

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 Thursday 25 May 2023 at 2.00pm AT DORCHESTER BOWLING CLUB

- E 076/23** **PRESENT-** Ann Allman, Shirley Bowley, Bill Fox,
Harry Hovenden, Sue Maggs, Janine Scola, Alexander Wilson
- E 077/23** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE-** Margaret Clapp
- E 078/23** **OBITUARIES:** - Alan Cox (Dorchester), Cathy Hunter (West Moors)
Tony Roberts (Sherborne), Stan Redpath (Dorchester), Ken Bullard (Ferndown)
- E 079/23** **MINUTES of MEETING HELD 24 April 2023**
Agreed - proposed by Harry Hovenden seconded by Ann Allman signed by Alexander Wilson
- E 080/23** **MATTERS ARISING from Minutes not already on the agenda**
- i) **E 062/23 i) Dorset Youth Bowls Sponsorship** Julie Leake had acknowledged receipt of annual payment of £1000, for which the Academy were extremely grateful
 - ii) **E 062/23 ii) Sponsorship on website-** On going
 - iii) **E 062/23 iii)-Stickers** – These had been ordered from Clegplan and were due imminently
 - iv) **E 062/23 v) National Competition Areas-** Deferred until October delegates meetings.
 - v) **E 063/23 vi) Umpires Expenses-** These had been notified to the Umpire Co-Ordinator, John Brudenell, and would be paid on the day to the umpires
 - vi) **E 063/23 vii) An invitation to the Under 18 Tournament.** Sadly B.E President Deepak Tanna, and he would be represented by David King-Taylor
 - vii) **E 063/23xii) Championship Prizes and League winners' prizes- Having** received a sample for discussion, the Committee confirmed the design for the mugs to be presented as Competition winners and Runners up prizes and coasters as league winners prizes.
 - viii) **E 063/23 i) DWBL Singles and Pairs competitions-** The Committee decided to distribute entry forms to gauge interest. Ann to enquire for greens available on Tuesday 29 August for the Pairs and Wednesday 30 for the Singles. With finals being incorporated into the Finals Weekend at Dorchester on 9/10 September. The minimum entries to be 12 for each competition and prizes to be in line with all competition winner's prizes.
 - ix) **E 073/23 i) Dress code-** This would be reviewed but the current rules that conflict with B.E. regulations, will not be enforced
 - x) **E 073/23 ii) Named Entrants-** A reply had been received from B.E. to help clarify the situation- attached.
The ruling is that the Named Entrant can return to the original team, if a substitute is needed after the first game is played.

Question A

If the named entrant is unable to play in the first match, they can bring a sub in. The team will then constitute the sub and the other team member who plays on the night. For all future rounds the only person who is allowed to sub is the named entrant as he is the named entrant. Therefore the squad of players for the pairs would be, the named entrant, the sub and the other player – no one else is allowed to participate in this team in any future rounds.

Question B

Exceptional circumstances usually relate to things where the player will not be able to return to playing in a team for the duration of the season, i.e., change of location, change of job, death, physical conditions etc.

xi) **E 073/23 iii)** “Stopping Bowl” law – This had been amended with immediate effect – see details attached

xii) **E 074/23 Laws of the Sports 4th edition-** Ongoing

E 081/23

CORRESPONDENCE

All that had been received for Bowls England had been circulated to Clubs and Officers as necessary- but their correspondence is generally available on the B.E. Website

The Big Bowls Weekend has attracted only 8 of the Dorset Clubs to register.

A request from B. Tatman for clarification on “initials” used for club identity – It should be S for Sherborne and SH for Shaftesbury. The initials were mistakenly reversed in the Men’s Directory in the Handbook

Lyme Regis have a new jacket design which was approved unanimously by this Committee

Bobbie Cover had advised that her Presidents day in 2024 at Branksome Park will be Sunday 7 July 2024

E 082/23

TREASURERS REPORT

£8245 had been paid to B.E. for affiliation fees, covering 1649 players in the county.

E 083/23

LADIES SECRETARY REPORT

Nothing to report

E 084/23

LADIES MATCH SECRETARY REPORT

Nothing to report

E 085/23

MEN’S SECRETARY REPORT

Alexander advised that the Percy Baker East Division 4 had been reduced by withdrawing teams that it would no longer run. There will be a review of the P.B. divisions for next year.

E 086/23

MEN’S MATCH SECRETARY REPORT

Bill advised that from the 3 friendlies played, 2 had been lost and one had been victorious. The Balcombe Trophy Team had won and moved forward to play Devon on 18 June

E 087/23

LADIES COMPETITION SECRETARY-

Ann advised that there been a number of amendments to teams received, and the County Ladies Fours A/B draw had been completed. Alexander agreed that an “Inclement Weather” item would be displayed on the website, as players had not been able find the rule easily. Ann had to date received 3 entries for the U16.

E 088/23

MEN’S COMPETITION SECRETARY-

All competitions progressing well.

E 089/23

WEBSITE-

On going.

E 090/23

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Following various enquiries regarding inclement weather, The Committee agreed that reference to inclement weather- actions for both wet and heat related, should be readily available on the website

E 091/23

SAFEGUARDING- Alexander had attended and received an attendance certificate for an online “course” run for Bowls England by the BDA, which had proved very interesting. In 2025 all clubs will have a legal requirement to have their own designated safeguarding officer, or they risk being dis- affiliated from Bowls England. It is also understood that the Club Safeguarding Officers may be required to have attended a safeguarding course and have an “enhanced for sport” DBS check. The county will consider arranging courses for Dorset clubs The Club’s Safeguarding Policy should be clearly visible within clubs, with a picture identifying the Safeguarding Officer with contact details.

E 092/23 RATIFY decision for A/B draw for Leamington

The decision at a previous meeting was -"Following the announcement that Bowls Dorset men would have two qualifiers the draws for A and B qualifiers was discussed and the Committee agreed unanimously that the draws be carried out for both Men's and Ladies qualifiers before the finals are played."

Bowls England has not yet published the Leamington draw. However, if there are only prelims on the first day of the draw for a discipline then knowing whether or not as a finalist, you're in it, affects whether you need an extra day accommodation booking or holiday booking if still working.

In light of this, the Committee agreed unanimously that it should revert to the pre-Covid practice of the A/B draw being done after each discipline's semi-finals.

E 093/23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Alexander proposed that Paul Ramsey be co-opted to the Men's Section as Assistant Men's Secretary to reflect the work he does organizing and managing the Men's leagues. The Committee agreed unanimously.

E 094/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting of the Executive Board. 3 July 10.00.am

Meeting closed 4.30pm

SIGNED.....

Date.....

TO: World Bowls Board, MNAs, WB Laws Advisory Group
FROM: Neil Dalrymple, Chief Executive Officer
DATE: Thursday May 25, 2023
RE: World Bowls Laws Advisory Group decision on Laws 37.1.3 and 37.1.5.3

In August 2022 the above two new laws were introduced to the Laws of the Sport Crystal Mark Fourth Edition. They were designed to penalise a player who deliberately displaced their own teams bowl on its original course or lifted a bowl at rest to allow one of their own team's bowls to pass.

Despite a clarification document published on the World Bowls Website in September 2022, it has become very clear from communications that the two laws have caused a great deal of confusion and have resulted in games being forfeited incorrectly following players innocently stopping bowls from entering the ditch.

Furthermore, the management of a side game and the resulting penalty after a team has been disqualified has also caused a great deal of confusion with MNAs and domestic Controlling Bodies.

Concern has been around the severe penalty of forfeiting the game and clarity in the wording of the law itself. Recommendations have been received to reduce the severity of the forfeit to penalising with shot deductions. This approach would be inconsistent with any other law and was not felt to be a suitable solution. Penalties have always existed for the displacement of a bowl by its own team players but at the time of the 2021 Laws review these penalties were not felt to be severe enough for what is considered an act of "cheating".

Having considered several options to improve the intent of these two laws, the World Bowls Laws Advisory Group have concluded and recommended to the Board of World Bowls to rescind them. The numbering of Law 37.1.4 will remain untouched until the next review of the Laws.

The changes to the Laws are summarised as follows:

~~37.1.3 If a bowl in its original course is deliberately displaced or stopped by a member of the team that delivered the bowl, the defaulting team will forfeit the game to their opponent.~~

37.1.4 Displacement of a bowl in motion.

37.1.4.1 If a bowl in motion is displaced by a player and it has not disturbed the head after it is displaced, the opposing skip or the opponent in Singles must choose whether to:

- 37.1.4.1.1 place the bowl where the player believes it would have come to rest; or
- 37.1.4.1.2 declare the end dead.

37.1.4.2 If a bowl in motion is displaced by a player and it has disturbed the head after it is displaced, the opposing skip or the opponent in Singles must choose whether to:

- 37.1.4.2.1 place the bowl where the player believes it would have come to rest and replace any part of the head disturbed after the displacement; or
- 37.1.4.2.2 declare the end dead.

37.1.5 Displacement of a bowl at rest.

~~37.1.5.1 If a bowl at rest or a toucher in the ditch is displaced by a player and it has not disturbed the head after it is displaced, the opponent must put the bowl back to its former position.~~

~~37.1.5.2 If a bowl at rest or a toucher in the ditch is displaced by a player and it has disturbed the head after it is displaced, the opponent must put the bowl back to its former position and replace any part of the head disturbed after the displacement.~~

~~37.1.5.3 If a player lifts a bowl at rest on their rink to allow their team's bowl in its original course to pass, the defaulting team will forfeit the game to their opponent.~~

The World Bowls Board, following a recommendation from the World Bowls Laws Advisory Group, have agreed to rescind Laws 37.1.3 and 37.1.5.3 with immediate effect.

World Bowls will post this advice on our website and social media platforms in the next 24 hours but I encourage all MNAs to share this advice with all relevant members within your Association/Federation.