



English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd

Annual General Meeting 2024

Saturday 18th May 2024

Melton Mowbray Baptist Church
Bowling Green, Melton Mowbray LE13 0FA

Commencing at 2pm

AGM Administration Guidance Notes

Venue:

The Melton Mowbray Baptist Church is located on Bowling Green, Leicester Road, Melton Mowbray, opposite the English Indoor Bowling Association Limited Headquarters and the Melton & District Indoor Bowling Club.

Timing: The doors will open at 12 noon with Registration closing at **1.30pm PROMPT**.

Please allow time to register and collect your Papers

Registration: Please register with the Scrutineers, who will be located near to the entrance door for the Main Hall.

Voting on Resolutions: "Members" of the Association are defined as "Clubs or County Associations that are corporate bodies and Nominee Members of Clubs or County Associations which are unincorporated associations" (Article 2.1).

Members who are "corporate bodies" (in Bowls this usually means that the Club is a Limited Company by Guarantee with Club Members performing the role of Directors), may authorise one of its **Club members** or **County Officials** to be its "**Representative**" at the Annual General Meeting (Article 3.2).

Members who are "unincorporated associations" (in Bowls this usually means that the Club/County is administered by a Committee elected in accordance with a standard form of Club Constitution), may authorise one of its **committee** to be a "**Nominee Member**" to hold the rights of membership on trust for the Club or County Association and to exercise the rights of membership on behalf of the Club/County (Article 3.1).

Each "**Representative**" or "**Nominee Member**" will receive the appropriate Voting Cards upon production of the properly authorised "Voting Authorisation Form" to the Scrutineers before the commencement of the meeting.

If a previously notified "Representative" or "Nominee Member" is unable to attend the AGM, an alternative person may attend and vote on behalf of the Club/County, upon production of the correctly completed "Voting Authorisation Form" to the Scrutineer.

Proxy Voting: a Member may appoint a Proxy in respect of Resolutions tabled at the AGM, upon completion of the appropriate Proxy Form.

If a Member Club/County **cannot attend the AGM**, they may either appoint the Chairman of the meeting as their proxy, or a named person who can attend the AGM and vote on their behalf in respect of the RESOLUTIONS ONLY. The appointed proxy can be instructed as to how to vote or they can be allowed to vote as they think fit.

If a Member Club/County **is to be represented at the AGM, IT IS NOT** appropriate to return the Proxy Form to the Association.

All Proxy Forms must be received at the Registered Office of the Association by 1.59 pm on Thursday 16th May 2024

Voting Procedure at the AGM:

For each Resolution, the following procedure will be undertaken:

Chairman will read the Resolution to the meeting, seek a Secunder where necessary and then Invite the Club and County Representatives/Nominee Members to signify their vote in the following Order:

CLUB - FOUR VOTES

For (Blue), followed by Against (Orange), followed by abstentions (Blue or Orange).

CLUB - TWO VOTES

For (Light Green), followed by Against (Red), followed by abstentions (Light Green or Red).

COUNTY - ONE VOTE

For (Yellow), followed by Against (Pink), followed by abstentions (Yellow or Pink).

UNIFIED COUNTY – TWO VOTES

For (Light Blue) followed by Against (White), followed by abstentions (Light Blue or White).

AGENDA for AGM

1. The Chief Executive to read Notice of Meeting
2. To record apologies for absence
3. Opening Remarks from Chairman of the Board
4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13th May 2023
5. Directors Report including Business Review and Financial Report with Accounts
6. FORMAL ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS FROM THE BOARD

Resolutions from the Board: see page 15 for supporting information

Annual Levy

- 6.1 The Board propose that in accordance with Article 5.2, "For the 12 months ending 30th November 2025, 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 2024, shall be £5.00. This sum to be paid by 31st December 2024".

Annual Subscription for Clubs

- 6.2 The Board propose that in accordance with Article 5.1, "For the 12 months ending 30th November 2025, the Annual Subscription for Clubs shall be £130. This sum to be paid by 31st December 2024."

Annual Subscription for County Associations

- 6.3 The Board propose that in accordance with Article 5.1, "For the 12 months ending 30th November 2025, the Annual Subscription for Unified County Associations shall be £63 and £42 for County Associations who are responsible for just Men or Women. This sum to be paid by 31st December 2024."

7. BOARD

- 7.1 Election of Board members – Confirmation of member elected.

8. INSTALLATION/ELECTION OF PRESIDENTS

- 8.1 Presidential Address
- 8.2 Installation of President
- 8.3 Installation of Senior Vice-President
- 8.4 Election of Junior Vice President – No Nominations received

9. INSTALLATION of LIFE MEMBER

- 9.1 Life Member – Steve Boughton, Malvern Hills IBC

10. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

Recommendation from the Board – "Westcotts", Chartered Accountants and Business Advisers, Weston-super-Mare.

Following the closure of the business on the Agenda the Chairman will take Questions or comments from the floor for discussion and consideration at future meetings of the Company.

**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 13th May 2023 commencing at 2pm**

Present:

Clubs and Counties

Nominee Member /Representatives/Personal Proxy from Affiliated Clubs - 10
Chairman's Proxy from Affiliated Clubs – 30

Nominee Member/Representatives/Personal Proxy from Affiliated Counties – 3 (Female); 5 (Male): Total 8

Chairman's Proxy from Affiliated Counties – 5 (Female); 6 (Male); 1 (Unified): Total 12

Quorum required (15% of 255 Clubs and 50 Counties) – 46; Quorum achieved - 60

See Appendix 1 for full details

Board of Directors/Chief Executive/Officers/Staff)

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

Other Directors: David Cable, Patrick Canavan, and Mike Lambert.

Other Officers: Steven Boughton (Senior Vice-President) and Pauline Adams (Junior Vice-President).

Staff – Stephen Rodwell (Development Manager/Company Secretary), Susan Bakewell (Finance Administrator) and Sophie de Ronde (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 13th May 2023 at the Melton Mowbray Baptist Church was despatched on 11th January 2023 to:

- 258 Clubs
- 29 Male County Associations
- 22 Female County Associations
- 1 Unified County Association”

2. Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from the following:-

Directors

Stephen Hill and John Stewart

Affiliated Clubs

Colchester; Malvern Hills; Palmerston; Rugby Thornfield; Torbay and Watford

Affiliated Counties

Cornwall CIBA and Kent CIBA

Life Members

Tony Allcock OBE; Clare Beahan; Peter Brimble; Margaret Carey; Geoff Day; Maurice Mayes; Jenny McConnell; David Murley BEM; David Rhys Jones; Gordon Thomas and Gillian Wonnacott

Individuals

John Smyth (Adur) and Ken Brenchley (Devon CIBA Secretary)

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 2023 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 I did last year, by passing on my personal thanks to all the staff at the EIBA, who have worked tirelessly over the last 12 months. Sadly, Joanne Shore hung up her EIBA badge and jacket in December after an amazing 19 years’ service to our association and our sport – to say that she has been and will continue to be sorely missed is very much an understatement. I would like to extend my thanks to those members of staff, Steve, Sue, Carl, Sophie and our Chief Executive, Peter Thompson, who have stepped in and indeed stepped up to ensure that we can continue to deliver the same level of service, despite our depleted numbers – your hard work has not gone unnoticed.

The Board of Directors have, I believe, a thankless task. All working tirelessly and passionately for our association and our sport. I for one am grateful for their continued hard work, dedication and support and would like to thank them for their endless and, more importantly, voluntary time.

Now I was going to apologise at this point. Apologise for the fact that a lot of what I am about to say bears much resemblance to what I said last year – but I am not going to do that, as much of what I said still stands true today, twelve months on.

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 and historical game which dates back to the 13th Century in England, and it is still here to today! We do not ‘own’ bowls, it is not ‘our sport’ we are just the current custodians of bowls, and it is our responsibility to make sure that is around for the future generations and the centuries to come.

Currently, and forgive my frankness, I believe that we are falling short in achieving this goal. Bowls is not in a good position, and we need to ensure that we turn the tide on this decline, before it is too late. We all have part to play in this, not just us as the NGB’s, not just county associations or club boards and committees, but all of us, together, working in tandem to achieve a greater goal. It falls to each and every one of us to do our bit and pull together collectively for the good of our sport. This is by no means an easy task, but one that I am confident we can achieve.

We have, without a doubt, been through an extremely turbulent time over the last few years with a global pandemic and a cost-of-living crisis, but it is how we rebound and bounce back from this now that really matters and is what, I believe, we must focus on.

We as a board of directors have done all we can over the last few years to ensure this organisation continues to deliver for the sport of indoor bowls in England and, more importantly, for our members. Unfortunately, this includes having to make some difficult, challenging and sometimes not very popular decisions. Take the recent National Competitions area changes for example, we have been flooded with comments and questions – the overwhelming majority of which have been positive, and people have recognised what we have attempted to achieve with this move. We have addressed the declining numbers, addressed the inequality between areas and number of entries and therefore rounds to play. And of course, tried to bring some balance to the distances that some players travel to play these matches. We may not always get things right, and we know that we will never please everybody, but what I can absolutely assure you is that every decision we make, we make with the absolute best of intentions. We always put bowls and the bowling community first.

To that end, I come to the proposed increase in affiliation fees for the coming year. We have endeavoured to keep increases to a minimum in recent years but have unfortunately reached a pinch point. A global pandemic resulting in zero bowling activity and us taking the decision to refund affiliation

fees back to clubs, despite our overheads still being in place, and now a cost-of-living crisis has meant that this is no longer possible. We must generate additional income simply to maintain our current position and keep us viable and equipped for the future. We have not taken this decision lightly and recognise the impact this may have on clubs and their subscriptions for the coming season, hence our offer to maintain the suggest £5 level for the next three years.

We are committing to use this additional revenue to strengthen our sport from grass-roots level right up to competitive, national, and international level. We commit to continued improvements in the governance of our sport – ensuring that the EIBA is fit-for-purpose and, more importantly, fit for the 21st century. More support for clubs in recruitment, marketing and promotional activities and more hands-on approach to recruitment and retention schemes. This rise in affiliation fees for the next three years is not just for the EIBA, it is for the sport of bowls. The sport that we all love.

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 I have now 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 all and for the future.”

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of EIBA Ltd held on 14th May 2022

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

The adoption of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th May 2022, were then proposed by Alan Ratcliffe (Kempston Park IBC), seconded by Mike Lambert (Egham IBC) and then duly approved by the meeting.

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 Peter Thompson (EIBA Chief Executive) to address the meeting on behalf of Stephen Hill (Director – Finance):

“In my financial report of last year, I said that matters remained difficult and that was still the case over this financial year.

As mentioned in the Directors’ Report the sport was still facing the impact of the COVID-19, membership levels were 22% lower than before the pandemic and the impact of continual increases in the cost of living seeing higher than expected expenses.

The reduction in the total assets of just over £100,000 is largely due the Company’s decision to recognise the support of those clubs who paid the Company the full affiliation and levy the previous year, by refunding 50% of their declared levy payment. As you will have seen in the accounts this totalled a £71,623 refund back into the running of the sport.

The other main factor was the higher expenditure for International, £16,000. We hosted the inaugural World Bowls Indoor Championships, which finally took place in April after being postponed in 2020, but unfortunately the support secured to cover staging costs then were not able to be renewed this time. In addition, a full programme of International Series took place in October, with two of these being in Northern Ireland, which saw higher than expected expenditure in hotel accommodation and airfares.

Finally, the addition of the OSC to the EIBA administration saw a deficit of £8,931. However, £5,635 of this is due income being deferred into next year’s accounts.

With the Head Office staff levels returning to where they were pre covid and a reduction in our own affiliations and grants paid to associated bodies, such as the International Indoor Bowls Council, British Isles Bowls Council and Coach Bowls our core expenditure was maintained.

Turning to the year ahead. Our activities have, thankfully, returned to more normal levels. However, we, as all of you, are seeing higher costs and consequently our fees will need to be increased to ensure that the Company can continue to provide the same levels of governance for the sport.

This is why the Board have recommended, for the reasons outlined on pages 14 & 15 of the AGM booklet, the acceptance of the £5.00 levy, which will be held for at least the next 3 years and increased Club and County affiliation fees.”

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 Patrick Canavan (Dorset CIBA) and seconded by Nigel Van Dyk (Deangate Ridge IBC). The meeting accepted the Reports.

6. Formal Special 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 Susan Bakewell and Sophie de Ronde 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*)

UNIFIED COUNTY – TWO VOTES F (*Light Blue*) followed by A (*White*), followed by abstentions (*Light Blue/White*).

c) In accordance with the Articles of Association:

i. a Special Resolution will be carried if 75% 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 115, with 75% thereby being calculated at 86 Votes.

ii. 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 115, with 51% thereby being calculated at 59 Votes.

6.1 Resolution from the Board: “MEMBERSHIP”

Article 5.1 shall be amended to read as follows:

“5.1

5.1.1 *Each Member shall pay such annual subscription as may be determined by an ordinary resolution of the Members at the Annual General Meeting.*

5.1.2 *In the event that the ordinary resolution is not approved at the annual general meeting, the annual subscription as last approved at an annual general meeting shall be payable.*

Before proposing the Resolution on behalf of the Board, the Chairman advised that meeting that the remainder of Article 5 - 5.2, would remain as follows:

5.2

5.2.1 *Each Member Club shall in addition pay a levy in respect of each of their playing members who have attained the age of 18 years of such amount as may be determined by an ordinary resolution of the Members at the annual general meeting.*

5.2.2 *In the event that the ordinary resolution is not approved at the annual general meeting, the levy as last approved at an annual general meeting shall be payable.”*

The Chairman then formally proposed the Resolution, which was duly seconded by Arthur Broadberry (Leicestershire CIBA).

The Chairman announced that as Chairman he was carrying the following Proxy Votes – 76 (For); 1 (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 – 104 (For), 1 (Against) and 10 (Abstentions).

7. Formal Ordinary Resolutions from the Board

Annual Levy

7.1 *The Board propose that in accordance with Article 5.2, “For the 12 months ending 30th November 2024, 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 2023, shall be £5.00. This sum to be paid by 31st December 2023.*

The Chairman formally proposed the motion on behalf of the Board, reminding the meeting that as outlined in the AGM Booklet, in the event of the Resolution being approved, the EIBA commit that there would be no further increase to the individual levy fee until 2026 at the earliest.

The motion was duly seconded by Dr J Gilbert (Oxfordshire WIBA).

The Chairman announced that as Chairman he was carrying the following Proxy Votes – 52 (For); 23 (Against) and 8 (Abstentions).

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

The Resolution was CARRIED – 73 (For), 33 (Against) and 8 (Abstentions).

Nigel Van Dyk (Deangate Ridge IBC) commented that:

- ❖ he considered that the Club and County Representatives who had attended the meeting, should be given the opportunity to make comment on the Resolutions that were being considered at the meeting.

The Chairman advised that his comments had been noted and would be considered for future meetings.

As a result of Ordinary Resolution 7.1 having been approved by the meeting, the Chairman advised that it was not necessary to for the meeting to consider Ordinary Resolution 7.2, which had stated:

Annual Levy

7.2 *The Board propose that in accordance with Article 5.2, “For the 12 months ending 30th November 2024, 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 2023, shall be £4.75. This sum to be paid by 31st December 2023.*

Annual Subscription for Clubs

7.3 *The Board propose that in accordance with Article 5.1, “For the 12 months ending 30th November 2024, the Annual Subscription for Clubs shall be £125. This sum to be paid by 31st December 2023.”*

The Chairman formally proposed the motion on behalf of the Board, duly seconded by David Cable (Felixstowe IBC – *Nominated “Representative” of the Club*).

The Chairman announced that as Chairman he was carrying the following Proxy Votes – 65 (For); 13 (Against) and 5 (Abstentions).

The Chairman asked if anybody wished to comment on the Resolution.

With nobody wishing to comment, the Chairman then asked the Club and County Representatives/Nominee members to vote by using their coloured Voting Cards.

The Resolution was CARRIED – 95 (For), 13 (Against) and 6 (Abstentions).

Annual Subscription for County Associations

7.4 *The Board propose that in accordance with Article 5.1, “For the 12 months ending 30th November 2024, the Annual Subscription for County Associations shall be £60. This sum to be paid by 31st December 2023. For all County Associations who are responsible for just Men or Women the fee will be reduced by 33% to £40”*

The Chairman formally proposed the motion on behalf of the Board, duly seconded by Edna Orchard (Berkshire WIBA).

The Chairman announced that as Chairman he was carrying the following Proxy Votes – 72 (For); 3 (Against) and 8 (Abstentions).

The Chairman asked if anybody wished to comment on the Resolution.

With nobody wishing to comment, the Chairman then asked the Club and County Representatives/Nominee members to vote by using their coloured Voting Cards.

The Resolution was CARRIED – 104 (For), 3 (Against) and 8 (Abstentions).

8. Board

8.1 Election of Board Members

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

A total of FOUR nominations were received by the deadline of 13th March 2023

- Daniel Bonner (West Mersea) – proposed by West Mersea BC and seconded by Falcon IBC.
- David Ian Cable (Ipswich & District) – proposed by Ipswich & District IBC and seconded by Falcon IBC.
- Josh Martin Pounds (Swale) – proposed by Swale IBC and seconded by Essex County IBC.
- John Rednall (Diss & District) – proposed by Diss & District BC and seconded by Lakenheath IBC

In accordance with Article 48, the Board appointed two scrutineers to inspect the Votes:

- Chris Fleckney (Melton & District IBC)
- Sue Fleckney (Melton & District IBC)

Chief Executive had received a written report outlining the result of the voting.

The Chief Executive declared that the following votes had been cast:

<u>Name</u>	<u>No. of Votes</u>	<u>Result</u>
Daniel Bonner	4	Not Elected
David Ian Cable	14	Elected
Josh Martin Pounds	19	Elected
John Rednall	25	Elected

Number of Ballot papers received – 26

Number of Ballot papers spoiled – none

Number of Ballot papers received after deadline - 3

In accordance with Article 45 the duly elected Directors will be required to retire at the 2026 AGM.

9. Installation/Election of Presidents

9.1 Presidential Address

Carol Eichen as Retiring President addressed the meeting:

Carol thanked the meeting for allowing her the honour of being the Associations President. Her year had been wonderful. with the Presidential games played in a friendly manner. She thanked Arthur Broadberry for arranging her Tour so brilliantly.

Carol thanked everybody for their help, especially Peter Thompson (EIBA Chief Executive) and Carl Higgins (EIBA Performance Lead), who had kept her “on the straight and narrow” at the National Final events. She also thanked her “chauffeur” husband, Ken.

Carol wished all of the new Presidential chain well in the forthcoming years, recommending that they “savour the moment” as she could not believe how quickly her three years had passed by.

9.2 Installation of President

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

Carol Eichen presented Steve with his Chain of Office, Presidential Medallion and Plaque.

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

Steve congratulated Carol on her year of office and he considered that it had been a pleasure working with her.

Steve concluded by commenting that *“we all know that this game that we love so dearly is facing a number of challenges. I look forward to working with the Chairman, Chief Executive and Board to overcome these challenges.”*

9.3 Installation of Senior Vice-President

The Chairman announced that in accordance with Article 38.3.2, **Pauline Adams from Falcon BC** would be Senior Vice-President for the next 12 months.

Steve Boughton presented Pauline with her Senior Vice-President’s Medallion and Blazer Badge.

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

9.4 Election of Junior Vice-President

The Chairman announced that with only one nomination having been received by the deadline of 13th March 2023, in accordance with Articles 38.3, 38.3.5 and 41.1, **Jeremy Baker-Deam from Isle of Wight IBC** would be Junior Vice-President for the next 12 months.

Steve Boughton presented Jeremy with his Junior Vice-President’s Medallion and Blazer Badge.

Jeremy thanked the meeting for conferring upon him the honour of being the Associations Junior Vice-President.

9. Installation of Life Member

10.1 Life Member

The Chairman announced the Installation of the following Life Member:

- **Carol Eichen – Chawton Park IBC**

The Chairman presented Carol with her Life Members Badge and Certificate.

Carol thanked the meeting for conferring upon her the honour of being a Life Member of the Association.

11. Election of Auditors

The meeting agreed to the appointment of “Westcotts” on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Board – proposed by Patrick Canavan (Dorset CIBA) and seconded by Tony Barclay (Peterborough and District 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.

Mike Jackman (Whiteknights IBC) commented that:

- ❖ he wondered if the meeting could be updated on the current situation regarding players eligibility to play in the Yetton and Vivienne National Competitions.

Peter Thompson advised the meeting that:

- ❖ the conditions of entry to the Vivienne had been changed for the 2022-2023 Season due to there being only 45 entries, which was lower than pre-COVID, when there had been 60 entries.
- ❖ In 2022-2023 there were 61 Entries, with just 2 “walk-overs” compared with 14 in the 2021-2022 Season.
- ❖ the EIBA had received feedback from other clubs. Lincoln had suggested that a maximum of “6 Yetton Players” could also play in the “Vivienne”
- ❖ for the 2023-2024 Season, the conditions of entry would remain as for the previous year, after which there would be a further period of consultation with all Affiliated Clubs.

Mike Jackman (Whiteknights IBC) commented that:

- ❖ he thanked the Chief Executive for his update. He felt that the Lincoln suggestion was worthy of consideration and he looked forward to taking part in the consultation process.

Nigel Van Dyk (Deangate Ridge IBC) commented that:

- ❖ he was disappointed that so few people had indicated that they would attend the Pre-AGM Seminar, when it had been planned to hear an update from the EIBA on the following topics – “Planning Recruitment Campaigns”; “Benefits of On-Line & Social Media Communications” and “EIBA’s Vision 2023 To 2027”
- ❖ he wondered why the content of the Seminar had not now been included as part of the AGM.

Peter Thompson advised the meeting that the Board had hoped that a “Pre-AGM Seminar” would provide attendees with an opportunity to enter into a dialogue with the EIBA, without having the possible pressure of other “AGM attendees” feeling that they did not wish for the meeting to take so long and thereby delay their journey home.

Mike Jackman (Whiteknights IBC) commented that a start time of 11 am for the “Pre-AGM Seminar” would have required a very early start for some Club or County representatives that wished to attend.

Peter Thompson advised the meeting that the Board would take on board the comments made by Mike and Nigel at a future Board meeting, as the EIBA is keen to develop such events with a view to aiding communications and support for Affiliated Members.

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

The meeting closed at 2.55 pm

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

2023 AGM's - Attendance

				TOTAL			Grand total of Votes (Attend/Proxy)	115
Clubs	MC	FC	UC	QUORUM (attend/chairman p)	QUORUM (attend/chairman p)		For Propositions - 51% of those in attendance/proxy	59
10	5	3	0	Reps/Noms/Personal Proxy	Reps/Noms/Personal Proxy	18	For Propositions - 75% of those in attendance/proxy	66
30	6	5	1	Chairman Proxy	Chairman Proxy	42		
40	11	8	1			60		
				Required	46	15% of those entitled to vote in person/proxy (Clubs - 255; Counties - 28 M, 29 F; 2 U) - Total 305		

A - Attended; AP - Proxy to person in attendance; CP = Proxy to Chairman

A	AP	CP	MEN County Name
1			BEDFORDSHIRE CIBA
1			CAMBRIDGESHIRE CIBA
		1	CORNWALL CIBA
		1	DEVON CIBA
1			DORSET CIBA
		1	HERTFORDSHIRE CIBA
		1	KENT CIBA
1			LEICESTERSHIRE CIBA
		1	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CIBA
1			OXFORDSHIRE CIBA
		1	WILTSHIRE CIBA
5	0	6	

A	AP	CP	LADIES County Name
		1	BEDFORDSHIRE WIBA
1			BERKSHIRE WIBA
		1	DURHAM CWIBA
1			LEICESTERSHIRE LCIBA
		1	NORFOLK CWIBA
1			OXFORDSHIRE WIBA
		1	SUSSEX CWIBA
		1	YORKSHIRE LIBA
3	0	5	

A	AP	CP	UNIFIED County Name
		1	SUFFOLK CIBA

A	AP	CP	CLUB
		1	ACLE
		1	ADUR
		1	BOSTON
		1	CHAWTON PARK
		1	COLCHESTER
		1	DAWLISH & DISTRICT
1			DEANGATE RIDGE
	1		EGHAM
		1	FAIRFORD
1			FELIXSTOWE
		1	FERRYHILL
1			GEDLING & DISTRICT
1			HERGA
		1	HONITON
		1	HOUGHTON IBC
		1	IPSWICH & DISTRICT
1			ISLE OF WIGHT
1			KEMPSTON PARK
		1	KING GEORGE FIELD
		1	KINGSTHORPE
		1	LANGNEY SPORTS
		1	LEICESTER
		1	MALVERN HILLS
		1	NAILSEA
		1	NORFOLK BOWLING CLUB
		1	OLD COULSDON
1			OXFORD & DISTRICT
1			PETERBOROUGH & DIST
		1	PRINCE ARTHUR
		1	PURITON
		1	RUGBY THORNFIELD
		1	SOLIHULL
		1	STAMFORD AND DISTRICT
		1	SWINDON MANOR
		1	TEMPLE
		1	TORBAY
		1	TURPINS
		1	WELFORD-ON-AVON
		1	WEST MERSEA
1			WHITEKNIGHTS
9	1	30	

2023 Minutes and Appendix downloadable at www.eiba.co.uk/about/agm.php

DIRECTORS' REPORT - For the period ended 30 November 2023

As the new financial year commenced the threat of COVID-19 had, thankfully, become minimal but the whole Country was now facing continual increases in the cost of living which made individuals making the choice of whether they could continue playing of the sport.

As a result, membership levels across the country had a further decline from 64,959 to 64,211 across the 255 affiliated clubs.

Combined with this the Company struggled to attract new Commercial Partners, which it had expected to see some success with, as the sport was now back to full activity. However, the Company were grateful for the continued support from Utility Bidder, Fred Olsen, Gallagher and O'Neills.

Finally, the continuing rise in the cost of living caused higher accommodation and air travel costs associated with sending international teams to events in Ireland and Scotland.

Consequently, the end of year financial result was a loss of £52,070 before depreciation.

The International programme saw mixed success for England. The Women's team won the British Isles Series in Scotland, but the Men were unable to extend its record-breaking record as they finished second. Both the Men's and Women's U25 teams came second in their series as did the U18s which was well hosted by Solihull IBC for the Company.

In addition to a full programme of National Winter Competitions, with increased entries across the competitions, the Company was pleased to finally be able to introduce the National Summer Competitions. The Company wishes to thank Nottingham, Dolphin, Spalding, St Neots and Kempston Park Indoor Bowls Clubs for hosting the finals so well for us.

The new on-line Competition portal was launched and despite a few challenges when publishing the competition draws, it is now operating as expected for the administration of the National Competition programmes.

Changes were implemented to the National Competition structure. The number of Areas were reduced from 18 to 16. In doing this the number of entries per Area were levelled out to balance the number of rounds played before reaching the National Finals and via zoning within the Areas, made travelling distances less of a concern until the later stages of the competitions.

In Development, led by Mike Lambert, a Summary Step-by-Step Guide was placed on the EIBA website for future reference of clubs interested to read the simple method outlined. Mike reported that he had been greatly gratified by supportive letters from those who took the time to follow the required simple steps, and then carried out the necessary hard work to achieve re-growth.

The Company continued to use its portfolio of social media platforms (Facebook, X-Twitter and Instagram). These are proving to be successful in getting information on all areas of the sport, both nationally and locally, out to wider audiences.

A well received addition was the appointment of Sian Honnor to provide a series of interviews with players and officials covering all aspects of the game.

The Year Ahead – As of March 2024

The Company will be focusing on the profile and communication of the sport. A new website will be launched in time for the new season in the Autumn as well as the expansion of EIBA TV and the live coverage of National Finals and Open Singles Circuit events.

With Head Office staff numbers again being below the desired level of 6, there will be the recruitment of a Governance and Operations administrator to help deal with the ever-increasing levels of Safeguarding and Disciplinary requests.

As a result of the appointment, Head Office will be able to fully focus on securing commercial partnerships to increase the non-bowls income levels to enable the Company to lead and enhance all areas of sport governance and the required standards are continually met for the Sport of Indoor Bowls to be fit for the future.

Income & Expenditure Budget

December 2023 - November 2024

INCOME	£	£
Affiliation fees	354,080	
Commercial (sponsorship, yearbook, merchandise)	48,500	
Competitions	160,875	
Other / Grants	3,000	
		566,455
 EXPENDITURE		
Headquarters / Governance	348,322	
Competitions	86,500	
Development	25,250	
International	67,950	
Commercial	30,000	
Presidential, Committees	5,900	
		563,922
 Budgeted surplus		 2,533

6. FORMAL ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS FROM THE BOARD

Annual Levy

6.1 *“The Board propose that in accordance with Article 5.2, “For the 12 months ending 30th November 2025, 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 2024, shall be £5.00. This sum to be paid by 31st December 2024.”*

Recommendation from the Board FOR

The EIBA committed last year that on securing a £5 levy, there would be no further increase to the individual levy fee until 2026 at the earliest.

Annual Subscription for Clubs

6.2 *“The Board propose that in accordance with Article 5.1, “For the 12 months ending 30th November 2025, the Annual Subscription for Clubs shall be £130. This sum to be paid by 31st December 2024.”*

Recommendation from the Board FOR

To prevent the need for a substantial increase of the fee in the future, the Board will increase the subscription in small increments annually to aide its on-going governance of the sport.

Annual Subscription for County Associations

6.3 *“The Board propose that in accordance with Article 5.1, “For the 12 months ending 30th November 2025, the Annual Subscription for Unified County Associations shall be £63 and £42 for County Associations who are responsible for just Men or Women. This sum to be paid by 31st December 2024.”*

Recommendation from the Board FOR

To prevent the need for a substantial increase of the fee in the future, the Board will increase the subscription in small increments annually to aide its on-going governance of the sport.

7. BOARD

7.1 Election of Board members – Confirmation of member elected

8. INSTALLATION/ELECTION OF PRESIDENTS

8.1 Presidential Address

8.2 Installation of President

8.3 Installation of Senior Vice-President

8.4 Election of Junior Vice President – No Nominations received

9. INSTALLATION of LIFE MEMBER

9.1 Life Member – Steve Boughton, Malvern Hills IBC

10. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

Recommendation from the Board – “Westcotts”, Chartered Accountants and Business Advisers, Weston-super-Mare.

DIRECTOR ELECTION STATEMENT

Name Michael Peter Lambert

Club: Egham Bowls Club

Proposed by: Angela Best, Management Secretary of Egham Bowls Club

Seconded by: John Stewart, Officer of Essex County IBC



Candidates' election statement outlining details of their personal background including experience/ qualities which will be of benefit to the Association

EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS RELEVANT TO THE POSITION

- 40yrs bowling, 38 as Administrator
- Club Indoor – 7yrs Chairman Egham, securing sponsors & £40k+ grants; 2yrs Indoor Secretary
- Surrey County Indoor – Team Manager (9yrs), Comps (3yrs), Secretary (9yrs), President, Life Member.
- Co-founder Surrey Bowls – 4 x Associations group, unified shirt design, secured major sponsors, £36k funding, recruited 1000+ new bowlers.
- Won 9 National titles, 7 County.
- I have good organisational skills, strong sense of direction for opportunities and development and am prepared to travel anywhere to engage with any organisation, bowls or otherwise.
- I have proven skills for implementing plans and carrying them through. I am able to enthuse and direct others to follow tried and tested regimes for recruitment. 6 years as EIBA Director of Development to date.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION e.g. qualifications, experience / qualities which would be of benefit to the Association

- Grammar School, University, 7yrs in Recruitment Industry, to General Manager.
- 27yrs from start-up /owner Cleaning Company, 40+ staff, sold up, retired at 55. Oversaw all Selling & Operational.
- Married to Barbara, Health Visitor, retired; Daughter Jennie Paediatric Consultant, St.Thomas's Hospital, London; Son Mark, from professional Rugby player, now Director of RPA Player's Union.

EIBA Director of Development

- In my first 6 years in post, I travelled the Country providing county-by-county seminars for Clubs on the importance and methods of recruitment and retention of new bowlers. I subsequently summarised the message as a downloadable series of instruction pamphlets, placed on the EIBA website.
- Clearly the growth of new participants in the sport is important to me
- I was subsequently involved with the resizing of the National Areas from 18 to 16, and thereby equalising the number of rounds for players to reach National Finals.