

SUSSEX COUNTY BOWLS (Men's Section)

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

Minutes of a Meeting of the Executive Committee Held at Adur I.B.C.

14.00 hours on Monday 7th October, 2019

Present: Ken Woodcock (KW) (Chairman), Gordon Leaman (GL)(President), Roger Day (RDa)(Vice President) Bob Markham (BM) (Junior Vice President), Rod McBeth (RMc) (Hon. Secretary), John Abbott (JA) (Treasurer), Lindsay Bangs (LB) (Hon Assistant Secretary), Robin Llewellyn-Powell (RLP) (Hon. Competition Secretary), Roger Dear (RDe) (Hon. Match Secretary) – plus delegates from 50 clubs, plus Past Presidents and Honorary Members and other Officers as per the attendance register.

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| 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks. | |
| a) The Chairman welcomed all to the Meeting and reported on our achievements in County Matches and at Leamington this year. He continued to report that both the Bowls England Chairman and the Chief Executive were retiring, the Chairman in February and Chief Executive in April, so there would be changes at Bowls England. Bowls England announced that the Men's Selector for the South is Kirk Smith from Buckinghamshire. | |
| 2. Apologies. | |
| a) Apologies had been received from John Kinnard (JK) (Imm. Past President), GPC D1 Member David Bizat, Past President Derek Budd, Hon. Member Viv Evans and from clubs – Barcombe, Bognor, Crawley Town, Downsman, Hailsham, Hurstpierpoint, Lancing, Motcombe Gardens, Newhaven, Polegrove, Southbourne and Vicarage. | |
| 3. Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on the 16th April, 2019. | |
| a) The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record. | |
| 4. Matters arising from the above Minutes. | |
| a) There were no matters arising from the previous minutes. | |
| 5. Officers Reports – (as issued with paperwork for the meeting) | |
| a) Reports as issued by the – Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Competition Secretary and Hon. Asst. Secretary for VP's and Executive) and Benevolent Fund Secretary were all accepted as issued. | |
| b) The Match Secretary (RDe) made a verbal report on progress with arrangements for fixtures for 2020. | |
| RMc read out a report from the County Coach that he had received that day. A discussion took place concerning the £500 annual payment that had been made by the County to the Sussex County Bowls Coaching Scheme and which had now been ceased. Due to differences between members of the EBCS and Coach Bowls it appears that this money was not being made available for use in training up coach instructors and it was agree that the Chairman and Secretary should draft a letter to the Secretary of the SCBCS concerning this matter. | KW
RMC |
| 6. Proposed Change to Organisation of Annual County Competitions | |
| a) RLP reported that proposals had been put forward to change the manner and timings of County Competitions run through the summer season. The matter had been discussed at the GPC Meeting and was now being brought to the Executive so | |

Delegates could discuss at their clubs and forward any views to the County Competition Secretary.

- b) Currently most of the main Competitions are scheduled to be played on the same day of the week, in some events for up to six successive weeks from mid to late May until about the second week in July. Triples on Monday, Singles on Tuesdays, Unbadged Singles and Double Fours on Wednesdays, Pairs on Thursdays and Fours every Friday.
- c) The perceived problem with this manner of organising Competitions, which has been in existence and has worked comparatively successfully for many years, is that with each individual competition being played each week, a player who wishes to enter any of these competitions needs to be available each week for up to seven weeks and there are also no free dates of the week for other Competitions which are entered direct to through Bowls England.
- d) The proposed suggested amendment is to run each individual competition through to the Quarter Final stage in a period of two weeks, playing on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday in week one and Monday and Wednesday in week two. That event would then be finished until the Quarter Final stages at the neutral venues. A further different event would start the following week. Tuesday and Thursdays would be available for rearranged matches and for use for other competitions that are not on fixed dates.
- e) The current 'perceived advantages and disadvantages' of such a change are as follows:

Advantages:

- (i) Each of the main individual competition would be played through to the Quarter finals in a two week period.
- (ii) If a player wished to go on holiday he could determine which competition he did not wish to play in and go on holiday during that two week period, without having to miss out on any other Competitions.
- (iii) Other competitions, including our own play by date Competitions, could far more easily be fitted into a person's calendar.
- (iv) A similar system is operated successfully in other counties.

Disadvantages

- (i) Less time to fit in any match postponed due to inclement weather.
- (ii) It would become even more essential that results are sent in as required and no leeway for late results would be available.

Just one of the events, would need to start earlier in May to enable the competitions all to fit in to the weeks prior to the weeks scheduled for the Quarter and semi Finals.

One of the weekly 'play on date' competitions might need to become a 'play by date' competition.

Players would need to adjust to a revised method by which competition are organised.

- f) It was agreed that clubs should consider the options and any proposed amendments and give feedback to the Competition Secretary. **ALL**

7. Proposed amendment to the Men's Section Rules re Dress code.

- a) Currently clubs can only wear white clothing below the waist at the latter stages of Competitions. Following the observation on certain clubs wearing coloured shorts and trousers - which had been registered as club colours - a proposal had been put forward to allow coloured clothing below the waist for all stages of competition. It was agreed by the members to be accepted subject to a formal vote being taken at the AGM.

8. Divisional Competition Secretary – Division Four

- a) RMc reported that we still had no volunteer put his name forward to fulfil this post and if there was no Divisional Competition Secretary to run Competitions in Division Four there were unlikely to be any Competition held in that Division. ALL

9. Consideration of Dress Code for Executive Meetings

- a) The current dress code for Executive Meetings as agreed by the Delegates at the Executive Meetings was that delegates arrive in Blazer, Grey Flannels, Shirt and Club or County Tie.
- b) Both KW and RMc reported that they had received several comments on this matter and RMC pointed out that of all the meetings that he and the Chairman attended from Bowls England Meetings downwards, this was on the only meeting where the dress code was not simply smart casual. He continued to report that he consider such a dress code may be preventing certain clubs from sending delegates to these meeting as less and less clubs and players had blazers these days and asked the delegates to consider if it was really necessary to attend in such formal attire.
- b) The matter was discussed and it was finally agreed by a considerable majority that the dress code for future Executive Meetings would be smart casual. KW stated that the Senior Officers would continue to wear Blazer, shirt and tie. ALL

10. Any Other Business.**a) Safeguarding**

- (i) KW reported that earlier a meeting had been held with John Bishop from Bexhill who had offered to take on the role of Safeguarding Officer for the County and that he had subsequently spoken to the other members of the GPC who were all in favour, so the Secretary would be writing to confirm the appointment. RMc
- (ii) KW continued to remind clubs that it is a BE requirement that all clubs should have a Safeguarding Officer and that the new County Safeguarding office would be writing to all clubs with information as to what is required. ALL

b) Colts Badge

John Fairs queried why no County Colts badges are being used. RMc explained that at a GPC meeting a couple of years ago it was decided not to purchase any more Colts Badges due to cost issues, but that the Men's Section Rules still state that a Colts badge will be issued to a player on achieving three credit points. To be discussed at the next GPC Meeting. RMc

c) Juniors

Brian Henty raised a query concerning the juniors and KW reported that we now once again have an Under 25 Manager, Andy (Clunky) Clark who is working with the Middleton Cup Manger Mark Strong and they are working together to get a team for the forthcoming season. We have entered the White Rose Trophy for 2020 and re-entered the Junior home Counties League. RMc reported that discussion will be held at the next Management Committee Meeting to see if it is possible to run a mixed junior team, as that is what the Under 25 Manager would like to do.

Secretary's Note: From returns received so far there are just 21 Juniors that have been notified on the forms F7 and that is both male and female Under 25's.

d) Affiliation

RMc reminded all clubs that affiliation paperwork was due in by 15th October.

e) Stock

RMc continued to report that as he had mentioned on his report he currently was holding in his house 34 crates of County stock of County shirt, both old style now used by the VP's and the new County and Middleton Cup shirts, fleece and showerproof jackets and the county was seeking an alternative storage location for these items by PJ
LB

the AGM. Peter Jackson indicated that he may be able to assist in this matter and was asked to liaise with LB.

11. Next Meeting

The next Meeting Executive Meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th April, 2020 at 14:00 at Adur IBC.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 15:02.

Signed:
(Chairman)

Date: April, 2020