

MINUTES OF THE MEN'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NORFOLK BOWLS ASSOCIATION HELD ON SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER 2014 at 9.30am at COUNTY ARTS BOWLS CLUB

PRESENT: Mr John Ottaway (President), Mr Brian Taylor (Senior Vice President) Mr Richard Church (Junior Vice President) Mr Colin Brown (Diss and District Bowls Club) Mr George Hunter (Chairman) Mr Peter Bird (Hon Secretary), Mr Stan Allcock (Hon Treasurer), Mr Tony Dunton (Hon League Secretary), Mr Dennis Cousins (Bowls England Delegate), Mr John George (Hon. Competition Secretary), Mr David Naunton (Hon Assistant Secretary / Hon Match Secretary), Mr Derek Talbot (Hon Assistant Match Secretary).

Past Presidents (other than those above) 2 Club Delegates 60 Others 1

President John 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: Richard Banks (Wymondham), Janet Chapple(R G Carter), Pat Dickinson (Martham), Roger Greef (North Walsham), Tom Hall (Dereham St. Nicholas), Chris Lacey (Saxon), Eric McIntosh (Aylsham) Michael Woodcock (Gorleston)

2) MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held on 8th December 2013 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were taken as read, and approved for signature by the President.

Proposed: Roger O'Leary **Seconded:** Gerald Higgs **Carried**

3) MATTERS ARISING: There were no Matters Arising.

4) COMMUNICATIONS: Hon Secretary advised that he had dealt with all routine correspondence.

Important items included:-

Notification of death of Past EBA President Ian Woodcock

Advice to clubs that League fixtures on website

Proposed changes to Laws of the Sport of Bowls

Details of Norfolk attendance at Bowls England Men's Annual Dinner

Statement from BDA re coaching

Bowls England preparing county flags to be flown at Leamington Spa

Voting for representatives on Bowls England Committees

Notification of Bowls England Annual Conference

Numerous notifications of change to club secretary, club captain, other officers

Contact from a number of companies providing blazer badges

Copy of letter from Match Secretary re friendly shirts

List of cheques for BE Yearbooks to Treasurer

Details of changes to Middleton Cup from BE

Offer from BE for clubs to donate a National trophy

Results of BE Committee vote

International Nominations to BE

Advice from BE re Bowler of Year award

Request from Umpires Regional Officer for county umpire requirements. Passed to JG and TD

Appeal to county from a club bowler

Confirm list of club unique numbers to BE via County Administrator

Funding information/opportunities circulated to clubs

BE advice re counties which only have 1 National Championship entry for Junior Singles

Invoice to Hansells solicitors

Correspondence with new club for affiliation

Details of International trials

Thanks to Newsmakers PR for meeting with sponsors

More funding opportunities for clubs

Reminder to enter Club of Year
Details of Middleton Cup games to Hansells solicitors
Distribution of score cards
BE Invite to selected county officers to meal at National Championships
Various updates advice and discussion with
Changes to Middleton Cup groups for 2015
Various contacts with VTLO re touring teams

After this time most BE emails are circulated by County Administrator

Contact with new club re affiliation – did not proceed
Congratulations from BE on reaching Middleton Cup S/F - with papers
Letter to clubs with all posters re AGM, Annual Dinner
Nomination of J Ottaway as BE Selector
Invite to BE Director Jeff Applegate to county luncheon
Exchange of details with Administrator re clubs in BE Yearbook
Nomination by Diss & District for JVP
Clarification to club secretary re BE National Competition entries
A number of registration of club shirts
Thank you from Jeff Applegate re county luncheon
Request that BE asked to consider reduction in affiliation fees for under 18
Advice of BE JVP Viv Tomlinson (Lancashire) from February 2015

5) HON SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT circulated prior to the meeting.

Additional Comments from Hon Secretary Peter. All clubs visiting Norfolk MUST arrange their matches via our Visiting Teams Liaison Officer. Potters will contact the County regarding any club staying at Potters for their tour.

6) HON TREASURER'S REPORT circulated prior to the meeting.

Hon Treasurer Stan reported that we had made a small surplus this year. We had no financial problems at present. Costs were being cut by Match Secretary and Competition Secretary. Each year we lose some members and Stan advised that since becoming Treasurer, our membership had reduced by over 1,000. We were experiencing problems with our Fees and Subscriptions form by e-mail, and Gorleston B.C. asked if the forms could be shown on our website.

Stan thanked Hunstanton B.C. for nominating him for the Hon. Treasurer position. He also expressed his thanks to Peter Bird for carrying out his duties for many years as Hon. Secretary.

Adopting the Annual Accounts was proposed by Peter Cottee, seconded by Barry Cocks. All approved.

7) REPORT ON BENEVOLENT FUND circulated prior to the meeting.

Hon Treasurer Stan Allcock reported that the Fund remains financially viable, and advised that any member requiring a grant or if anyone knew of anyone requiring a grant, they should contact the Hon. Secretary

8) REPORTS FROM:-

Hon Match Secretary	David Naunton
Hon Competition Secretary	John George
Hon League Secretary	Tony Dunton
Bowls England Delegate	Dennis Cousins
Press Officer	John Ottaway
Middleton Cup Manager	Brian Taylor
Visiting Tourists Liaison Officer	Richard Banks
County Coach	David White
Umpires Area Co-ordinator	Bob Penny

All the above reports were circulated prior to the meeting.

The report from the Under 25's /Under 30's Team Manager was read out as follows.

This season saw yet again a revised format of the U30's Eastern Counties League. The format now being two rinks of fours (reduced by one rink from the previous years) incorporated into the senior Eastern Counties League and played on a Saturday morning. This being done because of the struggle other counties had to field teams. Even though the number of players required was reduced, from 12 to 8, it was actually harder for Norfolk to field a team because a lot more players were unavailable on a Saturday due to work.

Our first match in the Under 30's ECL saw us play Hunts at Norfolk Bowling Club. After a very tight fought game we came out on the wrong side losing by 3 shots, but did gain points thanks to a winning rink.

After this slow start the season progressed well and we only dropped 3 more points out of the 45 available to us.

With 5 wins out of 6, this saw us take the league title with 44 points and bring the trophy back to Norfolk. A breakdown of all the results, who played and the final league standing can be found on the county website.

The White Rose County Under 25 Two Fours started with a home draw at Downham Market against Northamptonshire which saw a win for Norfolk. This saw us off to the regional finals along with Essex, Huntingdonshire and Hertfordshire. Hunts were up first but they proved to be no match for our team once we got started with a 40 shots to 28 win. This set up a quarter final match with Hertfordshire. They proved to be much tougher opponents but we scrapped through by just one shot sending us on our way to Leamington for the national finals. Awaiting us in the semi final was Surrey. The result of this came down to our very last bowl. The right shot was played but the end result did not work out so well for us. We dropped a shot and lost the match.

I would like to give thanks to the parents that both bring their children to the games and stay on and support them. It is very much appreciated and the players to notice who is there to cheer them on.

Finally, I would like to thank all the players for their support not just during this season but over my time as team manager.

Additional comment on the above reports as follows:-

Dennis Cousins – He had been unable to attend the Bowls England meeting in November and President John attended on his behalf. Reducing affiliation fees for Under 18 members was rejected, but it was proposed that affiliation fees would be held until 2016. No decisions are made in the 'Question and Answers' session at the end of the meeting and the suggestion that the Middleton Cup should be played at the end of the National Championships was being considered.

There was no additional comment regarding any of the other reports.

Adoption of the reports was proposed by Pat Clover, seconded by Malcolm Struthers and all agreed.

Outgoing President John said that as his last duty in office he would like to thank all the members of the management team and all Clubs and members for their support during his year in office. He wished his successor Brian Taylor every success during his year in office. He also expressed his personal thanks to Peter Bird for his excellent work as Secretary since 2006, and thanked him personally for the help and support he had given him during his year as President. He had raised £ 2,606.92 for his charity – Star Throwers. He mentioned that the B.D.A., Active Norfolk and Sport England were all working hard to help all Bowls clubs, and he congratulated Mundford B.C. on receiving a £75,000 grant recently.

John then passed the Chair over to incoming President Brian Taylor.

9) ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2015

President	Brian Taylor	By succession
Senior Vice President	Richard Church	By succession
Junior Vice President	Colin Brown	Nominated by Diss and District B.C.
Hon. Secretary	No Nomination	
Hon. Treasurer	Stan Allcock	Nominated by Hunstanton B.C.
Hon. Assistant Secretary	David Naunton	Nominated by Wymondham Dell B.C.
Hon. Match Secretary	David Naunton	Nominated by Wymondham Dell B.C.

Hon Assistant Match Secretary	Derek Talbot	Nominated by Aldiss Park B.C.
Hon. League Secretary	Tony Dunton	Nominated by Freethorpe B.C.
Hon. Competition Secretary	John George	Nominated by Norfolk Bowling Club

President Brian said he had been playing bowls since the 1960's and he never thought he would ever be President. He thanked County Arts B.C. for his nomination. He hoped to make many new friends during the year, and would be taking his Tour to Southern Ireland in September. His charity was going to be Harford Manor Special Needs School as he has a family connection.

As there has not been a nomination for the Hon. Secretary vacancy, it has been decided to split the duties during 2015. For practical purposes the point of contact for Clubs would be David Naunton.

10) APPOINTMENTS BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Delegate to Bowls England	Dennis Cousins
Under 25's / Under 30's Manager	Jake Willgress (for outstanding period of 1 year)

11) NON-MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENTS for 2015

Press Officer	John Ottaway	Nominated by Wymondham Dell B C
Visiting Tourists Liaison Officer	Richard Banks	Nominated by Wymondham Dell B C
County Tour Manager	Brian Howes	Recommendation of Committee
Greens Inspection Committee	Bryan Bailey (Co-ordinator)	Recommendation of Management Committee
Greens Maintenance Advisory Officer	Brian Taylor	Recommendation of Management Committee
Eastern Counties Co-ordinator	Don Whyatt	Recommendation of Management Committee
Child Protection Officer	Ken Adey	Recommendation of Management Committee
County Coach	David White	Recommendation of Management Committee
EUBA (Eastern Area)	Bob Penny	
Committee Representative		
Webmaster	Alan Covell	Recommendation of management Committee

12) GROUP APPOINTMENTS FOR 2015

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

13) ELECTION OF BENEVOLENT FUND COMMITTEE

Trustees	N.J.Fox, G. Butler, B. Howes
Secretary	S. Allcock
Treasurer	S. Allcock
Committee	K.Ince, D. Talbot

All the appointments under items 10,11,12,and 13 were Proposed by Ray Dorrington, Seconded by Roger O'Leary and all approved.

14) APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS - Larking Gowen

Proposed by Gerald Higgs, Seconded by Derek Talbot and all approved.

15) ELECTION OF HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Honorary Life Membership was conferred on 2014 President John Ottaway.

President Brian also conferred Honorary Life Membership on Peter Bird in recognition of his services as Hon. Secretary.

16) COUNTY LUNCHEON & TROPHY PRESENTATION 2014

This year's Luncheon went well with a few more members present. Hansells, our sponsors attended and it was nice to see that trophy winners were better represented. The same venue – The Holiday Inn - has been booked for next year, and the date will be Sunday 4th October 2015.

17) COUNTY TOUR 2014 – PRESIDENT JOHN OTTAWAY

The Tour to Cumbria was excellent. He thanked Brian Howes for organising the Tour and also Malcolm Nicholson for running 'the book'. The only sad news was that the Cumbria County Secretary had died recently. John wished Brian good luck with his Tour.

18) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

The Bowls England Annual Dinner is to be held at the Hilton hotel, Coventry on 21st February 2015. The menu was outlined and ticket prices were £30. The Middleton Cup Runners-up Trophy needed to be collected.

Competition Secretary John George advised that there would be a new format for the Competition handbook. In future players addresses would not be included and only phone numbers, e-mail addresses and mobile numbers would be shown.

There was a change of Group Competition Secretary. Malcolm Struthers was taking over from Terry Cato in Group 3.

Bradwell B.C. apologised for the condition of their green, as it was damaged early in the season and they thanked clubs for their understanding.

The meeting closed at 10.22am.