

BOWLS DORSET

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

Administrator

Sue Maggs
Church Lane
Osmington,
Weymouth
Dorset DT3 6EW

Telephone : 07866 410264
e-mail: suemaggs49@gmail.com

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON Thursday 12 October 2023 2.00pm DORCHESTER BOWLING CLUB

- E 128/23** **PRESENT-** Ann Allman, Shirley Bowley, Bill Fox,
Harry Hovenden, Sue Maggs, Janine Scola, Alexander Wilson,
- E 129/23** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE-** Margaret Clapp, Anne Allman
- E 130/23** **OBITUARIES: -**
Peter A Harrison (Dorchester), Norman Scott (Dorchester), Bill Burton (Lyme Regis)
Malcolm Brown (PBO), Geoff Clode (Lyme Regis), Tim Skidmore (Broadstone Wessex)
Margaret Highland (Swanage), Bob Young (West Moors), Barbara Redpath (Dorchester)
Allan Goodwin (Wellworthy) Roger Parnell (Branksome Park)
- E 131/23** **MINUTES of MEETING HELD 4 September 2023**
All agreed - proposed by Bill Fox seconded by Harry Hovenden signed by Alexander Wilson
- E 132/23** **MATTERS ARISING from Minutes not already on the agenda**
i) **E 116/23 (i) Sponsorship on website-** On going
ii) **E 116/23 (ii) National Competition Areas-** Deferred until October delegates meetings.
iii) **E 116/23 (iii) Dress code-** ongoing
iv) **E 116/23 (v) Safeguarding –** on-going-Save that Coach Bowls are due to come back with
w/e dates in March /April for the course to be held at Dorchester
v) **E116/23 (vii) Inclement Weather-** Ongoing
vi) **E125/23 Website -** Ongoing
- E 133/23** **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 their B.E. Website.
Items received included-
i) Calendar of Events – dates for Johns, Middleton etc.
ii) BDA offer for education in week of learning
iii) County Update Sept 2023
iv) County Drop in minutes 27 September
v) Details of Counties meeting 25 November
vi) Details of County Update October
vii) Details of Board Minutes 13 September
- E 134/23** **TREASURERS REPORT**
Shirley reported that the Accounts are ready to go for auditing- so no draft accounts available
She requested that in future the Competition fees should NOT be paid before 1 October
- E 135/23** **LADIES SECRETARY REPORT**
The Delegates meeting covered
Edna Paisley possible reduction to 15 ends- the delegates had no appetite for this
Umpire payments now out of County expenses
Safeguarding- the proposed meeting for the new year

The continued uncertainty of numbers qualifying for Leamington and the need therefore for 2 joint finals weekend.

The affiliation fee increase by B.E to £7.00- therefore clubs would be paying £12 for each member as B.D. Not anticipating increasing the affiliation

Former DWBL competitions run this year, with a poor response- lack of enthusiasm for their continuation.

No of rinks for the BD DWBL – to continue as 2 per rink to be inclusive.

Dates for the year ahead including the Big Bowls Weekend- which was poorly supported this year

The two vacancies following the resignation of key Ladies at B.E- Varsha and Helen.

Still awaiting outcome of the various B.E. working parties- with an outline of what they are for.

The AGM proposals – the delegates in favour of the reduction of ends for June Culpin and Mixed fours- aware that the proposals will be voted on at the AGM.

National Competition areas- The ladies voted to come under one area- no East and West as present- The delegates were advised that if the men voted the other way there would be a vote at the AGM.

E 136/23

LADIES MATCH SECRETARY REPORT

Nothing to add to last report other than-

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)

E 137/23

MEN'S SECRETARY 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 complimentary 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.

For information, there are proposals being discussed by the Ladies to remove their qualification requirements for playing for BD – essentially bringing in line with men – and to change the ladies dress code for BD matches to green below the waist.

A few diary dates for 2024:

- Big Bowls Weekend May Fri 24 – Mon 27
- British Isles 2024 Championships Wed/Thurs 26/27 June, Internationals Fri/Sat 28/30 June at Leamington
- BD Championship Finals Weekend Sat/Sun 20/21 July at Dorchester
- Leamington Thurs 15 Aug – Sun 1 Sept (keeping the 18 days of this year but pushed back a week)
- BD Competition Finals Weekend Sat/Sun 14/15 September at Branksome Park

BE Calendar of Events for 2024 is on BE's Competition Portal. There's also now a link to it on the BD website.

Affiliation fees for 2024:

- BD Exec will be recommending keep BD at £5.00 - BE is going up to £7.00

So £12 is due for every playing member of a club – payable 1 April based playing members as of 31 March.

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.

E 138/23

MEN'S MATCH SECRETARY REPORT

Middleton Cup & Balcomb Trophy (2 Rink)

We played two trial matches this year the first a men's invitation and the 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 but in most games and on most rinks we were very competitive. 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 and won on 3 rinks. We had a good chance of winning both of these games but from my recollection we faded during the last few ends and went out with a bit of a whimper. Not sure how we fix this as from what I saw we were well able to achieve a win based on how we 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 and 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 BC on the 27th May. Unfortunately they did not prevail and as such did not progress and unfortunately came second!

County Friendly Games

1. 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! Obviously this coming year it will be similar but in reverse. Again I will try and break these up but its difficult as most of the counties are happy with their dates. Of the 14 men's friendlies we managed to win 6 and loose 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 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 compliment of bowlers in virtually all games and as usual thoroughly enjoyed our days out.

E 139/23

LADIES COMPETITION SECRETARY- Attached

E 140/23

MEN'S COMPETITION SECRETARY-

Competition entries are coming in for closing date 30 October.

E 141/23 REVIEW ALLOWANCES FOR APPROVAL AT AGM
ALLOWANCES RECOMMENDED FOR 2023-24
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

E 142/23 AGREE AGENDA FOR AGM
The Agenda was reviewed and will be sent out when all reports are to hand

E 143/23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS
i) Agree Annual league entry and handbook order form as attached.

E 144/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
Date of the next meeting of the Executive Board. TBC

Meeting closed 15.40pm

SIGNED.....

Date.....

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, if you are able to scan in the entries and send them electronically to myself,

ann.dorsetcomps@gmail.com that would help be greatly, please send a hard copy to Marion Clements my Assistant. Again if you can 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

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 with the last batch being distributed today at the Delegates meeting.

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 and thank you Marion for all the hard work you have done this year.

Ann Allman

CLUB

FOR YEAR 2024

Annual League Entries & Handbooks

Please complete as necessary and return to Administrator as below by **30 November 2023**

Year Books				
Bowls Dorset Handbook <i>Members and Officers other than Competitors</i>	(Club)	@ £ 3.00	TOTAL	£
League Entries	* PLEASE ENTER PERCY BAKER/ EDNA PAISLEY DAY OF WEEK PLAYED		Number of Teams	
County Cup Men (1 only per club)		£7.50		£
County League Men (3 rinks of 4)		£10.00 per team		£
Percy Baker Men (2 Rinks of triples)	*	£10.00 per team		£
Dorset Women's Bowling League (2 rinks of 4)		£10.00 per team		£
Edna Paisley League (2 Rinks of triples)	*	£10.00 per team		£
June Culpin Trophy (1 only per club)		£7.50		£
			TOTAL	£
Cheque /Bacs payable to Bowls Dorset by 30 November 2023	method of payment- Chq/Bacs		TOTAL	£
BACS Sorting code 30-97-08 A/c no. 01639743 A/c name Bowls Dorset				

Please advise Shirley Bowley
(shirley.bowley1@btinternet.com) of amount of BACS
Please return form to : Administrator- Sue Maggs, Charity Farmhouse, Church Lane, Osmington, Weymouth DT3 6EW