



Hi Everyone

Please see below an update of information following the recent BHRB Board meeting (180924):

The recent Board meeting was held at the Lancefield BC and the Board would like to thank the Lancefield club (and in particular Bev and Jeff Holmes) for their hospitality. The Ballarat members of the Board took the opportunity to drop in at Gisborne and Romsey bowling clubs on the way over and Woodend on the way back to have a look at the clubs and their facilities. They also took the opportunity to introduce themselves to any club members and bowlers who were present at the times of these visits.

1. Super Veterans' Days

- Super Veterans' Days: Highlands – Wednesday, 25th September at Gisborne BC and Ballarat on Thursday, 26th September at Sebastopol BC.
- Names for these days closed yesterday but if you have anyone who would like to participate, I will still accept them until tomorrow Sunday, 22nd September.

2. Representative Team Selection Nominations

- Please ensure that your club's selectors forward any nominations to BHRB Secretary at bhrsec@gmail.com by Friday, 27th September.
- Information should include the player's name, NID, mobile no. and email address.
- Please ensure that the player is available for the following dates:
 - Whykes Shield and Page / Webster Shield – Sunday, 10th November, 2024
 - Provincial Shield – Sunday, 24th November, 2024
 - Region Sides – Friday, 10th – Sunday, 12th January, 2025

3. State Events

- All state events are open for entry on Bowlslink.
- The easiest way to enter is to go the Championships tab on the BHRB website, and then scroll down to the event you wish to enter. Click on the entry link (lime green rectangle) and this will take you directly into Bowlslink; then follow the prompts to enter and make payment.
- Over 60 events and Mixed pairs entries close on Sunday, 29th September.

4. Greens inspections

- Ballarat greens inspections will be completed next week (the schedule has been forwarded to clubs).
- Highland inspections have begun and will also be completed over the next two weeks.
- Please ensure that your greens are prepared for inspection and that at least one rink is set up as for pennant play and that you have a greens representative present when your green is being inspected

5. Highlands Junior Development committee

- Following discussion at the General meeting of all clubs regarding the regional junior pathway program and the issue of distance for any Highlands juniors who may like to be involved, the Board will contact the Highlands Pennant committee with a view to establishing a Junior development program in the Highlands area.

6. Highlands Clubs meeting

- The Board will hold a meeting with all Highlands club representatives to provide a forum for Highlands clubs to provide any feedback or ask any questions they may have re the region in general or the directions of bowls in our region.
- The Board sees this as an important initiative and hopes that club representatives will make the effort to attend.
- The BHRB Secretary will email an invitation to clubs this coming week.

- A meeting of Ballarat area clubs will be proposed for a later date as well.

7. Country Manager program

- Following discussion at the General meeting of all clubs regarding this program, the Board has decided that our region will accept the invitation to be involved in the Country Manager program, with provisos.
- The Board noted both the positives and negatives of the program that were expressed by club representatives at the GM.
- Obviously the biggest positive would be having a ready contact and BV resource for questions and issues that may arise and to have a direct line to BV regarding big picture issues and directions.
- The negatives that were expressed included the concern that if the program ceases to exist in 3-5 years, how do we regain any volunteers who we may lose through their roles being made redundant. There was also concern expressed about the size of the role and the ability of one person being able to adequately complete the work for 6 regions to the degree that we require and are currently managing.
- Therefore the Board's motion read:
That the Ballarat Highlands Bowls Region will accept the invitation to be involved in the Country Manager program with the proviso that we have the option to opt out of the program if we do not see it being valuable or working for our region, and also that all of our committees and sub-committees will continue to run as they are currently, without the Country Manager's involvement.

8. Live Scoring

- Following Bowls Victoria's encouragement that all regions introduce live scoring into their top divisions at least, the Board has decided that we will introduce live scoring in the Saturday and Tuesday Division 1 pennant in both the Ballarat and Highlands playing areas.
- Live scoring is conducted through the Bowslink live scoring app on a smart phone.
- The Board understands that there will be some areas where internet coverage will be poor or non-existent, but clubs should not use this as an opt-out. Rather they can use live-scoring whenever possible (when they are playing away for instance, if their home area has poor coverage) and use it to the best of their ability when they are at home.
- In this first year, Skips are requested to keep a regular scorecard as a back-up.
- A set of instructions for setting up and using live scoring will be forwarded to clubs.

9. Conditions of Play

- We have now received the final version of the BV section of the conditions of Play and have been informed to add in our region-specific conditions to complete the document.
- These will be forward to clubs this week.

10. Ballarat Tuesday Division 5

- As there were no further clubs who wished to add an extra team in Tuesday Division 5, the competition will remain at 10 teams with Victoria nominating an extra team, thereby eradicating the Bye.
- An updated fixture was sent to clubs recently.

11. Regional Uniform upgrade

- The Board has authorised the order of newly-designed regional representative polo shirts and hoodies.
- The Board has also decided that players who are selected to represent the region will retain their polo shirt in recognition of their achievement.

12. Pennant divisions

- Both pennant committees will be asked to explore the make-up of their divisions prior to next season with the aim of having 10 teams per division (for an 18 round season) as the optimum situation and eradicating all byes where possible.

Regards
Wayne

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