

BOWLS DORSET

(THE UNIFIED GOVERNING BODY FOR THE SPORT OF FLAT GREEN BOWLS IN DORSET)

Administrator

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MINUTES OF THE
14th Annual General Meeting
of
BOWLS DORSET
held at
Dorchester Bowls Club
on
Thursday 16 November 2023
commencing at 6.30pm.

G 001/23

WELCOME

Alexander Wilson welcomed everyone.

G 002/23

OBITUARIES

Val Cozens (Lyme Regis); Brian Parker (Broadstone Wessex); Mike Knight (Lyme Regis); Kevin Fry (West Moors); Brian Scott (West Moors); Eva Leonard (Broadstone Wessex); Chris Thompson (Gillingham); Pam Montgomerie (Greenhill and B.D. President 2015); Hazel Fellows (Greenhill and Wellworthy); Bill Jenkins (Sherborne); Roy Campbell (Wimborne); Steve Baker (Portland BO); Stan Harland (Dorchester); Ray Brinsden (West Moors); Dick Hall (Blandford); Mick Rowberry (Broadstone); Roy Dodwell (Weymouth & MR and Portland BO); Keith Power (Poole Park); John Beadsley (Lyme Regis); Alan Cox (Dorchester); Cathy Hunter (West Moors); Tony Roberts (Sherborne); Stan Redpath (Dorchester); Ken Bullard (Ferndown); Dorothy Davidson (Sherborne); Derek Gray (Greenhill and Shaftesbury); Frank Grimmer (Sherborne); David Bulley (Verwood); Tony Walford (Blandford); Chris Levett (Blandford); Brian Heaton (Sherborne); Cynthea Reed (Dorchester); Peter A Harrison (Dorchester); Norman Scott (Dorchester); Bill Burton (Lyme Regis); Malcolm Brown (Portland BO); Geoff Clode (Lyme Regis); Tim Skidmore (Broadstone Wessex); Alan Goodwin (Wellworthy); Barbara Redpath (Dorchester); Bob Young (West Moors); Roger Parnell (Branksome Park); Margaret Highland (Swanage); Brian Fitzgibbon (Sherborne); Dennis Pomeroy (Lyme Regis); Rosemary Piddell (Sherborne)
Added Jim Greatrex (Wellworthy); Pam Moseley (Lyme Regis); Mike Crofts (Ferndown); John Bennett (Poole Park); Barry Dawson (Alexandra Park); Tony Culver (Ferndown); Mike Turnock (Bridport); Jim Scutt (Verwood); Richard Brooks (Portland Victoria).

G 003/23

PRESENT

17 Ladies Delegates, 17 Men's delegates 14 Officers were included in a total of 48 who signed the Official record of attendance Also attending Officers nominated – Margaret Ledingham and May Jenkins

G 004/23

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Ann Allman (Ladies Comp Secy); Paul Ramsey (Leagues)
Kevin Vincent (Portland Vic). Sixpenny Handley B.C., Sylvie Doble (Shaftesbury)

G 005/23

MINUTES of 13th Annual General Meeting

It was proposed by Roy Fowler (Dorchester); seconded by Derek Wensley (Portland B.O.) that these be signed as a true record of the meeting of 17th November 2022. Carried without dissent

G 006/23

TREASURERS REPORT and ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS (attached)

Acceptance proposed by Diana Mogg and seconded by Allan Weech
Carried without dissent

- G 007/23 REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR**
See attachment
- G 008/23 REPORTS OF THE CODE PRESIDENTS – Ladies President**
See attachment
- G 009/23 REPORTS OF THE CODE SECRETARIES- Alexander Wilson and Sue Maggs**
See attachments
- G 010/23 REPORTS OF THE CODE MATCH SECRETARIES- Bill Fox and Sue Maggs for M. Clapp**
See attachments
- G 011/23 REPORTS OF THE CODE COMPETITION SECRETARIES- Harry Hovenden and Ann Allman**
See attachments
- G 012/23 REPORT FROM THE COUNTY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER- Penny Cresswell**
See attachment
- G 013/23 ADOPTION OF REPORTS**
It was proposed by Carole Beckford and seconded by Alan Hardy that the Reports be adopted.
Carried without dissent
- G 014/23 APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS**
Marion Clements and Harry Hovenden were appointed as scrutineers.
- G 015/23 ADOPTION OF BYE LAWS**
It was proposed by Sue Maggs and seconded by Carole Beckford that the bye-laws should be adopted. Carried without dissent
- G 016/23 ADOPTION OF ALLOWANCES RECOMMENDED FOR 2024 (as attached to Agenda)**
Chairperson £100; Treasurer £250; Administrator £400 Presidents £1000 each plus match fee free.
President's expenses for Leamington attendance would be considered up to £50 per day.
Other Officers:- Secretaries £250.; Match Secretaries £250 plus match fee free;
Competition Secretaries £300;
All Assistants thereto £100; League Secretaries £50.00
Allowance for County Competition Finalists attending the National Championships at Leamington:
£75.00 per person in place of any B.E. allowance.
Carried without dissent
- G 017/23 PROPOSITIONS AS ATTACHED TO AGENDA**

Proposition 1

**Amendment to Qualification, Eligibility to play for County-
The Ladies Code Committee propose that this is amended as follows**

REGULATION 9

Selection- Ladies Code

9.1 All players for whom an affiliation fee has been paid shall be eligible for selection for all County matches.

Qualification- Ladies Code

9.1. In Selection and the award of County Badges:

(a) Qualified from National Competitions shall mean being the Winner or Runner-up in the Dorset Area Final of Bowls England's Senior Singles, Senior Pairs, Mixed Pairs or Mixed Fours.

(b) Qualified from County Championships shall mean being the Winner or Runner-up in the Bowls Dorset's 2-Wood Singles, 4 Wood Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours or Senior Fours.

(c) Qualified from County Competitions shall mean being the Winner or, if more than 10 entrants, Runner-up in Bowls Dorset's Ladies Unqualified Singles Trophy (LUST).

(d) Qualified from Club Competitions shall mean being the Winner or, if more than 8 entrants, Runner-up in a Club's 2 Wood Singles or 4 Wood Singles Competition.

Selection Ladies Code

9.2. Subject to the following restrictions, all players shall be eligible for selection for all County matches:

(a) Players shall only be eligible for selection for matches played against Counties affiliated to Bowls England other than in the Amy Rose Bowl, if they have entered and played in at least two County Championships or Competitions during the previous season.

(b) Players shall only be eligible for selection for the South West Counties League ("SWCL") or Johns Trophy if they have (i) qualified from National Competitions, County Championships, County Competitions or Club

~~Competitions and (ii) entered and played in at least two County Championships or Competitions during the previous season.~~

~~(c) Players shall only be eligible for selection for the Walker Cup if they have (i) qualified from National Competitions, County Championships, County Competitions or Club Competitions, (ii) entered and played in at least two County Championships or Competitions during the previous season and (iii) played in at least two SWCL, Johns Trophy or Amy Rose Bowl matches in the previous season.~~

County Badge and Strips – Ladies Code

~~9.3~~ **9.2** A player shall be awarded the County Badge after having:

(a) played in the final stages of the National Championships.

(b) played one Full County Match after confirmation of being badged as an International from another County or Bowls England.

(c) played two Full County Matches after confirmation of being badged from another County.

(d) played ~~three~~ **FIVE** Full County Matches ~~after qualifying from National Competitions, County Championships or County Competitions.~~

~~(e) played four Full County Matches after qualifying from Club Competitions.~~

~~(e)~~ ~~(f)~~ carried out special service to Bowls Dorset and approved by the Executive Board.

~~9.4~~ **9.3** Only two Full County matches per annum are to count in ~~9.3~~ **9.2**

~~9.5~~ **9.4** Full County Matches are the South West Counties League (SWCL), Johns Trophy, Walker Cup and Amy Rose Bowl.

~~9.6. An unqualified player having played three Non Full County Matches for Dorset will be awarded a “Filly” badge. If such player then become qualified, this Filly badge will count as one match towards a County Badge.~~

~~9.7~~ **9.5** A player shall qualify for the award of the Johns Trophy Strip by playing in a total of 6 rounds of the Johns Trophy over a three year period. Only two full Johns Trophy matches per annum are to count.

~~9.8~~ **9.6** A player shall qualify for the award of the Double Rink Strip by playing in a total 3 rounds of the Walker Cup in any two seasons.

Subsequent paragraphs of Regulation 9 to be renumbered accordingly

11.4

d. Lust Competition: ~~(Ladies Unqualified Singles Trophy)~~

This competition was instigated by Mrs Sue Maggs who donated the trophy for same. **The competition is open to all ladies who have not won a singles competition.** Each game shall be played to 21 shots – 4 woods each player. The competition is played on a fixed date up until the semi-final. The Semi final and final are played on finals weekend. ~~The winner is then entitled to put their name on the selection sheets for County games. When there are 10 or more participants the runner up is entitled to put their name on the selection sheets for County games.~~

LADIES ONLY VOTE – CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Proposition 2

Proposed: Branksome Park Bowls Club Seconded: Sherborne Bowls Club

The county ladies to play in “Green” below the waist as soon as possible

[Regulation 10.13(b) currently provides: “Play in Bowls Dorset shirts and, as directed, white or County Registered below the waist together with Bowls Dorset jackets, green waterproof jackets or gold fleeces as required.”]

WITHDRAWN AS THE SOLE MANUFACTURER DOES NOT PRODUCE GREEN TAILORED SHORTS

Proposition 3

The Ladies Code Committee propose that the selectors can only serve for up to 3 consecutive years.

LADIES ONLY VOTE – CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTENTION

Proposition 4

Amendment to length of County League games -

The Men’s Competition Committee propose that Regulation 12 be amended as follows:

12.15. Matches shall comprise ~~24~~ **18** ends **with two trial ends.** ~~There shall be no trial ends – with one shot only to count on the first two ends.~~ Visitors shall have first possession of the mat and jack.

MEN’S ONLY VOTE – CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Proposition 5

Amendment to length of Percy Baker League games -

The Men's Competition Committee propose that Regulation 14 be amended to read:

14.16. Matches shall comprise 18 ends **with two 2 wood trial ends.** ~~There shall be no trial ends – with one shot only to count on the first two ends.~~ Visitors shall have first possession of the mat and jack.

MEN'S ONLY VOTE – CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTENTION

Proposition 6

Amendment to length of County Cup games -

The Men's Competition Committee propose that Regulation 11 be amended to read:

11.4.

g. County Cup (Men):

Entries of one team per Affiliated Club shall be made before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Each side will consist of 16 players in four rinks of four and up to and including the semi-finals two rinks playing at home and two rinks playing away. The game will consist of **24 18** ends 2 bowls each player and all matches to commence by 1800 hrs. In the case of a tie one four declared by the challenger before the draw for rinks takes place shall play an extra end to determine the winner. In the finals in the event of a tie all four rinks shall play one extra end(s) to determine the winner. The final will be played on a neutral green.

MEN'S ONLY VOTE – CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Proposition 7

Amendment to length of June Culpin Trophy games -

The Ladies Competition Committee propose that Regulation 11 be amended to read:

11.4

a. June Culpin Memorial Trophy (Ladies)

iv. The game will consist of **24 18** ends 2 bowls each player with 2 trial ends.

LADIES ONLY VOTE – CARRIED WITH THREE ABSTENTIONS

Proposition 8

Amendment to length of and neutral green for Semi Finals of County Mixed Fours games -

The Ladies Competition Committee propose that Regulation 11 be amended to read:

11.4

f. County Mixed Fours:

Open to players from Affiliated Clubs. Each four will consist of 2 men and 2 women from the same club Each game will consist of **24 18** ends 2 bowls each player. In the event of the scores being equal when all ends have been played an extra end(s) must be played until a decision is reached. The Semi- Final to be played on a neutral green **determined by the Competition Secretary**. The Challenger to make all the necessary arrangements.

CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTENTION

Proposition 9

Rules and Regulation 11 amended to reflect B.E. non involvement with Benevolent Triples – adopted this year

The Ladies Competition Committee propose that Regulation 11 be amended to read:

11.4

e. Benevolent Triples Knock-out (Ladies)

Entries of any number of teams per Affiliated Club ~~shall be made before the date of the Annual General Meeting.~~ **Teams may comprise of players from different Affiliated Clubs.** Each side shall consist of 3 players each playing 2 bowls. The game shall consist of 15 ends. ~~All 15 ends MUST be played as the team with the highest shot difference determines the National winner~~ In the event of a tie an extra end(s) shall be played to determine the winner.

LADIES ONLY VOTE – CARRIED WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS

Proposition 10

Rules and Regulation No 11 – declaration of substitutes

The Ladies Competition Committee propose that Regulation 11 be amended to read:

11.6

i. Substitutes

The following are the rules governing substitutes in County Championships and Competitions:

All substitutes must be marked as such on scorecards

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Proposition 11

Change to Bowls Dorset election for Bowls England National Competition Draws -

The current election is that the draws are made **East** (Blandford, Branksome Park, Broadstone Wessex, Ferndown, Gillingham, Poole Park, Shaftesbury, Sixpenny Handley, Swanage, Verwood, West Moors, Wimborne) **and West** (Bridport, Dorchester, Greenhill, Lyme Regis, Portland Borstal, Portland Victoria, Sherborne, Wellworthy, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis)

The Ladies Representatives Committee propose the election be changed so that the draws are made across the County.

PROPOSITION REJECTED 14 FOR; 16 AGAINST AND 4 ABSTENTIONS

CONTINUE AS EAST/WEST

Proposition 12

Proposed by Executive Board

Rules and Regulation 6 amended to include Match Secretaries on Executive Board as has been current practice by co-option

REG. 6.1 The Executive Board

a) Comprising of the
Association Chairperson
Association Treasurer
Association Administrator
Ladies President
Ladies Secretary
Ladies Competition Secretary
Ladies Match Secretary

Men's President
Men's Secretary
Men's Competition Secretary
Men's Match Secretary

Quorum: 5 (five) with at least 1 (one) from each code

Should ~~the Code Secretary or Competition Secretary~~ **any Officer** be unavailable then the Nominated Deputy of each Code position may attend Executive Meetings in their stead and have full voting rights

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Proposition 13

Proposed by Executive Board

Rules and Regulation No 3 and 6 amended to incorporate new code officers and reflect uniformity between codes

Reg. 3.2 Code Officers

Ladies President
Ladies Vice-President
Ladies Junior Vice President
Ladies Immediate Past-President
Ladies Secretary
Ladies Assistant Secretary
Ladies Match Secretary
Ladies Assistant Match Secretary
Ladies Competition Secretary
Ladies Assistant Competition Secretary
Ladies League Secretaries

Men's President
Men's Vice-President
Men's Junior Vice President
Men's Immediate Past-President
Men's Secretary
Men's Assistant Secretary
Men's Match Secretary
Men's Assistant Match Secretary
Men's Competition Secretary
Men's Assistant Competition Secretary
Men's League and Area Competition Secretaries

Are designated the **Code Officers**. They must be full members of Affiliated Clubs and elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Should a Code Officer post not be filled at the Annual general Meeting, or a vacancy or temporary vacancy occur subsequently, then the Members of the relevant Committee may co-opt a person to fill the vacancy, with full voting rights

Reg. 6.2 Separate Codes:

Ladies President

Men's President

Ladies Vice-President
Ladies Junior Vice President
Ladies Immediate Past-President
Ladies Secretary
Ladies Match Secretary
Ladies Competition Secretary
Ladies Assistant Secretary
Ladies Assistant Match Secretary
Ladies Assistant Competition Secretary
Ladies League Secretaries

Men's Vice-President
Men's Junior Vice President
Men's Immediate Past-President
Men's Secretary
Men's Match Secretary
Men's Competition Secretary
Men's Assistant Secretary
Men's Match Assistant Secretary
Men's Assistant Competition Secretary
Men's League and Area Competition reps Secretaries
as required

shall be designated the Code Officers.

Reg. 6.5 The Code Competition Committees

There shall be 2 (two) Competition Committees - one for each Code.

a. Comprising of the:

Ladies President
Ladies Vice President
Ladies Secretary
Ladies Match Secretary
Ladies Competition Secretary
Ladies Assistant Competition Secretary
Ladies League Secretaries

Men's President
Men's Vice President
Men's Secretary
Men's Match Secretary
Men's Competition Secretary
Men's Assistant Competition Secretary
Men's League Secretaries
Men's West Area League Secretary
Men's East Area League Secretary
Men's Percy Baker League Secretary

Reg. 6.6 The Selection Committees

There shall be two Selection Committees – one for each Code:

a. Comprising of the:-

Ladies President
Ladies Vice-President (observer only)
Ladies Immediate Past President
Ladies Competition Secretary
Ladies Secretary
Ladies Match Secretary
Ladies Team Manager
and two other Selectors elected
at the AGM

Men's President
Men's Vice-President
Men's Immediate Past President
Men's Competition Secretary
Men's Secretary
Men's Match Secretary
Men's Team Manager
and two other Selectors elected
at the AGM

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Proposition 14

Proposed by Executive Board

Constitution amendments to reflect amendments to Rules and Regulations at AGM 2022

6. FEES

1. A club shall pay a fee on joining THE ASSOCIATION as determined by the Annual General Meeting.
2. THE ASSOCIATION Annual Affiliation fee payable by each club shall be based on the playing membership as at **31st March 30th September in the preceding year and shall be paid not later than 30 October.** A club failing to pay Affiliation fees by the due date shall forfeit all rights and privileges of membership until all arrears have been discharged. The Annual Affiliation fee shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting.
3. Additionally all clubs shall pay the prescribed BOWLS ENGLAND Annual Affiliation fee.
4. Associate Members shall pay an Annual Affiliation fee as determined by the Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Proposition 15

Proposed by Executive Board

Constitution Amendments to reflect Rules & Regulations Regulation 8.3

9. ANNUAL AND OTHER GENERAL MEETINGS

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. The Annual General Meeting shall be held on the second Thursday in November subject to power being reserved by The Executive Board to vary the date should special circumstances warrant such change. Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be distributed by the Administrator with copies of the Agenda at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting. **Those entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting shall be 1 Men's Representative and 1 Ladies Representative from Each Affiliated Club and Life Members. The Chairperson shall have an extra or casting vote.** ~~Voting rights to be afforded to THE ASSOCIATION Officers plus the Executive Board, the Code Officers, the Code Representative Committees and Life Members.~~

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

Proposition 16

Proposed by Executive Board

Constitution Amendments to reflect current practice

12. EXECUTIVE ALLOWANCES

- a) All claims for expenses shall be made prior to the meeting at which Allowances for the following year are agreed, and be settled prior to the AGM
- b) Allowances shall be declared itemised in the Annual accounts
- c) Administrative Officers: - Chairperson, Administrator and Treasurer shall receive allowances to reflect normal expenses ~~of postage, telephone and stationery etc.~~ Allowances as such sum to be agreed in advance for the forthcoming year by the Executive Committee at the last regular Executive Committee meeting prior to the AGM. Such sum agreed will be recorded in the minutes
- d) Presidents- Both presidents shall receive Allowances as such sum to be agreed in advance for the forthcoming year by the Executive Committee at the last regular Executive Committee meeting prior to the AGM. Such sum agreed to reflect normal expenses ~~of postage, telephone and stationery etc.~~ and will be recorded in the minutes. Presidents shall have no match day fees
- e) Executive Officers and Assistant Officers: - Secretary/Match Secretary/Competition Secretary/League Secretary and Assistants – shall receive Allowances to reflect normal expenses ~~of postage telephone and stationery etc.~~ Allowances as such sum to be agreed in advance for the forthcoming year by the Executive Committee at the last regular Executive Committee meeting prior to the AGM. Such sum agreed will be recorded in the minutes
- f) Match secretaries when on duty and Captain of the Day shall have no match day fees
~~f) Assistant Officers shall receive normal expenses of Postage, telephone and stationery etc.~~
- g) No additional travel expenses shall be paid- save that persons attending Bowls England meetings as delegates may receive refund of reasonable expenses.
- h) Leamington Qualifiers expenses
A contribution towards expenses for Leamington National Qualifiers shall be such sum as agreed in advance for the forthcoming year by the Executive Committee at the last regular Executive Committee meeting prior to the AGM and such sum agreed be recorded in the minutes
- ~~h)~~ i) All Allowances to be recommended to the AGM to be adopted for the forthcoming year

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

G 018/23 ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENT OF APPOINTEES

Association Chairperson	Alexander Wilson (Dorchester)
Association Treasurer	Shirley Bowley (Dorchester)
Association Administrator	Sue Maggs (Dorchester)
Ladies President	Bobbie Cover (Branksome Park)
Men's President	VACANT
Ladies Senior Vice President	Linda Murray (Sherborne)
Ladies Junior Vice President	Margaret Ledingham (Broadstone Wessex)
Ladies Secretary	Sue Maggs (Dorchester)
Ladies Assistant Secretary	VACANT
Ladies Match Secretary	May Jenkins (Broadstone Wessex)
Ladies Assistant Match Secretary	Diana Mogg (Wimborne)
Ladies Competition Secretary	Ann Allman (Lyme Regis)
Ladies Assistant Competition Secretary	Marion Clements (Greenhill)
Ladies League Secretary	Allan Weech (Lyme Regis)
Men's Vice President	VACANT
Men's Secretary	Alexander Wilson (Dorchester)
Men's Match Secretary	Bill Fox (Sherborne)
Men's Assistant Match Secretary	Ralph Bowden (Gillingham)
Men's Competition Secretary	Harry Hovenden (Dorchester)
Men's Assistant Competition Secretary	Paul Ramsey (Weymouth & M.R.)

APPOINTMENT OF APPOINTEES –

Safeguarding Officer	Peter Lindsley (Dorchester)
County Umpire Co-ordinator	John Brudenell (Swanage)
County Liaison Coach	VACANT
Publicity Officer	VACANT
Youth Development Officer	VACANT
Team Manager Ladies	VACANT

Under 25's Manager Ladies
Team Selector Ladies

VACANT
Margaret Crawford (Greenhill)
Diana Mogg (Wimborne)

Team Manager Men
Under 25's Manager Men
Team Selectors – Men

VACANT
VACANT
Brian Rumble (Bridport)
Phil Tobin (Shaftesbury)

Men's Champ. & West League Sec.
Men's East League Secretary
Men's West Competition Secretary
Men's East Competition Secretary
Percy Baker East League Secretary
Percy Baker West League Secretary

Paul Ramsey (Weymouth & M.R.)
Phil Tobin (Shaftesbury)
Paul Ramsey (Weymouth & M.R.)
VACANT
Phil Tobin (Shaftesbury)
Paul Ramsey (Weymouth & M.R.)

BE Delegate Ladies
BE Delegate Men

Sue Maggs (Dorchester)
Alexander Wilson (Dorchester)

All the above Officers and appointees were approved unanimously

The outgoing Ladies President, Janine Scola, said that it gave her great pleasure to present the chain to the incoming Ladies President – Bobbie Cover

The Incoming President Bobbie thanked her club – Branksome Park for their nomination – and added Firstly I would like to thank Janine and to say how pleased I am that Janine had such a good year, especially with Dorset winning the South West County League I know I can count on the members at Branksome Park for support. I hope that during my year Dorset can continue to do well in all Competitions and to this end will be supported by all the clubs in Dorset and that all the clubs will encourage their ladies to put their names forward for county games and to enter the county Competitions as this is the way forward to ensure Dorset can be represented by the best players. For my part I will do all I can to encourage those playing for Dorset and give them my full support. My charity will be the Alzheimer's Association and I trust I can count on all club members in Dorset to support me in this.

**G 019/23 APPOINTMENT OF
Bankers- Lloyds Bank PLC
Auditors- John Crawford
Solicitors- Battens Solicitors Ltd.**

All were approved unanimously

G 020/23 DATE OF THE 15th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The date of the 15th Annual General Meeting of Bowls Dorset as Thursday 21st November 2024

Meeting closed 7.45pm

Signed **Date.....**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Profit for the year was £596. This is was achieved with a donation from the DWBL of £1673. We have not had to purchase any stock this year. We have benefitted from writing off all costs of stock on receipt in previous years. We have also provided the Dorset Handbook free of charge and we will do the same for the 2024 season. We made an overall loss on County matches due mainly to more use of coaches. We paid out £4500 to competitors who reached Leamington but only received £1346 from Bowls England. We also donated £1000 to the Academy again this year. Bowls Dorset has agreed to pay the safeguarding course fees for each clubs safeguarding officer. We will enter the 2024 season with a bank balance of £2682 and an e-Savings balance of £38830 after having transferred £8000 from the current account.

Shirley Bowley – Hon Treasurer

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

President Janine, Committee members, fellow bowlers- the year of the grand coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla and much much more, but still no patron for our sport

Your Board has met 9 times since the last AGM- with the first one dealing with the winding up of the Dorset Women's Bowlin League, who had a run the Tuesday afternoon league, two friendly matches and singles and pairs competitions. We thank them for all their past work in organizing these. Bowls Dorset were the recipients of 50% of their money in hand, for which we thank them.

Sadly, we lost one of our affiliated clubs this year- Cranborne- although they are still bowling they had insufficient numbers to do other than social bowling- we wish them well.

Bowls Dorset continue to support The Youth Academy and hopefully they will continue recruiting more youngsters.

All the minutes of meetings are published on our website. The Website is a great source of information for our County. Other important information on the website comes from the Clubs themselves- the contact names and details, in order that the relevant person can be contacted without fuss. However, it does need updating regularly, so if you have any changes, please let me know as soon as possible- especially contact numbers.

With this B.D. had to sort out rules for the new B.D. DWBL and whilst this was being done your Board drafted changes to other Regulations, which were adopted by byelaw for this last year. These covered ladies and men's leagues, Selection and Honours and dress code. The new look Ladies League took into account the wishes of the ladies to maintain inclusivity across the County by playing two rinks per team.

BE issued Championship and Competition Regulations which included a revised dress code. They relaxed the requirement for Club dress to be registered with them – only with the County in future- but in light of their changes our revised dress code Regulation 10 will need review.

They provided clarity on substitutes in relation to named entrants. It was eventually confirmed that if the named entrant did not play the first game, that named entrant would be only substitute available for subsequent rounds.

B.E. Confirmed that their affiliation fees will be raised to £7.00 for 2024, however - BD Exec will be recommending keeping BD at £5.00. So, £12 will be due for every playing member of a club – payable 1 April based playing members as of 31 March.

Bowls England approved new shirts and shorts for the Academy.

Your Board have approved new jacket for Lyme Regis, new shirt for Broadstone Wessex, Shorts/trousers and jackets for Branksome men's first team and a new shirt for Verwood ladies.

The Membership has increased throughout this year - Ladies start of the year 613 now increased to 663 and men start of the year 1036 to 1095 at present.

The Ladies National Competition entries are down by 7 each in the Fours, Senior Fours, 1 up in the triples, 4 up in the Pairs, 2 up in the 4 wood singles and 6 up in the two woods.

The Men's entries are up by 2 in the fours but down 1 in snr fours and down 2 in triples, the pairs have an increase of 10 and the two woods increase by 4 entries.

The u25 entries remain virtually the same for both ladies and men.

Since the number of qualifiers per discipline is still not guaranteed as it depends whether we are in the last eight in the discipline when all the entries have been collated. Therefore, joint finals will continue-

At Dorchester 20/21 July and 14/15 September 2024 at Branksome Park

Other dates – Big Bowls weekend- May 24th—27 (only 8 Dorset clubs registered 2023)

Leamington Thurs 15 August – Sun September 1

Yes 18 days and will probably remain so for the foreseeable future.

There is a link on our website to the B.E. Calendar of events on the B.E. Competition Portal.

World Bowls issued a new law book this year- the 4th Edition of the Laws of the Sport. - a complimentary copy has been sent to all the clubs in Bowls Dorset. This new edition had several changes but the most discussed was the new law on stopping bowls which was eventually repealed by World Bowls.

The serious issue of safeguarding has also been a topic at the Board meetings -

there is a provisional date for the proposed course in April- Saturday 6th or Sunday 7th 2024. This will be for one safeguarding officer from each club and the course fee will be paid by BD. Clubs will be obliged to send at least one person, (extras will need to be paid for).

BE has indicated that it will be a condition of club affiliation for 2025 that each has a safeguarding officer.

B.E Celebration Match places are available to more of the outdoor bowlers than used to be and offer a unique opportunity to bowl at different clubs representing Bowls England and play with the B.E. Presidential team. The link to put your name forward is on the website and must be submitted by 1 December.

I should like to thank all my fellow officers, club secretaries, for your support this year.

But most of all my grateful thanks to Alexander Wilson for his support. He has worked tirelessly to keep the website updated with news, (not only the sadness of obituaries) but minutes, upcoming events, galleries of photos, links to B.E. pages, details of qualifiers' matches at Leamington and information from the Indoors and much much more- thank you.

Winter well and keep safe.

Sue Maggs

LADIES PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Good evening fellow Officers, Ladies and Gentlemen

It didn't occur to me in all my years of bowling, that I would have ever become your President, but for better or worse, I did! My thanks must go to Dorchester Bowls Club for their support during this busy season.

Our objective this year (or possibly mine!) was to endeavour to maintain selected teams for our County matches that would work cohesively together and importantly 'gell' and from feedback received this was really appreciated, particularly as the season moved on, where a good team spirit was built. However, we were also mindful that not everyone was picked, but most ladies represented the County in our matches.

For 2024 I would encourage all clubs to inspire their players, both new and old, to put their names forward for next season's matches and as we progress through our Agenda tonight, every endeavour has been made to be more inclusive of all our players.

As for this season – didn't we do well! I will not enumerate all our games, but I was absolutely delighted that we won the SWCL – by just one point – and won the Cup, not seen in Dorset since 2009. So my congratulations to all those ladies who played and represented their county.

I have to mention our Juniors – I have been pleased to watch their various competitions, alongside the Amy Rose and what an incredible array of talent is coming up, both boys and girls. These young people must continue to be encouraged and supported, because without them the game will disappear as **we** all get that much older! I was delighted to award the President's Cup to one such young player, Millie Tuck – so well deserved for the way she conducts herself on and off the green, and for her sheer determination, gaining her a place in the U18 international squad. Along the way she has offered encouragement to her fellow junior players, always has a smile and I think, is an excellent ambassador for the youth of our County.

I was delighted to support so many of our ladies playing in the latter stages of our County competitions and also all the ladies - and men - who managed to win their place to Leamington – well done to you all.

My thanks must also go to everyone for your generous support in helping me raise funds for my chosen charity. I was delighted to donate £2500 to Children with Cancer UK which was gratefully received – thank you all.

In closing I would like to thank all the Ladies Executive for all their friendship and support throughout the year. I have met such lovely people during tenure and it has been an honour and privilege to serve as your President for 2023, giving me the opportunity to visit many clubs, not only playing, but also meeting old friends and making new ones. I am sure that the same hospitality and support will be shown to Bobbie when she takes the baton from me very shortly. So, whatever club you belong to, I hope you continue to enjoy your bowling moments and I wish you all success next season.

And finally, a name I have not mentioned yet, but one who has given me the most tremendous support and true friendship and that is Bobbie Cover – we ran around the greens at Leamington (not literally I hasten to add) laughed and watched and played many games together - my very grateful thanks to you and I hope your forthcoming year will be as successful and enjoyable.

Thank you everyone.

Janine Scola

LADIES SECRETARY'S REPORT

Another year and this summer we have had good news we have seen the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, but bowls does not yet appear to have a new patron.

Other good news - the ladies membership that had started the year at 613 rose to 663 at the end of the over 8% increase in numbers. Hopefully this will mean more participation in the Competitions and leagues.

The Rules and Regulations circulated and introduced in April were Regulation 9 – Selection and Honours; Regulation 10 - Dress Code; Regulation 13- Dorset Women's Bowling League and Regulation 15- Edna Paisley League- these are the ones directly affecting Ladies play. All the Rules and Regulations brought into effect on 24 April 2023 will need to be ratified at the upcoming AGM.

We hope to complete a review of the R & R over the closed season, with an SGM 2024 before the season starts.

The new Bowls Dorset DWBL seems to have transitioned well with three divisions of 7 teams playing 2 rinks, and 18 ends, resulting in winners of Poole Park A, Branksome Park A and Shaftesbury. The Ladies delegates have voted to keep this league as 2 rinks.

My thanks to Allan Weech for running this league in its first year.

The Edna Paisley ran with East and West Divisions with overall winners of Portland Borstal Officers, victorious over Poole Park.

With the number of teams involved with the league this year it meant the games were spread over 20 weeks.

There was an enquiry to reduce this league to 15 ends, however the Delegates attending the meeting discussed but there seemed little appetite for this reduction.

My thanks to Ann and Marion as they hand over the running this league to the League Secretary- well done ladies.

In the spring meeting the ladies had discussed the Areas for National Competitions- the ones run by B.E.- and the fact that at present they are drawn in East and West. At the autumn meeting they voted to change this to across the county. As the men have voted to remain as east/west draw, there will be a vote at the AGM.

The Benevolent Triples has ceased to be run by B.E., and this year the County continued to run it as entries were received – with funds raised going towards the President's Charity.

The ladies feel it would in future be more appropriate for funds to be added to the County Benevolent fund.

The June Culpin and Mixed Fours have caused confusion this year as they remained as "ends to play 21", so the proposal is that in the future these competitions will be played to 18 ends.

My thanks to all the Committee members and secretaries for their support this year– all of whom work to give us enjoyable bowling all summer long, come rain or shine!

Sue Maggs

MEN'S SECRETARY'S REPORT

I'm pleased to start my report being able to say that participation in outdoor bowls in Dorset is still ok. We started the season with 1036 men and clubs increased that to 1095 by the season's end. Of those, over 210 took entered at least one County Championship or Competition, just over 20% (around 14% in 2022). For comparison in 2021 we had 969 and 2022 1137. Following on from the introduction at our March Delegates Meeting, updated League Regulations (12-County/14- Percy Baker/13-DWBL/15-Edna Paisley), Dress Code Regulation (Regulation 10) and Select/Honours Regulation (Regulation 9) were brought into effect 24 April 2023 by Executive Bye Laws. These will need to be ratified at the forthcoming AGM. BE issued Championship and Competition Regulations which included a revised dress code. It is also proposing to relax the requirement for Club dress to be registered with them and is producing a dress specification (dealing with things like advertisement size/location). While there is a draft for this specification, we have not yet been advised that it's been formalised. Our own Dress Code Regulation (Reg 10) will need to be updated in due course to reflect. BE's Championship and Competition Regulations also but lacked clarity on substitutes in relation to named entrants. It was eventually confirmed that if named entrant did not play first game, the named entrant would be only substitute available for subsequent rounds. It's our intention that all of BD's Regulations be updated. We'd hoped to have this ready for the AGM. However this process will now be completed over the closed season, with an SGM next year before the season starts. World Bowls introduced the 4th Edition of the Laws of the Sport. BD is providing a complementary copy to all clubs for display for their member's use. This new edition had a number of changes but the most discussed was the new law on stopping bowls which was eventually repealed by World Bowls. DEFRA issued Emergency Authorisation for Acelepryn (insecticide for leather jackets, currently banned) to be used on bowling greens. Can only be used once per year and expensive – minimum size 600ml at £900 inc VAT (which is enough for 10,000m² or 6 bowling greens). Don't anticipate many will be using, however at least it's there as an option. Following on from BD/Worcestershire's proposals relation to qualifiers to Leamington, BE did set up a Competitions Working Party. The Working Party hasn't yet got to a stage to make any recommendations for the future. It's managed to identify Blue Ribband events – 4 Bowl Singles, Pairs, Triple, Fours and that these should be given priority. The remainder are up for review, including their relevance to the National finals or whether they should go to regional finals. There may be a review of the age eligibility for senior competitions especially the fours as the same competitors seem to play in both.. BE will put a Presentation forward to the Counties meeting this coming November to be voted on at AGM in February 2024. This means that for the future there is still no guarantee of number of Leamington qualifiers Dorset may receive. For 2024, qualifiers will remain the same as 2023 – 8 counties with the least entries in a discipline will get 1 with the remainder 2. BE has two other Working Parties – Affiliation and Disciplinary. The Affiliation Working Party is looking at means to ensure affiliation fees are paid by all clubs for all their playing members – it's a fair guess that they'll be recommending some form of central membership system. The Disciplinary Working Party is looking at revising BE Regulation 9. Both have been running a while with no conclusions. Helen Slimm (Head Business Operations and Safeguarding lead) and Vasha Ragooborsign (People and Governance) are leaving BE. Their departures will have a knock-on effect on the Affiliation and Disciplinary Working Parties finishing. BE is looking for nominations for a Junior Vice President – on gender rotation, it is looking for male nominations. This year BE stopped its support grant to the Umpires Association. While perhaps not linked, the Umpires Association stopped paying expenses to marker/umpires officiating at County Semi-Finals and Finals. Those expenses are now covered by BD on a rate agreed with the Umpire Coordinator. We're still awaiting update from BE on Registration of Trusts for unincorporated clubs. Our Match Secretary will report on Middleton and Balcomb performance this year. However, it should be noted that since we had no Team Manager, selection and management was done by the Men's Selection Committee. There is no Team Manager for 2024, so this system will continue. On BD Leagues, there were a number of issues this year resulting from Clubs withdrawing entries close to the season starting and surrounding late reporting of results and re-arrangement of matches. These are issues that have to be addressed for future seasons as they put an unnecessary burden on the volunteers running the leagues. Mugs were introduced this year for Championship/Competition Winners and Runner-ups together with coasters for League division winners and County Cup. These replaced the badges and swingers previously used by the Men and the glasses used by the Ladies. We believe they have been well received and these will continue for 2024. While we didn't have a Men's President, those of you who contributed to the Ladies Present's fundraising will be pleased to know Janine raised £2375 over the year for the charity Children with Cancer UK. Finally, my thanks go to Harry Hovenden, Bill Fox, Paul Ramsey, Phil Tobin for all the work they put in to BD's operation for the men of the County, to Sue Maggs and Shirley Bowley for their work respectively as Administrator and Treasurer and to Allan Weech and Brian Rumble on Men's selection.

Alexander Wilson

LADIES MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

Sue reported on behalf of Margaret Clapp- That the ladies had won the SWCL trophy for the first time in over 10 years. They had secured the win by 1 point from Wiltshire, despite forfeiting 12 points when the coach broke down for the Hereford game. Dorset won all their matches. Well done to all those ladies who contributed to this fine achievement.

In the friendlies – all matches had been won including against the men. 1 game was not played due to inclement weather- Sussex

The Johns Trophy- we had some very close matches, including losing by just 7 shots to Wiltshire, but alas no wins. The Walker Cup – alas we did not manage to overcome Worcestershire, despite being ahead most of the match, and losing by 6 shots. We were very proud of those that played.

The Amy Rose Trophy, we had a walkover and then lost to Warwickshire.

Hereford will not be in the SWCL next year- favouring the Midland league in future.

We already have games booked for next year, and for SWCL, will be attempting to cutdown on the time and expense of a 2 course post-match meal. By suggesting a jacket

potato with basic fillings like coronation chicken, tuna mayo, cheese & beans – and no desert

We are still battling to establish who has been presented county badges over the last few years, but have presented to :- Jan Cornick and Julie Pitt (Blandford); Carrol Assal and Ruby Veitch (Branksome Park); Barbara Smith (Dorchester); A Streets (Sherborne)

Filly Badge presented to : Gill Bowden (Gillingham)

Johns strips presented to : Karen Hofen (Lyme Regis) and Rebecca Cresswell (Poole Park)

Walker (double rink) strips presented to : Sheena Willis (Dorchester) and Donna Rock (Sherborne)

MEN'S MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

Report on the Middleton Cup & Balcomb Trophy (2Rink) We played two trial matches this year, the first a men's invitation and a second against the Johns ladies, both at Dorchester. This year the Middleton Cup returned to its original format, a round robin, rather than a knockout. We played the first round against Devon followed by Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and finally Herefordshire. Unfortunately, we came second in every game despite being very competitive in most games and on most rinks. Our best results were against Gloucestershire and Herefordshire. Against Gloucestershire we lost by only 10 shots, winning on 2 rinks and drawing on one. Against Herefordshire we lost by only 6 shots, winning on 3 rinks. We had a good chance of winning both of these games but from my recollection we failed to maintain our competitiveness throughout the game, fading somewhat on the last few ends. Not sure how we fix this as from what I saw we were well able to achieve a win based on how we had played for most of the game. The teams we fielded this year contained many new faces compared to previous years and younger ones at that. Nice to see. In the Balcomb we were more competitive winning the first round against Worcestershire at Westlecot by 12 shots. Unfortunately, we came up against a strong Devon in the second round and lost by 13 shots. Overall however this was a good result particularly only losing to Devon by 13 shots an improvement on last year. As the Balcomb is a knock out we progressed no further. White Rose U25 Dorset played Gloucestershire in the White Rose at Frampton on Severn B. C. on the 27th of May. Unfortunately, we did not prevail and as such did not progress to the second round. County Friendly Games This year we played 18 Friendlies 14 men's and four mixed (including two Centenary games one at Gillingham and one at Bridport). In total, we played 9 home and 9 away games. We are still suffering from the legacy of COVID in that, though we have managed to achieve a 50/50 home and away split, we still have a string of away games at the beginning of the season and a string of home games later in the season. All the right notes but in the wrong order! This coming year it will be similar but in reverse. If the opportunity arises I will try and break these up but it's difficult as most of the counties are happy with the existing dates. Of the 14 men's friendlies, we managed to win 6 and lose 8; similar to last year. However, with the help of the ladies, we managed to win all our mixed games. Sadly, in our game against the ladies, we managed to come second again! I think this is telling us something! Again, as last year, getting teams together was a struggle and keeping them together was even more difficult with players pulling out left right and centre due to injury, sickness or other commitments. Despite this, we managed to turn out a full complement of bowlers in virtually all games and as usual, thoroughly enjoyed our days out. I would like to thank all those men who put their names forward for county games this past season, particularly those who agreed to play at the last moment. Next years fixtures have now largely been agreed with the other counties and associations.

Bill Fox

LADIES COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT

County & Dorset Comps

It has been another busy competition season, made more difficult with the earlier closing dates for playing the National Competitions which made everything all squashed in.

All the competitions ran well with the usual names changes, substitutions and a few walk overs and thanks to the competitors for keeping myself and Marion informed of the changes. . Thank you also to all the competitors who sent in their results as soon as they had finished their matches but there were some matches where both myself and Marion were chasing results late at night. Please message, text or email the result as soon as you have finished your match and then copy the score card when you get home if you cannot do that then. Our work is not finished when we have the results , we then have to prepare them to send to Sue Maggs to put on the website and inform competitors who they are playing in the next round, so please can you ask the competitors to assist us.

The Quarter & Semi Finals were well attended and a thank you to all the clubs that hosted these events with complimentary rink

The weather affected the Leamington Finals weekend and some matches were deferred until the Dorset Finals weekend in September which was exceptionally well attended with spectators and supporters. Trophies & gifts were presented at both finals weekends and photos taken of the winners and runners up to both the Mens and Ladies disciplines.

Leamington

The 2023 championships at Leamington were attended by more people and there was much more atmosphere. All the ladies played their best, Donna Rock was the most successful for Dorset losing in the final of the Champion of Champions. The majority of players lost in the first game, however, a lot of players were qualifying for Leamington for the first time and some proceeded into the next round, but all enjoyed the experience and this has made them enthusiastic to want to qualify again in 2024.

There will be 2 entries per discipline again per county for Leamington in 2024 **provided we have sufficient entries**, so please encourage your players to enter for 2024 and keep our entries up.

County Competition Entry forms for 2024 have all been sent out to the Clubs early August with a closing date of 31st October 2023, with a request to email me all the entries and send a hard copy to Marion Clements and pay Shirley Bowley our B.D Treasurer direct into the Bowls Dorset Bank Account rather than sending a cheque, this will help Shirley.

U.16's Open Pairs Competition

This was the first time this competition was run having 8 pairs who played in a round robin down to the 2 pairs to play the Final at Dorset Finals weekend. The standard of play was exceptional. Carole Beckford – BD past President & President of Blandford BC sponsored the 2 trophies for the winners – the Joy Steele Cup in memory of Joy Steele. Peter Hunter also presented the 2 runners up trophies in memory of his wife Cathy Hunter. Both Joy & Cathy have done so much for the under 16's in both their clubs, Blandford & West Moors and what a legacy.

Edna Paisley

The Edna Paisley was most stressful to run this past season, with clubs rearranging matches due to unavailability of their players, then inclement weather on the rearranged date resulting in yet another rearrangement of date. The West was the most difficult to run, probably not helped with the number of matches scheduled in the West Division. It may be that if the same number of teams enter in 2024, perhaps 2 divisions would be better. The East also had to rearrange matches, but the East ran more smoothly than the West. Unfortunately, I had to impose the penalties on a couple of clubs, both East & West. Clubs need to look at how many teams they enter in the EP and whether they have sufficient committed players for the matches.

DWBL - Singles & drawn Pairs Competitions.

It was decided to still run these 2 competitions this year.

8 pairs entered the drawn pairs competition and 15 entries for the singles competition, all played down to the 2 finalists who played at the Dorset Finals weekend. Not a good turnout really considering how many clubs there are in Dorset and 2 entrants are eligible for each discipline from each club.

Gifts for Winners & Runners Up

It was decided to give Bowls Dorset Mugs for the winners and runners up for the competitions, with coasters for the team events. A welcome change from engraved glasses which are now out of price range due to the increased costs.

Engraving Trophies

All trophies have been engraved and distributed to the winners and runners up

Thanks to all the Secretaries for sending out the emails to their members with necessary information when required.

Marion and myself will be standing for election again for 2024 but the Edna Paisley will be run by the Bowls Dorset League Secretary, not Marion or myself.

Dates for your diaries for 2024.

Finals weekend for competitors to Leamington 20th & 21st July 2024

Finals weekend for competitors for the Dorset competitions is 14th & 15th September at Branksome Park BC

Looking forward to working with you all again with the 2024 competitions

Ann Allman

MEN'S COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT

I would like to thank all the Clubs for their County Competition entries for 2023. All competitions were completed successfully and on time. Thankfully the weather co-operated mostly throughout the season. All the quarter and semi-finals proceeded very well and I would like to thank the host clubs for their generosity and for the excellent facilities which were provided. Both finals weekends were completed successfully albeit with the Saturday afternoon being rained off. Thank you to the host clubs for their support and for the excellent facilities which were provided. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all those who took part and supported the County. Although we were not successful in any of the disciplines, all competitors represented County very well at Leamington. Finally, thank you to my fellow committee members whose support is very much appreciated.

Harry Hovenden

BOWLS DORSET YOUTH REPORT

It has been a pleasure to see the progress of so many youngsters this summer in Dorset.

New winners in many of our county competitions and established bowlers continuing to progress and move forward in the game.

Both our Amy Rose and White Rose teams drew Somerset in the first round of their respective competitions.

The Lads in the White Rose looked for a long time like they could turn Somerset over, only to be thwarted in the final ends and losing by just 4 shots.

Meanwhile, the girls put up a strong fight against a much older and experienced Somerset team but lost the fight against an established team and the elements were against us as well. However, as this is an U31 competition, we are looking forward to the years ahead with this young enthusiastic group.

Year on year we are seeing more juniors enter both the age group and main county events, with several of the older juniors now becoming well established in the senior county teams. This all bodes well for the future.

Below are some of the age group results.

County Results

U25 Girls singles	Winner	Millie Tuck	
	R/U		Emma Langridge
U25 Boys singles	Winner	Ryan Scammell	
	R/U		Will Scammell
U25 Girls Pairs	Winner	Emma & Millie	
U25 Boys Pairs	Winners	Oli Kenway / Alex Dytham	
	R/U		Dean Ballard / James Roe
U16 Girls singles	Winner	Lucy Rankine Mc Intosh	
	R/U		Molly Trim
U16 Boys singles	Winner	Leo Bramley	
	R/U		Zac Evans

Despite poor weather the Open U12 and U18 Tournament at Poole Park was yet again tightly fought, with some fine bowling from each age group. A round robin in the morning followed by a knockout in the afternoon saw a three-way tie in both the age groups singles competitions, with Daria Rampelt taking the U18 title and Hadley Harding taking the U12 title, both on shot difference.

In the pairs Matthew Yarnold and Andre Owen took the U18 title whilst Max and Jack Surrey won the U12's.

When all the matches were completed, the trophies were presented by the David King-Taylor, Bowls England Senior Vice President, who had travelled to Dorset from the Midlands. Thank you David for your time and support of the juniors in Dorset. Please see the Academy website for further details.

The Academy continues to provide training sessions and matches against other counties and local clubs, and we thank these clubs in their continued support in encouraging the juniors in the way that they do. If any other clubs feel that they would be prepared to give us a game, please do get in touch.

We are starting to suffer from not having a Youth Development Officer for the County who is responsible for trying to support other clubs in starting a junior session and liaising between clubs, county and the Academy. At present the Academy run most of the inter county events such as the 'Top club' between Dorset/Wilts and Somerset. County friendlies etc. The knock-on effect is that although we are seeing great progress with the youngsters from the clubs that have a junior section, we are not developing junior bowls across the County. We don't want to be like Devon who had a cohort of youngsters who came through and were brilliant but have nothing coming through behind them.

Penny Cresswell Lead Coach BDYA.