



# *Devon County Indoor Bowls Association*

## **MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD AT MID-DEVON INDOOR BOWLING CLUB ON MONDAY 30TH JANUARY 2023**

- 1) The President opened the meeting at 6-28pm with warm congratulations to JAMIE WALKER from the whole membership of DCIBA on winning the World Indoor Singles Championship. Another WORLD CHAMPION from Devon.
- 2) There were apologies for absence received from David Butterworth, Chris Fenner and Mike Sampson.
- 3) The minutes of the previous meeting having been previously circulated were approved and signed off.
- 4) There were no matters arising.
- 5) There was a nil report from the Website Administrator.
- 6) The Treasurer's Report was read by the County Secretary and a copy is on the website (Admin tab – Officers' Reports).

Following the report, the County Secretary read out a statement from David Butterworth to the executive.

David has decided that now is the right time to relinquish his responsibilities as County Treasurer, League Secretary and Website Administrator. David has been in various posts for over twelve years and he thanks the executive committee and officers for their help and support over that time. David's departure reasons are as detailed in his statement, a copy of which is on the website. David will be leaving a large void in our association which will be very hard to fill.

- 7) The Match Secretary presented his report, which showed that we have so far won more matches than we have lost. We still have to catch up with Cornwall in the second leg of the County Shield and Westport Trophy. A copy of this report is on the website (Admin tab – Officers' Reports).

8) The Fixture Secretary Jill Beer gave her report. In this first season Jill has proved very successful in this office and is now in the process of preparing the 2023/2024 fixtures.

A fixture will be included in October (to be arranged) versus Cornwall to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the DCIBA . The match will be held at Mid-Devon and invitations to play will be led by past presidents initially.

9) The Competition Secretary George Coxwell read a report of his first season in the post. A copy of the report is on the website (Admin tab – Officers' Reports). He stated that all competitions were proceeding satisfactorily and no issues had presented.

George proposed that for the next season the County Finals be staged over one weekend. All matches up to and including the semi-finals will be played on a challenger/opponent basis. This was unanimously approved by the Executive, but it was felt that the County Trophy, Top Club and Over 60s League finals should continue to be played on separate days as at present. George also proposed a four wood pairs competition be held. This was unanimously agreed.

George then proceeded to draw the following options for the team competitions

County Trophy - Option 6

Top Club - Option 6

Charles Parrott - Option 5

10) The League Secretary's report was read out by the County Secretary. A copy of the report is on the website (Admin tab – Officers' Reports). Although one or two matches have yet to be rescheduled, overall the matches are up to date. Any relevant queries or issues will gladly be dealt with by David.

11) Kevin Phillips reported good progress by the Over 60s team in the Inter-County Competition. After beating Cornwall and then Somerset in their first and second round matches, they will now face Surrey in the semi-final which will be held at Dolphin IBC in Poole on 21st February. The executive wishes them well.

The County Secretary mentioned that a knowledgeable person watching the match at Torbay against Somerset thought that some of the bowling he watched that day was of international standard.

12) Kevin Phillips then reported on the progress of the Liberty Trophy team to the semi-finals once again, after beating Cornwall, Dorset and Oxfordshire in the early rounds. This achievement is even more pleasing that, due to

international requirements, we were without a lot of our key players. The new players that were called in excelled and combined to maintain the progress to the semi-final. (Success breeds Success) and impressed all that watched. The semi-final will be against Sussex and will be held at East Dorset IBC, Christchurch on 4th March . Good luck to all of them!!

13) The Safeguarding Officer reported that following an incident that had occurred this season warranted a period of time during which the player concerned should not play for any DCIBA team. After consultation with our outdoor colleagues, it was decided not to proceed with this draconian action but to ensure a careful watch on events is maintained, which, if reported again, would result in severe action being taken. Another matter that needed discussion was that all clubs should take care vetting new players' applications for membership, and with a duty of care to all players, especially in regard to possible access to younger members. Further advice is being sought on this matter and clubs will be notified of the outcome.

14) Adam Fielder delivered a succinct and proper report that should be read carefully by our member clubs. A copy of that report is on the website (Admin tab – Officers' Reports). It is a detailed report, with both negative and positive possibilities for the future. It is recommended that clubs study the report carefully and offer comments and assistance to the Colts.

15) The Under 25s report was given by Adam Fielder during his first season as manager. The report is on the website site (Admin tab – Officers' Reports). The report does show the difficulties facing our sport and the urgent need to bring young people in to Bowls. Adam and Heidi are working under constant and extreme pressure and need all clubs' assistance in providing that flow of players.

16) The County Tour report was given by Larry Croxford. A full tour complement is off to Hampshire, led by Ian Turner, our President. Larry is now working on Chris Fenner's tour in 2024. No details are available as yet. Larry informed the meeting that he will be stepping down from the position of County Tour Manager at the end of the season 2023/2024. Another serious loss to the executive committee, but we are grateful to Larry's efforts over a long period of years.

17) The Vice-Presidents Association report was given by Ken Brenchley and a copy is on the website (Admin tab – Officers' Reports). A very long discussion on the contents of the report took place. After several submissions from the floor on the feasibility of the Association continuing, it was decided that the executive would return to their clubs and get a mandate

to bring to the March executive meeting with a final decision on whether to dissolve the VPs Association.

18) The County Secretary reported on the Presidents chain of office succession being given a boost by receiving a letter fully supporting Leighton Burston to become the next link in the chain.

The chain will now be

Season 2022/2023 Ian Turner

Season 2023/2024 Chris Fenner

Season 2024/2025 Ray Sandercock

Season 2025/2026 Leighton Burston

19) Officers appointments showed an imperative need for people to step up to the vacant positions.

(Please note that a further discussion on this matter took place under Any other Business).

20) A pleasurable task was for President Ian Turner to present Life Members Badges to Chris Beer, Kevin Phillips and George Taylor. All well deserved and received.

21) Constitution and Code of Conduct

In view of recent events that have occurred in the Safeguarding Officer's report, a review and addition to our existing code of conduct would be done by David Butterworth and Ken Brenchley. A reference to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Acts regarding spent convictions will be addressed in that review. When completed it will be brought back to the executive.

22) The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 27th March at 6-30pm at Mid-Devon IBC.

### Any Other Business

A very, very long discussion took place following a proposal from Kevin Phillips that, as from next season, all Over-60s League matches in the quarter finals and semi finals should start at simultaneous times to ensure fairness. The meeting was asked to provisionally indicate their agreement to this arrangement, and it was unanimously agreed.

That proposal, having been provisionally agreed, there was a feeling from some clubs that all Over-60s matches should start at simultaneous times. The discussion turned up old proposals that had either been rejected, or due to incorrect procedure, had not been discussed at the time. This second informal proposal was again provisionally agreed by most present. There was a feeling however that the existing rules covered the situation, *but the League*

*Secretary who was not at the meeting subsequently advised that this was to say the least debatable.*

League Secretary's Observations:-

On the second element of this, simultaneous start times for every match may prove impractical for a number of clubs mid-week when some clubs will have other firm, wall to wall schedules and commitments.

This was the reason that staggered start-times were provided for.

Going down the proposed route could cause loss of income and disruption to some clubs, or alternatively withdrawals from the Over-60s League because of new strictures.

Rules (a) and (b) are unsatisfactory. No standard start-time is stated. A standard start-time does not suit all clubs anyway. If clubs can't agree at what time to start a particular fixture on a simultaneous basis home & away, where to then? It can't be forced.

Further discussion is needed before embracing any commitment to change the status quo.

The rules incidentally are on the web-site (under the Leagues tab) and have been on the web-site for as long as the web-site has been operational. They are of course downloadable on a smartphone and are therefore available in real-time to inform any relevant discussion at the executive meeting.

N.B. County Secretary's Note:-

For these two proposals to proceed to a change of rules, each must be raised by the proposing club, as a formal, documented proposal, and seconded by another club. These would then be brought to the March executive meeting, and then, if again successful, put to the AGM for ratification.

In response to an earlier question and put once again, the County Secretary listed the vacancies for DCIBA Officers for positions that are required to be filled as soon as possible:-

County Secretary  
Safeguarding Officer  
County Treasurer  
League Secretary  
Website Manager  
County Tour Manager

The County Secretary asked the executive to urgently source nominations for these positions, in the especial case of the League Secretary, without whom the leagues could not function.

The President closed the meeting at 8-34 pm.



## HONITON INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

Bowling Green Lane, Streamers Meadow,

Honiton, Devon

Tel. No. 01404 46168

[www.honitonbowlingclub.co.uk](http://www.honitonbowlingclub.co.uk)

10 December 2022

To: Devon County Indoor Bowling Association

Honiton Bowling Club hereby agree to the nomination of Leighton Burston

for Junior Vice President of the DCIBA with effect from the 2023/2024 Indoor

Season

**Joan Heard**

Joan Heard

Club President and Indoor Playing Committee Secretary