

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 2019

AGENDA ITEM 6 – ADMINISTRATOR’S ANNUAL REPORT

Earlier this year David Mitchell-Geers MBE announced that he would be retiring from his post as Chair of Bowls England in November 2019. It gives me great pleasure, on your behalf, to congratulate his successor, Life Member and Treasurer of Bowls Devon and Director of Bowls England, David Tucker. We wish David every success in his new role.

I am pleased to present this, my first, Annual Report.

As a result of appointments made at last year’s Annual General Meeting, we welcomed Assistant Treasurer Ray Stringer, Assistant Administrator Paul Debnam, Ladies’ Administrator Ciss Jones (responsible for Admin matters), Men’s Administrator Kevin Phillips and Assistant Ladies Administrator Ruth Rogers (responsible for Ladies’ Competitions).

During the year, due to work commitments, we were sorry to see the departure of Paul Debnam.

As a County we seem to be keeping our overall membership and I would encourage all Clubs that meet the criteria to sign up for the BDA Club Development Programme. Our Bowls Development Officer, Sue Silcox, will be pleased to discuss this opportunity with interested Clubs.

The Devon Patrons Association reported another enjoyable season and have very kindly donated the sum of £2500.

Should your Club be thinking of capital expenditure, remember that the County has interest free loans available up to a maximum of £10,000 repayable over 5 years, the only cost being an administration fee of £25 per £1,000 borrowed. Full details can be obtained from the Assistant Treasurer, Ray Stringer, at raystringer59@gmail.com

Ciss, Kevin and Ruth, with the newly formed Competition Committee ensured that our County competitions ran smoothly paving the way to more Devon successes in the National Championships held at Victoria Park, Royal Leamington Spa in August.

On the international front we were delighted to see James Hampton play his first game for England at Junior level where he joined Emma Cooper, Harriet Stevens and Harry Goodwin as Junior Internationals.

At Senior International level we saw Emma, Harriet and Harry along with Natalie Chestney, Lorraine Hackett, Sophie Tolchard, Lee Haywood, Ian Lesley, Oliver Lucas, Rob Paxton, Louis Ridout and Sam Tolchard representing England.

In the National Championships we started the month off with success in the Middleton Cup. This was Devon’s sixth title in 12 years and fourth in the last five. Congratulations to the players, Team Manager David Tucker and his fellow Selectors Alan Horwell and Alan Mann.

Our ladies enjoyed success with Championship winners of the Two Wood Singles (Sophie), Ladies’ Fours (Lauren Hackett, Hayley James, Emma and Harriet) and Ladies’ Junior Singles (Harriet). Emma and Natalie were runners up in the Ladies’ Pairs and Emma was runner up in the Junior Singles.

For the third time, Kings ladies were the National Top Club Competition winners.

Sam was the Men's Champion of Champions and, along with Sophie, won the Family Pairs Competition. Harry and Dominic Tuckett were runners up in the Junior Pairs Championship and Stuart Evans was runner up in the Senior Singles Competition.

Kings men were runners up in the Club Two Fours Competition and, for the fourth successive year, were winners of the National Top Club Competition. Photographs celebrating our successes in the National Championships have been put on the web site.

We celebrated our successes at County and National level at a most enjoyable luncheon at the Langstone Cliff Hotel. As was the case in recent years not all our prize winners were present which is a disappointment.

As is customary at the luncheon, there was the presentation of the Bowler of the Year Award This Award was donated by the late Ken Boobyer with the stipulation that it cannot be won by the same person more than once. Our 2019 winner was Emma Cooper, in her first season in Devon following her move from Sussex.

Volunteers are the backbone of our sport and I must thank each and every one of you for your contribution – whether that be as a green keeper, umpire, coach, administrative officer, or any other role. Bowls England has made funding available to clubs and individual members in support of their attendance on recognised courses including safeguarding, greens maintenance and coaching.

I would like to thank, on your behalf, our 2019 Presidents Margaret Jones and Tony Howle, their Senior and Junior Vice Presidents, Bob Dowdell and John Abbott, and Christine Marshall and Aileen Rowden who joined them during the year for their work on and off the green.

Finally, I would thank our team of officers for their commitment and contributions during 2019 and, in particular, I would thank Chairman Alan and Treasurer David for their much - valued support and advice during this, my first year as County Administrator.

We have enjoyed 2019 and look forward to building on this in 2020.

Harry Riley
County Administrator
12 November 2019