

MINUTES OF THE MEN'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NORFOLK BOWLS ASSOCIATION HELD ON SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER 2015 at 9.30am at COUNTY ARTS BOWLS CLUB

PRESENT: Mr Brian Taylor (President), Mr Richard Church (Senior Vice President), Mr Colin Brown (Junior Vice President), Mr George Hunter (Chairman) Mr John Ottaway (Joint Acting Hon. Secretary), Mr David Naunton (Joint Acting Hon. Secretary), Mr Stan Allcock (Hon Treasurer), Mr Tony Dunton (Hon League Secretary), Mr John George (Hon Competition Secretary), Mr Derek Talbot (Hon Assistant Match Secretary).

Past Presidents (other than those above) 3 Club Delegates 59 Others 2

Chairman George 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: John Annis (Acle B.C.), AYLSHAM B.C., Richard Banks, Dennis Cousins, DISS & DISTRICT B.C., HARLESTON RECREATION B.C., Colin Harris, Roger Harrison (Norwich Union), Gerald Higgs (Hingham B.C.), Roger Lawrie (Sheringham B.C.), MARTHAM B.C., Malcolm Nicholson, WEST LYNN B.C.
- 2) MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 7th December 2014 had been circulated prior to the Meeting and were Proposed by Roger O'Leary, Seconded by Mick Harvey and approved for signature by the Chairman.
- 3) MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.
- 4) COMMUNICATIONS: These had been circulated prior to the Meeting.
- 5) HON. MEN'S SECRETARY REPORT. The Acting Secretary Report had been circulated prior to the Meeting. An error had been made in this report as Bradenham B.C. had been Runners Up in the Hansells Solicitors Cup and not Kings Lynn as stated in the report.
The Report was Proposed by Mick Hayden, Seconded by Peter Bird and approved.
- 6) HON MEN'S TREASURER'S REPORT: circulated prior to the Meeting.
Hon. Treasurer Stan commented that we had made a small surplus again this year. He thanked all clubs who had supported the County in hosting matches and keeping meal costs down, as it appeared that Norfolk is the dearest County in England for 'after match meals'. Sadly we had lost 5 Clubs this year – Aylsham, Cantley, Honningham, Mattishall and St. Marks. We had also lost 38 members. Stan asked all clubs to try and send returns and fees back on time as the last payment had been received today which is 5 weeks overdue. Stan thanked all the Management Committee for their efforts in keeping costs down.
The Report was Proposed by Tom Hall, Seconded by Pat Clover and approved.
- 7) REPORT ON BENEVOLENT FUND: circulated prior to the Meeting.
Hon. Treasurer Stan asked for all requests to be submitted to the Secretary. He thanked all Clubs who supported the Fund and asked Clubs to make members aware that the Fund existed.
The Report was Proposed by Peter Cottee, Seconded by Malcolm Struthers and approved.
- 8) REPORTS FROM:

Hon. Match Secretary	– David Naunton (circulated)
Hon. Competition Secretary	– John George (circulated)
Hon. League Secretary	– Tony Dunton (circulated)
Press Officer	– John Ottaway (circulated)
Middleton Cup Manager	– Brian Taylor (circulated)
Visiting Tourists Liaison Officer	– Richard Banks (circulated)
County Coach	– Brian Deakins (circulated)

Acceptance of these reports was Proposed by John Wright, Seconded by Richard Chapple and approved.
Additional Comment on the reports as follows.

Peter Cottee asked when the Coloured Shirts for County friendly matches would be introduced, as it had been agreed at a previous Annual Meeting. Hon. Match Secretary David said this would be mentioned under another item in the Meeting.

In the absence of Richard Banks (VTLO), Hon Match Secretary David re-emphasised comments he had raised. Visiting teams like to play matches every day and he finds it impossible to arrange matches on a Wednesday due to County League commitments. In these instances he arranges matches in Suffolk. The Management Committee would not mind if County League matches were re-arranged to accommodate visiting teams and we would ask Clubs receiving requests to re-arrange games for this reason to be understanding. Many Touring teams also like to visit in September, and Richard has difficulties in finding Clubs willing to host matches as many greens close at the end of August and also many players are already playing Indoor Bowls.

9) NOTICE OF MOTION re DRESS CODE (circulated prior to Meeting):

This followed a Proposal by Management Committee to 'tidy up' the rules for the wearing of white shoes, particularly when wearing white trousers. There had been an oversight in the wording of the Motion as references to wearing a white shirt should also have included the wearing of a Club tie and this amendment would be corrected.

At this stage the County are not considering allowing the wearing of shorts. Only County Competitions relate to us. Peter Bird queried whether ALL members of a team must wear shorts and it was clarified that a mixture of shorts and trousers is allowed. Don Whyatt also mentioned that the wearing of shorts only relates to Bowls England approved shorts, supplied by them. No mention had been made about the length of socks.

The Motion was Proposed by John Ottaway, Seconded by Mick Harvey and approved.

10) ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2016

President	Richard Church – (by succession)
Senior Vice President	Colin Brown (by succession)
Junior Vice President	No nomination
Chairman of Management Committee	No nomination
Hon. Secretary	John Ottaway (Nominated by Wymondham Dell Bowls Club)
Hon. Assistant Secretary	David Naunton (Nominated by Wymondham Dell Bowls Club)
Hon. Treasurer	Stan Allcock (Nominated by Hunstanton Bowls Club)
Hon. Match Secretary	David Naunton (Nominated by Wymondham Dell Bowls Club)
Hon. Assistant Match Secretary	Derek Talbot (Recommendation of Management Committee)
Hon. Competition Secretary	John George (Nominated by Wymondham Dell Bowls club)
Hon. League Secretary	Tony Dunton (Recommendation of Management Committee)

The above appointments were Proposed by Mick Harvey, Seconded by Malcolm Struthers and approved.

Retiring President Brian thanked all Clubs and officers of the Management Committee for their support during his year in office. He had very much enjoyed his Tour to Ireland, and thanked Tour manager Brian Howes and Malcolm Nicholson and Ray Lusted for all their work on the Tour. He was delighted that he had raised £2,610 for his charity – Harford Manor Special Needs school. Brian also thanked Hansells for their continued sponsorship and all members for their support at the County Luncheon. He wished incoming President Richard all the best for his year in office and hoped for better success in the Middleton Cup in 2016. In handing over the Presidential Chain he mentioned that there was no nomination at present for Junior Vice President, commenting that if he could do the job anybody could.

Hon. Secretary John then said it was a pleasure to ask President Richard to present Brian with his plaque in recognition of his Honorary Life member of the Association. John added that this appointment should also cover contributions to the County which in Brian's case covered some 45 years. He had made a record number of Middleton Cup appearances – 190 between 7th June 1969 and 2012, when in his last appearance Norfolk won the Middleton Cup, beating Wiltshire in the final. His Middleton Cup record was Won 109, Lost 73 and drawn 8. Brian has a fine record of success in County Championships, having won the Singles in 1991, the Triples in 1974, 1997, 2000 and 2004, and

the Fours in 1996, 2002, 2003 and 2015. Brian had also come very close to winning National Titles as well, with the closest being Runner up in the Triples in 1974 with Frank Hart and Peter Paul, and going on to win the ECBA Triples title that year. Brian has also been the County's Greens Advisory Officer for many years, and of course, our President in 2015. For the last 10 years, Brian has been our Middleton Cup Manager and has an enviable record. During this time he has achieved being a semi-finalist in 2011, finalist in 2008 and 2014 and has had two successes, winning against Cumbria in 2006 and Wiltshire in 2012.

Hon. Secretary John went on to talk about his own appointment. He hoped to learn the new role as quickly as possible. Having been a Club Secretary for many years he was aware of the issues facing clubs. At present the management Committee's only contact with Clubs is at the AGM and he was considering holding two informal meetings just before the season starts in April and also in September before the AGM. These would be a two-way discussion where management could pass on relevant information and Clubs could also raise any issues relevant to their own situations. John gave a reminder that Bowls England Yearbook orders were needed by 14th January 2016, and 'aged' events entry forms were needed to be returned to Bowls England by February 2016. He also mentioned the two vacancies – Junior Vice President and County Administrator. Regarding Sponsorship by Hansells, they had been our sponsors for 11 years now, and would be reviewing their arrangements shortly. Bowls England Affiliation fees remain unchanged for 2017, but we may have to review our Competition Entry Fees as Bowls England have increased these slightly and we have not passed on the increases.

Hon. Match Secretary David reminded the Meeting that County friendly matches were very enjoyable games to play in and asked Secretaries to encourage new members to take part.

11) APPOINTMENTS BY MEN'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Delegate to Bowls England	Vacant
Middleton Cup Manager / Eastern Counties League Manager (3 year term)	Brian Taylor
Under 30's / Under 25's Double Rink Manager (3 year term)	Jake Willgress

Chairman George enquired if anyone was interested in the Bowls England vacancy. Hon. Secretary John advised that in broad terms the role involved attending all Bowls England Meetings and NBA Management Meetings.

12) NON-MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENTS FOR 2016

Press Officer	John Ottaway (Nominated by Wymondham Dell Bowls Club)
Visiting Tourist Liaison Officer	Richard Banks (Nominated by Wymondham Dell Bowls Club)
County Tour Manager	Brian Howes (Recommendation of Management 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)
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)

(EUBA – Eastern Area, Committee Representative Bob Penny)

13) GROUP APPOINTMENTS FOR 2016

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

14) ELECTION OF BENEVOLENT FUND COMMITTEE:

Trustees – N J Fox, G Butler, B.Howes
 Secretary – John Ottaway
 Treasurer – Stan Allcock
 Committee – Ken Ince, Derek Talbot

Proposed by Roger O'Leary, Seconded by Peter Bird and approved.

15) APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS - Larking Gowen

Proposed by Roger Greef, Seconded by Peter Bird and approved.

16) ELECTION OF HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Hon. Secretary John introduced Chris Ward as he had been nominated to receive this award by his Club – North Walsham. John started by saying that if anyone stood head and shoulders above the rest it was Chris. He was the first player to put Norfolk on the map by winning the EBA National Fours Title in 1975 (with Arthur Rix, Cecil Whitewood and George Ward) Chris also repeated his success in 1980 with Graham Pease, George Ward and Reggie Baker. He had also won the National Singles title on two occasions – in 1977 and 1982 when he went on to win the British Isles Singles title. He was a member of the North Walsham when they won the Top Club Competition. He was much respected throughout England, the United Kingdom and also overseas. Chris had won 16 County Titles which included all four disciplines and included 6 Singles titles, in 1967, 1973, 1977, 1980, 1981 and 1982. He won the Pairs in 1991 and the Triples in 1977, 1982, 1983, 1998, 2003 and 2006. He won the Fours on three occasions, in 1966, 1971 and 1975. Chris also won the ECBA Pairs in 1991. He first played in the Middleton Cup team on 8th June 1968 against Suffolk and went on to play in 127 matches, having 74 wins, 50 defeats and 5 draws. His last appearance was in 2008 and during this time he became the first Norfolk player to win 100 caps. Chris was a member of the English International team for 4 series between 1978 and 1983, where he represented England in the Commonwealth games in 1978 playing in the Pairs. He also won a bronze medal at the Commonwealth games in Edinburgh, with his brother David. Chris also went on to serve Norfolk in the role of Middleton Cup Manager between 2002 and 2005. It was with much honour and respect that John made the Honorary Life Member award.

In reply, Chris said that he was truly honoured, to receive this award. He advised that he had been playing bowls for 50 years and back in the 1960's and 1970's there were 350 entries in the County Singles competition and you needed 8 rounds to win the Championship. Having played in the Middleton Cup for 40 years it was his opinion that it was the greatest team game in sport, and over the years, Norfolk had progressed to be among the top six Counties in the Country. He also remembered players in the past who had helped him in his success, including Graham Pease, David Ward and his father. Chris was proud to receive the award and he thanked the Meeting for giving him this honour.

17) MEN'S COUNTY LUNCHEON AND TROPHY PRESENTATION 2015

Outgoing President Brian had already mentioned this item.

18) COUNTY TOUR 2015

President Brian had already mentioned this item.

19) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

President Richard advised that his Tour to York between 14th – 21st May 2016 had already been organised and there were only two vacancies.

John George introduced the Discussion item regarding flexibility in Organising County Competitions, depending on individual group entries. For some time we had been concerned about the 'inequality' of Competition entries between the Groups. A discussion document had been circulated. No objections to this suggestion were made by the Meeting.

Peter Bird was presented with his '200' Tie for County matches played.

Hon. Secretary John advised that Hansells had indicated that they had been considering the possibility of additional sponsorship and providing coloured shirts was one of the options. We had not proceeded while this was being considered as if they were to proceed the shirts could be at 'No Cost' to the players. Hopefully this year's sponsorship Meeting should make things clearer.

Ken Adey advised that this would be his last year as Child Protection Officer for the County.

The Meeting closed at 10.40am.

