



**Minutes of the Tenth Annual General Meeting of Bowls Devon held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
at the Exeter Golf and Country Club, Countess Wear, Exeter, commencing at 10 a.m.**

**Present**

**Presidential Team**

Presidents Mrs M Jones and Mr T Howle, Senior Vice Presidents Mrs C Marshall and Mr B Dowdell and Junior Vice Presidents Mrs A Rowden and Mr J Abbott.

**Officers**

Mr A Mann (Chair), Mr H Riley (Administrator), Mr D Tucker Treasurer), Mr R Stringer (Assistant Treasurer), Miss C Jones (Ladies' Administrator), Mr E Melliush (Men's Match Secretary), Mrs R Rogers (Assistant Ladies' Administrator (Competitions) and Mrs S Silcox (Bowls Development Officer).

**Life and Honorary Members**

Mr D Counter, Mr D Coyne, Mr C Healey MBE, Mr A Horwell, Mrs J Howle, Mr D Mercer, Mrs K Page and Mr J Theedom.

**Section Secretaries and Club Voting Delegates** 27 **Non-voting Members** 14

**1 Welcome**

The Chair welcomed all present to the Tenth Annual General Meeting and, on behalf of the members present, congratulated David Tucker on his appointment as Chair of Bowls England.

The Administrator then read out the names of those members who had passed away since the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018, as listed on the Bowls Devon web site. The Chair then asked for a Minutes silence.

**2 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr K Phillips (Men's Administrator), Mrs S Trott (Ladies' Match Secretary) and 18 members.

**3 Minutes**

It was **resolved** to approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018 as a correct record. The Chair duly signed.

There were no matters arising.

**4 Presentation of the Bowls Devon Order of Merit Award**

The Administrator advised that the Bowls Devon Order of Merit was awarded to members who have given exceptional services to fellow bowlers at club level. Nominations had been invited from clubs.

One nomination had been received and the Life Membership Committee had recommended to the Executive Committee that Brian Vernon of the Okehampton, Simmons Bowling Club should be awarded the Order of Merit.

Brian, having been presented with his award by President Tony Howle, thanked Bowls Devon saying how delighted he was to receive the award.

**5 Administrator' Report**

The Administrator presented his Annual Report - previously circulated. It was **resolved** to accept the Report.

**6 Treasurer's Annual Report and Examined Accounts**

Treasurer David presented his Report and the Examined Statement of Accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 - previously circulated.

Whilst affiliation numbers are down, Devon compares favourably against other Counties. There was an increase in competition fees and a donation of £2,500 had been received from the Patron's Association. (The Treasurer of the Patrons Association, John Hogger, was asked to convey our thanks to the Association for the donation).

The first payment of Sponsorship money, in the sum of £4,000 had been received and this had been put towards the purchase of coloured clothing for our elite squads. The sponsorship money also accounted for the increase in "Goods for resale".

A reduction in monies paid out for County/President's Matches was mainly due to the County not being as successful in the Johns Trophy, Walker Cup, White Rose and Balcomb Trophy this year. Additionally, although two teams were budgeted for, only one team participated in the Amy Rose Competition.

Overall, a surplus net income of £4,318 was reported.

The surplus in this year's accounts had enabled David to budget for no increases in affiliation or competition entry fees for 2020.

Turning to the Statement of Assets, David pointed out that £30,000 had been invested in the Hampshire Trust Bank which will attract interest of 1.75%.

Insofar as the Amenities Fund was concerned, David reported that the fund was there for the benefit of members by way of loans and Christmas Gifts. This year, three loans, amounting to £18,500 had been made resulting in an excess of expenditure over income of £9,378.82 in the Amenities Fund. Outstanding loans amount to £19,940.

In conclusion, David thanked Ben de Cruz (Haines Watts Chartered Accountants) and his fellow officers for their co-operation during the year.

He reminded members that 2020 would be his last year as Treasurer and, as planned, he would then hand over to Assistant Treasurer, Ray Stringer.

It was **resolved** to approve the Annual Accounts.

In reply to a question from the floor, Bowls Development Officer, Sue advised that Recruitment packages continue to attract new members although uptake of this benefit is still limited. She asked Sections to encourage their Clubs to participate in the packages adding that she hoped to attend all Section Spring meetings in order to publicise the work of the BDA.

#### **7 Appointment of Account Examiners**

It was **resolved** to accept the appointment of Haines Watts Chartered Accountants as Account Examiners.

#### **8 Annual Report and Examined Accounts of the Bowls Devon Patrons Association**

The Annual Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 had previously been circulated and had been audited by David.

#### **9 Fees, Grants and Allowances**

It was **resolved** to accept the recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee that there be a 2% increase in both the Presidential Grants and Officers Allowances for 2020.

#### **10 Changes to the Constitution and Rules**

On behalf of the Executive Committee the Chair explained the rationale leading to the following proposed changes to the Constitution and Rules - previously circulated:

Rule 2.2.1        ADD "Officers and delegates of a club must be affiliated members of Bowls Devon and Bowls England".

Rule 2.2.2        ADD "Players in Club, Section and County matches, including friendlies and Patrons matches, must be affiliated to Bowls Devon and Bowls England".

Rule 16            ADD "All Clubs shall appoint a Welfare Officer, who may be shared by clubs local to one another. All Welfare Officers are required to attend a BDA Safeguarding Course".

The amendments were **accepted** by a show of hands and can be seen on the web site along with changes to Schedules recommended by the Executive Committee during the year.

Bill Smith reported that he had recently attended a Safeguarding Course and that there was a change in the title of the post from Welfare Officer to Safeguarding Officer.

### 11 Officers appointed by the Executive Committee

The following Officers, appointed by the Executive Committee, were noted:

|                                                |                  |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Assistant Ladies' Administrator (Competitions) | Ruth Rogers      |
| Safeguarding Officer                           | Bill Smith       |
| Diary Secretary                                | Brian Baker      |
| County Coach Co-ordinator                      | Gillie Ainsley   |
| Web Site Co-ordinator                          | David Mercer     |
| Web Site Manager                               | Bob Smith        |
| Co-ordinator of Ladies' President's matches    | Charlotte Sliney |
| Co-ordinator of Men's President's matches      | Edgar Melliush   |
| Co-ordinator of Mixed President's matches      | Vicky Hingston   |

Thanks were recorded to retiring officers David Bateman, Paul Debnam and Avril Coyne.

### 12 Other appointments made by the Executive Committee

The following appointments, made by the Executive Committee, were noted:

Life Membership Committee - (Two Immediate Past Presidents, Chair, Administrator and one other member) - David Tucker

Constitution and Rules Committee - (Chair, Administrator, Treasurer and three other members) - Tony Broom, Kay Page and Sue Silcox

Competition Committee - (Men's and Ladies' Administrators, Men's and Ladies' Match Secretaries and two other members) - Ruth Rogers and David Counter

Johns Trophy Selector - Kay Page

Middleton Cup Selector - Alan Mann

Ladies' Junior (Amy Rose) Selector - Natalie Chestney

Men's Junior (White Rose) Selector - John Berry

### 13 Appointment of Officers, nominated by the Executive Committee

The following Officers, nominated by the Executive Committee were accepted en bloc:

|                                                                                     |                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Chair                                                                               | Alan Mann      |
| (Alan has given notice that, if re-elected, 2020 will be his last year as Chairman) |                |
| Administrator                                                                       | Harry Riley    |
| Treasurer                                                                           | David Tucker   |
| (David has given notice that, if re-elected, 2020 will be his last as Treasurer)    |                |
| Assistant Treasurer                                                                 | Ray Stringer   |
| Ladies' Administrator                                                               | Ciss Jones     |
| Men's Administrator                                                                 | Kevin Phillips |
| Ladies' Match Secretary                                                             | Sue Trott      |
| Men's Match Secretary                                                               | Edgar Melliush |
| Bowls Development Officer                                                           | Sue Silcox     |

### 14 Installation of Presidential Officers

The Presidential Team for 2020 were proposed and seconded as follows:

|                                                           | Proposer       | Secunder           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Ladies' President                                         |                |                    |
| Christine Marshall (Credon BC)                            | Mark Theedom   | Anita Lamey        |
| Men's President                                           |                |                    |
| Bob Dowdell (Buckfastleigh BC)                            | John Simms     | David Mercer       |
| Ladies' Senior Vice President                             |                |                    |
| Aileen Rowden (Bitton Park BC)                            | Andy Davies    | Charlotte Sliney   |
| Ladies' Junior Vice President - Position currently vacant |                |                    |
| Men's Senior Vice President                               |                |                    |
| John Abbott (North Tawton BC)                             | John Kinsey    | Christine Marshall |
| Men's Junior Vice President                               |                |                    |
| Paul Debnam (Bideford BC)                                 | Michael Blight | Ciss Jones         |

Following citations from proposers and seconders, the recipients duly responded thanking them for their nominations and kind words.

The Chairman expressed his best wishes to the new Presidential team and to the incoming Officers.

**15 Presentation of Honorary Membership of Bowls Devon to Margaret Jones**

The Chair presented Margaret with the Honorary Membership of Bowls Devon and thanked her for her services during the past year. Margaret duly responded.

He then thanked Tony Howle, already an Honorary Member, for his services during the past year, in particular for his support to players in the National Championships at Royal Leamington Spa, to which Tony duly responded.

**16 Vote of thanks**

Past President Kay Page proposed a Vote of thanks to the Chair and Officers for their services to the County stating that the County was in safe hands.

The Chair closed the meeting at 10.50 a.m. following which an Open Forum took place during which David Tucker was able to bring members up to date with matters pertaining to Bowls England including the Commonwealth Games, Turf Management, the Membership Scheme, reduced loan charges and the new competition portal.