



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, 22nd July 2020 via GoToMeeting

1. Attendance:

- 1.1. **Directors:** Megan Fardon (Chair), Jim Nicholls (Deputy Chair), Don Close (Treasurer), Jacky McDonald, Mary Marsland, Geoff Crook and Max Kewish
- 1.2. **Officers:** Jim Clement (Secretary), Rob Murray (Executive Officer)
- 1.3. **Others:** Greg Bury (NCC), Barb Piggott.

2. Opening:

The Chair opened the meeting at 17:02 AEST, welcoming Greg and Barb to the meeting.

3. Introduction:

The meeting was held to allow Greg Bury to present and explain his concept of an “Australian Croquet Academy” to the Board.

4. Presentation:

Greg pointed out that Australian croquet is not expanding, in numbers or in capability. He compared it to Cricket NZ, which was in the same position five years ago, but has since turned its position around. This was done by conducting a grassroots club “health check” and using the results of that research to address problems that were hindering development.

Greg’s proposal is an online “academy” which will address:

- 4.1. A club “Health Check” using a SportAus program where each club completes a questionnaire and which he is currently modifying to be applicable to croquet. When the provided data is collected and analysed, common problems can be addressed, either by tailored programs or by providing mentoring.
- 4.2. The “academy” website is envisaged to cover:
 - 4.2.1. **Grants** by showing all grants available to croquet clubs and organisations, broken into federal, state, regional, LGA, etc. complete with closing dates and application templates. Greg envisages someone in each state as the resident “expert” and advisor for that state.
 - 4.2.2. **Clubs** with promotional videos and advice pertaining to running clubs including lawncare, roles/responsibilities such as a Captain’s role and how to run events and links to mentors.
 - 4.2.3. **Events** with a calendar showing all tournaments and events throughout Australia, together with entry forms, to allow players to plan their time.
 - 4.2.4. **Coaches** with access to manuals, etc.
 - 4.2.5. **Players** with access to short, sharp professionally produced videos on specific items of play, that could be downloaded to iPads, smartphones, etc. and taken onto a court for practice.

Greg also advocated the re-establishment of the Australian Croquet Gazette in an online form and social media packages aimed at varying demographic groups.

He has obtained quotes for most of his proposals and emphasized that the concept would need a dedicated person to make it successful.

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5. Coaching Update Greg provided an update on the current coaching program development, advising that manuals will be signed off by Sport Australia, but will need a professional to add the final polish. He then proposes a National Tour with a Coaching Conference in every State (5 days needed in each state) First presentation on Qld in October. Day 1 Seminar, Day 2 accreditation of Presenters. Level 2, 3 & 4 to be accredited on following three days.

6. Questions and Feedback

When asked if the program could become self-supporting, through grants or sponsorship, Greg thought that it could become so. Jim Nicholls pointed out that a 20% increase in membership would cover the costs.

It was generally agreed that such a program is needed to prevent croquet from “going downhill” and seed funding should be provided against a budget & program and then grants sought to keep the program going.

The term “academy” was questioned, with Greg replying that SportAus had advised him that the term carries some weight in terms of applying for grants.

7. Summary and Action Points

Resolved that Greg draft a development plan, timeline and budget. Action: Greg

(Secretarial Note: Greg and Barb left the meeting at 18:26 AEST)

Don pointed out that Greg has done a lot of work as a volunteer and shouldn't be expected to carry on as such through his LSL. As Treasurer, he sees an expenditure of \$50-100k in 6 to 12 months to put this into place.

Resolved that Greg be offered a part-time position for 25 hours/week, from October 2020 to set up and run the “Academy” with his ToR to include him working towards making the position self-funding.

8. Close: The meeting ended at 18:39 AEST