

Minutes of BSI Joint Games Meeting

Sunday, Oct. 19, 2025, at Victoria Bowls and Croquet Club

Chair: Anita McCaw (Victoria) Minutes: Portia Priegert (Victoria)

Attendance: Brenda Thomson & Vern Atkinson (JDF), Jill Foster & David Gardner (Gordon Head), Brent Merchant & Karen Evans (Oak Bay), Jill Wake (Central Saanich), Sue Higbie (Cowichan), Dan Bitterlich & Lindsay McLean (Burnside), Marie Landsdowne & Michael Pardaens (Vic West), Paul Mercer (Sidney), Marnie Dangerfield (Lake Hill), Al Leslie (CP)

Meeting called to order 10:30 a.m.

- 1) Review of Minutes – Approved
- 2) Business Arising

- a) Novice Singles Tournaments – Feedback on new rules
Proposal from Sidney to require a minimum of eight entrants, with prizes to only top two players unless more than 10 players. Other clubs suggested prize money was not key consideration as it is more important to introduce novices to competitive play.

Decision: No change to entry or prize requirements.

Proposal from Victoria to amend rules to include provision specifying trial ends of two bowls in each direction for each game before the timer starts.

Decision: Accepted

Proposal from Victoria to ensure trophies are handed over to the club that wins each novice tournament rather than leave the trophies at the host club for the year.

Decision: Accepted

Action: Rules to be revised as agreed and circulated at March meeting.

- b) Feedback on Ann Mathie's discussion with umpires
Improvements noted and no problems mentioned.

- 3) New Business

- a) BSI poster distribution

Victoria expressed frustration with unwieldy process and slow provision of posters by clubs. There is no BSI website to centralize the flow of information. Oak Bay noted that using a zipfile to group the documents was helpful and suggested games chairs at each club should ask someone at their club to proofread posters before submission.

- b) Review of tournaments

Concerns raised about oversubscribed tournaments. Suggestions included changing some tournaments from triples to fours to include more players. Clubs could co-host certain events, or have a morning and afternoon division, when possible. CP said it is considering changing its first-come, first-served system to a random draw after 48 hours. Limiting teams from entering all tournaments was dismissed as unworkable due to difficulties tracking who had

played at which event. Similarly, limiting tournaments to one team per club also deemed unfair because some clubs have more competitive players than others.

Discussion of winning teams gaining automatic entry to following year's event inconclusive as it is up to individual clubs to manage their own events.

Discussion of whether two umpires are needed when more than one green. Challenges include the extra cost. One solution might be to add fifteen minutes to games to offset any delays.

Setting the jack using a foot was a temporary innovation introduced during the pandemic and is no longer permitted. One concern is that a skip with a heavy foot could press the jack into the ground to make it harder to move.

c) Oak Bay to chair in 2026

Jack Showers will host the March joint meeting and the men's meeting. Karen Evans to chair the women's meeting one hour prior. Oak Bay will host the President's Cup and Vic West will host the men's novice singles. Central Saanich tentatively offered to host the novice women's tournament as Oak Bay is already hosting the novice/intermediate event.

Action: Oak Bay to announce March meeting in due course.

d) Proposal for Pennant League from Lake Hill.

Eight participating clubs would each field four teams of four players for weekly game, likely Friday evenings in May, June and July. Fee of \$5 per player. Games hosted on rotating basis by participating clubs. Burnside mentioned another possible interclub format involving a four-week knockout with multiple games (fours, triples, doubles, singles).

Action: Clubs to forward by email details of any proposals so games chairs can take them to members to gauge interest.

e) Request to not schedule events the same day as Burnside's Mix and Mingle event for novices. Same consideration requested for Oak Bay's novice/intermediate event.

Meeting adjourned 11:47 a.m.