



## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**(Meeting held by “Go-to-Meeting” conference call on  
16 February 2020)**

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### **PRESENT:**

John Bell (JB) – President/Chairman  
John McArdle (JM) - Regional Director  
Wayne Moffatt (WM) - Regional Director  
Hazel Wilson (HW) – Appointed Director  
Scott Roberts (SR) – Appointed Director  
Claudius Lam (CL) – Appointed Director

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Gary Smith (GS) – Chief Executive  
Roger Black (RB) - Minute taker

### **APOLOGIES:**

Garry Collins (GC) - Regional Director

### **WELCOME:**

The President opened the meeting at 09.00 hours (UK time) and welcomed all to the Board meeting.

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

No changes were required to that previously recorded.

### **3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**Tabled:** Minutes of October 2019 Board meeting.

The minutes of the October 2019 meeting were approved unanimously as a true record.

### **4 BUSINESS ARISING**

There were no matters arising not covered in the agenda.

### **5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

The President provided a detailed report covering what he perceived to be the priority action areas for 2020 as was required by the World Bowls statutory policies. He listed a number of actions for the Board’s scrutiny and agreement, stressing that it was necessary to be clear on what WB was attempting to achieve and the most effective ways by which the priority actions would be achieved.

### **PRIORITIES**

The list of priorities included the continued action to achieve IOC recognition and JB advised the Board of interesting developments over the last few days prior to the meeting which will have an impact on this particular issue. He acknowledged that WB had reached an impasse with GAISF in relation to the number of member nations required for progression through their system. After discussions with GS it was felt

GS relayed to the Board and updated the Directors with the history of World Bowls' previous membership of CMSB, an umbrella international body covering boules type sports (boules lyonnaise, petanque and raffa, volo), which is recognised by the IOC. GS also outlined the reasons why the Board had decided several years ago to withdraw from membership of CMSB, which included the strongly supported belief at that time that World Bowls had a strong case to obtain recognition in its own right with the IOC with the desire to follow this course of action being supported by the World Bowls membership at that time. The ongoing obstacles and changing goalposts encountered by World Bowls following submission of its IOC Recognition Application have been well documented.

Correspondence has now recently been received at World Bowls headquarters from Dr Mutlu Turkmen, President of the Turkish Bowls, Bowling and Darts Federation, a WB member, who is also an existing delegate for one of the boules type sports on the CMSB Council, indicating that the current CMSB is either going to be dissolved or otherwise reconstituted.

The WB President and CEO has now been invited to attend the Hestourex Conference and associated meetings to be held in Turkey in early April 2020 during which additional meetings with Dr Turkmen and other parties would take place to outline the desire to incorporate World Bowls in the future revised structure. The Board noted and appreciated the content on CMSB and fully supported the visit to Turkey to attend Hestourex and for proposed meetings.

JB reminded the Board that the first stage of attaining recognition by the IOC of WB would potentially enhance the smaller MNA's in particular with possible Government funding becoming available to them.

Included in JB's priority action list is the review and production of a vibrant Strategic Plan, with an accompanying Operational Plan.

Other key aims include improving the image and profile of the sport, which remained a priority for WB. The joint initiative undertaken with Bowls Australia to achieve this aim is reaching its conclusion and a separate progress report is shown below.

The list continued itemising the provision of a programme of attractive high profile world events, the review and implementation of the development strategy, which included assistance to smaller MNA's to recruit new members, the creation of a WB coaching manual and the need to re-visit the WB website and promote the Asset Resource Centre plus the provision of effective communications and publicity together with effective financial monitoring, management and forecasting system continuing to be priority as was the generation of external funding.

Major progress had been made with the high profile events with the membership of the IIBC evidenced by the increase in participation for the inaugural World Under 25 Championships and the inaugural World Bowls Indoor Championships. The World Bowls Challenge had been a great success and the WB brand was enhanced by these major events.

Recruiting new countries continued to be a priority and there was interest being shown by several European countries but it was accepted there was a long process from an expression of interest to becoming a full member. Although WB could provide assistance through the Regional Directors, GS emphasised the point that in many of the smaller countries it was essential to establish a proper administrative structure within the MNA to be able to effectively administer what WB had to offer. This problem was a universal one affecting many smaller MNA's. There were many examples of the offer of assistance (coaching, issue of development assistance forms etc) which had never effectively been considered and progressed by the MNAs concerned.

completion, and JM was able to bring the Board up to date with the latest position - JM to email JB with the latest information and JB would follow up with Simon Botha from South Africa who was working on the preparation of the manual.

JB also emphasised that the Asset Resource Centre advertised on the WB website appeared to be underused and efforts should be made to encourage MNA's to access it for items such as posters for use by their member clubs and organisations.

The continued provision of an effective financial monitoring, management and forecasting system remains a priority and it was stressed by JB that any information, in any format, required by the Board was available from GS on request. GS reminded the Board that he was always in a position and very able to provide any financial information requested by the Board. All Directors were made aware of this and unanimously accepted this was available to them at any time on request once the Board had agreed as a whole, not just individual directors, exactly what further information was desired/required to be presented to the Board. A complete review of this issue along with discussions on how to effectively implement the list of WB's 2020 priorities will be subject to detailed scrutiny at a special Board meeting being arranged in March.

The generation of external funding was accepted as being difficult although it remained a priority. Despite the recruitment in the past of Directors specifically for this purpose and appointment of a specialist Marketing and Sponsorship company with responsibility to attract sponsorship, there had been no success. It was considered that events such as the World Bowls Challenge should promote some interest from potential sponsors and JB suggested that David Allen, the WB PR and Media consultant, could possibly be contacted to ascertain if it is possible to make inroads into obtaining future sponsorship.

Directors were free to make suggestions to add to the list of priorities.

## **MARKETING THE SPORT OF BOWLS**

The second item on JB's report referred to raising the profile of the sport of bowls and the development of marketing concepts which could be applied globally. He referred to the initiative with Bowls Australia and the engagement of consultants to determine what attributes the sport has to attract new participants, and which target market(s) are the most likely to respond to those attributes. He was of the opinion that the consultant's early analysis showed a good grasp of what is attractive about the sport, and a logical choice of an optimum target market - retiring team members from active sports. These elements received unanimous support from the parties participating in the initiative. The next steps – the development of creative concepts to market our sport effectively - was never going to be easy and it was always going to be more difficult for WB with multi nations and large geographical difference.

However, the creative concept which emerged is refreshing, and credible as a marketing tool and has the potential for global use. Although, in its current form, it is geared specifically for the Australian market, the dialogue/format would need to be changed and adapted for other countries/regions. Bowls Australia is already successfully running their campaign with the concepts shown. However, our objective was to provide the 'tools' for MNAs to undertake their own marketing and what was needed now was to send the basic concept to all MNAs with instructions on how to alter it to fit their needs. The next step, subject to Board approval, is to launch this joint initiative along with its marketing concepts at our Biennial Council meeting, which will provide an ideal and appropriate high profile environment. Bowls Australia and JB will undertake a presentation. Bowls Australia will also provide an explanatory kit for all MNAs to enable them to understand how they can adapt it for their own particular circumstances. This

the project, and are to be sincerely thanked for their efforts. In the light of the proposed formal launch it was agreed to hold off on any publicity in the meantime. David Allen to be requested to liaise with Bowls Australia in the build up to the launch.

The third item mentioned in JB's report referred to the inaugural World Bowls Challenge held in December 2019. It had been acknowledged as a great success and serious consideration has to be given to holding another in 2021 but that the related costs, funding sources, host venue and playing participants all required discussion and debate. More would follow on this subject under "events"

**Resolved:**

JM to email JB with the latest information on the preparation of a coaching manual, after which JB would follow up with Simon Botha from South Africa.

The Board agreed that GS and JB would attend Hesterourex, Turkey for meetings with officials connected to CMSB.

The Board agreed to support the launch of the creative concepts to market the Sport of Bowls at the Biennial Council meeting

The Board agreed to consider distribution to MNA's guidelines on administration in an attempt to improve contact and communications with smaller MNA's – this would form part of the operational plan to be discussed at a later meeting.

The Board agreed in principle to the organisation of another World Bowls Challenge in 2021 subject to detailed considerations being satisfactory.

**Action:**

JM to email JB with latest update on WB coaching manual.

**6. REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:**

**Tabled:** Written reports from the Regional and Appointed Directors were circulated in advance of the meeting.

**Africa:**

JM reported as follows and had nothing further to add to that submitted earlier to the Board. In Botswana and Kenya, both MNA's hosted several competitions throughout 2019, all well attended, including the African States Tournament held in Botswana in August 2019.

Malawi, Zambia, despite numerous emails and promises from their Secretary to provide a report, and Zimbabwe failed to provide any relevant information.

In Namibia, trials had taken place to select teams for the 2020 World Championships, albeit there was no financial support from the Government to meet the costs.

Two clubs faced eviction but efforts were being made by interested stakeholders to stop this process.

The last quarter of 2019 was a traditionally quiet one for South Africa.

17 March with invitations extended to all MNA's in his region. There were no updates available from Brunei, Macau, India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Iran, Sri Lanka, Singapore or Thailand. The Asian Championships and Asian under 25 Championships had attracted interest from ten MNA's but Bowls Asia was closely monitoring the situation caused by the Coronavirus. CL advised that information was now to hand that the Championships would be put back until September 2020. The Tiger Bowls 2020 and China Open, due in March 2020, had been cancelled due to the Coronavirus.

Japan will organise the World Masters Games in 2021, and in this connection, the Kobe Shiwasenomura greens will be replaced from natural grass to artificial surfaces with the Government agreeing to finance the change. A request had been received from Bowls Japan resulting in a letter being sent by the World Bowls CEO to the Mayor of Kobe City supporting the inclusion of Lawn Bowls in these Games and the requirement to upgrade the present facilities in order to present the sport in the required manner at these games and to provide a legacy for the sport. Keith McAuliffe, the WB technical expert, is assisting with the process.

Malaysia is to consider the organisation of an international tournament in Juching in October 2020 as part of the Visit Sarawak campaign.

As has been previously mentioned, the Philippines constructed two grass greens in Angeles City within 41 days to host bowling as part of the SEA Games last December.

In the UAE, arrangements are being made for a meeting, probably in May/June 2020, to discuss membership and contact seems to have been lost with Afghanistan, Taiwan and Korea as regards potential membership of WB.

### **Oceania:**

WM provided a short report indicating that it had been proposed to host a coaching clinic in conjunction with the Oceania Championships due to be held in October/November 2020 but this event has now been cancelled for a number of reasons.

WM added that the proposed Oceania Championships were subject to a letter from the President of Oceania Bowls Confederation, in which it was stated there had been a breakdown in the decision making process as to where and when the Championships would take place.

The launching of the Championships in the same year as the World Championships, the time available in which to make a decision as to the venue etc added to the mounting problems.

The recommendation from World Bowls was that their Championships be delayed until 2021.

Furthermore, the Oceania Bowls Confederation President has recommended that the Constitution be changed in several areas in his letter sent to all the members of the organisation. Feedback on his proposals was awaited from the countries in the new organisation.

It had been agreed at a previous Board meeting the new Oceania body would be recognised by World Bowls within the WB constitution once it had been fully and properly established in constitutional, administrative and financial terms.

Coaching had also been arranged by WM for the Argentine players prior to the commencement of the World Championships.

### **Americas:**

SR provided a detailed report on his area to the Board as follows:-

In Argentina, discussions were taking place between the men and women to integrate both bodies into a single organisation.

In Brazil, a request for development funding may be received should there be changes within the

attendance at the IDB World Championships. Bowls Canada are also delivering a pilot workshop aimed at assisting clubs to develop increased capacity to manage clubs and their programmes with initial feedback that is proving to be very helpful. Leadership training is also being delivered to club executives.

In the USA, policies and procedures continue to be updated, planning is underway for next year's US Open and National Championships and a national coaching program is also ongoing. In the Falkland Islands, the short carpet is continuing to be very popular.

Jamaica is the subject of well-documented outstanding fines and correspondence with WB, although they have paid their annual fees. Outstanding fines for failing to appear at the 2019 Atlantic Championship were reduced to £1000 with a time limit of payment being 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019 and it was agreed to extend this time limit to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Failure to pay by this date would result in a suspension from WB.

Potential new members include Ecuador and Nicaragua and contact and enquiries continue.

### **Europe:**

Whilst GC was not in attendance at the meeting he had provided a detailed and comprehensive written report in relation to the MNA's included in his region, although, as the period covered since the last report was over the winter months, there was little activity in the region.

Cyprus is to host a small nation test series in March 2020 and an Atlantic Senior Fours event in December 2020 but entries for the latter are low with no UK countries supporting the event.

In Guernsey, the indoor and outdoor bodies are holding meetings with a view to establishing one organisation to control all bowls in Guernsey

There was little to report in England, Ireland, Spain, Netherlands and Wales.

The Isle of Man intends to hold a test series later in the year or just before the 2021 European Championships.

Israel have indicated concerns about the coronavirus outbreak affecting the 2020 World Championships and Scotland have indicated concerns over the invitations to both indoor and outdoor Associations for the World Indoor Championships being held in Bristol in 2020.

Turkey continue to investigate building additional facilities at hotels in an effort to attract players from abroad to the country.

Developing Members (Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Sweden and Switzerland) provided brief reports and several potential new Members had been contacted and continue to be encouraged to become involved but with very little at present to report on progress. They include Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Romania.

Proposed budget costs in relation to GC making further visits etc were included and submitted to the Board.

In relation to possible attendance by GC at the World Bowls Indoor Championships in Bristol in April 2020, GS, for the benefit mainly of the new Directors to the Board, explained in detail the policy agreed and adopted by WB for many years in relation to attendance at international and World Bowls events. It was accepted that where the President was in attendance, there was normally no need or requirement for a Regional Director also to be present, with the decision ultimately resting with the President as to whether additional attendance was necessary. Other Board members did agree that there was some merit in a Regional Director being present at world and international events taking place in their region e.g. for networking purposes, but were conscious of the additional potential costs for such a visit and indeed the potential for criticism from others. The Directors were in agreement with the established policy that the decision as to

continue to be undertaken by the President and CEO.

**Resolved:**

WM to advise the Oceania Federation of WB's thoughts on the postponement of their proposed inaugural Championships event and the requirement to have a look at and amend their constitution and consolidate their structure.

That the existing policy that the President would ultimately decide which Directors would attend world/international events was reaffirmed. The President agreed GC's attendance at the 2020 World Bowls Indoor Championship.

That the President & CEO continue to represent World Bowls in discussions and negotiations with IIBC, IOC, GAISF etc.

## **7. STRATEGIC PLAN & OPERATIONAL PLAN 2020-2024**

JB referred to the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan and Operational Plan.

Both plans received detailed attention at the October 2019 Board meeting at which HW had facilitated a discussion by the Board on the content of the Strategic Plan to cover the period up to 2024. Following on this Board meeting, HW had prepared a 4-year strategic plan and had circulated an excel spreadsheet listing all the tasks that had been discussed and agreed. It was decided that all Directors should review the contents of the report and, at the next meeting, sufficient time would be allocated to thoroughly digest the contents to progress finalisation of a Strategic and Operational Plan reflecting World Bowls' priorities with realistic, achievable targets.

**Resolved:**

Directors to review the outline Strategic and Operational Plan prepared by HW for discussion at the next Board meeting.

## **8. MARKETING, MEDIA & PR & SOCIAL MEDIA**

David Allen had produced an interesting and humorous media/PR report for the Board reviewing the previous year's events. His report has so eloquently outlined the contribution of event management, media coverage and the success of events held in 2019.

There was a need to increase the WB presence on social media and the website required to be constantly updated. Discussions were being undertaken with Hunter Johnstone to make it easier to access information on the WB website, using the Asset Resource Centre as an example as a feature that should be more easily available to MNA's and their member clubs. HW suggested that with the greater use of social media platforms, links should be placed more prominently on social media outlets directing visitors to the WB website.

The next newsletter was to be produced after the current round of elections to the Board and for issue around June/July 2020.

GC and Hunter Johnstone provided detailed statistics in relation to the Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts connected to WB.

meeting.

### **Affiliation & Membership.**

GS circulated the up-to-date registered membership details to the Board with a note that the 2020 Annual affiliation returns & fees, which were due by no later than 15 December 2019 are still awaited from Bangladesh, Cook Islands, PNG, Sweden & Zambia. There had been no response to reminders sent to Bangladesh and Cook Islands. 2020 affiliation fees are still awaited from China, India, Jamaica (cheque apparently issued on 7 February), Zimbabwe. In Thailand the national authority reported a large increase in registered membership and have been issued with details of further affiliation fees due as a result.

The Malawi National Authority was given one final opportunity to remit their outstanding 2019 affiliation fees together with their 2020 Annual Return and affiliation fees, and as nothing has been received, the Board confirmed that it would hold off temporarily the termination of Bowling Union of Malawi's membership whilst continued efforts are made to re-establish contact.

The Zambian National Authority did not settle, as required by 31 December 2019, the outstanding invoices for the penalty fees for late withdrawal from a World Bowls event. As a consequence, their entry for the 2020 World Championships was withdrawn.

A letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 was finally received from Zambia apologising for the non responses to the many emails sent to them in the past and detailing the reasons behind their withdrawal from events and asking for WB to consider waiving the fines or to reducing them. Their annual fees would also be "looked at" with a view to meeting their obligations in the next few weeks. After due consideration, the Board agreed that the outstanding invoices totalling GBP3750 still require to be settled but agreed to extend the time to settle these long outstanding invoices and that the deadline date for settlement will now be 30 September 2020.

The Board also agreed that Zambia BA are required to submit their completed 2020 Annual Return of Registered Members and affiliation fees as a matter of urgency.

In addition, the Board agreed that Zambia B.A. and its members are suspended from entering and participating in all international bowls events until these matters are settled.

Kenya has part settled the invoice for the penalty fees for late withdrawal from the 2019 World Singles Champion of Champions with the balance to be settled by 31 March 2020. They withdrew their entries for the 2020 World Bowls Championships for financial reasons.

Jamaica has still not settled the invoice for the Board agreed reduced penalty fee for late withdrawal from the 2019 Atlantic Championships despite the condition that it be settled by 31 December 2019. They say they are still gathering the funds. It was agreed to extend the deadline for payment to 31 March 2020.

#### **Action:**

**Kenya** - GS to remind Kenya that the deadline date for settlement of the balance of their outstanding invoice is extended to 31 March 2020.

**Zambia** -The Board agreed that the outstanding invoices totalling GBP3750 still require to be settled but agreed to extend the time to settle these long outstanding invoices and that the deadline date for settlement will now be 30 September 2020.

The Board also agreed that Zambia BA are required to submit their completed 2020 Annual Return of Registered Members and affiliation fees as a matter of urgency.

The Board also agreed that Zambia B.A. and its members are suspended from entering and participating in all international bowls events until these matters are settled.

result in further disciplinary action which would be potential suspension from WB.

### **Articles of Association**

Since the last Board meeting, the agreed amendments to the Articles concluded in December 2019. The result of the vote was that all the proposed amendments were overwhelmingly approved. The result of the vote and revised Articles were subsequently issued to all member authorities with the revised Articles of Association published and having been filed at Companies Registry.

### **Election of World Bowls President & Regional Directors**

The processes for election of the World Bowls President and the five Regional Directors positions have been commenced in accordance with the deadline dates dictated by the World Bowls Articles.

WM has confirmed that he is not standing for re-election for the position of Regional Director for the Oceania Region following his recent appointment to the Board of Bowls Australia. JM is retiring from his position as Regional Director for the Africa & the Americas Region having served the maximum 4 terms in this role as well as previously holding the positions of Deputy President & President of World Bowls.

### **Laws Committee Matters.**

Kerry Clark CNZM OBE provided a written report to the Board on matters dealt with by the Laws Committee (LC) since the previous meeting.

A ruling was issued in November 2019 regarding a question received in relation to Law 17.2.5 dealing with whether a bowl was a dead or live bowl. The decision of the Laws Committee has been published on the WB website and a proposal will be received from the LC for consideration at the 2020 OGM to remove this law.

The LC also recommends that there is an amendment at the 2020 OGM relating to Appendix A 1.4.5 to the Laws, amending the provision to read “Arrangements for the use of electronic devices”. This change arises from earlier rulings dealt with by the Committee relating to the use of electronic devices. As this is a fast-changing area in the sport, Controlling Bodies need to have authority to deal with requests in an expeditious manner when questions are raised. When submitting the proposal for change to this provision the LC will also submit a memo covering some of the issues to assist Controlling Bodies. It is suggested that the amendment goes on to the WB website when the proposal is approved.

Kerry Clark also advised he was in regular contact with the CGF and the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee, with issues being discussed in relation to the composition of the para disciplines and classifications for 2022. These issues are currently being dealt with by IBD President, Brian Sneag and until resolution by the CGF, the para component of the sports programme cannot be finalised.

There was a desire by the IIBC, as part of the discussions and agreements when they joined WB, to have representation on the Laws Committee and it was agreed that further discussions would be had with the IIBC at the World Indoor Championships in Bristol in April 2020. It was thought that as Allan Thornhill, who was currently a member of the Laws Committee, was heavily involved in Indoor matters, he could be accepted by the IIBC as representing their interest with regard to the Laws Committee.

The Conditions of Play for the 2020 World Championships had been updated and submitted for

area, it was agreed by the Board that ITO's who were not able to be re-assessed because of reasons such as being the only one in a particular area, would have their certificate extended for up to one year. This would also apply in South Africa where there was only one ITO at present.

**Resolved:**

Council to be asked to approve an amendment to the Laws relating to the use of electronic equipment

ITO certificates to be extended by up to one year in certain cases.

Meeting with IIBC to address their request to have representation on the Laws Committee.

**Action:**

Conditions of Play for the 2020 World Championships approved and to be issued.

**World Anti-Doping Agency (W.A.D.A.)**

GS informed the Board that a revised WADA Code is coming into force in 2021 and WB have been advised that this involves changes to Regulations for International Federations to ensure continued compliance. This will require a full review of the World Bowls Anti-Doping Regulations.

W.A.D.A. will be monitoring progress with the WB's review and will require to ultimately confirm and sign off WB's revised Regulations as compliant.

The demands of compliance are becoming more onerous and time-consuming as has been witnessed by WB's ongoing attention to matters raised following completion of the W.A.D.A. Code Compliance Questionnaire in 2019.

**Events:**

GS brought the Board up to date with the events organised by WB since the last Board meeting - the 2019 World Singles Champion of Champions-Adelaide B.C., South Australia, the 2019 World Bowls Challenge-Moama B.C., Australia and the 2019 Under 25 Championships held in West Denton I.B.C., Newcastle, England.

All the events were an outstanding success, extremely well covered by media and live-streaming plus TV broadcasting in the case of the excellent, well received inaugural World Bowls Challenge. The feedback and statistics received in relation to the World Challenge event had been distributed to the directors. It had been agreed to form a sub-committee to consider the feedback on this event and its future and the committee met on 6 February 2020. JB recommended to the Board in principle that the next event be scheduled for 2021 and returns to Moama and thereafter ideally for 2023 be considered at a suitable venue in the Northern Hemisphere to be in keeping with the original concept for this prestigious event. Participating countries remained to be decided, as did the financial commitments. The Board supported the decision to return to Moama for the next World Bowls Challenge. A formal hosting agreement required to be finalised with Moama and Bowls Australia to cover all matters, including the financial obligations.

Reference was also made, and the Board reminded, that the Board agreed to a contribution towards the considerable costs incurred by Bowls Australia for staging the 2019 event after the

and IIBC partnered and it was pleasing to say the partnership worked very well in organisational terms with the event meeting the objective of increasing global participation. It had been agreed that IIBC be the lead partner for the event and World Bowls would be the lead partner for the revised World Bowls Indoor Championships.

### **2020 World Bowls Events**

2020 World Bowls Indoor Championships, Bristol, England -WB is the agreed 'lead' partner organised and run in partnership with IIBC. The event consists of Men's and Women's Singles and Mixed Pairs disciplines and an outstanding level of entries had been received, 32 men, 32 women thus 32 mixed pairs from a total of 27 countries. In order to accommodate the event within the allocated timeframe each discipline will be played in 8 sections initially before moving to knockout rounds.

2020 World Championships, Gold Coast, Australia - All arrangements are in place and WB are awaiting the last couple of confirming entry forms with a deadline for receipt of 10 February.

2020 World Singles Championships, Adelaide BC, Australia - Initial information including entry form for the event was issued to member authorities in early January. All arrangements are progressing satisfactorily.

2020 Under 25's Championships - IIBC has requested bids to host with deadline date being 14 February and details of agreed venue and dates were awaited.

Concern is obviously being expressed at the spread of the coronavirus which has already resulted in the cancellation of Tiger Bowls & the China Open, which were scheduled for March. Bowls Asia's Asian Championships, scheduled to be staged in China in April, have been postponed until September 2020

The Board were conscious of the potential threat to World Bowls events from the present coronavirus and were keeping a close watch on developments. Contingency plans were also being considered by Bowls Australia in relation to their hosting of the 2020 World Bowls Championship. A circular detailing the latest update from the Australian Department of Health provided by Bowls Australia had been sent to all participating national authorities within the last few days. Bowls Australia and World Bowls had agreed that there was no current requirement to cancel or postpone the event considering the content of the update received but there was a need for participating national authorities to consider the routing of their flights to and from Australia to avoid affected areas and to check their own insurance cover.

GS would remind all participating MNA's to ensure their own insurance documents were in order and to liaise with BA on any virus/travel/accommodation related matters.

<p><b>Action:</b></p> <p>GS to remind participating MNA's in the 2020 World Championships to check they had adequate insurance cover due to the coronavirus situation.</p>
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### **Future World Bowls Events**

2021 & 2022 World Singles Champion of Champions - bids to host have been invited from member authorities with issue of revised tender guidelines including the requirement to provide live streaming for at least the semi-finals and finals.

Atlantic Senior Fours Championships, Paphos, Cyprus - This event has been approved by World Bowls. This fact is highlighted in reaction to certain comments received by organisers from some member authorities invited to participate.

2021 Masters Games, Japan - Following a request received from Bowls Japan GS sent a letter to the Mayor of Kobe City supporting the inclusion of Lawn Bowls in these Games and the requirement to upgrade current bowls facilities in order to present the sport in the required manner at these games and to provide a legacy for the sport. This involves replacing grass green facilities with artificial surfaces and an offer to involve Keith McAuliffe, the WB technical expert in the process. Bowls Japan officials are now liaising with Keith.

2023 Atlantic Championships, Asia Pacific Championships & 2024 World Championships- GS reminded the Board that formal hosting agreements require to be prepared and finalised in the forthcoming months for the 2023 Asia Pacific Championships scheduled to be held in China and the 2024 World Championships to be held in Hong Kong. CL will report back to Hong Kong accordingly.

GS brought the Board up to date with conversations with officials from the Welsh Government after the 2019 Atlantic Championships, that they agreed to reimburse some of the expenses incurred by WB for the Atlantic Championships to cover outlays on accommodation and the daily allowance paid to ITO's. There was an indication the accommodation costs incurred by individual ITO's from outside Wales who had officiated at the event would also be refunded in part.

GS also advised the Board that the Welsh Government and authorities were very keen to put a package together to bid for a number of future World Bowls events - 2025 & 2026 World Singles Champion of Champions. 2027 Atlantic Championships & 2028 World Championships.

### **Finance Matters**

GS provided the Board with all the up to date financial documents. There were adjustments to be made to website costs following on dealings with Hunter Johnstone on work needed on the website.

GS explained the figures in some detail and the 2019 financial documentation were due to be delivered to the Auditors/Accountants the following week for them to undertake the annual audit and preparation of audited accounts for the 2019 financial year. The Board approved the forecasts prepared by GS with the understanding that forecasts could be amended and were subject to review, with some figures being amended as explained by GS. It was agreed that the initial 2020 forecast figures, with an amendment to the website costs figure as a result of recently received information from Hunter Johnstone, would constitute the 2020 budgets.

### **Other Matters**

President JB had been scheduled to make a presentation to local club and state representatives and local business leaders on behalf of World Bowls at a 'Business Breakfast' at Adelaide BC during the World Singles Champion of Champions. As JB was unable to travel to Australia GS made the presentation on his behalf and was well received by the attendees.

Club Helensvale, Australia, there will be a report from HKLBĀ on the hosting of the 2024 World Bowls Championships, a joint presentation from World Bowls and Bowls Australia on their marketing campaign project and a presentation from the developer of Bowls Australia's BowlsLink system, which are all considered to be of interest to Member National Authorities of World Bowls.

The Board did not consider it appropriate to incorporate video linking for the Biennial Council Meeting for logistical and global time difference reasons as requested by Bowls Scotland.

#### **11. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

HW raised the matter of providing individual email address for the Directors but after consultation with Hunter Johnstone, there were considerable costs linked to this. It was agreed to carry on as is at present.

HW also asked about the order of disciplines utilised by WB in the World Bowls events although it was accepted that it was too late to change the order for 2020 World Championships but was a matter for consideration for future World Bowls events.

The presentation and exchange of gifts at world events was purely a matter for individual countries. It was not considered an obligation on individual countries to provide gifts.

#### **Action:**

GS to advise all MNAs that it is not an obligation to present or exchange gifts at world events this being purely a matter for individual participating countries.

#### **Future Meetings:**

A further meeting to be arranged by the President within the next few weeks specifically on the subject of internal practices, roles and responsibilities and Strategic Plan & Operational Plan.

Thereafter, the next meeting was confirmed as the 2020 Annual Biennial Council Meeting followed by a face-to-face board meeting of the newly elected Board on 8 & 9 June 2020, both being held on the Gold Coast, Australia.

Roger Black  
26th February 2020