

BOWLS WAIRARAPA

Delegates meeting held at Carrington Bowling & Croquet Club on Tuesday 15th May 2024 at 6:00pm

Present: Garry Muriwai (Chairman), Gavin Hamlyn (Executive Officer), Stacey Smyth (Board Member), Steve Elliott (Lansdowne), Warren Fisher & Colin Hutchby (Masterton), Rozanna Muriwai (Martinborough), Pat Herbert (Greytown), Roger Smeaton & Tracey Jacobson (Carrington), Rose Clement (Featherston), Ray Clearey & Kevin Liggins (Masterton Park).

Apologies: Darren Meyrick (Board Member), Alan Taplin (Lansdowne).

Minutes from April meeting taken as true and correct, no matters arising from these.

Agenda:

- Rep Selector Process
- Membership Recruitment
- Pathway Events – Open vs Club

Rep Selector Process:

Martinborough: No feedback

Featherston: No feedback

Greytown: No feedback

Lansdowne: No feedback

Masterton Park: No feedback but a personal opinion is that a selector shouldn't be a player.

Masterton: Believe that the rep selection process needs to change, should have a selection panel consisting of a Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa based member. It was asked how this would make the selection process better, Masterton believe that this would provide a better overview of all players in the Wairarapa and not just of certain players if the selector is only one person. The panel can be present at games, not just a selector.

Each club should nominate one person who will approach the panel/selector on their club's behalf if they feel one of their members should be considered for rep selection.

Carrington: A panel of selectors is a good idea, agree that the Centre is too small to have a non-playing selector. If you select a team, keep them together, train them together, this way they can build their playing relationship, learn how each person plays, their strengths and weaknesses. No good putting people together who have never played before and never trained together, you won't get good results.

A good idea to have a senior selector and a junior selector, keep these positions separate, takes a bit of pressure off just 1 person to try and manage everything. A selector needs to have a good manager that they can trust and rely on. Carol has identified that she would be interested in being the junior selector.

Garry Muriwai: Bowls NZ feedback is that a panel for the selection process is a really good idea, it's not just about selecting the players, it about arranging the trainings. You need to know the roles of the team, e.g. What is the Manager's role? Giving feedback to players after games on their performance in a constructive way. Selectors, Managers and panels need to have a job description.

Membership Recruitment:

Martinborough: We allow the soccer club to use our facilities, they join as social members and use our clubhouse as theirs over the winter period. This generates income over the winter periods, unfortunately, we haven't been able to get them to join as bowling members.

It is hard for the smaller clubs to be more amenable to the community, we only have certain members that can cut and mow the lawn, clean the clubhouse, open the bar, it is easier for larger clubs.

Featherston: We do try and recruit new members, people come along but they aren't followed up afterwards or on the night. We are needing a more active committee to help get this up and running better, we do have 2 first year bowlers starting next year.

We have some great ideas, but need the commitment of current members to help make this happen.

Greytown: No feedback

Lansdowne: The cricket club have access to the club; they have their own key for the bar. Again, this doesn't seem to generate additional bowling members. There has been some talk about Lansdowne and Masterton Park amalgamating.

Masterton Park: We offer free subs for all novice players and we have only gained one new member, we aren't able to advertise on the fencing that faces into the park.

Masterton: We host Friday Funzie which is open to anyone, \$5 to enter, there are two games. People that play in this seem to have a natural progression to social member, business house bowls, limited and then to full members. This format is extremely popular and we have been hosting a full green for the past couple of weeks.

Carrington: We are planning on doing a flyer drop after winter with our roll-up days and key contact people. We have also introduced an evening housie night, its less likely to generate new bowling membership but it's getting our club out there to a different group of people.

Gavin will send out an article from Bowls Australia about recruitment of players. Bowls NZ feedback is that the shorter games appear to be more appealing to newer players.

The current group of students we have are really keen to play bowls and we need to continue to feed their hunger to play bowls, we also need to try and find ways to recruit more students, we may need to look at how we advertise bowls, do we rebrand bowls in the Wairarapa to encourage younger players?

There is a stigma that bowls is for 'old people', maybe we have a night a week for the younger players, free food, they play their own music.

Pathway Events – Open vs Club:

Martinborough: Leave it as it is, this currently generates an income for the Centre with allowing outside players to enter open events, changing it will not allow them to enter, therefore reducing potential income. The other side of is that it would be good for the more junior players to play against a different calibre of players from other regions. Overall, we are happy to leave it up to the Centre to decide the best outcome.

Featherston: No feedback

Greytown: Stay as it is.

Lansdowne: Stay as it is.

Masterton Park: Stay as it is.

Masterton: Don't like the open pathway idea, stay as 'status quo'. Moving it to an open pathway takes away from the club championship honours in a way. There is a prestige that comes with winning from a club level. It is better to have other Centres entering in our open events.

Carrington: Great discussion was had about pros and cons and a vote was held, 7 committee members voted to stay as is and continue to use the Club Championship and Champion of Champion event for the NZ final pathway. 3 members abstained from voting.

Garry reminded delegates that if you have a pathway event, it is only open to Centre players and they are to be from the same club.

Garry thanked everyone for their feedback and views and will take these back to the Centre boards for discussion.

As the clubs have agreed to keep Club and Open events as is, the Mixed 2-4-2 will need to be played at club level and then through to Champion of Champions. Clubs will need to find a spare weekend in their programmes to accommodate this.

General Business:

No general business from any club.

Gavin advised that a flaw has been found in the Bowlshub system. If players are entering as a guest, then unfortunately their payments are rejected. There appears to be no issues if players enter with their login if they are registered with Bowlshub.

As from next season, it is recommended that all clubs nominate one person to enter all full playing members into Bowlshub to generate an ID number.

Meeting closed: 7:05pm

Next Meeting Date: TBC