

Empowering Women in Bowls & Equality and Diversity Group Meeting Notes, 6.30-8.00pm, 14th November 2022

1. Attendance:

- Beth Riva, Gifford BC
- Valerie Ogilvie, Dundonald BC
- Dawn Hunter, Gallatown BC
- Margaret Bingham, Cumnock BC
- Moira McLaren, Forfar BC
- Laura White, Eskmills BC
- Pauline Wilson, Willowbank BC
- Stuart Chesby, Lumphinnans BC
- Chris Morrow Willowbank BC
- Molly Carney, Stepps BC
- David Scouller, Bowls Scotland Interim Chair
- Arlene Ewing, Bowls Scotland Board Director
- Sarah Pryde-Smith, Bowls Scotland Business Operations Manager
- Ash Cousins, Bowls Scotland Marketing Officer

2. Apologies from Bob Ferenth (Nairn BC)

3. Round the Room Updates

- a. Dawn gave an update on the Fife Association discussions. There was a wider discussion on associations and the need to look at equality. Sarah and Margaret to discuss further.
- b. Laura provided an update on Midlothian.
- c. Forfar – Moira provided an update on the issues some clubs in Angus are facing and the barriers to women participating.

4. Bowls Scotland Updates

- David and Arlene attended the Transgender Conference held by Leap Sportscotland.
- Sarah and Alan (CEO) are due to attend a legal session on Transgender in sport:
 - Discussion on whether we need a specific agenda item on this – what does having a transgender policy mean for competitions/club participation etc.
- Bowls Scotland Strategy – concluded the consultation process with face to face, virtual consultation sessions and an online survey completed by 1100 participants
- Sarah and Alan (CEO) meeting with **sportscotland** to discuss investment and there is a proposal going to the Board for additional funding to be able to provide additional support to clubs through the Try Bowls programme.
- Further consultation with clubs in the new year once the strategy has been pulled into a structured document.
- AGM - proposal to members to modernise the presidential structure, this is a direct result of our discussions in these meetings – a huge step forward and hopefully our members will agree.
- Staffing – a further update will go out on our staffing as we look to recruit for Daniel's position and conclude our recruitment of the C&E position after Claire Johnston has now left this position after being on long term sick leave - **DONE**

5. Marketing and Promotion:

- Kit/Dress Code – Ash provided an overview on topical discussions on kit, specifically for women during their period. Ash outlined a survey conducted by BS for High-Performance players and the need to be comfortable and not worried about kit design during period time.

- Ditch the Bias Campaign 2023 Discussion – Ash outlined the plans for a Ditch the Bias campaign.
- Content Review/Engagement – Ash asked the group what they prefer in terms of communication for content. The group agreed via email is best.
- Marketing Toolkit – No feedback from the group. If there is any feedback, please email Ash.

6. AOCB

- Chris raised concerns about the Para bowlers experience at the Nationals. Sarah to pick up with the C&E team – DONE.