

SOMERSET BOWLS ASSOCIATION FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at Mark Village Hall on Saturday 11th November 2023 at 10.30am

MINUTES

Present: 54 delegates representing 54 clubs
39 officers and life members with voting rights
22 non-voting attendees

1. Appointment of Scrutineers

Chris Pearce (Clevedon), Christopher Day (Frys), Don Dart (Purnell), Celia Whitmarsh (Chew Stoke), Danny Kite (Alexandra) and Martin Patterson (Ashcombe Park) were appointed as scrutineers.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Alan Birch (Board Member), Peter Bissett (Board Member).

Past Presidents: Hilary Leamon, Ken Leamon, Joan Rixson and Lois Greeves.

Life Members: Dawn Barnaby, Mo Monkton and David Wederell.

The following Clubs: Castle Cary, Chard, Eastover Park, Merriott, Minehead, Severalls Jubilee and Wrington.

3. In Memoriam

A request had been sent out to all clubs asking for names in advance of their club members who had died since the last AGM. The meeting remembered:

Bath: Romney Cox. Bloomfield: Bob Coward & John Walter. Clevedon: Ray Pitts & Brian Robertshaw.

Clevedon Promenade (Men): Eddie Furze & Marcus Thorn. Congresbury: Marcia Hill. Donyatt: John Hill.

Fosseway: Colin Smith. Frome Park: Nigel Hunt. Ilminster: Rita Westwood. Isle of Wedmore:

Bernie Back. Keynsham: John Davies & Brian Taylor. Knowle: Peter Brimble, Terry Cousins, Dave Green & Rosemary Rolling.

Mark Moor: Elaine White, Brian Haggett, Pat McHale, David Glew & Bob Orledge.

Minehead: Jim Beer, David Dunas, John Else, Terry Jones, Dai Leader, Duncan Stevens & Jackie Tilley.

Nailsea (Men): Howard Willis. North Petherton: Lionel Bagg, Marlene Biddiscombe, Peter Heydenrych, Ann Hodges, Val Lancaster & Tony Pomeroy.

Portishead (Men): Charlie Skinner.

Portishead RBL (Men): Tony Smith & Pete Wellen. Prattens: Ray Dando. Purnell: Ken Crouch & Bob White.

St Andrews: Mike Stocker. Somerton & Dist: Bill Clarke, Stuart Lucas, Tony McDermott & Ray Nutt.

Stothert & Pitt: Alan Gardner & Ray Griffin. Taunton: Leon Bass. Watchet: Jean Smith, Derek Lynam, Lilian Hayhoe & Mike Varvell.

West Backwell: Roy Price & Mike Windo. Yatton: David Goddard & Pat Laver & Shirley Reynolds.

And for any others we had not been advised of.

4. Minutes

Minutes of the Thirteenth Annual General Meeting, 12th November 2022:

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record of that meeting. Proposed by Barrie Davis (Keynsham) and seconded by Dave Harding (Clevedon).

5. Matters Arising

There were none.

6. Reports

The Board reports were circulated prior to the meeting and form part of these Minutes. Questions were invited from the floor:

Chairman

There were no questions, but Carolle Skeates took the opportunity to publicly congratulate our successes at Leamington and our two senior internationals: Steff Branfield and Laura Holden.

Plus, thanks to Don Bridges and the team who made our Presentation Luncheon such a success.

General Secretary

There were no questions, but Ross Turnbull expressed his concerns that 23 clubs had not recruited any new members this summer.

Treasurer

There were no questions. But the meeting ratified the plans to increase affiliation fees by the rate of inflation from 2025 and onwards. That rate to mirror the Bowls England inflationary increase.

Championship/Competition Secretary

A comment from the floor noted that budgetary controls had forced us to stop paying prize money. But we paid a contribution towards the travelling expenses of those going to Leamington.

Would it be better to stop the travelling expenses and reinstate the prize money? **RT** to place on the next Board Agenda.

Could winners of the Beginners Singles enter again providing they were still within the five year window? Yes.

Performance Manager

There was one question, could Johns Trophy & Middleton Cup games be played earlier in the day? This has been raised before and Edna Bessell reported that there was not a lot of support for this proposal amongst the current squad members.

League Secretary

There were no questions, but Barbara Colby reported she had now found Regional Secretaries to collate the results for the North and Mid Regions. Just one more required to cover the South.

Merchandising Manager

There were no questions.

Match Secretary

With Alan Birch in Spain our Ladies Match Secretary, Jill Price took the stage supported by David Bishop.

There were no questions.

Member Without Portfolio

There were no questions, but Bob Dickie invited members to join the 'voyage of discovery' as our website evolves and blossoms.

County Coach

There was one question, why does Coach Bowls insist on DBS checks for all coaches? Not something this meeting can confidently answer – suggest any concerns are referred to Coach Bowls.

Report from the Council

It was questioned if all Clubs knew the name of their Council Member and what their purpose was? More work needed here to 'spread the word'.

Report from the Patrons

There were no questions, but thanks from the Board for their continued financial support.

Report from the Benevolent Fund

There were no questions.

7. Adoption of the Accounts

Proposed by Sandra Every (Williton) and seconded by Richard Soper (Clevedon Promenade Men). Carried.

8. Presentation of Presidential Officers

- Two Immediate Past Presidents
- Presidents for 2024
- Senior Vice Presidents
- Election of Junior Vice Presidents

Sandra Every (Williton)
Richard Soper (Clevedon Promenade Men)
Sandra Graham (Ilminster)
Dave Harding (Clevedon)
Sue Tassell (Portishead Ladies)
Chris Greenwood (Winscombe)
Proposed by Winscombe
Seconded by Isle of Wedmore
Val Welch (Minehead)
Proposed by Minehead
Seconded by South Petherton

9. Election of Executive Officers

Board Members:

- Chairman:
- General Secretary:
- Treasurer:
- Championship/Competition Secretary:
- County Coach:
- Development Manager:
- League Secretary:
- Merchandising Manager:
- Match Secretary:
- Member Without Portfolio:
- Performance Manager:

Carolle Skeates (City of Wells)
Ross Turnbull (Bloomfield)
Andrew Chappell (Bath)
Charmian Pearce (Clevedon)
Peter Bissett (Clevedon Promenade Mens)
Vacant
Richard Doughty (Chew Stoke)
Peter Bissett (Clevedon Promenade Mens)
Jill Price (Bridgwater)
Bob Dickie (Ilminster)
Edna Bessell MBE (Yeovil)

Peter Bissett had completed 5 years in office and the AGM was asked to allow him to continue for a further term as Merchandising Manager and County Coach.

Proposed en-bloc by David Bishop (City of Wells) and seconded by Peter Mottram (South Petherton).
Carried.

10. Election of Other Officers

Middleton Cup Selectors:

- Regions 1-4
Proposed by Clevedon and seconded by Bristol
- Regions 5-8
Proposed by Yeovil and seconded by Merriott

Pip Branfield (Clevedon)
Peter Colby (Yeovil)

John's Trophy Selectors:

- Regions 1-4
Proposed by Clevedon and seconded by Portishead RBL Ladies
- Region 5-8

Charmian Pearce (Clevedon)
Vacant

Mens General Selectors:

- Regions 1 & 3
Proposed by Prattens and seconded by Bloomfield
- Regions 2 & 4
Proposed by Portishead RBL Men and seconded by Yatton
- Regions 5 & 6
Proposed by Taunton Deane and seconded by South Petherton
- Regions 7 & 8
Proposed by Burnham-on-Sea and seconded by Victoria

Barrie Dando (Prattens)
Lionel Slatter (Portishead RBL Men)
Mike Kennedy (Taunton Deane)
Don Bridges (Burnham-on-Sea)

Ladies General Selectors:

- Regions 1 & 3
Proposed by Purnell and seconded by Prattens

Ailsa Midwinter (Purnell)

- Regions 2 & 4 Sue Tassell (Portishead Ladies)
Proposed by Portishead Ladies and seconded by Portishead RBL Ladies
- Regions 5 & 6 Carolle Skeates (City of Wells)
Proposed by City of Wells and seconded by South Petherton
- Regions 7 & 8 Vote
There was a vote between Shirley Wederell (Isle of Wedmore) & Sue Cooper (Victoria).
Sue Cooper was elected. Proposed by Victoria and seconded by Ashcombe Park

Members of Council:

- Region 1 Danny Kite (Alexandra)
Proposed by Alexandra and seconded by Stothert & Pitt
- Region 2 Mary Northcott (Knowle)
Proposed by Knowle and seconded by Imperial
- Region 3 Celia Soby (Purnell)
Proposed by Purnell and seconded by Chew Stoke
- Region 4 Ian Wilson (West Backwell)
Proposed by West Backwell and seconded by Nailsea (Men)
- Region 5 Mike Groves (Wellington)
Proposed by Wellington and seconded by Taunton
- Region 6 Barbara Colby (Yeovil)
Proposed by Yeovil and seconded by Merriott
- Region 7 John Swayne (North Petherton)
Proposed by North Petherton and seconded by Bridgwater
- Region 8 Sue Cooper (Victoria)
Proposed by Victoria and seconded by Ashcombe Park

Patrons Association:

- Chairman Barrie Davis (Keynsham)
- Secretary Carolle Skeates (City of Wells)
- Treasurer David Wederell (Isle of Wedmore)

Proposed en-bloc by David Bendall (Keynsham) and seconded by David Nicholls (Isle of Wedmore).
Carried.

Life Member:

- Pip Branfield was nominated for a Life Membership of Somerset Bowls Association. Proposed by Clevedon and seconded by Bristol. Carried.

11. Motion from Iminster BC and seconded by Street BC & Watchet BC:

“Abolishment of Rule 4d in the Men's Somerset County League.”
There was a vote and the motion defeated.

12. Motion from Keynsham BC and seconded by Wellington BC

“To reduce League Divisions to a maximum of 8 teams and to play matches Home & Away each season.”
There was a vote and the motion carried.

13. Motions from the Board:

1. The Executive Board position of ‘Member Without Portfolio’ to be renamed ‘Webmaster’.

Changes to the Constitution:

2. 8(b) All cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer ~~and countersigned by a nominated member of the ExB~~ or a designated signatory.

3. 8(d) Part of the remit of the Finance Committee shall be to set a budget for the following year which shall be presented to the ExB at each ~~February~~ ~~October~~ meeting.
There was a vote and the motions were carried.

14. Appointment of Account Examiners

- Main Accounts TC Group of Accountants of Keynsham
Proposed by the Board and Seconded by Peter Mottram (South Petherton). Carried.
- Patrons Accounts Read and Co of Martock.
Proposed by the Board and Seconded by Barrie Davis (Keynsham). Carried.

The meeting closed at 12.26pm

DRAFT