



Bowls Hampshire Executive Meeting

21st September 2023

1. **Apologies** Tim Orr Liz and Colin Bingley Mary Varndell, Lyn Booth, Malcolm James, Paula Haynes, Lesley Taylor, Neil Roderick, Harrison Ash, Ken and Carol Eichen and Christina Bundy.

2. **Confirm minutes of the meeting held on 6.4.23**

Proposed: Charlie Bumstead Seconded: Mandy Wilde and unanimously agreed by all attendees.

3. **Matters Arising**

David Wildman raised the point on registering with HMRC Trust Registration Service and asked if Bowls England had provided any further advice and information. Hazel stated that nothing has been forthcoming from Bowls England and suggested that clubs await information before trying to register. It was agreed that Hazel would email Bowls England for any further up to date information and assistance. There were no other matters arising.

4. **Update on information from Bowls England**

Hazel gave an update, stating the the 2024 competition programme would be the same as the 2023 programme while BE await the results from the Competitions Working Party. It is hoped this will be completed and agreed in time for the 2025 season.

There have been a number of staff changes at Bowls England, Varsha Ragoobarsing who looked after the BE Presidential team including the celebration matches and the County zoom calls left the organisation in July. Helen Slimm, Business Operations and Finance Manager who has been with Bowls England since its inception leaves the organisation on the 20th October.

Bowls England employed two new people following the resignation of the Marketing & Communications Manager. The new Communication Manager is Nicole Dyer joined in April 2023 and a second member has joined this group in May 2023, Tom Green Marketing & Partnerships Officer.

Bowls Hampshire did well at the National Championships in August, with our own Steve Stockley joining Mike McDonagh to win the DBE (Disability Bowls England) Pairs. Alan Geary had to play Peter Ward also from Hampshire in the quarter final before moving through to reach the 2-wood final before losing out to Mark Ireland of Warwickshire. Other notable results were Margaret Holden in the semi final of the singles losing out to Stef Bransfield who went on to win the competition. Margaret was involved again in the Senior Fours reaching the semi final and having to play an extra end against the IOW who won and went on to win the Final. Three more teams from Hampshire did well reaching the quarter final stage, the men's and ladies triples and Peter Ward was involved in another quarter final as part of the senior fours team from Ringwood.

The BE Championship dinner is to be held following the Counties Meeting at the Doubletree Hilton Coventry. With Alan Geary reaching the final of the 2-wood championship he will be attending this dinner supported by his wife, both Bowls Hampshire Presidents and partners as well as both the Bowls Hampshire authorised representatives Tim Orr and Hazel Marke.

At this point the Executive were asked if there was anyone who would like to take over the role of authorised representative, no one came forward and so both Tim and Hazel were reappointed.

Hazel reminded the Executive the importance of all clubs having a Safeguarding Officer which will become a necessity in 2025. She also stated an email had been sent out to all clubs reminding them and giving them lots of good information. On the BE website the red top banner has a dedicated

Safeguarding link which has lots of great information even with posters for clubs to put on their noticeboard with the name of their own Safeguarding Officer.

She also reminded the Executive that GDPR was also a hot topic which would also become more relevant in 2024 /2025.

Hazel agreed to send out the latest information from BE on all the working parties.

Richard thanked Hazel on behalf of the Executive for the work she completes on behalf of the County, albeit when dealing with BE not always an easy task.

5. Finance Update - CT

Carl gave a financial update and stated that he was still awaiting some of the stock and expenses.

He would then be able to finalise the account for the 2023 season, he stated at the moment it appears there will be a loss of about £500.00 which is the same as the 2022 season.

The stock was in a much better state following the previous year's losses with possibly just a couple of differences.

Following information from BE that there would be no increase in the 2024 competition fees, Carl asked the Executive to agree that there would be no increase in the BH competitions fees.

Proposed by David Wildman Seconded: Kim Harris unanimously agreed.

With reference to affiliation fees, BE will increase their affiliation fee to £7.00 ahead for the 2024 season. Carl explained there hadn't been any increases by BE or BH since 2010 and should BH look for a small increase in their affiliation fees. A discussion followed and it was agreed that Carl would carry out a review and bring a recommendation to the AGM in November.

Carl requested that the Executive agreed with the decision taken by the Management & Finance committee that for 2024 all affiliation and competition fees be collected by 1st March 2024 even though BE have changed their requirements.

The additional work for the treasurer isn't sustainable particularly once the season has started.

Following a discussion, it was Proposed by: Min Wright Seconded by Jim Marsland and unanimously agreed.

Richard thanked Carl on behalf of the Executive for his unstinting work with the finances on behalf of the County. As well as the other sub-committees he gets involved in.

6. Badges

Following agreement at the last executive meeting for Carl got in touch with the badge supplier to ascertain cost for the new Badges for the County. These are coming out at approximately £2.45 each.

These badges will replace all badges we currently have once the stock is exhausted. For the championship competitions there is one year left 2024, plus a few cloth badges.

Following a discussion, the changes were proposed by: Margaret Leppard seconded by: Wendy Brown, Vote with two against. Proposal carried.

7. BH Officers Vacancy / Nominations

Following an advertisement on the website covering a number of vacancies, the following is an update.

- Communication Coordinator

Two people have expressed an interest. Lesley Taylor emailed both for a one page on what they would bring to the position. Awaiting responses prior to possible interview taking place.

- Nominations for Men's & Ladies President 2025

Banister Park have nominated Geoff Jessup for the Men's President 2025 and Bournemouth have nominated Liz Bingley for the Ladies President 2025.

- Johns / Walker Manager, Middleton /Balcombe Manager, U25 Manager

Following interviews, the panel have offered a three-year term of office with an annual review to; Maxeen Fletcher – Johns Mgr. Colin Thresher Middleton Mgr. and Leo May U254 Mgr. They will take up their posts following ratification at the AGM.

- Men's Match Secretary

Due to Ken Eichen ill health, he has had to resign from his role as the Men's Match Secretary. Braeside have nominated Doug Nazer for the position and as no other nominations came forward, Doug is duly elected.

- Year Book Secretary

Following a year of shadowing, Mandy Wilde will take over from Michael as he steps down after working tirelessly for the County. We cannot thank him enough for all his hard work and I would add I do hope he may decide to remain as an Area representative.

8. **Friendly Fixture Programme 2023 /2024**

For the 2024 season Lesley Taylor will be responsible for all Mixed Friendly Matches. BH have received requests from B&D and New Forest for a mixed friendly as well as a 50th Anniversary match against Fareham BC. In addition, at the Management & Finance meeting it was agreed to reduce the BH mixed friendly matches to one per area.

All men's friendly matches will be responsibility of Doug Nazer and all ladies friendly matches the responsibility of Wendy Brown.

Following a recommendation from the Management & Finance committee, the Executive agreed that from 2024 there would no longer be any coaches for friendly matches.

David Wildman raised the question of financial assistance for the IOW friendly matches, as both the Men and Ladies matches for 2024 are to be home matches, it was agreed that this could be revisited at the end of 2024 for the f2025 season.

9. **2024 Tours into County**

The County has been requested about two tours taking place in 2024.

Sussex County Association Presidential Tour, has requested a match on route home on Friday 20th September. Banister Park have already agreed that the match can take place there. Doug and Hazel to discuss as to who should play this match, i.e., County, Area or club.

Linslade BC Bedfordshire has contacted the County for a tour, which has been agreed. This tour is at the very end of the season. The following matches have been agreed;

Monday 23rd – Bournemouth BC

Tuesday 24th – Braeside BC

Wednesday 25th – Fordingbridge BC

Thursday 26th – Still looking for a Club

For the above four dates, only tea and biscuits are required after the match.

Friday 27th – Charlie Bumstead agreed to talk to Fleming Park to see if they are able to host a match at approximately 11am in the morning followed by a buffet or meal prior to the tour returning home.

10. **BH Yearbook - MA**

Michael gave an update on the latest version of the Yearbook and the near completion of the 2023 Photo book.

Richard, thanked Michael on behalf of the Executive for the excellent job he had done with the Yearbook and all for his progressive attitude, which has enabled the County to move smoothly forward. An example the new softcopy yearbook which was available to all clubs.

11. **BH Website – HM**

Following the setting up of a subcommittee to look at our website and how we move forward. Tim Orr, Michael Andrews and Carl Taylor were given a demonstration of an application used by Surrey Bowls which enables the County to work with the clubs in three areas, namely Affiliation, Competitions and Matches. Following the demonstration which was received favourably, Hazel was tasked with arranging another demonstration for the Area Secretaries, Match Secretaries and other interested parties.

This took place on Monday 11th September when John Tucker kindly visited Banister Park and gave a two-hour presentation, going through the application as well as answering all any questions raised. The feedback from all who attended was extremely positive.

After a discussion with lots of questions and some members reporting their favourable comments, the consensus was to take this to the next step and report back at the AGM.

Hazel and Carl have also been invited in early October to a meeting with a number of Counties who have already implemented the system or are about to implement it. Besides the owner Surrey, Wiltshire implemented the system in 2023 and Gloucestershire, Berkshire, Leicestershire looking to implement in 2024.

12. **BH Competition Regulations**

A proposition from David Wildman with reference to competition regulation 4.d was read out. This had already been discussed at the Management & Finance meeting a week earlier and their recommendation was that the regulation remained as two dates but were happy to make the change to clarify the giving of week and weekend dates.

A vote was taken by the Executive which was passed with one person voting against.

Hazel had prepared a paper for the Executive with reference to recommending changes to the competition regulations to bring them in line with the current Bowls England competition regulations on the number of ends for individual matches.

Richard read out all the changes, following discussion the changes were agreed with the following amendments;

The Thornbery competition to align with the men's County Cup where if at the end of the match there is a draw only one rink plays the extra end.

Change the ladies' National Benevolent triples to the same as the men's Two wood triples.

Proposed by: Wendy Brown seconded by: Mandy Orchard. A vote was then taken, these were unanimously agreed to include the amendments.

13. **County Luncheon**

Hazel gave a quite update on the forthcoming County Luncheon to be held at Fleming Park on Sunday 22nd October, 12:00 for 12:30. The Bowls England guest of honour is David King Taylor Senior Vice President. As the latest number of applications from clubs is over 100 the Executive agreed that Hazel close the list, particularly as the room won't hold more than about 105 people.

14. **AOB**

Hazel informed the Executive a request had been received from Berkshire and Aldermaston BC who wishes to move Counties as they don't play any competitions or leagues within Berkshire but do play within Hampshire in the Witchurch league and the Basingstoke & District leagues.

The executive agreed in principle but felt it should go to the North Area AGM as Aldermaston would become part of the North of the County. Jim Marsland agreed to add it to their agenda.

Following the appointment of the U25 Manager, he requested that Bowls Hampshire apply to put forward two White Rose teams for 2024. Hazel emailed Bowls England and received a reply that this was not possible.

She requested of the Executive to be able to put forward a proposition to Bowls England from Bowls Hampshire requesting a change to the rules in line with the Amy Rose rules where two (of 2 rinks) teams were allowed to enter. Hazel would write to another County to see if they would second the proposition. The Executive unanimously agreed.

Allan Leppard asked that congratulations go to the team who won Home Counties Leonard Denny Cup against Berkshire 154 v 103. Another brilliant win by the our Under 25 team winning the Bill Hatto U25 League Hampshire 62 v 59 Sussex. Two great results to end the 2023 season with.

Richard reminded the Executive that the BH AGM will take place on Thursday 23rd November at 1:30pm

15. **Date & Time of next Meeting**

The next Executive meeting will follow the AGM on Thursday 23rd November at approximately 2:30pm

As there was no other AOB Richard closed the meeting at 20:15pm.