



ESMBA 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Holiday Inn, Hinckley Road, Coventry, CV2 2HP  
Saturday 22 July 2023

President	Brandon Whittaker
Chairman	Barry Hedges
Vice Chairman	Vacant
General Secretary	Linda White
Treasurer	Simon Willies
Registration Secretary	Brian Baker
Competition Organiser	Robin Armstrong
ICC Secretary	Steve Bailey
Coaching Director	Brian Baker
Umpires Director	Brab Hallowes
Development Officer	James Scoins
IT and Social Media Officer	Vacant
Total Votes	11
Delegates from Counties	17
Grand total of votes	28

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

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Alan Woodacre (Devon).

3. Minutes of 2022 AGM

There were no comments on the 2022 AGM minutes which had previously been circulated and they were accepted.

Proposed – Barrie Chadwick

Seconded – Les Ricketts

For - 28      Against - 0      Abstentions – 0

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Adoption of Reports

a) Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report had previously been circulated and outlined the success of moving the Open competitions around the country which this year will continue with the use of Melton Mowbray, Solihull, Oxford and Oakhampton.

He highlighted the work with North Somerset schools which was going from strength to strength and will result in the participants joining as members.

All the England teams saw success in the past year and in October England will host the first British Isles Ladies Championships.

The report expanded on how to make the Association stronger going forward and the proposed change of the committee positions to specific roles of Vice Chairman and IT and Social Media Officer passed at the preceding Special General Meeting.

The report was unanimously adopted.

Proposed – Kath Fussey  
Seconded – Gordon Hughes

For - 28          Against - 0          Abstentions - 0

b) Treasurer's Report and Approval of 2022 Accounts

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

Gordon Hughes asked whether putting the National entry fee up by 50p was enough but it was explained that the committee felt at the moment with other county fees it would be enough.

Barrie Chadwick suggested it might be time to just put one of the fees up rather than put a lot of increase on counties. The Chairman said it is a choice to enter a National qualifier whereas if it were just on the membership fee that would affect everyone. Even with the ICC fee being put up it is still lower than pre-Covid.

Gordon Hughes asked if the BDA was value for money. The Chairman said the BDA have a team of regional development officers and we can access different services, eg safeguarding. We are looking at where they can help in specific areas for short mat bowls. At the moment they set up a hub where their officers are located for four months and we are looking at the clubs in the surrounding area so that they can work with those groups.

Bridget Hallows said that Devon would oppose the increase to the membership fee or at least ask that it be deferred until next year because of the impact it would have on their members.

The Treasurer's Report was adopted.

Proposed – Gordon Hughes  
Seconded – Les Ricketts

For - 27          Against - 0          Abstentions - 1

The 2022/2023 Accounts were also adopted.

Proposed – Gordon Hughes  
Seconded – Les Ricketts

For - 27          Against - 0          Abstentions - 1

c) Registration Secretary's Report

The Registration Secretary's report had been previously circulated. Brian Baker said that there had been an 8% increase in membership which considering the climate is healthy. He stressed again the importance of counties filling in information on age groups and club venue addresses.

The Registration Secretary's Report was adopted.

Proposed – Barrie Chadwick  
Seconded – Tracey Bailey

For - 27          Against - 1          Abstentions - 0

d) Competition Organiser's Report

The Competition Organiser's report had been previously circulated. David Millington Jones said that Herefordshire had trouble getting enough entries for the Nationals and Robin Armstrong said the solution was to ask an adjoining county if they could hold the qualifiers together.

The Competition Organiser's report was adopted.

Proposed – Les Ricketts  
Seconded – Lynn Dean

For - 28          Against - 0          Abstentions - 0

e) Umpires Director's Report

The Umpire Director's report had been previously circulated and he highlighted the fact that a third of the counties do not have umpires. The ESMBA grant scheme can help with costs but this year there was only one application paid out from an umpire for 50% of the cost of his equipment.

Nathan Bailey had looked at the umpires page on the website but said it was not clear how to actually go about training. This needed to be updated.

The report adopted unanimously.

Proposed – Les Ricketts  
Seconded – Paul Bruce

For - 28          Against - 0          Abstentions - 0

f) Coaching Director's Report

The Coaching Director's report had been previously circulated. Brian Baker said that we still don't have enough qualified coaches. Club members cannot teach others how to bowl because they are not insured, unlike a qualified coach who is and that is important. He said the ESMBA had an allocation to pay for individuals to go on the course but it was not taken up. Part of that qualification and registration is that the coach is protected in every respect.

Brian is standing down and will concentrate on membership and the Chairman thanked him on behalf of the membership for his efforts and work as Coaching Director. Martin McGregor has put himself forward for the position of Coaching Director.

Report adopted unanimously.

Proposed – Martin McGregor  
Seconded – David Millington Jones

For - 28      Against - 0      Abstentions – 0

g) Development Officer's Report

The Development Officer's report had been previously circulated. James Scoins showed the literature which is now available for distribution and said that every county was being given a pack of what is available. He also asked for contributions to the newsletter.

Report adopted unanimously.

Proposed – Barrie Chadwick  
Seconded – Gordon Hughes

For – 28      Against – 0      Abstentions – 0

h) ICC Secretary's Report

The ICC Secretary's report had been previously circulated. Steve Bailey said that entries for the ICC were to be in by the end of September and that the diary is ready to go on the website. An ICC rules update will be sent out after the seminar at the beginning of August together with a code of conduct which will apply to Nationals and Open competitions.

Report adopted unanimously.

Proposed – Les Ricketts  
Seconded – Lynn Dean

For – 28      Against – 0      Abstentions – 0

i) Lead Safeguarding Officer's Report

The Lead Safeguarding Officer's report had been previously circulated. Lynn Dean said that we are doing well comparing ourselves to other codes. There are now 73 cases over the bowls codes and one of the increasing conversations is the concern of elderly players with dementia.

We sit within the framework of the NSPCC for children and the Ann Craft Trust for adults and we meet the conditions we are required to.

Report adopted unanimously.

Proposed – Barry Whitburn  
Seconded – Les Ricketts

For – 28      Against – 0      Abstentions – 0

The case management group members asked for their thanks to be recorded in respect of the work which Lynn Dean undertakes.

6. Proposals

6a.    Wording change to 3a and 3f Membership.

For - 28      Against - 0      Abstentions - 0      Passed.

6b.    Additional wording for clarification to 3i Membership.

For - 28      Against - 0      Abstentions - 0      Passed.

6c.    Change of date from 30 November to 30 October Fees and Subscriptions.

For - 21      Against - 7      Abstentions - 0      Passed.

6d.    Clarification of membership date 4b Fees and Subscriptions.

For - 27      Against - 1      Abstentions - 0      Passed.

6e.    Consideration of members rights Severance of Membership.

For - 28      Against – 0      Abstentions – 0      Passed.

7. Management Fees

The Management Fees circulated with the AGM paperwork were approved.

Proposed – Les Ricketts  
Seconded – Paul Bruce

For - 20      Against - 0      Abstentions - 8      Passed.

8. Membership Fees

There was discussion about the proposed increase to £5 for membership fees and Bridget Hallows said Devon would like the increase to be delayed in the present climate.

It was generally felt that it was better to make smaller incremental changes on an annual basis rather than one larger one even though the price had remained the same for some years. Tracey Bailey suggested a 50p increment this year and the same next year but Les Ricketts proposed that from 2023/24 a 50p increase should be applied for four years and be ratified each year and this was voted on.

Proposed – Les Ricketts  
Seconded – Rod Dawson

For – 17      Against – 9      Abstentions - 2

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  
Development Officer – James Scoins  
Umpires Director – Brab Hallows

For – 28      Against - 0      Abstentions – 0

Martin McGregor had been nominated for Coaching Director.

Proposed – Brian Baker  
Seconded – Linda White

For – 28      Against – 0      Abstentions – 0

The Competition Organiser's role is to be split with Nicky Tresadern running activities on the day and attending management committee meetings and Robin Armstrong looking after the paperwork.

Proposed – Robin Armstrong  
Seconded – Bridget Hallows

For - 28      Against - 0      Abstentions – 0

Vacancy for Vice Chairman

Nominations for the position of Vice Chairman are yet to be found and we all need to try and find individuals who would be willing to take up this post.

Vacancy for IT and Social Media Officer

The Chairman asked for a nomination from the floor for this position and Rachel Hedges volunteered.

Proposed – Barrie Chadwick  
Seconded – Les Ricketts

For - 28      Against - 0      Abstentions – 0

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 – Martin McGregor

For - 28      Against - 0      Abstentions – 0

11. Date of 2024 AGM

Saturday 20 July 2024 at 10.30 am.

Open Forum

1. The Chairman opened the Open Forum.

2. Development – Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) Presentation

David Bolt, Development Team Leader as well as Club and Community Development Officer for the BDA gave a presentation on their work with the ESMBA.

He explained they were supporting clubs and volunteers to develop, sustain and grow their presence in the local communities. Development officers are based at each hub for a four month period during which time they connect with local clubs and create a supportive network.

The hub programme also allows the team to host face-to-face seminars, courses and development sessions. This work will be a driving force in supporting bowls to become more diverse and inclusive thus promoting the sustainability of our clubs in the future.

### Club Development Health Check

This will be a self-assessment form which clubs complete about their club's development (membership, recruitment, activities, workforce, finance and facilities). Once completed those clubs will receive an automatic bespoke report based on their responses which scores the club on each category above plus on innovation, inclusivity, governance, accessibility and community outreach. The report will offer recommendations for improving each score.

Barrie Chadwick asked when the Club Development Health Check Assessment would be online and was told it should be over the next six months although they were hoping it would be sooner. The assessment will be tested and once the BDA have feedback it will go out for a second testing by being circulated to the counties and other social media.

Gordon Hughes wanted to know if the BDA would be able to help his county to put on events for publicising clubs. He was told they would try and have demo and gala days and give people a chance to try the game. When they identify the base for a hub they will contact the county association as their first port of call and do everything they can to assist with their plans. They have a grant process which might be able to fund such things.

The BDA will have representation at all our major events going forward.

### 3. Safeguarding - Dementia

Amanda Scriven-Purcell from Coach Bowls gave a presentation on the subject of dementia and making bowls more dementia friendly. She is an Alzheimer's Society Ambassador.

Coach Bowls are trying to challenge the negative views associated with dementia and help those living with it to live a better life.

The word 'dementia' describes a set of symptoms that may include memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language. These changes are often small to start with but for someone with dementia they may become severe enough to affect daily life. A person with dementia may also experience changes in their mood or behaviour.

It is true that more people over 65 have dementia but it is not exclusively an older person's disease; younger people get dementia too.

She listed five key messages around the disease:-

- Dementia is not a natural part of ageing
- Dementia is caused by a disease of the brain
- Dementia is not just about losing your memory
- It is possible to live well with dementia
- There is more to the person than dementia



Coach Bowls are trying to challenge the negative views associated with dementia and help those living with it to live a better life. This informative presentation outlined how we can all help those affected by the disease. Follow the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvbrYTdW5l0> to see the whole presentation called ESMBA guidance to bowling with dementia.

4. Dress Code

There was a discussion in respect of dress code for the ESMBA Nationals, Opens and ICC. The dress code needs to be an overall code especially with streaming.

- Logo of no more than 3" allowed on sleeve of shirt
- County names allowed on back of shirt as long as in proportion
- Name on shirt allowed but not nicknames
- Sponsors logos allowed on sleeves and back of the shirt
- County badges allowed on front of shirt, size as per 3" rule

It was agreed that nothing other than the county badge can be on the front of the shirt.

A question was raised in respect of wearing shorts and having the county badge on trousers and this was something which would be further discussed at the management committee meeting.

5. Any Other Business

David Millington Jones asked that information be shared with counties regarding the performance of the Personal Accident scheme. He asked how much has been paid annually in premiums, how many claims have been made and how much has been paid out. The figures were not to hand but would be looked at.

Steve Bailey had received an email about England players and their refusal to play for their counties. It was confirmed that in the players Code of Conduct they must make themselves available for 70% of county games and competitions.