

HERTFORDSHIRE BOWLS

The 10th Annual General Meeting of Hertfordshire Bowls took place on Saturday 4 January 2020 at the Welwyn Civic Centre at 14.30 hours. The meeting was attended by 95 Officers and Members representing 37 Clubs.

1. **Welcome, Apologies & Obituaries:**

Chairman John Thompson took the chair and welcomed all to the meeting. Before apologies were received a period of silence was held in memory of past members. Apologies from 19 Members were received.

2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 6 January 2018:**

These having been previously circulated were adopted and signed. Proposed by G Searle (Met Police) and seconded by K Greenough (Stevenage Town).

3. **Matters Arising:** No matters were raised.

4. **Hon. Executive Secretary Report:** Read and attached

5. **Hon. Ladies County Secretary's Report:**

M. Van Put presented her previously circulated report. J Redford (Harpenden) asked if consideration was given to coaches for away games. This had been looked at but was found not to be cost effective for the number that wanted this. However, it will be looked into again.

6. **Hon. Men's County Secretary's Report:**

S Kilford presented his report previously circulated but would just like to add his congratulations to those people who were awarded their County Badge, Eastern Counties Flash and Middleton Cup Flash in 2019 as follows.

County Badge – Robin Chalcraft (Sawbridgeworth), Alwyn Challacombe (Wel & Dist), Billy Chaudhery (Whitethorn), Joe Festa (Wel & Dist), Richard Knight (Royston), Kevin Rylett (Wel & Dist), John Williams (Harpenden).

Eastern Counties Flash – Chris Gray (Oak Hill), Steve Hunter (Datchworth), Barry Smith (Wel & Dist).

Middleton Cup Flash – James Avery (Wel Gdn City).

7. **Hon. Treasurer's Report:**

M Duke presented his financial report which had been previously circulated.

M Poole (Wel & Dist) congratulated treasurer on the accounts but queried the inclusion of Tour Surplus and 300 Club in P&L account as this distorts the County's figures.

P McNulty (Life Member) said he had given notice to the Exec of a question he was going to bring in relation to Sponsorship. However, a written reply had been received providing a detailed written County policy on Sponsorship for which he congratulated them on. He asked how many sponsors the County had for 2020.

M Duke said there were 5 in 2019 but 2 were not continuing this in 2020. Noel Roberts SVP was looking at ways of attracting further sponsorship.

D Knight (East Barnet Valley) proposed to approve the accounts seconded by A Sayers (Herts) Unanimously carried.

Accounts verifier of B Maule was again approved.

8. **Treasurers Report on Charity Accounts:**

M Duke presented his previously circulated reports on the funds' activity for the past year and their financial position.

Proposed by L Parsley (Herts) these fund accounts be accepted, seconded by J Loudon (Hatfield)

Unanimously carried.

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9. Council's Recommended the following changes to Affiliation & Competition Fees for 2020:

- a). Affiliation Fees – No change. Remain at £5 Bowls England, Increase to £3.50 Hertfordshire Bowls
- b). Competition Fees – No Change. Remain at £3.50 per competitor.
- c). Club Competitions – No change to Men's Team Ten, Men's Club League and Men's Club Championship. All remain at £10 each. Women's League remains at £5/team
- d). HB Handbook – No change. Remain at £3.50 per copy. BE Yearbook £4.25
- e). Match Fees – Friendly & Presidents Match Fees increase to £12

Discussions were held on the pros & cons of increasing the match fee, however the increases were:

Proposed by J Loudon (Hatfield) and seconded by A Sayers (Herts) and was passed by majority, with 4 votes against.

10. Council Recommends the following changes to the Rules & Constitution (as itemised in attachment 1)

These rules were taken from the Council meeting.

Rule 9b to replace "a minimum of two selectors" with "will endeavour to appoint a minimum of two selectors from applications received." Proposed by J Thompson (Whit Hern) Seconded by N Woor (Royston) and agreed unanimously.

Rule 11/Rule 7Administration that Rule 11c be moved to Administration and become Rule 7c including the word "Divisional". Proposed by South Division & supported by the Executive. Agreed unanimously.

Changes to Competition and Match Bylaws. Approved by the Exec are attached and for information only

11. **County Development Officer's Report:** G Marriner (Potters Bar) spoke about his report emphasising the upcoming courses. Also mentioned the Strategy for Pitches (Greens) to 2036 participated in by Clubs in Watford. Highlighted that if clubs were struggling to survive that they contact him direct as he maybe in a position to help. Marcia Dunstone mentioned that Bowls England were providing a search engine for funding and this will be circulated to clubs when details received.

12. **Eastern Counties Bowling Association – Delegates Report:**

S Kilford proposed congratulations to P Clewes Garner (Sawbridgeworth) on his very successful year as Eastern County president in 2019.

Peter Cottee (Norfolk) was inducted as President as A. Parish of Huntingdonshire had withdrawn 3 days before the meeting. Suffolk were asked if they could provide a Deputy as P Cottee had moved straight to President, but they were not able to do this. As a result, Beds who were next in line were asked and Peter Lee was nominated and will take up the role as Deputy from 2020.

Draw for the Eastern Counties Finals in 2020 were made and Herts received no Byes and have Prelim rounds of Singles away to Norfolk, Pairs home to Suffolk, Triples home to Beds, Fours home to Norfolk and Junior Singles away to Beds. Graham Marriner was reappointed as Safeguarding Officer.

13. **Election of Officers for 2020 in accordance with Rule 6A.**

<u>Office</u>	<u>Women's Nomination</u>	<u>Men's Nomination</u>
President	Mrs B Ottaway (Herts)	T Barker (Potters Bar)
Senior Vice President	Mrs R Varney (Baldock)	N Roberts (Harpenden)
<i>Mrs R Varney proposed by B Leadley & seconded by Mrs J Holland</i>		
Junior Vice President	no nomination	no nomination
Honorary Gender Secretary	Ms M Van Put (Hatfield)	S Kilford (Royston)
Honorary Executive Secretary	Mrs M Dunstone (Berkhamsted)	
Honorary Treasurer	M Duke (de Havilland)	
Honorary Match Secretary	P Clewes-Garner (Sawbridgeworth)	

Before handing over the Chains of Office to the new Presidents, D Worker thanked everyone for the support he had received during the year, in particular his club and the Executive.

14. **Election of Honorary Life Member(s) in accordance with Rule 11:**

Both 2019 Presidents, Cathy Newman & David Worker, were awarded Honorary Life membership for the work they have done over the year.

15. **2020 Match Programme.** P Clewes Garner's read out his report (see attached).

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16 2020 Samaritan Fund Veteran's Events:

Monday May 11: Women's Samaritan Fund Day to be held at Stevenage Town BC
Sunday July 5th Gerald Scott Memorial Gala to be held at Hatfield BC
Entry forms to follow in due course

17 2020 Annual Prize Presentations

Sunday 25th October Women's Luncheon(vtbc)
Wednesday 11th November Men's Dinner at Mecure Letchworth Hall Hotel

18 2020 Annual Tours

14th -19th June Women President's Tour to Worthing.
21st -28th June Men President's Tour to Bournemouth

19/ 20 Chairman's Closing Address &Any other relevant business:

Terry Barker proposed thanks to Roger Carter (South Division) and Nigel Woor (North Division) who were retiring from their positions as Secretary and Chairman respectively for the work they had done. Additional thanks were also given to Nigel Woor for the massive contribution he made in preparing the Counties Centenary Book.

P Havord asked what sanctions would be imposed on the two teams who declined to play the 3rd and 4th place play off in the Ginder Trophy. A points deduction for next season was suggested.

T Redford of Harpenden explained that they did not refuse to play but were approached by Garston saying they were quite happy not to play and put any prize money to charity.

This matter was discussed, and it was agreed that this matter be discussed further by the Exec and that the distribution of the prize money was not the club's decision as this had not been won by them. It would therefore be returned to the sponsor with apologies that this game did not take place.

The meeting was closed at 16.00hrs.

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Attachment 1

Council on 5th October recommended the following changes to the Rules & Constitution

Rules & Constitution

1. Rule 9b) Selection Committee (Handbook Page 40) be amended as below.
After –... each gender Selection Subcommittee shall appoint a Team Manager and *replace* “a minimum of two selectors” *with* “will endeavour to appoint a minimum of two selectors from applications received”.
Proposed by John Thompson seconded by Nigel Woor.
2. Rule 11 (Handbook Page 41)/Rule 7 Administration (Handbook Page 40) that Rule 11c be moved to Administration and become Rule 7c including the word “Division”.

Rule 7c to read: Honorary Life Members may attend Division, Council and General Meetings but only Past Officers shall have power of vote.

(Proposed by South & Supported by Exec)

Changes to By-Laws (accepted by Council)

Players competing in the Men’s Inter Divisional League can wear white or club shirts.

(Dress Code By-Laws. Men Page 51.)

Proposed by West & Supported by Exec

Reminder:

Women

For County Matches (P48)

From this year dress code for Women is County Shirt and Dark Blue blazer unless player has a National Blazer.

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Executive Secretary's Report

Bowls England

Recent applications were announced, the first 2 were the result of the votes by the counties and take effect from the Men's Championship Dinner & Presentation in February.

- Chair of the Board: David Tucker of Devon
- Junior Vice President: Deepak Tanna from Leicestershire

Team Managers with immediate effect are:

- Senior International Men: Kirk Smith (Buckinghamshire)
- Senior International Women: Mo Monkton (Somerset)
- Junior International Men: Martyn Sekjer (Kent)
- Junior International Women: Nicola Bowe (Cumbria)

Announcements have been made by BE requesting applications for various roles including CEO to replace Tony Allcock OBE who will be retiring on 30 April this year.

Independent Director (Marketing & Communications) – a fixed term appointment till Feb 2023.

Director of Governance – to complete the current term till Feb 2022, both can then apply for re-election.

At the recent BE Women's Dinner & Presentation in November Tony Allcock OBE was presented with Life Membership by Chairman David Mitchell Gears.

Devon Cooper was shortlisted for Junior player of the Year and although her citation when read out sounded very impressive the winner was from Essex and did not appear to have as good a record, that's the power of a public on-line vote.

In the morning of the same day at the Counties meeting various proposals were discussed, mostly put forward by Dorset and then voted on to see if they should proceed to the AGM. The following proposals were defeated – Middleton Cup and Johns to be played on either Saturday or Sunday by mutual agreement except for the last tie. The West region to revert to a previous split for both MC & JT. The Amy Rose age qualification to change to 25 and under, and only 1 rink with max 2 entries per County. It had earlier been announced that the White Rose was going back to the 2 rink format so it was unlikely that the Amy Rose would be reduced to 1 rink. The one proposal that was passed was from Norfolk. They proposed that the first-round losers of the Amy Rose should play for a plate. Thereby ensuring that every team plays at least 2 games. Every year Bowls Dorset makes similar proposals with equal lack of success. It was proposed by the Chair and adopted that there should be a 2-year gap before the same proposal can be made again. The result for the Bowls story of the year has recently been announced and unfortunately Hertford BC's nomination of their member Jim Smith didn't reach the top 2 places. I understand that Abbots Langley also entered this, nothing to do with recruitment but about their member Wilf Johns' 50th anniversary of active membership of the club.

Regional Meetings – East Region's meetings is on Tuesday 24 March. If any club or individual has any question, they would like raised then please let me know and I'll pass on to our delegates.

County

A tremendous amount of my time is spent on the annual returns. The mistakes are various but are too many and all need time spent on making the corrections. Not reading the form, not adding up correctly, not returning all the forms, i.e. the women send in their comps separately with separate cheques or the membership form isn't returned. The best one was the photocopy of the cheque but no cheque. There is a misconception that if someone is moving on then their affiliation doesn't have to be paid. Yes, it does – the club had their subscription money for the year so therefore their affiliation has to be paid.

When the County competitions reach the semi-final stages, we will be applying the slow play rules. Copies will be sent to the players but can be downloaded from the BE website. This is partly because of evening play and the

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reduced light later but also these rules are applied at the National Championships, so it is worth getting familiar with what is entailed.

I am trying to resolve why some get my bcc emails and others apparently don't. The AGM email on 12 December and requesting a confirmation of receipt was sent to 122 bcc addresses. I received 54 confirmations. Today I sent out the match programme, but this time reduced to sending to each division and again asking for a receipt.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Marcia Dunstone
Honorary Executive Secretary.

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Herts Bowls AGM 4 January 2020 – Match Secretary Report

The 2020 match programme is quite extensive because its Hertfordshire Bowls Men's Centenary. The programme is all but finished with just one game to be agreed.

There will be a total of 31 County Friendlies.

18 – Men's to include Centenary games against the Home Counties, London Scottish and London & Southern Counties (hopefully).

13 – Ladies which includes venues both home and away games against Essex for the first time.

There are 23 Presidents games: -

8 – Men's which includes Centenary games against S&DBA, W&DBA, EHBA, EHBL and the Dennyside.

10 – Mixed which includes Centenary games against Bowls England, The Friends of English Bowling and Letchworth & District and anniversary games against Whitethorn, Hemel Hempstead and Northaw & Cuffley.

5 – Regular Ladies games.

Altogether a very busy schedule which will keep our presidents Terry & Betty very busy. They need your nominations particularly for their Presidents games which are open to all registered club members.

The Women's Samaritan Fund Gala this year will be on Monday 11 May and will again take place at Stevenage Town BC. I would like to suggest we change the name of the gala to the Sue Moodey Gala and have the cup engraved to show this. Mavis Hendry does a great job in organising the gala and needs your support lets see if we can have a full house of teams.

The Gerald Scott Gala will take place on Sunday 5 July. There has been much discussion regarding the food after last years gala and it has been agreed that there will be no fixed price for the day but there will be two sessions for bacon rolls so that no one is rushing to start their first game and we will revert to ordering a meal with a cost of £6. We have to order a minimum of 48 meals which is 12 rinks, so the County needs your full support to make sure we have enough teams playing. You will also be able to take your own food.

I would like to thank all clubs who offered their greens and facilities for County use, without you we could not put anything like the detailed match programme we have together.

We do have one issue and that is the East Division could not find a venue on the 29 August for their Ginder Club League divisional semis and final. This means it will be on the 5 September in the East which I know will clash with some club finals days.

The game yet to be agreed is against the London & Southern Counties. The dates offered are 18 May, 31 May, 12 September and 14 September, if any club has the availability to host this game on any of the days mentioned could they please contact me and I will revert as soon as possible.

Could I finish by asking the North and East Divisional Secretaries if they could please look to have all their venues in place by 30 November to help with the completion of the match programme.

I know Marcia is going to send the Provisional Match Programme 5 to all clubs but if you require a personal copy can you please fill in your name and email address as clearly as possible on the two sheets here and I will send it to you. Apologies to the lady from Potten End who didn't receive a copy after the Council meeting as I could not read her email address.

Thank you all and here's to a great Centenary year for Hertfordshire Bowls.