



**Minutes of an Annual General Meeting of Bowls England
(Company No. 06297656 England and Wales)
Held on Saturday 22nd February 2020 at 1pm**

The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Coventry, 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 and Life Members of the Company were invited to attend.

The Chair introduced two new Directors. Foster Johnson, Director of Governance, and Harry Nijjar Independent Director of Marketing and Communications.

It was noted that special invitations had been extended to the Presidential Team, Staff Members nominated by the Chief Executive and Jon Cockcroft.

The Chair introduced Jon Cockcroft to those in attendance as the newly-appointed Chief Executive.

Jon addressed the meeting by acknowledging the work of the current Chief Executive, before giving a brief resume to his background. Jon acknowledged the knowledge and passion for the sport that was evident by those in attendance and expressed a wish to achieve greater things through a collaborative approach. Jon thanked all those present for welcoming him to the meeting and advised that he would be starting at Bowls England on 1st June 2020.

It was approved that, in case of a formal vote, Penny Maguire (Business Services Manager) and Alistair Hollis (Operational Services Manager) be appointed as Tellers.

Present

61 Delegates representing 33 Counties (Isle of Wight and Northumberland not in attendance)
Seven Directors
Three Life Members
Chief Executive
Administrative Staff
Presidential Team
Jon Cockcroft

2. Notice convening the meeting – Chief Executive

The Chief Executive referred to the notice:

This is the 13th Annual General Meeting of the Company known as Bowls England whose company number is 06297656 which was convened by Notice dated 7th February 2020. 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 2019 AGM)

Joan Allen	President Northumberland 2002
Pat Anders	President Sussex 1995
Doreen Boden	President Cornwall 1998
Mike Bond	President Worcestershire 2008
Doug Buckman	President Worcestershire 1997
Alistair Boyd	President Yorkshire 2002
David Clackworthy	President Nottinghamshire 1991
Richard Clarke	President Middlesex 2003
Jim Coates	President Worcestershire 2000
Tony Dodge	President Somerset 2006
Molly Flack	President Cambridgeshire 1994
Eileen Fletcher (nee King)	International 1974-86; World Championships 1981
Henry Franklin	President Oxfordshire 1982
Harold Fry	President Somerset 2002
Ken Garwood	President Hertfordshire 1984
Gordon Hall	President Worcestershire 1995
Maureen Harden	President Isle of Wight 2006
Violet Hartshorne	President Surrey 1999
Norman Hendren	President Durham 1999
Graham Hobart	President Norfolk 2001
Basil Johnson	President Norfolk 1996
Tony Jones	President Somerset 2012
Valerie Jones	President Somerset 2005
Beryl Meeson	President Hertfordshire 1993
Hubert Mitson	President Suffolk 1996
Irene Molyneux	International 1975-84 and 92; World Championships 1981
Sue Moodey	President Hertfordshire 2016
Pat Napier	President Yorkshire 2001
Denzil Oates	President Cornwall 2004
Myrtle Parsons	President Somerset 1988
Bernard Prescott	President Cambridgeshire 2009
Nancy Reid	President Somerset 2001
David Richardson	Bowls England Honorary Member
Len Riley	President Dorset 2014
Bobby Robertson	International 1973-75, 1977-78; Commonwealth Games 1974/78
Eddie Rowe	President Hampshire 1994
Dick Smith	President Hampshire 2003

Ann Sothcott	Bowls England Honorary Member, EWBA President 1996, President Isle of Wight 1990 and 2015.
Gordon Stewart	President Durham 2001
Terry Swift	President Suffolk 2008
Mary Taylor	President Somerset 1998
Tony Taylor	President Cambridgeshire 2011
Mary Trevenen	President Cornwall 1996

4. **Apologies**

Northumberland

5. **Minutes**

It was **resolved** to approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Bowls England held at The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Coventry on 23rd February 2019 as a true and correct record.

The Chair of the Board adjourned the Company Meeting for the purpose of the investiture of the 2020 Presidential Team.

- President – Paul Robson (Hampshire)
- Senior Vice President – Terri Keen (Buckinghamshire)
- Junior Vice President – Deepak Tanna (Leicestershire)
- Immediate Past President: Hazel Marke (Hampshire)

6. **To receive the Chief Executive’s Report for the purpose of publication in the 2020 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 observed the 2020 changes to Bowls England. He welcomed all the new County Authorised Representatives, and thanked those that would be attending for their last time. The Chief Executive welcomed the new Chief Executive, Chair, Director of Governance and Independent Director (Marketing and Communications) and wished them well.

The Chief Executive indicated the need to launch Bowls England in a new direction, which would require a lot of work to overcome the challenges facing the sport particularly at the grass roots level. It was acknowledged that grass roots rely heavily on voluntary support and that Bowls England has to extend and help clubs and bowlers directly. It has become a very common trend that good volunteers are very hard to find, and support must be the upmost importance by Bowls England and the Board. The Chief Executive invited the County Associations to encourage volunteers by simply saying thank you and letting them know they are appreciated. To that end the Chief Executive, on behalf of Bowls England, thanked the County Authorised Representatives for their support to the sport.

The Chief Executive reminded attendees that Bowls England must generate new bowlers for the survival of the sport and added that Jon Cockcroft, through his work in other sports, will count this as a high priority.

The Chief Executive concluded his report, by thanking everyone for the support they have offered to him, whilst he was in office. After seeing the plans laid down for the future of Bowls England from the Chair and incoming Chief Executive, the prospect of leaving was not one of sadness but of excitement for the future of Bowls England.

7. To receive any additional comments from the Chair

The Chair thanked those that had took the time to congratulate him.

The Chair acknowledged the need to improve the image of the sport, and lift it away with its association to an aged pastime. Bowls England wishes to see lots of new faces and more of them in a younger age bracket.

He added that Bowls England needs to expand into the commercial world and look for sponsors to help achieve our priorities. This is the primary reason for appointing the new Independent Director (Marketing and Communications).

It is very important to look at the support we can offer to the Counties and Clubs. Bowls England is very aware of the struggles that clubs are facing and this is a high priority of the Board.

The Chair added that Jon Cockcroft will review the staff structure and Bowls England's governance. The Chair acknowledged this importance due to losing another key member of staff, Penny Maguire, at the end of the year. There are to be big changes at Bowls England and now is the right time to adapt going forward.

The Chair concluded by informing attendees that Tony Allcock OBE will formally retire on 31st March, with Jon Cockcroft taking up his duties on 1st June. The Business Services Manager and Operational Services Manager have been asked by the Board to jointly deputise during the interim period and the Chair recorded his thanks to them for accepting.

8. To receive the 2019 Directors Report and Audited Financial Statement

The 2019 Directors Report and Audited Financial Statement had previously been circulated to the County Administrators. The Business Services Manager addressed the meeting, to explain a few items further.

The surplus in 2019 had dropped to circa £7k, this was attributed to the launch of a new website, new competitions portal and the move forward with the membership system. All of which are positive steps for Bowls England going forward. In addition, during 2019 the Atlantic Championships and high performance programme has been extremely successful but ran with increased costs. In contrast the building at Worthing has revalued and the value has now increased by £263K and royalties from Aceit had increased by £10K. The Business Services Manager concluded by advising that the accounts and Bowls England was in a very strong position before welcoming comments from the floor.

Worcestershire questioned the fall in turnover and the fall in cost of sales. The Business Services Manager advised that not all of Bowls England's income was from affiliation. Affiliation dropped by circa £11K, whilst competition entries dropped by £10k and donations by £8k. In addition, it was noted that the 2018 accounts still contained £87K surplus from the Commonwealth Games. Following further questioning on expenses, the Business Services Manager explained that the membership system had cost Bowls England £7.5K, the website £25K, Coach Bowls £30K and the Atlantic Championships £23K.

It was **resolved** to adopt the 2019 Directors Report and Audited Financial Statement.

9. To ratify the following for 2021:

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. 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.

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:

- 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 announce Electronic Ballot results and to formally ratify the following appointments

10.1 Bowls England Director – period 2020 to 2023

It was noted that David Tucker had been elected Chair

10.2 Bowls England Selection Committee

It was noted that the following had been elected by their Regional Group:
South, 3 year – Stuart Thomas and Sandy Hazell (unopposed)

West, 2 year – Kevin Phillips and Edna Bessell MBE (unopposed)

10.3 Bowls England Management Audit and Review Committee

It was noted that the following had been elected by their Regional Group:
South, 2 year – Ken Woodcock (unopposed)

It was noted that following the appointment of Foster Johnson as Director of Governance the position of the Bowls England Management Audit and Review Committee (North) would be advertised.

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

11.1 Norfolk Bowls Association

'That the first game losers of the Amy Rose Competition play for an Amy Rose Plate.'

Following discussion and a formal vote, the motion was carried.

12. To approve Board Recommendations

- 12.1 The appointment of Independent Director (Marketing and Communications)
It was noted that Harry Nijjar had been appointed as Bowls England Independent Director (Marketing and Communications)
- 12.2 The appointment of the Director of Governance (2020 and 2021)
It was noted that Foster Johnson had been appointed as Bowls England Director of Governance.
- 12.3 The appointment of Bowls England Lawyers (Blythe Liggins)
It was **resolved** to appoint Blythe Liggins as Bowls England Lawyer.
- 12.4 The appointment of Bowls England Accountants and Auditors (Dafferns)
It was **resolved** to appoint Dafferns as Bowls England Accountants and Auditors.
- 12.5 The appointment of Bowls England Disciplinary Committee
The following had been appointed by the Board:
- John Durston (Somerset) – Chair
 - Pauline Biddlecombe (Surrey)
 - Francis Fletcher (Warwickshire)
 - Annette Oliver (Leicestershire)
 - Bill Smith (Devon)
 - Chris Smith (Nottinghamshire)
 - Keith Young (Warwickshire)

13. Chair's Closing Remarks

The Director of Competitive Events addressed the meeting in relation to the 2020 National Championships. The Director of Competitive Events, reminded those present that two greens at Leamington were being resurfaced for the Commonwealth Games. It was acknowledged that there was every possibility that those greens would not be ready for the National Championships. Bowls England has therefore made contingency plans and are in contact with local clubs that willing to allow the use of their green and facilities. Bowls England asked the County Associations to ensure that all players were aware of the situation. The Board gave the Tournament Office the right to change the venues and times of games to played, at short notice.

The Chair advised that after the meeting had officially closed there would be a presentation on the new membership scheme by Jamie Chestney. The Chair welcomed Jamie who has been appointed on a one-year contract to take on the implementation of the new scheme.

Before the meeting closed, the Chair took the opportunity to acknowledge the contribution made by Tony Allcock OBE on behalf of Bowls England.

'Today is Tony's last official occasion with us, he will after 17 years retire. During that time he has worked tirelessly to develop and modernise our sport and I would like to mention some of the significant improvements that Tony has made for us.

- Unification of the English Women's Bowling Association (EWBA) and the English Bowling Association (EBA);

- Relocation from Worthing to Leamington and the many benefits that has been presented to Bowls England on the basis of that decision;
- Establishing new offices in Victoria Park, which hopefully we will move into in 2021
- Securing the Commonwealth Games at Victoria Park for 2022.

All of these and many more were significant in Tony obtaining the OBE from Queen Elizabeth II. Tony, it is thanks to your influence, foresight, energy and determination that Bowls England is in such a healthy condition today. I know that your successor and future generations of bowlers in this Country will benefit from the foundations that have been laid.

Tony, we all say a big thank you and wish you every happiness and success in your new journey in life.'

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.50pm

Signed:

Date: