

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT TO MEMBERS**

Dear Members

On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July David Steinberg and myself attended the WA Clubs Forum at BowlsWA and this was followed by the BowlsWA AGM which I attended.

The items for discussion included:

### **From BowlsWA**

1. Governance Review Project Outcomes.
2. Fixtures 2021/2022

### **From Clubs**

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| 1. Structural change – Mens Thursday Pennant competition               | Cambridge            |
| 2. Thursday Mens Pennant – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Div & Below to Open ender   | Scarborough          |
| 3. Saturdays Mens Pennant – 6 <sup>th</sup> Division to Open Gender    | Forrestfield         |
| 4. All lowest competition divisions to be Open Gender                  | Kwinana              |
| 5. Addressing the Heat Issue/14 week season                            | Dal-Neds/Lake Monger |
| 6. Saturday Mens Pennant – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Division & Below to 3 rinks | Lake Monger          |

The Governance Review had been held over the past 6 months with some input from 7 selected clubs including ourselves. I was invited owing to my having sent a letter on behalf of the club regarding the Heat Issue. That facilitated meeting was driven by the Clubs and without BowlsWA being in attendance so that there was no perceived bias in the input. Many issues were raised although our position on the heat issue was only considered important by a couple of other clubs.

The feedback from BowlsWA on the whole project was presented very well by Clive Adams. In brief it acknowledged the need for BowlsWA and the clubs to better communicate and a number of potential options in improvement were discussed. A synopsis will be provided later by BowlsWA and this will be made available to members.

The season's fixtures for 2021 was not specifically addressed as the items listed for the clubs to discuss could impact significantly.

Item1

Cambridge proposed that Thursday Divisions 1 and 2 should be amalgamated into Division 1 North and Division 1 South to reduce the problem of long-distance travel. After significant discussion a general vote by all clubs present indicated that about 50/50 were for/against. A vote by just the clubs concerned, and that does not include us, showed that the majority did not want to change the arrangement. BowlsWA to consider. News - BowlsWA have just responded advising that the proposal was passed by the clubs and will be adopted.

Item 2, 3 and 4 were combined

A prolonged discussion about moving bowls to open gender took up most of the available time. Many clubs had a view of which I put to the forum that in my opinion I would like to see open gender across the board. It appeared that the majority of clubs wanted some form of open gender although some wanted just lowest divisions and some wanted just highest divisions. For interest, the equal opportunity laws actually require at least the top division to be available so that there is an opportunity for men and ladies to equally have the opportunity to play at the highest level. I understand that there is an amount of time

for this to be achieved. BowlsWA pushed for the lowest mens division at each club to be able to work as open gender. This was only partially supported by clubs. BowlsWA to consider.

#### Item 5

The time available for this item was drastically shortened owing to the time taken on open gender, however, David and myself reiterated our position that either the temperature for calling off a game should be reduced, in our opinion 35c, or that the season should be moved or the games played at a cooler time of the day. Lake Monger simply wanted to move 3<sup>rd</sup> division to 3 rinks and introduce a 14 week season.

Although we had a fair amount of feedback supporting our position, BowlsWA were of the opinion that owing to their previous proposal of 14 weeks being rejected by Clubs a number of years ago it should be up to clubs to propose changes. If that is the way we need to progress then it will probably not be addressed until we put a specific proposal to the Forum next year. It will also mean a lot of work communicating with other clubs, some of whom are not interested in changing the way we play bowls in this State. I will keep you informed of how we will proceed at a later stage.

The AGM was relatively uneventful and I expect draft minutes to be made available on their website in due course.

A copy of this report will be placed on the club Notice Board

Alan Pitman and David Steinberg