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| Glouc Bowls Assoc  TRANSPARENT | **GLOUCESTERSHIRE BOWLS ASSOCIATION**  **A Member of Bowls England.** |

**G.B.A Joint Executive Committee**

**Minutes of meeting of Saturday 26 October 2019**

**Falcon B.C. : 10.00 a.m.**

**Members present**: Chair and Secretary - Lindsay Collin (County Administrator and WD BE Delegate) LC, Anne Beaven (WD co-opted Delegate) AB, Jane Hawkes (County Treasurer) JH, Myra Savage (GBA Match Secretary) MS, Avril Hole (Deputy County Treasurer) AH, David Rolls (MD Representative) DR, Keith Hawkes (Deputy County Treasurer) KH, Martin Bevan (Deputy County Administrator) MS

**Apologies :**  Linda Bennett (WD Representative), Roger Harrison (GBA Deputy Match Secretary)

1. **Welcome** by Chair Apologies explained. Noted that David Skeats and Craig Guthrie would formally attend the JEC after the GBA Annual General Meeting in January 2020. One more meeting before then, on 14 December 2019.
2. **Minutes of Joint Executive Meeting of Saturday 27 July 2019** Accepted as a correct record, and ratified.
3. **Matters arising from minutes**

3.1 Bowls in Bristol (Item 12.2) Members enquired from LC regarding the situation in North Bristol. She brought the committee up to date on the overall state of play and some idea of the circumstances of individual clubs.

3.2 Safeguarding (Item 2.2) LC and JH explained the situation regarding various aspects of Safeguarding, referring also to related aspects of GDPR. Poor response so far (seemingly) to the ‘Adult Safeguarding in Bowls’ course at Cotswold BC on 14 November, arranged specially for Gloucestershire clubs. LC will remind clubs and will also include Safeguarding on the JCM agenda. (Action : LC)

A further discussion on this topic raised a number of related issues, including discriminatory treatment of junior players.

3.3 Etiquette guidance (Item 6.1[b] ) . LC’s booklet will be looked at critically by JEC members and additional points possibly added. Initially it will be placed on the Web Portal, but will in due course be sent to club secretaries. LC will also obtain a price for printing of the booklet, for distribution to GBA clubs. (Action : LC)

1. **Annual Presentation Luncheon - LC**

4.1 Went very well. Hotel good, as always. Food generally good, but a few critical points, which LC will convey to the hotel. New duty manager, very attentive. Raffle well organised and run, with innovative input from the County Treasurer. (Action : LC)

4.2 Need to agree 2020 date. 18 October not available. LC has written to the six largest attending clubs to check, and has now agreed 25 October; will confirm booking. (Action : LC)

1. **Financial Report - JH**

5.1 Affiliation update Numbers starting to come in. A few hiccups needing to be sorted by the County Treasurer.

5.2 GBA 2010 Levy 45p per head agreed at last meeting. Cost of Club Handbook now to be covered by GBA2010 rather than divisions.

5.3 Bowls England payments Affiliation fees passed over in February.

5.4 Consolidated accounts Few points still to be sorted from Men’s accounts. Consolidated will be ready for AGM circulation.

5.5 Expenses County Treasurer has prepared expenses sheets for all JEC members to sign, based on their attendance and known mileage per meeting. (Action : JH)

5.6 GBYDS monies The outstanding cheque will be re-issued and passed to the Women’s Division. (Action : JH)

1. **GBA matters - LC**

6.1 Divisional changes LC summarised the known changes in both divisions. WD still seeking a President; now the WD Management Committee’s problem to solve. MD are seeking a Treasurer; KH indicated that there will still be a Finance Committee meeting shortly.

6.2 Umpires’ fees in Gloucestershire Long discussion on the matter of umpiring fees for matches and County-run competitions, particularly the latter, on the basis of information supplied by Mike Manns and Christine Magee. Committee totally committed to supporting our umpires and ensuring that they are seen to be valued. Outcome that GBA will (if it proves necessary) agree to the Association (through the two divisions) meeting the cost of umpires and markers for the County Semi-finals and Finals, rather than paying an annual fee to the EBUA. [Later note – Mike Manns is still attempting to persuade the EBUA to review the reduced payments, so the outcome of that plea will be relevant]. (Action : LC)

6.3 New GBA competition Rules LC reported latest situation. New rules more-or-less complete, but a few minor changes still being debated by the three people drawing up the Rules (LC, Ian Gauld and Christine Magee), and the divisional competition secretaries. Can be accepted by the JEC at the next meeting, so that ready to go into 2020 handbooks and onto the Websites. LC mentioned the difference between the MD and WD on allowing play before a ‘fixed date’ competition; felt by the JEC that this should be the same for both divisions. Also some limited flexibility, in extreme and justified cases only, on entry deadlines.

6.4 Survey of GBA club needs Response so far rather low, only nine out of sixty clubs. Would make drawing conclusions difficult, though LC felt that the nature of the responses was still along the lines of what she would have expected. Could be mentioned at the JCM, but with more results and analysis to come later on. Some of the points being raised were already being addressed, as signaled in these minutes.

LC would also gauge the clubs with real membership difficulties from the affiliation figures over the last three years, if JH would provide these to her. (Action : LC, JH)

6.5 Web sites Some consideration of our GBA Web sites needed, particularly in relation to usage and also the tendency of many clubs not to mention (and link in) the Gloucestershire Web Portal or even the WD site. Noted by DR that it might be possible to measure usage from Google ‘hits’ (or other search engines). Agreed that the future just had to be with entry to one single site for the Association (the Portal), thence to the divisional sites; this would also save money on hosting costs, though might create difficulties in who should maintain and update the two divisional elements. (Action : LC)

1. **Bowls England matters - LC**

7.1 Retirement of BE Chief Executive (Tony Allcock) Expected to be around March 2020. No movement as yet on the appointment of a successor.

7.2 BE County Authorised Representatives (County Delegates) Henceforth the County Administrator and the incoming MD BE Delegate, Craig Guthrie. Chair already in communication with CG and is and will be attempting to ‘bring him up to speed’ in all necessary matters and also on the role of the BE Delegate.

7.3 Ballots for new BE appointments Considerable discussion on the options for a new BE Board Chair and the incoming BE Junior Vice President. Not appropriate to minute the details of that, nor of the actual voting, but – by clear majorities – the committee agreed to vote for Professor Jon Doust for Board Chair and for Michael Morris for JVP. LC will arrange with CG to undertake the voting by the 11 November deadline. (Action : LC)

7.4 BE Counties Meeting 23 November, Coventry Hilton. No agenda received as yet. LC stated that the two County Delegates should attend, plus two others. Agreed that David Skeats should be offered the opportunity and David Rolls take up the final place. (Action : LC)

7.5 BE Women’s and Men’s Presentation Dinners 23 November 2019 and 22 February 2020. Unlikely that anyone other than the Chair would attend the Women’s Dinner. A much larger attendance from the County (and club) expected for the Men’s event, as we have national winners to support (Mixed Fours - Joan Surman, Penny Callaghan, Lee Williamson and Nathan Kitchen).

7.6 BE proposals for County Coaching structures LC introduced the BE document ‘County Coaching Development – the Long Term Vision for all Counties’. This produced a very interesting and lively discussion of the future of coaching at all levels in Gloucestershire. The following points were generally agreed/accepted :

* The Association should embrace the vision (see original document) – understanding that the various aspects might take several years to put in place.
* The idea of a ‘County Academy’ welcomed. Difficulty, as ever, in finding someone to administer such a development.
* Noted that the County Academy would naturally lead to promotion to the BE National Academy for the best players.
* That, below the County Academy where would be clubs, club academies possibly, possible sectional ‘hubs’ – in other words a structure for the development of our young players, and an encouragement to young people in Gloucestershire to become involved.
* Particularly emphasised that we also needed another level below the above, to encourage even younger players to start the game. This would link with the whole ‘recruitment’ issue, and include the coaching of primary school children.
* The coaching structure key to all this. Fortunately, we already are one of only a very few counties with a Level 3 Coach Bowls coach.
* The availability and frequency of regular Coach Bowls coaching courses will be key to both skilling our clubs to become involved in the overall structure and also in operating the Academy structure.
* Some recent related initiatives co-incidentally important, including : Cheltenham BC’s academy proposal, Bishop’s Cleeve BC’s yearly coaching of primary school children, even the new divisional Team Managers’ seeking of young players considered ready for the White Rose and Amy Rose teams. LC would seek to bring together the various strands in a meeting, hopefully before Christmas; other JEC members to involve in this process and in the aspiration.
* Gloucestershire being proposed as one of three counties to engage with BE in a pilot initiative related to the ‘vision’. The GBA WD have already experience of coaching of their John’s Trophy team by two BE Directors of Coaching (John McGuiness and Mal Evans) and various other Level 3 and Level 2 coaches, so this forms a good basis for development of that layer of the coaching structure.
* Much still to be considered on all of this, at both County and club level, but we need to make a start as soon as possible, just for the very future of our sport.

1. **6th GBA joint Council Meeting, 9 November 2019 - LC**

Agenda to include:

* Presidential investitures
* Safeguarding in Bowls. Need to emphasise the crucial importance of this to clubs. LC will be circulating reminders re the 14 November course at Cotswold and then also a summary of some key points for clubs.
* County Coaching Development. Introduce this to clubs and use a number of speakers to highlight the various aspects of what might be involved in the future for Gloucestershire.
* Discussion – initial results of survey of GBA club needs (including publicity, recruitment & development)
* Notification – incoming unified GBA Competition Rules. Outline only

1. **Dates of GBA meetings 2020**

Felt that time does not allow these to be confirmed today, so will be deferred until the next meeting. Though important that LC and David Skeats should also confer on this a.s.a.p., before dates early in the year are set. (Action : LC)

1. **AOB**

10.1 ‘Group West’ meeting of South West Counties group 12 November 2019, Clevedon BC. LC would be attending anyway, as may well be the chair of the meeting.

Meeting closed at 1.10 pm

**Date of next meeting - Saturday 14 December 2019 - 10.00 am - Falcon B.C**