

BOWLS DORSET

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

Administrator

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON Thursday 5 December 2023 2.00pm DORCHESTER BOWLING CLUB

- E 145/23** **PRESENT-** Shirley Bowley, Bobbie Cover, Bill Fox, Marion Clements (Ladies Assistant Comp Secy)
Harry Hovenden, May Jenkins, Sue Maggs, Alexander Wilson,
- E 146/23** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE-** Ann Allman
- E 147/23** **OBITUARIES: -**
None since AGM
- E 148/23** **MINUTES of MEETING HELD 10 October 2023**
All agreed - proposed by Bill Fox seconded by Harry Hovenden signed by Alexander Wilson
- E 149/23** **MATTERS ARISING from Minutes not already on the agenda**
i) **E 132/23 (i) Sponsorship on website-** On going
ii) **E 132/23 (ii) National Competition Areas-** The outcome of the vote at the AGM was to remain East and West - so no further action need be taken.
iii) **E 132/23 (iii) Dress code-** ongoing
iv) **E 133/23 (v) Safeguarding –**Coach Bowls have offered, and we have accepted 6th April to hold this course at Dorchester Bowls Club
v) **E133/23 (vii) Inclement Weather-** Ongoing
vi) **E133/23 Website -** Ongoing- as a points of interest the website had 37 “hits” on 4.12
- E 150/23** **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-including details of the feedback summary for the Juniors Performance Day; the launch of the National Competitions for 2024 with the schedule for Leamington 2024; notification of general sale of tickets for Awards evening event.
Details of those who wished to be considered for selection for the 2024 Celebration Matches had been submitted.
- E 151/23** **TREASURERS REPORT**
Shirley reported that all the league entry fees had been received
- E 152/23** **LADIES SECRETARY REPORT**
Sue reported that following receipt of the entries for the Edna Paisley and DWBL leagues, the Ladies Competition Committee will need to confirm the make up of divisions and promotions and relegations.
- E 153/23** **LADIES MATCH SECRETARY REPORT**
Nothing to report
- E 154/23** **MEN’S SECRETARY REPORT**
Nothing to report.

E 155/23 MEN'S MATCH SECRETARY REPORT

All matches had been arranged.

E 156/23 LADIES COMPETITION SECRETARY-

Report by Ann Allman, Competition Secretary for BD Executive Meeting Dec 2023.

Apologies for my absence but I am currently in Cyprus.

I don't have a lot to report.

I have prepared the Ladies Competition Rounds programme and arranged all the venues for the Quarter & Semi Finals & Rounds of 2wood singles & Benevolent Triples, with complimentary rinks. Copy attached.

The Quarter/Semi of the Ladies 2 wood singles will be played in conjunction with the men's 4 wood singles.

I am returning to UK on 14th December, and I have arranged with the Officers to do the County Competition Draw at 10am on 15th December at Dorchester BC

My only issue from 2023 was that some of the umpires allocated for the Q/Semis and rounds travelled from a long distance resulting with expensive travelling costs for the County. I appreciate that not all the local umpires are always available to umpire near to their home but just wanted to make this point. **This was discussed under AOB.**

Once the County Draw is completed, then I will be able to complete the templates for the website once I receive them.

E 157/23 MEN'S COMPETITION SECRETARY-

Competition draw will be carried out 12 December.

E 158/23 REVIEW FROM AGM

The Board discussed an alternative to the "green below the waist" proposal which was withdrawn and will discuss and formalise at a future meeting.

E 159/23 REVIEW OF COUNTIES MEETING

This is just a small summary of what's being proposed by the Competition working party and we await the full proposal to be implemented for 2025, to be voted on at the B. E. AGM in February. At this stage nothing is written in stone.

Singles Pairs Triples Fours (remain at 18 ends and normal format, standard number of bowls)

C of C reverts to Club Champ ONLY

Senior Singles and Pairs to O65

Senior Fours remains O55.

Two bowl singles cease to exist- they are too short, but require a lot of resources at Leamington, not part of the international disciplines-but maybe better as a county run round robin

Balcomb/Walker - 10 players playing 4 disciplines.

White rose / Amy rose - 5 players playing 2 disciplines- eligibility under 24.

Junior events to U17 and U24s

New events for new/less experienced players (i.e. novice comps)

Internationals banned from family pairs.

New mixed O65 inter county - 6 mixed rinks.

Top club - 6 players. 3 games of 3 bowl pairs then 2 games of 2 bowl triples. Sets format 6 ends and 1 end tiebreak.

(Also introducing a ranking system so the better clubs enter the competition later)

Club Two fours become open event with women able to play

Johns and Middleton undecided to 18 ends and may introduce a "plate" competition for 1st game losers of knockout.

Bowls England are drawing in their horns as they attempt to reduce their deficit.

There were lots of number and analyses mentioned, including 17000 attending the Big Bowls Weekend resulting in an average of 31 new bowlers for each club participating and an overall growth of 1.4% in club membership.

progress of the working parties- not just the competitions-

a new set of disciplinary regulations, a positive report from the Governance report, which requires amendments to the Articles of Association, a draft of new Disciplinary process;

moving to new offices at top of the Tennis pavilion (address to be available shortly)
They appear to be struggling to sustain the Sports England funding which is dependent on Governance and so much more including the success of Big Bowls Bash and Pay to Play

They have created a new award- County of the Year – this year to be between Somerset, Lincolnshire, Surrey, Bedfordshire, and Buckinghamshire

For the year ahead, they envisage 250 Big Bowls Bash parks; a well-supported Big Bowls Weekend; each County to have Disciplinary Panel (separate to Safeguarding Officers); a more friendly safeguarding policy.

A presentation from Lisa from BDA covered Health check kit for clubs; Free club learning through specialised weeks of learning webinars; BBB and Play Bowls promotion, training and development; advice and guidance on Club Development, safeguarding and good governance.

A presentation from Amanda of Coach Bowls which is owned by Bowls England and EIBA, included their priority of having at least 1 coach in each club; on line safeguarding courses; one mentor per county for coaches; personal dashboard with info for coaching; and a definitive list of coaches which is available on “find a coach” on the website.

Other subjects discussed were Zoom calls- general discussion and topics; forming of “Whats App” groups; a special Youth Package.

A full report of all the above to be presented for the AGM.

E 160/23

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Umpire expenses-** A great deal of discussion resulted in the decision that markers be allowed refreshments (sandwich if all day) and the umpires’ expenses be paid as agreed earlier in the year. Clubs to be encouraged to hold “competent Markers” courses.
- b) **Review B. E. Directors – 2 from 3 to vote**
After careful consideration of the information received for each candidate- the Executive Board decided unanimously to vote for Malcolm Evans and Vivienne Wilton- Middlemas
- c) **Affiliation figures comparison**
Alexander distributed some interesting facts about Dorset in comparison with other counties.
We have the second highest average club size (average members per club 84) behind I.O.W.
We have well above the average percentage entries in all the Competition disciplines –
4 woods Dorset 7.57% average 6.07%
2 woods Dorset 5.35% average 4.48%
Pairs Dorset 14.79% average 11.91%
Triples Dorset 14.68% average 11.93%
Fours Dorset 12.74% average 9.86%
Senior fours Dorset 12/74% average 7.48%
These comparisons are overall (Men and Ladies) but are reflected through the individual codes
Dorset “punches” above their weight in competition entries and deserve the two qualifiers per discipline- we shall see!
- d) **Patrons Details on website-** A request received from the Dorset Patrons to be included in the Handbook was agreed.
- e) **Trophy Insurance-** The Board stressed that individuals or clubs who accept trophies are responsible for the safe keeping of trophies. Individuals should make sure their household contents insurance covers them and clubs should ensure their club’s insurance covers the trophies.

- f) **Life Membership**- This to be reviewed during the winter – the Board agreed it should be available to be awarded anytime throughout the year, but remain a Executive Board decision.

E 161/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting of the Executive Board 20 February 2023 at 11.00am

Meeting closed 1.50pm

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