

Norfolk Bowls Association (Men's)



REPORT of CLUBS MEETING held on 29th September 2019 at Wymondham Dell BC

Below is a summary of the matters raised at the Clubs Meeting on 29th September 2019.

1) Report & update from Hon. Secretary/Bowls England Delegate (*John Ottaway*)

a) Annual General Meeting & League Annual General Meeting

These will be held on Sunday 8th December at County Arts with relevant paperwork to be issued in due course. The closing date for Nominations was 15th September so this has passed. There has been no nomination for the position of Junior Vice President and if any member is interested in this position please contact the Hon. Secretary. Any Motions to the AGMs must be submitted by 15th October.

b) Laws of Sport – Draw for rinks

Following the statement issued last year, we will proceed on the same basis in 2020 where the home drawn player has the choice of rink.

c) Sponsorship

Sponsorship for 2019 was secured with East Bilney Garage in association with Renault & Dacia & we are hopeful this will continue in 2020. The sponsorship is jointly with our Ladies section and was for a financial payment in return for us offering product placement at four of our major events over the summer. As part of the arrangement, score cards were to be provided but there was a delay in producing but we now have these and these will be distributed at the AGM in December.

d) Annual Luncheon

This will be held on 6th October 2019 with 96 attending. The future of the Luncheon was discussed and with the cost increasing & the number attending reducing year on year consideration is to be given as to whether this should continue or be replaced by less formal presentations after the County Finals & League playoffs. This matter is to be taken forward by the Management Committee and I will report further at the AGM.

e) Dress Code

Bowls England Regulations have been updated to provide for flat soled bowling shoes with no colour restriction. Such shoes are now more prevalent & thought will be given to updating our own regulations to cover this and extending our current regulation definition to provide for “smooth” flat soled shoes with no colour restriction.

In addition, coloured clothing is becoming more common & this requires County approval. Although I have not received any requests to approve such items I expect to in the coming months. Our current regulations do not allow for other than white or grey below the waist to be worn so we need to consider whether other approved colours will be permitted. This provoked much comment from those in attendance and the views expressed will be taken on board and considered.

A few issues on the wearing of shorts arose over the season but the guidance is clear in that Clubs still have the veto and this veto will continue & following a particular issue last season the County along with the Clubs must be firm in its enforcement.

f) Executive Board/AGM

The main Association AGM is due to be held in March 2020. The only matter likely to be on the Agenda is the appointment of the Executive Officer (currently held by Peter Cottee) and if this is the case then the meeting agreed that the appointment could be managed by an email ballot without the need of a formal meeting.

g) Bowls England

Items of interest from the Bowls England office are distributed as & when received & considered relevant to Clubs but the following need to be highlighted:-

Membership Register

There has been little movement with this since the last meeting & I will wait and see how this develops.

Board/Chief Executive

The Bowls England Board Chair (David Mitchell-Gears) is to stand down at the 2020 AGM and the Chief Executive (Tony Allcock) has announced his retirement in April 2020

Disciplinary

This continues to a major issue with many cases referred to Bowls England. I am pleased to report however that there have been few from Norfolk. The recent case involving Darren Childs (Northamptonshire) highlights the consequences of some of the matters that have arisen.

Coaching

Details of "Coach Bowls" courses are on the Bowls England & Coach Bowls Websites. There are a series of Courses to be held at Wymondham Dell over the winter (details of which have been circulated) & members are encouraged to apply. Bursaries for up to 50% of the course fees are available with details on the Bowls England website or through me.

Umpires

Bowls England has advised that bursaries will be available for Umpire Course fees and if anyone is interested then please contact me.

2) Report & Update from Hon Treasurer (*David Naunton*)

Finances are stable & the initial indication is that a small surplus will be made for the last financial year. The Accounts will be published & distributed ahead of the AGM.

The payment of the annual fees & subscription for 2020 are due by 1st November.

As for the Benevolent Fund, the Trustees and the Committee continue to meet at least twice a year to consider Grants and discuss the financial position of the Benevolent Fund generally. We are always willing to look at applications from Club Secretaries to assist bowlers in need of a little help in times of hardship, and if they know of anyone in this situation please contact me

3) Report & Update from Hon Match Secretary (*David Naunton*)

The friendly match programme presented many problems & challenges over the course of the season including many player call-offs & some non-attendance but with a couple of exceptions all matches went ahead. In an attempt to reduce or avoid these in future some changes to the programme in 2020 are being considered including moving some matches to Monday to avoid clashing with the Federation County League and starting matches earlier to give players the opportunity to get to any evening match they may have.

The Selection process for friendly matches is to be looked at and some changes may need to be made as to how this is carried out

4) Report & Update from Hon Competition Secretary (*John George*)

The closing date for entries in County Championships & County League for 2020 is 1st November 2019.

A few changes are proposed in 2020 namely:-

A review of the match notification & results process for County Championships is to be undertaken which may involve an email process for both notification & results.

The draws for the Bales Cup, Lord Fermoy Cup & Jermy Cup is currently in regional groups prior to the latter stages. It was agreed that due to relatively small number of entries in the Jermy Cup and the fact that matches are played on Sunday's where

travelling is not a major issue the draw for this will be County wide rather than in Groups. The Bales Cup & Lord Fermoy Cup will continue as at present.

Due to only the winners of the Senior Fours & Junior Pairs qualifying for the National Championships the final of these competitions will be played at an earlier date and not alongside the other finals played at the end of July to give the winners more time before the National Championships.

The quarter finals & semi-finals of the two bowl singles will be played on the same date.

5) Report & Update from Hon League Secretary (*Mark Elliott*)

A draft structure for the Leagues in 2020 was distributed. The aim is to achieve zones with 8 teams so Clubs have a full programme and this may mean that there will no longer be a Central 2 Zone with teams formerly in that Zone being integrated into other Zones. This will be dependent on the team entries made so the draft structure may change. If additional teams enter then it is possible that the Zone 2 leagues may have more than 8 teams which will result in the Zone 2 programme extending into early August. The alternative will be to play some matches on other than Wednesday, which is something we want to avoid so as not to clash with matches in other leagues in which Clubs compete. A final structure will be put together when all entries have been received and circulated to Clubs.

Another point is that the possible loss of Central 2 Zone will mean consideration will need to be given for the Zone play-offs for the Hansells Cup.

6) Other business

County Tour - Denis West reported that the 2020 tour will be to Kent & Sussex. There are spaces on the tour and should anyone be interested they should contact either Denis or the Tour Manager Brian Howes who will be able to provide more details.

RG Carter Group BC raised an issue that arose in a match between themselves & Norfolk BC and this will be investigated & considered.

- **The meeting closed at 11.55am**
- **The next meeting will be arranged for March/April 2020**

John Ottaway

Hon. Men's Secretary

4th October 2019