

SUSSEX COUNTY BOWLS - Men's Section

(Members of Bowls England & the Home Counties Bowls Association)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Hydro Hotel, Eastbourne

15.00 hours on Monday 4th December, 2017

1. Notice of Meeting.

- a) The Honorary Secretary read the notice that had been sent to all Club Secretaries and Club Delegates convening the Meeting.

2. Welcome by Chairman.

- a) The Chairman welcomed all to the Meeting. He noted that once again this year there had been considerable change and continued to thank all the Officers for the work they had carried out during the year. He concluded by thanking all the delegates for attending the meeting and for the work they do on behalf of their clubs.

3. In Memorium.

- a) The Secretary read out a list of members who had passed away since the last AGM – as per list attached.
- b) The delegates then then stood for a moment in respect.

4. Apologies.

PP – R Taylor	CLUBS:	Hailsham	Preston
PP – H Payne	Billingshurst	Handcross	Southbourne
PP - L Mockett	Brighton	Hurstpierpoint	Southwick Park
HM – V Evans	Crouch, The	Midhurst	Steyning
Rev – C Kassell	Downsman	Newhaven	Uckfield
Comp S. D3 – K Staton	Drive, The	Nutley	West Hoathly
	Fishbourne	Pagham	

There were 60 members present as recorded in the Attendance Register by the Assistant Secretary.

5. Minute of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 5th December, 2016.

- a) The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record.

6. Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on Monday 3rd April, 2017

- a) The minutes of the Special General Meeting were approved as a true record.

7. Matters Arising.

- a) There were no matters arising from both sets of previous minutes.

8. Appointment of Tellers.

- a) No tellers were appointed as there was no voting required for any elected position.

9. Presidents Address.

- a) The President reported that he had thoroughly enjoyed his years as part of the Presidential team and particularly a wonderful 2017 where he had been honoured to be our President.

He thanked various people for the support that he had received during his time in office.

His theme for the year had been recruitment and despite his best efforts our total membership had actually once again dropped, in 2017. He asked all concerned to carry on the idea of introducing one new person to bowls in 2018.

The revised method of County Selection had once again paid dividends with an excellent performance from our County teams who won the majority of our matches played. The Carter Kempton Cup, which had been successfully won back from Somerset in 2016 for the first time since 2009 - was retained in 2017.

In the Home Counties League and Middleton Cup we have a new manager in charge, with Charles Wright assuming the lead role, assisted by Don Kent and results had been mixed. We were looking forward to Charles taking us forward in his second year in charge but due to changes circumstances Charles has resigned and we are now actively seeking a new Team Manager.

Derek said it had been a privilege to attend the latter stages of all County Competition and then to attend at the National Championships to watch the progress of our County players who had progressed to those finals. He congratulated all players who took part.

Derek reported on his County tour to the Isle of Wight and reported that the total raised for his charity for the year, the Chailey Heritage Foundation, was in excess of £1400.00 and with subsequent donations received the total had exceed £1500.00.

Derek then proceeded to make thanks to various people. He stated that he must thank every one of his officers for their support during the year and continuing by thanking his Club - The Crouch - for their initial nomination and their support during his term of office. He concluded by thanking his wife Pat who had been his aid and assistant throughout his time in office.

Finally, he wished his successor John and his team a successful rewarding and enjoyable year and thanked everyone for their support.

10. Annual Report.

- a) The 106th Annual Report had been circulated and it was accepted unanimously.

11. Financial Report.

- a) The Financial report had been circulated and was unanimously accepted.

12. Benevolent Fund Report.

- a) The Trustees report for 2017 and financial statement, as prepared by Tony Sharman had been circulated and was unanimously accepted.

13. Affiliation Fees and Honoraria for 2018.

- a) The proposal from the GPC Committee regarding affiliation fees and honoraria for 2018 – as circulated with the Agenda for this meeting – was placed before the meeting.
- b) Vic Sherwood queried the amount of Honorarium paid to the Hon Secretary and asked for a breakdown. The Chairman explained that Honoraria are purely a payment made to Officers in recognition of the amount of work that they undertake on behalf of the County and that a sub committee had been set up to review the amount paid to each Officer and this was their recommendations. The President stated that he felt that during his year, the Secretary had done more than 3 times the work he had done and that the Honorarium for the Secretary was right.
A vote was taken and the motion was passed with just one vote against.

14. Revised Sussex County Bowls - Men's Section Rules.

- a) The proposals from the GPC Committee to update the Sussex County Bowls - Men's Section Rules, as previously agreed at the Executive Meeting on 9th October, 2017 were placed before the meeting and voted on one by one. Proposal No 8 concerning Dress Code was withdrawn and will be further discussed at the next GPC and subsequent Executive Meetings. All other proposals were accepted.
- b) The Secretary reported that there may be minor changes to the actual abbreviations used in Appendix Four.
- c) A further proposed change to the constitution of the Selection Committee had been revised following discussions and a query at the previous Executive Meeting and the revised

proposal as now submitted was accepted. A revised copy of the Men's Section Rules will be issued to all clubs.

15. Election of Presidential Officers

- a) The Presidential Team for 2017 is as follows:

President – John Kinnard
(Arundel BC),

Vice President – Gordon Leman
(East Preston & Kingston BC),

Junior Vice President – Roger Day
(Isle of Thorns BC),

Immediate Past President – Derek Budd
(The Crouch BC)

16. Installation of 2017 President

- a) Derek Budd installed John Kinnard with his presidential Jewel and wished him every success in the coming season.

17. Address by the New President.

- a) Firstly, I want to say what a great honour it is to become the President for Sussex County Bowls and I would like to thank my club, Arundel for proposing me, and to all my friends at Arundel and Eastbourne who encouraged me to take on the role. I have however, become President a year ahead of time, having sadly lost Dave earlier this year. I'm sure you will agree that we sorely miss his skill, knowledge and most of all his friendship.

I also wish to pay tribute to the dedicated group of officers who head Sussex County bowls, their help and guidance is invaluable.

I like to see us going forward with the new members in the team, showing our clubs, we can change the way we achieve.

I have always thought that being in this great game we meet and see people on a level plain. Whatever skills we have in the game, we all win and lose some. However, some win a lot more than others, these bowlers go on to the county and national finals, and play for the county in the Middleton cup.

I would like to congratulate all the players who took part in all national and county competition's this past year. I was so proud to be at Leamington spa to see the effort and commitment from all the Sussex players from Sussex county bowls in the finals. Well done all.

I have been very lucky to have played with a lot of excellent bowlers who have given me so much help and advice whilst playing with them. This has undoubtedly helped to improve my game immensely. I say to you all, never be worried about asking advice from a club coach or county coach or the top bowlers in your club. Ask for a game against them, no matter your skill level. I'm quite sure they would be only too pleased to help you out.

There are so many bowlers out there with huge potential that we never get to see. So, I urge you all to encourage them come out of the shadows to show us what they can do.

I have observed this year that across all levels of the games I have watched, we are not looking after ourselves on the greens. We often forget to take on water, so our concentration levels drop. If your club doesn't provide water at the end of a rink, ask them to and remember to take a water bottle along to the green. Unless we are hydrated we cannot play at our best.

I am backing my call to drink more, by providing water bottles to the under 25 players and Middleton cup team and as top rink prizes at some of my county friendly games.

Recruitment of new players is the key to the survival of our game. We need to expand our view on the way we get people in the door of our clubs.

We all need that little push to achieve and we need to open the doors to more social events which in turn will bring new members in to your club. I understand the opposition to change, I hear we are a bowling club not a social club, it is a call we hear all the time.

However, if this great game is to grow we must move ahead and show local councils that we can help the community come together under the roof of bowling clubs. Eastbourne bowling club took a short mat to an age concern fair, at which there were agencies from all parts of the community concerned with the over fifty-fives. The club recruited 30 new bowlers from that one event. The Royal Sovereign bowls club took along a stand with posters and cups and medals display at the same fair and got 8 new members. This highlighted to me the importance of interacting with people on the short mat with the tools of our game. If the opportunity comes your way, why not get a short mat into community group venues. Get talking to your ward councillors, their job is to help us with advice and they have a small pot of money to help community projects. Let's get into the town centres and talk to the locals about the benefits of bowling. Let's get talking to community groups. We are the games future. Let's make our great game grow.

The charity I have chosen for 2018 is The MacMillan Cancer Support who work tirelessly helping and supporting sufferers of this disease and their families.

I look forward to meeting as many people as I can over the next year and please keep the county informed via your club delegate of any problems that may affect your club.

I wish you all good luck in the coming season in all club county and national county competitions We go forward as a team.

18. Investiture of Officers

- a) The President then continued to present Gordon Leaman with the Vice President Jewel and Roger Day with his Junior Vice President Jewels.

19. Election of other Officers and Committee Members

- a) The list of nominations for the various positions had been circulated prior to the meeting and as there was only one nomination for any one post all those detailed were elected.
- b) The Chairman stressed that we were in a serious situation with regard to the positions of Middleton Cup/HCL Manager and under 25 Mangers and he was asking delegates to consider and let himself or the Secretary know of anyone who may be interested. He had spoken to various people but had so far drawn a blank. At the end of the day of we do not have a Manager we will not be taking part in the Competitions and if we do not complete in the coming year in either the MC/HCL or Under 25 JHCL, it is likely to be very difficult to resurrect it in future years. We need managers for those teams.

Various comments were including the suggestion that a small committee of people might work together to run the MC team and the Chairman confirmed that is something the GPC would have to consider if nobody comes forward. Graeme Geddie notified that he would be prepared to work as part of a team.

A further query was raised as to why the current Selection Committee could not do the work and the Chairman confirmed that under the current rules that was not part of their remit and was again something that the GPC may need to consider.

20. Award of Honorary Membership

- a) The Chairman then reported that, as all delegates had been notified at the last Executive Meeting, the GPC had decided to honour Brian Henty with the award of Honorary Membership. The President presented the jewel to Brian who was thanked for the long service that he had given to the County Association. Brian then briefly spoke to thank the County for the honour.

21. Mike Newth Trophy

- a) The Chairman reported that following three candidates had been considered for the Mike Newth Trophy and the matter had been discussed at the Joint Management Committee. The candidates were:

Jim Porter – Arundel BC	Doris Alcock – Isle of Thorns BC
Vic Sherwood – Rottingdean BC	

- b) It was the unanimous view of that Committee that for 2017, the trophy should be presented to:

Doris Alcock – Isle of Thorns BC.

- c) The trophy was presented at the Women’s Section Annual Luncheon in November.

22. Any other Business

- a) The Chairman stated that during his year as President the members raised sufficient money to enable a guide dog puppy to be trained and he was pleased to report that has now completed his training as has gone out to work.
- b) The next Executive Meeting is on Tuesday 20th April, 2018 at 2:00 pm and the next AGM and Luncheon will be at the Hydro Hotel on 3rd December at the same time as this year.

There being no other business that had been advised prior to the meeting the President closed the meeting at 15:50 hours.

Signed:

Ken Woodcock (Chairman)

Date: 3rd December, 2018