

Norfolk Bowls Association



Clubs Meeting on 29th March 2026 Summary Report

1. Website

This was the main topic discussed.

Generally, the website has been well received and is easy to navigate.

The software, particularly the Competitions portal, has been a steep learning curve for us with several issues in the software package arising. Most of these issues have been addressed and those outstanding are being worked on.

It has to be accepted that in the first year not everything will be as perfect as we would like it but what has been learned will mean we will be in a far better position to deliver a slicker product in future years. It is hoped all members will understand and accept this.

In summary: -

The Website & Competitions Portal is in place with key information held and additional details will be added in the coming days and weeks. This includes, amongst others

- County Events Diary
- County Friendly match details
- Player Code of Conduct
- A Team Player Registration Form

League fixtures and Competition Draws are in place

Turning to other website matters, there are issues which are now being addressed

a) County League Fixtures

Whilst these are now available, the main issue has been with some individual team fixtures having a run of home or away matches. This is something that has been unable to avoid and is caused mainly trying to accommodate Clubs with more than 3 teams in the League and where they cannot have more than 2 matches at home on any date. From what has been learnt this year, we should be able to improve on this next year.

For League results, the software does not allow entry of half points so in 2026 the match points allocation will be:-

- Rink - win 2 points
- Rink tie -1 point
- Overall win - 4 points
- Overall tie - 2 points
- (10 points in total)

b) County/National Competitions

The individual competitions are now shown in 7 areas, rather the previous year's Groups

- Areas 1/2/3 – equivalent to the previous Group 1 (each Area sending 1 to the quarter finals)
- Area 4 – equivalent to the previous Group 3 (sending 2 to the quarter finals)
- Areas 5/6/7 – equivalent to the previous Group 4 each Area sending 1 to the quarter finals)
- The Junior Singles & Junior pairs are an open draw
- All draws have been made on a random basis

c) County Team Cups

- Bales Cup Areas are on general geographic basis
- Lord Fermoy Cup is on a general geographic basis
- Jermy Cup is county wide

PLEASE NOTE due to unforeseen circumstances in the Fermoy Cup, the original draw has needed to be re-drawn and the revised draw has been published (Clubs were informed prior to the re-draw)

The system provides for emails to be sent automatically to all entrants with details of their individual matches. Whilst we address some behind the scenes issues and have resolved any issues with the draws, the issue of these emails have been held but will be released shortly.

d) Results entry

For the County League and the Team Cups the results entry process is only available to the person who submitted the entry, which is usually the Club Secretary so as it stands only that person will be able to enter the match result. There is the ability to change who can enter results and Club Secretaries will be asked to confirm the email address of the person responsible for results entry for each of their entered teams, and then this email updated (by us) on the portal.

Once matches are played, be they County League or Competitions, the result submission process is simple and intuitive and should present no problems. However, additional information on the results process for the Bales Cup & Jermy Cup will be issued to Clubs shortly.

HELP ON THE WEBSITE IS AVAILABLE AND IF THIS IS NEEDED PLEASE CONTACT:

- BERNIE PERRETT - bernie@yardon.org
- IAN GROVES - leaguesec64@outlook.com

2. County Matters

a) Disciplinary/Misconduct

The updated Bowls England Regulation 9 is now in place & effective and all matters of misconduct must be dealt under this Regulation. Affiliation is subject to Clubs compliance and must be reflected in Club's Constitutions.

Derek Ryder is the County Disciplinary Officer and should be contacted on all if help & guidance is required on any misconduct issue

b) Competition entry fees

As previously announced the Norfolk Bowls Association Entry Fees entry fee for individual competitions will increase next year to £2.30 per player

c) Competition entry numbers 2026

Entry numbers are similar to 2025 and it is expected that we will have 2 qualifiers for the Bowls England National finals in most competitions which have 2 County representatives. This will be confirmed shortly

d) Competition & League entries for 2027

The date when these will open (on the portal) will be brought forward to allow Clubs to better plan the seasons programme and the dates announced in due course but it is suggested that League entries to open in early September & close late October with Competition entries opening in September and closing late January

e) Sponsors

We have new sponsors whose Logs appear or will appear on the website. Just Click on the logo to open their website for more details.

- Howden Insurance – they continue to support us in various ways. One of these is to give Clubs £25.00 for each policy taken out by a member. Clubs are urged to let their members know of this arrangement with details of what Howdens have to offer in a pack handed to Clubs (*for those who do not have the pack I attach the Howdens letter included within it*)
- Jack & Bowl (Mark Royal) – most will be aware of this Bowls Supplier who regularly visit our Clubs with their wares.
- Top Toes Foot-care – a foot care specialist based in Dereham
- Bryan Cater Ltd (Gavin Cater) – a chimney sweep & ancillary services based in Northwold

Others are in the pipe line.

f) Officer positions

- The Senior & Junior Vice President positions remain vacant and Clubs are asked if any of the members in taking up these positions
- Richard Summers has been appointed County Team Manager
- Harry Geary has been appointed Executive Board Chairman/Executive Officer
- Derek Ryder has been appointed County Disciplinary Officer
- Andrea Morton is the County Safeguarding Officer

g) Code of Conduct

- Clubs have been given a suggested Code for their Club and are urged to consider this in light of the changes made to the Bowls England Misconduct Regulation 9.
- A Player Code of Conduct for members representing our inter-county Teams will be introduced

h) Affiliation Fees

These are due on 30th April and the relevant paperwork has been issued to Clubs. In 2026, we have introduced a joint process for Men & Ladies which is being managed by the Ladies Section Treasurer (Pat Smith).

The County Affiliation Fee has remained unchanged for many years and with ever rising costs, Clubs are warned that these may need to increase

i) Inter-County programme 2026

This has been agreed covering the Middleton Cup, Eastern Counties League, Balcomb Trophy, White Rose Trophy & Over 60 Mixed inter-county and will be published on the website shortly.

Norfolk will host the Regional Finals of the Balcomb Trophy at County Arts BC on 30th May

j) County Friendlies

The programme has reduced in number in 2026 and application forms to play have been issued. The programme & application form will be published on the website shortly.

President Invitation matches are arranged for Clubs hosting special anniversary matches and Clubs should apply to the Hon. Match Secretary if they wish to host such a match

3. Bowls England matters

a) Bowls England/EIBA amalgamation D

Discussions by both parties the parties is on-going

b) Trans-gender Policy

This has been published on the Bowls England website and must be adhered to. The Policy may be viewed and downloaded from the BE website <https://www.bowlsengland.com/trans-and-gender-diverse/>

c) Junior Talent pathway

Details have been circulated to Clubs who should consider if they wish to be included

d) Bowls Big Summer

This initiative to run alongside the Glasgow Commonwealth Games replaces the Bowls Big Weekend with the intention to increase awareness and participation with full details of what is on offer on the Bowls England website. Clubs are invited to sign up to be part of this.

e) Bowls England Awards

Congratulations to Kings Lynn on their Diversity & Inclusion Award and Clubs should consider whether they wish to nominate for future Awards

f) National Finals

Attendance numbers increased last year with tickets for the 2026 finals are now available to purchase. Further details on the Finals will be published in due course.

John Ottaway

Hon. Men's Secretary

30th March 2026