



Hi Everyone

Please see below an update of information following Monday's BHR Board meeting (181124):

### 1. Ballarat Courier coverage

- We are seeking a meeting with The Courier editor to discuss bowls coverage in general and the timing of results publication.
- The Board again would like to thank Steve Falconer of Midlands BC for his excellent work in downloading the results after each Saturday and Tuesday pennant day and converting them into a format that is ready for the Courier to simply 'cut and paste'.

### 2. Wheeled walkers

- There have been some questions from clubs around specifications for wheels on 'walkers' and wheelchairs, etc. Clubs are referred to the Bowls Australia website and to search *Wheeled Walkers*. The resulting article lists specifications and appropriate uses of walkers, etc.
- If there is any damage to a green caused by these devices, this is covered under Rule 26 of the Conditions of Play.

### 3. Forfeits and fines

- The Conditions of Play outlines fines that should apply if clubs forfeit matches during the season.
- The BHR Board has been lenient over previous years in this regard, **but clubs are informed that from now on, any forfeits will automatically attract fines as outlined in the CoP.**

### 4. Substitutes names on scorecards

- Whilst Bowlslink does not require a substitutes name to be entered (just the generic term 'Substitute'), clubs are asked to ensure that **any substitute's name is entered on the scorecard.** (eg. Karen Blogs (sub)).

### 5. Live scoring

- Bowls Victoria has advised all country regions that the live scoring app is up and running again. All glitches have been fixed and it has been trialed and in use in the Metro competition for last 3 weeks.
- Bowls Victoria has asked that all regions resume using live scoring with the understanding that there will be some areas on some occasions where network coverage will impact its usage.
- Bowls Victoria have listed the immediate benefits of digital scoring as:
  - The removal of paper scorecards; saving time for Selectors and Side Managers who don't have to fill in names on cards and the cost to Clubs (*a possibility only at this stage*)
  - Simplifies the Side Manager's job
  - Captures and corrects any score errors at entry and before being finalised; removing the key point of dispute
  - The use of the shuffle button and live scoring ensures rinks are correctly matched when scores are entered
  - An accurate and complete record of players per side and per game
  - An accurate and complete archive of scores and results to which Clubs can refer
  - Satisfying bowler interest in checking and following real-time scores within rinks. This includes not only participants, but the many bowlers and interested parties who aren't playing Pennant who can keep up to date with scores.
  - As a coaching and revision tool to look at trends within matches without needing the physical scorecards
- **The BHR asks all clubs to resume using live scoring in Division 1 of Saturday and Tuesday pennant.**

- Ideally the Second will be the scorer (but it could be the Lead or Third if the Second is not able or comfortable in using the app).
- The 'live scorers' for each team need to be at the same end. (ie. not the Second of one team and the Skip of the other team).
- *For this year, a manual scorecard needs to be maintained as a back-up, and **it is recommended that the Skip handles this task.***

## 6. Representative news

- Our representative teams had a very successful first outing at Geelong on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> November with the women's team retaining the Val page Shield and the Men's team winning the Whykes Shield for the first time in 9 years with a thrilling last end victory.
- Teams for the Provincial Shield in Bendigo this coming Sunday have been selected and we wish them all the best.

## 7. Division 9 change

- As most clubs would know, Ballarat East has had to withdraw their Division 9 team due to a lack of numbers.
- BMS has taken up this position and fixtures have been adjusted accordingly.

## 8. Ballarat Gold-diggers

- There is a very detailed report on the BHBR website, outlining the progress of our junior development program and a list of the achievements of the individual bowlers in the program.
- These juniors are the future of bowls in our region so please take the time to read of their progress.

## 9. Country Manager program

- The selection process for the Southern Country Manager has been completed and Mark Coleman is the successful candidate. Mark has been working as a Bowls Coordinator at Hoppers Crossing BC and has previously worked for Bowls Australia.
- Mark will complete an induction period with Bowls Victoria before getting out to meet the regions he will be working with.
- A reminder that our Board has moved the following motion in relation to how we will work with the new Southern Country Manager.:  
*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.*

## 10. Autumn Pennant

- The BHBR would like to gauge clubs' interest in an Autumn Pennant competition, to be played through the month of April – one competition in each area, Ballarat and Highlands..
- Details would need to be finalised, but thoughts are for the competition to be played on Tuesdays or Thursdays on synthetic surfaces (as most grass greens would be closed for maintenance work at this time).
- Suggested format would be 3 rinks, open pennant. This may be an opportunity for clubs to include new players with perhaps a scoreboard bonus if a rink has a first-time player, or a points system may be used (with rinks having a maximum total number of points allocated for players and higher division players attracting more points).
- **Clubs are requested to indicate their interest to [bhbrsec@gmail.com](mailto:bhbrsec@gmail.com) by 9<sup>th</sup> December.**

## 11. State events entry times

- Following a suggestion from the Highlands pennant sub-committee, the closing dates for regional / state events will be extended next year to 2 weeks prior to the first day of the competition; (currently 1 week).

## 12. Permit system

- A few clubs have inquired about the permit system in use in bowls in Victoria, where it is possible for players to play with both their primary or 'home' club and their permit club in the same round of matches. (eg. their permit club plays on the Friday night and their home club plays on the Saturday). *Note: this must be agreed to by both clubs – the permit club and the home club.*
- Clubs are saying that it is causing problems when players are dropped for a permit player to come back and play. (This of course is up to the club and its selection committee as to whether they allow this to happen)
- We have asked BV if this system is likely to be reviewed, but their attitude is that it will probably remain as is because it provides a more positive outcome for all – more people playing more bowls more often.
- We will however ask BV to ensure that the region is copied into any permits that are granted so that all clubs and the pennant committees are aware of all players who have permits to play in our region.

### **PLEASE NOTE: POINTS FOR CLUB ATTENTION:**

1. **Forfeits will now attract fines as outlined in the Conditions of Play**
2. **Substitutes' names to be written on scorecards**
3. **Live scoring to resume in Saturday and Tuesday Division 1**
4. **Clubs to indicate their interest in an Autumn / April pennant by 9<sup>th</sup> December**

Regards  
Wayne

**Wayne Morgan**  
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