

Chairman's Report for Annual General Meeting - 9th November 2019

Yet another season has drawn to a close. Overall I feel things have gone quite well. Every year something crops up and this year has been no exception. However the problems have not been that serious and although not everyone will be satisfied with the outcome the Officers involved have, to the best of their ability, acted in the best interests of both the complainants and the Association. My congratulations, for all the work put in by them, goes to all the Officers but sadly we will be losing two of the stalwarts this year. The Match Secretary has decided to put his feet up as has the Championship/Competition Secretary, both for health reasons. My particular thanks to them as both positions carry a very high responsibility which they have undertaken in an exemplary manner. Fortunately we have someone who has applied for the Match Secretary's role and we have the utopian position of two who have applied for the Championship/Competition Secretaries role, resulting in a vote taking place at the AGM. My thanks also to the Council members for the work they put in on behalf of the Association. Unfortunately we are losing one of the longest members, Grahame Starr, who has also decided it is time for retirement. Pity really as at 90 years of age he is only a bit of a boy. Thank you Grahame for all you have done for the Association, over the years, in many roles.

I congratulate all those who have been selected for International Honours. I won't repeat the details here as I have no wish to upstage the Performance Manager.

One interesting recent development is Matt Hamilton's involvement with a Bowls England project exploring the use of social media to help develop the game and encourage recruitment. The Board has agreed to assist in that Matt may use this Association to pilot the project. He will be addressing the AGM on the subject so I will not further elaborate here.

The 2019 Annual lunch and presentation of prizes was again very successful. My thanks to all those who were responsible for its success. My congratulations to all those who were successful in winning trophies but it is so disappointing when so many fail to attend to collect them. We were lucky to be graced with the President of Bowls England, Hazel Marke who spoke very highly of the County. My thanks to those who were involved in the popular Patrons draw, particularly Carolle Skeates, which realised the princely sum of £1000. Well done. The event was a 'sell out' with some being disappointed at not being able to attend. For your diaries, the lunch will take place on 1st November next year, so to avoid being disappointed make sure you order your tickets early.

I have mentioned previously that, as the Bowls England Disciplinary Committee Chairman, I had carried out an overhaul of the B.E. Disciplinary Regulations and that they would be published and ready for the start of the season. However, due to pressure at head office that has not yet materialised. Things have now moved forward and they are about to go to print. A Users Guide has also been produced which should make things easier to follow for those who have to resort to them.

Similarly I mentioned the National Membership Register. The pilot phase has been completed but again due to pressure at head office it has not yet moved forward but I am led to believe it will shortly do so.

Other Bowls England matters which may be of interest is:

1. The Chairman, David Mitchell Gears, the Chief Executive, Tony Allcock and the Office Manager, Penny Maguire have all tendered their resignations to take place at varying times in 2020. Applications have been invited for the Chairman's role and five have applied. Counties are currently casting their vote.
2. Bowls England Regional Meetings proved to be very successful and will now be a permanent feature.
3. The Bowls England Web Site has now been upgraded and is a vast improvement on the former. Finding things are far easier and unlike previously, you can now type something you require in the search engine and it will invariably turn it up.

I trust all will winter well and be raring to go for the 2020 season.

John Durston

Chairman.