

BVRR – Junior Programs : Minutes : 19 November 2021 : Via Zoom

Attendees:	Tony Sherwill	BV CEO
	Geoff Rietschel	BV GM Operations
	Frankie Hocking	BV Participation Co-Ordinator
	Josh Thornton	BV Country Manager – North West Victoria
	Matt Ottobre	BV Training Manager / Yarra Bowls Region
	Bernie O'Malley	Ballarat Highlands Bowls Region
	Gerry Flapper	Ballarat Highlands Bowls Region (Jnr Delegate)
	Murray Alpen	Ballarat Highlands Bowls Region (Jnr Delegate)
	Stuart Whyte	Bendigo Campaspe Goldfields Region (Jnr Delegate)
	Steph Priest	Bendigo Campaspe Goldfields Region (Jnr Delegate)
	Richard Sanzin	Eastern Ranges Region (Jnr Delegate)
	Liz Bower	Eastern Ranges Region
	Nigel Plunkett	Gippsland Region (Jnr Delegate)
	Richard Gale	Metro West Region (Jnr Delegate)
	Scott Cassidy	Northern Gateway Region (Jnr Delegate)
	Wayne Moebus	Northern Gateway Region (Jnr Delegate)
	Naomi Cartwright	Ovens & Murray Region (Jnr Delegate)
	Gary Lasky	Sandbelt Bowls Region (Jnr Delegate)
	<i>David Leveritt</i>	<i>Sandbelt Bowls Region (Registered, DNA)</i>
	Chris Ward	Strzelecki Bowls Region
	Tom Englezos	West Coast Region (Jnr Delegate)
	Paul Holtschke	RBM
	Robyn Athanitis	BV Staff

Meeting commenced : 4.00pm

Welcome – Tony Sherwill & Geoff Rietschel

The Junior Participation Programs were presented to the meeting via a slide presentation, attached, with Frankie Hocking, Geoff Rietschel, Josh Thornton, and Matt Ottobre presenting and answering questions.

School Programs: Rookie Rollers

- Federal Government funding for schools to access onsite delivery of select sports, including Bowls
- Seek greatest influence over the first experience of bowls, ensuring it is fun and safe
- Connect with kids in the school environment where they are familiar and comfortable
- Increase the awareness of bowls and the Club profile

Q: MA asked after Rookie Rollers, is it delivered in the school environment or Club?

A: BV advised Sport Aus fund the school direct and BA administer the program request. Programs delivered by the teacher, RBM, or Club Coach. There is an additional fund, Club Connect, to connect the school to a club. Two different aspects to the same Program.

PH advised there is always a need for more coaches. Coaches need to be registered with BA, have a valid WWCC (not volunteer), and are paid \$40 per session. Online certification Course is fairly simple.

School Sport Competitions: School Sport Victoria & Other School Sport Associations

- A range of diverse school associations conduct activities under their auspices in Victoria, with School Sport Victoria (**SSV**) the largest of these associations
- SSV represents 227 Districts, 54-66 Divisions, and 8 Regions that compete State Finals
- Using strategies of Teacher Professional Development and the Teacher Ambassador Program, which aims to resource, support, and recognise teachers who promote bowls in their school and their local community
- Opportunities for Clubs to 'Host' events supported by BV
- Other school networks include: APS, AGSV, ACC, CSEN, SIS, EISM

MO spoke to targeting teachers for this program, including the Teacher Ambassador Program and the delivery of professional development for teachers.

Q: SW asked have BV tried to access teacher conferences?

A: BV advised that bowls was on the agenda for the Victorian Teachers' Games before they were cancelled. BV have entered a formal agreement with SSV, providing us access to many platforms to advertise our sport, workshops, etc. The Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (**ACHPER**) is another engaged organisation. BV was pursuing a face to face presentation at the Annual Conference before it was also cancelled.

SC spoke about a disconnect with SSV and contact with secondary schools, particularly catholic schools.

Q: SC asked if SSV reaches out or do the schools contact them?

A: BV advised that State Secondary Schools are members and Secondary Schools of other 'persuasions' choose to join SSV. Primary Schools are automatically members.

Q: NP asked why bowls was scheduled at start of calendar year?

A: BV answered that this has been raised with SSV, but they prefer to keep their Term Four calendar relatively free except for Finals. BV will continue to pursue.

NP spoke of his SSV representative; Primary School excellent partnership, Secondary School not so good.

RS queried who has the relationship with the school, is BA, BV, Club, etc? Appreciates the effort however feels there is a disconnect with communication. GR advised that BV are working on the junior strategy, articulating a pathway that provides an opportunity for everyone. From there GR would like to map a workflow of interaction, for example with SSV. APS and AGSV have different approach; there will be no one-size-fits-all. GR emphasized that BV is trying to resolve the Pathway and levels of engagement, not all is lead from BV, some is BA (eg *Sporting Schools*).

SP (Bendigo schoolteacher) described her junior program that begins at the start of the calendar year and as a result not much of a chance to go to the Bowls Club. Participants that stay involved usually have family already involved. GR commented on the importance of providing juniors exposure to the sport. GL commented on lack of communications.

Q: GL asked should we reintroduce a coaching committee to establish relationships?

A: GR stated BV is establishing relationships with schools/teachers, laying out the Pathway, then utilising expertise, firstly through the Junior Advisory Committee and then specialist expertise, such as coaching, where required.

Roll Up

- Entry-level program conducted onsite at Clubs
- Targets 8-17yo and is designed to be accessible, inclusive, and fun
- Supports transition from school experience to Club activities, can precede Junior League

JT spoke to Roll Up taking the sport out of school hours. Clubs are assisted with resources and recruitment. GR noted that in *Sporting Schools*, bowls is part of the Primary School program but not yet the Secondary. Roll Up is currently the next program offering after Rookie Rollers.

Junior League

- Club-based competition for Juniors
- Format designed for juniors
- An introduction to Pennant play
- Teams represent Clubs, can be a composite to secure numbers

JT described Junior League as the preferred program after Roll Up, though heavily impacted by COVID. Scheduled to commence after Christmas with interest mainly from Metro clubs.

Q: GF asked about timing of Junior League and locally potential conflict with existing juniors in Pennant.

A: GR queried if that is due to a lack of alternative opportunity. GF believes it is probably due to family connections and acknowledged if run on a Sunday shouldn't clash with Pennant (but possibly with State events); can be transitioned to another timeslot.

Junior League provides juniors with the opportunity to play with their peers, bridging the gap to Pennant. Each Region can dictate when they want to play.

GR asked MA if Ballarat Highlands Bowls Region was interested in running a junior league? MA was open to this.

GR asked if the regions can broadly identify the program areas that they wish to be involved?

Region Squads

- Provides:
 - Opportunities for aspirational bowlers
 - Representative experience
 - Forum for talented juniors to be engaged & recognised
- Supports the objectives of the (in development) High Performance Program

Junior Participation Pathway

- Outlines the opportunities available to juniors
- Provides a platform for juniors to understand entry points to progress within bowls
- Support clarity regarding the role of Clubs, Regions, and BV in the development of juniors

Volunteer Program

- Be a part of the development and sustainability of bowls
- Use your knowledge to support others
- Socialise with other like-minded people, feel energised spending time with different generations, cultures, and environments
- Be recognised for your contribution to the sport of bowls

Region update & questions

GR asked the meeting if they have a better understanding of what is available? Link will be sent out seeking the junior contact for each Region to aid future discussions.

SP believes that the SSV is a good starting point for the development of junior programs.

GL believes that there is no transition from secondary school students, a gap between 18 and 25 year olds.

WM commented some Northern Gateway Clubs only have a few juniors and are unable to enter their own team in Junior League but would they be able to make up composite sides. BV would support this request.

LB noted that the Events Calendar does not have all Junior events and advised that the Doug Kneebone Tournament is run before the Under 18 Champs (as it has been in the past). JT advised junior events currently being updated on the website (Flapper Shield, etc will be included in the calendar of events), an EDM regarding juniors is pending.

Meeting closed: 5.23pm