



Hi Everyone

Please see below an update of information following the recent BHR Board meeting (100724):

### 1. Board elections

Following the BHR AGM, the Board held its first meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June and discussed incoming Office-bearer positions. As there was no Board member nominating for the position of Chair, the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair were left in abeyance.

Wayne Morgan was elected as Secretary and David Berry was elected as Finance Director / Treasurer. Following further discussion of the Board's needs and requirements, the two Appointed Director positions were discussed.

John Coates (Kilmore BC) was Appointed to a 2-year position as a Highlands representative which fulfils the required number of Highlands Directors (three).

Given the lack of an available and qualified Chairperson, every club in the Region was contacted and a proposal was suggested, that Lloyd Sims (City Oval) who had nominated for the Board, be approached to take up the remaining Appointed Director position and stand as Chairman of the BHR. 100% of clubs responded positively to this proposal. Lloyd has since accepted this position at the Board meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Therefore, the full BHR Board for the 2024-25 season is as follows:

NAME	ROLE	CLUB	PLAYING AREA
Lloyd Sims	Director (Appointed) - Chairman	City Oval	Ballarat
Lyn Bryce	Vice Chair - Juniors	BMS	Ballarat
Wayne Morgan	Secretary	Buninyong	Ballarat
David Berry	Treasurer	BMS	Ballarat
Barry Clark	Director - Selection	Victoria	Ballarat
Tom Clarke	Director - Pennant / State Events	Webbcona	Ballarat
Lesley Hodgson	Director - Umpiring	Kilmore	Highlands
Geoff Jenkins	Director – Pennant	Midlands	Ballarat
David Odgers	Director – Highlands Pennant	Diggers Rest	Highlands
John Coates	Director (Appointed) – State Events	Kilmore	Highlands

### 2. Regional committees

- Following the Expression of Interest process, the following regional committees were formed:
  - Pennant: Yvonne Clark (Buninyong) - Chair, Rod McDonald (Invermay). Board Liaison – Geoff Jenkins / Tom Clarke
  - Pennant (Highlands): Garry Templar (Romsey) – Chair, Mike Dornau (Woodend), Bev Holmes (Lancefield), Ricky Turner (Kyneton Golf), Amanda Rayner (Diggers Rest). Board Liaison – David Odgers
  - Umpiring: Yvonne Clark (Buninyong) - Chair, Laurie Wadeson (Webbcona). Board Liaison – Lesley Hodgson
  - Juniors: Gerry Flapper (Creswick) - Chair, Mark Oswin (Victoria). Board Liaison – Lyn Bryce
  - Selection: Anne Draffen (Ballan) - Chair, Leah McArthur (Webbcona), Liz Kierce (City Oval) Wayne Lynch (Victoria). Board Liaison – Barry Clark
  - State Events: Brian Johnson (Sebastopol), Marilyn Blake (Central Wendouree). Board Liaison – Tom Clarke / John Coates
- Further approaches will be made to bolster numbers on committees where required.

### 3. Other roles

- Bowslink: Ballarat: Brian Johnson  
Highlands: Terry Kelly

- Publicity: Ballarat: Anthony McCabe  
Highlands: Bill West

#### 4. Affiliation Fees 2024-25

- BHBR affiliation fees for season 2024-25 have been set at \$17.00 per player.
- This is the first time that the BHBR fees have increased since the establishment of the region in 2021 and the Board reluctantly made this decision in light of increasing costs and probable upcoming expenses.
- \$1 from each member's affiliation fee is allocated to the region's junior development and pathway program.

#### 5. Divisions and Team numbers, etc

- Divisions and teams for both playing areas will be finalised after club team nominations are received (due by Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> August).
- *A reminder to clubs that you only have to nominate teams if you wish to change from what you had last season. If we do not hear from you, it will be assumed that you are happy with the teams and divisions that you had last season.*
- Promotion and Relegation (one team up and one team down) will occur in each division.

#### 6. Calendar of Events

- A draft calendar has been developed and the final version will be distributed to clubs in early August.

#### 7. Conditions of Play

- A committee consisting of the regional Pennant Committee and representatives from the Board and the Highlands Pennant Committee will review the BHBR Conditions of Play. These will then be forwarded to Bowls Victoria for approval – as is the new process this season.

#### 8. Other policies

- All other BHBR policies are being reviewed currently, including Inclement Weather policies, State event / Finals Hosting policy, Match Day information, Social media, Selection policy, etc.

#### 9. Protected Tournaments

- Club representatives are asked to bring dates to the General Meeting on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> September (at City Oval BC) for a tournament that they would like added to the 'protected' calendar. This will mean that, where possible, no other tournaments should be scheduled for this date.
- *The process will be slightly different this year with club delegates to the General Meeting asked to add their preferred date to a calendar as they arrive at the meeting. Board representatives will then go through the calendar and highlight any clashes for negotiation between the relevant clubs. (This should save time at the meeting).*
- Given the limited number of available days in the calendar, it may not be possible to have only one tournament on each date, but we should be able to restrict it to no more than two.
- Obviously there will have to be some negotiation re dates as no doubt there will be dates that more than one club would like. Therefore, clubs are asked to come with some back-up dates should their first choice not be available.
- Only one date per club will be protected.
- Clubs are requested not to schedule tournaments on Day 1 of any state events.

#### 10. State Events

- State events will be held as follows this season (alternating policy):
  - Singles / Triples – Ballarat playing area hosting
  - Pairs / Fours / Mixed Pairs – Highlands playing area hosting
  - Champion of Champions – shared

## **11. Over 60 events**

- The Board has decided to reintroduce Over 60 events for Men's Singles and Pairs and Women's Singles and Pairs
- As Bowls Victoria now conducts the state Over 60 events as a carnival, these regional events will not be pathway events, but winners will receive prizemoney in line with other regional events.

## **12. Super Veterans Days**

- This year's Super Veterans' days will be held as follows:
  - Highlands – Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September at Gisborne BC
  - Ballarat – Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> September at Sebastopol BC
- Further information and forms will be sent out shortly

## **13. New club in the region**

- An application from Mt Cottrell BC to move from its current region (Metro West) and affiliate with our region has been approved by the BHBR Board and Bowls Victoria.
- Mt Cottrell is a small club that is finding the current travel requirements difficult for their members and has previously been a member of the Highlands competition. Mt Cottrell will enter one Saturday pennant side and one Tuesday pennant side into the Highlands playing area Division 3 competitions (to be ratified by the Highlands pennant sub-committee).

## **14. Ladies Pennant Series**

- A Ladies Spring Pennant series will be run again this season.
- Further information and entry details will be forwarded to clubs shortly.

## **15. Promotion and Relegation**

- The Board discussed the possibility of introducing two teams being promoted and two teams relegated in each division (for the 2025-26 season and beyond), but has elected to remain with one team up and one team down for the foreseeable future.

## **16. Rinks in Ballarat Saturday Division 1**

- The possibility of Ballarat Saturday Division 1 returning to 3 rinks was discussed with the following points made:
  - i) Having 4 rinks in the top division can disadvantage smaller clubs (as they need to find an extra 4 players from grades that are much lower than the bigger clubs)
  - ii) Region finals / Champion of State competitions are only 3 rinks
  - iii) Having only 3 rinks would strengthen the top division and make it much more competitive
- However it was agreed that there would be no change at this time and Division 1 will remain at 4 rinks, but this topic will remain as a 'live' discussion point in future seasons.

## **17. Starting time for Saturday pennant**

- A suggestion to start Saturday pennant at 1.30pm was discussed, but the Board felt that mandating this change was not required, as clubs have the opportunity to contact opposition clubs and arrange an earlier or later start as required on any given pennant day.

## **18. Afternoon Tea**

- As of this season, there will be a mandated break in all pennant matches.
- Saturday pennant: An afternoon tea break will be taken at 2.45pm and teams are required to be back on the green by 3.15pm. Home clubs are to provide afternoon tea. (The Board feels that this will provide opportunities for players to socialise and for clubs to run raffles should they wish and reclaim an income stream that has been lost due to COVID restrictions).
- Tuesday pennant: A lunch break will be taken at 11.45am and teams are required to be back on the green by 12.15pm.

## 19. Maximum temperatures

- As raised at the AGM, the current situation of having two different maximum temperatures for Saturday and Tuesday pennant was discussed.
- As of this season, both pennant competitions will have a maximum temperature of 38 degrees (where play will cease if this temperature is reached).

Regards

Wayne

**Wayne Morgan**

**Secretary**

**Ballarat Highlands Region Board**

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