

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BOWLS ASSOCIATION – MEN’S DIVISION

President: Gareth Tarplee
Chairman: Ken Manns
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DIVISION MANAGEMENT MEETING.

Minutes of a Meeting held on Saturday 12th October 2019, at Cotswold Bowls Club.

In attendance

Chairman: Ken Manns (KM) Junior VP: Martin Bevan (MB)
Secretary: .Martin Bevan (MB) Treasurer: Keith Hawkes (KH) Fixtures Sec: Roger Harrison (RH)
Section Secretaries: -
Stroud: Bob Gartan (BG) Bristol: Derek Turner (DT)
Comp Sec: Ian Gauld (IG) JEC Representative: David Rolls (DR)

1) Apologies for absence

President and Gloucester Sec: Keith Bedford , Senior VP: Gareth Tarplee, IPP: Dave Williams,
Chelt Section Sec: George Thomas

2) Minutes of the meeting held on 29th June 2019

Correction to item 7, the meal fee at Cotswold Bowls club is £7.
The minutes were accepted and signed off.

3) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4) Chairman’s Report

He reported that he had received queries from clubs and individual bowlers mainly on constitutional issues.
All had been dealt with satisfactorily.

5) Secretary’s Report

At the previous management meeting it was suggested that nominations for 2020 Officers and Officials should be in by 6th September, this apparently was unconstitutional and although most of the nominations were in by that date there were more received by the cutoff date 5th October.

6) Treasurers Report

The Treasurer is finalising the accounts ready for the Delegates meeting but he reported that the accounts are in a healthy state as fewer coaches were used. £800 was saved by reorganizing the content of the handbooks and printing fewer. Expenses were reduced overall by £3000. So his recommendation is that there is no need to charge more for matches next year.

It was suggested that to encourage more names for matches could the match fee be reduced next year. The Treasurer suggested that the excess money could be used to encourage bowls in general. Subject to be discussed further at a later date.

At the Stroud section AGM, the issue of mileage to matches was raised for example 68 miles each way to Solihull. It was suggested that mileage is an issue putting members off travelling to games when a coach is not provided. The driver is expected to ask his passengers for a contribution to his costs or wait for an offer. Stroud is used as the center point for calculating distances to games, so some players could be travelling 10 or more miles extra each way to matches if they are for example to the north of the region. RH said that the Ladies section has a policy of paying mileage at the game. They also base the mileage from the point they would pick up a coach.

The finance committee will look at ways to finance county game travel and MB to ask other adjoining counties what method they use to finance travel.

7) Fixture Secretary's Report

It was reported that next year's fixtures are ongoing. Hampshire are celebrating their centenary year so won't be playing the annual fixture for one year. RH rather reluctant to resurrect it the following year. RH asked whether the venue for the Middleton Cup games would change with the election of a new team manager? It is presently at Cheltenham BC. Gloucester Spa are 100 next year and have requested a match. Swindon Bowls Association have requested a game but it would need to take place on a Sunday.

8) Competition Secretary's Report

IG reported that venues and dates are sorted for next year and ready for the handbooks. The working party of Ian Gauld, Lindsay Collin and Christine Magee have a draft document ready to present to the JEC for the combining of the Men's and Ladies' competition rules.

9) Team Manger Report

No report from the current team manager. Item 11 has further discussion about the role of team manager

Reports from Sections

10.1 Bristol

DT for the Bristol Section reported on the ongoing discussions with Bristol City Council about the plight of Park Greens. Lindsay Collin has met with the most at risk clubs with the Deputy Mayor. It has been accepted by the council that bowls is a special case. There is to be no significant increase at present but there will be an increase in the future to maintain bowls greens. There may perhaps be a need for clubs to maintain their own greens. The Council is meeting with individual clubs. Hopefully no club closures this year. Following his report DT left the meeting.

10.2 Stroud

After their AGM, BG for Stroud section sent the following report to the secretary which was sent to the Management Committee.

As you are aware the Annual Meeting on the Stroud Section was held on 7th September when the subject of selection for County friendly matches was discussed. I have been requested by the various clubs attending to write to you as County Secretary to ask for the matter to be raised at the next Management Meeting, and perhaps discussed again at the Delegates Meeting to gain the views of clubs in other Sections.

Members felt that the current arrangement does not work well and they suggest changing it a similar system to the Ladies Division which issue an availability list on which bowlers enter dates they are available. This system I believe is currently used by the Men's Division for Executive and Three Counties matches and is also used by other Counties, and from what one of the County Selectors said, worked very well in his previous county of Herefordshire.

There was also comment about how many matches officials seem to be playing and I think this also needs to be discussed.

Cheltenham

By email, George Thomas, the Cheltenham Section Secretary agreed with the concept.

RH for Bristol an also on behalf of the Gloucester Area Secretary was in agreement. A process for early availability needs to be put in place. To be discussed as AOB at the next Delegates Meeting.

A discussion about selection took place. Do some play more games than others? Some areas e.g. Bristol put forward fewer names, around 6, so these are more likely to be picked.

In the current year, there were 2 selectors from the same club, which is unconstitutional, this will not happen next season, but obviously the posts need to be filled and it is difficult to turn a volunteer away if there is a vacancy.

Gloucester Section wants a procedure in the constitution for when a post holder moves to a club in another section.

10) Officers and Officials Nominations for 2020

There are 9 candidates for 4 posts. 8 signed nominations have been received. (Martin Bevan, as the current secretary does not need to be nominated again.)

There are 2 nominations for Junior Vice-President, Dave Hopkins and Robin Giles.

There are 2 nominations for Team Manager, Steve Hopkins and Graham Phillips, (the current post holder, Rob Griffiths is not standing again.)

There are 2 nominations for Section Secretary, Martin Bevan and David Skeats.

There are 3 nominations for Bowls England Representative, Peter Langley, Roy Walker and Craig Guthrie.

The candidates will be asked to give the Delegates a resume of themselves and why they are standing. DR asked if the candidates can be questioned, this was approved. The candidates have been advised.

The question was asked whether nominations for officers and officials should come via the sections? Further discussion necessary.

RH is concerned that the team manager is elected, he feels it should be a management committee appointment.

11) Date of next meeting

The next Management meeting will be on Saturday 7th March 2020, 10am.

Dates for next years meetings were set. Delegates Meeting, Saturday 14th March, 17th October 2020, Management 27th June and October 17th.

MB to book room at Cotswold BC.

13) AOB

- 13.1 DR suggested there should be a procedure in place for emergency contact numbers for players at County Matches. KM suggested that the club secretary or treasurer of the members club could be contacted. RH asked whether the section selectors could collect the information and present the list to the match official. This option was agreed.
KM would advise the Cheltenham and Gloucester selectors of the decision.
- 13.2 RH would like to see the County Program in the Club Handbook as well as the Men's Division Yearbook, or allocate more Yearbooks to clubs
- 13.3 The Governance Document for the Team Manager has been compiled by IG, DW and Dave Skeats. Discussed by the committee and changes made. Now finalised.
- 13.4 MB opened a discussion on the dress code at County Friendly Matches. Currently members can either arrive in County shirt, or white shirt, tie and blazer. KM not happy with this current trend. IG supports the current trend. RH proposed that in order to report the decision to the delegates, the committee vote on his proposal that members arrive in white shirt, tie and blazer, change into county shirt for the game and then back to shirt, tie and blazer for the meal.
The vote was 3 in favour and 3 against, (KM, as chairman declined to vote and DT had already left the meeting). Proposal not carried. Possibility that the topic could be discussed in AOB at the delegates meeting.

KM closed the meeting at 12:15