

# Norfolk County Indoor Bowling Association

## Minutes of the Executive Meeting held at Wymondham Dell IBC on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023



**Present:** William Windsor (President), C. Taylor, D Perry, G Roberts, S Elliott, J Mason, A Mobbs, E Alcock, M Howard, P Chapman, A Ingram, D Eastwell, A Dunton, J Ottaway

**Apologies:** B Wymer, C Boon, M Kett, R Summers

---

The meeting was preceded by a minute silence in memory of members, friends and colleagues passed since the last meeting, specifically Past President Brian Pratt, following which William Windsor welcomed all members present.

**Minutes of the last Executive meeting:** It was proposed by Peter Chapman, and seconded by Arthur Mobbs, and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the Executive Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at Wymondham Dell IBC (circulated to all clubs) should be signed as a true and accurate record.

**Matters arising:** The previous minutes had indicated that in relation to the County League the consensus was that there should be no changes to the league eligibility rules. However, as part of the due diligence review completed at the end of the season it was felt a change is required and this is outlined in the relevant AGM proposals.

### **Hon. Secretary's Report:**

Mr President, fellow colleagues

Having reviewed the agenda for the meeting, and the various areas to be covered I feel there is nothing specific which I would want to raise at this point.

However, whilst reviewing the Associations documentation as part of our annual due diligence for any changes to raise at the AGM I noted that the Hon. Secretary is only required to provide a report at the AGM and not at each meeting, and therefore I will omit this agenda item in future.

I would though, at this point, place on record on behalf of the Association thanks to our President for his continued support at County events, including travelling to Nottingham to support the O60s team, and also to David for covering my absence and ensuring that the affairs of the Association were dealt with promptly.

Chris Taylor  
Hon. Secretary



## **Correspondence:**

I will report only on key items which have arisen since the last Executive meeting.

### EIBA Correspondence

1. (16/2) request for return of U25 Double Rink Trophy to HQ from Carl Higgins. Investigation showed that arrangements had already been agreed with Carl to return the trophy at the National Mixed Finals being held at St Neots, but this had slipped his memory.
2. (21/3) general contact in relation to the O60s qualification for the National Finals with details of the competitions and GDPR. This was not sent using a BCC field and individuals' emails were openly shared and then compounded by "reply-all" emails.

Given the irony that this related to GDPR I wrote (21/3) to the CEO and GDPR Officer to raise concerns at how this communication, not the first, had been sent and asked for clarity on adherence to their GDPR privacy rules.

I received a reply (21/3) from GDPR Officer to say the matter would be discussed promptly and a further update would be forthcoming.

With no response a reminder was sent (3/5) to which I was informed the CEO would need to respond as line manager to the individual who originated the 21/3 email.

As of today, I have received no update.

3. AGM and general correspondence was dealt with, as agreed, by David Perry on behalf of the association. We understand that any changes to contact points must be submitted to HQ by the end of June in time for the production of the handbook.
4. 2023/24 County Competition entries have been submitted for
  - Liberty Trophy
  - O60s Inter County
  - U25 Double Rink
  - U18 Double Triples
5. Schedule 2023/24 there have been various emails shared and website updates released (EIBA website) with details of the schedule for 2023/24 and dates for competition rounds.

Regrettably on multiple occasions this information was found to be inaccurate or inconsistent and David Perry challenged this with HQ promptly resulting in updates or amendments being published.



6. The EIBA have published revised Area/Zones for 2023/24. Our clubs are now in Area 7 which has 3 zones as detailed below. Other than the extension to 3 zones and how this will affect draws, the most significant change is Diss & District moving into zone 1 (see below)

<b>AREA 7</b>	<b>ZONE</b>
Dereham	1
Diss	1
Gallow	1
Lynsport	1
Norfolk	1
Oasis	1
Roundwood	1
The Brecks	1
Wymondham Dell	1
Acle	2
Beccles	2
County Arts	2
Lowestoft Railway	2
Potters	2
Shotford	2
Sole Bay	2
Haverhill	3
Lakenheath	3
Mid Suffolk	3
Risbygate	3
Sudbury	3
Stowmarket	3
Turpins	3
West Row	3

It was reported that Diss had noted this change and raised it with EIBA HQ.

#### County Correspondence

1. Various emails directly to David, and via the County Website to raise questions, notify changes to contact details and responses to annual returns requested, all of which were dealt with promptly.
2. Enquires related to the Team Manager roles for 2023/24 clarifying points and raising general questions.



3. Contact with clubs and counties in relation to finalising the 2023/24 schedule of games and venues.
4. Confirmation just before Finals Day that the missing competition trophies had been located, hidden away and overlooked possibly as the result of COVID.

### **Treasurers Report:**

Accounts for the financial year ending 30th April 2023 have been audited and copies will be sent out to all Clubs shortly together with the Treasurers report and my recommendations for next season's fees and levies.

David Perry  
Hon. Treasurer

### **League Secretary's Report:**

#### **Season 2022/2023**

County League concluded with the following:

- Division 1: Champions Norfolk BC 'A' - relegated to Division 2 Norfolk BC 'B'
- Division 2: Champions and promoted to Division 1 Roundwood 'A' - no team was relegated in accordance with the County League rules due to Pentney IBC closing during the season.
- Division 3: Champions and promoted to Division 2 Shotford 'A' - relegated to Division 4 Gallow 'B'.
- Division 4: Champions and promoted to Division 3 Gallow 'C'.

The County League Trophies, Championship pennants and Divisional winners badges will be presented to the respective Club delegate by the County President at the AGM on Sunday 9th July.

The County Over 60 Inter-Club Double Rink Competition was won by Diss who beat Gallow 'A' in the Final at Dereham IBC by 41 shots to 24.

The League Secretary thanked Dereham IBC for again hosting the Final.

#### **Season 2023/2024**

County League – in addition to the promotion / relegation from Season 2022/2023, Hunstanton have re-entered the County League and Lynnsport have entered a 'B' team.

This meant that Divisions 1 and 2 would have 7 teams each, Division 3 would have 6 teams and Division 4 would have 8 teams.

To give each teams a balanced programme Dereham 'B' were additionally promoted from Division 4 to Division 3.



All 4 Divisions will therefore have 7 teams in Season 2023/2024 with each team playing 12 games (6 home / 6 away), and 1 team will be promoted and 1 team relegated from each Division at the end of the season.

Fixtures for the forthcoming season were sent to the Clubs on 11th April and they have until the season starts to make any changes to these. Once the season has started no fixtures can be changed unless covered by the County League rules.

Over 60 Inter-Club Double Rink Competition – 15 teams have entered the 2023/2024 Competition with Gallow entering a 'C' team, Lynnsport entering 2 teams and Roundwood and Wymondham Dell both entering a team for the first time.

Teams have been put into 2 Regional Groups – the North Group having 7 teams playing 6 games each and the South Group having 8 teams playing 7 games each.

The fixture schedules were also sent to the Clubs on 11th April for them to agree dates / times with their respective group opponents.

To make the group stage more interesting a Semi-Final round has been introduced with the two Group Winners hosting these games and the winners of the Semi-Finals then playing each other in the Final at Dereham IBC on Wednesday 13th March 2024.

David Perry  
Hon. League Secretary

### **Competition Secretary's Report:**

As this was a trial season of the new approach, I can safely say in general they went quite satisfactory and seem to have been well received across the Association.

The finals took place at County Arts, for whom we extend our sincere thanks, in front of large audience and were a great success. Also, on a positive note the "misaid" trophies have now been retrieved and engraving is now all up to date.

Presentation of these trophies, by our President, to the relevant clubs delegates will take place at the AGM Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July.

My recommendation, and the fact that no proposals have been received to the contrary, is that we carry on with this format.

Barney Wymer  
Competition Secretary

The President added his support that he felt Finals Day was a great success, but suggested in future we considered arranging a formal photographer, potentially professional, to record the event.



### **Match Secretary's Report:**

Inter-county Friendly matches

The intention for the 2022/23 season was to play 10 inter-county friendly matches. By the end of the season, we had played 5 with 5 cancelled, and the reasons for the 5 cancelled games were:

- Hertfordshire: the venue at Riverain was unable to provide any food for the after-match meal.
- Cambridgeshire: the venue, Pentney IBC closing.
- Northampton away: we were unable to raise a team.
- Yorkshire at Lincoln: neither county could raise a team.
- Essex away: fixture clashed with the Over 60's Inter County national final in Nottingham.

Of the 5 matches played we won 3 and lost 2.

In spite of reduced rinks and playing triples on some occasions we still had to rely on guests to help out at our away matches and this results in NCIBA having to pay for those players rink fees and meals and means we usually make a loss on these games.

The pattern throughout the season was that there was more interest for the home fixtures but in keeping with some of the other counties some players werereluctant to travel away. This is most probably due to the increase in fuel and living costs having an effect.

President's Invitation matches

There were 9 matches originally arranged and 6 played.

The reasons for the 3 cancelled games were:

- Past President's match: because some players play for both teams neither team could get enough players.
- Pentney anniversary match: closure of the venue.
- Hunstanton anniversary match: postponed until 2024 due to the club miscalculating their anniversary date.

Of the 6 matches played we won 2 and lost 4.

The format for these games were teams of men and ladies mixed with all matches being played within the county. This meant we were always able to field teams for these games and this has been well received by all clubs and especially the Ladies.



2023/24 Proposed fixtures.

There are currently 8 Inter County Friendlies and 7 Presidents Invitation games arranged.

The format for the Inter County Friendlies will have to be decided when both Norfolk and the other counties know what response we get from our players.

The Presidents Invitation matches are generally better supported due to the mixed format and all matches being held within the county.

Last season the number of players wanting to play away was sometimes less than 50% of those applying to play in home games.

In conclusion and looking towards the new seasons inter county friendly fixtures. If players want to continue enjoying these games, then more support is needed for the away fixtures to enable them to continue in their current format.

Gordon Roberts  
Hon. Match Secretary (Friendlies & PI)

### **Norfolk Bowls Association update:**

John Ottaway kindly provided an update to the meeting,

The 2023 outdoor season has begun in the usual unseasonal weather and is progressing smoothly and on schedule. There has been the usual day to day issues arise but there has been nothing major to address.

#### International

On the international front, Wayne Willgress (Norfolk BC) has been selected for the Senior International Team for the British Isle Championships to be held in Ayr at the end of June.

Aaron Johnson (Norfolk BC) has been selected in the Junior Squad for the squad day to be held in July after which the team for the British Isle Junior International Series to be held in Llandrindod Wells in September will be selected.

In July, an Under 18 Talent ID Day will be held with Josh Finch (Wootton Park) and Jack Naunton (Aldiss Park) invited to attend.

#### Bowls England initiatives

Several Bowls England initiatives under their "Fit for Future" strategy have begun including the Bowls Big Weekend which was held at the end of the May with the aim to attract new people to our sport. Over 600 Clubs nationally participated including several in Norfolk. Early indications are that this was a great success and feedback from Clubs is being sought.



A new shorter format of the game, 'Bowls Bash' has been developed and is now being rolled out as another drive to attract new members.

Bowls England are undertaking a review of all Competitions, with a working party set up which will report its recommendations at the end of season.

A review of the Disciplinary Process is on-going to simplify matters for Clubs should they have matters to address.

#### Affiliations

On the Affiliation front, the 2023 affiliation process has been completed. Bowls England is undertaking a review of the Affiliation process with a working party set up which will make recommendations to the BE Board in due course. In the meantime, the Bowls England Affiliation Fee will increase to £7.00 per playing member in 2024. The Norfolk Bowls Association Fee will remain unchanged at £2.00.

#### Sponsorship

Bowls England has announced a major sponsorship deal with Aviva. As for the Norfolk Bowls Association, we have agreed an arrangement with Tax Assist Financial Services following the end of our sponsorship with East Bilney Garage.

#### Bursaries

Currently Bowls England offer bursaries towards Coach Bowls Course Fees. With the aim to attract new Coaches to our sport the NBA has plans to introduce their own bursary towards course fees and I hope to be able to announce details shortly.

#### Laws of the Sport

The World Bowls Laws of the Sport have been revised and the new Crystal Mark 4th edition has come into effect.

John Ottaway  
Hon. Men's Secretary  
Norfolk Bowls Association

#### **EIBA National Competition results 2022/23:**

##### O60s Inter County

21/2 Semi Final Norfolk 123 – Yorkshire 100

23/3 Final Norfolk 118 – Surrey 92

Congratulations to our O60s team on their success, and once again lifting the national title. Equally congratulations to Charlie Boon, as Manager, who





regrettably was unable to play on the day but did attend and was able to take his place in collecting the trophy.

**Appointment of Team Managers for 2023/24**

In accordance with Rules 5 (d) i – iii the following nominations have been received for the Team Manager roles in respect of the 2023/24 season.

<b>Role</b>	<b>Nominee(s)</b>	<b>Proposed By</b>
Liberty Trophy	Ric Summers	Norfolk BC
O60 Inter County	Charlie Boon	Norfolk BC
U25	Steve Pope	Gallow

These nominations were put to the Executive Council for consideration, the results of which were.

1. Liberty Trophy Manager – nominee, Ric Summers, was seconded by County Arts. Voting: For 8, Against 0, Abstain 1 – Ric Summers was duly elected as Liberty Trophy Manager for 2023/24
2. O60 Inter County Manager – nominee, Charlie Boon, was seconded by Wymondham Dell. Voting: For 9, Against 0, Abstain 0 – Charlie Boon was duly elected as O60 Inter County Manager for 2023/24
3. U25 Manager – nominee, Steve Pope, was seconded by Diss & District. Voting: For 9, Against 0, Abstain 0 – Steve Pope was duly elected as U25 Manager for 2023/24

**Update on Officer Nominations**

The following nominations have been received by the 1st June in accordance with Rule 9 (f) to serve for the 2023/24 season.

<b>Role</b>	<b>Nominee(s)</b>	<b>Proposer</b>
President	David Perry	County Arts
Senior Vice President	William Windsor	County Arts
Junior Vice President	John Mason	County Arts
Hon. Secretary	Chris Taylor	Norfolk BC
Hon. Treasurer	David Perry	County Arts
Hon. Asst Secretary	David Perry	County Arts
Hon. Match Secretary	Gordon Roberts	Wymondham Dell
Hon. Competition Secretary		
Hon. League Secretary	David Perry	County Arts
Webmaster	Chris Taylor	Norfolk BC
Safeguarding Officer	Steve Pope	Gallow

These will be considered for election at the AGM, and no ballot will be required. The Executive Council, in accordance with rule 9 (h), were asked to recommend Barney Wymer for the position of Hon. Competition Secretary, which they fully supported.



Selection Committee (5 members of fully affiliated clubs, not more than one from any one club)

Nominee(s)	Proposer
Tony Dunton	Wymondham Dell

This leaves 4 vacancies which can be filled by co-opting members of the Association as felt necessary but with a full quota of officers and limited games this may not be necessary.

### **AGM Proposals**

The following were presented and discussed in detail as the proposals which had been received by 1<sup>st</sup> June to be considered at the AGM.

Clubs were reminded that no new proposals may now be raised, and any changes to the proposals outlined below must be submitted in writing to the Hon. Secretary by 28<sup>th</sup> June.

It was also confirmed that these proposals had been shared on the county website as part of agreed transparency and to engage with members of the association fully.

#### **1. Inclusion in Rules & Objects clarity to cover the scenario of the Association being wound up or dissolved.**

Proposed by – Executive.

Rationale – as part of the ongoing review of the governance of the association it has been highlighted that there are no details for how, if required, the association would be wound up or dissolved.

Proposal

The procedural approach for dissolution of the Association is as follows.

- 1. A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Executive Committee, Hon Secretary or on the requisition of not less than three clubs.*
- 2. Fourteen days' notice shall be given before calling a Special General Meeting and such notice will specify the purpose for which the meeting has been called, namely, to consider the winding up or dissolving of the Association. No other business shall be transacted at the meeting.*
- 3. If, at that Special General Meeting, the resolution is carried by at least two-thirds of the voting members present, the Executive Committee shall thereupon, or at such date as shall have been specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the assets of the Association, and discharge all debts and liabilities of the Association.*



4. *Upon dissolution of the Association the Executive Committee shall give or transfer the net assets remaining in equal shares to the clubs which were fully affiliated on the date of the Special General Meeting.*

**2. Changes to Rules & Objects 5.d.i in relation to the number of assistants the Liberty Trophy Manager is required to appoint reducing this from 3 to 2 but adding constraints on who may be appointed.**

Proposed by – Executive.

Rationale – to remove what is a perceived ability for the team selection to be a “closed shop” the assistants will need to come from separate clubs different to the club of the Manager.

Proposal for replacement wording of 5.d.i and renumbering in this section.

*d) The Liberty Trophy team to be selected by a Team Manager appointed by the Executive Committee. There is no restriction on the Manager playing in the Liberty Trophy team.*

*e) The Liberty Trophy Manager to appoint at least two assistants, after the AGM and before 30th September, to bring to the manager’s attention the names of players whom they consider worthy of selection.*

*The assistants appointed:*

- i. Must not come from the same club as the Liberty Trophy Manager.*
- ii. Must come from separate clubs (i.e., not more than one assistant will be appointed from any club).*
- iii. Must be members of fully affiliated clubs.*

**3. Changes to Rules & Objects 5.e and 9.f in relation to the clarifying the appointment of the Safeguarding Officer.**

Proposed by – Executive.

Rationale – to clarify, and bring in line with current practises, when the Safeguarding Officer is appointed and when nominations for this role are requested.

Proposal to delete 5.e as this is not required with the change to 9.f (below)

Proposal for replacement wording of 9.f

*f) Notices of Motion and nominations for the offices of Junior Vice-President, Hon Secretary, Hon Assistant Secretary, Hon Treasurer, Hon Match Secretary (County Friendly matches), Hon Match Secretary (Presidents Invitation matches), Hon League Secretary, Hon Competitions Secretary, Webmaster and*



*Safeguarding Officer may be submitted by affiliated clubs from their own membership to the Hon Secretary by 1st June on the official form provided.*

#### **4. Rule changes to Competitions based on actual experience from 2022/23**

Proposed by – Executive.

Rationale – As part of the review of the new format for 2022/23

- latitude and flexibility for rule amendments during the season where a rule does not cover a specific scenario and for that to apply until changed at the AGM.
- a change to cover a club no longer being fully affiliated.
- limit the number of replacement and/or substitute players who may compete in the first game and therefore define the “team”.

Proposal for amended wording 1.6

*The County Competition Secretary, or Executive, shall have the authority to implement any new rule or amend an existing rule for a situation or scenario that is not covered by these rules and to raise this as a formal change for consideration at the AGM.*

Proposal for new wording as section 4.8

*If a club ends its affiliation to the Association either by choice or as the result of closure, the qualifiers from that club will be excluded from competing in the County Championships. Where the draw has not been completed those qualifiers will not be included and where the draw has been completed the qualifiers will forfeit any games and their opponents will receive a bye.*

Proposal for new wording as 6.5 and renumber of existing 6.5 to 6.6 with amended wording

*6.5. Not more than ONE replacement player (6.3) OR substitute player from the Club Champions registered with the Association under rule 10.3 from the previous season may compete in the first game which then constitutes the team as defined in 6.4 above.*

*6.6. One additional (and the same) player of the same fully affiliated club regardless of the club or team they played for in the previous season may be used as a substitute to the “team” defined under rules 6.4 and 6.5 at any time and may play in any position, subject to rule 4.4.*

**Note:** An additional change we will make, but which is not a specific rule is the structure of the U25 Open Singles. In the past few years, we have arranged to play the QF and SF as a one-day event. However, we will bring this in line with the other county comps for the 2023/24 season with players arranging fixtures up to and including the SF.



## 5. Rule changes to League Rules

Proposed by – Executive.

Rationale – As part of the review the 2022/23 season and input at the February Executive meeting.

- a) Proposal for new wording as section 4.a. related to respotting of the jack, deletion of wording related to killed ends and general renumbering of this section.

*iii. If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 20 metres from the mat line, the jack shall be re-spotted. If the jack passes outside the side boundary of the rink it should be placed on a pre-arranged spot on the rink which is 2 metres from the front ditch and 1.5 metres to the left or right of the centre line, on the side that it left the rink of play.*

*iv. If a bowl is on the re-spot, the jack will be placed as near as possible to the bowl without touching it, between the spot and the centre of the rink. If any other bowls are in the way the jack will be placed as near to that without touching it and the centre of the rink. In other words, directly between the 2 spots without touching a bowl.*

- b) Proposal for new wording as section 4.b. related to Player Eligibility rules.

Deletion of wording related to **registered** players in an A team playing for the B Team, and players in the B team playing for the C.

In summary

- where a club has two teams, no registered player from the A team may play in the B team.
  - where a club has three teams, no registered player from the A team may play in the B or C teams, and no registered player from the B team may play in the C team.
- c) Update to reflect the implementation of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Fourth Edition and relevant numbering.

*Replace in 4.a reference to laws 52 B (i) and (ii) with reference to section 39.2.2 which relates to a match where there are players short, playing the match and impact on the score.*



## **6. Rule changes to O60 Double Rink League Rules**

Proposed by – Executive.

Rationale – As part of the review the 2022/23 season, dress code, notification of results to League Secretary and re-spotting amendment to provide consistency with the League Rules.

- a) Proposal for wording in section 3. Related to dress code to delete specific wording for the final.
- b) Proposal for new wording as section 4. related to respotting of the jack, deletion of wording related to killed ends respotting to T and general renumbering of this section.

*v. If a jack in motion passes completely outside the boundaries of the rink of play or rebounds to a distance of less than 20 metres from the mat line, the jack shall be re-spotted. If the jack passes outside the side boundary of the rink it should be placed on a pre-arranged spot on the rink which is 2 metres from the front ditch and 1.5 metres to the left or right of the centre line, on the side that it left the rink of play.*

*vi. If a bowl is on the re-spot, the jack will be placed as near as possible to the bowl without touching it, between the spot and the centre of the rink. If any other bowls are in the way the jack will be placed as near to that without touching it and the centre of the rink. In other words, directly between the 2 spots without touching a bowl.*

- c) Proposal for wording on "Notification of League Results to be amended so that this is done via email only.

### **Any other business / Open forum**

1. John Mason shared with the Executive news that Ken Ince, Past President and Hon. Secretary, was unwell and currently hospitalised.
2. David Perry mentioned a Bowls International article by David Corkill on potential changes to the format of games. He mentioned that this had been received with some social media commentary from members of the association, specifically on changes to the format of the county league.

There being no other business, the President thanked the attendees and wished them a safe journey home, closing the meeting at 8:05pm

### **Next meeting**

Annual General Meeting: Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Wymondham Dell IBC starting 10:00am