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

**G.B.A Women’s Division Delegate Meeting**

**[Zoom]**

**Wednesday 17 March 2021, 10.30 a.m.**

**Minutes**

1. WD Secretary Lindsay Collin opened the meeting by welcoming delegates and particularly new Officer Angela Cary (Tetbury). Lindsay also mentioned that Maddie Hale was in hospital. Myra Savage gave an update and the meeting sent their good wishes to her.
2. **Apologies**  15 clubs sent representatives; 10 officers and officials were in attendance (most also representing their clubs). 5 clubs and 2 officials sent apologies. Details in file. 29 clubs had disappointingly neither communicated nor attended.
3. **Notes relating to cancelled WD Delegate Meeting, Wednesday 18 March 2020**

The Secretary explained why she had included the notes of a meeting that never took place last year !

1. **Matters arising** None apart from an apology regarding one error.
2. **Secretary’s report**  - Lindsay Collin
   1. **COVID** I hardly need to say that it has been a strange year for the GBA as a whole, but equally so for the WD, as we have done almost none of our usual WD activities in the last twelve months. As Administrator rather than WD Secretary I have been in contact with your clubs many, many times (to the Secretary and sometimes the WD Delegate too), trying to keep you all informed and aware of what is and isn’t happening in all directions, but clearly we played no County games, had few county meetings other than essential ones held online, had no celebration events or special days. However, I hope very much that you feel that I have kept you in contact and up to date, as far as was possible.
   2. A little bowls was obviously played in the vast majority of GBA clubs in the massively disrupted 2020 Summer season, but not all of us played – I myself have not played in the last 18 months, which has been sometimes hard, as I have been obliged to keep the County running in so many administrative ways. I have maintained routine and regular contact with Bowls England on the County’s behalf – though I have also been regularly working for them also, on a particular project.
   3. From the WD, the required members of the JEC have also met on a number of occasions, so I would like to thank Avril, Myra, Linda and Anne for their efforts there during the year. Myra in particular I would like to note, and Christine Magee as well. I have probably shared more conversations with them than with anyone else, in respect of matches, competitions and the organisation of team selection.
   4. Up to a certain point, I was maintaining a copy of key documents on the Gloucestershire Web Portal, in relation to both Covid-19 dictates and restrictions, and also the new Bowls England Membership Register. However, particularly in relation to the former subject area, they began to come so thick and fast, that I have not maintained the listings on the Portal. In fact, clubs see copies of everything emanating from BE, plus - sometimes – my own summary of the current situation. I hope that this has also been useful support for your clubs, and indeed yourselves.
   5. You will hear more about the situation in relation to County matches and County and National competitions in a moment, from Myra and Jan Lee-Cooper, respectively, but I think it would be useful for me to summarise – in advance of their reports – the key dates in the coming few months, and I will do that. However, what I obviously need to note is that all of this continues to be based on the various stages of the Government’s ‘Roadmap’ remaining unaffected by any unexpected spikes in Covid infections; we all know that the vaccination programme is proceeding amazingly and I suspect there are few sports-people of any type more wishing for that to continue, than bowlers !

Should things proceed as hoped, the dates involved are :

* 29 March ‘Rule of six’ applies (but too early !); singles/pairs/triples; toilets open; takeaways allowed, but consumed off site; coaching 1:1 allowed, group coaching 6 max; travel local
* 12 April ‘Rule of six’ applies; singles/pairs/triples; toilets and changing rooms open; takeaways allowed; coaching 1:1 allowed, group coaching 6 max; travel unrestricted
* 17 May ‘Rule of six’ applies; singles/pairs/triples; toilets and changing rooms open; indoor consumption allowed; coaching 1:1 allowed, group coaching 30 involved max; travel unrestricted
* 21 June Should be total freedom, but who knows ? Fours allowed, anyway, probably full matches

Please note, of course, that these dates are not just important for the reasons already pointed out, but absolutely key for clubs and for individual bowlers. Clubs in particular are already planning for the coming season and anxiously awaiting the imminent DCMS / BE guidance. Notwithstanding that I just mentioned the 29 March, some optimistic estimates are 24 March, so who knows ? Maybe we’d be better not to get ahead of ourselves. Everyone that I know is optimistic that the dates listed will hold, however.

* 1. Some other points worthy of note :

1. The GBA Club Handbooks and the WD Yearbooks have been produced and will be distributed on 20 March from 4 section hubs. All Covid precautions will be taken.
2. Can I again encourage you to look at the BE Annual Report, which is available as a PDF on the BE Website. What a year we have had, and so much associated with it is encapsulated in this new document.
3. A County Treasurer is still required. Please let this be known.
4. The new BE/GBA affiliation process is coming shortly, with May including the deadlines both in terms of data submission to BE (and copying that to GBA), plus the payment of County and BE Affiliation Fees. Your Secretary will be prompted very shortly on both of these.
5. You hopefully will have understood that the new BE Membership Register is being delayed for a year, with only the previous listing of male players, female players and young players required this year. This will undoubtedly be fuller in subsequent years, so the MR responses that I have already had from many clubs during the last six months will not be wasted, as they will be called upon in due course, thence requiring very little editing on your club’s part. Please understand that the data in that will be owned by the club, who will be the only ones able to change that data. GDPR is linked to this.
6. What is new, and will be asked for very shortly, by BE, is a list of key contacts within your clubs – not just the Secretary, but Treasurer, Match Secretary, Greens person, and several more. This will be used i) To make the ‘Find a club’ facility on the BE Website, more informative and useful, and ii) To facilitate direct targeted communication with clubs, which is very much the future as far as BE is concerned.
7. Our Presentation Luncheon is optimistically arranged for this October (Sunday 17th) at Hatherley Manor. Very much hoping that that will be able to take place. Adverts in handbooks.
8. Selection matters

* Feel kind of sorry for the Selectors. Though we worked out a programme of Selection Meetings which is detailed in the WD Yearbook, these will be totally out of date soon, so we will have to get together to restructure these meetings. You, the clubs, will hear of the meetings as soon as is possible, and it is vital that such details are immediately made known to all players in your club who are on the WD County List.
* A Team Manager has yet to be appointed, for John’s and Walker. The Amy Rose will be happening again this year, as we happily have a group of young women who are keen to form a team. I’m very pleased to say that Val Molton has agreed to be involved in a coaching and team preparation capacity. I’ll be contacting the Selectors and Val on this shortly.

1. Coaching 2021

* LC summarised the coaching/development plans for the season. Three aspects had been arranged and agreed with County Development Officer/Coaching Co-ordinator David Rolls :
  1. Women’s Division coaching, for present and aspirant John’s players. Generally fortnightly at Cotswold or Gloucester City/Spa.
  2. Gloucestershire Youth Academy. Once a month at Cheltenham BC or Gloucester City/Spa.
  3. Amy Rose squad coaching. Team play, tactics and skill development. Once a month between GYA sessions, in same locations.

These three programmes alone will occupy every Saturday morning from early April to early September. Manifold thanks to David Rolls and his team of coaches.

J National Championships : Will take place, starting on 19 August and ending on 5 September, but Jan will say more about all of this in her report.

1. **Treasurer’s report**  - Avril Hole
   1. Currently we have £2325 for this year’s competitions. This is almost £350 lower than competition Income in 2018/19 whereas, unfortunately. Competition expenditure this year could be comparative to that of 2018/19.
   2. When making other comparisons many aspects this year will not change dramatically for example the cost of handbooks, examination fees, insurance, Officers’ Allowances. However, a major difference will be the complete lack of Income from bank interest which in 2018/19 produced £200 for us.
   3. I envisage our greatest financial difficulty this year will be our matches. Our Match Secretary currently has a mammoth task trying to negotiate how matches will even proceed. It is very unfortunate that in addition to the obvious ‘virus’ difficulties many matches this season will be ‘away’ fixtures. These ‘away’ matches always result in a financial loss because frequently coaches need to be used. This year the coach company will necessarily have to make some increase in their charges. When handbooks are received it will be noted that there may be a question mark as to the use of a coach. In view of the overall financial position it must be questioned as to whether a coach is justified. Information will be circulated nearer the time and if a coach is not to be used then the usual car expenses will be paid. At the present time I am concerned with the number of clubs who have not declared their meal costs. Is this because they feel it will be necessary to raise costs significantly? This is an important factor as an increase of just £1 per meal could increase the loss on a match by almost £50. Our Match Secretary is continuing to negotiate with those concerned.
   4. It is already clear that the season will result in another overall financial loss for the Ladies Division. The good news however is that due to good planning in previous years we shall this season be able to withstand this loss. During the year I feel it would be appropriate to establish how we must plan and proceed to ensure a successful financial future. The circumstances of other Counties may also have to be taken into account when making decisions.
2. **Match Secretary’s report** – Myra Savage

7.1 Well, what can I say about last season’s matches? Not a lot as there were none!

7.2 Moving swiftly onwards, Lindsay and I attended a MEL meeting by Zoom on Wednesday last. It was very pleasant to catch up with everyone and many things were discussed.

7.3 Cambridgeshire are staying with us in the MEL. There was some debate that they might be taking part in another league but this is now not happening.

7.4 A long discussion took place on “forward planning” Covid 19. Lindsay had very kindly laid out in a document what we hoped might happen. This was sent round to all MEL participants and discussed thoroughly.

7.5 Concern was raised over being able to go into clubhouses, coach travel etc. It was felt quite strongly that people were not 100% feeling safe about travelling in cars or coaches.

7.6 It was agreed that Match Secretaries would go ahead and provisionally rebook the MEL games they each should have had before 21st June. In our case that was :

18/5 – v Oxfordshire – They offered me anything in week commencing 30/8 which I have declined due to the fact we already have two matches that week.

21/5 - v Leicestershire – Provisionall booked for Tuesday 17th August.

10/6 – v Cambridgeshire – Provisionally arranged for Wednesday 11th August/

16/6 – v Worcestershire - Provisionally arranged for Wednesday 15th September.

7.7 We have 3 ladies and 1 mixed friendly match before 21 June. A discussion was held on Monday at the WD Management meeting about whether to re-arrange these matches or just cancel them. There were mixed feelings about this. It is going to be very difficult to re-arrange everything (matches, competitions etc) into a smaller window than we had before. I am in the process of talking to the counties concerned i.e. Somerset, Worcestershire & Berkshire, as to what their county’s views are on this situation as some may just want to cancel.

The Mixed friendly with Warwickshire is their home match so no doubt I will be hearing from them shortly.

7.8 I have spoken to Roger Harrison. The Men’s Match Secretary, about the annual battle of the Ladies v Men. He is not bothered either way as to whether we cancel or re-arrange. I left the situation with him that I would contact the host club and see what dates they have available and take it from there.

7.9 The JT matches will have to be re-arranged as well but whether it stays as a round robin or becomes a knockout for this season remains to be decided. Either way we shall have to keep dates available for WHEN we get through the first round. The two JT practice games will have to be cancelled but I am sure if the selectors feel we need one that could be arranged.

Hopefully we can get everything sorted out and re-arranged and at least have a nearly complete fixture card. Of course this is down to things re Covid remaining positive.

1. **Competition Secretaries’ report** - Jan Lee-Cooper
   1. B.E. are determined that competitive bowls should happen this year even though it will necessarily be in a different format.
   2. The National Championships will commence a couple of weeks later than normal, and be played over 2 weeks from 19 August – 5 September, with the Ladies’ and Gentlemen’s Games being played simultaneously.
   3. Although it has not been confirmed, it is likely that winners only will represent their County (except in the case of the very large Counties when the Runners-up may attend. For your information, Lindsay has indicated that we are among the 10 largest Counties for entrants and as B.E. work on a numbers game for each of the competitions, it is possible/probable that some of our runners-up will be included in the Nationals, which would be good).
   4. The format for Singles Games will remain the same: 2 Wood – 21 ends; 4 Wood – 21 up; Pairs will be played with 3 woods each – 18 ends; Triples with 2 woods each – 18 ends; Rinks 2 woods each – 18 ends. It is anticipated that 3 games/rounds a day will be played. The same formats of play will be used within the County.
   5. The lockdown rules will inevitably mean a re-scheduling of our own County Competitions. As soon as the working parameters are advised by B.E., the Competitions Committee will devise a new programme and ask Lindsay to distribute it to Club Secretaries and Delegates, together with the Nationals Schedule which is anticipated will be issued at the same time as the parameter guidelines/instructions.
   6. It is **vital** that, on the basis Club Secretaries and/or Delegates know their members who have entered the Competitions, they **must** inform them of the new dates. If anyone **CANNOT** continue with participation in the Competitions, (including the National Championships), due to the change in dates, they **must** inform their Competition Secretary **as soon as possible,** as if too many people drop out of any one Competition - in fairness to the remaining competitors - a re-draw may be necessary.
   7. We would remind everyone who has entered a competition of the importance of familiarisation with the revised rules as printed in the 2020 Yearbook (these will be found in the 2021 Yearbook and remain essential reading. Also, all entrants should be reminded to check the accuracy of their names/contact numbers as they appear in the Yearbook; any amendments should be notified to the relevant Competition Secretary as soon as possible.
   8. We would also like to issue a reminder that Trophies presented to Winners and Runners-up in 2019 to individuals/teams/clubs should be accessible and available for return to the Competition Secretaries as and when it is deemed practicable.
   9. It should be noted that there will be no refund of entrance fees as the Competitions are **not being cancelled** only re-scheduled. Lindsay drew the attention of the delegates to Rule 2.19, which covers this.
   10. Finally, when Lindsay sends out the revised programme to the Clubs, she will include a copy of this Competition Secretaries’ Report so that no-one has any excuse not to be aware of the contents. Thank you for your attention; we look forward to getting back to what we do best – playing bowls!
   11. Lindsay added that she would include the detailed Item 5.4 from the ‘Notes’ under Item 3 again, in the circulation, so that all competitors have their attention drawn to the most important new rules.
2. **Benevolent Secretary’s report** – Shirley Lewis

* Wow, what a year ! Hope that you have all come through it, safe and well, and are looking forward to this season, playing the game that we love.
* Thanks to everyone in clubs who have helped with the distribution of gifts.
* Balance sheet healthy, with £724 in bank and cash-in-hand. Expenditure in the last year only £76

1. **A.O.B**
   1. Glen Wintle (Bristol St Andrews) informed the ladies of Bristol that his club had re-entered a team in the Bristol Ladies League, effectively replacing Arrow Ladies. This was much welcomed.
   2. Angela Cary (Tetbury) advised that Joyce Keating, formerly our Treasurer for a period, is leaving the area to go into a residential home.
   3. Val Molton (Kingswood & Hanham) drew the attention of the assembled ladies that the Women’s Top Club would in future (as of this season) involve 5 disciplines [as with the men], with a 2-Wood Singles added, so shots totals would no longer play a part in results.
   4. Trish Nunn (Ardagh) asked about the situation re ‘President’ for matches. Lindsay advised that she hoped that the situation agreed for last year would be repeated, using Past Presidents, but she would wait to write again to PP until the county match list was restructured. Avril noted that the Presidential allowance would be used to cover all related expenses.
   5. Lindsay made yet again a plea for a President and other members of the Presidential team.
   6. Lindsay noted that the Web Portal and the Women’s Web site has been brought largely up-to-date last month. She also noted the BE Website as a good place to get into the habit of going to on a regular basis.

The meeting closed at 12.20 pm

*Next Delegate Meeting : TBC*

Signed : Date :