

BOWLS WAIRARAPA

Delegates meeting held at Carrington Bowling & Croquet Club on Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 6:00pm

Present: Garry Muriwai (Chairman), Gavin Hamlyn (Executive Officer), Stacey Smyth (Board Member), Darren Meyrick (Board Member), Alan Taplin & Steve Elliott (Lansdowne), Warren Fisher & Colin Hutchby (Masterton), Rozanna Muriwai (Martinborough), Brian Philips & Pat Herbert (Greytown), Roger Smeaton (Carrington), Jean Hayes & Colin Gardner (Featherston).

Apologies: Tracey Jacobson (Carrington).

Agenda:

- Masterton: Wairarapa Selectors. Constitution needs to be reviewed to allow Selectors to be appointed to the AGM. Nominations would go out to Clubs with other Nomination forms 50 days prior to the AGM. At present there is a 'Conflict of interest'.

Garry Muriwai started the meeting by welcoming everybody to the first meeting of the year. Garry advised that as a Centre, our numbers are not growing and he would like to discuss with clubs if and how they are increasing their memberships, this is new bowlers coming in, not players from other clubs joining their club.

Club Championships:

Feedback was sort from delegates as to how they found the allocation in the Centre programme of club championships this season and if this worked for their clubs.

Carrington: Was good, worked well, would like to see it continue.

Featherston: Agree with the concept

Greytown: Agree worked well. Would like to see 1 club day per club (Darren Meyrick confirmed they have a Thursday evening as a club day)

Martinborough: Good starting point. The Centre need to allocate reserve dates in programme so reserve dates doesn't clash with an unallocated weekend if some clubs have had to postpone a championship. They then need to try and catch up during the week.

Masterton: Worked well for us.

Lansdowne: The concept is good.

Selectors:

There was a large discussion in regards to the selectors appointment process with items to be taken back to club's committees for further discussion (Documented under "Items to Address with Executive Committees"). It was felt that it would not be appropriate to appoint selectors at the AGM as suggested by Masterton, however we could look at reviewing the selection appointment process, how would this look? However, it was agreed that nominations for selector will be sent out 50 days prior to the AGM.

Carrington: Felt that practices were lacking, often left up to individual to do alone or with someone else.

Featherston: For a selector to do a good job, they need to be present and watch players play. They need to go to events and watch. Selectors also need to travel with teams and be with them.

Featherston also asked what the criteria is for appointing the selector. Garry advised that all applicants are interviewed by a selection panel from the Centre, there is a set list of questions, and the panel can ask additional questions if required. The panel then evaluate all candidates after their interviews and make a decision who they feel is best suited to the role.

Masterton: Believe that a selector should not be a current player. Masterton felt that the conflict of interest is because the selectors are appointed by the Centre. The Masterton delegates were advised that although we only received one nomination each for the men and women's selector positions, they were still subjected to the interview process. Although, at the time of the interview, it was agreed to what was expected of selectors and players, we are aware that some of these things weren't followed through on, however there were other areas that the selectors did well in.

Martinborough: As a small Centre it is hard not to have a selector that isn't a player, ideally, you are wanting your selector to have previous rep experience so they know what is expected.

Lansdowne: We agree that a selector needs to be present for players and actively watch them play, this will then help guide them in their selections.

Lansdowne also asked if there would be consideration for there to be a selector specifically for Juniors? They previously had a member that was interested in doing this.

Garry advised that he has seen other Centre's have a selector and a 'panel' that can assist when the selector can't, their role is give feedback on performances of players if they are not present. Maybe this is something that could be considered.

Gavin advised that the Centre is in the process of setting up an Academy which will focus on coaching, specific training for certain positions and drills. This is still a work in progress and there needs to be a buy in from all players to help make this work. It doesn't have to be selectors running these, could be coaches. At the moment, some of the challenges faced is that during the season it is hard to find a free weekend and weekday evenings can be difficult for some due to work commitments, we then have daylight saving and it gets darker quicker and weekends can be touch and go in the off season due to the weather and not having an indoor facility.

General Business:

Carrington: No items.

Featherston: We have had poor attendance at our galas which is quite disappointing, we have got good sponsors.

Greytown: Feel there are too many galas especially with Midweek on a Wednesday also. Some clubs are struggling to fill galas and there are too many bowls being played during the week. Greytown would be happy to consider reducing their galas to 3 (2 of these being 2-day events).

Martinborough: Want to point out the time and effort that both Garry and Gavin have put in with the students.

Masterton: Would the Centre consider playing 2 rounds of Interclub 7s and then use the 3rd round as a training day?

We would like to keep the greenkeepers gala in the Centre programme, although it isn't always played, it is handy to have in case the greenkeepers funds get low, this gala is used to replenish the funds.

What is happening with the over 60s mixed triples event? Garry advised that there are currently only 2 entries, we would like this event to be successful, therefore we have made the decision to move this to the winter season, the new date is to be advised.

Masterton Park: Not present.

Lansdowne: Who is responsible for distributing, collecting and cleaning the new uniforms for rep fixtures? Garry advised that Gavin is currently working on this.

We have a gala being played next week that was previously cancelled, it has a new sponsor.

Garry advised that he received feedback from the CEO of Bowls NZ to say that he thought that the new Bowls Wairarapa uniform was the best looking at Intercentre.

Increasing Membership:

Lansdowne: We have approached Wairarapa College, the students didn't really appear to be interested. Gavin advised that Brady from Bowls Wellington is coming over soon to some schools, hopefully this might gauge some new interest.

Masterton: Host Funzie Friday, this is \$5 per player and afternoon tea is provided and you win prize money from the entry fees. We also hold aggregate Tuesday and, on a Wednesday, we hold training sessions where we also provide drills and coaching, players have a point system for the drills they complete. These appear to be working well and have had 12 new members sign up in the past month.

Garry felt that these were the sort of stories that we are wanting published in the Wairarapa Times Age, not negative stories about bowls.

Darren felt that as a small centre all clubs need to be supporting each other and supporting the Centre, not tearing each other down via social media or Chinese whispers, it is sad to see that this is happening. There are some people that have a lot to say about the board but won't step up to help out, board members volunteer their time and it is disappointing that they are having to put up with some of the stuff that is happening.

Garry wondered how clubs would feel about possibly changing the way that we as a Centre run our pathway events to the NZ champion of champion finals? Currently, the pathway is via winning club championship and then winning the Centre Champion of Champions.

Smaller centres are starting to use their open events as the pathway to the NZ champion of champion finals (can be done at the discretion of Bowls NZ). Open events will still be open to outside players, however the top ranked Wairarapa team will be the ones progressing the NZ champion of champion finals.

Items to Address with Executive Committees:

- All clubs to have a think about who they feel would be appropriate selectors, if they agree then consider submitting their application.
- Clubs to discuss what they feel the problems were (if any) with the selectors appointment process and consider probable solutions to this.
- How are clubs increasing their memberships? What are you doing to try and attract new members?
- How do clubs feel about possibly changing the pathway to Bowls NZ champion of champion finals?

Meeting closed: 7:10pm

Next Meeting Date: TBC