

# BOWLS DORSET

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

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**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON  
Friday 18 March 2022  
AT  
DORCHESTER BOWLING CLUB  
COMMENCING at 10.30am**

- E 018/22** Welcome by Alexander Wilson
- E 019/22** **PRESENT-** Carole Beckford, Bill Fox, Sue Maggs, Allan Weech, Alexander Wilson, Marion Clements representing Ann Allman, Penny Cresswell
- E 020/22** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE-** Shirley Bowley, Ann Allman, Harry Hovenden, Margaret Clapp,
- E 021/22** **OBITUARIES:** - - Tony Gunningham (Shaftesbury (Life Member)) Phil Baker (Poole Park) John Bentall (Broadstone Wessex (past president of BSW) Gill Farrence (Verwood) Jim Keighley (Blandford) Marion Wake (West Moors), Ann Cutting (Greenhill)
- E 022/22** **MINUTES of MEETING HELD 17 January 2022**  
Agreed - proposed by Sue Maggs seconded by Allan Weech signed by Alexander Wilson
- E 023/22** **MATTERS ARISING from Minutes not already on the agenda**  
i) **E 006/22 (ii) Youth clothing-** Penny to complete and return form shortly  
ii) **E 006/22 (iii) Luncheon-**initially proposed for 16 October- but that is Egham nat. comp. Alexander will look for alternative at an earlier date in October.  
iii) **E 006/22 (iv) Letter Received From DWBL-** The Committee were advised of the exploratory discussions between, Alexander and Sue Maggs with Nola Stephens and Sue Jennings, which covered the DWBL leagues, friendlies, competitions and funds. The DWBL intend to make a presentation to their delegates 28 March.  
iv) **E 006/22 (v) Dorset Youth Bowls Sponsorship.** Alexander is preparing the script to go with the county logo  
v) **E 007/22 (ii) Sponsorship on website-** The website is now getting to a satisfactory position to encourage sponsorship. A package to be discussed to offer to potential sponsors.
- E 024/22** **CORRESPONDENCE**  
All correspondence had been circulated and the Committee agreed unanimously that there was no need to read. Included were the details of the AGM- the Committee thanks Carol for attending and supplying the report attached.
- E 025/22** **TREASURERS REPORT**  
None available

**E 026/22 LADIES SECRETARY REPORT**

Nothing to report

**E 027/22 LADIES MATCH SECRETARY REPORT**

Nothing to report

**E 028/22 MEN'S SECRETARY REPORT**

Alexander advised that Alan Blaby is sadly not able to continue and Harry Hovenden will cover the East competitions and Paul Ramsey the Percy Baker League for the foreseeable future.

They are intending to hold open U25 and Middleton cup trials before they put the teams together.

**E 029/22 MEN'S MATCH SECRETARY REPORT**

Bill advised that there had been one change from the original fixture list- The game at Wimborne would now be played 25 May from 15 June

**E 030/22 LADIES COMPETITION SECRETARY-**

Ann did not have much to report, just to say that after the draw was done in January, the Ladies Competitions had been emailed to all the Club Secretaries, together with the Edna Paisley Fixtures and the Competition Programme all of which are also available on the BD website. She thanked Alexander and Sue.

She will arrange for the Edna Paisley Score Cards to be sent to the Secretaries before the start of the season.

The Benevolent Triples East at Poole Park will have to start at 10.30am as they are unable to open the gates for a 10am start (part of their licence). Club Secretaries will be advised of this change of time so they can inform entrants from their club.

She added concerns over petrol/travelling costs which the Committee agreed would be discussed at the next Executive meeting.

**E 031/22 MEN'S COMPETITION SECRETARY-**

Nothing to report

**E 032/22 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Penny Cresswell, presented a report( attached) and agreed to attend meetings on a regular basis until someone takes up the office so sadly vacated following the passing of Joy Steele

The Committee discussed the need to find a new Youth Development Officer, and the best approach. The vacancy needs to be advertised with a revised job description- with which Penny and Julie Leake may be able to assist.

**E 033/22 WEBSITE –**

This is working well for the leagues, and competitions, and we are working towards getting the matches to work well too. We should be grateful for any relevant feedback. We know that the site has been getting about “300 hits” a week.

**E 034/22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**i) Ladies Evening League-** more correspondence received from Mr Matthews- the ladies delegates have been asked to enquire within their clubs and respond on 28<sup>th</sup> March

**ii) Changes to Rules regulation 1.7 & 1.8-** A “bye law” to amend the wording had been circulated to the clubs and no objections had been received. This would now remain in force until adopted at the next AGM (Copy Attached) A copy had been attached to the affiliation forms circulated March 2nd

**iii) Handbook-** This will be going to print this weekend and will be distributed at the delegates meetings on 28 March. Thanks to Alexander for its preparation.

**iv) Photos-** Thank you to Janine Scola for taking the photos- each Winner and Runner up will have a copy made available at the delegates meetings.

**v) Group West meeting-** This was attended by Alexander and Sue and they reported that the meeting generated a great deal of useful discussion. However of the 9 counties that are involved, there was no consensus of opinion on "round robin/knockout" for the Johns and Middleton. The minutes of the meeting are attached.

**vi) Travel Expenses-** Since these were set in December, circumstances have changed and the Committee will review the situation at the next meeting

**E 035/22      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 27 April 10.30am

**Closed 12.15**

**SIGNED.....**

**Date.....**

## **Bowls England Annual General Meeting held at 1pm at the Athena, Leicester on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Having left in plenty of time to park the car at the Travelodge and then walk to the Athena, unfortunately it took far longer than expected to negotiate the Leicester weather and traffic. It certainly didn't help that there are two Travelodges in Leicester – one called Leicester Central and the other Leicester City Centre. When I eventually found the right one (at the top of a multi-storey car park), I was left with five minutes to get to the Athena. This I made with a minute to spare, only to find that the meeting had already started and they were already on Item 3.

I was, however, in time to see Terri Keen from Buckinghamshire invested as President for 2022, plus the SVP, JVP and IPP.

The Annual Report for 2021 was then dissected by Jon Cockcroft the main thrust being the preparation for the Commonwealth Games and the big news that Bowls England is now on the UK Sport Major Event roster with a bid to host the 2027 World Championships.

Membership Affiliation Fees, National Championship Entry Fees and National Competition Entry Fees remain unchanged.

Electronic Ballot results for Director appointments were ratified with vacancies in the South Area for the Management Audit and Review Committee 2022-24, and for Male Selectors in the South and North areas for 2022-25.

Bowls Hampshire had revised their proposal to reinstate the two National Championship Dinners to one to be held in November with the Awards Dinner to be held in February. This was carried by majority vote. The second proposal that the Presidential Badge Presentation for qualifying competitors be reinstated at the National Championships for the 2022 season was also carried by majority vote. The final proposal that the Middleton Cup and the John's Trophy return to the 2019 league format was also carried (37 for and 30 against).

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2pm.

### **Presentation on the Casual Game and Pay and Play Platform**

Following the meeting there was a presentation by Alistair Hollis on the Casual Game and Pay and Play Platform. Alistair talked about 'Jack Attack' the Australian solution, but agreed that this would not be right for all clubs.

The idea is to take the sport forward and reduce the reliance on membership fees. The concept of the Casual Game is that it should take no longer than one hour with no special uniform and be administered by volunteers from Clubs. (It was suggested that club players would be willing to stay on after they had played their game to supervise members of the public who wanted to 'roll up' for an hour or so!).

The Pay and Play Platform should enable prospective players to find and access bowls clubs in the way that complements their needs and makes it easy for clubs to manage demand and to maximize spare green capacity. It should grow the numbers of people playing bowls and improve the financial sustainability of clubs involved. It is envisaged having it up and running in time for the expected demand after the Bowls' Big Weekend and the Commonwealth Games.

### **Bowls England Awards Night – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022 - The Athena, Leicester**

Before the evening started David Tucker, BE Chair gave a moving tribute to Joy Steele.

Although there was only ten people from Dorset at the evening, our small table erupted into much clapping and shouting on the announcement that Sid & Joy Steele had won the Unsung Hero Award. Sid, together with Joy's eldest daughter Julie received the award with much applause and delight from the entire audience.

**Carole Beckford Bowls Dorset Ladies President**

## **Youth Development**

This has been an exciting time for youth bowls in Dorset but tinged with sadness at the passing of Joy Steele.

The season started with Nathan Wood and Millie Tuck getting U18 England trials and Rebecca Cresswell getting an U25 trial. Millie went onto be selected for the U18 home international series, which due to covid has been rescheduled for this October.

In addition, Millie has qualified for the National U18 finals at Nottingham and the Dolphin U30 triple double rink have reached the National finals. Sadly, the County U18 mixed triples double rink missed qualifying for National final by the last shot of the match against Devon.

Back at grass roots level we have had an influx of new bowlers giving indoors a try this season. This is mainly due to some of the outside clubs encouraging their juniors to give indoors a try. For instance, the Dolphin have over 25 juniors who attend on a Saturday morning whilst there is an additional 16 youngsters aged 16 – 30years who attend a mid-week session. The plan had been to try and support the growth of juniors in the west of the County this winter but this has been slow partly due to covid and partly because due to the difficulty in getting commitment from coaches and adults to start up and run junior sections.

The Dorset Youth Academy have continued to meet on the first Sunday of the month and have concentrated on introducing and bringing through the next group of youngsters. Sessions have been divided into 3 groups allowing us to create session plans appropriate to each level of ability. This is the only opportunity that some juniors from around the County get to play alongside youngsters of their own age but is helping to keep them playing the game. It is our intention to continue meeting as an academy on the first weekend of the month outdoors, alternating venues between Blandford and Poole Park. Then in between play a friendly match either against another County or local club.

Swanage, Branksome and Poole Park are already pencilled into the calendar, but any other offers are always welcome.

As we move forward to the outdoor season it was the wish of Joy that we pull together to support the creation of at least one junior section to a club in the west of the County. If any club feel that they would like support and help in making this happen, then please approach anyone in the Academy, as we would love to help and support in any way we can.

This year, we will be fielding an Amy Rose and White Rose team, which we know will be well supported by the clubs in the County. In addition, many of our older and more experienced youngsters are now entered into County and National individual and team events. I am looking forward to being able to report back on their success this season at later meetings.

We would like to thank all the coaches, adults and parents who give their time and expertise to enable all these activities to happen for the youngsters of Dorset.

**Penny Cresswell**

## Bowls Dorset Regulation: No. 1

### 7. Affiliation Fees

- a. An Affiliated Club shall pay a fee on joining Bowls Dorset as determined by the Council.
- b. The Annual Affiliation fee payable to Bowls Dorset by each Affiliated Club shall be based on the names of all their playing membership (not just those players who enter county/national competitions/championships) as at 31 March ~~30<sup>th</sup>-September in the preceding year~~ and shall be paid not later than ~~30<sup>th</sup>-October~~ 30 April. For new members joining after 31 March, the affiliation fees shall be paid within 14 days of joining. An Affiliated Club failing to pay Affiliation fees by the due date shall forfeit all rights and privileges of membership until all arrears have been discharged. Competition fees for clubs/members who forfeit rights and privileges of memberships due to non-payment of County Affiliation fees are deemed non-returnable. The County Annual Affiliation fee rate shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting.
- c. The fees paid ~~by 30<sup>th</sup>-October~~ must reconcile with the membership list and new member names submitted in accordance with Regulation 1 paragraph 8. ~~the previous season.~~
- d. Additionally all Affiliated Clubs shall at the same time pay the prescribed Bowls England Annual Affiliation fee via the Association Treasurer. Any Club failing to pay Affiliation fees by the due date shall forfeit all rights and privileges of membership until all arrears have been discharged. Competition fees for clubs/members who forfeit rights and privileges of memberships due to non-payment of County Affiliation fees are deemed non-returnable.
- e. Associate Club Members shall pay an Annual Affiliation fee as determined by the Annual General Meeting. (For these purposes an Associate Club Members is taken as a club member who does not bowl but enjoys the other facilities of the club. Bar, social activities, closed season activities etc.)

### 8. Returns

- a. The Secretary of each Affiliated Club shall forward to the Administrator a list of names only of individual club members (not just those players who enter county/national competitions/championships) as at 31 March plus the address telephone number and e-mail address of the Club Secretary, prior to ~~30<sup>th</sup>-October~~ 30 April in each year. Names of new members joining after 31 March shall be submitted within 14 days of joining.
- b. The Secretary of each Affiliated Club shall prior to 1<sup>st</sup> December each year forward to the Administrator a list of Club Officers.

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**GROUP WEST**  
**Minutes of meeting of Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022: 10.30 am start**  
**Clevedon Bowling Club**

**Chair** Mrs Lindsay Collin (Gloucestershire Administrator)

**Attendees**

Devon Sue Silcox	Gloucester Lindsay Collin	Warwicks Debbie Bloxham
Devon Vicky Hingston	Hereford Clive Handscombe	Wiltshire Kath Lloyd
Dorset Alexander Wilson	Hereford Jill Bowen	Wiltshire Gerald Webb
Dorset Sue Maggs	Somerset Charmian Pearce	Worcestershire John Weston
Gloucester George Thomas	Somerset Carolle Skeates	Worcestershire June Bell

**Apologies**

Cornwall Christine Hoare	Somerset Ross Turnbull	Warwicks Heather Mills
Devon Harry Riley	Warwicks Michael Jackson	

**Welcome by Chair** The Chair welcomed attendees and thanked them for coming; also thanked Clevedon BC for hosting the meeting and providing tea and coffee.

1. **Position of Chair** Chair noted that she had been the most recent chairman in 2019 (pre-Covid), but had agreed to become Secretary when Arnold Goad retired. However, nobody at all had offered to become Chair, so she would – with the meeting’s permission – run this meeting and hope that someone else would come forward. Completely agreed.

2. **Chair’s review of Group West**, for benefit of new attendees

Chair looked back at the history of the forum, in terms of both aims and some other key factors :

- Had come into being soon after the inception of Bowls England. If any other regional forums have existed, that none have had the success and longevity of Group West (though possible North (Men) still meet to some degree).
- Meetings originally to (a) review local ‘housekeeping’ business, as West counties play together a lot, but also an opportunity to (b) review national issues and developments. The latter facilitated by the presence until around 2017 of BE Directors, BE Presidents and BE National Committee members.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held at Clevedon BC on 7 November 2019** Not actually considered; too old to be relevant

4. **Personnel changes and recent activities in each County** (for general info of Group)

All counties were invited to summarise how the last couple of years had gone, again for information of other counties/ attendees. In order of speaking :

Warwickshire : Active throughout both years of Covid, as much as permitted, and very keen to exploit opportunities to play. Kept flexible. Worked on marketing. New Secretary, and individual committee members took on new responsibilities.

Wiltshire : Quite an effective time. Though membership down, like all counties, local leagues ran and competitor numbers have been rising again. Developments on Youth Academy and also on disability bowls.

Hereford : Not particularly active during Covid – mainly local games, so a quiet two years. People wouldn’t travel in coaches. Big Bowls good in 2021. A somewhat mixed period.

Devon : 2021 fairly normal. Good developments on disability bowls, youth development and have started a Centre of Excellence. Few administrative changes.

Worcester : Last two years very quiet as few people were keen to play. 2021 was poor from playing point of view. Very new county admin team in 2022, so lots of development needed. Big Bowls Weekend worked well for a few clubs. County need to work more with clubs.

Dorset : Joy Steele was a huge recent loss, as she worked so hard on developing junior bowls in Dorset. Recognised by she and her husband Sid, receiving the Unsung Hero award at the Bowls England Awards Night in February. Good youth tournament in Bournemouth area, needs expanding. Much use of internal club leagues during Covid, rather than area leagues. Big Bowls Weekend well supported. Compressing competitions into pre-Leamington difficult, to meet single qualifier requirement; hope we go back to two qualifiers in 2023. No great changes administratively. Coaching improved.

Somerset : John Durston has retired, but not many other changes. New Youth Academy developing and more coaching generally. Big Bowls Weekend effective for us. Disability Bowls and VIBE also developed. Some play in 2020, but 2021 reasonably normal. New competition well supported and competition entries good again now. Some previously top juniors now getting too old, so Youth Academy important.

Gloucestershire : Good involvement throughout Covid, despite restrictions; all but 6 clubs still played in 2020. 2021 fairly normal in playing terms; we were collectively very keen to play matches and maybe not as nervous as some other counties. But issues with use of coaches - by some individuals in away matches - made for selection difficulties. Big Bowls Weekend very effective with some clubs; Chair's own club (Kingswood & Hanham – 'English Club of the Year' at BE Awards Evening) had 32 new members from it, more than half being women and the majority being in their fifties. Few major changes at County admin level, though George the new Deputy Administrator and Men's Secretary.

5. Chair had defined some possible **discussion topics** arising from BE Counties Meeting, BE Annual General Meeting, BE Awards Evening and BE Counties Drop-in sessions :

- Meetings : Counties Meeting, Regional Meetings, Counties Drop-in sessions. Inc future of Group West. Annual General Meeting
- Competitions: Championship Competitions, National Competitions, Regional Finals
- National Championships
- Commonwealth Games. Marketing. Activator
- BE Presentation Dinners; Awards Evening
- Affiliation process
- BE and County relations
- BE communications with counties, clubs, individuals
- BE Governance and Structure
- BE Disciplinary Review
- Development and Recruitment (in Big Bowls Weekend particularly)
- BE Finances
- Online 'Pay and Play' system for clubs
- New simplified form of bowls
- 'Have-a-go' experience
- Club Health Checker
- BE Celebration matches
- Friends of English Bowling

6. Clearly not possible, from a time point of view, to cover all of these, so members present picked up on a few topics that they wished to discuss. These included :

1. Affiliation timing Some suggestion that Affiliation was not now at the right time of year, but the consensus was that just prior to the season was much better than in October, as club members are known at that point. Some comment on difficulties in the 30 September update required by BE; date needs to be a bit later on in the Autumn.
2. BE AGM proposal/decision : Round-Robin vs Knockout in Middleton Cup and John's. Inconclusive discussion, as two different responses according to size of county and desire to provide playing opportunities at that level for as many players as possible.
3. BE and County relations Chair inquired if attendees felt that these had improved recently. Clearly some difference in opinion on this – some felt positive about this, but others much less so, based on their personal (county) experiences and also on the way in which dedicated inquiries to BE had been dealt with. Several people were upbeat about the November BE 'Counties Meeting' in Loughboro', but not everybody. Likewise, the introduction of the BE 'Counties Drop-in days' was welcomed by some, but not all. Loss of BE Regional Meetings noted.
4. Communication Undoubtedly, there had been many new developments in the last two years, in relation to communications (BE-counties, BE-clubs and generally). Suggestions were very mixed, sometimes conflicting, but included :
  - The vastly-increased use of social networking by BE (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) was not generally welcomed by attendees. Not all counties were orientated this way, but that might be a generational reaction, so acknowledged that counties generally needed expertise on this to be enhanced, as it was patchy at present. Some help from BE available in this respect.
  - In relation to direct communications from counties and County Administrators with BE, the extreme time taken to reply - if indeed any reply received at all - was something of an issue. The example of an urgent Safeguarding inquiry was given. Disciplinary sometimes like that too. Response rate affected by staff working from home and also occasionally illness (inc Covid), plus staff losses and new appointments.

- It was tacitly accepted that the tenor of some counties' communications with BE had been unacceptable, but these were not counties within our region. Noted that some of the very biggest English counties were unfortunately the most 'reactionary' and likely to 'want to go their own way'.
  - A notable point of agreement was that BE seemed to have 'lost control' of communications generally and their decisions about how to communicate with counties were far from ideal.
    - Some new BE employees particularly seemingly felt that occasional long, multi-topic e-mails were ideal, but they are not, as the actual most important topics are not always clear, or get lost in the verbiage. This applies not just to counties, but equally in clubs, where the clubs will simply not read most of the e-mails and certainly not discriminate which things are important. Felt that many, many more shorter, single-topic e-mails were very much preferable.
    - The decision by the BE communicators about just when to inform counties on various matters was somewhat debatable, as they seemingly did [via County Update possibly] so sometimes barely before clubs received the same information and barely before things appeared on Facebook and other organs. Not ideal timing for encouraging counties to help and reinforce messaging on some matters.
    - New 'newsletters' of various types (The Jack, Club Together, County Update, etc) do not always prioritise the most obviously important topics
  - The Chair was requested to communicate with BE on these kind of concerns and particularly on single-topic e-mails.
5. Pay and play Not at all well-liked by the meeting generally. Even though 'pushed' at the BE Counties Meeting and a bigger push from Alistair at the BE AGM, this is too much based on the Australian size and nature of bowling clubs. Also paying some commercial provider to run it nationally here, goes against the grain. Far too much extra work is also going to be handed once more to those volunteers in clubs who already do the most, to administer these 'open' sessions. Greenkeepers won't like it. Online booking system conflicts with existing club booking system. Pointed out that if clubs are 'pressured' to get involved, the way forward would be to severely limit the green availability.
  6. BE Celebration matches "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" The new nomination system seems excessively and un-necessarily long-winded, and this in a year of many less games than normal.
  7. Update on 'Friends of English Bowling' at Leamington
    - Complaints last year about lack of 'hospitality' at Leamington, also poor quality luncheon provided
    - Will quite probably have the marquee back again this year, but sharing with something else
    - Not clear where a marquee would be located, however
    - FOEB would be providing less money for competitions next year and some donations were also problematic
    - See what happens in 2022 and react again then
  8. New form of bowls Not generally enthusiastic about this. No idea what it could involve.
  9. Expenses policy at nationals Not clear if these would continue; probably not and anyway little money received per competitor in practice.
  10. Governance Chair noted that the future of substantive 'county influence' under Sport England Code of Governance Tier 3 was highly problematic.
  11. Continuation of Group West Particularly in the light of loss of BE West Regional Meeting. Suggested that there was non-unanimity between us on many matters, but felt also that this was one of the few opportunities that we still had to listen openly to other counties' views.

## 7. AOB

Coach Bowls Disability course noted, for interest. 12 April 2022, City & County BC, Oxford. Advised that there would be a similar course in Plymouth, in October.

Date of next meeting Have meeting on Tuesday 1st November 2022 and decide at that point whether to meet annually or bi-annually thereafter.