



## **MINUTES OF THE 75th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NEW ZEALAND INDOOR BOWLS INC., HELD AT THE RYDGES HOTEL, WELLINGTON AIRPORT ON SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2023 AT 10:00 A.M.**

### **WELCOME:**

President, Michael Lawson, welcomed district delegates to the 75<sup>th</sup> AGM with a special welcome to Life Members Delwyn Hughes and David Edgar.

### **APOLOGIES:**

Bush Ruahine, Central Otago, Counties, Golden Bay-Motueka, Horowhenua, North Otago, Northland.

Proxy votes were assigned as below:

Bush Ruahine to Wayne Tough, Central Otago to David Edgar, Counties to Auckland, Golden Bay-Motueka to Buller, Horowhenua to Wayne Tough, North Otago to David Edgar.

*"That the apologies be accepted, and proxies approved".*

Bay of Plenty / Roy McCurdy

**Carried**

### **PRESENT:**

Michael Lawson, President (Ashburton), David Edgar (Life Member), Graham Low, Barry Chapman, Liz Morrow, Roy McCurdy, Wayne Tough, Executive Members; Chris Lander, Administration Officer; Rodney Mills, Auckland; Delwyn Hughes, Bay of Plenty (Life Member); Marg Milne, Buller; David Bullock, Canterbury; David Burfield, Hawkes Bay; Marcus Trlin, Anne Cole, Hutt Valley; Paul Walker, Marlene Walker, King Country; Greg Veale, Shaun Popow, Manawatu; Steven Grant, Marlborough; Brian Fletcher, Dave Dillon, Nelson; Doug Campbell, North Harbour; Michelle Watt, Meryn Wright, North Taranaki; Kyle Waldron, North Wellington; David Lynn, Poverty Bay-East Coast; Chris Moffitt, South Otago; Suzanne Mackie, Southland; Andrea Berry, Ray Finlay, Taranaki; Brian Pointon, Tauranga; Maurice Eccles, Thames Valley; Colin Cooper, Timaru-South Canterbury; James Sullivan, David Pollard, Upper Hutt; Lesley Monk, Waikato; Todd Mahupuku, Wairarapa; Sue Hackett, Brendon Kenny, Wanganui.

### **OBITUARIES:**

David Edgar spoke to the obituaries, as below:

Kevin Brosnan, Ken Gash, Gordon Gibson, Grant Harvey, Brian Henry, David Moir, David Ross, Helen Stallard.

**PREVIOUS AGM MINUTES:**

*"That the Minutes of the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 are taken as read and approved".*

David Edgar / Delwyn Hughes

**Carried**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

Nil

**ANNUAL REPORT & BALANCE SHEET:**

Wayne Tough spoke to the Financial Report, noting that the loss of the \$20,000 sponsorship from Summerset, and the failure to receive grants to cover the \$17,000 and \$45,000 costs relating to the North v South and Super Weekend respectively, were the main reasons for the recorded \$70,000 loss.

Early attention to establishing qualifying expenditure and application for grants for that expenditure would be critical to reversing this result in 2023/24.

The absence of the \$15,000 Sport New Zealand grant in the accounts was a timing issue only and would appear in the 2023/24 Financial Statements.

*"That the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 30 September 2023 be adopted".*

Michael Lawson / Timaru South Canterbury

**Carried**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:****Patron:**

Life Member, Delwyn Hughes - was re-elected unopposed.

**President:**

Graham Low, Southland - was elected unopposed.

**Deputy President:**

Michael Lawson, Ashburton - was elected unopposed.

**Executive:**

The following Executive Members were elected unopposed:

Barry Chapman, Waikato

David Edgar, South Otago

Roy McCurdy, Waikato

Elizabeth Morrow, King Country

Wayne Tough, Upper Hutt

Newly elected President Graham Low thanked delegates for their confidence in electing him to the position. He was honoured and humbled to be elected as National President. He thanked outgoing President Michael Lawson for his dedication to the role he now held and undertook to continue to represent the game for the benefit of all districts, clubs, and players. He also congratulated the incoming Executive Committee and thanked them for their ongoing commitment to, and support of, the game.

## **REMIT:**

### **1. Remit from Auckland:**

**“Changing Interprovincial Competition back to original Paterson Trophy, Welch Trophy system”.**

Moved: Auckland / Seconded: Thames Valley

Rodney Mills spoke to the remit.

The President invited discussion from the floor.

Poverty Bay-East Coast spoke against the motion, stating that early funding applications overcame the funding hurdle and the ability to play against teams / players that would not normally be the case was a good reason to stay with the present format.

Nelson agreed with the Poverty Bay-East Coast position.

Manawatu queried whether a cost equalisation option was a possibility. The President noted this comment but advised that the remit needed to be voted upon as written.

Michael Lawson addressed the meeting on behalf of the Executive. He stated that the concept has been well received by a vast majority of players and districts and remains valid and the preferred format. He stated that the only negative to the present system is the costs involved. The bringing together of the Division Four North and South pools on one weekend in 2024 would assist in this regard. He also suggested that early bookings, especially for air travel, would have a significant impact on the costs and encouraged districts to utilise the Air NZ group booking system to take advantage of the pricing offered many months ahead of the day of travel.

10 votes for / 24 votes against

**Lost**

### **2. Remit from Waikato:**

**“That the Welch Trophy winning team continue to be presented with Badges of the design used for at least the last 50 years”.**

Moved: Waikato / Seconded: Auckland

Lesley Monk spoke to the remit.

Delwyn Hughes noted that the Inter-Provincial competition is a new event, so the reference to the Welch Trophy competition was not relevant.

In response to the question of why the badges were discarded and medals introduced, Michael Lawson (for the Executive Committee), stated that that the awarding of medals provided recognition to winners and placegetters, rather than just winners. He also offered that badges were now almost unique to Indoor Bowls and were no longer appropriate in many cases where a presentation of a badge included pinning it to the recipient's chest.

12 votes for / 18 votes against

**Lost**

#### **AFFILIATION FEE RECOMMENDATION FROM EXECUTIVE:**

*"That the basis of affiliation fees to be charged for the 2024 season remain at the same level as the 2023 affiliations".*

Moved: Wayne Tough / Seconded: Hawke's Bay

**Carried**

Cases of hardship would still be considered if a significant drop in membership is experienced. This will be discussed on a case-by-case basis and would need to be applied for prior to the due date for the payment of fees.

#### **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

2024: Northland - 15-22 June 2024. Venue - McKay Stadium, Whangarei

2025: Ashburton

2026: TBC

#### **ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

2024: Ashburton - 1-3 June 2024. Venue - Ashburton Indoor Bowls Stadium.

2025: Bay of Plenty - 31 May - 2 June 2025. Venue - Rotorua Sportsdrome.

2026: Otago - 30 May - 1 June 2026. Venue - Otago Stadium

#### **PROMOTIONAL WEEK:**

Michael Lawson led a discussion on the concept of a promotional week ahead of the new season, noting the issues that previous such events had met with, including costs, time away from home and work for players involved and effectiveness.

It was agreed that districts interested in staging a promotional week in their region would liaise with the Executive, which would assist the district to implement their plan.

#### **SPECIAL AWARDS:**

The President thanked all districts for their nominations for the Club of the Year and Volunteer of the Year Awards.

#### **Club of the Year 2022**

*This club is a huge supporter of their local district and shows their enthusiasm for indoor bowls by travelling around the country to participate in many different tournaments.*

*Club nights are a roaring success with over 50 members attending regularly. Their members are also active in assisting with support both before and after local events. The club is consistently promoting the game by ensuring everyone who wants to play gets a game.*

*Their valuable contribution to the game was rewarded with a win in the Master's Pairs at this year's nationals.*

*The winner of the 2023 Club of the Year, commonly known as the 'Blue Army', is **New Lynn RSA**.*

Rodney Mills accepted the award on behalf of the club from Michael Lawson.

#### **Volunteer of the Year 2022**

*This year's recipient is an active member in their District maintaining the local website and Facebook page keeping members informed of happenings locally and nationally and will assume the District Presidency in 2024. They actively promote new events aimed at not only new bowlers but also giving experienced bowlers a new challenge.*

*He/she is actively involved travelling an hour there and back, twice weekly for practice or competitions with the Blind and Low Vision bowlers. They organise fundraising to enable team members to attend their Nationals and is secretary of the NZ Blind and Vision Impaired Indoor Bowls Federation.*

*He/she is also a Special Olympics Sport and Recreation Co-ordinator coaching many players spread over 6 districts. A wealth of knowledge and expertise he/she willingly shares and encourages all bowlers and provides a solid grounding for new members.*

*The 2023 Volunteer of the Year is **Chris Moffitt of South Otago**.*

Chris accepted the award from Michael Lawson.

### **Special Award for Outstanding Services to the Sport of Indoor Bowls**

*This recipient has been an active member of their district executive in excess of 27 years, providing an outstanding contribution to a sport they are passionate about for the benefit of all bowlers at all levels of the game.*

*He/she has served in many roles on the district committee including President and is still active as Events Manager, Umpires Association Secretary and Sub-Centre Secretary, positions they have held for many years. Other contributions have been made in the way of their business providing sponsorship, countless unpaid hours organising fundraising and catering requirements for the district.*

*In recent years our recipient has almost single-handedly organised a popular fundraising Garden Party, with stall holders, guest speaker and a delicious 'high tea' on personally owned fine china for up to 120 guests. He/she is also the instigator of the annual cheese roll and food fundraisers.*

*The efforts of this individual for the benefit of indoor bowls is tireless.*

*The recipient of the 2023 Services to Indoor Bowls Award is **Jean Hoddinott, Southland**.*

Suzanne Mackie accepted the award on behalf of Jean, from Michael Lawson.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

#### **1. Incorporated Societies Act:**

The President provided the meeting with an update on the changes to the Act and the timelines involved.

The recommendation from Sport New Zealand is that clubs do not react to any requirements of the new Act until at least July 2024.

Sport New Zealand is developing template constitutions for the benefit of clubs, districts and national sports organisations.

NZIB would expect all districts to be Incorporated Societies, but not necessarily all clubs.

The Act will include, among other things, the following stipulations for committees:

- An appropriate disputes resolution process.
- A Conflict of Interest register to be updated at each meeting.

- A Membership Register to be established and maintained (details of data required is to be confirmed).

Regarding the latter, the President advised that Sporty NZ had developed a membership database for districts and clubs to use at no cost. All districts will need to provide NZIB with their Database Administrator's name and contact details.

There was discussion around the relationship of the new Act's requirements versus the restrictions imposed by the existing Privacy Act. These areas will be clarified once the detail in the new Act is finalised.

## **2. Inter-Provincial Competition:**

David Lynn asked whether the Akau Tangi venue would be the venue for the 2024 event amid concerns about the uneven nature of the floor in some areas. Michael Lawson advised that it would be used again but that, without the uncertainty of the catering solution experienced in 2023, the floor could be dedicated exclusively to the competition, rather than needing to accommodate casual dining space.

## **3. Inter-Provincial Manager's Medals:**

Delwyn Hughes thanked the Executive Committee for agreeing to add a manager's gold medal to the presentations for each of the winning districts.

## **4. Coaching:**

Brian Fletcher asked about the development of coaches. The Michael Lawson responded that the Executive would continue to seek solutions to the need for coaches in the game.

## **5. Ken Craig - Life Member:**

David Edgar advised that he has sought information regarding Ken Craig's whereabouts but has been unable to establish Mr Craig's status. He asked that those present make similar inquiries within their respective districts to resolve this issue.

## **6. Badges for Inter-Provincial Winners:**

Rodney Mills asked if there was an opportunity for players that have won a championship to purchase a NZIB badge. The President advised that the Executive would consider this at its next meeting.

## **7. Inter-Provincial Dates:**

Marg Milne asked why the Inter-Provincial event was staged at the end of the season. Michael Lawson replied that, due to other commitments in the calendar, the fixtures that establish the opportunity for districts to select a representative team are not played until July and August, making September the appropriate timing for this event.

## **8. Annual Meeting Online:**

Todd Mahupuku requested that the incoming Executive investigate the feasibility of live-streaming the Annual Meeting to assist Districts save costs in attending.

## **9. Promotional Officer Role:**

Michelle Watt asked if the role would be advertised now that Teri Blackburn had stepped down. The President advised that the role was an important one and that the Executive would be looking at the best way to continue with it in the coming months. He acknowledged the work that Teri had done for NZIB in recent years.

**NAMING OF THE TRANS-TASMAN REPRESENTATIVE TEAM:**

Team Manager Wayne Tough advised that the team to represent NZIB in the Trans-Tasman competition to be played from 9-11 May 2024 would be as follows:

Women's Singles:	Sheree Holmes (Upper Hutt)
Women's Pairs (8 Bowl):	Sheree Holmes (Upper Hutt) Denise Clarkson (Hutt Valley)
Women's Triples:	Shelley Jacombs (Hutt Valley) Kylie Gould (Canterbury) Jess Moffat (North Wellington)
Women's Fours:	Shelley Jacombs (Hutt Valley) Kylie Gould (Canterbury) Jess Moffatt (North Wellington) Annelies Baker (Waikato)
Men's Singles:	Paul Smith (Tauranga)
Men's Pairs (8 Bowl):	Paul Smith (Tauranga) Marcus Trlin (Hutt Valley)
Men's Triples:	Simon Thomas (Ashburton) Michael Lawson (Ashburton) Nathan Trowell (Auckland)
Men's Fours:	Simon Thomas (Ashburton) Michael Lawson (Ashburton) Daniel French (Otago) Nathan Trowell (Auckland)
Mixed Pairs (6 Bowl):	Shaun Blackbourn (Waikato) Annelies Baker (Waikato)
Mixed Pairs (8 Bowl):	Daniel French (Otago) Alanna Moffitt (South Otago)
Mixed Fours:	Shaun Blackbourn (Waikato) Marcus Trlin (Hutt Valley) Alanna Moffitt (South Otago) Jess Moffat (North Wellington)
Team Captain:	Simon Thomas (Ashburton)
Reserves:	Graham Low (Southland) Rochelle Cameron (Counties)
Manager:	Wayne Tough (Upper Hutt)

The President congratulated those selected and wished the team every success during the event.

**Meeting Closure:**

There being no further business, the President thanked everyone for their attendance and input to the meeting. He wished all bowlers a Merry Christmas a Prosperous New Year and looked forward to catching up with all bowlers on the mats next season.

The meeting closed at 12:10 p.m.

Minutes Provisionally Confirmed

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Graham Low

10<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Minutes Confirmed

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Graham Low

7<sup>th</sup> December 2024