



Bowls Scotland
(Company No. SC386410)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minute of the Annual General Meeting of Bowls Scotland held at the Edinburgh Capital Hotel, 187 Clermiston Road, Edinburgh EH12 6UG on Wednesday 22nd November 2017 at 1300hrs.

Register of Interest

David Scouller – Lenzie Bowling Club
Sue Beatt – St Vincent Bowling Club
Anna Marshall – Bonnybridge Bowling Club
Andrew Upton – Strathaven Bowling Club
Tom Hamilton – Woodend Bowling Club
Robert Christie – Parkview Bowling Club, Director (European Bowls Union), Regional Coach (Bowls Scotland), Coach (Scottish Disability Sport)
Scott Meechan – Kirkintilloch Bowling Club

Chair's Opening Remarks

Director Andrew Upton chaired the meeting and extended apologies from the Chair of Bowls Scotland Sue Beatt who was unable to attend the meeting.

He then introduced the top table, David Scouller- Director of Governance, Anna Marshall Director of Competitions and Events, Tom Hamilton- Director of Marketing and Communications, Robert Christie- Director of Development, Scott Meechan- strategic Director of Competitions and Events and Alan McMillan - CEO. He also extended a welcome to Fiona Lilley, partnership manager for Sportscotland and Andrew McNamara of BDO.

Confirmation of the votes in the hall was given to the meeting.

Obituaries

Mention was made of the sad passing of many members and friends of Bowls Scotland in the previous year. Notable in this were past Internationalists Joyce Lindores and Heather Rankin as well as Past President Douglas Johnston. A minutes silence was held.

Apologies

Apologies were received from:

District Secretaries – Brendan Handlin, John Anderson, Tom Weir and Trish Geddes

Clubs – Airdrie, Balgay, Dundonald, Eaglesham, Guardbridge, Largs-Halkhill and Stenhouse Community.

There was 66 voting members in attendance.

1 – To receive Annual Report of Bowls Scotland for 2017

Director Andrew Upton expressed thanks to the staff of Bowls Scotland including those who had left the organisation during the preceding year, member clubs and the many individual volunteers who had worked tirelessly to progress bowls in Scotland during 2017. He commented on several areas of the Annual Report.

- He congratulated those who had represented Scotland in International competition especially the Gent's Under 25's team who had won the Home International Championships and Junior Ladies who had gained success in BIWBC Championships.
- Regional and National Academy structures were currently being reviewed.
- Wishing the Scottish representatives in the forthcoming Commonwealth Games team every success
- Communication channels are being used extensively including website, and social media.
- Governance – KPMG Audit had shown substantial improvement since last audit. Status achieved was Satisfactory with Comment.
- Thanked all Sponsors and Associated Partners for their support.
- McMillan Cancer Support had been made the official Bowls Scotland charity.
- sportscotland were thanked for their continued support.

There were no comments from the floor.

This resolution was passed unanimously by those present.

2 – To receive the Financial Statement for Bowls Scotland for 2017

Craig McArthur explained that the financial statement showed a continued increase in inflation, staffing & funding were the main challenges facing us financially. The budgets are being reviewed and he passed to Andrew McNamara of BDO who went through the financial statements. Financial statements show a surplus of £3,600 however membership dropped and funding increased.

Craig thanked BDO for their continued support and work and as there were no questions from the meeting.

This resolution was passed unanimously by those present.

3 – To appoint BDO as accountant of Bowls Scotland for the forthcoming year

Director of Finance Craig McArthur thanked BDO for their work.

This resolution was passed unanimously by those present.

4 – Special Resolution

That Article 12.2 of the company's articles of association be amended by removing the sentence "The basis for calculating the sum due by each Member shall be the number of Registered Members of each Member as ascertained in accordance with the Laws at the preceding 30 September".

Alan McMillan updated the meeting on the proposal for fixed capitation from the Board and explained that there were Roadshows to promote and discuss the proposal. He explained how this would help clubs and that this is currently being done in other Countries. 1998 onwards has seen a decline in membership with 2016 seeing a 3.17% decrease which was slightly less than in other years. It was

felt that the proposal would give clubs a period of stability so they could budget and also allow Bowls Scotland to increase Development support to help clubs work on membership.

J. Brown, Motherwell BC raised concerns that there was no protection given to clubs if membership was falling. It was explained that clubs should approach BS to look for support if they are having membership issues and that with fixed capitation the clubs who show during capitation returns a significantly drop in numbers would be contacted directly.

It was clarified that returns from clubs on numbers playing would still be required.

R. Donaldson, Parkside BC asked if members had an open vote in the hall to make a voting decision following explanations – the hall was asked to confirm and the majority seemed to be in that position.

A McDonald, Inverness BC asked if CPI is the best way of gauging inflation – it was agreed that this was thought to be the best way and the decision wasn't to be taken in inflation until 2020.

A Drummond, Coatbridge BC asked for clarification on the increasing membership and that this would only benefit clubs attracting members and not help those who had decreasing membership.

It was confirmed that Development would be trying to assist those clubs to help them increase membership.

G. Rennie, Kinross BC asked if Brexit would affect the CPI and it was confirmed that this could not be known at present and that 3 years was the current planning for inflation targets.

Greenock BC proposed an amendment to this proposal but it was confirmed that as it is a Special there could be no amendments.

75% for this resolution was not reached so the motion failed.

5 – Ordinary Resolution

The Ordinary Resolution was withdrawn by the Board due to the special resolution being defeated.

6 – To appoint Margaret Bingham (Cumnock BC) as President of Bowls Scotland.

Lynn Wallace wished Margaret every success and thanked everyone for the support she received during her Presidents year.

Helen Valance gave an update on Margaret's bowling experience and wished her a good year as President.

Margaret gave her thanks and stated that it was an honour for her becoming President and hoped that she would be able to carry out her duties and maintain the standards set by previous Presidents.

This resolution was passed unanimously by those present.

7 – To appoint Bill Knox (Gourock BC) as President of Bowls Scotland.

Bill Knox was duly elected as Gents President of Bowls Scotland for the forthcoming year.

Retiring Gents President Eddie Nicholson addressed the floor and thanked everyone for supporting him during his year in office, wishing Bill every success in the forthcoming year as President.

Bill Knox thanked all present for their vote of support and said he was very proud to become President. He promised to work closely with Margaret Bingham to assist all clubs in Scotland during his term of office.

This resolution was passed unanimously by those present.

8 – To appoint Kathleen Gordon (Ellon BC) as Vice President of Bowls Scotland

Kathleen Gordon was duly elected as Ladies Vice President of Bowls Scotland for the forthcoming year.

Kathleen Gordon commented that she was extremely proud and would try her very best to support Margaret Bingham for the forthcoming year.

This resolution was passed unanimously by those present.

9 – To appoint Jock Halliday (Dalkeith BC) as Vice President of Bowls Scotland

Jock Halliday was duly elected as Gents Vice President of Bowls Scotland for the forthcoming year.

Jock Halliday commented that he was delighted and overwhelmed to accept the position and he would try his very best to support Bill Knox for the forthcoming year.

This resolution was passed unanimously by those present.

10 – To appoint Lyn Wallace (Pollockshaws BC) as honorary member of Bowls Scotland.

This resolution was passed unanimously by those present.

11 – To appoint Eddie Nicholson (Bridge of Earn BC) as honorary member of Bowls Scotland.

This resolution was passed unanimously by those present.

12 – To appoint Margaret Letham (Burnbank Hamilton BC) as honorary member of Bowls Scotland.

Anna Marshall asked Margaret to come to the front of the hall and presented her with honorary membership. She stated she had known Margaret for so long and gave a brief resume of her bowling career including her 102 caps for Scotland – the only woman to do this. Team Captain for Scotland and her Commonwealth games representations in 2002, 2006, 2010 & 2014 and her World gold medals 2000 & 2014 to mention a few. She is a most experienced bowler and Anna was honored to present her with this award.

This was passed unanimously by those present.

13 – To appoint Wes Pollock (Motherwell Miners Welfare BC) as honorary member of Bowls Scotland.

Bob Christie gave the meeting a brief resume of his career as District Secretary from 1997 supporting both SBA and Bowls Scotland with enthusiasm and commitment.

This was passed unanimously by those present.

14 – To appoint Roddy Mitchell (The Inverness BC) as honorary member of Bowls Scotland.

Roddy Mitchell was thanked for his work as District Secretary for SBA and Bowls Scotland from 2005 and his commitment and passion for bowls and wished him well

This was passed unanimously by those present.

Retiring District Secretaries were then thanked for their work from the Board.

Eddie Nicholson (District 6), Emma Mackie (District 23), Helen MacLean (District 11), Roddy Mitchell (District 1), Moira Hamilton (District 1).

AOCB

G. McGowan, Greenock BC – proposed that an alteration to the wording of the special resolution may have made the difference in its success – add “to allow for membership numbers”

R. Donaldson, Parkside BC – raised concerns re International results and selection and also asked why smoking is allowed at finals on the green. It was confirmed that the International selection process review is underway and that the under 25 performances showed that the future showed promise. The issue of smoking would be considered.

Scott Meechan – Strategic Director of Competitions and Events added there would potentially be changes to the competition and selection criteria structure for the forthcoming year but he would bring this to clubs in due course.

John Evan – Ardgowan BC commented re the revaluation of Property and Water charges. He enquired whether the Board had made any representation to the Scottish Government on the matter? Alan McMillan CEO confirmed this issue had been raised every time BS had met with any MSP's. He also clarified this was a very important issue but it was felt that it was best served through being a key member of the Scottish Sports Association who were working collectively to affect change for all sports and with the backing of a large number of sports.

Bill Bell – Markinch BC asked for clarification that Capitation Fees were to remain the same for 2018 as for 2017. Director Andrew Upton confirmed this.

Andrew Upton, on behalf of the Board confirmed the re-appointment of the Board Members who had been up for re-election during the postal ballot prior to the AGM. Andrew Upton and David Scouller were both re-appointed.

The meeting closed at: 14:20 with a vote of thanks to the Chair.