

Men's Divisional Management Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on 10 February 2018 at Cotswold BC

Present	President	Dave Williams	Senior VP/Glos Section	Keith Bedford
	Secretary	David Skeats	Treasurer	Keith Hawkes
	Fixture Sec	Roger Harrison	Competition Sec	Ian Gauld
	Bristol Section	Derek Turner	Cheltenham Section	Mike Longley
	Stroud Section	Bob Gartan	Team Manager	Rob Griffiths
Apologies	IPP/BE Rep	Clive Bennett	Junior VP	Gareth Taplee

18/01 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November were approved and signed by the Chairman.

18/02 Matters Arising

These are all covered elsewhere on the agenda.

18/03 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he had been reviewing the Constitutional arrangements in other Counties and noted that in 4 out of 5 cases, the Counties operated a fully unified structure. This might be something to be returned to in the future. He and the Secretary had a very useful meeting with the Devon President recently.

18/04 Secretary's Report

He reported that the handbook was nearly complete, ready to go to printers in time for distribution at the Delegates' meeting on 17 March. Information was now starting to appear on the website. In response to a question as to handbook format, it was noted that this would be the same as last year but that the whole issue of handbooks was to be discussed between the two divisions.

18/05 Treasurer's Report

The Report was accepted. The suggested fee of £12 for County matches and £8 for inter-county competitive games was approved.

The question of umpires was raised; the Secretary declared a financial interest in the matter. It was noted that umpires would only be provided centrally for semi-finals and finals. The Committee felt that umpires should also be used at the quarter-final stage and would make provision for these, paying at the usual rate of £15 or £25 as for other finals with generally one umpire for up to four rinks and two for six rinks.

18/06 Fixture Secretary's Report

Fixtures were completed with the only possible problem one being against Essex at Maidenhead (by coach). This is on a Thursday when three sections have league games meaning the team had to draw heavily on the Stroud Section for players. There was discussion on the balance of games and it was agreed that this would be kept under review.

It was suggested that it might be preferable to change the way players were selected, and rather than seeking six from Bristol and six from Stroud (for example) for a game, it might be better to make it eight and four — alternating each game. One advantage of this was that it could be easier to find players if selectors could go to a club seeking a full rink to play a game. Players often wished and preferred to play in a rink with colleagues and they could travel together. It would also enable the provision of stronger rinks which was desirable for the Presidential games. Against this, the pleasure of playing with members from other clubs would be lost. It was decided to continue with the current practice for the moment.

It was time to collect from clubs information on member availability for County games and the Secretary will send out forms for this, with copies to Section Secretaries. The forms will request the names of members wanting to play County games with contact email. These would be returned to section secretaries for distribution to section selectors. This would enable section secretaries to chase up any instances where clubs did not make a return.

Clubs members need to be aware that the dress requirements for a County game had changed and been simplified with no requirement for a blazer and tie and this might increase interest in playing. This will be noted on the form.

The Fixture Secretary will call a meeting of all selectors to discuss the way forward.

18/07 Competition Secretary's Report

Competitions were now all completed. A meeting of the Committee was due to be held on Thursday 1 March.

18/08 Team Manager/Middleton Cup Advisors

The appointment of advisors from the Bristol Section (Glen Wintle) and Cheltenham Section (Steve Hopkins) was reported. Possible advisors from Gloucester and Stroud had been identified but the posts remained unfilled. The two section secretaries would continue to seek a suitable person and if someone was found, then the Team Manager could appoint them subject to a conversation with the Secretary. It was noted that it might be preferable to appoint advisors for a three-year term to give continuity and this would be reviewed at the end of the year. The new arrangement of with the Secretary now attending and chairing meeting was noted; this was intended to give a greater degree of openness to the selection process and enable any tensions to be dealt with. Work would continue to develop a job description for the post which might help recruitment. The paper on Middleton Cup governance was reviewed and approved.

18/09 Vacant Posts

Press Officer— a partial offer of help had been made but pending a full appointment, the Secretary would deal with this area.

JEC Representative — three nominations had been received but one person had subsequently withdrawn. Brief statements from the two candidates were circulated and a vote held. David Rolls was declared the JEC representative, to hold this post until the Delegates' meeting in October.

18/10 Proposal on position of Team Manager

Barnwood BC have submitted a proposal for the Team Manger to be an Officer post and therefore elected in October rather than an Official, appointed by the Delegates' meeting. This would involve a change in the Constitution and it was agreed to defer this as other constitutional changes were expected during the year and they should all be dealt with together.

18/11 Possible Men's Division Restructuring

The Secretary outlined the difficulties encountered when the Chairman of this and the delegates' meeting changed on an annual basis and the advantages of having a more permanent Chairman. The lack of continuity arises because the Chairman is defined as being the elected President. The solution to this would be to separate the two roles and elected a Chairman as well as a President. This was the general position outside the GBA and in clubs.

This idea was positively received. There was also support for the idea of making such a Chairman a member of the JEC. This could be achieved by changing the BE representative on the JEC to the Secretary who is also the Deputy County Administrator and therefore a recognised and frequent BE contact.

Both of these items would require constitutional change and to enable this, and to ensure that clubs have time to fully consider and discuss the matter before instructing their delegate how to vote, it was agreed that the matter be referred to the delegates' meeting to be held on 17 March.

18/12 Any Other Business

- a) Stroud Section greens — in the absence of greens' advisors from the section, Gloucester Section will inspect them.
- b) Bristol Section — it was reported that Bristol City Council were reviewing their support for bowls greens (and other facilities) under their control and it was likely that all funding support would be withdrawn. This would potentially affect 9 of the 22 clubs in the section, with many of these of insufficient size to take over the funding necessary to continue. This could affect not only those clubs but all others who would lose games if clubs closed. The County Administrator is preparing a response to the City Council on behalf of the GBA and clubs.
- c) Data Protection — new requirements were in position and the Secretary will be doing an information/action sheet for all clubs in the future.
- d) Social Media — there was currently a Facebook page for the Middleton Cup and consideration should be given to greater use of social media to inform and involve people.
- e) Newsletter the Secretary would be preparing a GBA Newsletter for circulation to all members to keep them inform about event, successes, and other items. It was noted that the success of this would rely on club secretaries forwarding it to all the club's members.
- f) Minutes — members indicted their support for draft minutes (cleared by the Chairman) of the meeting going onto the website rather than waiting for their formal approval at the next meeting before posting.
- g) Child Protection It was noted that there was no Child/Vulnerable Person Protection Officer in the division and with a number of under 18's in the Middleton Cup team, clearer policies on several issues were needed. The Secretary will review this area, seeking advice from Bowls England.