BOWLS DEVON Affiliated to Bowls England Executive Officers: Sandra Andrews & Bill Smith (Presidents), David Mercer (Chair), Paul Debnam (Administrator), Ray Stringer (Treasurer), Vicky Hingston and Kevin Phillips (Ladies' and Men's Administrators), Edgar Melluish (Match Secretary), Natalie Chestney (Youth Development Officer), Bill Smith (Safeguarding Officer).

MINUTES

TITLE OF MEETING: Executive Committee

DATE: Monday 14 October 2024

LOCATION: ISCA Bowling Centre, Exeter

In attendance:

Presidents: Sandra Andrews (President)

Executive Officers: David Mercer (Chair), Ray Stringer (Treasurer), Vicky Hingston (Ladies' Administrator), Kevin Phillips (Men's Administrator), Edgar Melluish (Match Secretary), and Natalie Chestney (Youth Development Officer).

Section Representatives: Sandra Andrews and Gerald Reed (Section 2), Chris Macaulay and Tony Howle (Section 3), John Young (Section 4), Tina Sharp (Section 5), Denise Clarke (Section 6), Paul Chudley and Sue Silcox (Section 7), Martin Hobbs (Section 8).

Other officers and officials: Christine Marshall (Assistant County Administrator nominee), Lawrie Humphries (Treasurer nominee), Beryl Leach (Assistant Ladies Administrator (Competitions)), Anita Lamey (Minute Secretary).

1 Welcome

Chairman David welcomed Natalie Chestney to her first meeting as Youth Development Officer, Christine Marshall as the nominee for Assistant Administrator, and Lawrie Humphries as the nominee for Treasurer.

2 Apologies for absence

Paul Debnam (Administrator), Bill Smith (Safeguarding Officer), Leonie Joachim-Rowe and Martin Rowe (Section 1), Jan Summers (Section 4), Alan Mann (Section 5), John Boyt (Section 6), Pat Adams (Section 8).

3 Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15 April 2024

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 April, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5 To receive Notes and Recommendations from Executive Officers meeting of 27 September 2024

Full minutes had been circulated. Noted that:

- A **letter of apology** had been received from the Suffolk President regarding the withdrawal of their Men's Championship Pair thus denying the Devon Pair of progress to next round.
- **Bowler of the year** – The bowler recommended by the Competition Committee will be invited to attend the AGM.
- The administrator will ascertain the willingness of **Officers and Officials** to continue in post prior to each pre-AGM Executive meeting.

6 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

7 To consider the Minutes of the Competition Committee of 17 September 2024

Full minutes had been circulated. Noted that:

- Minute 2.1 refers: The draw for the new Mixed Over 60 Inter County competition will be made by Bowls England on 15 October. Discussions continue to establish an online entry form for Devon bowlers wishing to participate.
- Minute 2.2 refers: The Play On date for National Top Club is Sunday 10 August.
- Minute 3.1 refers: The women's competition programme will include a Reserve Date in case of extreme weather as experienced in 2023 and 2024.
- Minute 3.2 refers: The programme for 2025 avoids clashes between the Championship and Mixed finals.
- Minute 5 refers: It will not be feasible to introduce Play On dates for the County stages of the National Inter-Club Competitions in 2025.

7.1 The proposal from Section 1 that the format for the Inter Sectional Competitions should be amended to 18 ends was not passed. A clause will be added to Schedule 5 sections 9.6 and 9.7 so that the controlling body may reduce the number of ends for Interclub and Jubilee Trophy when two games are to be played on the same day.

7.2 A proposal from Plympton BC to provide clarification to Schedule 5 Section 5 Substitutes was agreed and the Schedule will be amended.

7.3 Men's and Women's Championship Qualifying events have been scheduled to be held jointly in 2025.

7.4 Agreed to extend the entry date for Under 17 Singles to 3 May 2025 to encourage more entries.

7.5 The Men's and Women's Blue Riband events (National Championships: Junior Singles, 2 bowl Singles, Singles, Pairs, Triples, and Fours) have been scheduled to be held together on 6 September.

7.6 The suggested changes to the Dress Code were agreed and Schedules 9 and 5 would be amended as appropriate.

8 To receive Reports

(i) Administrator

Full report had been circulated.
Noted that clubs are reminded to report to the Administrator any deaths of bowlers they wish to be recorded on the BD website.

(ii) Treasurer

A report to the Officers dated 27 September and including outline figures had been circulated.

The Treasurer noted that:

- Current 23/24 Income and expenditure position is a surplus of £21,900 with current assets just over £75,000 before some significant payments and income included.
- Probable year end position = £5150 deficit and year end assets = £48000.
- The Amenities Account has a current 23/24 Income and expenditure position of a surplus of £2,760 with assets at just over £54600.
- FGP have **agreed** that payment of Grater Pairs and Benevolent Triples fees, and the interest from the Amenities Account should go into the Main account, to be reviewed annually.
- Budget detail for Youth Development will be discussed with NC.

- The competition closing date of 1 October results in fees being accounted for in the wrong year when paid by BACS; Competition Committee will be asked to delay the closing date. (*It was subsequently agreed that 14 October will be the 2025 closing date.)*
- As competition fees barely covered competition costs this year, there will be discussion in April re. any 2026 BD fee increase.
- The BE affiliation fee component is to increase by CPI for 2026.
- Travel expenses will be 35p/mile for the coming year if there are no major fuel price changes.
- F&GP have **agreed** that, in 2025, there will be re-imbursement for clubs Open Days, held prior to the Big Bowls Weekend, of up to £100.00 per club on submission of a claim.
- Section delegates should ensure that clubs are aware of the BD loan facility, the 50% defibrillator grant, and £35 Christmas gifts.

(iii) Youth Development Officer

A full report had been circulated: Noted that:

- Three coaching sessions had been held in June, July and August at Torquay, Plymouth and Exeter.
- Eleven juniors (4 x girls, 7 x boys) took part in the U18 Singles Competition, which was run with help from Gilly, Jane Innet & Vicky. Holly Whitting & Louise Matthews also came to help mark games & meet the players. This was a very successful tournament & a good time to build relationships with the parents / carers. Lots of interest from players & parents to have more coaching sessions next year & some parents volunteered to assist.
- Gilly Ainslie has now formally retired from running the junior coaching sessions & we thank her enormously for her work over the years to support Bowls Devon junior development.
- Moving forward, Natalie will be organising the events with the help of the newly formed Youth Development Working Group: Kevin Philips, Adam Fielder, Vicky Hingston, Sophie Tolchard, Jane Innett & Sue Evans.

(iv) Patrons

A full report had been circulated. Noted that:

- £2700 was provided to Bowls Devon at the end of the season.
- John Hogger is standing down as Fixture Secretary to be replaced by Isobel Harris. John was warmly thanked for his long service to the Patrons.

(v) Safeguarding

A full report had been circulated. Noted that:

- Two in person courses to be held in February for new safeguarding officers and coaches are available to book.
- There has been a marked increase in reported cases, in line with the national trend.
- Alleged bullying accounts for the majority of cases.
- Safeguarding and misconduct are becoming more 'entwined'.
- Two Devon clubs this year have had verdicts reversed on appeal because Regulation 9 wasn't followed. **Clubs are again reminded that they must adopt Regulation 9 wholly and exclusively.**
- Following a recent case Bowls England have been asked how long documentation on matters dealt with under Regulation 9 need be kept. They agreed to look at the issue and incorporate details into Regulation 9. Bowls Devon would follow this advice, and there was no need to make changes to either a Club's or the County Constitution so long as it was already stated that they would follow Regulation 9.

9 To receive Section Reports

Section 1: No report.

Section 2: A full report had been circulated noting *inter alia*: successes at Leamington, notably Jamie Walker Singles Champion; sadness at the illness of Queenie Broom; thanks to all volunteers and competition organisers; loss of Tiverton Park and formation of Tiverton Canal; the support given to Sandra Andrews for two Presidential years, and welcome for the next President Rosemary Mayne.

Section 3: A full report had been circulated noting *inter alia* bowler numbers at 702, 56 of whom were recruited during the season.

Section 4: A verbal report noting a reduction in bowler numbers but similar competition entry numbers.

Section 5: A full report had been circulated noting *inter alia* a successful competition season including a Coronation Cup win, and a first with both mother and daughter receiving their County Badge at the same game.

A verbal proposal from the Section was outlined (see 10 (i)).

Section 6: A verbal report noted: competition entries are up: congratulations to successful bowlers; thanks to Beryl Leach for her work in section and as Assistant Administrator.

Section 7: A full report had been circulated noting *inter alia:* the closure of New Plymouth BC resulting in the demise of bowling at Centre Park, the only double green in Plymouth; and similar competition entry numbers overall.

Section 8: A full report had been circulated noting *inter alia* 62 new members recruited during the season.

10 Annual General Meeting

(i) Section 5, supported by Section 2, have proposed a reduction in the size of the Presidential team to three (President, Senior Vice, and Junior Vice) from 2028, with alternating genders whenever possible.
The proposers noted that it has been difficult to recruit a team of six in recent years, that as a unified county there is less need for distinct Men's and Ladies Presidential teams, and that other counties find a team of three works well.
Opposition to the proposal noted that an alternative composition of four should be considered (Two Presidents and two Vice Presidents).
A show of hands voted in favour of the proposal with 2 votes against.
The proposal regarding a change to the composition of the Presidential team should be circulated as soon as possible to clubs for consideration prior to the Bowls Devon AGM.
The proposal will be presented in full on the AGM agenda, and recommended by both the FGP and the BDE.
ACTION: Administrator to circulate the proposal to clubs as soon as possible.

(ii) Nomination of officers to be appointed at the AGM

Chair	David Mercer
Administrator	Paul Debnam
Treasurer	Lawrie Humphries
Ladies' Administrator	Vicky Hingston
Men's Administrator	Kevin Phillips
Match Secretary	Edgar Melluish

Youth Development Officer	Natalie Chestney
Safeguarding Officer	Bill Smith

11 To appoint officers and officials as listed in Schedule 2

Minute Secretary	Anita Lamey
Assistant County Administrator	Christine Marshall
Assistant Treasurer	Vacancy
Ladies County Competition Secretary	Sandra Andrews
Web Site Information Co-ordinator	David Mercer
Web Site Manager	Bob Smith
Coach Co-ordinator	Gillie Ainslie
Co-ordinator of Men's President's Matches	Edgar Melluish
Co-ordinator of Mixed Presidents' Matches	Vicky Hingston
Delegates to Bowls England (2)	Administrator and Christine Marshall

Agreed to amend 'Assistant Ladies Administrator (Competitions)' to 'Ladies County Competition Secretary'.

Agreed that on Christine Marshall's appointment as Administrator on Paul Debnam's planned retirement at the 2025 AGM, the second Bowls England delegate should be a male Officer.

Noted that Sue Silcox would remain as the delegate to the 2024 BE November Conference.

12 To appoint Committee members

Agreed that:

- Martin Hobbs to replace Tony Broom on the Rules and Constitution Committee.
- Bill Smith elected to become a Middleton Cup selector (following a written ballot of the male members present).
- Joan Martin re-elected as Johns Trophy Selector
- Kevin Phillips re-elected as Men's Junior Side Selector

Some inaccuracies were also amended to give the following agreed listing:

Life Membership Committee

The two Immediate Past Presidents, Chair, Administrator and one Honorary or Life Member – currently David Tucker

Constitution & Rules Committee

Chair, Administrator, Treasurer, and three other members – Sue Silcox, Martin Hobbs and Alan Mann.

Competition Committee

Men's Administrator, Ladies Administrator, Ladies County Competition Secretary, Match Secretary and two other members (one female and one male) – Anita Lamey and Alan Horwell.

Men's and Ladies' General Selection Committees

Men's or Ladies' President as appropriate, Men's or Ladies' Administrator as appropriate and the Men's or Ladies' Selector as appropriate appointed by the Sections.

Middleton Cup

Three members to hold office for three years – one to retire each year – together with the Men's Administrator (non-voting). Members in retiring order are Kevin Phillips (2025), John Short (2026), Bill Smith (2027).

Johns Trophy

Three members to hold office for three years – one to retire each year – together with the Ladies' Administrator (non-voting). Members in retiring order are Sue Silcox (2025), Kay Page (2026), Joan Martin (2027).

Ladies' Junior Sides Selection

Three members to hold office for three years – one to retire each year – together with the Ladies' Administrator (non-voting). Members who may be current players in the Amy Rose team will be considered. Members in retiring order are Natalie Chestney (2026), Sophie Tolchard (2026), Hayley James (2026).

Men's Junior Sides Selection

Three members to hold office for three years – one to retire each year – together with the Men's Administrator (non-voting). Members who may be current players in the White Rose team will be considered. Members in retiring order are Kevin Phillips (2024), Adam Fielder (2025), Kevin Phillips (2027), Vacancy.

13 Bowls Devon Merit Award

Two nominations were agreed from seven received; successful nominees will be invited to the AGM; nominators of unsuccessful candidates have been informed.

Noting that the current eligibility criteria for the Merit Award are restricted to club service at club level (Constitution Section 15 refers):

> 'The Bowls Devon Order of Merit shall be awarded to members who have given exceptional services to fellow bowlers at club level.'

It was **agreed** that the criteria should be extended to include service at any level of bowls within the county.

ACTION: Constitution and Rules Committee to progress this amendment

14 The agenda for the AGM

All proposed changes to the Rules and Constitution to go with the agenda to the clubs for consideration at their AGMs.

15 Any other business

15.1 Vicky Hingston extended a warm vote of thanks to Beryl Leach on her retirement from the post of Assistant Administrator (Competitions) which was seconded by Sandra Andrews. All present endorsed the thanks enthusiastically with a round of applause. It was noted that Beryl has kindly agreed to continue to administer the Ladies Badge Points.

15.2 A new club 'Tiverton Canal' has been formed from the closure of Tiverton BC (sometimes referred to as Tiverton Park) and their merger with Tiverton Borough BC.

ACTION: DM to update website when Annual Returns completed.

15.3 Following discussion it was **agreed** that News items should be deleted from the website after two years.

ACTION: Bob Smith to set News items to delete after two years

15.4 It was noted that the website would soon show photographs of the County winners.

15.5 It was noted that Executive and AGM Minutes are not always available on the website in a timely manner.

ACTION: PD to liaise with DM/BS to ensure timely uploading of relevant minutes.

15.6 It was noted that it would be helpful to clubs if a Newsletter could be issued twice annually.

ACTION: PD to issue newsletter after each Executive meeting.

15 Date of next meeting:

14 April 2025

A. Lamey Minute Secretary
19 October 2024