

Men's Divisional Management Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on Saturday 25 September at 10:00

Present

Ken Manns (Chairman), David Skeats (Secretary), Les Hanley (Treasurer), Roger Harrison (Fixtures Secretary), Ian Gauld (Comps Sec), Derek Turner (Bristol), George Thomas (Cheltenham), Bob Gartan (Stroud), David Rolls (JEC Rep), Graham Phillips (Team Manager), Gareth Tarplee (President), Robin Giles (JVP),

Apologies – Craig Guthrie (BE Rep), Keith Bedford (IPP and Gloucester Section), Martin Bevan (SVP)

21/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of a meeting held on 12 June 2021 were approved

21/24 Matters Arising

21/20 – The Competition Secretary had undertaken a survey of players opinions on the changed format for competitions but this had been overtaken by decisions made by Bowls England. Competitions rules were under consideration by the JEC.

21/25 Chairman's Report

It was noted that responsibility for trophies for county games resided with the President who should arrange for engraving, take to the appropriate game and pass to the incoming President. There is no insurance for trophies but some valuation of the trophies should be undertaken to review any need for insurance and photos taken for records. This would be done by the Competition Secretary as part of the engraving of trophies.

21/26 Secretary's Report

a) – Nominations for vacant posts

It was reported that nominations had been received as follows

Junior Vice-President – Ian Deakins
Secretary – Glen Wintle

These would go to the Delegates' Meeting. The location of management and delegates' meetings could be changed but it was agreed that easy access and provision of adequate parking were important and should be taken into account when setting the venue. The matter of whether a substitute could attend JEC meetings would be for them to decide. The Secretary has traditionally done a great deal of travelling in the post with attendance at meetings, clubs, competitions and other matters.

b) – County Games

A paper had been circulated concerning various matters which had been discussed in recent meetings. On the question of what constitutes a county game, it was recommended that

All county games (including Three Counties Festival) should be badged but not Executive or Presidential games

Selection for county matches should be open to as many members as possible to involve members in county affairs and therefore the following changes to the Constitution are proposed

Section 12.5 of the Constitution which governs eligibility for selection be amended to

Clubs may nominate players as eligible to play for the County in friendly games. Clubs should ensure that any player so nominated is of a standard suitable to represent the County; this would normally be someone who regularly represents the club's senior team in competitive league and cup matches

In addition, to simplify the selection process as requested by section meetings, the following be added to section 12.4 of the Constitution

Men's Division – Each club is invited to provide their section selectors with the names of suitable players as defined in section 12.5 of the Constitution and the dates/games for which those players wish to be considered for selection.

These two items would go to the Delegates' Meeting and, if accepted there, to the Joint Council and AGM.

The possibility of a new county shirt was discussed. It was recognised that to change completely to a new shirt was impractical given the number of members using the existing one and stock held, but it was recommended that

A new shirt should be adopted for inter-county competitive games (a County Team shirt). Design of this shirt should be done by the Team Manager (Men), Competition Secretary (Men), a representative from the Selection Committee (Women) and the Chairman of the Competition Committee (Women) in conjunction with the County Administrator and consultations with the players themselves. This shirt should only be worn when representing the County or at BE finals.

As players in these games were being asked to represent the County (unlike county friendly games where members selected themselves whether to participate), these Team Shirts should be presented by the County to players on their first game. Any other uniform (shorts etc) or further shirts would be for players themselves to provide.

On the matter of County Badges, it was recommended that

Badging arrangements for junior inter-county games are brought into line with those for senior games

and

Players who represent the County at the BE National Finals in the National Championships are awarded their County badge but not recorded as County players in the records.

This would only apply to National Championships where players represent the County. In the National Competitions, that is the three inter-club competitions (Top Club, National Club Two Fours, Tony Allcock Trophy) and other such competitions (Family Pairs, Champion of Champions, Senior Singles & Pairs, Mixed Pairs & Fours), these are not county organised and players are not therefore representing the County at the finals. BE rules recognise this and permit the wearing of either a club or county shirt at the finals. It is therefore recommended that BE Rules should apply and the following be added to county competition rules

11.5 Players who reach the BE National Finals in the National Competitions may wear either their club shirt or a County shirt provided all members of a team wear the same shirt.

As such players are not representing the county, no county badge will be awarded.

The Delegates' Meeting will proceed as planned on Saturday 16 October with attendees advised to follow guidance on distancing and the wearing of masks.

21/27 Treasurer's Report

The draft accounts for the year were received. Any outstanding expense or allowance claims should be submitted by the end of September so that the final accounts could go to the Delegates' Meeting.

21/28 Fixture Secretary

Matches for 2022 are being arranged. It was noted that the Match Official incurred expenses in the performance of their duties and a suitable allowance should be made for this (rather than the continual claiming of expenses). The Finance Committee will consider a suitable allowance.

21/29 Competition Secretary

It was reported that BE has published the timetable for National Finals for 2022 – 25 August to 11 September. The format of games has changed with games over 18 ends and triples with three woods and pairs with four.

County finals are normally hosted at the President's club and it was agreed that this should continue subject to the club green being acceptable and that other facilities such as parking and catering were available and adequate.

21/30 Team Manager

Middleton Cup – For selection purposes, players currently in form were used with six new players offered a trial and four accepting with four other players also invited. For the domestic trial, 32 possible players were cut to a squad of 28 including four new players.

Roger Harrison was thanked for arranging for arranging venues for games at short notice. The game against Worcestershire was a surprising loss as the team had been well-up at one stage. The Middleton Cup will remain a knock-out competition again next year.

The White Rose team had a good year reaching the National Finals. In the preliminary stages, they won against Wiltshire in the morning and against Somerset by one shot if the afternoon. At the Finals, they lost to Buckinghamshire in the semi-finals who went on to a convincing win against Northamptonshire. The great advantage is that all the players will still be available next year but for many this will be their last year.

Clubs should be encouraged to notify the Team Manager of any under 25s for inclusion in the academy.

The Chairman noted that the success of the teams was due to the considerable efforts put in by Graham and he was thanked for his work.

21/31 Benevolent Fund Report

A report from the fund manager was received, copy with Minutes. This note that the fund had assets of just over £7,300. Only one request for support had ben received in the last year.

21/32 Section Reports

- a) Bristol – There remained concerns about the future of a number of clubs especially where the Council was involved in green maintenance. The Council had offered some to opportunity to accept full responsibility for the green or pay a considerable sum for continued maintenance, a sum beyond the means of the club. The County Administrator was involved in discussions.
- b) Cheltenham – The role of the Greens' Committee was discussed in relation to the inspection of any new greens, involvement of the women's division in inspection, the chair of the Committee and the publication of inspection results. The Secretary will write to the County Administrator with suggestions for a review of Schedule F which deals with Greens' Committee protocols.
- c) Gloucester – Noted that Keith Bedford was in hospital, wishes for his speedy recovery were expressed. The Secretary will write to all Gloucester section clubs requesting that competition entry forms are sent direct to Ian Gauld in his absence.
- d) Stroud – To date, vacancies for both selectors and greens' inspectors remained in the section. The search for nominations would continue.

21/33 Date of Next Meting

Provisional dates for 2022 were suggested as

Management Committee	05/02/22	14/06/22	24/09/22
Delegates' Meeting	26/03/22	02/07/22	15/10/22