



**Minutes of an Annual General Meeting of Bowls England
(Company No. 06297656 England and Wales)
Held on Saturday 27th February 2017 at 1pm
Hilton Coventry Hotel, Paradise Way, Walsgrave Triangle, Coventry CV2 2ST.**

1. Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting of the Company, Bowls England. All were reminded that it was a formal Company Meeting and that only County Authorised Representatives were invited to attend.

It was noted that special invitations had been extended to the Presidential Team and those Staff Members nominated by the Chief Executive. It was approved that, in case of an item requiring a formal vote, Alistair Hollis (Operational Services Manager) and Moira Drost (Administrative Assistant) be appointed as Tellers.

The Chair thanked all present for their continued efforts, paying a special tribute to all county personnel who may be retiring, including Administrators and County Authorised Representatives, and offered a warm welcome to new attendees at the meeting.

Present

64 Delegates representing 33 Counties (Derbyshire and Warwickshire not in attendance)
Seven Directors
Chief Executive
Administrative Staff
Presidential Team

2. Notice Convening the Meeting

The Chief Executive read:

This is the tenth Annual General Meeting of the Company known as Bowls England whose company number is 06297656 which was convened by Notice dated 27th January 2017. This meeting has been called under Regulations of the Articles of Association. The notice of meeting will have provided you with the business that is to be dealt with on this occasion.

3. Obituaries (submitted since AGM held on 26th February 2016)

Mary Adams	President Norfolk 1996 & 2008
Mary Atkinson	England International 1985, 1986
Betty Beese	President Warwickshire 1993
David Besford	President Berkshire 1994
Reginald Percy Bird	President Bedfordshire 1977
Adrian Bolt	President Worcestershire 1981
Eileen Carlow	President Kent 2005
S.W. Copp	President Essex 1997
Patricia Crabb	President Isle of Wight 1998
Ron Cupit	Bowls England Honorary Member (Nottinghamshire)

Dorothy Elphick	President Sussex 1987
Kath Heywood	President Worcestershire 1998
Doreen Hodson-Smith	President Hertfordshire 1997
Jean Hogg	President Northumberland 2013
Kay Hogg	President Dorset 1989
Grace Hunt	President Isle of Wight 1989
Doreen Knopp (Fletcher)	Bowls England International 1981 -1988 (Hampshire)
Geoff Malins	President Oxfordshire 1986
Jack Moore	President Bowls Lancashire 1996
Peggy Munday	President Norfolk 1994
David Oliver	President Yorkshire 2006 and 2012
Reg Paine	England International 1975, 1977 (Middlesex)
Ray Parker	Bowls England Honorary Member (Bedfordshire)
George Pike	President Wiltshire 1994
Irene Pyne	President Bedfordshire 1987, England International 1970
Eric Redgewell	Bowls England Honorary Member (Essex)
Ron Shayshutt	President Essex 1985
Alan Smith	Bowls England Honorary Member (Buckinghamshire & Cornwall)
A.D Syrett	President Middlesex 1998
Mick Tabb	President Bedfordshire 1999
Ray Tripp	President Somerset 1985
Margaret White	President Herefordshire 1981 and 2004

4. Apologies

None

5. Minutes

It was **resolved** to approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Bowls England held on 26th February 2016 as a true and correct record. The Chair signed.

The Chair of the Board adjourned the Company Meeting for the purpose of the investiture of the 2017 Presidential Team.

President: Viv Tomlinson (Lancashire)
 Senior Vice President: Joseph (Bill) Smith (Leicestershire)
 Junior Vice President: Hazel Marke (Hampshire)
 Immediate Past President: Michael Jennings (Cornwall)

At the conclusion of the investiture, the Chair of the Board re-opened the meeting.

The Chair of the Board announced that Howard Pryse (Wiltshire) had been awarded Bowls England Life Membership and conducted a special presentation.

6. To receive the Chief Executive's Report for the purpose of publication in the 2017 Yearbook

The Chief Executive's Report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was **resolved** to approve for inclusion in the Bowls England Yearbook. In addition, the Chief Executive advised those present that the Bowls England Lawline had received an increased amount of queries in the last year. In this respect he urged all County Associations, along with their Clubs, to adopt Regulation 9 in their own Rules & Regulations when dealing with all cases of misconduct.

The Operational Services Manager gave an update on the funding award from Sport England to the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA), with particular reference to the Club Development

Programme that will form a key part of the BDA's strategy over the four years from 1st April 2017.

The Operational Services Manager also informed attendees that Bowls England would shortly be launching an online application process for criminal records checks, which in the short-term will run alongside paper-based applications. It was further stressed that it is vitally important for Clubs and County Associations to ensure that relevant personnel attend a recognised safeguarding course.

7. To receive any additional comments from the Board Chair

The Chair updated attendees on the Board's priorities over the next 12 months and the following key items were noted.

At the Counties Meeting in November 2016, the Board Chair had invited County Associations to put forward their preferred options for future office accommodation, particularly their views on whether property should be rented or purchased. No responses were received, therefore the Board continues to explore all available options within the Royal Leamington Spa area. The Board Chair concluded by informing attendees that six potential properties have been viewed to date, but none were deemed suitable for a variety of reasons.

The Board Chair provided an update on Coach Bowls. Management of the scheme will remain with the BDA until 31st March 2019, following which Bowls England and the English Indoor Bowls Association Ltd (EIBA Ltd) will assume full ownership. Discussions continue between all three parties to ensure a smooth transition ahead of this date. The Board has identified that Coach Bowls is a key strategic priority but it was reported that direct management of the scheme will have resource implications and incur significant additional costs for the two National Governing Bodies.

The Board Chair provided an overview of the forthcoming Regional Meetings that are planned to be held in March/April. These are being introduced as a pilot in 2017 and will then be reviewed in conjunction with all stakeholders. County Associations were reminded that attendance at the Regional Meetings is not restricted to those who usually attend formal Bowls England meetings.

The Board Chair concluded by informing attendees that the Board will be conducting a Strategic Review in March. A number of items are on the agenda for consideration, including Coach Bowls and the potential for joint working with the EIBA Ltd. One key topic for discussion will be the potential introduction of a National Membership Scheme. The principle of such a scheme received widespread support in the informal arena of the Counties Meeting in November 2016, however it is a very complicated process and will require 'buy-in' from all key stakeholders.

8. To receive the 2016 Directors' Report and Audited Financial Statement

The Directors' Report and Audited Financial Statement had been circulated to all attendees prior to the meeting. Bowls England had recorded a surplus for the year ended 30th September 2016. It was highlighted that substantial savings had once again been recorded. It was noted that the current agreement with Warwick District Council for office accommodation at Riverside House had contributed significantly to the savings.

The Business Services Manager provided an explanation of some significant variances within the accounts, most notably that HMRC now required all companies to include an accrual for

holiday pay within their accounting process. Following discussion, it was noted that prize money at the Bowls England National Championships had remained the same since the formation of Bowls England.

It was **resolved** to approve the Annual Accounts.

9. To receive the following recommendations

9.1 Membership Affiliation Fees

It was **resolved** that no change will be made to the Bowls England Membership Affiliation Fees and they will remain at £5 per playing member for fees payable on 30th September 2017. It was further **resolved** that the fee charged for Associate Membership would remain at £30.

9.2 National Championship Entry Fees

It was **resolved** that no change will be made to the Bowls England National Championship Entry Fees and that they will remain at £2.50 per head in 2018.

9.3 National Competition Entry Fees

It was **resolved** that no change will be made to Bowls England National Competition Entry Fees and they will remain as follows in 2018:

- National Competitions (individual/team events): £4.50 per person
- National Competitions (side events): £30
- National Champion of Champions: £6.50 per person
- Sutton Winson Tournament: £5 per person
- Johns Trophy: £70 per entry
- Amy Rose Bowl: £16 per entry
- Middleton Cup: £70 per entry
- White Rose Trophy: £30 per entry

10. To receive any additional comments to those included in the Chief Executive's Report from the Committee Chairs

None

11. To announce Electronic Ballot results and to formally ratify the following appointments

11.1 Bowls England Directors – period 2017 to 2020

It was announced that David Mitchell-Gears MBE (Essex) had been elected unopposed as Chair.

11.2 Bowls England Committee Members

The 2017 Committee Structure is as follows:

Competitions

Margaret Docherty (Cumbria) – Chair
John Durston (Somerset) – Three Years
Chris Smith (Nottinghamshire) – Two Years
Mich Van Put (Hertfordshire) – One Year
Jayne Christie (Appointed Member) – One Year

Finance

Howard Pryse (Wiltshire) – Chair
George Batey (Northumberland) – Three Years
Sid Barkas (Worcestershire) – Two Years
Kath Lloyd (Wiltshire) – One Year
John Alexander (Appointed Member) – One Year
Stephen Hemsley (Appointed Member) – One Year

International Events

Norma Hazzledine (Derbyshire) – Chair
Sue Alexander (Cambridgeshire) – Three Years
Charles Frederick (Cambridgeshire) – Two Years
Pat Geary (Bedfordshire) – One Year

Operational Services

Jeff Applegate (Buckinghamshire) – Chair
Tony Ellis (Essex) – Three Years
Glyn Williams (Herefordshire) – Two Years
Brenda Green (Kent) – One Year

Policy & Management

David Tucker (Devon) – Chair
Foster Johnson (Durham) – Three Years
Lindsay Collin (Gloucestershire) – One Year
Mary Trevenen (Appointed Member) – One Year

11.3 *Bowls England Selection Committee*

It was noted that Andy Thomson MBE had been elected as Men's Regional Selector (South). Mary Price (South) was elected unopposed as Women's Regional Selector. Each will serve for a period of three years.

12. To receive propositions, amendments or additions to the Rules and Regulations and Articles of Association of Bowls England

12.1 *Time of final group match – Bowls Oxfordshire*

A formal vote took place on the following proposal from Bowls Oxfordshire:

To amend Regulation 53.4 by the addition of a sentence to read; 'At the last round of group games, (excluding dead rubbers), all games must start at 1.30pm'. To amend Regulation 60.4 by the addition of a sentence to read; 'At the last round of group games, (excluding dead rubbers), all games must start at 2.00pm'.

The proposition was passed (large majority)

12.2 *Dead rubbers – Warwickshire Bowls Association*

The proposition was not supported.

12.3 *Board and Presidential Team Clothing – Bowls Bedfordshire*

As the Board had previously rescinded its decision to replace Blue Blazers the proposition was withdrawn.

13. To approve Board Recommendations

13.1 *The appointment of Bowls England Independent Director*

Adam Tanner had been appointed by the Board as Independent Director for three years from the date of this AGM.

13.2 *The appointment of Bowls England Lawyers*

It was **resolved** to appoint Blythe Liggins as the Bowls England Lawyers.

13.3 *The appointment of Bowls England Accountants and Auditors*

It was **resolved** to appoint Dafferns as the Bowls England Accountants and Auditors.

13.4 *The appointment of Bowls England Disciplinary Committee*

The following had been appointed by the Board:

- John Durston (Somerset) – Chair
- Pauline Biddlecombe (Surrey)
- Chris Smith (Nottinghamshire)

14. Chair's Closing Remarks

The Board Chair closed the meeting by highlighting that this was the tenth year of Bowls England and mentioned the celebration events that had been planned for this year.

The Board Chair thanked all for their attendance and cooperation. The Board Chair also thanked the Presidential Team, his fellow Directors and Staff for their support throughout the year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.20pm.

Signed

Date.....