

## Chairman's Report for 2018 AGM.

As I have reported previously, on a number of occasions, my job is principally to oversee the work of the individual members of the Board to ensure that they are fulfilling their responsibilities efficiently. How difficult or easy this is, is to a large extent based on the competency of the General Secretary. I have to say how lucky we are to have Ross Turnbull at the helm, he is now fully settled in and doing a fine job. Although immobile for a couple of months, it was hardly noticed as he continued to work from his bed in much the same way as normal. May I also thank the members of the Board for the manner in which they have carried out their duties which has resulted in quite an easy time for me. Unfortunately two Board members have stepped down. Alan Gray as Coaching Officer although he remains in his role as Match Secretary and Luke Townsend, Development Officer. I thank them for the work they have carried out in their respective offices and now we have the difficult task of finding replacements for them.

I would like to thank the Councillors for the work they put in, in ensuring that the Board carries out its duties effectively. Also the Presidential Team, Patron's Officers and Team members all of whom contribute in one way or another in ensuring that the Association operates in 'ship shape and Bristol fashion'.

In particular congratulations to Presidents Hilary Leamon and Paul Davies who have maintained the high standards of their predecessors in their Presidential year which I know they have thoroughly enjoyed.

The 2018 season has passed off successfully. There are always a few hiccoughs, as there were this year, but not of any great consequence.

We have had a number of successes in that some of our members have been selected for International and other National events. I congratulate them all but will not repeat their details here as the Performance Manager will proudly provide you with that information.

The following Bowls England news may be of interest :

1. The bowling events of the Commonwealth Games in 2022 will be held at Victoria Park, Leamington in July. This will result in a re-scheduling of the National Championships.
2. New office accommodation is still being sought in the vicinity of Victoria Park, Leamington.
3. St John's Hotel, Solihull is currently being re-furbished which has had an impact on the forthcoming Women's 2018 Annual Dinner in that accommodation at the hotel is limited.
4. A review of the National Championship and Competitions Rules has recently taken place and the changes will be published prior to the 2019 season. They are mainly cosmetic but you will no doubt be interested to hear that one of the proposals is that there will no longer be any rules regarding footwear other than they must be flat soled.  
Also we, as a County, have had representations made regarding the offering of rinks for competitive play. The proposal of the Bowls England review regarding this is 'The draw for rink/s to be played will be made in accordance with the current Laws of the Sport

(Law 3.1). In addition, for a match requiring one rink, a minimum of two rinks must be offered to the opponent. For a match requiring more than one rink, the minimum number of rinks offered should be at least equal to the number of rinks required'. It follows that, if appropriate, we, as a County, will have to enforce the rule.

One other change is that the White Rose Competition will now be just one rink with Counties being able to enter a maximum of two rinks. The ends have been reduced to 15 ends which is not a popular decision. We will be bringing this up at the forthcoming Group West Meeting and Bowls England Counties Meeting.

As a result of the BE review we also will be reviewing our rules to mirror them.

5. A guidance is being prepared to assist Clubs and Counties with recruitment initiatives in 2019.
6. The Bowls England Regional Meetings have been deemed to have been a success. The next meeting of the West Region will take place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019. No venue yet indicated but will no doubt take place at Clevedon BC . It has been decided that the former Groups West meetings will also continue on an annual basis.
7. A review of the provisions of Bowls England (Disciplinary) Regulation 9 is currently taking place. When completed an explanatory guide will be prepared for Clubs and Counties.