

MINUTES OF THE MEN'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NORFOLK BOWLS ASSOCIATION HELD ON SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER 2017 at 9.30am at COUNTY ARTS BOWLS CLUB

PRESENT: Mr Alan Willer (Senior Vice President) Mr John Mason (Junior Vice President) Mr John Ottaway (Hon. Secretary), Mr David Naunton (Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Match Secretary) Mr John George (Hon Competition Secretary), Mr Mark Elliott (Hon League Secretary).

Past Presidents (other than those above) 6 Club Delegates 49 Others 9

Chairman Alan Willer opened the Meeting and thanked all for attending.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of those members and friends who had passed away during the year.

- 1) APOLOGIES: Steve Bedingfield (Northwold), Geoff Bonnick (Kings Lynn), Charlie Boon (Norfolk Bowling Club), John Chambers (Swaffham Town), Peter Cottee (Past President, Diss & District), Tom Halligan (Suffield Park), Roger Harrison (Norwich Union), John Hines (St. Lawrence), Cyril Janes (Lakeside Pilgrims) and Kirsty Keeley (Shipdham),
- 2) MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 11th December 2016 had been circulated prior to the Meeting and were Proposed by Mick Hayden, Seconded by Pat Clover and approved for signature by the Chairman.
- 3) MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.
- 4) HON. MEN'S SECRETARY REPORT. The Hon. Secretary Report had been circulated prior to the Meeting. Additional comment from Hon. Secretary John as follows. Pleased to report that Sheringham Morley has re-affiliated and Mattishall may re-affiliate although this now seems unlikely. A total of 57 have affiliated although the number of members has fallen by 66.
- 5) HON MEN'S TREASURER'S REPORT: circulated prior to the Meeting.
Additional comment from Hon. Treasurer David as follows. Following our AGM last year we have now appointed an 'Accounts Examiner' – Samantha Williams, and our 2016 and 2017 Accounts have been examined and no problems have been found. Her independent examiners statement has been attached to the 2017 Accounts and we have the same statement for 2016. Sam has worked very hard for us and has managed to examine the 2017 Accounts in time for our AGM. Our Accounts have been prepared in a different format this year to simplify the figures, and Sam commented that this method is seen to represent a truer view. More detail has been given in the attached notes of our Income and Expenditure. This breakdown will enable the 'Finance Sub Committee' to make Financial recommendations to management. We have not yet had a meeting with Hansells so we do not know about sponsorship for 2018. We are very grateful for their continued sponsorship and notwithstanding this I do not feel that any increases in fees or subscriptions are needed for 2018. We still have some £36,000 in our Bank Accounts.
- 6) REPORT ON BENEVOLENT FUND: circulated prior to the Meeting.
Hon. Treasurer David commented that the Accounts had been presented in a slightly different format which hopefully would make them easier to read. Whilst we still have ample reserves in the Fund to meet requests for assistance, in 2017 we paid out more in grants than we received in donations, and obviously this cannot continue indefinitely. New appointments to the Trustees and the Committee have been made this year and a new Constitution for the benevolent Fund is to be considered under Item 14 of the Agenda. All requests for assistance are to be submitted to the Hon. Secretary. He thanked all Clubs who supported the Fund and asked Clubs to make members aware that the Fund existed.
- 7) REPORTS FROM:
Hon. Match Secretary – David Naunton (circulated)
Hon. Competition Secretary – John George (circulated)
Hon. League Secretary – Marl Elliott (circulated)
Press Officer – John Ottaway (circulated)

Middleton Cup Manager – Brian Taylor (circulated)
Visiting Tourists Liaison Officer – Barney Wymer (circulated)
County Coach – Brian Deakins (circulated)
Everyone present agreed that all the above reports should be adopted.

8) NOTICE OF MOTIONS.

a) Changes to Competition Regulations relating to the Bales Cup. One of the problems we face in Norfolk is travelling to venues and having listened to complaints from Clubs/Players it was proposed by Management Committee to play the Bales Cup on a Home and Away basis up to the Quarter Final Stage and only bring in a Neutral Green for the Semi Finals. This proposed amendment was discussed at length. Many delegates present felt that it placed a restriction on playing 'Out of Group' too soon and could have an impact on deciding the result of the Competition as at present the quarter final teams enter an open draw. There was a vote on the Proposed Motion which was narrowly defeated so the Competition Regulations will remain the same, with the Bales Cup Quarter Finals being played on a neutral green to be selected by the Hon. Competition Secretary.

b) Changes to the start date for the Hansells League and the Lord Fermoy Cup, following a request from Hingham Rectory Bowls Club.

The difficulty with delaying the Hansells League is that we need 14 Wednesday's to complete the League programme which must be completed by early August at the latest, to enable time for the WP Baker Cup and Hansells Cup play offs, to be completed. Members present accepted that the League must start in early May.

The request to start the Lord Fermoy Cup later in the year has been taken into account when preparing the 2018 calendar, and the first matches will now be played on 14th June. (The Bales Cup first matches will be 15th June). Hon. Competition Secretary John said that the opportunity has been taken to amend competition days, and the Fours and Triples will now be played in the first half of the season and the Singles and Pairs will be played in the second half. The Bales Cup and the Lord Fermoy Cup will now be played on a Thursday and Friday evening to avoid clashes with Federation events.

9) ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2018

President Alan Willer – (by succession)

In confirming this appointment Hon. Secretary John offered his congratulations, thanked him for his work over the last year which he had handled very well and wished him all the best for 2018. The President's chain was handed over by Past President Richard Church who also passed on his best wishes. In reply Alan said it was indeed an honour to serve Norfolk as President particularly as he had been born and bred in Norfolk. He wished everyone an enjoyable season and had success in Competitions and he hopes to serve the County well.

Senior Vice President John Mason (by succession)

Junior Vice President No nomination

Chairman of Management Committee Alan Willer (Nominated by Ashill Bowls Club)

Proposed by Roger Greef, seconded by John George, all approved

Hon. Secretary John Ottaway (Nominated by Wymondham Dell Bowls Club)

Proposed by Gerald Higgs, seconded by Brian Howes, all approved

Hon. Assistant Secretary David Naunton (Nominated by Wymondham Dell Bowls Club)

Proposed by Mick Hayden, seconded by Michael Howard, all approved

Hon. Treasurer David Naunton (Nominated by Wymondham Dell Bowls Club)

Proposed by Barney Wymer, seconded by Denis West, all approved

Hon. Match Secretary David Naunton (Nominated by Wymondham Dell Bowls Club)

Proposed by Roger O'Leary, seconded by Michael Howard, all approved

Hon. Assistant Match Secretary Barney Wymer (Nominated by Caister Bowls Club)

Proposed by David Naunton, seconded by Roger Greef, all approved

Hon. Competition Secretary John George (Nominated by Wymondham Dell Bowls club)

Proposed by Alan Coombe, seconded by Roger O'Leary, all approved

Hon. League Secretary Mark Elliott (Nominated by Acle Bowls Club)
Proposed by Richard Church, seconded by Mick Hayden, all approved.

10) APPOINTMENTS BY MEN'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Delegate to Bowls England John Ottaway
Middleton Cup Manager / Eastern Counties League Manager (Brian Taylor was elected at the 2015 AGM for a 3 year term). Brian has indicated that he will step down after the 2018 season. Hon Secretary John thanked Brian for his continued interest and commitment to his role.
Jake Willgress was appointed Under 30's / Under 25's Double Rink Manager for a 3 year term at the 2015 AGM. Jake has now resigned with 1 year left of the 3 year term. Management Committee will be addressing this situation for 2018 and the selection of new appointments thereafter.

11) NON-MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENTS FOR 2018

Press Officer	John Ottaway (Nominated by Wymondham Dell Bowls Club)
Visiting Tourist Liaison Officer	Barney Wymer (Nominated by Caister Bowls Club)
County Tour Manager	Brian Howes (Recommendation of Management Committee)
Greens Inspection Committee	No Nomination
Greens Maintenance Advisory Officer	Brian Taylor (Recommendation of Management Committee)
Eastern Counties Co-ordinator	Don Whyatt (Recommendation of Management Committee)
Child Protection Officer	Richard Chapple (Recommendation of Management Committee)
Webmaster	Alan Covell (Recommendation of Management Committee)
County Coach	Brian Deakins (Recommendation of Management Committee)
County Umpire Co-ordinator	Roger Jarvis (Recommendation of Management Committee)

12) GROUP APPOINTMENTS FOR 2018

Group Representatives:	(1) John Mason	(2) Roger Greef
	(3) Malcolm Struthers	(4) Don Whyatt
Group Friendly Match Selectors:	(1) Bill Windsor	(2) John Godsafe
	(3) Barry Cocks	(4) Don Whyatt

13) ELECTION OF BENEVOLENT FUND COMMITTEE:

Trustees – Malcolm Nicholson, Richard Church and Brian Howes
Secretary – John Ottaway
Treasurer – David Naunton
Committee – Ken Ince, Derek Talbot

Former Trustees George Butler and John Fox both stood down and were replaced initially by Past President Richard Church and former Hon. Secretary Peter Bird. Following the sad death of Peter, Malcolm Nicholson was appointed. It is felt that the new Trustees together with the Committee members have a wealth of experience, are well suited to the needs of the Benevolent Fund, and are able to bring fresh ideas to address the Financial position of the Fund.

Trustees Proposed by Mick Hayden, seconded by Alan Coombe, all approved
Committee Proposed by Mick Hayden, seconded by Brian Howes, all approved

14) ADOPTION OF BENEVOLENT FUND CONSTITUTION (circulated prior to the meeting)

Hon. Secretary John explained the background behind this.

The old Constitution cannot be found. After checking through the Minute Books, the only reference was that the Fund was to be set up in 1937. The only printed copy was a version found in an old County Diary and this was not really considered fit for purpose hence the reason why a new Constitution is being proposed.

The new Constitution was proposed by Lilian Barber, seconded by Peter Church and all approved. It was noted that the positions of Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer were appointed by the Trustees.

15) APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTS EXAMINER

It was Proposed by David Naunton, seconded by Roger Greef that Samantha should be appointed and all approved.

16) MEN'S COUNTY LUNCHEON AND TROPHY PRESENTATION 2017

Hon. Secretary John advised that only a few weeks before the Luncheon there were only 28

confirmed bookings. Fortunately the Holiday Inn were understanding and waived their original minimum numbers and moved us to a smaller room. There were 71 members and guests present which is fewer than last year. A contributory factor was the success of Norfolk Bowling Club members in County Competitions. Usually winners and runners up attend the Luncheon to collect their prizes but with Norfolk Bowling Club dominating there were fewer Clubs represented. We will continue with the same format in 2018 and the Holiday Inn has been booked for Sunday 7th October 2018. However, if numbers continue to decline we will have to consider future events. An evening function was suggested, although for a Luncheon this would have to be a weekend booking. Another option would be to hold a prize presentation evening after Finals Day and use the facilities of one of our Clubs. Photographs taken at the Luncheon are on the County website.

17) COUNTY TOUR 2015

The County Tour for 2017 still went ahead and was enjoyed by all.

President Alan outlined his 2018 Tour. He had wanted to be based in Portsmouth but this was proving to be impossible, so it would now be centred around Brighton or Worthing. At present there are 22 players signed up, and at least another 4 players are needed. Cost is around £600 and anyone interested should contact President Alan or Brian Howes the Tour manager.

The formal part of the Meeting closed at 10.43am

OPEN FORUM

Hon. Secretary John outlined a few Bowls England items that were of interest.

Bowls England membership Scheme.

The proposed membership Register has been on the 'agenda' for some time and in 2018 it will go ahead with a small number of Counties taking part in a pilot scheme. Details of what the scheme will entail and the effect it will have on Clubs/Counties is not clear at this stage. Hopefully more information will be available by the time of the next Clubs meeting in March/April. Bowls England has commented that this will not be regarded as an 'Income generating tool' and that Clubs will enter the required data direct on to the Bowls England database.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

These new regulations come into effect on 25th May 2018 and replace the data Protection Act 1998. This covers the storage and use of personal data (names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses etc.) Most of the points in the new Regulation are covered in the existing legislation and when more information is known it will be passed on.

New Bowls England Governance restructure.

There are 2 Director vacancies and details have already been circulated to Clubs.

Other matters

Middleton Cup Manager Brian asked if he could be sent details of any young players who could be considered for Eastern Counties League or Middleton Cup selection. Hon. Secretary John advised that it was important for us to know this information.

Following on from a question raised earlier, Richard Church asked if anyone was able to make a box for us to pass round at the AGM for a collection for the Benevolent Fund as we used to do in the past.

The Meeting closed at 10.57am.