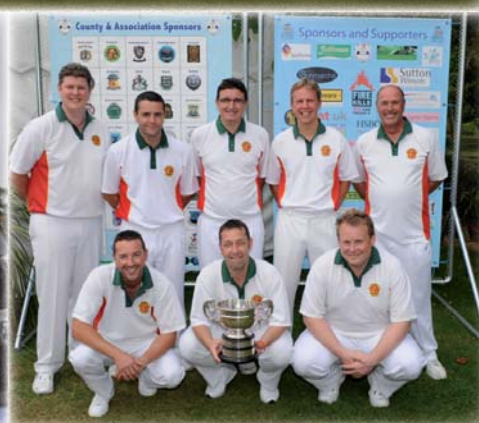




County News

Issue 5: October 2010

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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 six committees (comprising democratically elected Council Members) and the work they are doing.

This newsletter aims to keep you, as a County Secretary 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.



World Bowls Biennial Council Meeting

I attended the Biennial Council Meeting on 15th October in my position as Bowls England Delegate. Although not all of the decisions went the way we would have wished, that is democracy in action. However, on the positive side, I believe we have demonstrated once again that we are proactive members of our world body and have voiced our opinion regarding those issues that are of importance to those we represent. A full report has been circulated to all County Secretaries and Delegates, but the following two items are worth repeating.

The *Laws of the Sport of Bowls (Crystal Mark Second Edition)* were approved. The two main changes on everyday play, which will become effective in England from 1st April 2011, are:

- The winner of the previous end will deliver the jack and the first bowl on the next end, with the exception of an extra end when there will be a coin toss with the winner having the choice.
- The Skip will be responsible for keeping the scorecard in all forms of the game - pairs, triples and fours.

Copies of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls (Crystal Mark Second Edition) will be available through Bowls England in due course, and we will notify Clubs and Counties once these are available.

The second issue I raised on behalf of bowlers in England was regarding '*narrow-bias bowls*'. The general feeling, which is borne out by the amount of correspondence we receive, is that the use of minimal biased bowls on British bowling surfaces is having a devastating effect on both the skill levels and general art of participation. I urged the Board of World Bowls to flag this as high priority and to issue a statement which can be distributed to those Member Nations such as ours who feel strongly about this,

Annual Conference

The Bowls England Annual Conference is being held on Wednesday 6th April 2011 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa. Please make a note in your diaries - this is the opportunity for all members to come along and learn more about issues facing clubs, counties and Bowls England.

National Competitions

Entry forms are now available for the 2011 Bowls England National Competitions. Next year will see the introduction of the National Over 60 Mixed Double Rink Competition, to be known as the Tony Allcock Trophy, so please raise awareness of this competition with your clubs. The closing date for all Bowls England National Competitions is 1st February 2011.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Allcock". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

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 2010

Men's Two-Wood Singles: *Recommended* that this be introduced as a National Championship in 2012.

Mother & Daughter Pairs: *Resolved* this competition would continue in 2011, with the intention of introducing the 'Family Pairs' in 2012.

Payment of Green Fees for National Competitions: *Recommended* that Rule 53.1.11 be updated to read 'the challenger is responsible for all arrangements including rink fees if appropriate.'

Bionic Arm: *Resolved* to approve the 'Bionic Arm' bowling aid for use by Members.

Walker Cup Regional Finals: Two counties had written regarding the introduction of Regional Finals in this competition. It was *resolved* that the new format had been agreed to initially operate for two years, after which it would be reviewed.

Johns Trophy: Replies for and against proposed changes had been received and noted.

National Championships: The Chair reported on the success of both Championships. Warwick District Council is working hard to improve the playing surfaces at Leamington.

Resolved standard flags would continue to be used at Leamington until all counties were unified, when further consideration would be given to updating the flags. Unified counties flags would be flown at Worthing once supplied.

Resolved repairs to trophies be completed wherever practical. It was resolved new trophies were needed for the Women's National Over 55s and the Women's National Fours runners-ups. First Aid is currently provided by Worthing Borough Council at Worthing and by staff who are trained first aiders at Leamington. It was *resolved* that the Chief Executive ascertain Bowls England's legal obligations before any further action is taken.

English Bowls Umpires Association (EBUA): The EBUA asked that qualified Umpires only be used for national and county events. The EBUA is willing to address counties and to hold fun marking classes for Clubs free of charge. A new uniform will be introduced gradually from 2011.

Laws of the Sport: The Chief Executive confirmed Bowls England would print the new edition following



approval at World Bowls meeting. *Resolved* that the EBUA Secretary would update the domestic rules for publication and submit these to the Chief Executive.

National Championships Programme 2011 onwards: *Resolved* to agree to the revised schedules for the Men's and Women's National Championships. *Resolved* that, in view of potential clashes during both Championships, the Conditions of Entry as prepared should be published on the website, circulated to Counties and enclosed with all Competition entry cards. *Resolved* that score boards be used at both ends of each rink from the quarter final stage of all National Finals whenever possible. It was hoped Umpires would assist in this task. *Recommended* that the last 16 in the White Rose Trophy should compete at Worthing. This would be implemented from 2011 subject to Board approval.

County Championships: It was resolved to suggest that Counties prepare a set of conditions for entry into all County Competitions.

Venues for Middleton Cup Quarter Finals: *Resolved* that Chief Executive would check availability with clubs and confirm bookings at the earliest opportunity.

Balcomb Trophy and Walker Cup: *Resolved* that these would remain as for 2010.

Budgets: *Resolved* prize money for the Tony Allcock Trophy would be similar to the Men's Club Two Fours but further consideration would be given once entry levels were known.

Dress Code: *Resolved* that the Championship Committee should not let standards drop but it was recognised there is a need to be flexible to encourage participation.

Competition entrants: *Resolved* that only one player needs to be named on championship/competition entries. The named entrant can't play as a substitute for any other team in that competition. Those playing with the named entrant in the first match constitute the 'team' and they then must not play for another team from this point. Counties are asked to adhere to this principle.

Date of next meeting: 26th January 2011 at Royal Leamington Spa

DEVELOPMENT

Committee Responsibilities:

Facilities Strategy,
Club and Member, Development,
Youth Development,
Bowls Coaching,
Public Relations, Press & Media

Summary of decisions from meeting held in September 2010

Club of the Year: The shortlist had been drawn up and the judges would be meeting to determine winner shortly.

Bowls England break - Potters: It was reported that a total of around 400 are expected to attend.

Club Funding: The Development Officer reported that since introduction of the online service in September 2009 assistance has been given to 336 clubs – feedback is awaited from a number of them. *Resolved* that the annual contract for this be renewed.

Public Relations, Press & PR: A total of 118 news releases issued since 1st May 2010. The website continues to be popular with increasing usage – 469,936 pages viewed in August.

Club recruitment: Folders had been produced and circulated to all affiliated clubs in April. *Resolved* that a formal approach be made to counties regarding the appointment of a Development Officer and that a draft Job Description be prepared and circulated, and that this include encouraging such an appointment at club level.

New Age Bowls: The Development Officer has been working with 'New Age Bowls' to develop and promote the sport in 'non-traditional' areas (i.e. schools) and will be attending Youth Sports Trust Conference in October. Demonstration and use of these bowls at both Leamington and Worthing produced positive feedback. *Resolved* to purchase a supply of equipment for use at events and demonstrations in the future.

Youth Visits to Worthing: Teams from Berkshire and Hertfordshire attended the National Championships in 2010 and the day had been a success. Thanks were expressed to John Durston and Bill Hatto for their help with the event. *Resolved* that Herefordshire and Devon be confirmed as the teams for 2011.

White Rose Trophy: The EGM is to vote on the Regional Finals of the White Rose Trophy being cancelled with additional teams going to the National Finals at Worthing to be held over two days. *Resolved* that the Committee support this change.



EBYDS: *Resolved* that There is a need to see how the future of EBYDS fits in with the BDA. National Youth Awards Scheme to be discussed when more information is available.

EBCS: *Resolved* that Bowls England's annual payment be deferred pending further discussions on funding by the various groups.

Annual Conference: *Resolved* that the BDA Development Manager should be invited to the Bowls England Annual Conference.

Unaffiliated Clubs: Reg Sigsworth reported that following consultation with the Chief Executive and Development Officer, he had written to all clubs in the county regarding this and possible insurance issues.

Local Authority Greens: Concern was expressed that clubs playing on local authority greens may suffer as a result of proposed financial cut backs and that they may need to look to protecting their maintenance etc. or at least carry out a risk assessment.

Committee Amalgamation: In view of the impending amalgamation of the Development Committee and Member Services Committee by 2012 it was *recommended* there be a cross copy of committee minutes in future.

Date of Next Meeting:
18th January 2011 at Royal Leamington Spa

FINANCE

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



Summary of decisions from meeting held in October 2010

Finance Strategy: The planning to use some of the ring-fenced Reserves (accumulated from surplus funds generated to date) to offset any deficit for 2011 onwards is proceeding according to plan. The 2010 year-end results are currently being audited. When the audit is complete, the EGM will be informed of the proposed 2012 Fees.

Sport England Self-Assurance Annual Audit: The updated 'rolling 5 year' Financial Plan (mapped to the Bowls England Strategic Plan), has been submitted to Sport England, together with the Financial Policy & Procedures requirements.

Reserves: The forward planning of the General Fund Reserves have been reviewed in line with the rolling five-year Financial Plan.

Bowls England Funds: The funds held in the Anglo Irish Bank were reduced earlier this year to a minimum value. The main Reserve funds are now held in HSBC. If/when the financial climate changes, then the placement of the bulk reserves will be reviewed.

Management Accounts: Reports are now regularly reviewed at each Board Meeting. Significant streamlining of meetings has resulted in reduced costs (which will be reflected in the 2010 Accounts onwards).

Development Loans: The upper limit has been increased from £15,000 to £20,000 and the repayment limit of eight years has been maintained. This had been *resolved* at Committee earlier and *was resolved by the Board in May 2010*.

Current loans to Clubs: Bowls England currently has £366,667 'out on loan' to be repaid by clubs through the Development Loans scheme. A further £29,133 is 'out on loan' to be repaid by clubs through the Greens Loans Scheme.

Loans policy: *Resolved* that to help clubs cope with the funding of major cost projects relating to the actual playing surface (hopefully to retain/increase Membership), the wording of the 'Development Loans' definition will be modified slightly to read: *The Development Loan Scheme which relates to any other item, such as Clubhouses, fencing, car parks, changing rooms etc or specific major projects related to the bowling green (complete re-*

surfacing, major renovation or similar major 'one off' projects) and NOT ongoing annual maintenance tasks or any expenditure which qualifies within the guidelines of the Greens Loans Scheme.

Finance Key Performance Indicators: The following pieces of work have been completed and issued;

- Financial Strategy
- Contract Framework
- Finance Policies Manual

Date of Next Meeting:

1st November 2010 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 2010

Appointment of International Team Managers:

Interviews will be held at the end of October. In light of some disappointing results this year, it was **resolved** that all Team Managers, once appointed, be invited to attend the next IEC meeting.

Budget: The Internationals were over budget due to unforeseen circumstances but significant sponsorship had defrayed much of the overspend.

World Bowls Ltd: The precept currently paid to World Bowls Ltd is £34,500. It has proposed an increase of up to 10p per head which would take Bowls England's precept to well over £40,000 per annum. **Resolved** to object to any increase and also to the proposal that would enable World Bowls to make changes in future without reference to Member Nations.

Squad/international training days: It was felt squad days immediately before the Internationals did not work as well as a day prior to the Series. **Resolved** to have training/squad day after teams are selected, which should take the form of structured exercises to encourage competitiveness. Rex Hazeldine, the consultant physiologist to the Commonwealth Games Project, has offered to assist the international teams without fees. **Resolved** to accept his offer where appropriate, paying any travel and accommodation costs involved. The allocation of travel costs needs to be looked at more closely for international trials/training days and events, and it was **resolved** to ask the Office Manager to look at the introduction of a more simplified payments system.

Internationals 2010: Thanks were expressed to the Chief Executive, staff and volunteers for their work during the internationals held in Worthing.

International trials 2011: **Resolved** trials in 2011 will be held on 21st and 22nd May (women) and 28th and 29th May (men) at Norgren BC, Warwickshire. **Resolved** selectors invite 48 players for trial with the exception of Junior Women (32 players) plus reserves to give adequate opportunity for assessment.

Internationals 2011: Senior men and Junior women in Scotland, Senior women in Wales and Junior men in England. **Resolved** players should arrive by lunchtime the day before the series starts.

BIBC and BWIBC: It was **resolved** that as the growth area in the sport is in the older age group and mixed events, the Chair should suggest to the respective British Isles Councils that they should take a lead in promoting this at international level.

International Invitations:

Jersey Celebration Series 2011 - **Resolved** to circulate a letter to Internationals to determine interest. Noted date clashes with both National Championships.

Hong Kong Classic - Reported that England representatives will be Sam Tolchard, Robert Newman, Lynne Bowen and Penny Strong.

Tiger Bowls (Hong Kong and China) - **Resolved** to circulate an invite to Junior and Senior Internationals to determine interest, as all expenses are borne by the players. Bowls England to provide merchandise to be taken by the players.

Australian Open - A request to send Mervyn King and Stuart Airey to next year's Australian Open was discussed. **Resolved** that unfortunately funding could not be committed to this event.

Australian Test Series - Australia requested consideration of a test series in England 2011 and Australia in 2012. **Resolved** that Bowls England is unable to fund such an arrangement.

International Shirts - **Resolved** not to purchase new shirts sufficient stock of current shirts available.

Welsh Test Match - **Resolved** not to accept Test Match in Wales in September 2011 due to proximity of Atlantic Championships in Cyprus.

World Bowls - Invitations for Singles events have been received for Senior and Junior Men and Women. **Resolved** not to accept.

Accommodation during International Series:

Resolved that only players, selectors, team manager and the President should stay in team hotel. Partner of President may stay at team hotel at own expense. A Code of Conduct will be produced for Selectors.

Bowler of the Year Awards: **Resolved** to invite Mel Beck (Bowls International) to present.

Triallist Badges: **Resolved** not to issue badges to triallists.

50th cap awards: **Resolved** to present award to Women Internationals that have played for Bowls England since 2008 (previous records to be included) to bring in line with the current practice for Men Internationals.

Date of Next Meeting: 25th January 2011 at Royal Leamington Spa

MEMBER 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 September 2010

Committee Roles and Responsibilities: Following review it was *resolved* no changes were needed.

Mailouts: As the September mail-out is mainly used to send out National Competition Cards to clubs, it was *resolved* to move the date of the mail-out to the last week in July. This would enable cards to be prepared and distributed to competitors and spectators during the National Championships.

Annual Conference: *Resolved* that Liz Rahman would present the item on Catering for Clubs and that a presenter be sought from Somerset for the item on unification.

Resolved that Dennis Cousins would liaise with all presenters and would arrange front row seating.

Resolved that Chief Executive would Chair the Question Time slot.

Resolved that the Board Chairman would be invited to act as Chairman for the rest of the Conference.

Resolved that Cynthia Abraham, Freda Thomas, Dawn Cousins and Jan Hunt would help to sell merchandise at the Conference.

National Yearbook: The Chair reported that changes to the County information had been made throughout the summer months. It was *resolved* to incorporate the following changes in the appearance: header on each page, Counties registered colours, sticker colours.

Database: It was reported that the Bowls England database is updated daily.

Laws of the Sport: It was *resolved* that Bowls England should continue to print in-house under licence from World Bowls. Cover price will be confirmed in due course.

Merchandise and National Championship Stalls: New items are currently under consideration. It was resolved that the Bowls England tent at Worthing would open at 10am daily next year, the same as Leamington. This means trophies and fleeces, for trying on by winners, would have to be kept in the Tournament Office. It was *resolved* Dennis Cousins would arrange the Worthing rota and that a member of staff would open and close the tent

each morning and evening.

It was *resolved* that nominated Bowls England personnel would open and close the tent at Leamington each day. They would also take and collect the money to and from the tent.

It was *resolved* there would be a small sponsors' tent at Worthing the same as Leamington.

April Mailout: The Chair reported that the update of 'Useful Information to Clubs' had been completed and would be distributed to all Clubs in the April mail-out. *Resolved* that an Employers and Volunteer's Handbook plus guidance on the Equity Act and Food Hygiene would also be produced and included.

Civil Liability Insurance: The Chair reported that a complete review of Insurance was under way.

Bowls England Website: The Chair reported that the website continues to be widely used. It was *resolved* that Past Presidents, Past Internationals, Secretaries and Treasurers of the EBA and EWBA would be included on the website.

Greens Maintenance: The National Administrator reported that the service was running within budget, 89 greens had been visited and £7,500 had been paid out. The National Administrator was keen for new greenkeepers to attend the Green Maintenance courses run by the IoG with subsidies available from Bowls England.

Archiving: The Archivist reported that work is continuing. It was *resolved* that the Archivist would keep the old EWBA Yearbooks at home and that all enquires should be referred to her.

Date of Next Meeting:

22nd March 2011 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 2010

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults:

Resolved that the report and recommendations outlined therein on the Enhanced CRB Disclosure process and the registration of County Verifiers be approved. **Resolved** that when information is circulated to County Associations they be advised of the ability to use the services of the Post Office for the approval process and also that a list of accredited County Verifiers be registered with Bowls England. **Resolved** that the adoption of the Child Protection Panel by the Bowls Development Alliance be noted.

Presidential Team Protocol/Guidelines: **Resolved** that Annual Dinners and Lunches/Dinners held during the National Championships be identified as Bowls England functions and not within the remit of the Presidential Team.

Resolved that protocol matters for such functions including table plans be determined by the Chief Executive in consultation with the respective Committee Chair and others if so required. **Resolved** that the Presidential Team Protocol Guidelines come within the remit of this Committee. **Resolved** that approval be given for County Presidents to wear County Chains of Office when in attendance at the National Championships. **Resolved** that "whites" will only be worn at National Championships by the Green/Badge Presentation Parties and no others.

Articles of Association: **Recommend to the Board** that having reviewed the Articles in conjunction with the Company Solicitor the revised Articles be approved, subject to the determination of a definitive date by which all Counties shall be unified and the determination of gender representation by Counties once unified at Company Meetings etc.

Annual Dinners: **Resolved** that ticket price for Annual Dinners in November 2010 and February 2011 be £29. Further **resolved** that menu for dinners and entertainment be confirmed as presented, that toast list for both events should be kept to a minimum and that the Chair/Chief Executive determine the Guest Speakers for both events.

Committee Roles and Responsibilities: **Resolved** that the paper on Committee Roles and Responsibilities be received and noted.

Equality Act 2010: **Resolved** the report updating the Committee on the implementation of the Act and view that outdoor bowls would be classified as a

gender affected sport be noted.

Associated Membership: Resolved to send a letter and survey to all current Associated Members asking for their views on the benefits of Membership.

Achievement Award: From the submission of 30 nominations for the Award the Panel had agreed to the award of eight Certificates of Merit for 2010, comprising 4 men and 4 Women. **Resolved** that the Report of the Panel be received and its decisions noted. **Resolved** that the decision to invite the recipients of the award to either supper at Leamington or lunch at Worthing during the National Championships be confirmed for 2010 and implemented for future years and that a two year "rolling" assessment be made of each application and where appropriate these would be deferred for further information, if deemed worthy.

Unaffiliated Clubs: The Committee gave further consideration to the adoption of a policy position for Bowls England in relation to clubs who were unaffiliated to the Association. **Resolved** that more consideration be given by Committee in due course.

Affiliation Fees: **Recommend to the Board** the payment date for Affiliation Fees should be amended to 1st March annually. Further **resolved** that a presentation on the topic should be made at Annual Conference in April to give attendees the opportunity to have their say on this issue. Consideration was given to a request for the introduction of age related affiliation fees. Given the complexity of this issue and likely issues in introducing, it was **resolved** not to support this proposal.

Review of Rules and Regulations: **Resolved** that following the adoption of the new Articles of Association there would be a requirement for the Committee to undertake a review of the Bowls England Rules and Regulations.

Adoption of UK Anti-Doping Rules: **Resolved** that the adoption of the above by the Board be noted and that following adoption at the EGM in November 2010 they be incorporated in the Rules and Regulations.

Date of Next Meeting:

8th December 2010 at Royal Leamington Spa