

Council Report to the A.G.M.
10th November, 2018.

On behalf of the Council, I present its report. We again met with the Board - in April and again in October. As most of you will know by now, these meetings are held so that we can scrutinise the Board's aspirations and performance, make positive suggestions and put before it any complaints we've received.

We realise that most members will go directly to the relevant officer so that the communication line is shortened. A number of my colleagues are, however, upset that so many club secretaries didn't even acknowledge the request for replies regarding the Fear Cup format – let alone bother to get their committee opinions!

You've read and heard, the officer reports presented to this year's A.G.M and based on them - and on our discussions at the above meetings – the comments we'd like to make are as follows:

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The Chairman mentioned the 2019 rule changes in respect of footwear and the offering of rinks to opponents, so that they may be drawn for prior to National competitions. The latter change may well raise eyebrows amongst potential entrants and one wonders how this is supposed to help in persuading us to enter competitions in anything like the numbers common, say, in the early eighties!

The Secretary sees further problems with GDPR and the BE membership scheme but he will, I'm sure, be as helpful and efficient as ever. Ross has continued to work wonders in this role, even with the problems he has currently with his limbs and has (as cheerily as ever) promised that he'll be bowling by April!

Our Treasurer has had to report an operating loss of £2.5K – no bottom lines in black ink this year! The Board obviously realises that it cannot go on losing £3K to £4K p.a on competitions and we are pleased to hear that it is to “review the prize money, etc”. After writing off £2K of historical purchasing ventures, we've reduced our Capital and Reserves to less than £30K. We're pleased to see that the Board is now – quote – “always aware of the way we purchase anything whatsoever”.

Will Andrew not reconsider leaving us?

We are all pleased to hear that Brian is to continue now that Barrie has offered to help with the trophies – and with the decision to dispense with the printed handbook in favour of a PDF file. We're sure that this is a step in the right direction – especially if it's explained why PDF doesn't mean ‘extremely difficult’.

Edna's report is –as it probably always will be – a mixture of success and disappointment. Congratulations to those who were selected for Internationals and other National events and our sympathy/encouragement to those who didn't quite make it this year. Please keep going - so that we wrinklies can bask in your reflected glory!

We were sorry to hear that Luke has given up the Development Manager role, but education must come first. We repeated our feelings on how important Development, together with Recruitment and Retention, is to bowls in Somerset, as well as to the sport in general. To be

fair, the Board are as certain of this as we are and perhaps the “bowl is now in the clubs’ rink”! Perhaps the regional meetings, the promised initiatives by B.E for 2019 and the very pertinent comments made by Luke in his report, regarding apathy etc – will have some effect before it is too late.

Alan is concerned about the reducing interest in County matches – fewer applications and more withdrawals. He agrees that cost **is** at least one factor, both currently - and in the future should match fees increase. Perhaps a reduction in the number of matches arranged **is** the way forward?

The Benevolent Fund grew again this year – without any claims at all. Has the Board decided on any recommendations to the Trustees since our meeting?

Lastly, we **do** appreciate all that is done for us by our colleagues on the Board, our Presidential team and our Patrons Committee. We thank them all very much for the time, the effort and the thought which they put into their various jobs. Without them, who would there be to moan at?

Derek Whitlock
Councillor (Area 6)