



County News

Issue 7: February 2012

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County News

Keeping you informed throughout the year

Welcome to 'County News', your at-a-glance guide to key decisions being made by Bowls England's committees (comprising democratically elected Council Members) and the work they are doing.

This newsletter aims to keep you, as a County Secretary/Administrator and/or Council Member, fully informed of decisions made by them within their roles and responsibilities as approved by you. On each page we have highlighted for you the decisions that have been made by each Committee, and whether they are 'Resolved', which means they are confirmed, or 'Recommended'. The latter means the decision will go forward to the Board for approval or referral to the Council at an EGM or AGM.

In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the following important issues.



Annual Conference

Don't forget that the Bowls England Annual Conference will be held on Wednesday 4th April at our new venue, the Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth (near Royal Leamington Spa). This offers on-site parking and is easily accessible so please make sure that your county is represented, and encourage your clubs to attend too!

Bowls England Committee Structure

Bowls England is a democratic company that is owned by its members, the county associations, and delegates of the county associations form the various committees. Bowls England has now streamlined its organisational structure by reducing the number of committees and the number of elected members to serve on each committee. The five committees covering all areas of the organisation's work - Competitions, Finance, International Events, Operational Services and Policy & Management - have a maximum of five members elected from nominated county delegates on an annual basis. Committees, with Board approval, have always had the option to co-opt up to two additional members. The Board is now affording all affiliated members the opportunity to become involved in supporting the work of the national governing body by applying to become a co-opted member of one of its five committees. This opportunity is for those who feel able to offer skills and experience to enhance the work of the elected committees. I must stress that this opportunity is open to all Bowls England affiliated members and not just restricted to county delegates and/or officers.

Make a date for 'Bring a Friend' Week

The first national 'Bring a Friend' event aimed primarily at outdoor bowls clubs will be held from Saturday 28th April to Monday 7th May 2012. More information will be circulated in due course but please make a note in your diaries as Bowls England is keen for as many of its affiliated clubs as possible to organise an event during this period as part of the national campaign, in conjunction with the Bowls Development Alliance, to increase participation in our sport among all age groups.

Development Seminars

Our Development Officer, Alistair Hollis, visited a number of counties over the last year to update clubs and counties on the work of Bowls England and the role that we all have to play to develop our sport for future generations. Already this year Alistair has visited Lincolnshire and future presentations are provisionally planned for Berkshire, Sussex and the Isle of Wight. If your county wishes to be included in the programme for 2012, please contact Alistair for more details.

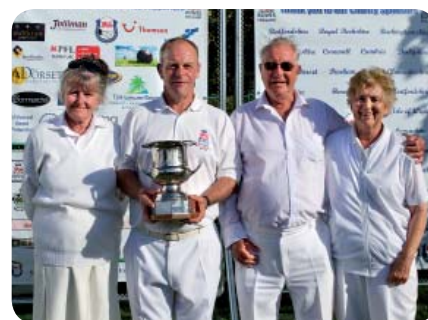
Though this newsletter is aimed primarily at County Secretaries and Council Members, please share this information with other colleagues as appropriate. If you have any queries or suggestions for future issues, please contact our Development Officer, Alistair Hollis, on 07765 050408 or e-mail: alistair.hollis@bowlsengland.com

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Allcock". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial 'T'.

Tony Allcock MBE
Chief Executive
Bowls England

COMPETITIONS

Committee Responsibilities:
National Championships & Competitions
Tournaments & Licences
Umpire Services
Laws of the Sport



Summary of decisions from meeting held in January 2012

Scorecard: During an update from the Secretary of the English Bowls Umpires Association, it was confirmed that an Umpire would not accept a completed card from anyone other than the Skip. It was **resolved** that the Chief Executive write to World Bowls to ask if its Laws Review Committee had ever considered the addition of penalties to assist in addressing non-compliance.

Safeguarding: The Secretary of the EBUA was requested to ask that EBUA members should direct all their clearances through Bowls England or the EIBA Ltd and not through other routes.

National Championships - Leamington and Worthing: **Resolved** that an agreement be entered into with Warwick District Council for the Women's National Championships to be held in Leamington Spa from 2013 to 2016 inclusive. Discussions with Worthing Borough Council towards a similar agreement are continuing.

Excluded members: Following correspondence relating to an individual member previously expelled from a Club not being permitted to "revisit" in order to fulfil a league or County Competition, it was **recommended to the Board** that the appropriate Bowls England Regulations should cover this and a proposition be put forward to the EGM in November 2012.

Club coloured shirts: Somerset Bowls Association had expressed concern at the resolution passed at the November 2011 EGM relating to the wearing of coloured shirts at National Championships. It was pointed out that as most club shirts are "predominantly" white the agreed amendment was flawed. It was **resolved** that the Committee Chair would raise with the Board.

Men's British Isles Senior Fours competition: **Resolved** that as this matter had already been discussed at length the original decision would remain but that Committee would reconsider again in the future.

White Rose Trophy: Noted that Cumbria and Lancashire had withdrawn from the event in 2012 and the draws had been amended accordingly.

Family Pairs: It was noted that geographical dissemination of the draw would be made once the entries had closed.

Tournament Licences: It was noted that Sutton Winson was assisting Bowls England in respect of Tournament Licences/insurance and **resolved** that the Operational Services Committee would deal with this in liaison with Chair of Competitions.

Code of Conduct: Following discussion it was **resolved** that this be presented to the Board for ratification and then distributed to all competitors attending the National Championships.

Walker Cup Venue: It was **resolved** that in light of potential access issues on agreed date, the venue be changed and Bowls Somerset be asked to assist in finding a suitable venue.

Propositions for AGM: In response to proposition from Surrey Bowls Association that a National Senior County Championship for men be introduced, **resolved** that more time was needed for the Council to discuss. Committee would recommend deferral to EGM in November where it could be discussed during the open forum. Bowls Lancashire had put forward two propositions for the AGM with regard to White Rose Trophy and National Top Club. **Resolved** that the view of the Competitions Committee not to support either proposition and the reason for this view accompany the proposition. Bowls Northumberland had submitted a proposition in respect of competitors' contributions when attending National Competitions/Championships. It was expected that the three options, as discussed in the Open Forum at the EGM, would be placed before the AGM. It was **resolved** to present to the AGM a resolution to change any mention of "by-laws" to "rules and regulations" as appropriate.

Finance: **Resolved** that prize money for the Men's Two Wood Championship should match that of the Women's. **Resolved** that prize money for the Family Pairs and Women's Top Club would be deferred for discussion at the next meeting once final entry numbers were known.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 20th March 2012 at Royal Leamington Spa

DEVELOPMENT

Committee Responsibilities:

Facilities Strategy,
Club and Member Development,
Youth Development,
Bowls Coaching,
Public Relations, Press & Media

Summary of decisions from meeting held in January 2012

Youth Visits - Worthing National Championships:

Resolved that following expressions of interest from several counties, Middlesex and Suffolk be invited in 2012 with Hampshire and Wiltshire in 2013, with Worcestershire in 2014.

County Roadshows: Reported that events have been held in Wiltshire, Leicestershire and Durham. Events are currently planned for Lincolnshire, Sussex and Isle of Wight.

Bowls Development Alliance (BDA): Work is continuing to promote 'Bring a Friend' week from Saturday 28th April to Monday 7th May inclusive. The Development Office is also assisting with the creation of a National Facilities Strategy and an 'Introductory Coaching Module' to ensure new members are effectively welcomed by clubs.

Club of the Year: **Resolved** to support revised proposals for Club of the Year and that the checklist for judging should include essential and desirable criteria.

Youth Development Sub Committee: **Resolved** to support proposal from Youth Development Sub-Group for research proposal as submitted by Sportswise.

Sport England funding: Members were updated on the latest funding round announced by Sport England, and that the BDA will be submitting a bid on behalf of the sport of bowls. **Recommended to the Board** that in order for the sport to take advantage of this initiative the Bowls England Board revisit a 'Membership Scheme'.

English Bowls Youth Development Scheme: Reported that County and Regional events are now under way with finals at Melton Mowbray IBC in April. The 2013 finals will be held at Royal Leamington Spa.

Coaching: Meetings regarding the future of coaching are ongoing with the BDA scheme being the preferred route for Bowls England. The BDA Coaching Manager will make a presentation at the Annual Conference in April.

Bowls in Schools: Following discussion, it was **resolved** that Glyn Williams do further investigation on the potential to use school sport facilities (especially artificial surfaces) to develop bowls in



schools.

Developing Young Bowlers: Following discussion on opportunities for bowlers aged 18-21, it was **resolved** that the Youth Development Sub-Committee consider this as part of its overall remit.

Date of Next Meeting:

The Operational Services Committee will have its first meeting on Wednesday 14th March 2012 at Royal Leamington Spa.

FINANCE

Committee Responsibilities:
 Financial Performance
 Annual Budgets
 Affiliation Fees
 Loans (Clubs)



Summary of decisions from meeting held in January 2012

Key Performance Indicators: *Resolved* that all key performance indicators were on schedule.

Contributions to Competitors: It had been agreed that any changes to the current format had to be by a proposition from a County at an AGM. The agreed interim increase was to go ahead for 2012 but it was *resolved* that a long-term solution is required.

Date of Year End Accounts: Owing to the delay in publishing the revised Articles of Association, the need to urgently resolve a change to the year end date for the Company Accounts has diminished.

Simplification of Accounts: It was reported that the Committee Chair has gone through the relevant cost codes and where possible has revised their scope. *Resolved* to accept these as revised and to adopt them for use in the 2012 accounts.

Development Loans: The current loans situation was circulated and showed that Bowls England currently has circa £152,000 available to clubs - approximately £45,000 of which is already committed to new loans and there are enquiries proceeding for at least £60,000 more. If all loans are taken up, then Bowls England will have virtually £500,000 out on loan to help clubs to fund their Development Projects - with £50,000 left to allocate.

Greens Loans: It was reported that Bowls England currently has circa £60,000 available to clubs.

Contribution to the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA): It was reported that Bowls England and EIBA Ltd will make a contribution of £5,000 each towards the BDA.

Contributions to the English Bowls Youth Development Scheme (EBYDS) and English Bowls Umpires Association (EBUA): It was reported that contributions had been made for 2011 and *resolved* that both will increase in line with the agreed budget for 2012.

Closure of Accounts: Resolved that target date for 2012 accounts to Committee Chair should be Friday 9th November ahead of Finance Committee meeting during following week.

Breakdown of forecasts: There was some concern

that the forecast showed a projected loss in 2012. *Resolved* that copies of the Variance Report would be circulated to members of the Committee following this meeting. All Committee Chairs have been asked to examine their 2012/13 forecasts at the earliest opportunity.

Bank Accounts: It was *resolved* that the Office Manager and Chief Executive explore investment opportunities.

Worthing Office Accommodation: It was reported that proposed changes to the main meeting room to create a more functional meeting room and additional storage space would be presented to the Board at its next meeting.

Bowls England Accounts: The Statutory Accounts final draft was provided on 28th December 2011. Summarised Prints showing 2011 Variances, Reserves at year end and an Asset Analysis, were distributed and discussed, together with comments from the Bowls England accountants.

Committee Responsibilities: *Resolved* that allocation of individual duties be considered at the Committee's next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 16th April 2012 at Worthing.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Committee Responsibilities:
Appointment/recall of Team Managers;
Receipt of performance reports for all international level representation;
Protocols for Bowls England representatives at international events;
Preparation and control of international event budgets;
International events; Commonwealth Games and World Bowls



Summary of decisions from meeting held in January 2012

Clothing Protocol: *Resolved* that any 'honorary' positions be included in the clothing protocol. *Recommended to the Board* to approve the loan of clothing to persons acting in this capacity.

Senior Men Caps: *Resolved* that Sue Alexander will develop records in line with the Senior Women.

Equality Issues: Further to letter from Women's Senior International Team Manager, *resolved* that International Events and Competition Chairs jointly investigate which counties have made provision from 2013.

World Bowls 2012: *Resolved* to ask Sue Alexander to act in an honorary support role, at own expense, if in attendance – accreditation and clothing would be supplied.

World Champion of Champions: *Resolved* as from 2013 the two National Four-Wood Singles Champions will receive a contribution towards the cost of competing in this event up to a maximum of £1,000.

Hong Kong Classic: Reported that no players had expressed an interest in attending this event in 2012.

Atlantic Rim Games: Comprehensive reports on a successful event have been submitted by team managers. *Resolved* that Chief Executive write to World Bowls for clarification on ranking points from the Atlantic Games.

European Games: The Honorary Team Manager submitted a comprehensive report on the team's performances. It was *resolved* to review support attendance in the future.

Jersey Centenary Week: Reported that the team to represent England will be Kylie Hampton (Surrey), Jean Stephens (Cambridgeshire), Andrew Briden (Hertfordshire) and Jason Parkinson (Lancashire).

Commonwealth Games 2014: The Committee Chair updated committee members on the recent AGM that she had attended. A letter has been received from World Bowls regarding the format of the games and it was *resolved* to ask Team Managers to comment.

Internationals 2012: Confirmed that all trials will be at Norgren BC, Warwickshire. Other details - Senior

Women (Bangor, Northern Ireland) with a squad day arranged; Senior Men (Llandrindod Wells, Wales) with a training day immediately before the series; Junior Women (Llanelli, Wales) with a training day immediately before the series; Junior Men (Uddingston, Scotland) with a squad day arranged. In 2014 England are to host the Junior Women and the Senior Men. *Resolved* to consult with Managers as to preferred venues.

Sport Physiologist: *Resolved* that sports physiologist be an honorary position appointed annually by the Committee in January and that they be included in the official party for Home International Series. *Resolved* that Committee Chair to discuss the financial position with regard to expenses.

BIBC and BIWBC: Following discussion on England's non-participation in the Senior Fours in 2013, *resolved* that Committee Chair express to the Board on behalf of the Committee its disappointment that England will not be represented in 2013. Ireland has put a proposal forward to change the format of the BIBC and it was felt by all that a review of the format is required.

Review of Selectors and Managers: Following discussion on future roles *resolved* to further amend before submission to Review Committee. *Resolved* that the Board should agree expenses and protocol for official attendance at agreed events.

Team Manager Liaison: The Committee was joined by the four Team Managers and very positive discussions took place.

World Bowls: The Men's Senior Team Manager updated the Committee on the World Bowls Review Committee Meetings that he attended on behalf of Bowls England. It is expected that World Bowls will place a greater focus on development of the sport in future.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 5th April 2012 at Royal Leamington Spa.

MEMBER SERVICES

Committee Responsibilities:

Annual Conference; Commercial & Marketing; National Yearbook; News-sheets; Merchandise; Tented Villages; Greens Maintenance; Website; National Archives; Civil Liability Insurance; Mail-outs.



Update from Chair of Member Services

Although no meeting of the Member Services Committee has taken place since the last issue of County News the following update from the Chair of Member Services will be of interest.

Bowls England Yearbook: The 2012 Yearbook has been completed and proof read.

Information to Clubs: The 'Information to Clubs' booklets have been updated and will be circulated with the April mailout.

Annual Conference: The Annual Conference will be held at the Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth (nr Royal Leamington Spa) on Wednesday 4th April and the Agenda will be finalised and circulated shortly.

Merchandise: New items of merchandise will be available this year, including a mouse mat with key dates on.

International Team Photographs: The scanning of the EWBA international team photographs has been completed and these will be placed in photograph albums as well as being placed on the Bowls England website. Work will now commence on the EBA international team photographs.

Date of Next Meeting: The Operational Services Committee will have its first meeting on Wednesday 14th March 2012 at Royal Leamington Spa.

POLICY & MANAGEMENT

Committee Responsibilities:

Articles, Rules & Regulations, Achievement Award, Associate/Associated Membership, Logo/Colours, Celebration Matches, Annual General Meeting, Annual Dinners, Anti-Doping Policies, Children & Vulnerable Adults, Equal Opportunities, Gender Issues, Life Membership, Health & Safety



Summary of decisions from meeting held in December 2011

Review of Articles of Association and Rules and Regulations: Having given consideration to a further report by the Working Group it was *recommended to the Board* that the revised Articles of Association and Rules and Regulations be submitted to EGM in November 2012.

Associate Membership Review: *Resolved* that the Working Group proceed with its review of such members including fees and services. *Recommended to the Board* that pending the review of Associate Membership approval be given to the inclusion of "Impaired Groups" as Discretionary Members of Bowls England.

Safeguarding: *Resolved* that having given consideration to a paper prepared by the Bowls Development Alliance on the issue of safeguarding and its role and position in the process, the response prepared by the Chief Executive on behalf of the Committee be approved and that specific actions contained within be agreed to.

Review of Annual Dinners and General Meetings: It was *resolved* that the presentation process for the Men's Annual Dinner in February 2012 be amended to allow for award winners to process through the main body of the Dining Room. It was further *resolved* that a review of the arrangements for future Annual General Meetings be carried out including the feasibility of holding the Annual General Meeting on a Saturday commencing at 1pm followed by the Men's Dinner and that this be considered at the next Committee Meeting.

Committee Budget: *Resolved* that the budget provision for Club Information Services be carried over to 2013 and child protection provision be set at £3,000.

Applications for Associated Membership: *Resolved* that the following applications for Associated Membership be confirmed.
(1) Mid Wiltshire Triples League.
(2) Scott Bowls Competition

Key Performance Indicators: *Resolved* that the following changes be made to the Committee's Key Performance Indicators.

- Children and Vulnerable Adults – Ongoing Review

- Review of Articles of Association/Rules and Regulations – November 2012
- Review of Associate Membership – November 2012 or possibly April 2013
- Equity Policy – Ongoing Review
- Review of Annual Dinners/General Meetings – November 2012

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 11th April 2012 at Royal Leamington Spa.