

## BOWLS SCOTLAND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Bowls Scotland held virtually via Zoom Webinar on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022 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 and Tennis Club**
- Kim McAully, Director of Finance
- Rudi Urbach, Director of Development
- Gavin Smith, General Director, **Colinton Bowling Club**
- Michael Cavanagh, General Director (remit for High Performance)

### Chair's Opening Remarks

Bowls Scotland Chair, Sue Beatt, welcomed everyone to the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

Prior to officially starting the meeting, the Chair expressed her sorrow and sent condolences to Claremont BC after the recent fire at the club house.

The Chair highlighted a more normal year of bowls, with some excellent competitions and events taking place. The Chair highlighted the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, Well done to all our medal winners, but special recognition must go to Team Scotland's Para Bowlers. Three disciplines, three teams, three gold medals. Spectacular result and massive congratulations to the players, directors, coaching and support staff.

The Chair congratulated Rosemary Lenton, on being awarded Scottish Women in Sport's Para Athlete of the Year. The Chair also congratulated the full Para Team on being awarded Scottish Disability Sport Team of the Year and Bob Christie for receiving Coach of the Year.

The Chair introduced the Board and speakers including, Alan McMillan CEO, Kim McAully Director of Finance, David Scouller Director of Governance, Fiona Lilley - Partnership Manager **sportscotland** and Anne Logan - Manager – Business Services & Outsourcing from Auditors BDO who were all in attendance to present at the meeting. The Chair indicated that Margaret Halliday and John Anderson, Presidents of Bowls Scotland send their apologies for the meeting.

The Chair asked attendees to participate in a minute's silence for all of those from within the bowling community who unfortunately lost their lives in the last year.

The CEO indicated that there were 18 polls on the agenda of the AGM paperwork. The CEO clarified the process for asking questions, voting, and clarified who was entitled to vote and ask questions. A practice poll was conducted.

The Chair confirmed the AGM quorum had been met with a total of 54 proxies and 66 eligible voters present at the meeting. In addition, there were 20 guests including Honorary Members and District Co-Ordinators. The Chair confirmed that all items other than items 4 and 5 required more than 50% to vote for the motion to be passed, but 4 & 5 require no less than 75% for the motion to be passed.

## I. To receive the Annual Report of Bowls Scotland for 2022

The CEO also highlighted other key information:

- There are still challenges with the recovery from COVID, some clubs have come out thriving and others are very much struggling. We have continued to support clubs to ensure they are stronger and sustainable
- Membership challenges are similar in Scotland as they are globally with membership numbers in decline. The Bowls Scotland key programme to address this challenge is Try Bowls. It is encouraging to see over 250 clubs signed up to the programme who are attempting to grow and retain membership
- The season was a very busy time with competitions – Club, County, National and International competitions all taking place
- Congratulations to all the players, coaches and support team who attended and medalled at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. Scotland is currently the strongest nation in the World for Para Bowls
- The CEO also thanked Bowls Scotland partners; Castle Water, Erskine Veterans Charity, Kukri, Taylor Bowls; Trophy Centre: **sportscotland**, clubs, volunteers, and members for continuing to support Bowls Scotland and bowls in Scotland. He also announced that there will be new partners coming on board in 2023 that will again be able to support many clubs directly

The Annual report video for the year of 2022 was played.

The Chair indicated that a number of questions have been asked in the Q&A function about proxy voting. The Chair asked the CEO to explain proxy voting.

- A proxy vote is only counted when a poll is called.
- All **eligible** attendees should cast their vote in the room
- It is this vote that is counted and taken, unless a poll is called by the chair or two voting attendees, then all proxy votes cast along with those 'in the room' are counted collectively.

The Chair indicated that there were a couple of people struggling to get into the AGM. Therefore, the total had now increased from 66 to 68 eligible voters.

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

67 voted out of 68 eligible to vote	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
100%	0%

## 2. To receive the Financial Statement of Bowls Scotland for 2022

The Chair invited Anne Logan of BDO to provide a general overview of the accounts. Ms Logan presented an analysis of the Bowls Scotland Financial Statements for 2022.

Ms Logan explained after the significant impact of the pandemic in 2020 and 2021 the organisation has returned to a more normal year which has resulted in a surplus of just over £28,000. On the income side, revenue has increased by just over £323,000 to £996,527 which is again a return to more normal levels of income prior to the pandemic. This is in the main due to competitions and events being able to take place and also an increase in membership income. The balance of the revenue is the funds received from **sportscotland** of just over £512,000. These funds are earmarked for specific purposes and the income in the year has been matched against the relevant expenditure incurred with unspent amounts of just over £113k being carried forward into next year. On the expenditure side, staff costs

continue to be the main expense of the organisation, accounting for 50% of the total expenditure. The High Performance programme, which is specifically funded by **sportscotland**, accounted for a further 17% (£161k) of the total expenditure. The National Championships and other events which were held during the year accounted for 20% of the total expenditure at £199K. The normal running costs of the organisation have increased by 8% to just under £87K which includes further expenditure in upgrading the IT systems. Overall, with increased revenue streams and careful monitoring of expenditure throughout the year this has resulted in the small surplus.

Kim McAully, Director of Finance was invited to provide the specifics from the accounts. Ms McAully highlighted that following a more normal bowling year and the implementation of the membership fee increase that the organisation has returned a surplus and is in a better financial position going forward. On the surface this looks a very positive position but there are still areas of concern for the future finances of the organisation. Ms McAully stated that although membership income has increased by nearly £94,000 this was lower than anticipated due to a further decline in the number of members from 2021. Initiatives are now being considered on how this extra income can be used to encourage new members at club level. Ms McAully emphasised that competitions and events were planned on the basis of at least breaking even. However, this has been challenging due to some events having lower numbers of entries and all events having increased costs. Ms McAully informed members that a four-year strategic review with **sportscotland** had taken place with the outcome of the funding application due over the coming months.

Ms McAully moved onto expenditure and highlighted the majority of our staff costs are met through **sportscotland** funding with staff funded by membership fees providing the competitions, some admin, marketing, and communications services. Some of the surplus from the last financial year was due to the absence of the competitions and events manager with this role being covered on a part-time basis. Costs and contracts in relation to competitions and events will continue to be scrutinised to ensure that they are best value and necessary for the success of the competitions or events. Administrative expenses are being kept under constant review and work is in progress to replace certain contracts with more cost-effective arrangements. Ms McAully stated that although a surplus was made this year, reserves are still significantly lower than in 2019 before the pandemic. The intention is to keep overall finances to at least a break-even position going forward in order to minimise any impact on our reserves.

Finally, Ms McAully indicated that she is stepping down from the Director of Finance position next year and thanked the Bowls Scotland Board and staff, as well as the team at BDO.

Fiona Lilley from **sportscotland** was invited to say a few words. Ms Lilley thanked the team at Bowls Scotland and also acknowledged the Chair for being the first female Chair of Bowls Scotland and her dedication and work within Bowls. Ms Lilley also thanked Tom Hamilton, who is stepping down from the role of Board Director for Marketing, Branding and Communications. Ms Lilley thanked Bowls Scotland for a strong, open, honest, and transparent partnership that has been built up over the years and continues to grow. Ms Lilley provided an overview of the financial process of investment to Bowls Scotland including strategic reviews, conducted every 4 years in line with the Commonwealth Sport cycle. Ms Lilley outlined that **sportscotland** are Scottish Government funded, with the potential impacts of the deficit in the Government budget being looked at. **sportscotland** will not know the budget from the Scottish Government until early February and as such, investment agreements will not be known until late February.

The Chair invited any questions with the CEO working through the questions.

Linlithgow BC, asked when is the lease on BS headquarters due for review?  
The CEO indicated that the lease is reviewed on an ongoing basis.



Dalzell BC asked - the financial report states BS is exempt from corporation tax in section 2.7 but then shows corporation tax paid in section 6. Is section 2.7 incorrect?

Kim McAully stated this was tax on interest received. Anne Logan highlighted in the income and expenditure sheet there is income received of £323 which is taxed at 19%. Although Bowls Scotland are exempt from corporation tax, they still need to pay tax on interest.

Dalzell BC asked - I understand from the report that BS is exempt from auditing its account and that also members can request this from companies act 2006 sections 476 and 477. Given as a club we audit our accounts to ensure everything is above board I would like to see BS do the same.

The CEO outlined that this had been discussed at previous AGM's in addition to a Board discussion with BDO outlining the process for doing this. Bowls Scotland could do this, however the cost for this is between £7,000-8,000 (quoted 3 years ago). Bowls Scotland do not have the same facilities as clubs in terms of function and bar facilities as an example, therefore what is reported from the audit might not be much more than what is currently undertaken by BDO. Bowls Scotland believe the money for an audit is better spent to support the clubs, however if this were something members would like to do, then this can be requested.

Dalzell BC asked – The BDO rep has stated National Championships cost roughly 199k, section 17 shows just over 160k which I assume is income from the event, does this mean it was ran at a 40k loss?

Kim McAully stated the £160k is the costs not the income. There are other expenditures shown in other cost lines. Overall, the event broke even.

Rutherglen BC asked what are the capitation fees likely to be for the forthcoming year?

The CEO stated that as there is no motion on the agenda, then there is no capitation fee increased proposed for this year.

Glengowan-Caldercruix BC asked - the cost-of-living crisis will impact on members disposable income – does Bowls Scotland/sportscotland have a strategic plan to assist clubs threatened with loss of members due to the crisis?

The CEO stated there was a Club Crisis Fund available to clubs over the COVID pandemic. There have been discussions across other Scottish Governing Bodies around the cost of living.

Dalzell BC asked - Kim has just stated reserves are much lower than in 2019, what was this level?

Kim McAully stated the level of reserves in 2019 was £331,000.

Dalzell BC asked - How much money was raised by the increase in capitation fees from £3 per playing member to £5?

Kim McAully stated approximately £94,000 extra was raised.

The Chair thanked Anne Logan from BDO and asked her to leave the AGM. Anne Logan left the AGM.

68 voted out of 68 eligible to vote	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
100%	0%

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

The Chair invited any questions. There were no questions.

68 voted out of 68 eligible to vote	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
100%	0%

#### 4. Amendment of article 7.1 to modernise Bowls Scotland's Presidential structure

The Chair summarised the proposal - The proposal is to move from the current Ladies and Gents President and Vice Presidents format to a unified format of one President, one Vice President and one Junior Vice President. There will be an alternative pattern of female, male, female, male and so on within the new structure. This change reflects a more modern and progressive sports structure and is being used by other sports and many clubs throughout Scotland.

The Chair invited any questions.

Parkside BC - This was discussed at the recent District Co-Ordinators meeting and would potentially mean a District Co-Ordinator waiting 61 years to become President.

The CEO stated that not all DC's want to become President and there is also nothing in the articles stopping a member putting forward someone to become Bowls Scotland President. It has just been a time-honoured process continued from the lineage of SBA/SWBA.

Dalzell BC asked - is there a worry that without putting the female to male pattern in writing that one or the other would be excluded?

The CEO stated that we can put the pattern into the Bye Laws to ensure this pattern continues.

68 voted out of 68 eligible to vote	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
83%	17%

#### 5. Amendment of article 12.2 to change collection of capitation fees to 31st October

The Chair summarised the proposal – The proposal is to change the start date capitation fees are collected from February to October. The membership year does not change and will still run from October to September. The way we calculate fees also does not change; these will still be based on membership figures as at the 30th of September. We hope this change allows clubs to split the cost of capitation and competition fees and will reduce some of the challenges encountered with undertaking both capitation and competition entries at one single point in the year.

The Chair invited any questions.

The Chair invited Sarah Pryde-Smith, Business Operations Manager for Bowls Scotland, to answer any questions.

Rutherglen BC - what compensation will be made to clubs with the movement of fees to Oct rather than Feb, effective loss of part of a year fees? All clubs will be expected to pay twice within a year at a time when all clubs are struggling financially.

Sarah Pryde-Smith stated that annual capitation covers the period 1st October - 30th September, this will still be in place, just the point at which capitation fees are requested is the motion being proposed. Instead of halfway through the affiliation year e.g. February, it is at the start - October. Competition fees and entries would not be affected by this change and will still be requested in January to February. Feedback received as part of the proposal collation was that clubs may be in a better financial position at the end of the season and with the split in competition and capitation fees, this could assist clubs spread the costs of capitation and competition entry. However, we do understand that in the transitional year that there will be some challenges and we will therefore be adopting a flexibility to support clubs. We will work with our member clubs to better understand these challenges ahead of proposed changes taking place.

Turriff BC - what would be the latest date the fees could be paid? We are both an indoor and outdoor club

Sarah Pryde-Smith stated if the proposal was accepted, the latest date for capitation fees would be 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Dalzell BC - would allowing clubs to spread the cost over the year be more beneficial to reduce the burden. Many clubs do this for members paying fees.

Sarah Pryde-Smith highlighted that the NDO's are aware of many clubs who spread the cost and that this would be down to clubs to manage.

Questions via the Q&A Function

Berwick B C - Why, given the well published issues in the hospitality sector, with a significant number of establishments likely to cease trading, are Bowls Scotland proposing to disadvantage their members cash flow, by taking the annual fees early. The annual fees should not be brought forward, they should be delayed until the April, when the difficult Winter cash-flow period is over, and our clubs have received their membership fees from their members. That is what a supportive parent body would do for its members.

Sarah Pryde-Smith - We completely understand the financial challenges clubs are facing. At the moment, capitation fees and competition entry fees are to be paid by 28th February. We can't extend this beyond this time as this would have an impact on competition draw timescales.

Feedback we've received from clubs is that they are more likely to be in a better position post season than in January/February to pay fees. In addition, asking clubs to make one payment covering capitation and competition entry when clubs are potentially cash light could be eased by splitting these payments. We can be flexible with clubs on an individual basis if clubs find this tricky in the transitional period. But we hope in the long run that this will be better for clubs, volunteers, and the organisation.

67 voted out of 68 eligible to vote	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
72%	28%

The Chair called a poll for this AGM item, meaning proxy votes cast by members would be added to the 'in the room' vote.

On the basis of the collective voting, the item is carried.

121 voted out of 122 eligible to vote (proxies and in the room)	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
77%	23%

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

Sue thanked the current Presidents Margaret Halliday and John Anderson for staying within their role over COVID.

Sue read out a statement from Margaret Reid, Dalry BC:

'Good morning

My name is Margaret Reid, and I am secretary at Dalry Bowling Club.

On behalf of the club, I wish to inform Bowls Scotland that the club considers it an honour to have our member, Marella O'Neill, as the proposed candidate for the appointment of Lady President 2022/2023.

Marella has been a member of our club for over 40 years and her love for the sport is evident by her dedication and work over the years contributing and promoting the sport of bowling.

**Bowls Scotland**  
**(Company No. SC386410)**



We are certain she will approach her presidency in a similar manner and be a credit to Bowls Scotland.

It is therefore without hesitation and with great delight, I on behalf of the committee and membership of Dalry Bowling Club inform this meeting of our support for the Bowls Scotland proposal to have Marella O'Neill appointed as Lady President for 2022/2023.'

Questions via Q&A function

Parkside BC asked - We have just passed that there will only be one President. Does that come into place next year?

Edinburgh Women's Bowling Association asked - Thought we had just voted to have only one President of Bowls Scotland. Why are we now voting for Lady and Gents Presidents

Sarah Pryde-Smith - In the transitional period the current Vice Presidents would move to Presidents under the current system. For 2023, there will be one Gent, one Lady President, a Vice President and a Junior Vice President. By the 2023 AGM the new structure would be complete and in place meaning there will be— one President, one Vice President and one Junior Vice President.

65 voted out of 68 eligible to vote	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
100%	0%

## 7. To appoint Ron McArthur (Zetland BC) as President of Bowls Scotland appoint

64 voted out of 68 eligible to vote	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
100%	0%

Sue asked Alison Bradford from Zetland BC to say a few words:

'Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of Zetland Bowling Club, it gives me great pleasure to support Ronnie as our Bowls Scotland President. It is a great honour for Zetland and I am sure Ronnie will carry out his presidential role with full support given from our club. Ronnie, who is a well-known face, has given many years of service to bowling since his wife Jean introduced him to this wonderful game. I have known Ronnie for many years, and he is well respected throughout the bowling community. He has been our district secretary for many years and a role which he has used to activate, promote, and encourage bowling. He especially enjoys coaching bowlers with a disability, praising their success, especially with the silver medal won at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 2014. I therefore, on behalf of Zetland Bowling Club, wish President Ronnie a happy and successful year.'

Sue asked both Marella and Ron to say a few words.

Marella thanked everyone for attending and thanked her club committee and members for their support. Marella considers the position a privilege and as an ambassador for Bowls Scotland, she intends to empower more women into leadership roles across the sport. Marella thanked Margaret and John for their support and wished them all the very best on retiring from their role. Marella congratulated Ron on his appointment.

Ron congratulated Sue on her time on the Board and wished her all the very best. Ron thanked his club and District for their support. Ron thanked John for being an ambassador for the sport and his support over the COVID period. Ron highlighted he is looking forward to working with Marella, Tom and Frances in the coming season.

Sue thanked both Presidents and wished them all the very best for the season ahead.

### 8. To appoint Frances Sandilands (West End (Perth) BC) as Vice-President of Bowls Scotland

63 voted out of 68 eligible to vote	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
100%	0%

Riverside BC, called a Poll, meaning Proxy votes cast by Clubs and Associations would be added to the 'in the room' vote.

117 voted out of 122 eligible to vote (proxies and in the room)	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
99%	1%

### 9. To appoint Tom Weir (Dalsersf BC) as Junior Vice President of Bowls Scotland

66 voted out of 68 eligible to vote	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
98%	2%

Ahead of items 10-17, Sue highlighted that Bowls Scotland is delighted to have so many people nominated for honorary membership this year. As the AGM is virtual, Bowls Scotland are unable to present honorary membership face to face, however, these will be celebrated post AGM.

The Chair stated the first two nominations for honorary membership are outgoing Presidents Margaret Halliday and John Anderson. Having fulfilled these roles for 3 years through some very difficult times during COVID, both Margaret and John have dedicated their lives to bowls, fulfilling various roles in their respective clubs and also at District and National levels.

Questions via Q&A function

Rutherglen BC asked - Is there a limit to the number of honorary members and if so, what is it?

Alan McMillan answered - There are no restriction on honorary membership.

### 10. To appoint 2022 President Margaret Halliday (Whitburn BC) as Honorary Member of Bowls Scotland

67 voted out of 68 eligible to vote	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
100%	0%

### 11. To appoint 2022 President John Anderson (Townholm BC) as Honorary Member of Bowls Scotland

67 voted out of 68 eligible to vote	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
100%	0%

Ahead of item 12, the Chair handed over to David Scouler, Board Director. Mr Scouler, on behalf of the Board, was delighted to nominate outgoing chair Sue Beatt.



## 12. To appoint outgoing Chair Sue Beatt (St Vincent BC) as Honorary Member of Bowls Scotland

64 voted out of 68 eligible to vote	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
98%	2%

The Chair thanked everyone and said it was an honour, pleasure, and privilege to be part of the organisation. The Chair thanked all the staff, board, and volunteers. The Chair will continue in sport and bowls as member on the World Bowls Board and Chair of the Scottish Sports Association.

Ahead of item 13, the Chair said a few words about fellow Board member Tom. Tom has been a Board director for 8 years, and in that time, he has demonstrated unending enthusiasm for the sport and for his role. Despite having a very busy working and family life, he has given freely of his time and energy, both to the organisation and to his own club, Woodend Bowling and Tennis Club in Glasgow. As Director of Marketing, Branding and Communications, he set a really strong foundation from which we now work. He's been an energetic Board member, always willing to contribute and has been a huge support in helping to create a strong, skilled based board. He is never afraid to challenge, but at the heart of everything he does is his passion for ensuring bowls survives and thrives into the future. He's not leaving bowls; he is now on the board of International Bowls for the Disabled. They are very lucky to have him and his contribution to Bowls Scotland will be very much missed.

## 13. To appoint outgoing Board Director Thomas Hamilton (Woodend BC) as Honorary Member of Bowls Scotland.

62 voted out of 68 eligible to vote	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
100%	0%

Tom Hamilton said a few words of thanks to the organisation and to the member clubs for the opportunity to be part of the organisation. Tom thanked the current and previous Board members; partners and the Bowls Scotland staff. Tom wished everyone good luck for the coming season and thanked everyone for the honour and privilege of becoming honorary member of Bowls Scotland.

Ahead of item 14, the Chair provided an overview. Gary and Kevin were the first gold medallists of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games and kicked off what proved to be the para bowls gold rush. After securing progress out of the group stage after game 3, they eventually finished second behind a strong Australian team to progress to semi-finals. With a confident semi-final win over New Zealand, the final saw them show their class, both dominating their opponents to round off the first gold medal match of the event with a 16-7 win with an end to spare. Both players suffered heart breaking defeats in previous Games and were yet to secure a Commonwealth medal, so to come back from adversity and secure the gold has truly helped inspire the nation.

## 14. To appoint 2022 Commonwealth Games Gold Medal Winners Garry Brown (Blackwood Victoria BC) and Kevin Wallace (Clackmannan BC), as Honorary Members of Bowls Scotland

65 voted out of 68 eligible to vote	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
98%	2%

Ahead of item 15, the Chair provided an overview. Rosemary and Pauline were the middle part of the 3 team gold rush and had a bumpy ride to the knockout stages. After losing the first 2 group games

things were looking bleak before a spirited final push saw them sneak through into the knockout stage as the lowest ranked pair remaining. This is where they showed their class. A semi-final match against home team England where they were 12-4 up before being pegged back to 12-10, they sprinted to the finish to secure a medal and a final spot with a 16-10 victory. The final saw them also up against strong favourites Australia but with their best performance saved for the biggest match of their lives, they too completed a gold medal win with a game to spare! A true display of determination and grit to power through a turbulent start and come away as champions.

**15. To appoint 2022 Commonwealth Games Gold Medal Winners Rosemary Lenton (Crichton Royal BC) and Pauline Wilson (Willowbank BC), as Honorary Members of Bowls Scotland**

65 voted out of 68 eligible to vote	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
98%	2%

Ahead of item 16, the Chair provided an overview. The mixed pairs had to wait until the evening of day 3 to get their campaign underway and going unbeaten in the group stage they had to watch the other 2 para pairs strike gold before they got their chance at glory. With an incredible team chemistry and strong performances throughout all 4 turned up with their best when it matters. With Melanie and George's experiencing the Games for the first time, and Robert and Sarah having to bounce back from a heart-breaking bronze medal defeat in 2018, they swept the board going unbeaten from start to finish. With 5 wins from 5 in the group stage and a 21-6 demolition of home nation England in the semi-final, they started slowly in the final losing the first few ends but powered to glory winning 16-9 against Wales. This rounded off an history making performance from the para bowlers as the first nation ever to win 3 golds out of 3 at a Commonwealth Games.

**16. To appoint 2022 Commonwealth Games Gold Medal Winners Melanie Inness (Balerno BC), George Miller (Saltcoats BC), Robert Barr (Hyndland BC) and Sarah Jane Ewing (Abbeyview BC) as Honorary Members of Bowls Scotland**

64 voted out of 68 eligible to vote	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
98%	2%

Ahead of item 17, the Chair provided an overview. Ray, Kaye, and Kenneth have been in their District Co-Ordinator roles for over a decade, dedicating their time, experience, and knowledge to the game. Each of them stepped down for their roles this year and we are sad to see them go. However, we know they will still be involved in the game at club level, and we are delighted to propose them for honorary membership.

**17. To appoint outgoing District Coordinators who have served 10 years or more, Ray Fyfe, (Motherwell BC), Kaye Cullinan (Headwell BC) and Kenneth Girdler (Balerno BC) as Honorary Members of Bowls Scotland**

65 voted out of 68 eligible to vote	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
98%	2%

Question via the Q&A function:

Thornton BC asked - District 8 Co-Ordinator Jim Boyce unfortunately has stepped down this year. Has he not been in position more than 10 years. Just asking as it was a late decision for him to step down.



Alan McMillan answered - Jim has been a great supporter of Bowls Scotland and the District 8 clubs over the years. Unfortunately, the timing of Jim's retirement from post was out with the AGM timeline, Jim will, therefore, be included in the 2023 AGM Honorary Membership proposals.

### **AOCB**

The Chair invited any questions under AOCB asking that all questions came from those able to vote. Questions were either answered 'live' or written via the Q&A function.

The Chair indicated there had been a question sent in advance from Alec McDonald, Fraser Park BC regarding tournament licences. Alan McMillan outlined that because of this letter and other e-mails from Mr MacDonald that a review of the tournament licence has started. More information will be available before the season starts.

### **Q&A – Answered Live**

Linlithgow BC - There was considerable adverse feedback on the state of the Ayr greens and surrounds and even the headquarters building at Ayr this year. The greens were simply generally not up to the expected standard. What are BS's plans to rapidly rectify this unacceptable situation.

Alan McMillan answered - This has been discussed with South Ayrshire Council and with the green staff at Northfield. This will be rectified for season 2023.

Linlithgow BC - Dates and venues for the Men's and Women's Junior and Senior British Isles Championships and Home International Series please.

Alan McMillan answered - Discussions are ongoing and once all the nations have agreed dates, we will release these.

Dumfriesshire Gents Association - Is the cost of tournament licences being reviewed as well as they were doubled during/post pandemic without any consultation

Alan McMillan answered - Our competition and events staff are currently working on a review of the tournament licence and more information will be available before the start of the season.

Barrhead BC - Is there any planned changes to the format of the AHT? I know this was discussed a few years ago.

Alan McMillan answered - It was discussed a few years ago, but there are not currently any plans to change the format of the AHT.

Dalzell BC - There has been rumours in the last couple years about changes to the under 25s league and Scottish cup i.e., putting the age up to 27 as it was last year or 30.

Alan McMillan answered - Bowls Scotland do not administer the U25 leagues. We respectfully suggest that you contact the event deliverers.

Linlithgow BC - Who is the new BS Chairman? I mean Chairperson.

Alan McMillan answered - David Scouller will be the interim Chair with an advert going out in the new year to ask for candidates for this and other Board positions.

### **Q&A – Answered via the Q&A function**

Dunblane BC - Can Bowls Scotland help more at ground level - we need to reapply for a coaching certificate as you have ripped up the SBA one - the cost to reapply is over £100 - there is so much money going into an elite group - why can't we waive this cost - this is a volunteer's sport - also can we get the former SYBA members into to helping to run the Youths. Also, a lot of Clubs are looking for smaller Bowls Junior - could Bowls Scotland put money towards this?

Sarah Pryde-Smith answered - We transitioned from the previous qualifications to the new ones as part of our modernisation process. Our Coach and Volunteer Manager, Adam, is here to help and please reach out to him. In terms of support for clubs, please link in with your National Development



Officer who will support you and the club with membership recruitment, coaching and governance / structure.

Dalzell BC - Has BS found any way of monetising the Facebook reach of over 1 million people as stated in the annual report?

Darren Weir Communications Officer answered - It is currently not one of our aims to raise finances via our social media followers.

Perth & Perthshire Ladies Association - On the Try Bowls initiative - the Bowls Scotland Try Bowls Banners which are seen at some bowling clubs where / who do clubs contact to have these made available to them?

Sarah Pryde-Smith answered – Your NDO is the best person to chat to about Try Bowls and any other support your club requires. Individual clubs might have had these made up, but your NDO will have some intel on this. If you are unsure who your NDO is, please email [info@bowlsscotland.com](mailto:info@bowlsscotland.com)

Linlithgow BC - We totally support the honorary memberships for our magnificent Para Gold Medallists. My question is why the same honour has not been given to some previous Gold medal winners at the four yearly World Championships and World Singles Champion of Champions. Can this be reviewed please?

Alan McMillan answered -.We will look at this suggestion.

Glengowan-Caldercruix BC - What progress has been made in respect of Empowering Women in our sport. The Bowls Scotland website has published minutes from March 2022 and there have been videos shared in April 2022 – what has happened since? Furthermore, is the plan to extend the Empowering Women in Sport initiative beyond the 2023 plan?

Sarah Pryde-Smith answered - We are currently developing an EWiB action plan to run alongside our new BS strategy 2023-2027. We have had a number of social media activities on EWiB and this will continue as a key priority for Bowls Scotland.

Linlithgow BC - Can we please have a date by which we will receive a full Calendar of Events for the 2023 season?

Darren Weir answered - Our Competition & Events team are currently finalising 2023's calendar and we expect this to be released in December 2022/January 2023.

Gourock BC - Will a Yearbook be produced this year

Darren Weir answered - We took the decision to discontinue the Yearbook in 2020. All information that was previously included in the Yearbook is now available on our website and Online Club & Membership System.

There were no further questions.

Sue Beatt, outgoing Chair, thanked everyone for their support. Alan McMillan highlighted the recruitment process for new board directors in January. In the interim, Director of Governance, David Scouller is taking over as Chair until the recruitment process has been concluded.

David Scouller said a few words - Sue has been on the Board of Bowls Scotland for a total of 8 years, 6 of those as the First Female Chairperson. As well as all her normal duties, Sue steered the Board through the Pandemic, with the weekly board meetings being held on Zoom, as we prepared for the return to the green. Sue is also a qualified bowls coach and, together with her husband Charlie, are very active playing members of St Vincent Bowling Club in Glasgow. I am delighted to say that Sue's skills will not be lost to bowls as she has recently been appointed to the Board of World Bowls and we wish her every success in this role in the future. On behalf of the Board and the Staff, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Sue, for your dedication, leadership and wisdom during your years with Bowls Scotland.



David thanked everyone for attending the AGM and to the staff for the running of the AGM. David wished everyone a safe and happy festive season and closed the meeting at 12:50pm

### **Appendix I – District Coordinator Update**

**The following District Co-Ordinators have been elected as new DC's or have been re-elected for another 4-year term.**

District 3 Ladies:	Kathleen Gordon, Olmehdrum BC
District 8 Ladies:	Dawn Hunter, Gallatown BC
District 8 Gents:	Chris Storf, Abbeyview BC
District 10 Gents:	Ron McArthur, Zetland BC
District 11 Gents:	Ian Allen, Dumbarton Rock BC
District 13 Ladies:	Fiona Lynch, West Calder BC
District 15 Gents:	Robert Donaldson, Parkside BC
District 15 Ladies:	Marcia Norton, Corstorphine BC
District 16 Ladies:	Lynda Christison, Polton BC
District 18 Gents:	Robert Forrest, Wishaw South BC
District 29 Ladies:	Margaret Bingham, Cumnock BC
District 23 Ladies:	Pauline Wilson, Willowbank BC
District 24 Ladies:	Anne Millar, Cardonald BC
District 25 Ladies:	Carol Spiers, Charleston BC
District 28 Gents:	Gordon Mabon, Northwest Kilmarnock BC
District 30 Gents:	Derrick Pearce, Peebles BC
District 32 Gents & Ladies:	David Kelly, Stranraer BC

**The following District Coordinators have also stepped down from their position since the 2021 AGM. We wish to thank them for all their support over the years.**

District 4 Ladies:	Patricia Geddes, Woodend (Aberdeen) BC
District 8 Ladies:	Kaye Cullinan, Headwell BC
District 8 Gents:	Jim Boyce, Dalgety Bay BC
District 9 Gents:	Bryan Stillie, Doune Castle BC
District 12 Ladies:	Janice Grant, Kirkintilloch BC
District 12 Gents:	Benjamin Major, Lenzie BC
District 13 Ladies:	Margaret Halliday, Whitburn BC (Bowls Scotland President 2022)
District 15 Gents:	Kenny Girdler, Balerno BC
District 18 Gents:	Ian Alexander, Lanark Thistle BC
District 18 Ladies:	Ray Fyfe, Motherwell BC
District 19 Gents:	Tom Weir, Dalserf BC
District 20 Gents:	Andrew Kyle, Caldercraig BC
District 22 Gents:	Anthony Grimshaw, Auchinairn BC
District 24 Ladies:	Denise Connell, Pollokshaws BC
District 28 Gents:	John Anderson, Townholm BC (Bowls Scotland President 2022)
District 30 Gents:	Alan Bennie, Eyemouth BC

Adam Muir, District 12 Gents District Co-Ordinator and Westermains BC member, sadly passed away in October 2022.