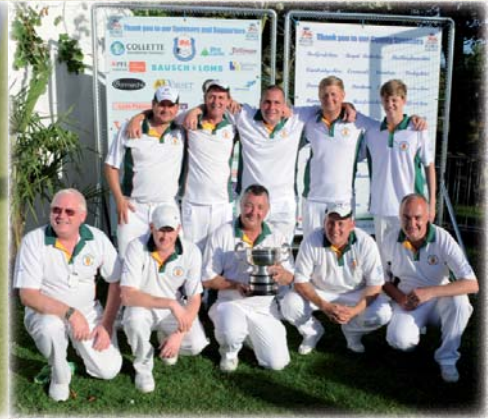




# County News

Issue 8: October 2012

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# County News

## Keeping you informed throughout the year

Welcome to 'County News', your at-a-glance guide to key decisions being made by Bowls England's committees (comprising democratically elected Council Members) and the work they are doing.

This newsletter aims to keep you, as a County Secretary/Administrator and/or Council Member, fully informed of decisions made by them within their roles and responsibilities as approved by you. On each page we have highlighted for you the decisions that have been made by each Committee, and whether they are 'Resolved', which means they are confirmed, or 'Recommended'. The latter means the decision will go forward to the Board for approval or referral to the Council at an EGM or AGM.

In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the following important issues.



### Future location of Bowls England National Championships

All County Associations have received the report of the Working Group that is to be considered at the Bowls England EGM in November. I must remind all County Associations that the Working Group was formed by the Board as a direct result of the various concerns regarding Worthing as a location for National Championships that were raised by Council Members at the AGM in February. The Working Group has since worked diligently in preparing its report to the EGM, and I would like to place on record my thanks to them all for their commitment to the task they were presented with.

### Bowls Development Alliance (BDA)

As I write the BDA has submitted its funding bid to Sport England for continued funding for the four-year cycle starting 1st April 2013. Bowls England remains committed to supporting the BDA and if its bid is successful then we can look forward to much-needed additional support for our sport. The BDA also recently launched the new Level 2 Qualification in Coaching Bowls. This is the first ever qualification for bowls approved by the awards group OFQUAL and Bowls England is fully committed to supporting the BDA's Coach Bowls scheme.

### Annual Conference 2013

Make a note in your diary that the Bowls England Annual Conference will be held on Wednesday 3rd April at Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth (near Royal Leamington Spa). The agenda for this event will be circulated in due course but Bowls England is already working hard to ensure a vibrant line-up of speakers to cover a wide range of issues that are relevant to both clubs and counties, so please do encourage county colleagues and interested club members to attend.

### World Bowls Regional Director

I am delighted to report that John Bell (Cumbria) has been elected as the Regional Director to represent the Europe Region (including the British Isles) on the new-look World Bowls Board. The Regional Directors will have a key part to play in the development of the sport of bowls across the globe and I am confident that John will be a terrific ambassador for the sport at world level. John's appointment will be effective from the Biennial Council meeting to be held in December.

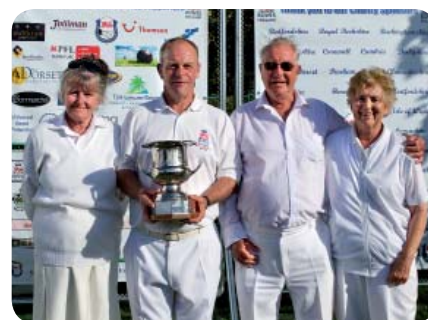
Though this newsletter is aimed primarily at County Secretaries and Council Members, please share this information with other colleagues as appropriate. If you have any queries or suggestions for future issues, please contact our Development Officer, Alistair Hollis, on 07765 050408 or e-mail: [alistair.hollis@bowlsengland.com](mailto:alistair.hollis@bowlsengland.com)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Allcock'.

Tony Allcock MBE  
Chief Executive  
Bowls England

## COMPETITIONS

Committee Responsibilities:  
National Championships & Competitions  
Tournaments & Licences  
Umpire Services  
Laws of the Sport



### Summary of decisions from meeting held in September 2012

**National Competition Area Draw:** Following consultation with Buckinghamshire Bowls, *resolved* that the number of geographical sections within Buckinghamshire be reduced from seven to four.

**English Bowls Umpires Association:** Chief Executive to arrange a meeting with Secretary of Association. *Resolved* to recommend that each unified County should contribute the sum of £100.

**Regulation Changes:** Following discussion it was *resolved* to prepare regulation changes for submission to the EGM.

**Eligibility of Players for Family Pairs:** *Resolved* that entry conditions would remain unchanged and that one substitute only shall be allowed.

**Johns Trophy and Middleton Cup:** Revised dates for the Johns Trophy in 2013 were circulated and noted. It was *resolved* that the quarter finals in both events will comprise the two sections forming each of the four geographical groups.

The draw for the 2013 semi-finals took place with pairings as below:

- Middleton Cup - South v East; North v West
- Johns Trophy - West v South; North v East

It was *resolved* to address the issue of points being awarded in the event of a game not taking place within the proposed regulation changes.

**Regional Finals 2013:** Reported that all four clubs written to with a request to host regional finals of the White Rose Trophy (Kirby Moorside, Bedford Borough, Iver Heath and Bath) have confirmed their availability. A number of clubs were proposed to host the Balcomb Trophy and Walker Cup and *resolved* that Chief Executive enquire as to availability.

**Budgets:** It was *resolved* that the prize money for the Two Wood Singles would remain unchanged.

**Contributions to Competitors:** A paper has been circulated to all Counties. As at 1st September 2012, no comments had been received.

**Royal Leamington Spa National Championships:** It was *resolved* that the greens at Royal Leamington

Spa be re-designated A,B,C,D and E with each green numbered 1-6.

**Slow Play:** *Resolved* that the Slow Play Rule apply in Two Wood Singles Championship and that relevant documentation be updated.

**Men's Over 55 Singles and Pairs:** Following discussion on the viability of the Men's Over 55 Singles and Pairs Competitions being played within the Counties, it was *resolved* to stay with present arrangement.

**BIBC Over 60s Fours:** Following discussion, *resolved* that the winners of the Tony Allcock Trophy be entered as England's representatives in the respective men's and women's events at the BIBC Championships from 2014 (the national winners in 2013 to play in 2014).

**National Top Club Competition:** *Resolved* that the finals of the men's Top Club event moves to Royal Leamington Spa to be played in conjunction with the women's finals from 2013 onwards.

**Player's Code of Conduct:** *Resolved* to include a paragraph in the players' Code of Conduct that prohibits players betting/gambling on the results of matches in which they are participating.

**National Competition Software:** *Resolved* to invest £700 in software to enable online competition results and draw cards to be sent electronically. It was noted that this investment would be recovered within the first round of competition due to savings in postage costs.

**Balcomb Trophy, White Rose Trophy and Walker Cup:** *Resolved* that the draw be administered by Bowls England office.

**Open Tournaments:** *Resolved* that the Development Officer prepare a full report on the potential for Open Tournaments.

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 16th January 2013 at Royal Leamington Spa

## FINANCE

Committee Responsibilities:  
Financial Performance  
Annual Budgets  
Affiliation Fees  
Loans (Clubs)

### Report submitted by Chair of Finance Committee

**Finance status for 2012:** Preliminary indications show that Bowls England has had another good year, with expenditure controlled in all areas. We have again achieved all our financial objectives and are in a very strong and stable financial state.

**Surplus:** The 2012 accounts 'surplus' will include funds that Bowls England is 'holding' for the Visually Impaired World Championships (£35,000+). The 2012 surplus will be further enhanced by the values we originally budgeted to spend in 2012 for the World Championships and the new website. Please be aware these items will now show as expenditure in the 2013 Accounts – so they may well push us into a deficit for year ending 30th September 2013.

**Membership:** The reduction in Affiliated Members in 2012 was 2,242. This was a percentage decrease of just 1.84 per cent - the smallest percentage in the last 10 years (for comparison 2011 saw a reduction of 2.41 per cent, and 2010 a reduction of 2.11 per cent).

**Sponsorship and Donations:** The Friends of English Bowling again gave us wonderful support, but are currently experiencing a reduction in support of their annual Friends Draw (which provides income to both Clubs and Bowls England). Please support the Draw, as it helps to keep the Affiliation Fee down. The Development Officer and Office Manager again achieved better than expected funding from Commercial Sponsorship, a marvellous feat in these difficult financial times.

**Affiliation Fees:** The 2014 Affiliation Fees will be reviewed in mid-November when the Draft Accounts are being finalised/audited, to determine if sufficient Reserves are available to offset any potential 2014 Fee increases. Recommendations will be made to the Board prior to the EGM. We will continue to stave off any required increases as long as possible,

### Development Loans and Greens Maintenance

**Loans:** Bowls England currently has £480,000 'out on loan' to be repaid by clubs through its Development Loans scheme, and £22,000 'out on loan' to clubs through its Greens Maintenance Loans scheme. Funds are still available for Clubs to borrow.

**Planned finance actions for 2013:** Bowls England will continue to promote the streamlining of processes



wherever possible, in order to reduce ongoing overheads. Forward planning and safeguarding of funds are also high priority items which will continue to receive our careful attention.

**Update on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):** All KPIs are currently on target for completion within agreed timescales.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 13th November 2012 at Worthing.

## INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Committee Responsibilities:

Appointment/recall of Team Managers;

Receipt of performance reports for all international level representation;

Protocols for Bowls England representatives at international events;

Preparation and control of international event budgets;

International events; Commonwealth Games and World Bowls



### Summary of decisions from meeting held in September 2012

**Malaysia Open/China Open:** Reported that no players had registered an interest in participating.

**Review of International Selection:** Further to review the following was *Recommended to the Board*;

- Only two selectors to attend each International Series
- Savings will be utilised to enable selectors to attend relevant regional finals, with a requirement that they report findings to team managers
- Term of office be reduced to three years
- Applications for selector roles should be accompanied by a supporting statement/CV in line with Regulation 15.4
- Selectors and managers roles to be rewritten and approved electronically

**Selector Resignations:** Reported that resignations had been received from East and South area men's selectors. Applications have been invited for the remainder of their terms.

**World Bowls 2012:** *Resolved* that a daily allowance will be agreed as in self-catering accommodation. *Resolved* that mobile phones and/or sim cards be purchased for communication between managers at separate venues. *Recommended to the Board* that badges be purchased for presentation to opposition teams.

**World Champion of Champions:** Reported that both 2011 National Singles Championship winners are attending the 2012 event in Cyprus. *Resolved* that 2012 winners be contacted by Chief Executive to explain the financial position regarding their attendance at 2013 event in New Zealand.

**Commonwealth Games 2014:** Reported that no progress at present due to Olympic Games.

**Internationals 2012:** The Senior Women's Team Manager had submitted a full report. Full reports awaited from all other team managers.

**International Trials:** Norgren BC, Warwickshire, has been booked for 2013. *Resolved* that trial dates for 2014 be considered at the next meeting of the Committee. *Resolved* that British Isles dates are reviewed due to Commonwealth Games.

**Squad Days/Training Days 2013:** *Resolved* that Junior men and women will hold a joint squad day on Sunday 7th July 2013. The Junior Team Managers will be given the opportunity to invite 16 additional players as a talent pool to give valuable experience and development opportunity to help address the loss of players through age restrictions. *Resolved* that Senior Women will hold a squad day on Sunday 2nd June 2013 and that those British Isles players not in the team will be invited to attend. *Resolved* to clarify plans for Senior Men in 2013.

**Internationals 2013:** It was reported that series are being held at venues as below;

- Senior Women - Glasgow, Scotland
- Senior Men - Dublin, Ireland
- Junior Women - Ballymena, Ireland
- Junior Men - Wales (venue TBC)

**British Isles 2014:** *Resolved* that England be represented in the Senior Fours event by the four women and men that win the Tony Allcock mixed double rink trophy. *Resolved* that projected budget overspend be reported to the Board.

**BIBC and BWIBC:** Reported that unification talks no further forward despite both bodies earlier agreement. Reported that Bowls England had not put forward a nomination for JVP of BIBC as part of formal proposal to remove the presidential structure, and by doing so significantly reduce overheads given the projected losses of the BIBC. Noted that requests have been received from both BIBC and BWIBC that Bowls England use a central location for future international series.

**International Blazers:** Reported that international blazers will be withdrawn as now only used by one team (senior men).

**Player's Code of Conduct:** *Resolved* to include a paragraph in the players' Code of Conduct that prohibits players betting/gambling on the results of matches in which they are participating.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 23rd/24th January 2013 at Royal Leamington Spa.



## OPERATIONAL SERVICES

Committee Responsibilities:

Annual Conference; Commercial & Marketing; National Yearbook; News-sheets; Merchandise; Tented Villages; Greens Maintenance; Website; National Archives; Civil Liability Insurance; Mail-outs.



### Summary of decisions from meeting held in October 2012

**Club Information Booklets:** *Resolved* information be updated as appropriate for 2013 season but that Committee consider alternatives for 2014 onwards at a future meeting.

**Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):** *Resolved* to revisit for consideration at next meeting of the Committee.

**Membership Scheme:** *Resolved* to *recommend to Board* further consideration be given to the introduction of a membership scheme to enable future business planning and provide a better service to members.

**Legal helpline:** *Resolved* further consideration be given to free legal helpline for affiliated clubs in response to increasing number of calls that Bowls England receives requiring specialist advice.

**Spogo:** *Resolved* further consideration to this Sport England-funded service be given once Bowls England website has been relaunched.

**Coaching Bursary:** *Resolved* agreement in principle be given to a bursary scheme to support present and future coaches wishing to gain a qualification through the Coach Bowls scheme. *Resolved* Development Officer present full proposal to next meeting of the Committee.

**Funding:** Noted that Bowls England has provided advice to 84 clubs since 1st January 2012, resulting in 16 clubs submitting formal applications to various funding bodies supported by Bowls England. This resulted in more than £190,000 in grant funding being obtained during this period by affiliated clubs.

**Civil Liability Insurance/Personal Accident Cover:** Resolved not to proceed further with proposal.

**Greens Maintenance Advisory Service:** *Resolved* details of assistant to National Co-ordinator be confirmed. Further *resolved* confirmation be sought on legal implications of spraying for clubs and that statement be issued to all clubs. It was noted the service is receiving an increasing number of enquiries for course subsidies from members.

**Archives:** *Resolved* Archivist would do an appeal via Bowls England website and bowls media for outstanding photographs of men's senior international team. *Resolved* further consideration

be given to future storage of photos. *Resolved* Bowls England does not have the capacity to respond to all individual requests regarding archive material but that members were able to access all records held either by personal visit or on the website. Further *resolved* that Bowls England would give consideration to provision of archiving service to enable county associations to deposit archive material.

**Merchandise:** Following discussion *resolved* to support merchandise plans for 2013 to include five new products.

**Club of the Year:** *Resolved* to support Club of the Year competition in 2013. Further *resolved* that further consideration be given to format and plans be presented at next meeting of Committee.

**Annual Conference:** *Resolved* following discussion to support proposed timetable. Further *resolved* that more work needed to be done to ensure that clubs were made aware that the event is open to all affiliated members and not restricted to county officials.

**Website:** It was noted that work is underway on the new Bowls England website. *Resolved* to support proposal for development of brand guidelines to underpin this work.

**Social Media:** *Resolved* Social Media Policy be presented to next meeting of Committee for consideration.

**National Yearbook:** *Resolved* that future consideration be given to potential for providing Yearbook in electronic format.

**Youth Development:** *Resolved* to support in principle recommendations from the Youth Development Sub-Group. Resolved to support view that EBYDS finals should be held indoors in 2013, subject to finals being held outdoors in 2014.

**Youth visits to National Championships:** *Resolved* to support plans for 2013 as presented.

**Club Recruitment Material:** *Resolved* to approve revised material for distribution to clubs ahead of the 2013 season.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 22nd January 2013 at Royal Leamington Spa

## POLICY & MANAGEMENT

Committee Responsibilities:

Articles, Rules & Regulations, Achievement Award, Associate/Associated Membership, Logo/Colours, Celebration Matches, Annual General Meeting, Annual Dinners, Anti-Doping Policies, Children & Vulnerable Adults, Equal Opportunities, Gender Issues, Life Membership, Health & Safety



### Summary of decisions from meeting held in September 2012

**Review of Articles of Association/Rules and Regulations:** *Resolved* that when produced the Final Draft documentation would be circulated to the Committee for comment prior to its submission to the AGM.

**Review of Protocol – Draft Guidelines for the Presidential Team:** *Resolved* that a review of the draft guidelines be undertaken by a working group comprising the Committee Chair, Chief Executive and Bill Smith (Leicestershire).

**Annual Dinners:** *Resolved* that cost of tickets for men's and women's dinners for 2012 be set at £30 and that menus be approved. Further *resolved* that, subject to feedback following the men's dinner in February 2013, consideration would be given to holding the women's dinner on a Saturday evening at the Hilton Hotel, Coventry.

**Safeguarding:** *Resolved* to note the contents of a report submitted by the Development Officer together with Compliance Guidance Notes issued by the Sport and Recreation Alliance.

**Applications for Associated Membership:** *Resolved* that the following applications for Associated Membership be confirmed:

- Devon and Cornwall Police
- South Cotswold League
- Hounslow and District B.A.
- Courier Triples League
- British Wheelchair B.A.

**Budget:** *Resolved* that whilst currently on target the Board be informed of possible overspend for the use of the Company's Lawyers in relation to their work on the Articles of Association.

**Payment of Affiliation Fees:** *Resolved* that affiliation fees to county association and Bowls England should remain payable at all clubs for those players who are members of more than one club.

**Company Lawyers:** *Resolved* that the Committee Chair and Chief Executive be authorised to consider the appointment of future Company Lawyers for Bowls England and that the Board be advised accordingly.

**Sports Betting Group:** *Resolved* that report as presented be received and that the Development Officer be designated as Bowls England's future contact for betting integrity issues. Further resolved that the minimum rules as identified on Page 3 of the Code of Conduct be included in General Matters in the Rules and Regulations.

**Committee Membership:** *Resolved* to formally record a vote of thanks to Arthur Meeson who had advised the Committee of his intention not to seek re-election to Committee Office at the AGM in 2013.

**Certificate of Merit Awards 2012:** *Resolved* that having given consideration to applications for the Award in 2012 and those deferred from 2011 no awards be made. Further resolved that the Chief Executive contact four of those nominating candidates and advise them to review and resubmit a more comprehensive application form based upon the agreed criteria for consideration in 2013.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Friday 7th December 2012 at Royal Leamington Spa