



GLOUCESTERSHIRE BOWLS ASSOCIATION

A Member of Bowls England.

Minutes of 12th Annual General Meeting of the Gloucestershire Bowls Association

Saturday 15th January 2022: 10.00 am start
Whitminster Village Hall

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. She noted that a few people had decided not to attend for Covid reasons, but observed, firstly, that she and the JEC were agreed that the face-to-face meeting was well able to continue under the current advice and regulations laid down by the Government, but, secondly, a subsidiary MS Teams option had been provided, courtesy of Val Molton, who she thanked for this initiative.

1. Apologies

59 people attended, representing 34 clubs in total. 20 of these were GBA officers and officials, though some attended as club representatives too. Details recorded on file. Apologies were received from 12 clubs or individuals. The total attendees included 10 people who logged onto the meeting on MS Teams, that operation being run by Val Molton, and clearly that emergency option had proved worthwhile.

2. Minutes of delayed 11th G.B.A Annual General Meeting, 12th April 2021

Accepted as a correct record. No matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report - Lindsay Collin (more or less verbatim)

" I would note that my quite lengthy report is in three parts :

- Administrative matters, including thanks, the membership situation and recruitment
- Attainment – primarily Gloucestershire's performance nationally in competitive bowls
- Changes nationally which have impacted upon Gloucestershire, mostly these emanating from Bowls England

Please note active [links](#) in blue

ADMINISTRATIVE

- 3.1 " So, firstly, can I offer my sincere thanks for the efforts of various individuals and groups of people within Gloucestershire bowling in the last thirteen months – I'll be more specific on a few things. The 2021 season, following upon the restrictions of 2020, continued to be difficult for all, but we should remind ourselves that at least we were able to play our sport pretty fully in 2021, which many other sportsmen and women were not, including at the competitive level and as far up as the English National Championships. It might be noted that England were the only Home Country who ran their National Championships in 2021.
- 3.2 The County must be grateful to the people who in 2021 volunteered their time and efforts to ensure that all the various aspects of our organisation operated as close to 'normal' as possible. We have attempted to maintain administrative meetings on such a frequency as proved possible, and when necessary. Many of today's attendees will have been aware of the Divisional Delegate Meetings and some of you the Divisional Management and other meetings – including those in relation to competitions and also County selection matters. Almost always by Zoom, initially, but increasingly face-to-face as the year progressed. Also the Joint Executive Committee, our Association's governing

committee, and the annual Joint Council Meeting. I'd love to be able to thank everybody individually, but that would mean literally reading out many pages of the GBA Club Handbook, so I'd just like to thank all County and Divisional officers and officials for their contributions in the year, not on my behalf alone, but on all our behalves.

- 3.3 What I must also mention are the now many qualified coaches (up to and very much including County Coaching Cordinator/Development Officer David Rolls), who are so important to clubs, and absolutely crucial in relation to both recruitment and to player development, including of young people. Could I also sincerely thank the active umpires in the County, on whose services we similarly rely so much, organised by County Co-ordinator Joe Taylor.
- 3.4 Along with conveying outcomes from GBA and divisional meetings, as my colleagues David Skeats and latterly George Thomas have similarly been doing, I personally tried very hard – as County Administrator - to keep everyone in the County aware of what was going on within our sport, nationally and locally, and in relation to Covid-19. I'll elaborate a little more on some recent developments, shortly, as there have been so many changes in English lawn bowling in the last 20 months.
- 3.5 The 2022 GBA Club Handbook and the two Divisional Yearbooks are currently under production and it is anticipated that they will be distributed at the two Divisional Meetings in March. Including the compilation and production of the Men's Yearbook having obviously passed to George, production schedules are back to normal, so I expect these booklets to be printed next month. In relation to numbers, if your club requires any copies over and above the free club copies and those provided for competition entrants, and has not yet filled in and returned the order form for this year, please contact me within the next few days. *{order form again attached when these minutes are circulated}*
- 3.6 While I'm referring to clubs, it is very appropriate if I take this opportunity to thank all club secretaries and club committees for the enormous amount of work that you, they, have put in to administering your clubs in this difficult year. I'm also personally grateful for the hundreds of responses that I get from clubs and club secretaries and I appreciate your help very much, even if I occasionally have to chase some of you up a little !
We very much recognise that the clubs are the bedrock of our bowling in Gloucestershire. Now might be an appropriate moment for me to report that the village of Churchdown has again a GBA and BE affiliated club, with Churchdown Village BC having been accepted back into the GBA for this coming season. Congratulations and well done to them. Churchdown Village have been placed in the Cheltenham Section.
- 3.7 In terms of GBA members, 2020 and Covid-19 resulted in the GBA losing a significant number. Our total was circa 3600-3700 consistently through 2017, 18, 19, but fell to 3572 in 2020. Suspect that the 2020 numbers were significantly higher than the reality, as no formal affiliation process took place, with no fee required and many clubs just returned their 2019 number in a survey. The May 2021 figure was probably more representative of the real losses of the last two years, this being 3010 – representing a loss of 17 % on the 2019 figure, more or less in line with the 16% loss nationally. By the end of this last season, the number affiliated rose back to 3264, meaning an overall loss of just over 10% in the last two years, so some significant claw-back. Hopefully this can continue in 2022, getting us even closer to our previous numbers.
- 3.8 To link together two things that I have reported, can I emphasise the administrative information - Constitution & Rules, Schedules, Protocols, procedures, pure information - which can be found in the GBA Club Handbook (and on the Gloucestershire Web Portal). Could I just urge club administrators to use the GBA Club Handbook and the Web Portal, as a first port of call. A prime example is the guidance regarding the affiliation process, where descriptions of the procedure for May and also regarding the updating of in-season club membership is laid out clearly.

ATTAINMENT

- 3.9 My second main area of report is attainment within the County. Firstly, in general, to mention those who have attained success in competitive bowling in Gloucestershire, winning County honours, and particularly those who reached the National Championship Finals at Leamington. There are many in this very room whose first aim each year is to represent our County at Leamington. So I'd like to congratulate everyone who attained that objective, and include in that the National Competition

entrants from Gloucestershire who similarly reached 'the holy grail' in quite a wide range of men's, women's and mixed events. However, there are undoubtedly some who now require greater congratulations.

- 3.10 Firstly, I'd like to mention the Men's White Rose team, under Team Manager Graham Phillips, who only narrowly failed to reach the Final of that competition, in a tight and gripping Semi-Final against Buckinghamshire, on the last day of Leamington. Well done to Finley WILLIAMSON, Alex WHITE, Jack WILLIAMS & Ben COLDRICK and Jack GROVER, Adam SMITH, Joe HIBBARD & Josh PHILLIPS. Details and photos appear on the Web Portal, under 'News' <http://gloucestershirebowls.org.uk/page29.html>
- 3.11 You will find that the two 2022 Yearbooks will contain all of the Leamington results, but amongst those others who reached at least the Quarter-Finals of their events, firstly, father and son team Finley and Lee Williamson (Cheltenham BC) have pride of place, with their Semi-Final in the Men's Pairs, and secondly, Cheltenham BC in the Semi-Final of the National Club Two Fours competition, this involving Ben Coldrick, Anthony Cotton, Matt Cuthbert, James Fitzgerald, Nathan Kitchen, Nick Holliday, Stuart Hodges and Lee Williamson. Men's Quarter-Finalists also included : Josh Phillips (Ardagh) in the Junior Singles Championship and Lee Williamson (Cheltenham BC) in the National Champion of Champions Singles. The Gloucester City National Mixed Four of Dan Allsopp, Barbara Whitehead, Rachel Hughes and Steve Allsopp similarly reached the Quarters; well done to them.
- 3.12 On the Women's side, only one qualifier per event was the allowed in Championship events. The best performances were in reaching the Quarter-Finals, with Val Molton (Kingswood & Hanham) in the 2-Wood Singles, and Val Molton, Pam Salvage, Sue Osborne and Jan Williams (again Kingswood & Hanham) in the Fours. A deserved special mention is for Val Molton of Kingswood & Hanham, who - despite the limit of one qualifier per event for the women, reached Leamington and represented the County in no less than five events in total – the 4-Wood Singles, the National Senior Singles and the Senior Fours (with three colleagues, of course) in addition to the two events already highlighted. A wonderful year for Val.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- 3.13 My third area of Report relates to the many new things happening with and through our National Governing Body, Bowls England. The Covid Epidemic and lack of county and national activity in 2020 and then going on into 2021, afforded BE the opportunity to spend time looking at their future strategy, most of which has been well publicised to Counties and clubs, sometimes through the County, but increasingly direct to Clubs. See : <https://www.bowlsengland.com/fit-for-the-future-strategy-2021-2026/>
- 3.14 In relation to the competitive side of our sport, many of you will have inevitably become aware of changes in organisation and format for almost all of our National Championships and Competitions, these also now made more difficult by the holding of the Commonwealth Games at Victoria Park, Leamington in August 2022. We still do not yet know how many of either the 2021 or 2022 changes will prove to be long-term. I could talk at length on many of these aspects, but I feel that most players in Gloucestershire – having had to deal with them in 2021 – have maintained awareness of the recent developments. I should also note that the format and organisation of the national Inter-County events and also National Competitions have similarly had to accommodate change, in 2021 due to Covid and in 2022 due to the Commonwealth Games.
- 3.15 Other major objectives for our NGB have involved in marketing and 'selling' our sport much more widely to potential participants. Also improving communication within our sport has been a major objective. These ideas include, mostly to clubs and to individuals :
- Direct communication with clubs. Nominated club contacts now provided to BE
 - Dedicated fund-raising advice and opportunities. Regular circulations to clubs, via myself. Example <https://www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/bowlsengland/Register?ReturnUrl=%2fbowlsengland%2fNews%2fView%2fGRUKBP3!N74521>
 - 'Easy fund-raising' <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/bowls-england/> Tetbury and Cheltenham BC both had used this scheme effectively.

- The Extra End Podcast. Interviews (the first with Tony Allcock). YouTube (note also the YouTube Bowls England Channel) For example (John McGuinness interview) : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUitTVQD1QU>
- Workout videos, if keen on physically preparing yourself for your sport. YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6noQZgSyE8>
- Webinars. Including: Fund-raising; Communications; Social Media. YouTube. Example (Club Communications) : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d98jTVmfdOA>
- Live steaming of events. Nationals. YouTube Example (Men's Pairs, with Finley and Lee *about half way through*) : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0AKTLYW7cQA&t=50s>
- Recruitment. Including Big Bowls Weekend. Huge. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRgkaghu9ZA>
- Recruitment videos, including mention of K & H. Val Malton also interviewed.
- 'Club Life' or 'Club stories' video. Example : <https://www.bowlsengland.com/club-stories-kingswood-hanham/>
- 'Club together' e-mail newsletters. <https://bowlsengland.co.uk/6UDT-2GNU-8E5C5EC3A75D29EEZKB5A047A4365B4A19EB/cr.aspx>
- 'The Jack' fortnightly e-mail newsletter.

Bowls England also produced information and events aimed at Counties : 'County update'; BE Counties Meeting (November 2021 – attended by the Chair and Ian Gauld for our county)

Not all changes have been ideal, in my own and the JEC's view :

- Cancellation of the two Bowls England presentation Dinners. Replacement with an 'Awards Night'. Nevertheless, note – re the latter - that we have three nominations from Gloucestershire for a national award : In the 'Club of the Year' category, both Bristol St Andrews and Kingswood & Hanham are on the national shortlist of just five clubs. In the 'Story of the Year', Peter Jones of BSA is nominated on the shortlist of three (and this is voted for, so you can still do this, this week).
- The 'Friends of English Bowling' tent at Leamington has been discontinued. Much anguish !
- Morning daily badge presentations discontinued in 2021 (but may be brought back in in 2022).

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4 Acting County Treasurer's Report - GBA 2010 - 2020/1 Accounts [Lindsay Collin] (more or less verbatim)

[This report and the accounts previously circulated]

- The accounts presented are the GBA2010 accounts, the Association's accounts. The two GBA Divisional Accounts have already been presented at the October Annual Divisional Meetings and, really, most of the money in the GBA is held in those two accounts. Questions will already have been asked about these. As last year, the GBA Consolidated Accounts have not been assembled (for 2020/1). This is quite a large exercise, just really for interest, and – in the light of there being no actual County Treasurer - not a priority. All the 2020/1 accounts will anyway be published in the 2022 GBA Club Handbook.
- Comparison with the previous financial year (2019/20) is unrevealing, as the first Covid year - with refunded affiliation fees, refunded competition fees, no Annual Presentation Luncheon, no national championships or competitions, and rather atypical patterns of expenditure, would not be meaningful.
- Obviously, in 2020/1, the three GBA publications were produced, affiliations were collected mid-year and disbursed, all competitions – including national inter-county competitions – took place and had to be dealt with and funded, and – though there was no 2020 Annual Luncheon (thus neither profit nor loss) at the start - the early transactions relating to the 2021 Annual Luncheon are acknowledged in the 2020/1 accounts.
- Affiliation numbers will have been referred to by the County Administrator, but it could be noted that the newly-retimed May 2021 affiliations yielded £25,480.00. Of this £14,945 was paid to Bowls England, £7,164.50 paid to the GBA MD, £3,987.50 paid to the GBA WD and a GBA2010 levy of 50p per head retained, this yielding £1505.00 towards GBA2010 costs. There had been no JEC levy since 2017. It

seems probable that the 2021/2 financial year might require a levy also, as the GBA2010 account is likely to be at a low balance by year end.

- Re the GBA2010 levy, main expenditure relates to GBA Club Handbooks, to Administrator's allowance (newly agreed in 2021), to cost of Coaches for mixed County games, with more minor expenditure including Data Protection, insurance, examining and Web hosting.
- The current (January 2022) GBA2010 balance is Circa £4K, but money is owed to both Divisions for handbooks, competitions and for additional (in season) affiliations, to Bowls England for additional affiliations, in accruals for the 2021 Annual Luncheon, and a few other minor items.
- The Administrator, acting as County Treasurer for the last two years (thus far) is willing to answer questions. She would also like very much to acknowledge the enormous help and guidance of Madeleine Hale in the production of the GB2010 accounts.
- Finally, in relation to the 2020/1 year and onwards into the 2021/2 year, the Administrator would like to thank, firstly, Sue Latham – for running the booking for the 2021 Annual Luncheon, and, secondly, Pat Yates-Whittaker, for stepping in as GBA County Treasurer – effective from the near future and in time for the May 2022 affiliation exercise.

5. Proposals for change in GBA Constitution & Rules

A separate document containing all details of these proposals (deriving from the Men's Division and relating largely to the presentation of flashes for Junior Inter-County games), and also the implications for the Constitution & Rules Clause 11.8, plus Schedule E, had been circulated prior to the meeting. This was taken as read by all present, and voting commenced without discussion. 1 club voted against the proposal, all other clubs voting in favour.

6. Proposals for membership of GBA Joint Executive Committee (JEC)

Initially, acknowledgement of the contributions of three members of the Joint Executive Committee who are stepping down, was given by the Chair : David Skeats, retiring MD Secretary and Deputy Administrator; Anne Beaven and Avril Hole, two ladies who have been on the JEC since 2015 and 2016 respectively. Thanks very much to all of them for their input and efforts.

The list of proposals for membership of the JEC (and positions within it) was summarised in the meeting's agenda. The block acceptance of the 2020/1 Joint Executive Committee was accomplished, by unanimous approval of the meeting.

County Administrator	Lindsay Collin
Deputy County Administrator	George Thomas
County Treasurer	Pat Yates-Whittaker
Assistant County Treasurers	Angela Cary & Les Hanley
Bowls England Delegates	Lindsay Collin & Craig Guthrie
Fixture Secretary	Myra Savage
Assistant Fixture Secretary	Roger Harrison
Divisional Representatives	Linda Bennett & David Rolls
Co-opted Member (as Lindsay Collin has 2 roles)	Val Molton

7. Open forum

No topics advised to Administrator/Chair prior to the meeting, so meeting was formally closed at this point. However, the Chair then allowed a series of informal questions related to aspects of the content of the meeting (un-minuted).

The meeting closed at 11.32 am.

Date of 2023 Annual General Meeting :

Saturday 14th January 2023 at 10.00 am. Venue T.B.A. [Provisional]