

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
of the English Indoor Bowling Association Limited**
(hereinafter referred to as EIBA Ltd)
**held at Melton Mowbray on
on Saturday 14th May 2022 commencing at 2pm**

Present:

Clubs and Counties

Nominee Member /Representatives/Personal Proxy from Affiliated Clubs - 9

Chairman's Proxy from Affiliated Clubs – 40

Nominee Member/Representatives/Personal Proxy from Affiliated Counties – 0 (Female); 7 (Male): Total 7

Chairman's Proxy from Affiliated Counties – 6 (Female); 8 (Male): Total 14

Quorum required (15% of 260 Clubs and 54 Counties) – 48; Quorum achieved - 70

See Appendix 1 for full details

Board of Directors/Chief Executive/Officers/Staff

Top Table – Josh Pounds (Chairman of Board); Peter Thompson (Chief Executive); Roger Fuller (President)

Other Directors: Patrick Canavan, Mark Cohen, Stephen Hill, Mike Lambert and John Stewart.

Other Officers: Carol Eichen (Senior Vice-President) and Steven Boughton (Junior Vice-President).

Staff – Stephen Rodwell (Development Manager/Company Secretary), Joanne Shore (International & Communications Administrator) and Susan Bakewell (Finance Administrator)

1. Notice of Meeting

The Chief Executive read the Notice convening the meeting:

“In accordance with Article 9.1 of the Articles of Association for the English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd, notice that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 14th May 2022 at the Melton Mowbray Baptist Church was despatched on 13th January 2022 to:

- 265 Clubs
- 31 Male County Associations
- 23 Female County Associations”

2. Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from the following: -

Directors

David Cable

Affiliated Clubs

Rugby Thornfield

Thanet

Affiliated Counties

Gloucestershire CIBA

Norfolk CIBA

Life Members

Margaret Allen

Claire Beahan

Peter Brimble

Roger Carter

Geoff Day

Maurice Mayes

Jenny McConnell

David Murley

Edna Orchard

Sheila Storey

Lindsay Warner

Alison Welsted

Gillian Wonnacott

Individuals

Ken Brenchley (Devon CIBA)

Paul Costin (Essex CIBA)

Tony Ellis (Essex CIBA)

Alex Fleming (Oxfordshire CIBA)

David Kilner (Hartlepool)

Mike Jackman (Whiteknights)

3. Opening Remarks from Chairman of the Board

Josh Pounds welcomed everybody to the Annual General meeting. The Chairman addressed the meeting commenting as follows:

“Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the English Indoor Bowling Association.

Firstly, I would like to ask for all those that are able to do so to please stand as we observe a minute’s silence for all the members of our bowling community that we have sadly lost in the last 12 months.

I would like to start, as my predecessors have, by passing on my personal thanks to all the staff at the EIBA, who have worked tirelessly over the last 12 months to successfully navigate us out of the pandemic and into a near-normal way of life, thank you Steve, Joanne & Sue – Indoor Bowls is indeed back and I for one am so pleased that this is the case. I would like to give particular thanks to our Chief Executive Peter Thompson, who’s hard work, dedication and leadership have been exemplary during this very difficult time. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Sophie De Ronde and Carl Higgins to the staff team at the EIBA who have both joined us in the past few months. Their work is already making a huge difference and we are very happy to have them both on board.

The Board of Directors have, once again, steered us through yet another tough year. Having to make decisions and constantly review, amend and revise these decisions based on up-to-date information from the government. I for one am grateful for their continued hard work, dedication and support and would like to thank them for their endless time. Mark Cohen has taken the decision to step back from the Board of Directors following this AGM and I would like to, on behalf of Board, HQ staff and the membership, say thank you to Mark for all his years of service as a director of the association. You will be missed!

I truly believe that we are at such a pivotal moment for the sport of bowls, not just indoors but across the many various codes of our great game. People that know me, members of my club, Swale, and my fellow members of the Board of Directors will have heard me say and somewhat ‘bang on about’ the fact that we do not ‘own’ bowls, it is not ‘our sport’ we are just the current custodians of bowls – a sport that dates back as far as the 13th Century in England. And it is our responsibility to make sure that is around for the future generations and the centuries to come.

This is by no means an easy task, but one that I am confident we can achieve. However, we must work together to achieve this goal – only then can we truly make a difference. I hear all the time comments like ‘the EIBA aren’t doing this’ or ‘my club won’t do that’, but it is only in tandem and with support of bowlers themselves, that these moves will be effective. We have, without a doubt, been through an extremely turbulent time over the last couple of years and it is how we rebound and bounce back from this now that really matters. Membership numbers are down, participation numbers are down, National Competition entries are down, all of which tell us one thing – our sport is in decline. Now I am not sure this is breaking news to a lot of us as it’s something we have been aware of for a while, but it is something that we need to act upon now.

My fellow director, Mike Lambert, our Director of Development, is just coming to the end of a three-year tour of the country delivering his seminar which has the mantra ‘RECRUIT TO SURVIVE’. Little did we know when he embarked on this tour, quite how much we would need to heed his advice. I am pleased to share that a series of follow-up sessions with Mike are being arranged to afford clubs the opportunity to share good practice with each other and look at next steps in the recruitment process. These will be held virtually and please watch this space for more information in the coming weeks. We are also in the process of producing an on-line condensed version of Mikes seminar which will be available to download from our website.

Bowls really is a unique sport – it is fun, challenging, social, competitive, friendly, accessible, somewhat physical and addictive. I am sure you can all remember the first time you picked up a bowl and caught the ‘bowls bug’. I was only 10 and now, nearly 20 years later I am standing here as Chairman of the English Indoor Bowling Association, something that I am immensely proud of.

But I don’t stand here for me. Truthfully, I am not sure I stand here for you either. I stand here and I do what I do for bowls, and for all the people who have yet to discover our wonderful sport. I have had 20 years of fun, enjoyment and success out of the sport and some of you will have had many more than that.

But we have had our enjoyment, fun and success and I hope you all continue to do so for many years to come, but now we need to turn our focus to the next generation of bowlers, the next custodians of bowls, the new group of club members, the next set of club, county and national champions and the next group of club, county and national administrators and officers.

We must ensure that bowls not only survives the next 5, 10, 20, 50 years but, that it thrives! And that is on all of us, collectively to ensure that it does, and to ensure that bowls remains an easily-accessible sport for the future.”

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of EIBA Ltd held on 18th September 2021

The Chairman advised that the Minutes of the last AGM had been circulated to all Members. He then sought a Proposer and Secunder to formally approve the Minutes.

The adoption of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18th September 2021, were then proposed by Alan Ratcliffe (Kempston Park IBC), seconded by Patrick Canavan (Bournemouth IBC) and then duly approved by the meeting. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman as a true record of the proceedings.

5. Directors Report including Business Review and Financial Report with Accounts

The Chairman referred to the Directors Report, Business Review and Financial Report (with Accounts), which had been circulated.

The Chairman asked Stephen Hill (Director – Finance):

“Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen

As the designated Director for financial matters and despite have been elected to the board just two months from the year end, I am pleased to be here reporting to you today.

You do not need me to tell you how difficult a period it has been, or for the consequences to membership of our clubs. This has had and will have a continuing influence on the finances of the association.

*On **page 6** along with the broad categories of income and expenditure you can see that there was a deficit for the year. With no major grants available in the year to last November, there was a deficit, just short of 24 thousand. With this lower activity came drop in administrative expenses, but not sufficient to cover the reduction in income.*

*Let us look at the detail on **page 19***

All clubs took a large cut in membership resulting in the halving of income to £149k.

Sponsorship was flat but well down of that achieved before COVID; £33k in 2019 and £40k in 2018.

Fewer Competitions meant lower income, but likewise expenses.

On the expenses side it was not possible to reduce administrative costs to the same extent as we still had to manage information to the clubs on covid etc. The breakdown of these expenses shows that the majority of items fell except the expenditure on the new website / competition / database portal, which is a fix cost item, spread over three years.

The current year remains difficult, as only one club did not take up the offer of the cheap rate for membership. As a consequence, Income is likely to be flat whilst cost pressure will reduce the ability to return to surplus. Membership has improved on the low level, it is currently 64,000 and affiliation income at £217k up £42k on last year’s very low figure, but well down on 2020 figure of £334.5k. The proposed fee of £4.25 based on current numbers, plus club and county levies will bring in around £302k, however this is still below the 2020 level.

With fees from the new TV service, JoyMo, and on-going discussions with potential new partners, we are hopeful that sponsorship income will get back close to pre COVID levels. Circa £35k.

The EIBA continually looks to reduce its core head office / events expenditure wherever possible but like all clubs we are facing the higher costs of living. Inflation is putting upward pressure on all expenditure. We have in the recent past renegotiated both telephone and gas rates, the latter being fixed until March 2025. The increasing rate of inflation and the recent increase in the minimum wage will put indirect pressure on our wages bill. We will continue to monitor costs and increase the use of technology such Zoom meetings where possible."

With there being no questions from the floor of the meeting, the Chairman then sought acceptance of the Directors Report, Business Review and Financial Report (with Accounts) - proposed by Arthur Broadberry (Leicestershire CIBA) and seconded by Trevor Prentice (Camberley & District IBC). The meeting accepted the Reports.

6. Formal Ordinary Resolutions from the Board

The Chairman outlined the Procedures that would be undertaken to make a decision in respect of each of the Special and Ordinary Resolutions:

- a) Steven Boughton would act as Scrutineer, with Joanne Shore and Susan Bakewell counting the Voting Cards when they are exhibited by the Club and County Nominee Member/Representatives - meeting agreed.
- b) The order for showing Voting cards would be:

CLUB - FOUR VOTES	F (Blue), followed by A (Orange), followed by abstentions (Blue or Orange).
CLUB - TWO VOTES	F (Light Green), followed by A (Red), followed by abstentions (Light Green/Red).
COUNTY - ONE VOTE	F (Yellow), followed by A (Pink), followed by abstentions (Yellow/Pink)
- c) In accordance with the Articles of Association:
 - i. a **Ordinary Resolution** will be carried if 51% or more of the Total Eligible Votes for those Members in Attendance or by Proxy are cast in favour of the Resolution.

The Chairman advised that the total of Eligible Votes had been calculated at 141, with 51% thereby being calculated at 72 Votes.

Annual Levy

- 6.1 *The Board propose that in accordance with Article 5.2, "For the 12 months ending 30th November 2023, the Levy payable by each Club in respect of each of their playing members (who have attained the age of 18 years), as at 1st December 2022, shall be £4.25. This sum to be paid by 31st December 2022.*

The Chairman formally proposed the motion on behalf of the Board, duly seconded by Arthur Broadberry (Leicestershire CIBA).

The Chairman announced that as Chairman he was carrying the following Proxy Votes – 75 (Favour); 31 (Against) and 4 (Abstentions).

The Chairman then asked the Club and County Representatives/Nominee members to vote by using their coloured Voting Cards.

The Resolution was CARRIED – 102 (Favour), 34 (Against) and 4 (Abstentions).

Annual Subscription for Clubs

- 6.2 *The Board propose that in accordance with Article 5.1, "For the 12 months ending 30th November 2023, the Annual Subscription for Clubs shall be £110. This sum to be paid by 31st December 2022."*

The Chairman formally proposed the motion on behalf of the Board, duly seconded by Trevor Prentice (Surrey CIBA).

The Chairman announced that as Chairman he was carrying the following Proxy Votes – 96 (Favour); 8 (Against) and 6 (Abstentions).

The Chairman then asked the Club and County Representatives/Nominee members to vote by using their coloured Voting Cards.

The Resolution was CARRIED – 120 (Favour), 11 (Against) and 6 (Abstentions).

Annual Subscription for County Associations

6.3 *The Board propose that in accordance with Article 5.1, "For the 12 months ending 30th November 2023, the Annual Subscription for County Associations shall be £35. This sum to be paid by 31st December 2022."*

The Chairman formally proposed the motion on behalf of the Board, duly seconded by Alan Ratcliffe (Kempston Park IBC).

The Chairman announced that as Chairman he was carrying the following Proxy Votes – 87 (Favour); 9 (Against) and 14 (Abstentions).

The Chairman then asked the Club and County Representatives/Nominee members to vote by using their coloured Voting Cards.

The Resolution was CARRIED – 115 (Favour), 12 (Against) and 14 (Abstentions).

7. Board

7.1 Election of Board Members

In accordance with Articles 45 and 47-49, nominations were sought from Members for the position of THREE Elected Directors.

With only TWO nominations being received by the deadline of 14th March 2022, in accordance with Article 48.1 the following persons were duly elected for a period of three years.

- Trevor Robin Prentice - proposed by Camberley & District BC and seconded by Donyngs IBC.
- John Graham Stewart - proposed by Essex County BC and seconded by Falcon Bowling and Social Club

The Chairman advised the meeting that the One vacant Directors position will be discussed at the next Directors Board meeting.

8. Installation/Election of Presidents

8.1 Presidential Address

Roger Fuller as Retiring President addressed the meeting:

Roger thanked the meeting for allowing him the honour of being the Associations President.

8.2 Installation of President

The Chairman announced that in accordance with Article 38.3.2, **Carol Eichen from Chawton Park IBC** would be President for the next 12 months.

Roger Fuller presented Carol with her Chain of Office, Presidential Medallion and Plaque.

Carol thanked the meeting for conferring upon her the honour of being the Associations President.

Carol thanked Roger for undertaking his duties in difficult circumstances, and Peter, Carl Higgins and Arthur Broadberry for their guidance.

Carol commented that she was looking forward to her Presidential year, travelling the Country to promote our wonderful Sport of Indoor Bowls

Finally, Carol thanked her husband Ken for his support and "Chauffeur Service".

8.3 Installation of Senior Vice-President

The Chairman announced that in accordance with Article 38.3.2, **Steve Boughton from Malvern Hills IBC** would be Senior Vice-President for the next 12 months.

Carol Eichen presented Steve with his Senior Vice-President's Medallion and Blazer Badge.

Steve thanked the meeting for conferring upon him the honour of being the Associations Senior Vice-President.

8.4 Election of Junior Vice-President

The Chairman announced that with only one nomination having been received by the deadline of 14th March 2022, in accordance with Articles 38.3, 38.3.5 and 41.1, **Pauline Adams from Falcon BC** would be Junior Vice-President for the next 12 months.

Carol Eichen presented Pauline with her Junior Vice-President's Medallion and Blazer Badge.

Pauline thanked the meeting for conferring upon her the honour of being the Associations Junior Vice-President.

9. **Installation of Life Member**

9.1 Life Member

The Chairman announced the Installation of the following Life Member:

- Roger Fuller – Mote Park IBC

The Chairman presented Roger with his Life Members Badge and Certificate.

Roger thanked the meeting for conferring upon him the honour of being a Life Member of the Association.

10. **Election of Auditors**

The meeting agreed to the appointment of "Thomas Westcott" on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Board – proposed by Mark Cohen (Southend-on-Sea BC) and seconded by Patrick Canavan (Bournemouth IBC).

CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and formally closed the meeting.

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Open Forum

The Chairman invited Members to table any Questions or comments from the floor for discussion and consideration at future meetings of the Company.

Eddie Long (Kent CIBA) commented that:

- ❖ Kent County Competition entries had increased
- ❖ He sought clarification over guidance that is provided centrally by the EIBA on Safeguarding matters.

Peter Thompson agreed to speak with Eddie after the meeting.

Dave Pawson (Stamford & District IBC):

- ❖ Sought clarification over the EIBA's Twitter and Facebook Social Media feeds, as he was experiencing difficulties in making any comments regarding recent posts.

The Chairman agreed to speak with Dave after the meeting.

The Chairman closed the Open Forum, thanking everybody for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 2.52 pm

Signed: (Chairman)

Date:

Appendix 1 – Clubs and Counties Present with details of Proxy Votes