

SUSSEX COUNTY BOWLS - Men's Section

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

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held by email due to Covid-19

Monday 7th December, 2020

Due to Covid-19 restrictions it is not possible to hold a physical AGM with all of the delegates present, so it was decided that the AGM would be held by issuing all paperwork to clubs as usual and asking the delegates to return a voting form on which they could either agree or disagree with all proposals being made. It was considered that there were no contentious items on the agenda and that such a method would enable the County to fulfil its obligation to hold an AGM. Any proposed changes to the Men's Section County Constitution and Rules were sent out to all clubs in advance to enable them to submit any comments – before they were sent out as part of the AGM paperwork. Eighty Two replies were received which is more than the number of people who normally attend at the AGM.

1. Notice of Meeting.

- a) On 9th November, 2020, the Honorary Secretary sent to all Club Secretaries and delegates the formal notice to convene the AGM together with all paperwork for the Meeting. In addition two voting forms were included in the paperwork sent to the Delegates to allow them to:
 - a) either agree or disagree with the items on the agenda;
 - b) to indicate their vote for the position of Junior Vice President.

2. In Memorium.

- a) A list of members who had passed away since the last AGM – was included in the paperwork sent out. An updated copy is now being issued.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 2nd December, 2019.

- a) The minutes of the 2019 AGM were agreed on all of the voting papers returned.

4. Matters Arising.

- a) There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

5. Presidents Address.

- a) A report from the outgoing President Roger Day, was included with all the paperwork sent out for the meeting.

6. Annual Report.

- a) The 110th Annual Report from the County Secretary Rod McBeth, was included with all the paperwork sent out for the meeting and was unanimously accepted on all of the voting papers returned.

7. Financial Report.

- a) The audited copy of the Financial report from the Treasurer, Lindsay Bangs, was included with all the paperwork sent out for the meeting and was unanimously accepted on all of the voting papers returned.

8. Benevolent Fund Report.

- a) The Trustees report for 2020 and financial statement, as prepared by Tony Sharman, was included with all the paperwork sent out for the meeting and was unanimously accepted on all of the voting papers returned.

9. Affiliation Fees and Honoraria for 2020/21.

- a) The proposal from the GPC regarding affiliation and Competition fees for the 2021 Season and honoraria to be paid for the 2021 Season – was included with all the paperwork sent out for the meeting and was unanimously accepted on all of the voting papers returned.

10. Revised Sussex County Bowls - Men's Section Constitution.

- a) The proposals from the GPC Committee to update the Sussex County Bowls - Men's Section Constitution, to update (i) Rule 5 to bring the Disciplinary Procedure in line with the revised regulation issued by Bowls England and (ii) to amend Rule 7 to remove the wording referring to the EBCS when considering the appointment of the County Coach, had been previously sent out to all clubs for comments prior to inclusion in the paperwork sent out for the meeting. Both proposed changes were unanimously accepted - by all but one club - on all of the voting papers returned.

11. 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, to (i) amend the procedure for Competition draws to bring it into line with what is current practice and (ii) to amend the Under 25 Pairs Competition to indicate that players would now use just three woods in accordance with the latest Regulation from Bowls England had been previously sent out to all clubs for comments prior to inclusion in the paperwork sent out for the meeting. These proposed changes were unanimously accepted - by all but one club - on all of the voting papers returned.

12. Mike Newth Trophy

- a) The Winner of the Mike Newth Trophy had been notified within the Annual Report. There had been three candidates, all females:
Marion Boswell (Bexhill BC), Marilyn Doust (Gildredge Park BC) and Margaret Kimber (Rottingdean BC).
- b) It was the unanimous view of the Joint Management Committee that for 2020, the trophy should be presented to:
Marion Boswell – Bexhill BC.
- c) The President of the Women's Section, Gill Hill presented the trophy to Marion.

13. Election of President

With the election of the President being actioned by automatic progression, at an opportune time once out of lockdown restrictions, the Chairman had presented the Presidential Badge for 2020 to the retiring President Roger Day. Roger had taken similar action to pass the badge of office and Presidential chain to the new President Bob Markham.

14. Address by the New President.

- a) A short written report by the incoming President was included with all the paperwork sent out for the meeting.

15. Installation of 2020 President and his team

- a) Mark Broadway moved up to become Vice President.
- b) A secret ballot had taken place for the position of Junior Vice President as there were two candidates, Len Ashby (Preston BC) and Geoff Fitch (Eastbourne BC). All Club County Delegates, Officers, Hon. Members and other appointees who were entitled to vote in accordance with the Constitution, had been sent a voting paper on which to indicate their preference and were requested to then place their voting paper in a sealed envelope and return to the County Secretary by 30th November - in a further outer envelope with their name

on the outside of the outer envelope. This allowed the Secretary to confirm that only one vote was received for any person - but did not allow him to see who had voted for whom.

c) On 4th December. The President, Chairman and Secretary met and opened 78 sealed envelopes that had been received, the result of which was in favour of Geoff Fitch. Four additional envelopes were received by the Secretary but as there was no indication on the outer envelope as to who they had been sent by – they were not counted as it was not possible to confirm their authenticity. It should be noted that four votes would not have made any difference to the overall result.

a) The Presidential Team for 2021 is therefore as follows:

President – Bob Markham (Rottingdean BC)	Vice President – Mark Broadway (Newick BC)
Junior Vice President – Geoff Fitch (Eastbourne BC)	Imm. Past President – Roger Day (Isle of Thorns BC).

16. Election of other Officers and Committee Members

a) The list of nominations for the various positions was included with all the paperwork sent out for the meeting and was unanimously accepted on all of the voting papers returned.

d) A vacancy still exists for a Divisional Competition Secretary for Division Three.

17. Any other Business

d) With this not being a physical meeting no other business was considered.

Signed:

Tony Sharman (Chairman)

Date: 7th December, 2020