

GENERAL SECRETARIES REPORT TO THE AGM
Saturday 10th November 2018

At our Spring Communication Meeting I shared my 2018 passion with you –
COMMUNICATION.

I explained how frustrating it was to try to talk to bowlers about important issues affecting the County and to be met with raised eyebrows and blank faces. These are issues I will have asked Club Secretaries to share with ALL their members and, regrettably, that communication is still not happening consistently across all 76 Clubs. But I will keep plugging away.

Our biggest job this year has been, without doubt, the Data Protection changes. I believe this Association is in a good place and I ensured Clubs received the best and most up to date advice as it was released.

I do not think we are at the end yet. The last communication from BE said:

- *Sport England and Bowls England both realise a lot more work needs to be done to provide small amateur sports clubs with simple 'user friendly' advice and document templates.*

They indicated it could be as late as March 2019 before that additional help becomes available.

Bowls England are hoping to introduce a National Membership Scheme, which is currently being trialled in a couple of Counties.

I have set up a membership database in anticipation of this going nationwide, but its success depends on Clubs being able to complete a simple 'Word' document listing their members and to email it to me each year. That way I can 'cut & paste' information rather than having to manually type it in line by line. This has not been easy for some Clubs for which I apologise.

It is interesting that Clubs ideas of a membership list vary:

- Alphabetically on surname with christian name second.
- Alphabetically on surname but preceded by christian name.
- Alphabetically on surname with initial but no christian name.
- Alphabetically on surname and including Mr, Mrs etc along with christian name.
- Not alphabetical but in chronological order of joining the Club.
- A strange apparently random order that obviously makes sense to someone.

Clearly, if the BE Membership Scheme proceeds, there will need to be a consistent format which I am afraid will cause more work for some Club secretaries.

Please don't shoot the messenger!

It will soon be time to register your 2019 Club officers. This year I will be including GDPR consent forms for completion by those officers whose details appear on the SBA website (Club Secretary, Fixture Secretary, League Representative).

Please reassure everyone that they do not have to have their details publicised if they don't want to. The consent forms are optional, not compulsory.

Ross Turnbull, General Secretary.