

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Bowls Scotland held virtually via Zoom Webinar on Wednesday 24th November 2021 at 1100 hrs.

Register of Interest

- Sue Beatt, Chair of Bowls Scotland, St.Vincent Bowling Club
- Arlene Ewing, Director of Empowering Women in Bowls
- Andrew Upton, Solicitor at Harper Macleod LLP
- David Scouller, Director of Governance, Lenzie Bowling Club
- Tom Hamilton, Director of Marketing, Branding and Communications, Woodend Bowling Club
- Kim McAully, Director of Finance
- George McCartney, Director of Competitions and Events, Kelvindale Bowling Club

Chair's Opening Remarks

Bowls Scotland Chair Sue Beatt welcomed everyone to the 2021 Annual General Meeting. The Chair expressed her thanks to all clubs, volunteers, staff, and board for their support during these unprecedented times. The Chair introduced the Board and speakers including, Alan McMillan CEO, Fiona Lilley **sportscotland** and Andrew McNamara from Auditors BDO who were all in attendance to present the accounts at the meeting.

The CEO clarified the process for asking questions, voting, and clarified who was entitled to vote and ask questions.

The Chair confirmed there was a total of 46 proxies and 54 eligible voters present in the webinar. In addition, there were 21 guests including Honorary Members and District Coordinators.

Obituaries

The Chair asked attendees to participate in a minute's silence for all of those who unfortunately lost their lives in the last year. A minute's silence was then observed in respect.

I. To receive the Annual Report of Bowls Scotland for 2021

The Annual report video for the year of 2021 was played.

The CEO also highlighted other key information:

- Working closely with the Scottish Young Bowlers Association to allow a successful integration into Bowls Scotland.
- High performance programme was able to be delivered. The CEO highlighted this was due to Bowls Scotland following specialised guidance from the Scottish Government and **sportscotland**.
- David Gourlay stepped down as the High-Performance Coach after nine years. The CEO thanked David for his dedication and hard work.
- The CEO also thanked Bowls Scotland partners, **sportscotland**, clubs, volunteers, and the members for continuing to support Bowls Scotland.

Questions regarding the Annual Report were requested from those eligible to vote. No questions were asked.

51 voted out of 54 eligible to vote	
For	Against
98%	2%

2. To receive the Financial Statement of Bowls Scotland for 2021

The Chair invited Andrew McNamara of BDO to provide a general overview of the account. Mr McNamara presented an analysis of the Bowls Scotland Financial Statements for 2021.

Mr McNamara explained in the year of 2020 there was a £103,000 deficit for Bowls Scotland and for the year of 2021 this had improved to a £2834 deficit. Mr McNamara highlighted the income figure has jumped up by about £130,000 stating the main impact of this was due to charging of annual subscriptions.

Mr McNamara explained **sportscotland** allowed Bowls Scotland to be flexible in the way Bowls Scotland allocated funding received and this allowed Bowls Scotland to use the funding to help with the general running costs of the organisation and staff costs. Mr McNamara explained how another year of not holding the National Championships has impacted the income coming into the organisation.

Kim McAully, Director of Finance was invited to provide the specifics from the accounts. Ms McAully highlighted Bowls Scotland have reviewed all administrative expenditure and contracts to identify areas to reduce expenditure for example a new telephone contract is now in place along with a significant drop in printing and postage costs due to the new online membership system. Ms McAully highlighted majority of the staff are funded through **sportscotland** and therefore the funding cannot be redirected to other areas of the business. Staff funded by membership fees are areas of the business that are directly beneficial to the clubs eg Marketing and Communications and Competitions and Events. Ms McAully stated due to the pandemic, sources of funding through sponsorship and competitions were impacted. Ms McAully highlighted last year **sportscotland** allowed Bowls Scotland flexibility in the funding however going forward the flexible funding will not be available, and Bowls Scotland need to look to operate on a breakeven basis to continue being a financially sustainable organisation. Ms McAully expressed the importance of increasing the income in memberships fees, highlighting the decision was not made lightly and a variety of different scenario projections on the finances and reserves for the next 5 years were made. Ms McAully stated on behalf of the board she would like to invite attendees to vote for the proposal to increase the membership fee from £3 to £5.

Fiona Lilley from **sportscotland** was invited to speak about the conditions and changes regarding the funding and investment provided to Bowls Scotland from **sportscotland**. Ms Lilley highlighted **sportscotland** can no longer provide Bowls Scotland along with all other Governing Bodies of sport a flexible approach with the funding provided. Ms Lilley highlighted this doesn't mean **sportscotland** are not investing in Bowls Scotland but are investing in specific areas of the organisation as has been the norm over the years. Ms Lilley also highlighted other sports have also had to look at increasing membership fees to generate income and expressed her views on hoping bowlers can recognise the value of Bowls Scotland and understand the reasoning behind the increase.

The Chair invited any questions.

Kerr Livingston asked given that many Clubs had to cut costs by reducing overheads or putting staff on furlough, Bowls Scotland added one member of staff. Did Bowls Scotland do anything to make savings and if so what?

The CEO answered by sharing Bowls Scotland had two members of staff put on furlough and the reasoning behind adding one member of staff to the organisation was due to the post not being filled at the previous accounting year and also this position was being funded through **sportscotland**.

Kerr Livingston, Grourock BC also asked do you not feel that a 66% increase in the capitation fee is fairly extreme?

The CEO answered this figure was based on projections and £2 per playing member at each member club was the correct amount to allow Bowls Scotland to continue the level of services and to allow the organisation to deliver the competitions the bowlers expect.

49 voted out of 54 eligible to vote	
For	Against
100%	0%

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

The CEO provided an update on the tendering process explaining each year Bowls Scotland complete an assessment of our service providers and this year the organisation went out to tender for an accountant. The CEO stated 4 companies applied however a proposal was made to the Bowls Scotland board of directors to continue with BDO.

The Chair invited any questions. There were no questions.

50 voted out of 54 eligible to vote	
For	Against
100%	0%

4. To set the playing member fees payable to Bowls Scotland for the forthcoming year 2022, at £5.00 per person.

The Chair outlined the proposal and provided context and background to the fee proposal with the rationale for setting fees at £5.00 per playing member.

The Presidents were then invited to speak. Both Presidents highlighted the services provided by Bowls Scotland, that both supported the proposal and invited voters to vote for and support the fee proposal to allow the services to continue to run to the best value.

The Chair invited any questions.

Colin Reddy from Barrhead BC asked what if the capitation fee increase goes through, what is the expected increase in fees received and how will this impact the annual accounts?

The CEO answered yes it will have an impact on the annual account as it will show on the annual accounts.

Walter Ferguson from Colinton BC asked what assessment was made of the possible loss of clubs and members as a result of the fees increase?

The CEO answered explaining Bowls Scotland already have a system percentage decrease that happens annually and there has been a further look into the loss of clubs in the next 4 years. We currently lose to a variety of reasons 2-6 clubs annually.

Alexander McDonald from Fraser Park BC stated capitation fees are per member, each club against could consider increasing membership fees by £2. Reviewing support from clubs received from Bowls Scotland Fraser Park BC support this increase.

The CEO stated this was a good point.

Isla Duncan from Guardbridge BC stated no-one can get away from the fact that everything costs more since the last increase, however, had the increases happened in stages throughout the years up to this point, it would not have been such a shock to the clubs this year, especially when many clubs are struggling due to the Covid crisis. If the fee increase is accepted, can I ask that Bowls Scotland look to softer increases over following years.

The CEO agreed and stated this is something the board and finance committee would consider.

49 voted out of 54 eligible to vote	
For	Against
57%	43%

5. To appoint Margaret Halliday (Whitburn BC) as President of Bowls Scotland

47 voted out of 54 eligible to vote	
For	Against
100%	0%

6. To appoint John Anderson (Townholm BC) as President of Bowls Scotland

48 voted out of 54 eligible to vote	
For	Against
100%	0%

Both Margaret and John expressed their gratitude for being reappointed for the 2022 year.

7. To appoint Marella O'Neil (Dalry BC) as Vice President of Bowls Scotland

45 voted out of 54 eligible to vote	
For	Against
100%	0%

8. To appoint Ron McArthur (Zetland BC) as Vice President of Bowls Scotland

45 voted out of 54 eligible to vote	
For	Against
100%	0%

AOCB

District Coordinators

The Presidents read out the changes to the District Co-ordinators

New & Re-elected Gents DCs

Iain Dorricott - District 5 Gents – Broughty BC
 Gary Cardle – District 6 Gents – Bridge of Earn BC
 Benjamin Major – District 12 Gents – Lenzie BC
 Ian Alexander – District 18 Gents – Carluke BC
 Colin Reddy - District 25 Gents & Ladies – Barrhead BC
 Alexander Fyfe – District 29 Gents – Girvan BC
 Frazer Muirhead - District 13 Gents – Bankton Mains BC (Re-elected)
 Kevin Lewsey - District 21 - Wellcroft Bowling Club

New & Re-elected Ladies DCs

Maureen Wallace - District 9 Ladies – Tulliallen BC

Sheila Muir – District 10 Ladies – Grahamston BC

Margaret Gillies - District 31 Ladies – Marchmount BC (Re-Elected)

Stepping Down

Bob Christie – District 5 Gents – Abroath BC

Elizabeth Wallace – District 10 Ladies – Bonnybridge BC

Graham Irvine-Cole – District 21 Gents & Ladies – Kingswood BC

William Wood – District 25 Gents & Ladies – Wellmeadow BC

The Chair thanked all those District co-ordinators that have given so much to support the competitions and their local clubs and wished the new Co-ordinators well for the 2022 season.

The Chair congratulated Katrina Wallace Dunning BC for reaching the shortlist for the Scottish Women in Sport Volunteer of the year and the winner will be announced at an award ceremony on Friday 26th November 2021.

The Chair invited any questions under AOCB asking that all questions came from those able to vote:

Alex McDonald from Fraser Park BC asked if it was possible for Bowls Scotland to ask clubs to implement no smoking or vaping on the green at both Stage 1 and 2 of the National Championships?

The CEO stated that this would be something the Competition & Events group would consider and discuss further with the Scottish Government to receive the correct information regarding contamination.

Gary Smith from Linlithgow BC asked when Bowls Scotland will finalise diary of events, both national and international?

The CEO stated the Bowls Scotland full calendar of events would be published in the coming weeks. Dates for individual events have been released.

Gary Smith from Linlithgow BC asked what changes (if any) Bowls Scotland are supporting to the formats of British Isles Men's and Women's Senior and Junior, British Isles Men's and Women's Junior and Senior Series and Championships?

The CEO confirmed there is a meeting tonight (Wednesday 24th November) between Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales and Jersey to discuss a proposal and highlighted nothing had been agreed yet. The CEO did state more information would be released in time following the meeting if any conclusions were agreed.

Kerr Livingston from Grourock BC, highlighted there was a unanimous concern that Bowls Scotland had become detached from the grassroot memberships. Kerr asked what Bowls Scotland can do to address this issue.

The CEO disagreed with the statement; however stated Bowls Scotland communicates widely across several different platforms to get information out to the bowlers of Scotland. The CEO stated Bowls Scotland always strive to get better communication and better relationships with clubs and a topic Bowls Scotland's Marketing & Communications department are always trying to improve.



Anne Dunwoodie from Queens Park BC asked who the Bowls Scotland representatives on the British Isles Boards for Men and Women were and who was on the British Isles Board when the decision was made to change the format and also why the members were not asked about the format?

The CEO stated there is no longer a British Isles board and it is now representatives from the organisation of each nation. The CEO also stated the representatives from Bowls Scotland change depending on the topic, to allow expert knowledge to be present to make the correct decisions. The CEO made it clear there has not been a decision made to change the format across all events. There has been a proposal been put forward which will be discussed on Wednesday 24th November 2021. The CEO stated at the correct time the decision will be relayed to the membership.

John Newall from Hillside BC asked if tournament licences for 2022 be increased.

The CEO stated this needs to be looked at further but once a decision is made Bowls Scotland will notify members as soon as possible.

David Palmer District Coordinator asked if there is length of time where the capitation fees and entry fees can't be increased after this increase?

The CEO answered no and made the meeting aware that in the Articles of Association it states that Bowls Scotland must bring to the membership on an annual basis the topic of capitation fee.

Anne Dunwoodie from Queens Park BC highlighted Irelands Women had sent out mail regarding the changes being made to the internationals.

The CEO highlighted Bowls Scotland have nothing written in concrete regarding men's and women's Internationals or confirmed therefore have not published any information regarding this.

There was no further business raised.

Meeting closed at: 12:40pm