

Norfolk County Indoor Bowling Association
Minutes of the Executive Meeting held at Wymondham Dell IBC
on Monday 6th February 2023



Present: William Windsor (President), D Perry, G Roberts, D Goodley, J Mason, A Mobbs, D Bailey, E Alcock, M Howard, P Chapman, M Kett, A.Ingram(*), D Eastwell, P Harlow, S Pope, J Catchpole, J Ottaway

Apologies: C Taylor, B Wymer, C Boon, D Cawthorne, M Todd, C Bowles

* Attended but had no vote

The meeting was preceded by a minute silence in memory of members, friends and colleagues passed since the last meeting, specifically John Hipperson (Roundwood), 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 13th June 2022 at Wymondham Dell IBC (circulated to all clubs) should be signed as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

Hon. Secretaries Report:

Mr President, fellow colleagues

At this stage of the season, and not wishing to pre-empt agenda items which will be covered at this meeting, there is really very little to report.

I think we were all concerned at the unexpected closure of Pentney and from the information I receive, both formally and informally, I know that clubs are concerned and having to act due to the cost of living increases we are all affected by.

This is not restricted to Norfolk, and it is sad to report that a number of clubs across the country have gone, or may shortly be forced to go, the same way as Pentney. Equally associations, in addition to ourselves, are finding it hard to field teams for friendly matches.

I would place on record my personal thanks to our President and all my fellow officers, specifically Gordon Roberts and Barney Wymer who took up their roles at the last AGM and have done a great job on behalf of members. Also, I would like to thank our team managers for their continued commitment to the association.

Chris Taylor
Hon. Secretary



Correspondence:

There is a lot of general Association administration correspondence, however the key items which have arisen since our AGM, excluding any of the blanket wide communications sent by the EIBA, unless there is a county element to be considered are:

County correspondence

1. Throughout the season there have been several admin communications with clubs, and their prompt replies are much appreciated by all the officers.
2. A number of club contact points have changed, and the County Website (Handbook Section) is updated promptly with new information when received.
3. Regular updates and information have been shared by the outdoor Association, and where possible we have been represented at meetings or provided updates when required.
4. A query was submitted in September by a fully affiliated club, in relation to the gender recognition of a member. After consultation with the EIBA and confirmation that the EIBA have recognised the individual as male approval was given to play in the Men's County League and Competitions.

EIBA Correspondence

1. EIBA International Trials, after consultation with the team managers no nominations were submitted for consideration from the Association for 2022/23.
2. EIBA AGM – Notice of the AGM and initial correspondence was received 11th January 2023 at which time it was also sent directly to all clubs.
3. To cover the absence of the County Secretary (mid-Feb to mid-May) David Perry will be the EIBA liaison point with effect from 13th February and the necessary requests and documentation have been submitted.

Treasurers Report and Accounts:

Due to an increase in the cost of the year bars for the County League Divisional winners the Treasurer had sought feedback from the Clubs as to whether or not these should continue to be presented.

From those Clubs who had replied the overwhelming consensus was that as most bowlers now didn't wear blazers these should be discontinued.

The current stock of Divisional Badges would therefore continue to be presented to the winners of each Division and once this stock had been used these too would be discontinued.



The Treasurer promised to look at income / expenditure for the County League and it could result in a reduction in the annual County League entry fees now that the expenditure for badges / year bars would now not be required.

Nothing else to report at this stage.

David Perry
Hon. Treasurer

League Secretaries Report and format of 2022/23 leagues:

2023/2024 County League Format

Before opening the floor up for discussion on the format of the 2023/2024 County League the League Secretary pointed out the following considerations:

- 1) The suggestions made in his e-mail dated 22/12/2022 are based on the format remaining as 4 rinks of fours and the number of teams entered by the Clubs remaining the same.
- 2) If the format remained as it is from a scheduling point of view it would be much easier, however teams in Division's 1 & 2 would play only 12 games and teams in Division's 3 & 4 would play only 10 games and there would be large gaps in the season when teams would not be playing.
- 3) Adopting one of the other suggested formats would provide more games but Clubs were advised to make sure they had enough playing resources to field the teams they were proposing to enter next season as it was quite possible that Clubs with 3 teams could have at least 2 of these playing in any one week and those Clubs with just 2 teams could also have both of their teams playing in any one week.

The meeting was then opened up to the delegates for their thoughts and after some discussion it was decided (8 votes to 4) to leave the format of the County League as four Divisions.

The majority of Clubs felt that increasing the number of games with enlarged Divisions would be difficult and cause a strain on their playing resources.

With regard to the other suggestions offered to the Clubs the consensus of the meeting was as follows and will be considered in full at the AGM.

- 1) Keep the number of ends played as 21, however in a bid to curtail the length of the games Clubs appear keen to introduce a "re-spotting of the jack" rule should an end be killed with the re-spots being placed either side of the "T".

It was also mentioned that this rule could modify the current re-spotting rule used in the County Over 60 Double Rink Competition.



2) Keep the eligibility rules as they currently are.

David Perry
Hon. League Secretary

Competition Secretaries Report:

In general, the new format seems to be going quite well with a few little hiccups but as you would expect most of those coming from a select few.

The most disappointing situation is having to eliminate someone from two competitions for failing to reply to offered dates. The decision didn't come easily after we explored every channel myself, county secretary and club secretary trying in vain to resolve the situation.

I personally feel that this is the way forward with competitions, as going back to playing on neutral greens at the end of the season is an impossible task with so few clubs and very little rink availability.

I would therefore propose we carry on with this approach, with a possible few minor changes to rules based on experience from this season.

Barney Wymer
Hon. Competition Secretary

Match Secretaries Report:

Out of the nine fixtures arranged for the 2022/23 season, four have been cancelled due to either Norfolk or our opposition being unable to get a team.

Out of the eight games played so far we have only once been able to field six rinks of fours at the home game v Northamptonshire CIBA. The return game in Desborough had to be cancelled as we could not raise a team.

The other matches have either been reduced to five rinks of fours, or six rinks of triples. Having done that we have still had to borrow players from the venue that we played at to make our team up.

All President's invitation games have gone ahead as planned with the exception of the match against the Norfolk Past Presidents, predominantly because several players represent for both teams, and neither was able to raise a team.

We were able to get teams for the remaining fixtures as the teams included ladies from the NCWIBA and all the games are played at venues within Norfolk.

Along with other counties, we are finding it increasingly difficult to fulfil away games with a format of six rinks of fours. Due to travel costs and the increasing age of the players some are simply not willing to travel outside the county to play.



We will be sitting down in the near future to discuss the way forward to enable us to keep some of these fixtures going.

Gordon Roberts
Hon. Match Secretary (Friendlies & PI)

Norfolk Bowls Association update:

John Ottaway kindly provided an update to the meeting, where he indicated that the Outdoor Association were encountering the same issues in fielding friendly teams as Hon. Match Secretary had reported.

It has been agreed the outdoor county league will remain as 21 ends, but a reduction to 18 ends will be applied to some of the knock out competitions.

John acknowledged the same gender recognition matter had been raised, and that the focus currently from Bowls England related to the proposed affiliation fees for clubs and counties.

EIBA National Competition results 2022/23:

1. Liberty Trophy

29/10 Norfolk 116 – Essex 109
17/12 Norfolk 61 – Cambridgeshire 106

The game against Cambridgeshire is disappointing not only for the loss but the manner of the loss. The match was conceded with 41 ends left to play and a deficit of only 45 shots.

In discussing with the manager, he was upset by the underlying attitude shown by some players and what he felt was a general lack of interest, although he acknowledged Cambridgeshire were playing better and if we had continued for another 4-5 ends on each rink it would not have changed the result.

This apparent lack of interest is worrying, and links in with other general comments made to the Hon. Secretary about the focus being on winning individual and club honours, with little interest in the activities of the county and which after all has a very minor relevance indoors related to national and international selection or achievement.

There is significant cost to the association for this competition and it may be worth considering potentially not entering next season.

2. U25 Inter County Double Rink

18/12 Norfolk 42 – Cambridgeshire 45



3. O60s Inter County

25/10 Norfolk 133 – Leicestershire 70
22/11 Norfolk 134 – Suffolk 94
17/1 Norfolk 124 – Northamptonshire 89

Semi-final against Yorkshire to be played Tuesday 21st February at Grantham, and we wish the team the very best of luck.

4. U18 Inter County

Regrettably due a lack of support, and despite the valiant efforts of the U25 Manager, Norfolk was unable to field a team and withdrew from the competition.

This hopefully not a lack of U18 players, but perhaps more an indication of the cost of living crisis and the associated significant travel which this competition imposes due to the draw.

Chris Taylor
Hon. Secretary

AGM Proposals

The following were presented as potential proposals which may be considered at the AGM, and all clubs were asked to consider these along with their own proposals to be submitted.

- a. Inclusion in Rules & Objects clarity to cover the scenario of the Association being wound up or dissolved.

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

1. A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Executive Committee, Hon Secretary or on the requisition of not less than three clubs. 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.
2. 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.



3. 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.

John Mason raised concern that the number of clubs (3) required to call the SGM was too few. David Perry outlined this is a draft proposal and therefore changes could be suggested for consideration at the AGM.

Addendum to meeting- The three club requirement is in line with the existing rules for a SGM to be called but could be amended for all SGMs or just an SGM related to the winding up scenario.

- b. Rule changes to Competitions based on actual experience from 2022/23

Rationale – despite an initial 9 iterations of the rules now in place, we have come across a couple of issues, for example the closure of a club, which were not allowed for. As part of a review of the 2022/23 competitions we will propose a number of minor changes whilst still allowing the Hon. Competition Secretary latitude where a situation is not covered.

- c. 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.

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, in division 1, different to the club of the Manager.

1. Proposal for revised wording of 5.d.i

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.

The Liberty Trophy Manager to appoint at two assistants to bring to the manager’s attention the names of players whom they consider worthy of selection.

The assistants appointed:

- Must not come from the same club as the Liberty Trophy Manager.
- Must come from separate clubs (i.e., not more than one assistant will be appointed from any club)
- Must be members of fully affiliated clubs, who are competing in Division 1 of the Men’s County League as of 1st September



Nominations for June Executive and July AGM

1. June Executive

The June Executive covers the appointment of the team managers for 2023/24 for the roles of

- Liberty Trophy Manager
- O60s Manager
- U25 Manager

Posters will be sent to all clubs before 10/2 seeking nominations, by 2nd June, and clubs and the website will be updated with information including job descriptions.

2. AGM

The AGM will cover the appointment of all officers of the association, namely.

- President – there is no current SVP to be appointed by succession.
- Senior Vice President
- Junior Vice President
- Hon. Secretary
- Hon. Treasurer
- Hon. Assistant Secretary
- Hon. Match Secretary (Friendlies & PI games)
- Hon. Competition Secretary
- Hon. League Secretary
- Safeguarding Officer
- Webmaster

It is hoped that we can secure a President and ideally presidential chain to cover the next 3 years. In addition, it is hoped that the other officers already in role will seek re-election, but nominations will be sought from clubs in the normal manner and to capture members before the indoor season ends posters will be shared with clubs before 10/2.

Chris Taylor and David Perry will seek re-election for the roles we currently hold.

Chris Taylor – Hon. Secretary, Webmaster

David Perry – Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Asst Secretary, Hon. League Secretary

However, some of the activities currently undertaken in these roles will be moved to the team managers. This is partly to share the workload but also to give more accountability and control to the team managers.

The job descriptions mentioned above reflect the updated accountabilities the manager would pick up.



3. Selection Committee

The AGM will also appoint the members of the selection committee from club nominations, and these will be included in the poster mentioned above.

Any other business / Open forum

There was no other business.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7:35pm

Next meetings

Council Meeting: Monday 12th June 2023, Wymondham Dell IBC starting
7:00pm

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