

AM provided an update on partnerships, stating:

- AM has spoken with a number of other CEO's of Governing bodies who are struggling to keep their current sponsors and find new ones.
- World Bowls sent out a document summarising their competition findings from the recent reviews. There will no longer be an Atlantic or Asian Pacific Championships. World Championships will now be every two years. Para bowls will be included.
- AM outlined that BIBC and BIWBC will completely change for the 2022 season to deliver a more modern approach to International competitive bowls.

### 6.6 Staff Update

- SPS provided an update with regards to the admin team. SPS explained due to Cheryl Gibson leaving, Bowls Scotland has reviewed the current posts. The outcome from the review changed role from a general admin role to a more specific admin role focusing on safeguarding, one day focusing on high performance admin and one day focusing on the club membership, club development etc.
- SPS explained to the board members the Wellbeing survey went out to Bowls Scotland staff this week. SPS stated this survey is not mandatory but encouraged to be completed. Also, Bowls Scotland introduced a 'walk and talk' to encourage staff to go an hour walk while on the phone to a member of staff they are not as connected too.
- Quality and Diversity Group went out for recruitment, where there were 6 notes of interest. SPS and DS chose 4 and will facilitate a discussion with them soon.
- SPS has sent the EWIB survey results to **sportscotland** for further analysis and hopefully receive results next month.

## 7. Information Papers

Nothing extra was said from the board members regarding the information papers.

## 8. AOCB

- SB asked TH to leave the meeting temporarily, whilst the Board discussed the nomination for the current vacant positions on the International Disability Bowls board. It was unanimously approved that TH would be nominated for a position on the Board of IBD.

The meeting finished at 2000