November 10, 2025

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD OF SOUTHWEST DIVISION OF BOWLS USA

The meeting on Google Meet was called to order by president John Billon at 5:32 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Billon, Linda Roberts, Kelly Warren, Chuck Moffitt, Jackie Hogan, Howard Harris, Sheila Conti

OTHERS PRESENT: Shelley Cohen, Gary Barnes, Heather Stewart

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The board accepted the minutes of the meeting of October 13, 2025, with no additions or corrections.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kelly did not present a current report as he had no remote access while at the U.S. Open in Arizona. Information sent to the board was only up through the end of June. Kelly reported that the single extraordinary expense was $1,146 for the trifold brochures, that the operating account balance is $10,187, and that the $90,000 CD is scheduled for renewal in mid-December. He expects that the current account balance will be sufficient to meet current expenses.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP UPDATE: John reported that the feedback on the National Championships was uniformly positive, including comparison of the greens with those in Australia. Heather Stewart reported that the event broke even with approximately $11,000 in revenues and expenses, not including the money raised by Laguna Beach from the silent auction. The only key element for improvement mentioned was the scoreboards, with Howard Harris offering to assist in procuring better ones for next year.

COACHING: Jackie Hogan conducted a coaching course in Arizona, which included training for a group of Kenyans. Linda confirmed that with Scott as the new division and national coaching chair, both programs are well organized for the coming year. Linda and Howard discussed the new "instructor level" of coaching, which is geared towards coaching beginning bowlers and can be done mostly online. This level of coaching is aimed at people from smaller clubs to introduce them to the sport in a fun way, similar to a model in Scotland presented by Adam Martin. Heather explained that the instructors will provide basic information and then hand off interested individuals to a certified coach.

COUNCILORS REPORT: Howard and Jackie reported on the Bowls USA AGM held before the U.S. Open. Key votes included positions for secretary and treasurer and a separate vote regarding the Hall of Fame. The contentious transgender resolution was initially rejected but then reconsidered and tabled, aligning with the division's prior direction to its councilors.

Jackie provided an update on the Southwest Division shirt, for which she and Joan Robbins have engaged a graphic artist to assist in finalizing a design. Linda suggested a U.S.-based supplier contact from Milwaukee to avoid tariffs and overseas production, which have been a problem for national team shirts. Chuck stressed the importance of designing shirts with a broad appeal to the 1700 social bowlers who do not participate in tournaments. John suggested suspending the style manual's restrictions for the shirt design process to give Jackie and Joan free rein to develop ideas for board review.

LADIES DAY: Shelley Cohen reported on the upcoming Ladies Day event in Long Beach, for which 35 have signed up. The process of adopting online signups has had some technical glitches, but she expressed confidence that Moe Cadavid will have it fully working soon, along with a Ladies Day email group that may need some of Giulia's help to ensure that all previous attendees are on it.

TOURNAMENTS: In the absence of Anne Nunes, Kelly reported that the preliminary tournament schedule is in circulation, and that the Southwest Open is looking at the same locations as this year.

John introduced discussion of a potential North-South tournament that originated with PIMD. Jackie provided background on the North-South Challenge, which was held in Cambria beginning in 2021 as an invitational event, SWD versus PIMD, with the SWD winning in both years it was held. She further confirmed that the PIMD favors reviving the event, and that PIMD now has enough competitive women to field a team. Scheduling such a tournament is an issue, as it could conflict with other events.

DIGITAL MEDIA: Gary Barnes reported that live streaming for the Nationals went well technically, although his crew couldn't access the Bowls USA Facebook page. Gary has drafted a policy and procedure document to regulate live streaming for inclusion in the tournament manual. His procedure aims to protect the integrity of the equipment and setup at Southwest Division, Nationals, and US Open tournaments.

Gary renewed a complaint from a prior meeting: that he is not being allowed to have ownership of the YouTube channel he created for the division, noting that he has been demoted to a manager, which prevents him from accessing important analytics. John explained that for security reasons all Google accounts, including YouTube, were placed under central administrative control, but that he agrees to ask Giulia to provide Gary access to full analytics.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The board went into executive session to discuss a pending disciplinary matter.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

John Billon: John necessary preparation for the AGM scheduled for January 22nd at 5:30 PM. Linda proposed that Sheila provide a list of everything needed for the AGM. John noted that any changes in the bylaws must be sent out thirty days prior to the AGM. Howard listed some of the items to be included in the AGM packet, saying that the packet should be approved at the board meeting on December 1st.

Linda Roberts: Linda shared the good news that the Pasadena Club, which suffered damage to its clubhouse three years ago, has now received verbal assurance from State Farm Insurance that a claim for the damage will be honored.

Linda reported that Bowls USA is collaborating with Curling USA to explore marketing opportunities, which she believes to be an interesting and positive development.

Finally, Linda reported that there will be a change in leadership of the Newport Harbor club. Julie Buchanan has been asked to run for president. Linda and John Billon will attend the Newport board meeting to explain the value of membership in the SWD and Bowls USA

Kelly Warren: Kelly provided an update on league play, noting that there are currently five leagues but that three clubs (Pasadena, Santa Anita, and Friendly Valley) are not in a league and want to create their own. This presents a potential conflict with the tournament manual, which there are a maximum of five teams for the Waterbury Tournament, calling into question whether there can be a sixth league. John, Kelly and Howard agreed to meet with Anne to discuss the league structure and boundaries.

Chuck Moffitt: Chuck updated the board on the progress of the history book, sharing that its authors will tolerate only proofreading, but not extensive editing. In working on the book, Chuck reported finding numerous mistakes other than just spelling and grammar, but that

Tom and Phil have been gracious and receptive to other suggested changes. Chuck, however, has yet to see any of them in close to final form.

Chuck and John discussed at length the financial arrangements with Tom and Phil, confirming that the division should agree to purchase thirty copies of the final version at the $46 per copy now being asked, provided that the final product meets our approval; and that we have the option to purchase an additional twenty copies at the same price. When both transactions are complete, the division will have spent a total of approximately $2300 for fifty copies of the book.

Currently, the authors are requesting that the division advance $1,000 in order for the printer to continue further work. Chuck and others expressed reluctance to do this, since we had already informed them that we intend to purchase and pay for the final version only when completed. However, the board agreed to advance the $1,000 provided that there be a written agreement between the parties on the terms of our financial arrangement as discussed above.

NEW BUSINESS

John introduced two a policy proposal for digital asset credential access (discussed above) and a proposed policy for asset ownership and operational continuity. John confirmed they would be sent out for review and discussion in December. Jon stressed that these new policies and procedures do not need delegate approval as they govern operations only.

John proposed expanding the webmaster role and appointing Giulia Gallo as chair of a newly established Social Media and Technology Committee. Chuck voiced opposition to the proposal, saying that it would require a bylaws amendment. Moreover, he felt that the origin of the proposal is the fact that current committee chairs are not communicating optimally, which is more readily remedied by keeping each of them in their respective lanes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 P.M.

The next meeting of the board will be December 1st at 5:30 P.M. on Google Meet.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Moffitt