



## **Annual General Meeting**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**held at Winnington Park Recreation Club on Saturday 5th March 2022**

#### **1 Welcome by the President**

The President, Ken Howarth, opened the meeting at 12.40pm and welcomed everybody once again, thanking those who had stayed following the morning's Rules Revision Meeting. He advised that the attendance would be recorded as the same as the morning meetings though apologies have been received from Barry Massey (Potteries & District), Lynn Rankin (Ladies Competition Committee) and Gary Spencer (Cheshire). In the event of any voting later in the meeting, the number of votes recorded will be 82.

He never expected to still be in position over two years after being elected President in 2020 but due to Covid, he finds himself in this unique position. As a sport, Covid has left its mark with many leagues operating with reduced numbers and he felt that we need to try and get these bowlers playing crown green bowls again. He was concerned by the lack of junior bowlers with many counties now unable to compete in the Junior County Championship at ten or twelve-a-side. He said that these youngsters are our future and he felt that we need to endeavour to make concerted effort to attract new junior bowlers to our game. He also felt that maybe we should also target the 30 to 40's age group.

#### **2 Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting**

On a proposal from Merseyside CCGBA, seconded by Lancashire CCGBA, the minutes of the previous meeting held on Saturday 18th January 2020 were unanimously approved as a true record, with the President signing the minutes accordingly.

#### **3 Matters Arising**

There were no Matters Arising.

#### **4 Chief Executive's Report**

The CEO, Mark Bircumshaw, gave a comprehensive report and was pleased to see everybody once again. Although self-isolating for most of the pandemic, his work continued throughout this period, often to an unmanageable level. He thanked Mike Holden, Glynn Holmes, David Williams and Alan Stephenson in particular for their support during the Covid period, particularly at the very beginning when getting guidance out to counties.

He went through several matters that have happened in the last couple of years. The BCGBA has re-joined the Bowls Development Association (BDA) where all bowling codes are now coming together under one umbrella. This allows us to benefit from their resources and we now have two BDA Development Officers with time allocated to Crown Green Bowls.

He referred to the new 'Club Hub' for crown green bowls which has been part of a successful trial in Merseyside at Oxtou Conservative Club which helps clubs in attracting new members. A second Club Hub is planned at Fox Lane, Leyland.

He advised that the Safeguarding Policy is being split into two policies, an Adult Policy and a Children's Policy. A link to the BDA website will be issued to all counties where the policies can be downloaded. He referred to the Equality, Diversion and Inclusion Policy which is near completion and will be put before the next Management Committee Meeting for approval and advised that a new working group is being set up to look at volunteering.

He advised that the Bowls' Big Weekend is taking place again this year and encouraged clubs to get involved. Many of the clubs that took part in 2021 have seen an uplift in their membership. Promotion material will be available.

He referred to the 'Pitch Strategy' in which the location of all bowling greens should be recorded in local councils' plans. This could help save a green when a council is looking to build on a piece of land.

Finally, he referred to some projects he has been working on to help clubs with funding. All counties will soon receive a link to the Easyfundraising website where clubs can register and benefit from purchases made by their club members every quarter. He is currently working with Howdens, the parent company of Endsleigh Insurance, for insurance through 'A Plan' and with a company that can assist in finding local sponsorship.

He thanked his fellow officers for working with him through Covid and hoped we can have a prosperous 2022 season.

The President thanked the CEO for his report and felt that we are very lucky to have him in position. The amount of time, work and passion he puts in on our behalf was fantastic and we should support his ideas going forward.

## **5 Financial Officer's Report**

The Financial Officer, Graeme Underhill, began his report with special thanks to the outgoing President, Ken Howarth, whom he hoped, in a nice way, would see 2022 as his final year in office and less stressful. He also thanked his fellow Officers and Management Committee for their support over the past twelve months and County Secretaries and Treasurers who have dealt with his requests in a timely fashion.

His work over the last twenty-one months has been done with Covid 19 as a backdrop but felt that with some solid decision making the Association remains in a secure position although it is difficult to make comparisons between 2020 and 2021. The accounts show a surplus of £17,120 which he felt was an excellent result given that we granted clubs a £15 discount on the 2021 Club Fee which amounted to £27,000 (1,800 clubs).

He then went through all the pages of the Financial Statement, highlighting several items on each page. Like most of us, he was unsure how many clubs/bowlers will return in 2022 and was concerned by the lack of sponsorship for our events. He would be pleased to follow up on any leads with potential sponsors members may alert us to. He was however astounded by the level of new player registrations which by far exceeded his expectations and early indications suggest we will have a healthy influx of new bowlers in 2022. Junior Grants will return in 2022 and most Executive / Management Meetings are now being held via Zoom making a considerable saving. As referred to by the CEO in how we benefit from our membership of the BDA, next year a 'Value Statement' will be produced which shows how much money we have benefitted from and the cost to the association. He was pleased to report that the Trustees Fund has recovered from the substantial losses due to Covid and showed the capital value rise by £32,000 in the last year. We had Trustees Funds made available to us of £33,000 but the Executive Committee decided to leave the Trustees Fund untouched to enable it to recover fully.

In closing his report, he was pleased to be in a more positive mood thanks to the extremely good position of our accounts and hoped 2022 is a successful bowling year.

The President thanked the Finance Officer for an excellent report and all his hard work on behalf of the association.

## **6 Financial Statement 2021**

On a proposal from the Ladies Competition Committee, seconded by Cheshire CBA, the meeting approved unanimously the 2021 Financial Statement.

**7 Accountant’s Report**

The Finance Officer, Graeme Underhill, advised that Ian Dutton, of Reporting Accountants, Worton Rock Limited, was unable to attend as his firm is still working from home and had concerns about the spread of Covid. If any member had a question for Ian they could email our Finance Officer who would advise of his email address. On a proposal from the Finance Officer, seconded by South Yorkshire CCGBA, the meeting unanimously approved the Accountant’s Report.

**8 Election of Reporting Accountants**

On a proposal from the Finance Officer, seconded by South Yorkshire CCGBA, the meeting unanimously agreed that Worton Rock Limited should continue as our Reporting Accountants.

**9 To accept the Federation of Crown Green Bowls (FCGB) as full members of the British Crown Bowling Association**

As the President and Keith Andrews (Lancashire) were Board Members of the FCGB they agreed to abstain from the vote. On a proposal by the Management Committee, seconded by South Yorkshire CCGBA, the meeting unanimously accepted the Federation of Crown Green Bowls as full members of the Association.

**79 For / 0 Against / 3 Abstentions**

**10 To approve, and allow the CEO to proceed with, the implementation of the Governance Review**

On a proposal by the Management Committee, seconded by Shropshire CCGBA, the meeting approved that the CEO could proceed with the implementation of the Governance Review,

**81 For / 1 Against / 0 Abstentions**

**11 Date of 2023 Meeting**

The Chairman advised that next year’s Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday 21st January.

With no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, wished everybody a safe journey home and then closed the meeting at 1.40pm.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ (CHAIRMAN) 21st January 2023