



## Bowls North Harbour Inc

# MINUTES

**Type of Meeting:** Board  
**Meeting Location:** Bowls North Harbour offices  
At Bowls Orewa  
**Meeting Date:** Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
**Meeting Time:** 10am  
**Present:** Gary Stevens (GS), Graham Dorreen (GD), Maureen Taylor (MT),  
Elaine McClintock (EM), Shane Gibson (SG), Tony Popplewell (TP),  
John McCormack (JM)

Meeting Opened 10:05am

**1. Apologies – WW, GB**

**2. Approval of minutes from previous meeting**

Proposed that the minutes from the previous meeting be approved

Moved: MT

Seconded: GS

**3. Matters arising from previous minutes**

**Meeting went into Committee at 10:10am**

**Meeting came out of Committee at 10:12am**

- Board Polos – Samples have been sourced by GD
- Glenfield Bowling Club – letter advising the Centre was happy to assist in any way they can and to discuss a potential meeting was sent – no reply received
- Schools Bowls Programme – Howard Sandler behind this and things are beginning to move along – over 18 schools spoken to already

**4. Board Members Reports (attached)**

Proposed that the payments (1-27) to approve as per the Finance Report be accepted

Moved: GD

Seconded: TP

- Garry Banks has resigned from his position as Vice President - Garry Banks our Centre Vice President has tendered his resignation from the Board. Garry has a major involvement with Masters Bowls both regionally and at a national level. This commitment, together with his involvement with a new bowls initiative with Ryman Healthcare Villages simply does not leave any additional time for Board requirements. Without question Garry has made and will continue to make (Masters) a huge contribution to bowls in North Harbour. When a new group of people

joined the Board together, three years ago, Garry was one of this group. At Board level he has been a major influence, always positive, and always thinking of the players, and clubs first. On behalf of all of the Board It is a pleasure to say a big thank-you to Garry . His enthusiasm is infectious and his total commitment to the building of indoor stadiums in NZ is now bearing fruit. We are delighted Garry will work "outside the Board",but in conjunction with the Board in terms of the Masters initiative.

- Gary Stevens has resigned from his position on the CATS committee (see attached resignation letter) due to Bowls NZ & the Bowls NZ Judicial Committee undermining the judicial process

Proposed that Board Members reports be accepted

Moved: GD Seconded: TP

## 5. Incoming correspondence

- Letter received from Bowls NZ - "Bowls New Zealand will also rescind its suspension of Mr Gary Helmling and advise all affiliated Centres accordingly. Effective immediately Mr Helmling is free to play in any Bowls NZ event and at Bowls NZ affiliated Clubs/Centres."

Proposed that the Incoming correspondence, as per reports, be accepted

Moved: SG Seconded: GB

## 6. Outgoing correspondence

Proposed that the Outgoing correspondence, as per reports, be accepted

Moved: WW Seconded: GB

## 7. Open Business

- BNH Legends of Bowls (TP, WW, GS) – TP has prepared documents around what constitutes a 'Legend'
- Sunnybrae – covered green discussions – letter received from Kevin McGregor (President of Sunnybrae) indicating the clubs agreement with the idea – initial meeting to be setup with the people involved with the Naenae covered arena development
- Rep Fixtures – disappointment with handling and running of December 2<sup>nd</sup> triangular rep fixture for Development and u-5 squads by Northland bowls. Strong board support for having this fixture in December run as a Battle of the Bridge competition between Auckland and North Harbour across all rep levels – not just at Open level
- Rep Teams – moving forward into next season the term development will not be used to describe rep teams – teams will be named as Open 1 and Open 2

## 8. New Business

- Leigh Bowling Club – Will approach Leigh Bowling Club regarding their situation and to discuss how best to approach it
- Garry Banks to be appointed as Masters Development Manager for the ongoing Masters Regional and National Competitions
- NZ Open Master sponsored by Ryman Healthcare introductory meeting 12:30pm 30<sup>th</sup> November – GS moved that a NZ Masters Event Committee be created moving forward chaired by GD and made up of Martin McKenzie (Bowls NZ), Ryman Healthcare representative, Garry Banks (MDM), BNH Match Committee Chairman, Maureen Taylor, and the Bowls North Harbour Centre Secretary/Events Manager with this committee reporting to the board
- Smoking at Clubs – anonymous phone call made regarding smoking at clubs and placement of smoking areas. Discussed by the board but no concrete action can be taken due to

receiving nothing in writing – however a reminder will be sent to all clubs regarding smoking and the placement of smoking areas

- e. Devonport-Takapuna Clubs – GD attending meeting with Council representatives
- f. Manly invitation to a board meeting – GD and GS to attend in February – letter to be sent to Manly confirming this
- g. PPL Event for 2019-2020 Season – discussion as to whether the Centre should continue with this – will make final decision after running the Bowls3Five event in 2019
- h. Match Committee – With GB resignation, the MC has decided to continue with 4 current members
- i. Browns Bay representative practice – letter received from Browns Bay regarding clash with rep practice and social function – GS to respond
- j. Pennants – eligibility for Centre titles discussed based around the 70% rule and sickness – no decision to be made until completion of event, and if clubs feel there is an exception they will need to write to the board
- k. Pennants –Review Committee – this to be established mid January to discuss future format of pennants –to include EM, TP, SG, and 2 or 3 external others – SG and TP to discuss further
- l. Vice-chairman position replacing GB – GD to approach several identified people
- m. Board – The board is currently allowed two board members per club but at the AGM will propose a notice of motion to allow up to three

Meeting closed 12:20pm

30<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Masters Committee Board Report:

We have confirmed from Ryman Healthcare that they are willing enter into a partnership with BNH on three first the BNH Open Masters 3 events (\$3,000.00) plus creating and printing the Flyers for this event. Second the "2020 NZ Open Masters Tournament" (\$10,000) to be held over 5 days in February 2020, Thirdly the BNH Coaching Trailer (\$7,000.00) which will able to be used by Ryman for their Coaching Clinics. Ryman will also cover the cost of wrapping the trailer with advertising the partnership with Ryman & BNH promoting Bowls.

I am now working with Ryman Healthcare, Gayle Melrose and Marg Davies in the Ryman Bowling Clinic's which has been very popular.

The great support offered from BNZ for the BNH Master's program has been growing, I will be work with BNZ on this plus looking at ways to strengthen and build the relationship with Retirement Villages BNZ, Centre's and Bowling Club throughout NZ.

As you will see from our inward correspondence Sunnybrae has agree to look at the possibilities of a Nae Nae type of complex at the location with the help a BNH committee which I hope to be part of.

With all these opportunities for our Sport of Bowls I decided to step down from the Board to give my time to these important projects.

Just a note on the Bowls3Five I have attended all but one of the nights, contrary to the naysayers it has been a great success.

Garry Banks

## **Report for Meeting Friday 30 November from Graham Dorreen**

### **General**

PPL finals day was a success and Takapuna did a great job in hosting the event. In talking with the players from the 4 clubs after the event, they loved the format, and this season's timing (October) of the event. Orewa certainly deserved their win and \$600 first prize, playing great draw bowls in all games.

The Sport North Harbour Excellence Awards were a great night, and thank you to all 8 of our Board members who attended. While not winning our category ("Innovation in Sport") for the PPL, it was awesome to make the final three.

### **Centre Secretary/Events Manager**

Shane has been in the job for three months and has settled in well. We have just concluded a three month review and I will discuss this (in committee) on Friday. Feedback from both clubs and players supports our view that Shane is ideally suited for this role.

### **Communication**

This was always going to be a top priority for the Centre Board. The last three years has seen tremendous strides taken in this area.

- Email communication to clubs and members is efficient and timely (available every Tuesday to players).
- Facebook and the website are being used on a regular basis.
- The Channel magazine (monthly) has a BNH article, reaching 36000 North Shore residents.
- Further, from time to time we receive coverage in the North Shore Times

Well done guys!!

### **Sponsorship/Grants**

We have a group, namely our "Super Six" sponsors. We are in discussion with a major Retirement Village and Bowls NZ, regarding our hosting a National Masters event. Garry Banks is driving this and will stay at the forefront of this over the next 18 months, with a view to delivering an event in 2020. Garry's report will cover this more fully.

Another new initiative is a 6 months schools programme to be co-ordinated by Howard Sandler. It is a programme that is mobile and not facilities driven. Howard is well down the path in discussions with a large number of North Shore schools.

The equipment has biased bowls made from a composite material, that allows for games to be played on school tennis courts.

This is an important focus, and hopefully will build on the efforts last year of Lisa Brown's initiative with Northcross Intermediate. A monthly report will come to the Board each month from Howard.

### **Coaching**

We are waiting for the last of the information we requested from clubs, re. Active coaches.

We are talking with Kaushik Patel (BNZ High Performance), on a number of points that can add value to our desire to build a coaching pathway, as well as an integrated coaches' group.

### **Outwards Correspondence**

Various emails to BNZ

Email to Glenfield Bowling Club

Email to Barbara Seddon

Email to sponsors.

Various emails to Ryman (Aimee Millar)

16 November 2018

Graham Dorreen  
Chairman  
Bowls North Harbour Board

Please accept my resignation from the Complaints Assessment Team and from any future involvement in disciplinary and similar matters on behalf of BNH.

The reason is not the decision made in respect of Gary Helmling's suspension. It is the unacceptable process adopted; specifically the way the disciplinary process was corrupted by the CEO of Bowls NZ and the Chairman of the Bowls NZ Disciplinary Committee.

That approach cast unacceptable aspersions upon the deliberations of the members of the Glenfield Executive in the original Hearing, without considering any evidence other than the representations of Mr Helmling and possibly, his friends, his wife and supporters, who comprise the new Executive of that Club.

Those longstanding volunteers who served in the unpleasant and difficult task of trying to deal with Mr Helmling's misconduct, were committed to protecting their Club and the reputation of Bowls generally. They did not deserve such cavalier treatment.

I have said that the CEO and Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee deliberately corrupted the Appeal/Mediation processes. Specifically:

1. Refer Mr Berman's advice of 14 November 2018 that "NZ Bowls wants to initiate a policy of sorting out these matters informally when possible." With due respect to Mr Berman, as Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee he is bound by the Bowls NZ Judicial Regulations. If Bowls NZ wants to take another approach it should first amend the Regulations – not corrupt the existing required process.
2. The Bowls NZ Judicial Committee did, and can only, become involved when there is an official Appeal to it. That Appeal must be handled in the prescribed way. In particular, the Judicial Committee must first decide if there is an obvious problem with the Appeal.

This was the substantive issue in the case of the Helmling Appeal because there was an obvious problem in that the Appeal was well out of time. I don't need to repeat the reasons which have previously been made known to the Chairman.

3. Since the Appeal was out of time, the Judicial Committee was unable to hear the Appeal and therefore, the Clause (in the Judicial Regulations) allowing for mediation could not be triggered.
4. Despite this and without determining if the Appeal could proceed, the Chairman (with the obvious encouragement of the CEO of Bowls NZ) immediately advised that he had decided there had been "substantial and material deviations from the (disciplinary) process in this (Helmling) case" and that his "preliminary view is that if the appeal went ahead, there is likely to be a finding that there has been a breach of natural justice or a material departure from the prescribed procedure." – this without receiving any information from those persons who heard the original complaint.
5. The Chairman then went further and triggered (without cause) mediation between Mr Helmling and the President of the Glenfield Bowling Club. That President was Mr Helmling's support person at the original Hearing and his Executive comprises Mrs Helmling (Vice President) and other friends and supporters of Mr Helmling. Clearly, the so-called mediation process was flawed from start to finish.

Bowls North Harbour has previously drawn the attention of Bowls North Harbour to significant issues in respect of the Bowls NZ Judicial Regulations – to no avail.

The CEO of Bowls NZ and the Chairman of the Bowls NZ Judicial Committee deliberately circumvented the prescribed process while criticising a Club's Executive for perceived, but unproven, breaches of that process.

I no longer have confidence in the integrity of the Bowls NZ Judicial process and in those responsible for that integrity.

## President's Report – 30 November 2018

1. Attended to various matters concerning Representative Team to Whangarei – 2 December 2018.
2. Attended informal meeting re setting up the structure for the NZ Masters to be hosted by Bowls North Harbour.
3. Attended the Massey University Sports North Harbour Awards together with other Board Members, courtesy of Graham Dorreen.
4. Represented the Board at the Browns Bay 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner and Dance.
5. Glenfield Bowling Club and G Helmling:

For several months there has been ongoing pressure from Mr Helmling, and from some members new to the Glenfield Executive Committee who are supportive of him, to have his sentence reduced.

Glenfield President Doug Campbell and Treasurer John Tobin (both now resigned) requested advice on procedural matters during this period.

Subsequently, Mr Helmling appealed his sentence to the Bowls NZ Judicial Committee. The Appeal was well out of time according to the Bowls NZ Judicial Regulations. I made a submission concerning that and other procedural issues to the Bowls NZ Judicial Committee. The submission was ignored or dismissed.

Instead, at the behest of Mr Helmling and a new Executive comprised only of persons pre-disposed to be supportive him, the Chairman conducted a very flawed mediation process which led to Mr Helmling's sentence being heavily reduced.

I have now resigned from the Board's CAT Committee. A copy of my resignation is attached. The contents are self-explanatory.

It is clear that no Member Centre, Member Club, or Individual Member can have any confidence in the integrity of the Bowls NZ Judicial processes, and the management of those processes by the Bowls NZ Judicial Committee, when those processes are ignored by the persons responsible for them.

6. Representative fixtures and Team Names. I am concerned that there is not a meaningful programme for our "B" Team that will encourage the development of a group of players to challenge for positions in our "A" Team. In addition, describing this as a "development" team does not fit in with the intention to run a single squad with players being selected to match the competition.

Gary Stevens

### **Centre Secretary Report October 2018**

- Pennants Programme – running along reasonably smoothly. Have had one week rained out. COP are all sorted for finals day. Umpires arranged. Venue Browns Bay with all 6 finals to be played at same time. Survey has been used and as at time of writing 157 responses to short 6 question survey – see attached.
- PPL – all completed, with a successful finals day at Takapuna. Event won by Orewa.
- Battle of the Bridge – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – programmes completed, all ready to go on Saturday with Sunnybrae and Browns Bay artificial on standby if weather is wet. Norma Klaassen event director
- Communication with clubs continues to be positive overall
- Centre 4s/Masters 4s scheduled mid- December. COPs have been finalised for these



**From Match Committee,**

**Composition** – With Garry Banks resignation from the Board and the Match Committee, the remaining four members of the Match Committee have confirmed they do not see the need for a replacement and subject to Board approval will continue as a committee of four.

**Pennants** – This competition is progressing well with favourable weather providing a bonus. Conditions of play have been confirmed for finals day at Browns Bay commencing at 1.30pm on Sunday 9 December.

**PPL** – Has been completed on schedule. Successful competition.

**Men & Women Centre Fours** – Conditions of play have been confirmed. This will provide the standard template for the other centre events this season.

**Men & Women Master's Fours** - Conditions of play have been confirmed. This will provide the standard template for the other Master's events this season.

**Coming up –**

Men & Women Centre Pairs

Men & Women Master's Pairs

Junior Interclub

Bowls3Five

These two paragraphs are a report from Gary Banks on behalf of the Master's sub committee -

**Retirement Pennants:** To be played at 10.30am on the Morning of BNH Pennants Finals, North verses South. Ron Rennie is selecting the 9 players from the South & Maureen Taylor the North. Run on the same C.O.P. as the BNH Pennants. The Board may want to have a trophy or certificates to present the winners of this.

**BNH Masters Fours:** C.O.P to be posted on the website, News section plus under the Masters page on the website. I think we should leave the close off for entries until 10th of December as we have not advertised the event outside our Centre, also C.O.P for the pairs and triples could be done after the completion of the fours, we will have a better idea from the fours if our format is well received by the

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bowlers. Printed Flyers for the BNH Masters will be available on Saturday to be sent to all our Clubs. BNZ will supply BNH with Logo's for "Open Masters" plus "2020 New Zealand Masters" which we can use with our information and publicity to clubs and bowlers, they will be available in a couple of weeks.

I am not sure if the Master's sub-committee should report through the Match Committee or directly to the Board so this point should be addressed at the Board meeting.



For Match Committee

Tony Popplewell, Elain McClintock, Maureen Taylor, Shane Gibson