

Berwick Bowling Club Inc

Minutes of Annual General Meeting Monday 30th May 2022

The meeting opened at 7.00 pm.

Board Members present:

Chairman – Ed Wilson, Vice Chairman – Rob Licqurish, Treasurer – Helen Adair,
Bowls Director – John Rich, Services Manager – David Bond, Facilities Manager – John Horwood,
Administration Officer – Zelda Hodgson

Members in Attendance : 75

A quorum was achieved with 75 members in attendance.

Apologies:

Peter Artaud, Tom Cantwell, Wendy Cantwell, David Conrad, Sue Conrad, Marlene Dargie,
Keith Dargie, Cliff Fothergill, Robert Hilton, Carsten Jensen, Chris Jones, Annette Kirby, Peter Kirby,
John Kleverlaan,, Carmel Lake, Ron Lake, David Lamble, Rob McGrath, Bob McIntyre,
Bev McIntyre, Shirley Moon. Margaret Powick, Graham Rushton, Howard Sutton, Pearl Sutton,
Marie Wilson.

Meeting opened:

Chairman, Ed Wilson, officially opened the meeting.

Ed to the members:

Ed advised that the meeting would be done differently this year – with a big screen in front of everyone – so all members could see.

Ed welcomed all members present at the 2022 / 2023 AGM.

Also advised that things were slightly different this year because there had been a lot of information and a lot of things went on this year. A good opportunity to discuss all of that and get everyone on the same page. A lot that was heard had been previously circulated, but a good chance to summarise it further.

The intention - to provide an understanding of where the Club's at, what needs to happen going forward, and how we are going to tackle it - not saying that we have the answers to all of that, but we have real ideas of how we should tackle it. As a result, we should all be on the same page, have the resources to deliver, through member involvement – which is very, very important.

With all things Covid there were a few presentations that should have happened and didn't – time to put them to right.

Ed asked for all to be upstanding to observe one minute's silence for members who had sadly passed away through the year. (Christine Gage, Maurice Deeker, Derrick Noble and Michael Keel).

- **Presentation of OBE's - Tony Buckingham (Secretary – Eastern Ranges)** attended the meeting to make the presentations – a big Thank You to Tony.

Our recipients:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Val Wynen | 6. Alan Thompson |
| 2. Robert Player | 7. Judy Turner |
| 3. Doug Fisher | 8. Ron Hird |
| 4. Alf Reina | 9. Terry Wood |
| 5. Pat Thompson | |

- **Welcome New Members:**

Present:

1. Pamela Fry
2. Bill Quin
3. Marcus Zammit

Apologies:

1. Lynette Wiseman
2. Dennis Wiseman
4. Lyn Browne
5. Gary Browne

Ed welcomed all our new members to Berwick Bowling Club.

He also mentioned that Cooper Kraus and his girlfriend, Caitlin, visited the Club tonight –

He welcomed them both. Cooper is looking to join our Club.

- **Honorary Members:**

Ed addressed the members regarding offering an **Honorary Membership** to:

Rodney Beevors and Rino DeBastiani.

Both have been long standing members of the Club.

A unanimous vote from members. *(Please see attached_– their Club History).*

Chairman Ed:

Covid and everything that was thrown at us had made things tough, but Ed thanked the Board for their efforts, and for the help of volunteers and members for their understanding of what it took to get back to the green in a safe environment and get the Club moving again.

It has been the most successful season Pennant wise, a testament to everyone through a tough year.

Well done, everyone!

1. Reading of the Notice to Convene the Meeting – taken as read.
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting – taken as read.
3. Consideration and Adoption of the Annual Report- circulated prior to the AGM – taken as read.
Moved: Pat Steere Seconded: Margaret Jorgensen
4. Consideration and Adoption of the Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts – taken as read.
Moved: Karl Lapinskas Seconded: Reg Rowswell
5. Reports of the Bowls Section and other Committees - taken as read.
Moved : Vivyan Fisher Seconded: Roy Down
6. Amendments and additions to the Constitution:
There are no amendments this year.
7. Nomination and Election of Auditors – BJT Business Advisors Pty Ltd.
Motion: To appoint BJT Business Advisors as our Club Accountants for 2022/23 Financial Year.
Moved: Helen Watson Seconded: Jan Lapinskas
8. Consideration of Life Memberships:
There have been no new nominations.

Business:

1. Communication:

- Social media has increased our profile through Facebook.
- John Rich and Andrew Bunnell have contributed to this increase in our profile – currently we have over 700 followers, and over 1400 people view their posts (on average).
- Over the prior 24 days 2044 people looked at our page, and over 1700 have ‘liked’ or posted comments.
- Live streaming games have resulted in a bigger audience – both in marketing our Club and Sponsorship opportunities.
- Financials – each month Helen Adair reports on the Club’s Financial situation.
- Minutes of Board Meetings are sent out to all members via email – some hardcopies are delivered to members who do not have email addresses.
- **Please note:** If there are any questions from members for further information, please ask any Board member, and we will endeavour to discuss and respond to you.

2. Club Coach:

- The Board had decided not to appoint John Fleming as Coach – as of Minutes presented 1/3/2022.
- It had become evident that he was not the right person for the Club, to take on such an important role - due to his communications over the two years, which indicated he was not suitable.
- His Visa Application had lapsed (March 2022), and the decision by the Board was made to not renew his Application – as it is a big investment by the Club, and the roof is a priority for the Club.
- Discussions regarding coaching will continue after the AGM – and more information will be available.
- A paid Coach will cost anywhere between \$15,000 - \$25,000 – and the big question – is this value for money?

- The Board does recognise that more needs to be done, even though we were very successful this season - John Rich is determined to continue the success of the Club, but it takes participation from members to assist in continuing this trend.
- Our members will need to let us know what they want – and John has suggested a survey to find out exactly what we all want – the Board will listen.

3. Finance:

- Rob Licqurish and Helen Adair have been working hard on our last three years of the Club's Financial historical data – see Annual Report.

4. Social Bowling Membership:

- Discussions were held by the Board – with a fee of \$150 proposed.
- It will be considered for 2023.

5. Roof and Green 3 Update:

- The completion of the roof and surrounding areas are our priority – including:
 1. Concrete
 2. Electronic Scoreboard
 3. Shade and Shelter – in the North end
 4. Fencing – South and West side
 5. Seating - tiered and general (including viewing decks)
 6. Landscaping

This is a big part of finishing off the Roof Project.

The costings of the Council were made available to the Board on 3rd May 2022, which disclosed the official cost of the re-routing of the drainage to get around the footings for the posts and columns to hold the roof up – which was \$54,000.

Thankfully Rob was able to acquire the \$1,000,000 Grant for the roof.

The Club is looking at \$150,000 or maybe less, to complete the works required.

The date for completion of the roof had changed month by month – the last date given is June.

The biggest issue is the “make good” by MakMax (as stated in the contract) – which means that they need to hand the Club over to Council with the Greens in the condition they were before the project began.

Most recently, the retaining walls of Green 3 have been damaged by machinery of MakMax workers. John Horwood took a video which clearly shows the damage. Stewart Broussard (Council) and MakMax have been sent the video, as reference.

Rob Licqurish:

- Explained the damage to the retaining wall – the wheels of the machines damaged the ditches between Greens 2 and 3 - in particular, the ditch on the Eastern side of Green 3.
- He stated clearly that all the members have a right to know what we have been faced with regarding management of the project by MakMax.
- He sent an email to Council about how disappointed and appalled the members are about the damage – as the ditch is no longer compliant with Bowls Victoria requirements and will need to be reinstated.
- The Council and MakMax have received a copy of the video – thanks to Ron Wheeldon for putting it together.
- Discussed and explained how Grant funds were spent to build and improve the synthetic Green and for construction of the roof, and thanked Jason Wood for his assistance in achieving the funds.
- There will be a \$5,000 Council Grant for landscaping, which will be deferred to the Budget in 2023 – thanks to John Horwood for acquiring the Grant.
- Rob re-iterated the need for the ditch and surrounds to be returned to the original condition.
- Discussed the LED lights installed throughout the Clubhouse – another Grant acquired. The lights have been an 80% electricity cost.
- The Annual Report presents all the financial information – please refer. (Copies available).

Other Business:

- David Clarke questioned the repair and construction of the ditch / concrete to Green 3. John Horwood and Rob Licqurish thanked David and explained that the Board will follow up.
- Karyn Mackie questioned having shade and shelter. Rob explained that options are being discussed, and David Bond explained that we are aware of the need for shelter, and once we have the funds, it will be constructed.
- Maxine Thompson stated that we should wait until we have the funds for the right design – something solid, with no need to replace - Rob assured her that we will not compromise on the quality.
- Jackie Saunders questioned how long until it will be fixed. Rob Licqurish and David Bond explained that there is no guarantee when – hoping before Pennant starts, but unsure.
- Ron Wheeldon commented that construction workers have given some ideas on new shelter designs. Rob has tried to follow up with MakMax regarding these ideas and has had no response to date.
- Ed explained that communication has been extremely difficult with MakMax and Council throughout the construction project. There were many setbacks which occurred along the way, including issues due to Covid – materials, manufacturing, travel delays, lack of skilled workers, change of Project Manager, freight from China. Extra funds had to be spent on road access.
- Ed suggested we move forward with what we need to do.
- Jeff Janetzki commented on projecting our finances over the next few years – and setting a budget.
- Ed explained that the Board has been fragmented since we no longer have the Membership and Sponsorship roles filled. He thanked Geoff and Cheryl Dawson for all their hard work keeping Membership going.
- Sponsorship has decreased over the last year, and we need extra help from our members to build the Club back up again.
- Reg Rowswell commented on the issue with the drainage pipes, as information with the plans was available for the constructors.
- Rob explained that Council said that they did not have plans regarding the position of the pipes.
- John Rich explained that the \$54,000 was for the re-direction of the pipes, because of the position of the columns, and did not include cost for the repair to the drainage pipes.
- For all the costings, please refer to the notice from Council – “Council Costs for Roof - 3rd May 2022.
- David Clarke agreed with the costing of the redirection and suggested a plan of action to complete the works.
- Ed re-iterated the need to finish the surrounds once the roof is completed – for the safety of all members, understand our financial position as to the cost of the concreting around Green3, tiered seating and all other works – fencing, scoreboard, which can be achieved by income through various other ways – corporate, sponsorship, Barefoot Bowls, and movie nights with the big screen and projector which Ron Wheeldon has set up.
- There is also a Shade Grant available – which Sean Young has offered to assist with.
- David Bond explained that to complete all the works required will cost over \$200,000. We will need to get on the Green first, and hopefully save for the rest of the works.
- Jeff Parker suggested a Debenture system – to help finish works around the Club - Ed advised that we have already been approached by a member to set up a Debenture system.
- Jeff Janetzki suggested employing a General / Marketing Manager to increase outside involvement-businesses in Berwick for instance, and running events, without relying on volunteers – particularly someone with bowls knowledge.
- Ron Wheeldon agreed with Jeff, also suggested employing a second person – and organise movie and football nights to increase income. He also asked if the Kayo subscription can be reinstated. He discussed the high-resolution video system which will encourage visitors to the club.
- Ron also suggested that there are many members with talents who can be called on to assist the Board, and would like to approach members by email – also to survey members on choices of movies/events.
- Ed endorsed Ron’s suggestion and approved him being the liaison person between the Board and members and invited Jeff Janetzki and Ron to a meeting with the Board to discuss further.

- Margaret Jorgensen commented that even though there seems to be no call for volunteers, she asked members to please consider assisting within the Club.
- Maxine Thompson suggested that a group of volunteers form a Social Group, but the important part would be ensuring that we have enough willing members to assist in all areas.
- Sean Young also commented on the value of sub-committees, and work on finishing the projects around the Club moving forward. He praised the Board for work done, will assist with Grants.
- David Clarke offered to help with concreting.

- **Debentures:**

Pat Thompson had presented a letter to the Board regarding setting up a committee of members to raise funds to complete works around the Club. John Lillee and Marg Jorgensen have offered to help her set up the committee and start the fund raising. Well done to all!

A unanimous vote to go ahead.

- **Election of Office Bearers.**

Ed introduced the new Board – which is the old Board.

Sponsorship Chair still needs to be filled – please speak to a Board member if you would consider this role. It could be a shared role.

Membership Chair – Geoff and Cheryl Dawson have looked after this role and will continue to look after new members – a big thank you to them both.

Meeting ended 8.45pm