



Bowls Hampshire Executive Meeting

23rd November 2023

1. **Apologies received;** Richard Shelley, Kim Harris, Tony Ingram, Min Wright, David Brindley, David Brown, Mandy Wilde, Sheila Andrews, Alex Tymon, Malcolm James

2. **Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2023.**
Proposed by Wendy Brown, seconded by Charlie Bumstead and unanimously agreed.

3. **Matters Arising**

Lesley asked about the mixed matches received from the B&D and New Forest, as these came via the West, it was agreed Lesley would take off line and speak with Doug in order to see about arranging at least one of these matches for 2024.

No other matters arising.

4. **Provisional Calendar**

Hazel explained that at the moment the calendar was up to date but would remain provisional until all friendlies had been confirmed and BE didn't make any changes.

Doug said he had received a new request from Aldershot and District which he passed the latest copy to Hazel and agreed to send an electronic copy so that the calendar could be updated.

5. **Update Bowls England**

Staff Changes – Vikki Underwood has replaced Helen Slimm as Head of Business Operations.

Having checked out some additional information I can confirm that BE are looking to take on two further people and are advertising for a People Officer (circa 24-30k) and a Governance & Compliance Officer (circa 26-32k). Once these two people are in place it increases the team at BE to 12 from 7 since the Chief Executive took over.

As Tim and Hazel are due to attend the Counties Meeting on Saturday, it was important to gain the views from the members of the AGM of the Competitions Working Party's key recommendations to ensure Bowls Hampshire's views were put forward. Kay went through each recommendation in turn, after discussion the AGM members voted on each one.

1. **Agree** - but note that the second point talks about increasing the prize money, whereas the budget for 2024 **CUTS** the prize money in half.
2. **Agree** -Format of Blue Riband to stay unchanged
3. **Disagree** - to remove the two-wood competition
4. **Disagree** - to changing the four competitions, Balcomb, Walker, White Rose and Amy Rose
5. **Disagree** - to age change, don't believe it will improve entry numbers and retirement age is going up each year for people still working.
6. ??? Not enough information requires further clarification. Will the age for the Amy Rose and White Rose. Are the 17 and 24 two new competitions in place of the current under 25's.
7. ??? need more information. This proposal raised lots of questions as could lead to really problems unless the definition is very clear.

Also, as a very large County we have very experienced players currently playing in all the competitions but due to the size of the County don't get through to the National Championships, so the new/less experienced players. What does this definition mean. For very new players who are just getting used to the current format, using a totally different format makes it difficult is another hurdle.

8. **Disagree** - Leave as it is.

9. **Agree** - Mixed response 9 for 3 against rest abstained.

10. **Disagree** - Unanimous, don't want this competition to change and dislike the proposed format and the ranking system.

11. **Disagree** – Leave this competition as it is but introduce a two fours for the ladies, its is only 8 players and as a large County don't see any problems with the ladies entering at all.

12. **Agree**

13. **???** - Definitely need a lot more information. The current County system works very well and with such a large County don't know how this would work centralised??

14. **Disagree** - Important that this should be carried out by the Counties, there are not just the BE competitions to consider.

15. **???** - The County requires a lot more information.

16. **???** - The document doesn't give enough information and clarification

17. **Totally Disagree** – The County calendar is already very full, with BE competitions, County Competitions, Area Competitions, Club competitions, Leagues men, ladies and mixed, County friendlies, Area friendlies, club friendlies. It is already difficult to find dates so to add would be a nightmare.

Board Member nominations, after a lot of discussion it was agreed that Bowls Hampshire would vote for Vivien Wilton-Middlemass and Malcolm C Evan.

6. **Badges – update CT**

Carl informed the meeting that the new badges had been ordered and would be ready in time for the 2024 season.

Hazel passed around the new design for the BH County shirt with the view that once finalised and agreed would be ready for the 2024 season. The sub committee to meet to finalise in January prior to gaining the Executive approval.

7. **New web application**

Hazel gave an update following the demonstration of the new application, attending a meeting with other Counties who had already purchase on the application or were about to purchase. Currently Surrey, Wiltshire, Leicestershire, Gloucester is using the application and Berkshire hoping to purchase now with a view to full implementation in 2025. Richard, Carl and Hazel had a meeting with the developer to ensure GDPR and other aspects of the application. As Richard couldn't attend this meeting Hazel read out a note with his views and support. Carl also added his support as did Kay who told the meeting how impressed she had been following the demonstration. Other members who had seen the demonstration added their support.

After answering questions from the floor. A vote was taken which was unanimously in favour of taking this forward, with another meeting with the developer and a small subcommittee to pull together a full project plan for implementation, with a view of purchasing and starting to test it in 2024 with full implementation in 2025.

8 **BH Vacancies**

Lesley gave an update and following two failed attempts to have an informal interview / chat with the Annie Carter who had applied. The committee felt the post should be readvertised.

9. **To consider the Secretary's report on Meeting Arrangements for 2023/24 – BH Exec 2024 (1) attached.**

An additional Management & Finance meeting to be added in early January, Hazel to contact Carl with a view to arranging a date prior to inviting the committee.

David Wildman asked why the BH Committee's hadn't been on the AGM agenda. Hazel explained this was because there weren't any changes to the committee, but would check and confirm.

10. **Date of Next Meeting / Any Other Business**

Next meeting 28th March 2024 7pm at Banister Park.

Meeting closed 16:00pm