



ESMBA 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Woodland Grange, Old Milverton Lane, Leamington Spa
Saturday 23 July 2022

President	Brandon Whittaker
Chairman	Barry Hedges
General Secretary	Linda White
Treasurer	Simon Willies
Membership Secretary	Brian Baker
Competition Organiser	Vacant
ICC Secretary	Steve Bailey
Coaching Director	Brian Baker
Umpires Director	Richard Bemand
Development Officer	Vacant
Committee Member	Nicky Tresadern
Committee Member	Elaine Willies
Total Votes	8
Delegates from Counties	22
Grand total of votes	30

1. The Chairman welcomed all those present and opened the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Somerset and Nicky Tresadern.

3. Minutes of the 2020 AGM

There were no comments on the 2020 AGM minutes which had previously been circulated and they were accepted.

Proposed – Barrie Chadwick

Seconded – David Millington Jones

For - 30 Against - 0 Abstentions – 0

Minutes of the 2021 AGM

The Chairman pointed out that when the management fees were agreed the ICC Secretary was omitted from the list. It was agreed at the following management meeting that the amount paid should be in line with previous years and agreement was received from the floor.

Proposed – Martin McGregor

Seconded – David Millington Jones

For - 30 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0

4. Matters Arising

As the Rules Revision Meeting has been taken out of the Constitution, Roger Jones asked if a county could send in proposed changes to the rules. It was agreed that such changes or revisions should be sent to the management committee who would review them and decide whether they should be adopted. If there was anything contentious it would be circulated to counties for their comments.

5. Adoption of Reports

a) President's Report

The President's report was adopted unanimously.

Proposed – Barrie Chadwick

Seconded – Adam Smith

For - 30 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0

b) Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report had previously been circulated and outlined the success of the Nationals, an International against Wales, the British Isles and World Championships. The ESMBA's membership with the Bowls Development Alliance has developed and given us access time with professional development officers as well as a working partnership within safeguarding.

The ESMBA have also developed a new grant scheme for existing clubs as well as new ones and will also help individuals who want to train as coaches or umpires.

A change to the Open competitions means they will be located around the country to give every member a chance to enter without excessive travelling. This season will see one in Kent, Cambridgeshire, Solihull and Dorset.

James Scoins asked whether the plan was to still have an ESMBA Development Officer. It was agreed that the role will need to be there but it will not be a strategic one as we are taking advice from the BDA and Sport England as to where we should be going. The job will therefore be an administrative role to support the BDA Development Officer.

There was reference in the Chairman's report about changing the name of the U21s to the U21s Academy and Roger Green asked to the reasoning for this. With this change it can be more coaching based and will be used to develop the U21s. If it is worked properly it is a great aid to the counties.

The report was unanimously adopted.

Proposed – Brab Hallows

Seconded – James Scoins

For - 30 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0

c) Treasurer's Report and Approval of 2022 Accounts

The relevant paperwork had already been circulated and Simon Willies asked if there were any questions.

The Treasurer's Report was adopted unanimously.

Proposed – Roger Green
Seconded – Robin Armstrong

For - 30 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0

The 2021/2022 Accounts were also adopted.

Proposed – James Scoins
Seconded – Darren Stanford

For - 30 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0

d) Registration Secretary's Report

Brian Baker said that membership total in his report was now slightly higher at 13,259. He will soon be sending out forms for this year and they will only show current membership. The necessity to use these 2022-23 forms was highlighted so that lapsed membership details only apply once, ie the previous season only. They must not be carried forward indefinitely.

The Registration Secretary's Report was adopted.

Proposed – Kath Fussey
Seconded – David Millington Jones

For - 30 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0

e) Competition Organiser's Report

The report was written by Brandon Whittaker as Robin Armstrong was co-opted towards the end of the year. There were no questions and it was adopted unanimously.

Proposed – Barrie Chadwick
Seconded – David Millington Jones

For - 30 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0

f) Umpires Director's Report

The Chairman said that Richard Bemand was not standing for re-election and thanked him on behalf of the Association for his service last year.

His report had been previously circulated and was adopted unanimously.

Proposed – Brab Hallowes
Seconded – Les Ricketts

For - 29 Against - 0 Abstentions - 1

g) Coaching Director's Report

Brian Baker said that there are still great voids between the counties that have coaches and those who don't. He thanked those counties who were using coaching to actively increase membership.

As the Coach Bowls courses are recognised academically these are a great aid in increasing membership. Although the ESMBA still have a budget to help with course attendance the proposed grant scheme may provide additional help to train more coaches. Through structured coaching we are endeavouring to help the grass roots players understand the principles of short mat bowls better.

Report adopted unanimously.

Proposed – Darren Stanford
Seconded – James Scoins

For - 30 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0

6. Proposals

6a. Proposed amendment to Constitutional change Proposal 4 from the Management Committee by Norfolk County SMBA.

For - 29 Against - 0 Abstentions - 1 Passed.

6b.1 To remove 3c and add Appendix 1 which will list all current member counties and allow more to be added without an AGM.

For - 30 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0 Passed.

6b.2 Wording change to 3e Membership.

For - 30 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0 Passed.

6b.3 Reword 3j Membership.

For - 27 Against - 0 Abstentions - 3 Passed.

6b.4 Withdrawn following approval of 6a.

6b.5 Change of wording 4b Fees and Subscriptions.

For - 13 Against - 13 Abstentions - 4 Failed.

6b.6 Reword of 4b Fees and Subscriptions

For - 30 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0 Passed.

6b.7 Additional heading and statement re Safeguarding.

For - 30 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0 Passed.

6b.8 Additional membership requirement.

For - 30 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0 Passed.

6c. Proposal from Greater Manchester to amend Chairman's voting rights in Section 5F and Section 6D paragraph 2.

For - 10 Against - 3 Abstentions - 17 Failed.

7. Management Fees

The Management Fees circulated with the AGM paperwork were approved.

For - 24 Against - 0 Abstentions - 6 Passed.

8. Membership Fees

The Chairman said that the figures had been reviewed and even with a loss this year it was not felt that the membership fees should be increased. Carried unanimously.

9. Election of Officers

The Chairman asked that the following Management Committee positions be re-elected en bloc:-

President – Brandon Whittaker
Chairman – Barry Hedges
General Secretary – Linda White
Treasurer – Simon Willies
Registration Secretary – Brian Baker
ICC Secretary – Steve Bailey
Coaching Director – Brian Baker
Committee – Elaine Willies
Committee – Nicky Tresadern

For – 30 Against - 0 Abstentions – 0

He explained that Robin Armstrong was co-opted in May as Competition Organiser which meant that it was too late for a nomination to be submitted for this AGM. The Chairman therefore proposed the nomination and this was seconded by Lynn Dean.

For - 30 Against - 0 Abstentions - 0

Vacancy for Umpires Director

The Chairman asked for a nomination from the floor for the position of Umpires Director and Brab Hallowes volunteered.

Seconded – Tracey Bailey

For - 30 Against - 0 Abstentions – 0

Vacancy for Development Officer

This post was now more administrative and the money which had been allocated in the past was now being used to pay towards the nine Development Officers at the BDA. James Scoins said he would like to be Development Officer.

Proposed – Barrie Chadwick
Seconded – Martin McGregor

For - 18 Against - 1 Abstentions – 11

10. Appointment of Auditors

Simon Willies proposed that we continue to use Murray Smith as the Accountants for our financial inspection.

Proposed – Simon Willies
Seconded – Roger Green

For - 30 Against - 0 Abstentions – 0

11. Date of 2023 AGM

Saturday 22 July 2023 at 10.30 am.

Open Forum

1. The Chairman opened the Open Forum.

2. Safeguarding

Lynn Dean, the Lead Safeguarding Officer, gave a very informative Powerpoint presentation which was well received by all those present.

The presentation provided those county delegates present with an overview of the bodies involved with safeguarding in bowls, how they interact with one another and their importance individually. The inclusion of a graph from the new Safeguarding reporting programme My Concern highlighted the types of cases being reported within bowls, quantified them and allowed for further discussion. In total to date this year the Bowls Case management group have dealt with 33 diverse cases of a serious nature.

The safeguarding update for July 2022 and the slides from the presentation will be available to view on the ESMBA website.

3. Grants

The new grant scheme will be used to support clubs, counties and individuals. We want to set up a pot of money each year and look at different areas which could benefit from help. New clubs could use funding for buying capital equipment and for every £1 they put in the ESMBA would pay £4. We would look at a commitment of members registering with us for, say, 3 years. Similarly for existing clubs for their £1 contribution we would put in £2.

Grants will also be available to encourage new people to train as coaches as well as umpires and safeguarding training could perhaps be looked at. The BDA have hubs which get moved around the country and they will put on training courses which can be utilised.

We are aware that some of the new bowlers, especially the youngsters, might want some help and we will also look at how we can promote short mat bowls within the schools.

4. Rule Books

We had an email from West Sussex SMBA asking that we reinstate provision of rule books to newly registered members. The Management Committee took the decision some time ago to stop issuing these and instead put a pdf copy on the website for downloading. It was found that in many cases the books did not get distributed within the clubs. We will however put this on the agenda of the next Management Committee meeting for further discussion.

5. Any Other Business

There was no further business.