



GLOUCESTERSHIRE BOWLS ASSOCIATION

A Member of Bowls England.

Minutes of 8th Annual General Meeting of the Gloucestershire Bowls Association

Whitminster Village Hall; Saturday 12th January 2019: 11.00 am start.

Chair Lindsay Collin (Kingswood & Hanham BC). GBA County Administrator.

Welcome by Chair The Chair welcomed attendees and thanked them for coming to contribute to the meeting and to the democratic process.

1. Apologies

32 clubs attended, represented by 47 people. 9 clubs' apologies were recorded. 19 GBA officers and officials, in the Association and the two divisions, were also present (with 6 other apologies received).

2. Minutes of 7th G.B.A Annual General Meeting, 13th January 2018

Accepted as a correct record.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Chairman's Report

4.1 The Chair firstly offered her thanks for the efforts of various individuals and groups of people in the year 2017/8 :

- i. Everybody at club level who works on behalf of their own clubs. Clubs are the very lifeblood of our sport. Including, of course, those who, as club secretaries and delegates, represent clubs in this and other County meetings and forums in both Men's and Women's Divisions.
- ii. Officers and Officials of the two Divisions who administer and run the Association at that level, where most of our routine business and activity is centered. We should remember that what we all really want to be doing is playing bowls. But the structure of the sport at both county and national level is vitally necessary. So the administration is an unavoidable adjunct, appropriate to many kinds of activity and decision-making, and involving a significant number of our members.
- iii. Those colleagues who compose the GBA Joint Executive Committee, either resulting from their divisional positions, or those specifically elected to be part of the Association's Executive Committee.

4.2 Chair noted that the most pleasurable part of her report is that associated with the performance of Gloucestershire at the national level in the previous outdoor season :

- a. " The most difficult success to attain is as a County, as a County team. A repeat of the success of the women in the John's Trophy in 2017 would be a tall order, and so it proved. But this year, Gloucestershire junior men stepped forward, and it is a pleasure to congratulate the White Rose team on their reaching the national semi-final and playing in that at Leamington. A day to remember, I know. I'm personally one of the most regular and dedicated attendees at Leamington,

in support of our County, and just love the nationals and everything surrounding them. One pleasure this year, for me, will be retiring (in June) and being able to attend for even longer periods, for the first time ever, and regularly seeing the Gloucester men perform. Anyway, in 2018, sincerely well done to Gloucestershire junior men.

- b. In terms of personal successes, 2018 was not a vintage year for Gloucestershire. In 20 individual and team competitions in both the National Championships and in National Competitions, in which we actually competed, in only four competitions did Gloucester players or teams get beyond the second round at Leamington. There were undoubtedly some tough games and very near misses, perhaps too many to note, but in only the women's Senior Pairs (with Rita Gerry, Moreton in Marsh, and Julia Stannard, Nailsworth) and the women's Seniors Fours (with Sue Jones, Thelma Griffin, Iona Bird and Joy Sheward, Barnwood) did we reach the Qtr Finals (normally the 4th Round). In the Men's Pairs (with Joe Hardwick and John Smallwood, Olveston) and in the women's 2-Wood Singles (with Pam Margrett, Cheltenham Spa) we also reached the 3rd Round or last 16. Jolly well done to all of them, but here's hoping for better overall in 2019.
- c. At the purely County level, at our Presentation Dinner on October, I think much enjoyed by most participants, we loudly celebrated the winners and finalists in County competitions. A very good day. Too many things to describe in detail here, but these will anyway be featured in the new GBA divisional yearbooks, so be sure to obtain your copies of these. One thing pointed out to me recently, was that 2018 was almost certainly the first year that sides from the same club won both of the double-rink county competitions, the women's and the men's – Olveston & District BC. But several clubs will look back at multiple competitions won or finals reached in 2018 – mostly obviously Olveston, Gloucester City, Cheltenham Spa, Cheltenham, Barnwood, Kingswood & Hanham, Ardagh, Gloucester Spa, Bristol St Andrews. “

- 4.3 The Chair finally stressed the importance of clubs dealing with documentation as soon as it is received. At all stages of the season, but most fundamentally in the late Autumn and Winter, when much annual administration is being carried through by the Association's officers, officials and committees. This applies equally to documents to be returned to the County Treasurer and processes carried out by her.

5. County Treasurer's Report / GBA 2010 and GBA Consolidated 2017/8 Accounts

The County Treasurer, Jane Hawkes, presented both the GBA Trading and Profit & Loss accounts and also the GBA Consolidated Accounts (supplied as separate documents) for financial year 2017/8. She initially thanked previous County Treasurer Maddie Hale for her advice during the year.

In addition, the County Treasurer made a few general comments :

- The accounts had proved more straightforward to assemble in 2017/8, though as always very time-consuming. In the divisional accounts there were, this year, none of the contrasts between the two apparent in 2016/7, with generally proportional patterns of both income and expenditure.
- It was not proposed to look at the accounts in detail, but members were invited to ask questions. None were forthcoming.
- The GBA and Bowls England affiliations were obviously central components in all the accounts – GBA 2010, Men's and Women's. Happily, the process of collecting the affiliation fees this year had proved to be slightly less complex, with responses by clubs generally both more timely and more complete; additional guidance offered this year had proved helpful. This comment referred to both the member additions advised by clubs during the season and also the end-of-season returns. A few clubs had to be chased up and a very few were still being sought and needed urgently, as payment to Bowls England is imminent. After this, the allocations to the divisions will be determined.

- In the Bowls England return, the numbers of BE Yearbooks ordered by Gloucestershire (Association and clubs) are also required. Still some chasing up to be done on this, as the form had not always been sent back. So spare copies of the Yearbooks would be included in the order, as it was probable that clubs would in practice come looking for at least a minimum number of this information source.

The 2017/8 accounts will appear in the GBA 2019 Club Handbook.

6. Proposals for changes in MD administration and resulting changes in GBA Constitution & Rules (see separate document supplied, for details)

The Chair essayed a summary of the proposals for administrative change that had come from the Men's Division Annual Delegate Meeting, in October 2018. These had been discussed at length in the Joint Council Meeting in November 2018, prior to be taken back to the clubs, for them to decide their AGM votes on all matters. Today would simply be a process of voting, with no further discussion.

Each proposal was described, and then voted upon, in turn. All proposals were accepted unanimously.

[While referring to the proposal in relation to the GDPR, Clause 2.10, the Chair thanked David Skeats for his thorough work in ensuring that the GBA has such a GDPR Policy, and that many GBA clubs had also adopted the draft club GDPR policy produced by David and recommended to them.]

7. Proposals for membership of GBA Joint Executive Committee

The list of proposals for membership of the JEC was summarised in the meeting's agenda.

The block acceptance of the 2018/9 Joint Executive Committee was accomplished, by unanimous approval of the meeting.

County Administrator	Lindsay Collin
Deputy County Administrator	Martin Bevan
County Treasurer (ex-officio)	Jane Hawkes
Assistant County Treasurers	Avril Hole & Keith Hawkes
County Fixture Secretaries	Myra Savage & Roger Harrison
Divisional Representatives	Linda Bennett & David Rolls
Bowls England Delegates	Lindsay Collin & Clive Bennett
Co-opted Member (as Lindsay Collin has 2 roles)	Anne Beaven

8. Open forum

8.1 Regional draws in national competitions

The Chair referred to a recent communication from Bowls England regarding the organisation of the county element of the draws for National Competitions (National Champion of Champions, Senior Pairs and Singles, Mixed Pairs, Tony Allcock Trophy, Top Club, Family Pairs, to name just a few). These could in practice either be 'open' or 'regional' within counties – Gloucester being presently 'regional' (a 'stratified' draw with each of the 4 geographical sections being drawn in turn, so that opponents would normally be geographically close in the first few rounds). In December, she had conducted a 'straw poll' amongst a number of officers, officials and others within the GBA, as there had not been time for a wider exercise before the return had to be made. The outcome of this had been slightly in favour of 'open' draws, but it had been decided that the present 'regional' basis should not be changed for 2019, as some national competition entries had already been made. So a complete poll

would be made in the County some time in the next few months. In the meantime, the Chair had asked BE to make the 2019 'regional' draw on a more logical basis in relation to geographical proximity. The meeting was in agreement with this decision about how to proceed.

The Chair reminded the meeting that National Competition entries needed to be made (online) by 1st February.

8.2 Handbooks

The Chair gave an update on the production of the three new handbooks for 2019. These would have to be prioritised, as they needed to be compiled and printed in time for the March 2019 Delegate Meetings. The Chair was basically undertaking most of this work, but she also alluded to the sterling preparatory work already done by Ian Gauld, MD Competition Secretary, on the competition element of the MD Yearbook.

8.3 Web sites

The situation in relation to the 3 GBA Web sites – the 'GBA Portal' and the men's and women's Web sites – was also recounted. The Chair noted that these should come fairly directly from the information in the 3 handbooks, so the 2019 Web updates would be undertaken principally after the handbooks were completed and with the publisher. Sylvia Pearse had meanwhile agreed to take over from Reg Tibbles as Website Manager for the Men's Division. There were issues in relation to software and to the 'Web hosts' that needed further consideration.

8.4 Unification

David Skeats (Frampton on Severn BC) presented his views on the state of 'unification' within the GBA, asserting that some aspects of the GBA administrative structure were both immoral and illegal; David also indicated that he had sought legal advice, which he felt had substantiated his views on various situations. After listening to what David had to say, a series of responses were forthcoming, from GBA Officers and other GBA members. With only one exception, these all disagreed with David's assessment.

Though she pointed out that the JEC had already considered the matter of 'unification' on several occasions, including in Autumn 2018, the Chair concluded a lengthy discussion by inviting David to make a further submission to the JEC for their consideration.

The meeting closed at 12.35 pm.

Date of 2020 Annual General Meeting :

Saturday 11 January 2020 at 11.00am. Venue - Whitminster Village Hall