

BOWLS WAIRARAPA INCORPORATED
MINTUES OF THE 24TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT
CARRINGTON BOWLING & CROQUET CLUB ON
WEDNESDAY 26TH JULY 2023 AT 6:30PM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Warren Wyeth (President), Garry Muriwai (Chairman), Gavin Hamlyn (Executive Officer), Stacey Smyth, Geoff Balmain, Hayden Frew.

DELEGATES PRESENT: Geoff Balmain (Carrington), Pat Herbert and Dean Hands (Greytown), Dianne Haswell and Steve Elliott (Lansdowne), Rozanna Muriwai and Janalle Frew (Martinborough), Warren Fisher and Colin Hutchby (Masterton), Lorraine Liggins (Masterton Park), No delegates from Featherston present.

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kevin Liggins, Mike Lander, Ronnie Saunders, Darren Meyrick, Lester Dee.

WELCOME:

Chairman, Garry Muriwai opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the 24th Annual General Meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS NO LONGER WITH US:

Everyone stood for a minutes silence to remember those passed in the last year.

APOLOGIES:

Pauline Hodgson, Rob Donald, Alan Taplin, Therese Meyrick, Marjory Mahupuku

MOVED: Dianne Haswell

SECONDED: Dean Hands

CARRIED

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved as a true and correct record.

MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising.

MOVED: Warren Fisher

SECONDED: Geoff Balmain

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS OF THE CENTRE:

Chairman's Report:

I would like to start by acknowledging the huge contribution that the following people have made to the running of the Centre:

Board Members:

Geoff Balmain

Hayden Frew

Stacey Smyth

Steve Willis

President:

Warren Wyeth

Executive Officer:

Gavin Hamlyn

Representative Selectors:

Men – Lester Dee

Women – Tanya Wheeler

Also, a big thanks to all Club delegates for their time and input.

The Centre is in a strong financial position and will continue in its mission as stated in the constitution, which is to 'to develop and implement strategies, policies and procedures for the administration, promotion and development of the Game of Bowls in the Centre District'. You will be aware that we budgeted for a loss this last year due in main because of the intercentre being held in Christchurch and we are budgeting for a small surplus this year as the intercentre is to be held in Wellington so the costs will be considerably smaller.

The Centre had only 231 full playing members this season which makes us one of the smallest Centres in New Zealand. That said, we continue to 'punch above our weight' in representative competitions. In fact, I have had many, many comments from other Centres and players about how much stronger we are these days. I know we can do even better and want to support our selectors to the further develop our players at all levels. On a superficial level, this year we did not look as good as the previous year but our win rate was still high and we had a number of narrow losses. A good example would be coming 4th at the Octagonal.

The Centre collected \$9361 in levies from our Clubs this year and with this funding we continue to employ an Executive Officer, maintained a strong rep programme, ensured a smooth running of Centre events and supported and developed a very competitive secondary school programme and the initial development of an under 26 programme. We are continuing to do more with the small amount of available funding available.

We have now employed a new Executive Officer, Gavin Hamlyn, who will help us take a further step forward in setting up the Centre to thrive with his expertise in technology and sport management. I am confident that you will all see, if you have not already, the changes that Gavin is leading in the use of technology. E.g., Website, Facebook and soon the use of BowlsHub which is already widely used by other Centres and by Bowls New Zealand.

There are a number of new initiatives that we are working on to further strengthen the financial wellness of our Centre which I will report to you on during the coming year.

Coming back this coming year, I feel that we need to all work at increasing participation at club level and build our playing numbers. This is a challenge that must be taken up by all clubs as well as the Centre.

Sponsorship is also a priority for the coming year and the Board and EO are focused on our stretch target of raising our level sponsorship – any suggestions are welcome.

This year we will see the debut of our new Centre uniforms which will also see a burning ceremony for the old shirts!!

I look forward to further continued success and development of our Centre in the coming year.

Garry Muriwai, Chairman

Women's Selector:

My report this year will be a bit different than usual and rather than commenting on each event will run through the highlights of the season and some general comments on where I think the representative women's side is at the moment.

The biggest highlight this season has been the Junior teams – this being the 1-8 and 1-5 teams. They have had the opportunity to play in 3 Junior representative fixtures this season with players also being selected for Open events and have done themselves proud by not only holding their own against larger and stronger centres but having a great team spirit and attitude. A number of our new juniors are still at college and are already showing talent for bowls and for the future of Wairarapa Bowls.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Carol Voller for investing her time, coaching and dedication that she has given this season to our Juniors and to the parents who have encouraged them.

Overall, with the Open events with the exception our first home and away game against Kapiti which we managed to come through eventual winners to the Kapiti Women we have not performed as well I would have liked.

As we are a smaller centre, for me having a Junior and Open event being run on the same day makes it harder to put teams together. This happened twice this season and I selected teams a bit different to what I may have had all players been available for both events. As mentioned above we have a strong Junior side coming through with many of them being selected and playing in Open events which is where we need them to be playing for the future strength of our bowls. Going forward I would like to see this change (although this coming season looks like it remains the same) so we are able to play our experienced players with our juniors. Without this happening we will eventually end up with a serious gap between our Junior and Open players coming through at a higher level.

One of our main led up events the Tararua Quad was cancelled for the Open side due to weather which then led us straight through to the Octagonal followed by National Intercentre 3 weeks later. Unfortunately, the Women overall did not have great results. There were some great games won and played but without the availability and commitment of players we fell short over the season of being able to play consistent combinations and teams.

Going forward if selected again I would like to see the following happen which in my opinion would aide and assist with the Women's side being given the best chance of performing well in these events in the future.

- Commitment from players for the season
- Rescheduling of Junior and Open events so they don't clash allowing players to be available for selection for all events
- A green with similar conditions/running speed to the venues most commonly played on in these events to practice on (please note this is not a complaint about our greens in the Wairarapa but on what our players need to be able to practice on for these events).

I would like to finish with saying I have enjoyed my position as Women's Selector and would like to continue being part of the growth of the representative side. It would be great to think that with the support and backing of the Centre, Clubs and its players we can only grow stronger as a Centre.

Thank you for your time.

Tanya Wheeler, Women's Selector

Men's Selector:

This season has been one of those seasons with weather ruining the annual fixture with Kapiti (reduced to one round) and the cancellation of the Quadrangular. These disruptions were not helpful into the first top competition, the Octagonal, on the way to the Intercentre.

Summary of Events

30/10/22 - vs Manawatu @ Manawatu

2 Teams of 5

Round 1 & 2 - Singles and Fours, and Pairs and Triples.

Round 3 - Singles, Pairs, Triples, and Fours.

Result: 12-12

An excellent work out with a draw.

27/11/22 - vs Kapiti @ Greytown

2 Teams of 7

Round 1 - 7 x 2-4-2 Pairs

Round 2 - Rained off

Result: 2-5

Unfortunately, the rain came after lunch and after a couple of ends of the second round, the match was called off. Kapiti was awarded the win, based on the first-round result.

29/01/23 - 1-8 Juniors vs Kapiti, Wellington, Manawatu @ Kapiti

Team of 7

Singles, Pairs, and Fours

Result: 4 wins from 9 games

The men's team did very well and more than held their own against very talented opposition.

10/02/23 - Octagonal @ Taranaki

Team of 10

Singles, Pairs, Triples, and Fours

Result: 12.5 wins from 28 games

This tournament was a good lead up for us for the Intercentre as we finished in 4th position out of 8. A very satisfactory result.

06/03/23 - The Masters @ Wanganui

Team of 10

Singles, Pairs, Triples, and Fours

Result: 4 wins from 20 games

This tournament was an uphill struggle with first the unavailability of some players due to a clash with a traditional gala in Palmerston, and second the inability to come to terms with the very fast Laird Park greens.

16/03/23 - Intercentre @ Christchurch

Team of 8

Singles, Pairs, and Fours

Result: 5.5 wins from 18 games

This tournament was a frustrating one considering the closeness of the games. However, the team played well and showed true character. Unfortunately, we did not qualify for post section. This was a big blow to a very competitive team.

06/05/23 - 1-5 Juniors Quadrangular @ Masterton

Team of 8

Singles, Pairs, 2-4-2 Pairs, and Triples
Result: 4 wins from 12 games

This team although somewhat depleted by unavailability, performed very well with some experienced 3–4-year players and a couple of very promising 1st year players.

Summary:

As selector, I was very happy with the representative players' performances, both in their abilities and their positive attitude towards bowls in Wairarapa. The involvement of rep players in Champ of Champ events and now with the excellent new green at Greytown, along with the convenience of carpet greens for year-round play, is very encouraging. All potential reps practicing on these facilities can only yield positive outcomes.

Lester Dee, Men's Selector

President's Report:

Moved to end of meeting.

MOVED: Hayden Frew

SECONDED: Lester Dee

CARRIED

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

Garry Muriwai read the statement of accounts. The financial statements were sent to the Club Secretaries in advance.

MOVED: Dean Hands

SECONDED: Rozanna Muriwai

CARRIED

FINANCIAL REVIEW:

The accounts have been reviewed by an independent reviewer, Len Morgan, and have been signed off. The review is limited to an analytical examination of procedures applied to compiling the financial records of the Centre. It needs to be noted that a full review is yet to be completed as the GST account is still to be reviewed as this was not able to be completed in time. Garry Muriwai requested that current account reviews be passed and once the GST review is complete, then this will be sent on to Clubs for their information.

MOVED: Hayden Frew

SECONDED: Janalle Frew

CARRIED

PRESENTATION OF BUDGET – 2023/2024 (As Circulated)

Capitation Fees – Bowls New Zealand will continue to invoice clubs directly.

Some key points to note, to achieve budget are:

- Centre Levy – It is proposed that there will be a 4.5% increase in the Centre's Levy, an increase of \$2.08 (inclusive of GST), totalling \$48.38.
- Interclub Fees – Cost will be \$120.00+GST (\$138.00) per team (figures are based on four women's & five men's teams)
- Entry Fee Income - This is an estimate based on entries received last year plus a small increase. Entry fees are \$20.00 (inclusive of GST) per player.
- Grants – We will be applying for another Trust House Grant and a grant from Eastern & Central Community Trust of \$3,500 towards the EO salary.
- Raffles – The Centre will conduct a raffle at all Centre events and any club whose green is used shall not conduct any opposing fundraising activities.
- Sponsorship – There will be strong push to get newer and bigger sponsorship, work has already commenced in this area.

The Masterton delegate asked the following:

- The increase of the Centre Levy is \$2.08, can you please advise what the new amount will be? This was documented on the agenda as \$48.38.
- Asked what work has been done already to commit to sponsorship? Garry Muriwai advised that he would report this to the delegates at their next meeting.
- Asked what the \$8,500 grants under income were. Garry advised that these are proposed grants from Trust House and Eastern Central Trust.
- Advised that the \$4000 grant should in fact be \$3,500 as \$500 of this was a donation.
- The delegate felt that there would be a loss and not a profit made.

The Greytown delegate asked the following:

- Is it still viable to have same charges for grass greens vs carpet greens. E.g., grass greens should receive more due to the cost of chemicals etc that are required. Garry Muriwai explained that carpet greens have a depreciation and clubs with carpet greens are having to put money aside for replacement costs.
- The delegate felt that if it was looked at giving more to those with grass greens, then the difference could be donated back to the Centre and this could be seen as income.

Garry Muriwai commented that the Board is committed to achieving the 'bottom line' and we will be looking at strategies to ensure that this is achieved.

MOVED: Darren Meyrick

SECONDED: Janalle Frew

CARRIED

CONSIDERATION & DETERMINATION OF NOTICES OF MOTION:

No remits were received

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

President – There were no nominations received and no nominations from the floor.

Vice President - There were no nominations received and no nominations from the floor.

Executive Officer - Gavin Hamlyn was appointed prior to AGM.

Board Members – Darren Meyrick (new)

The current Board Members indicated they would continue, apart from Steve Willis and Steve Chapman.

Re-elected were: Garry Muriwai, Hayden Frew, Geoff Balmain, Stacey Smyth.

MOVED: Dean Hands

SECONDED: Stacey Smyth

CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF SUITABLY QUALIFIED PERSON TO COMPLETE ANNUAL REVIEW:

Garry Muriwai felt that as long as Len Morgan was happy and agrees to continue completing the Annual Reviews then we should continue using him.

MOVED: Warren Fisher

SECONDED: Steve Elliott

CARRIED

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER:

Nil

GENERAL BUSINESS:

The Greytown delegate wished to acknowledge and thank the Board for looking at new uniforms for the representative teams, he felt that was a great initiative.

The Masterton delegate commented that three years ago the subject uniforms were brought up and we are only getting movement on these now. Garry Muriwai advised that we are now in a position to get these.

The Masterton delegate also commented that we had three delegates meetings to arrange the programme and thought this had been finalised but when the final copy of the programme had come out, it is noted that some of the dates have been rearranged and asked why. Garry Muriwai explained that some of these dates clashed with events at other Centres and it was appropriate to move these around to try and encourage play outside of the Centre and hope that it encourages players from outside our Centre to enter our open events.

The Greytown delegate asked what the stance is on events being cancelled due to weather e.g., galas? Can clubs reschedule these to whenever they want or does the Centre have a say on this? As last season at times there were 2-3 galas being held in one week. The Masterton delegate stated that this had been discussed in the delegates meeting as this was a problem last season. The Lansdowne delegate advised that she went through the programme and made suggestions to the Centre and delegates meetings for clubs to best space their galas out, this appears to have been done with a better coverage throughout the season. The Lansdowne delegate also advised that in the delegates meeting it was decided that any gala that has to be postponed for whatever reason could potentially have a date that was set aside for Eketahuna or they need to reschedule their gala at the end of the season.

President's Report:

The 2022-2023 season has been a year of challenges.

We had hoped with the COVID-19 lockdowns behind us, the season would be plain sailing but unfortunately the weather caused a number of problems. It was fortunate the new artificial greens being available helped us manage this and we were able to complete the seasons events.

Many thanks to all the clubs who hosted Centre events. Next season we should be better prepared as we now have the Greytown greens running well, and Martinborough improving all the time, unfortunately we have lost Eketahuna club, this is a shame as they have been good supporters of all bowls in the Wairarapa for many years, we just hope their bowlers find a place/club to play our great game.

The representative programme was played with mixed results. The women's Masters were held at the Masterton club along with the Men's side of the WKWM.

The season promised to be a very good season but poor planning, lack of practices, combinations and poor selections resulted in disappointing results. Funding is becoming a problem, we Bowls Wairarapa, cannot maintain a Rep programme with costs increasing every year, we need to manage this be increased sponsorship, or players paying their way, or reducing the number of fixtures.

These hard decisions will need to be made in the very near future as Bowls Wairarapa cannot afford to run continued losses from the Rep programme.

Highlights during the season were Tanya Wheeler winning the NZ Ch Ch singles, the Martinborough men's fours were runner up in NZ Ch Ch event and also Wairarapa sports team of the year and the Martinborough club awarded club of the year.

Another successful Bowls Wairarapa Awards evening was held at the South Wairarapa Working Men's Club which saw Tanya Wheeler take out Senior Player of the Year and Carrington Club of the Year. Congratulations to all the award winners, also to all the Centre winners, Open and Ch Ch winners, Well done!

We now have a new Executive Officer, Gavin Hamlyn. We wish Gavin best wishes and support in his new role. Many thanks to Warren Fisher for an excellent job well done over many years. Also special thanks to Steve Willis for his contribution to the Board.

Thank you to all sponsors, for without their support our Centre would be in dire straits.

Junior Bowls/Schools etc is in good heart. Thanks to Gavin Hamlyn, Garry Muriwai, Warren Fisher, Lester Dee and Carol Voller for their great efforts.

In Conclusion, I believe Bowls in the Wairarapa is at a crossroad, some clubs appear to be doing well while others are struggling. We must support one another where possible, playing in galas etc is important for all our clubs.

We, Bowls Wairarapa need to support clubs where possible.

We need to secure more sponsorship or face making some hard decisions.

I believe we have the players, we just need more organising and stricter behaviour on and off the greens which we will see improved results.

Warren Wyeth, President.

Garry Muriwai thanked Warren Wyeth for his time and effort on the Board and this was warmly supported by all members present and a round of applause was had.

Meeting Closed: 7:15pm **Next AGM to be held:** Before 31 July 2024