

# **ROYAL ZONE 8 BOWLING ASSOCIATION INC.**

**8 Main Street**

**Lake Albert N.S.W. 2650**

## **Districts Affiliated**

**Albury & District, Riverina & District, South Western District,  
Southern Highlands District, Southern Slopes District, Wagga & Districts**

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**President: Gary Brookes**

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## **Circular to all Districts & Clubs**

### **BNSW / Zone 8 Forum**

All Zone 8 Districts & Clubs were advised that a Forum in conjunction with Bowls NSW  
Would be held at the Wagga Rules Club on  
**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018 commencing at 10.30 a.m.**

Roll Call: as per the attendance sheet. 65 members attended. WDBA 18, ADBA 20,  
RDBA 9, SHDBA 6, SSDBA 7, SWDBA 5.

Apologies: David Inglis (BAust), Leeton Soldiers Club, Bruce Rayner (Zone 8 Media), Noel  
lawson (June), Martin Holmes (June).

Zone 8 President Gary Brookes welcomed Bowls NSW Representatives (Vince Beard, Greg  
Helm, Anthony Cotte), Zone, District & Club Delegates and opened forum at 10.30am

Outline of the Agenda Items covered.

#### 1. Administration of Zone 8 – Dissolution of Districts

Greg Helm (CEO BNSW) addressed the meeting outlining the reasons for Zone only  
administration.

- \* Member cost reductions - no district fees.
- \* Currently too much duplication of administration. (Club to District to Zone to State)
- \* Better communication, with clubs having direct access to Zone 8 therefore allowing clubs to be better kept in the loop.
- \* Zone 8 to run all Zone / State events within Zone 8. District events (i.e. Fours, Triples, Pairs, Singles, Champ of Champs & Rookies) would remain but draws would be run from Zone just as Districts do now.
- \* All Districts within the Zone would remain and run their events just as they are now, so no loss of events, although local voluntary administration would be needed.
- \* All clubs would deal direct with the Zone 8 Administration and Match and Selection Committees.

#### 2. Viability of Small Clubs and assistance available to them.

- \* Any small clubs in need of assistance should contact BNSW Club Advisory Committee Bob Bullen or David Inglis (BA Regional Bowls Manager). This is a no cost for this service.

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3. **Communication; i.e. Websites & Social media.**

- \* Anthony Cottee (GM) outlined the new bowls web site, making it easier for members to use.
- \* He said that as GM he sits in on all the SMC and all committee meetings to ensure everything is above board and legal.
- \* SMC Looking at Pennant Grading and Juniors.

4. **Member Recruitment both Senior & Junior.**

- \* There has been a decrease in registered members over the last 10 years, with no appreciable increase, there is a need to target social members to become full members, look at the 35 - 50 year and up age group that have finished the more physical sports and looking for something else to do. If any clubs need assistance with recruiting contact BNSW

5. **Flat Fee explanation.**

- \* The flat fee for all clubs has been very successful making it easier for clubs to be able to increase membership without having to pay increased fees to BNSW. BNSW fees will only increase by the CPI each year. Some clubs are still having trouble understanding the concept and those clubs should contact the Zone 8 Executive or BNSW for assistance.
- \* If your club has had a reduction in members then you should write to BNSW and request a review of your Fees. Several reviews have been granted already.

6. **Amalgamation between Men & Ladies playing Pennants to help small clubs.**

- \* BNSW are looking at having Lady members, mainly to assist smaller clubs that are struggling for members or clubs who haven't enough members to form a Pennants team. This is still in the infancy stage and could be some time before it comes to life.

During the forum there was good feedback and questions re all the topics.

Clubs could contact Zones who have already changed over to ascertain their feelings and what pluses or minuses they have found. Zone 4 is our nearest Zone taking in Dubbo etc and is a large rural Zone suffering the same problems as we do with travel & small clubs having problems etc.

Zone 8 needs to set up a review procedure outlining the points for and against the dissolution of our districts, cost savings etc the communication benefits and administration benefits, along with member thoughts for and against the dissolution of districts, bearing in mind that:

There should be discussions at all Clubs (with Clubs calling a special meeting to discuss the proposal with all their members, if need be). Clubs should talk to their members and let them know what Zone only management would mean.

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Clubs should be given both sides of the story, not just their Executive's views (right or wrong) and then their Club's recommendations should be taken back to the District Assn for discussion and action.

The resulting actions would then be taken to the Zone 8 delegate meeting.

If we find that there are still some problems with people not understanding the format then BNSW are not adverse to returning to assist with the problems.

One way or another this has to have a conclusion and it probably won't be in this coming year.

John Swaffield

Zone 8 Secretary