



## **Minutes of an Annual General Meeting of the Company Bowls England**

(Company No. 06297656 England & Wales)

Held at 1 p.m. at the Athena, Leicester on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022

### **1. Welcome**

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 the Board in attendance alongside the Presidential Team and the Staff Team who had all received invitations on behalf of the Board to attend.

The Chair proposed, and the company agreed that Alistair Hollis, Alan Lane and Lee Rowland act as the official tellers during the voting process.

### **2. Notice convening the meeting**

The Chief Executive referred to the notice:

This is the 15th Annual General Meeting of the Company known as Bowls England whose company number is 06297656 which was convened by notice dated 2nd February 2022. This meeting has been called in accordance with 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. Apologies**

There were apologies submitted from the full member counties of Cornwall, Cumbria, Essex, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, Oxfordshire, Suffolk and Sussex. Board Member Margaret Docherty and five life members had also registered their apologies.

### **4. Minutes**

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Bowls England held virtually on Saturday 27th February 2021, already circulated, as a true and correct record.

*At this point, the Chair adjourned the meeting for the purpose of the investiture of the 2022 Presidential Team.*

### **5. To receive the 2021 Annual Report**

The 2021 Annual Report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.



The Chief Executive gave a brief presentation highlighting that after a very difficult 2020 season with only 50% of clubs re-opening and all national & international competitions cancelled, 2021 had seen the start of our sport beginning its recovery.

Key highlights from the year included:

- The launch of Bowls England's 'Fit for the Future' Strategy. This is the first strategy that the Company has had for the development of the sport. It will galvanise us as we aim to make the sport more visible, highlight the accessibility of our sport, get more people experiencing bowls and ensure that as a governing body we are leading with purpose. We invested in creating a brand identity, including photography and marketing, ensuring that we are presenting ourselves professionally.
- Bowls England's flagship new event, a national open weekend entitled Bowls' Big Weekend, was a highlight of the year. With 700 clubs opening their doors to new participants and an average of 26 new participants attending per club. 60% of attendees at the weekend were under 65 and a marketing campaign engaged over 22 million people across TV, radio, print and digital.
- For the more competitive bowlers, the sport's National Championships & Competitions took place for the first time since 2019, culminating in a new-look National Finals at Victoria Park, Royal Leamington Spa. The event was streamed for the first time and tickets were sold, supporting Bowls England's strategic objective of diversifying its income streams.
- The England team continued its preparation for Birmingham 2022, in spite of the international travel restrictions causing events like the World Championships to be postponed. Bowls England have been added to the UK Sport major event roster for its bid to host the 2027 World Championships. Additionally, Sport England has indicated their increased confidence in the way Bowls England have adapted and are now operating.

The Chief Executive concluded by giving credit to the many volunteers across the country for their can-do approach in returning to play last summer. He acknowledged that our volunteers are the heartbeat of our sport, and was looking forward to celebrating their huge contribution at our annual Awards event this evening.

## **6. To receive any additional comments from the Board Chair**

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive and the staff team for their input in moving the sport forward. He indicated that the process was a learning curve, and that collaboration



between the County Associations, Board and Staff Team would assist in moving the Sport forward.

## **7. To receive the 2021 Directors Report and Audited Financial Statement**

The 2021 Directors Report and Audited Financial Statement Annual Report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

The Director of Finance informed the meeting that there was a breakdown of the financial information within the Annual Report.

With another year of significant financial loss forecast and the lockdown early in 2021 threatening the viability of the season, the sport navigated through the government roadmap and mitigated the impact of the global pandemic. We approached the year with a significant amount of caution and we adjusted the plans accordingly as the lockdown eased.

1954 affiliated clubs opened their doors, a 4% drop on 2019, and membership numbers reduced by 12%. Whilst this decline is unfortunate, the Director of Finance confirmed that Bowls England believes it is now better placed to embark on a period of participation growth with a new strategy in place and ambitious plans to capitalise on Birmingham 2022.

It was noted that the recording of a £48,467 deficit for the financial year was £275,000 better than forecast. This was mainly down to a reduced International Programme, new sponsorships, National Final ticket sales and some of the planned activation programmes being deferred. The savings enabled Bowls England to invest more in the home Commonwealth Games.

## **8. To ratify the following for 2023:**

### **8.1. Membership Affiliation Fees (Status Quo - £5)**

It was **resolved** that no change will be made to our Membership Affiliation Fees and they will remain at £5 per playing member. It was further resolved that the fee charged for our Associate Membership would remain at £30.

### **8.2. National Championship Entry Fees (Status Quo - £2.50)**

It was **resolved** that no change would be made to our National Championship entry fees and that they would remain at £2.50 per head.

### **8.3. National Competition Entry Fees (Status Quo - £4.50)**



It was **resolved** that no change would be made to our 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
- Johns Trophy: £70 per entry
- Amy Rose Bowl: £16 per entry
- Middleton Cup: £70 per entry
- White Rose Trophy: £30 per entry

## **9. To announce Electronic Ballot results and to formally ratify the following appointments**

9.1. Bowls England Director – period 2021-24 Adam Tanner – Director of Development

The Chair explained to the meeting that it had been brought to the attention of the Bowls England Board that the election process for the Director of Development had not been conducted in accordance with the Bowls England Articles of Association. The Board took the decision to re-run the process following the 2021 AGM. The result was in favour of Adam Tanner, who has remained in post as Director of Development for the period 2021-24.

9.2. Bowls England Director – period 2022-25

The Chair confirmed that following an election process during October and November 2021. Margaret Docherty had been re-elected as the Director of Competitive Events and that Foster Johnson had been re-elected as the Director of Governance. In addition, Stephen Hemsley had been elected unopposed as the Director of Finance.

9.3. Management Audit and Review Committee – period 2022-24

The Chair explained to the membership that the Management Audit and Review Committee, had been put on pause during the past season. The Committee will restart its work again for the 2022 season, with a revised terms of reference. Following an election process, it was confirmed that Tony Ellis (East) and Kath Lloyd (West) were re-elected unopposed. It was further noted that there was a vacant position in the South and interested parties should contact Independent Director Anna Molony.

9.4. Selectors – period 2022-25

It was noted that Jayne Christie (East) and John Ottaway (East) had returned to the selection committee unopposed.



## **10. To receive propositions, amendments or additions to the Rules and Regulation & Articles of Association**

- 10.1. Bowls Hampshire: Bowls England reinstate the two National Championship Dinners in November and February to recognise the achievements of the successful competitors following the National Championships. This to be implemented for the 2022 season

The Bowls England Chair informed the meeting that Bowls Hampshire had amended their proposition. The amendment proposed the staging of one dinner in November where all National Final Champions would be honoured. This would then allow the Annual Awards to continue in February. The amended proposition was passed.

- 10.2. Bowls Hampshire: The Presidential Badge Presentation for qualifying competitors be reinstated at the National Championships for the 2022 season

The Bowls England Board had already committed to the return of a badge presentation for competitors who wish to participate, and therefore the vote on this proposition passed.

- 10.3. Bowls Hampshire: The Middleton Cup and the John's trophy return to the 2019 league format as soon as possible, and no later than 2023

Passed. The Middleton and Johns Trophies will return to a league format in 2023.

## **11. To announce Board appointments**

- 11.1. Independent Directors

The Chair informed the meeting that, after an open application process, interviews had been held for position of Independent Director. The Board had re-appointed Anna Molony to the position of Senior Independent Director and appointed Jo Doust as Independent Director.

- 11.2. Bowls England Lawyers (Blythe Liggins)  
It was resolved to appoint Blythe Liggins as the Bowls England Lawyer.

- 11.3. Bowls England Accountants and Auditors (Daffern's)  
It was resolved to appoint Daffern's as the Bowls England Accountants.

## **12. Chair's Closing Remarks**

In the closing remarks, the Chair highlighted importance of 2022 as a Golden Opportunity for the sport, with a home Commonwealth Games providing a platform to increase our profile, get more players on the green and safeguard our future.



The Chair advised that after the meeting had officially closed there would be two presentations to share with the County Associations the progress on the Pay & Platform and the Casual Game.

In addition, he thanked everyone in attendance and took the opportunity to pay tribute to the hard working volunteers at club and county. Finally, he wished those that were attending the inaugural Awards Event a very enjoyable evening.

The meeting closed at 1.55 p.m.