***HILLS BOWLING ASSOCIATION***

**MINUTES**

**EXECUTIVE MEETING**

Monday 8th January 2024at 7.30pm

Lenswood Bowling Club

1. WELCOME : Meeting opened 7.30 pm.
2. PRESENT: T. Stephen, D. Fuda, A. Reynolds, V. Deeble, A. Pobke, B. Lenny.
3. APOLOGIES : Nil
4. Minutes of last meeting 6.11.23 accepted.
5. Treasurer’s report – not required.
6. General business:
* Val has organised engraving of President’s Cup for this year and last year.
* Jack colour for Champ of Champ events – to avoid any dispute or confusion – for all day time events, including the first round match of Champ of Champ events, yellow jacks must be used, and for twilight matches (ie the second round of matches of the night) white jacks must be used – unless both sides (or players in singles) agree, and advise the umpire.
* Pennant badges have been ordered for 2024 – including Div III Gold and Silver as per recent seasons. Confirm that Saturday Div III will be split for finals – first four will play off for Div III Gold, and second four will play off for Div III Silver. Matches played during the first seven rounds of the aborted Div III competition will count towards the number of matches played to qualify for finals.
* Oakbank Division III #2 side forfeited the first three consecutive rounds of the new Div III competition. We could have withdrawn them from the competition per section 14.5 for forfeiting on two consecutive occasions, but gave them the benefit of the doubt given that it was close to the Christmas break. Oakbank secretary communicated with me on 6.1.24 that player availability had improved since Christmas, and they anticipated being able to field the side from hereon. However the committee view is that one more forfeit would be highly detrimental to the integrity of the Div III competition given that each side only plays 10 matches – so if Oakbank #2 forfeit on one more occasion, they will be withdrawn, and all matches (including matches that they have played) will be recorded in Bowlslink as a bye.
* The Talunga Shield is being played at Jervois BC on Sunday 14.1.24 – Val will be attending as the team manager (she has the shirts, stickers, and scoreboard signs). Adrian to organise payment in advance for high teas (30 x $5), and TS will provide teams to Greg Miller for preparation of the scoresheet and cards.
* HBA stickers – we are down to only enough stickers for next year’s Pitcher Shield, so we need to order more. No longer using Kwik Kopy, TS arranged club stickers online (they were quicker, cheaper, and better quality than KK) – so TS to go ahead and arrange enough new stickers for 2 seasons.
* TS proposes that we consider moving three amendments to the Constitution at the AGM:
	+ The HBA previously had a rule that any motion to change a rule was tabled at the general meeting for discussion, if the vote was unanimous it was passed, if not unanimous, it was deferred to the next meeting for a final vote. This ensured that all club delegates had an opportunity to share their views, and delegates could take this information back to their club for further consideration. (A copy of the previous rule is attached).

* + The HBA previously provided for voting at general meetings by each Executive Committee member, and two delegates from each club. That has subsequently been changed to no Executive votes, and only one vote for each club. This means that on important issues, the committee who run the Association have no vote, and only five people determine whether motions are passed or not – and sometimes those votes are not necessarily reflective of their clubs’ position. By allowing six executive votes and 18 delegates votes – a total of 13 votes is required to pass a motion. (A copy of the previous rule is attached).
	+ Life membership – current rule requires nominee to be a “member of a Member Club” – this means that a person who has provided outstanding service to the HBA over a number of years retires from the sport, or moves house and joins another association – they are no longer eligible for life membership. This proposes that this be changed.

* Matches abandoned on Saturday 6.1.24. Determination as set out in draft reply to clubs (attached).
* Shield selection. Barry queries why late recruited players were selected in the Talunga Shield ahead of those who had nominated online earlier. Numbers were well down as at the cut off date, so I extended the time for registration. I notified the selectors, and Val was able to get three for four more players from Hahndorf to play – she disclosed this to me and the co-selector, no-one thought it necessary in the circumstances for them to register online. With more players then registering online, we ended up with an excess, and some players who registered early did not necessarily get selected – that’s just the way it goes, the selectors are obliged to pick the best possible team from the final field of nominations.
* Adrian and Barry raise issue with Tour Down Under road closures – in particular Lobethal main street all day on Wednesday 17th January – TS will look into it and advise clubs.

Next meeting:

* **Delegates –** as discussed at last meeting, next delegates meeting not due until 18.3.24, however as the season is almost over, and we have no meetings in January or February, might want to bring it forward to precede finals – therefore next meeting **Monday 4th March 2024 at 7.30pm at Lenswood BC.**
* **Executive –** next meeting would normally be 5.2.24, but as there are no bowls that week due to CCR, and may be an appeal meeting re abandoned matches, date to be advised.

Meeting closed: 9.35pm.

**HBA CONSTITUTION**

**INTRODUCED 15.9.14 – STILL IN PLACE AS AT 16.5.16**

**ALTERED SOMETIME AFTER THE 2016 AGM**

**21. Alteration of Rules**

1. No additions or alterations shall be made to the existing HBA Constitution or Pennant and Match Rules except at an Annual General Meeting or a General Delegates Meeting (or a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose).
2. Any motion containing a proposed addition or alteration shall be submitted in writing to the HBA Secretary not less than 28 days prior to the General Meeting – and the HBA Secretary shall provide full particulars of the motion to all member clubs not less than 21 days prior to the meeting.
3. Such motion shall be tabled at that meeting for discussion only – and following discussion a vote shall be taken:
	1. If the motion has the unanimous support of all persons present and entitled to vote, the motion shall be carried.
	2. If the motion does not have the unanimous support of all persons present and entitled to vote, the motion shall be deferred for final voting to the next General Meeting.
	3. In the event of a motion requiring earlier determination – a Special General Meeting may be convened in accordance with Part 16 of this Constitution to take the final vote.
4. The HBA Secretary shall advise Bowls SA of any addition or alteration made to the existing HBA Constitution or Pennant and Match Rules.
5. Any addition or alteration shall come into operation from the date of the final vote – unless another date is agreed upon.

**HBA CONSTITUTION**

**STILL IN PLACE AS AT 16.5.16**

**ALTERED SOMETIME PRIOR TO 21.5.18**

**14. Delegates Meetings and Quorums**

14.1 A Delegates Meeting of the Association shall comprise all members of the Executive Committee and two (2) delegates from each Member Club within the Association.

14.2 The Association President shall chair all meetings of the Association and, subject to Rule 11.6, shall be entitled to a deliberative and a casting vote. If the President is not present, or unable to preside, the Senior Vice President or the Junior Vice President shall preside. If either of the Vice Presidents are not present, or are unable to preside, the members entitled to be present shall appoint one of their number to preside at that meeting only.

14.3 A Member Club shall be entitled to appoint a member of the club to act as proxy, with power to vote, to replace a delegate unable to attend Delegates Meetings of the Hills Association. Postal voting shall not be allowed.

14.4 Each of the delegates of Member Clubs and members of the Executive Committee or their proxies, present and entitled to vote, shall be entitled to one (1) vote each and all persons entitled to be present may take part in debate and may move or second any motion or amendment to a motion.

14.5 All questions for decision by members at a Delegates Meeting shall be duly proposed and seconded and shall be determined by a show of hands unless a ballot is requested by the majority of members present.

 14.6 A member of the Executive Committee may not be a delegate of a Member Club.

14.7 Delegates representing not less than 50% of Member Clubs, plus a minimum of three (3) members of the Executive Committee, shall constitute a quorum, and no business shall be transacted unless a quorum is present.

14.8 If a quorum has not been formed within fifteen (15) minutes after the appointed time of starting the meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned to such time as decided by the President or the Executive Committee.

14.9 Members of the Executive Committee and Member Club delegates shall be given not less than twenty one (21) days notice of the date, time and venue for all Delegates Meetings.

14.10 Region Councillors and Assistant Region Councillors shall be entitled to notice of, attend and participate in debate at all Delegates Meetings of the Association and, unless a member of the Executive Committee, shall not be entitled to vote.

14.11 At the Annual General Meeting, the Association shall elect two (2) delegates to represent the Association at meetings of their designated Region, with the exception of the Region Annual General Meeting or Special General Meetings.

**DRAFT REPLY TO CLUBS RE ABANDONED PENNANT MATCHES ON SATURDAY 6.1.24.**

Dear Club Representatives and HBA Executive Committee members,

I refer to my recent email regarding pennant matches abandoned on Saturday 6.1.24 due to inclement weather conditions.

Match rules 2.7 and 2.8 stipulate that only the umpire can abandon play, and that can not be done until at least one hour after the scheduled commencement time. Match rule 3.1 provides that the scheduled start time is 1.30pm.

The rule was introduced in 2010 with the full support of all clubs to ensure that every effort is made to complete matches, and prevent home clubs from seeking to gain an advantage against higher favoured opponents by prematurely declaring their green unplayable.

The rule was introduced at a time when most clubs were transitioning to artificial greens – with the expectation that improved drainage would result in the greens drying out quicker in wet weather.

The rule has been available for everyone to view on the website since 2011 – and indeed several clubs lost points last year for breaching the rule and cancelling matches early.

Weather conditions were not catastrophic across the entire Association (like on 9th December) – so no effort was made by the HBA to cancel the round early. Indeed play almost commenced at Lenswood, and play would have been possible at Hahndorf. So in the absence of any contrary determination by the HBA to cancel the round, clubs were required to wait until 2.30pm to make a decision.

Accordingly, I requested advice from each club as to the circumstances surrounding the abandonment of play at their venues.

I did not require a response from Hahndorf, Mt. Barker or Lenswood.

No matches were scheduled at Handorf, although the green may have been playable. After conferring with me, Mt. Barker completed their matches undercover, and as the umpire at Lenswood I did not abandon the possibility of play until 2.30pm.

I have not received a reply with respect to the Gumeracha green.

I have received replies with respect to the greens at Lobethal, Meadows, Oakbank, Uraidla, and Woodside – all confirming that play was abandoned by the umpire of the day, but in each case, well prior to 2.30pm.

 Lobethal no later than 2.12pm as verified by Bowlslink

 Meadows 1.30pm, Oakbank 1.30pm, and Woodside 2.15pm all confirmed by email.

 Uraidla no later than 1.21pm as confirmed by text message.

The HBA do not doubt that the greens were unplayable, and that this was apparent well prior to 2.30pm – however the match rules clearly dictate the time frame.

A number of people have even suggested that “common sense should prevail” and that the HBA should overlook the breaches of the rules. However, we cannot simply elect to pick and choose which rules we follow and which rules we overlook.

**Common sense in fact suggests that you simply wait until 2.30pm in accordance with the rules before abandoning the match.**

Accordingly, the HBA Executive Committee met on Monday night, and discussed the matter at great length.

It was quite clear that:

* We cannot disregard the rules simply because clubs elected to cancel matches prior to the stipulated time.
* A number of clubs should have been well aware of these rules given that they were penalised for similar breaches last season.
* The onus is on the umpires at each venue to be aware of the rules.
* No club has sought to vary or amend this rule since it was introduced 13 years ago.
* Each host club (other than Mt. Barker and Lenswood) has confirmed in writing that they breached the rules by cancelling the matches prematurely.
* No visiting side has sought to challenge the premature abandonment of play by a home umpire.
* Sides would have suffered nominal inconvenience in waiting until 2.30pm to cancel play.

Accordingly, it is the unanimous determination of the HBA Committee that:

As no other matches were completed, the matches played at Mt. Barker will result in both sides receiving equal points in accordance with rule 2.14.

Likewise, the matches scheduled at Lenswood were not abandoned until 2.30pm, so in accordance with rule 2.14 all sides involved will receive equal points.

No points will be awarded for any other scheduled matches – and the results will be finalised on Bowlslink.

As we have not received any advice regarding matches at Gumeracha – we will review the position if team managers can confirm that play was not abandoned prior to 2.30pm.

Clearly some clubs will feel aggrieved by this decision – and each club is entitled to appeal the determination insofar as it affects their club. Section 20.4 of the HBA Constitution requires any appeal to be submitted to me in writing within 7 days of publication of this determination. Any matters for appeal will be referred to a full delegates meeting within 14 days.

However, clubs should be mindful that they have each confirmed the breaches by email or message – and would need to show some basis upon which the HBA Committee is entitled to disregard the match rules.