

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE BOWLS ASSOCIATION – MEN’S DIVISION

**President: Dave Williams**

**Secretary: David Skeats**

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Minutes of a Delegates’ Meeting held on Saturday 6 October at Cotswold IBC at 10:00

### **18/27 Apologies**

Bristol Arrow, Forest of Dean, Henleaze, Painswick, Glen Wintle, Ian Gauld, Peter Bowles.  
The Secretary holds the list of clubs, officers, officials and life members in attendance

### **18/28 In Memorium**

A period of silence was held for those members who were no longer with us: - Pete White, Dave Ward, Brian Pope, Terry Brinkworth, Jack/John Easton, Lionel Davies, Brian Pugh, Chris Mulford, John Adams, Fred Charles, Ken Lloyd, David Henderson, John Whiting, Alec Flaskett, Martin Curry, Dave Parsloe, Dave Clarke, Arthur Moles, Vic Haskins, Ray Hughes, John Dixon, Dave Coggins, Brian Parslow, John Small

### **18/29 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

### **18/30 Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman reported on how quickly his year in office seemed to have gone. He thanked all the officers and officials for their support and advice during the year. Special mention had to go to Cam Mills Bowls Club who had given him tremendous support. He had played in all the games and enjoyed visiting other clubs. The Men had not enjoyed much success in the National finals, with only one team progressing beyond the first round. The Olveston pair went through to the last 16 but lost to Oxfordshire by a single shot.

The White Rose team had an excellent season, reaching the semi-finals where they lost to Northamptonshire who subsequently went on to win the trophy. The Middleton Cup team lost to Devon in a close-fought match and the President of Devon commented after the match that they never used to worry about Gloucestershire but they did now. A sign of the strength of the under 25 team all of whom would be available next year.

### **18/31 Secretary’s Report**

Nothing to report as issues were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

### **18/32 Treasurer’s Report**

There were still some outstanding items and expenses outstanding so a full picture could not be presented. However, provisional figures suggested a surplus of around £2,000 to £2,500 when everything was cleared. There needed to be a formal approval of the accounts by the Division when they were completed. Rather than calling an additional meeting to do this, it was suggested that it was done at the Joint Council meeting when Delegates would be present. The Secretary will pursue this matter.

### **18/33 Fixture Secretary’s Report**

Fixtures were still being confirmed but indicated that the game against Sussex would be held at Thatcham, Reading rather than Oxford. The Middleton cup team were in a group with Devon, Dorset and Warwickshire; the Balcombe match would be against Herefordshire (at home)

There were two celebration games next year – GB Britton for their 100<sup>th</sup> year and Bristol Arrow for their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Gloucester and Bristol would be paired for team selection next year and Cheltenham with Stroud.

### 18/34 Competition Secretary's Report

The Competition Secretary was unable to attend through work commitments but had submitted an extensive report. It was noted that comments had been made about the rise in fees for the Two-Rink and County Cup (to £12 and £18 respectively). It was pointed out that the competitions were likely to show a loss of around £500 for the year and this needed to be tackled. The fees represented £1.50 per player compared to £3.50 in other competitions.

A number of changes to the Competition Rules and Regulations were proposed. It was questioned what circumstances might amount the exceptional in section 2.16.1. There were circumstances beyond an individual's control such a traffic that might prevent the commencement of a game. The decision was one for the Competition Secretary to judge in each case.

Discussion was held on section 2.19 – ***“As soon as any individual or team became aware that they were unavailable ...”***. In particular, how was this to be interpreted if, for example, some players in a non-club team were available but one member was not. Would this mean that all the players in that team were to receive a year's ban, or just the individual who was not available causing the game to be conceded. There was a very strong feeling that the other player should not be so treated.

It was agreed to amend the wording to ***“As soon as any individual in a team or club team became aware that they were unavailable ...”*** so that individuals would be subject to the sanction but if a club team in, say, the County Cup withdrew, the Club would receive the ban.

All the other proposed changes were approved.

### 18/35 Bowls England Report

A number of BE changes in staffing were reported resulting from maternity leave and work continued on finding permanent officer accommodation. BE was looking to offer additional support to anyone wishing to train as an umpire. The 2022 National Championships were likely to have to be held on different dates than usual as the Bowls Commonwealth Games were being hosted over part of the traditional period. The National Senior Fours (Men and Women) were to be held over 18 ends (all rounds).

Nathan Kitchen had played well in the British Isles Junior Championships involving the four home countries. He had successfully skipped his rink to a victory in all three games, with the team manager congratulating him on his performance.

The Secretary reminded clubs that entry forms for the 2019 National Championships had been sent to clubs.

### 18/36 Team Manager's Report

It had been a good season for the County's competitive teams and the support network of the Middleton Cup advisers and the Match Secretary was much appreciated. The new policies and practices were good for Gloucestershire bowls. The Middleton Cup team had a good win against Worcestershire and the Devon game had been level at 18 ends indicating the strength of the team before a loss at the final stages. The game at Wiltshire had been played early because of a clash with the England World Cup game as had the Devon game against Worcestershire. This game had started earlier and when their result came through it meant that the result of the Gloucestershire-Wiltshire game was irrelevant and the game was curtailed.

The success of the White Rose team has already been reported by the Chairman.

Thanks was expressed to the Chairman and Secretary for their support over the season.

### 18/37 Benevolent Fund

The Benevolent Fund account had been circulated and this showed a balance of just over £6,900. There had been no requests for assistance during the year. The loss of Bryan Fox was a great blow but a replacement trustee for the Bristol Section had been elected – Roger Harrison. Clubs were invited to make donations to the fund, just three donations had been made in the past year.

### **18/38 Changes to the Constitution**

The Secretary noted that the numerous changes could not form a single package to the AGM as the proposals covered a range of issues, some parts were interlinked and could not be treated in isolation. The changes to 6.1, 7.1 and 17.17 needed to be seen as a single item as they created both the Chairman's post and the creation of vacancy for him on the JEC. There were then a number of changes to the Delegates' Meeting in sections 6.2, 9.5, and 7.16 which again formed a complete whole. There was a new item relating to Life Membership only being available for County not Club commitments which was a single item. The other items (2.10, 6.3, 9.3 and 9.5) were tidying up and could be treated either separately or as a single item.

These proposals had been debated previously at both Delegate's Meetings and Management Committee meetings and nothing had changed from the proposals accepted at all of these meetings.

There was considerable discussion over the linking of the two proposals for the creation of the chairman and the designation of the Secretary as the Bowls England representative. There was a strong feeling that the two should be separated. It was indicated that this would mean the Chairman might not be a member of the Joint Executive Committee if the Chairman's post were accepted but the BE Representative remained in its current status. An alternative was suggested that the Chairman's post became the division's elected representative on the JEC.

There was a request for a vote on how these items should be presented and carried forward. The Secretary indicated that the Constitution did not give the Delegates' Meeting the power to change these proposals which had been debated twice previously by them without requests for change and came from the Management Committee as accepted in the Constitution. The meeting held a vote on each proposal for change separately and, apart from the proposal for the Secretary to be the BE Representative all were carried. The BE Representative proposal was overwhelmingly rejected. Given the strong views expressed, the Management Committee would need to review the proposals and how they went to the Joint Council meeting.

### **18/39 Any Other Business**

The Bowls Development Association will be holding a day-session at Cotswold BC, more information to follow.

### **18/40 Election of Officers and Officials**

The Secretary noted that a list of proposed officers and officials for 2019 had been circulated and indicated that some changes and additions were needed.

- BE Representative should be Clive Bennett who remained in post pending any constitutional change
- Similarly, the Chairman was dependent on such a change being approved
- Roger Harrison was the Bristol section appointment for Benevolent Fund Trustee
- Glen Wintle is Section Greens Advisor for Bristol.

The results of the elections were declared

- Martin Bevan was elected Junior Vice-President
- Ken Manns was elected Match Official

The Secretary indicated the need to find a Press Officer and urged members attending and clubs to find a willing candidate to fill this important post. Rob Griffiths indicated that he would accept the Child Protection Officer.

### **18/41 Date of Next Meeting**

No date was fixed as this would be set in the context of meetings of all groups for 2019