

CYMDEITHAS BOWLIO MAT BYR CYMRU

WELSH SHORT MAT BOWLS ASSOCIATION

The Governing Body for the Sport in Wales

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Minutes of meeting held at The Radnorshire Bowls Stadium on Sunday 28th July 2024

Present: Craig Evans (CE) Chair, Gerald Hands (GH) Vice-Chair, John Matthews (JM) Treasurer, Wyn Jones (WJ) Secretary, Sharon Mortimer (SM) West Glam, Chris McWinnie (CM) Montgomery, Darren Davies (DD) Cardigan, Moira Griffiths (MG) and Peter Kempster (PK) Wrexham, Stephen Williams (SW) Swansea, Gethin Edwards (GE) Carmarthen, Paul Hudson (PH) Pembrokeshire, Ted Gittoes (TG) Brecon & Radnor.

1. The Chair (CE) welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the 2024/25 season and thanked everyone for attending.

2. **Apologies:** Arwel Nicholas, Richard Palmer

3. **Confirm Minutes of previous meeting:**

Corrections to the minutes as follows –

- Item 2 - PH was present but not included in attendance list;
- Item 7 – selectors to appoint their own “chairman” not correspondent;
- Item 9 – Debs Matthews;
- Item 2 – Kate Morgan typo not Gate Morgan

Subject to these amendments, the minutes were proposed for acceptance by GE and seconded by MG.

4. **Matters Arising:**

Item 9 (Ladies Team) Although CM had accepted the role of selector for the ladies’ team, he was finding that it was difficult to carry out due to the time pressure associated with it. It was confirmed that the reason for the appointment of three of the national selectors to the ladies’ team was a temporary and supporting measure until there were enough ladies with experience (both national and international) to be a stand-alone panel, and that the national selectors would stand down as and when this was achievable. PH also raised that there should not be more than one selector from each county which was accepted. The meeting resolved that, as the team had been selected for the upcoming BI tournament, the current arrangements would stay in place for the time being but that the national selectors would be replaced in the short/medium term and the county representation would then be corrected as part of that process.

There was a suggestion to introduce national championships (red cards) for ladies but this was considered a non-starter for several reasons including lack of space in the calendar, increased costs of venues and Bowls Wales’s aspiration to fully integrate male and female formats. It was suggested that a ‘random pairs’ competition might address this issue and this was deferred to Richard Palmer (Ladies’ Team Manager)

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AOB: There was a lengthy discussion on progress toward having the same team shirt for all the national teams with JM having a lack of current stock for particular groups and sizes. Various comments were made regarding order/supply/delivery times and alternative suppliers which would probably require a brand-new design. JM volunteered to approach the current supplier regarding additional ladies' shirts and the meeting resolved to go with the status quo for the BI teams for this year and revisit next year.

5. Correspondence

Annual quote from the insurance company – dealt with during the AGM.

6. Financial Report

Handout circulated by JM which shows projected expenses for the forthcoming year and confirmed current bank balances as at 28th July as:

Current account	£20,872.47
Reserve account	<u>£17,626.93</u>
Total	£38,499.40

7. Bowls Wales (Policies)

WJ informed the meeting that Richard Palmer is currently customizing the Bowls Wales policies' heading to WSMBA and GE will then upload to the website.

8. AOB

Cardigan (DD):

1. Suggestion to provide a coach for the ladies' BI team to travel to and from the hotel in Llanelli to support team ethos and morale but this was not supported by the executive committee;
2. DD reported that several more mature bowlers felt excluded in the current set-up and queried whether an over-55s' tournament or a friendly against another country could be added to the calendar. The meeting felt that there was no space in the calendar to support this on an 'official' basis but there would be no objection if someone wanted to organize this on an informal basis along the lines that Terry Batt had done so in the past.

Umpires (GH):

1. GH queried a code of conduct for umpires. WJ confirmed that there was a template for this in the Bowls Wales policies to be uploaded to the website and suggested to wait to see if this will be acceptable;
2. GH asked if it was yet known if any Welsh umpires will be required to officiate at the BI in Scotland in November. CE will let GH know following the Scottish Association's next meeting.

Wrexham (MG):

MG asked if all the hotel rooms were allocated for the ladies BI event as there is the possibility that a room will be required for an extra umpire from Wrexham. JM said that he thought that there may be three spare rooms and suggested MG contact Richard Palmer.

Swansea (SW):

1. SW 'modelled' trousers which were complementary to one of the Swansea clubs' new

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- shirts and the meeting resolved that they were acceptable to wear in the national finals;
2. SW proposed that milestones recognition for representing Wales (10 years. 20 years) should be introduced for the A series as well. The meeting agreed;
 3. SW raised the issue of doubling players up in the BI series with several views expressed around the table regarding the number to be doubled-up (historically max 4 but is this figure still applicable?), accountability (chair of selectors accountable to the exec committee, so should the selectors have a free rein and be able to double up to 10 if they see fit and then be judged on performance?) or whether doubling up should be allowed at all. As this year's BI team have been picked and the selectors' term of office expires after the BI championships, this was deferred to the December/January meeting.
 4. SW proposed that a 'criteria for being a selector' factsheet should be sent out to counties prior to the process of nominating selectors and should expect selectors to have international experience.

Montgomery (CM):

Following a proposal from CM, the meeting resolved that it was acceptable for players to wear black tailored bowls shorts in all the national competitions.

Brecon & Radnor (TG):

B&R are struggling as a county and there is a real possibility that the county may not exist after their AGM and TG asked what would be the position for individual clubs who would no longer be affiliated to a county to register with the WSMBA and obtain red cards for their players? It was confirmed that it will be possible to register and obtain affiliation but obviously the club/players will not be able to represent a county. CM queried whether it was possible to create a larger county, e.g. Powys as an umbrella entity and the committee thought this should be looked at in more detail.

Pembrokeshire (PH):

1. PH confirmed the details of this year's Top Team event as Saturday 30th Nov and Sunday 1st December in Solihull indoor Bowls Centre;
2. PH had also been mandated to raise the issue of an over-55s team

Carmarthen (GE):

1. GE reminded WJ that the players who represented Wales at the 2024 World Championship had not received their 'year bars' – WJ to action;
2. GE advised the exec committee that Carmarthen County intended to make some procedural changes to their constitution (new/additional officials, disciplinary procedure, honorary positions re: life memberships) and it states in their constitution that they must inform the WSMBA – noted and accepted by the executive committee.

Chairman (CE):

1. CE informed the meeting that he was exploring several ways that we could advertise and publicise the sport further and is pursuing an exciting sponsorship opportunity;
2. CE will send out the dates for future meetings asap.

The meeting closed at 1.45 pm.