

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BOWLS ASSOCIATION – MEN'S DIVISION

President: Keith Bedford Chairman: Ken Manns Secretary: Martin Bevan
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Minutes of the Delegates' Meeting held on Saturday 19th October 2019 at Cotswold BC at 10:00

In Attendance: Officers Ken Mann (KM), Keith Bedford (KB), Martin Bevan (MB), Gareth Tarplee (GTar), Dave Williams (DW), Keith Hawkes (KH), Roger Harrison (RH), Ian Gauld (IG), Bob Gartan (BG), George Thomas (GTh), Derek Turner (DT), David Rolls (DR)

17 Officials (some officers and officials hold more than one post within the organisation). 38 Delegates. (Records held with these minutes)

KM opened the meeting and welcomed the Officers, Officials, Past Presidents and Delegates

- 1) Apologies: Begbrook Green, Sir Thomas Richies, Dowty, Bristol St Andrews, Cinderford, Derek Severs.
- 2) In Memorium: A minutes silence was held for those no longer with us.
 Clive Bennett, former president and Bowls England Representative, (Morton in Marsh), David Holmes (Falcon), Mervyn Ind (Cotswold), Mike Payne (Glos City), Stan Elliot (Glos City), Peter Bland (Glos City), John Dancey (Churchdown), Ron Maggs (Bradley Stoke), Stephen Lewis, Brian Smith (Bradley Stoke), John Bright (GB Britton), David Howarth (Henleaze), Bill Harrison, Richard Tarrant (Olveston), Bryan Hillier (Page Park), Dave Langley (Redland Green), Mike Blakeman (Victory Park)
- 3) **Minutes of Meeting held on March 9th 2019**
 After an amendment by Lindsay Collin (Kingswood and Hallam) to remove the last sentence from the 1st paragraph to the Secretary's report, proposed by Tony Willett, (Winget) and seconded by Dave Butcher (Bristol Arrow) the minutes were unanimously accepted and signed by KM.
- 4) **Matters Arising**
 Item 7 second paragraph, Dave Skeats still investigating. Lindsay Collin stated that the men's allowances had been changed and the 2 sections are broadly in line

 Trophies, 14.3 no club has come forward to house a cabinet for the county trophies, so they will continue to be kept by the winners
- 5) **Chairman's report**
 KM reported that he had received queries from clubs and individual bowlers mainly on constitutional issues. All had been dealt with satisfactorily
- 6) **Secretary's Report**
 MB apologised for his slow start in the post due mainly to ill health and a spell in hospital but was now on top of the job with his health much improved.

An issue that needed dealing with during the year was a conflict concerning a county competition. IG the competition secretary had made a ruling but the club concerned, Tewksbury appealed. The Management committee backed IG but the Tewksbury secretary, being dissatisfied, appealed to Bowls England. Bowls England reported back to Tewksbury and the matter came to a satisfactory conclusion. MB received an email from Craig Guthrie (Tewksbury BC) thanking him for his help and guidance over the appeal.

MB emphasised that all decisions must be made constitutionally and all Officers and Officials to know and refer to the constitution

7) Treasurers report

The written accounts were distributed to the delegates. KH reported a higher profit than had been intended. Some factors influencing this were the Secretary's allowance had been cut and the need for postage and printing had been eliminated as communications were being carried out electronically. Fewer coaches were hired for friendly matches and due to last year's reorganisation of the handbooks printing costs had been reduced. Derek Turner reported that at the Bristol section meeting there was concern that there were not enough books allocated to each club so could this please be reviewed. KH asked him to let the Finance Committee know what they thought the allocation should be so it can be reviewed. Peter Ware (Redland Green) also reported that they hadn't received enough books. KB reminded delegates that the information in the books is also available on the county websites. Lindsay Collin warned that the printing costs have yet to be split between the men's and ladies' divisions, this adjustment will be shown in the Joint Accounts at the AGM

Peter Langley (Pineholt) suggested that Officers and Officials home addresses no longer need to be printed in the books as most communication is carried out electronically. Officers to discuss this.

8) Fixtures secretary's report

RH thanked all the clubs that had hosted games. Hampshire have a busy schedule as it is their 100th year so will not be playing us this year. Swindon Bowls Association have requested a game and Dorset wish to reinstate their fixture. Gloucester Spa have requested a game to celebrate their centenary. If a club would like to host a game then contact RH. Austin Pane (County Records Officer) expressed concern over the quality of the venue when the county played Mid Glamorgan, the green was poor and there were no catering facilities, with a half mile walk to a working men's club for the meal. Dave Butcher advised that Mid Glamorgan had chosen that club as it was struggling in order to encourage members and save it. It would have been mean in the circumstances to write a letter of complaint

9) Competition secretary's report

IG reported a mostly successful season and thanked the competitions subcommittee who needed to adjudicate on 2 occasions, although not everyone was entirely happy with the outcome. One of the complaints has already been reported at this meeting. He thanked the umpires and host clubs. The men's and ladies' rules have been combined and will be presented at the next JEC meeting.

Congratulations to the following for their success at the National Championships at Leamington:

Josh Phillips	last 16, 2 Wood Singles
Nathan Kitchen	last 16 Singles
Nathan Kitchen, Lee Williamson and Nick Holiday	¼ final Triples
Nathan Kitchen, Joan Surman, Penny Callaghan, Lee Williamson	Winners, Mixed Fours

The timetable and venues are now fixed for 2020 competitions

10) Bowls England Representative

Dave Williams had replaced Clive Bennett mid-season as Bowls England Rep. Questions were raised as to the role of the post and the timing of meetings. It was noted that there had been no meetings since the post-holder had changed and that information to the BE representative came through the County Administrator as required by BE. The role is to attend Bowls England meetings and be invited onto their subcommittees. The BE Rep is also on the JEC to report on events.

11) Team Manager Report

Rob Griffiths did not attend the meeting so there was no report. KM reported that due to business, indoor bowls and family commitments Rob would not be standing next year. There will be a ballot for a new team manager later in the meeting.

12) Benevolent Fund

In Derek Severs absence, KB read the following report

It has been a very quiet year for the benevolent fund. At the instigation of our president a hamper (costing £24) was delivered to a seriously ill bowler in Gloucester at Christmas and that has been the only outgoing. Just one donation of £25 has been received from Cinderford Bowling Club.

The capital in the fund is currently £6974.15 (£1041.20 with Lloyds Bank and £5932.95 with the TSB). The TSB is insisting that we switch from a Current Account to a Business Account and this is being arranged. The capital is adequate but donations are always appreciated.

Brian Clark, the Gloucester Section Trustee, is retiring after 10 years and I would like to thank him for his valuable contribution and great support. The dedication of the other Trustees, Roger Harrison, Peter Bowles and Colin Parsons is much appreciated

The balance sheet will be published in the near future after it has been audited.

13) Election of Officers and Officials

The following posts are being contested.

A:-Secretary. Martin Bevan and David Skeats.

B:- Junior Vice President. Robin Giles and Dave Hopkins.

C:- Team Manager. Steve Hopkins and Graham Philips.

D:- BE Rep. Peter Langley, Roy Walker and Craig Guthrie.

George Thomas (Cheltenham) and Keith Hinder (Dursley) were appointed as tellers.

At the previous weeks Management meeting the committee made the decision to require the candidates to give resume of what they will bring to the post and to inform them of this in order to prepare. Some of the candidates had not received the request. GT observed that as some did not know and were unprepared none of them should be required to speak. KM said that when one is nominated for a post, they must have a reason for carrying out the job so should not have a problem with a quick presentation. Gill Meadows (Dursley) said that most delegates would have been told how to vote by their clubs as it is the clubs who make the decisions for their delegates to carry out so speeches were unnecessary. The meeting was asked to decide and the consensus was that there would be no speeches.

DR proposed that in future the rules should be updated to require candidates in a contested election to send out a resume in good time to all clubs. (Gill Meadows reported that one of the candidates did do this). KM stated that it used to be that nominations came from Sections not clubs, should the procedure revert to this.

The result of the ballot was Secretary, David Skeats
Junior Vice President, Robin Giles
Team Manager, Graham Philips
Bowls England Rep, Craig Guthrie

KM suggested that all existing Officers and Officials not being contested should be now voted through. BG asked why these had not been listed and was informed that they are already in the County Handbook so a list was unnecessary. All were voted through.

14) Date of next meeting

Undecided at present as it is at that meeting handbooks and Bowls England books are distributed. Last year the Bowls England books did not arrive in time for an early March meeting creating distribution problems, Dave Skeats to liaise with Lindsay Collin before date set.

15) AOB

a) Dress Code for County Friendly Matches

MB reported that this subject was discussed at the previous weeks Management Meeting and no conclusion reached. KM feels that there is a mismatch between some members arriving at games wearing white shirt, tie and blazer and those wearing county shirts and wind-cheaters that players are required to wear for the match and also a similar mismatch of dress for the after-match meal

DW reported that the dress code was relaxed last year to encourage younger players to make themselves available for county friendlies and that there should not be a different dress code for team games and friendlies. The dress code for games is covered in Schedule E with a separate document for Middleton Cup/White Rose. The delegates felt that they were unable to discuss at this meeting and would need to know the wishes of their clubs. Dave Skeats said that it should be an issue for the JEC.

b) Administration of availability documents for selectors.

Stroud section sent the following report to the Management committee for discussion who thought it should also be discussed by the delegates

“Members felt that the current arrangement does not work well and they suggest changing it using a similar system to the Ladies Division which issue an availability list on which bowlers enter dates when 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 then a wider discussion on selection, Phil Beames (Cam) thinks it would be better to scrap the section quotas and select from a wider pool of availability. It is also concerning that more of the ‘top players’ do not want to play county friendlies as they consider the team selections are not strong enough. A match was hosted by Olveston BC and there were no Olveston players in the team. Olveston had registered 14 to 16 players as eligible but when those people were approached none of them wanted to be selected. Distance to a game is also a factor as fewer people make themselves available. The finance committee have been asked to discuss ways of remunerating drivers. In order for county wide selection to take place all the selectors would need to meet. Sections to discuss further

Peter Langley asked if players could be advised more promptly on selection. The current problem being that the section selectors are not returning their selections to RH until the last minute. If the availability sheets are updated as per the first paragraph, then up to 6 matches could be selected at a time.

- c) Through the chair, the outgoing president KB thanked everybody for their help and support throughout the year. Out of 18 friendly matches 10 were won. Also did quite well in the 3 counties matches.
- d) At the end of the meeting, Keith Hawkes (Men’s Section Treasurer) announced he would be resigning at the AGM. The newly elected secretary, Dave Skeats to inform clubs and ask for nominations for the post.
- e) KM thanked the outgoing secretary Martin Bevan for all he has done throughout a difficult year.

KM closed the meeting at 12:10