

**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 17th May 2025 commencing at 2pm**

Present:

Clubs and Counties

Nominee Member /Representatives/Personal Proxy from Affiliated Clubs - 8
Chairman's Proxy from Affiliated Clubs – 30

Nominee Member/Representatives/Personal Proxy from Affiliated Counties – 0 (Female); 2 (Male):0 (Unified): Total 2
Chairman's Proxy from Affiliated Counties – 3 (Female); 9 (Male); 1 (Unified): Total 13

Quorum required (15% of 254 Clubs and 49 Counties) – 46; Quorum achieved - 53

See Appendix 1 for full details

Board of Directors/Chief Executive/Officers/Staff)

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

Other Directors: Susan Johnston; Michael Lambert

Other Officers: Jeremy Baker-Deam (Senior Vice-President).

Staff – Stephen Rodwell (Development Manager/Company Secretary), Will Hart (Governance & Operations Administrator), Muavia Javed (Finance Administrator) and Sophie de Ronde (Administration Assistant).

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 17th May 2025 at the Melton Mowbray Baptist Church was despatched on 16th January 2025 to:

- 254 Clubs
- 27 Male County Associations
- 20 Female County Associations
- 2 Unified County Associations”

2. Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from the following:-

Directors

David Cable; Robyn Lockhart; John Rednall and John Stewart

Affiliated Clubs

Ashford; Bridgwater; Carterton; Century; Chipping Norton; Hartlepool; Palmerston; Purnell; Torbay; West Denton; Whiteknights

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Affiliated Counties

Devon CIBA; Gloucestershire IBA; Kent CIBA; Leicestershire LCIBA; Middlesex CIBA; Nottinghamshire LCIBA; Oxfordshire IBA; Oxfordshire WIBA

Life Members

Tony Allcock OBE; Clare Beahan; Jan Byford; Jenny McConnell; Gordon Thomas; Lindsay Warner; Gillian Wonnacott

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, everyone, and welcome to the 2025 Annual General Meeting of the English Indoor Bowling Association.

It's a pleasure to have you here as we come together to reflect, recognise, and refocus on the future of our sport. Before we begin, I'd like to invite those who are able to stand with me for a moment of silence as we remember and honour the members of our bowls community we have sadly lost over the past year. (Thank you.)

Now, I want to begin today with appreciation. Over the past 12 months, the team at the EIBA has once again shown dedication and resolve. Behind every competition, every piece of communication, and every decision, there is an incredible group of people working hard to keep our sport moving forward.

I'd especially like to acknowledge Susan Bakewell, who retired in December after 11 years with the association. I would also like to acknowledge Stephen Rodwell, who, I am pleased to say, is not leaving us, but is taking the first step towards his well-deserved retirement and will transition into a part-time role from July. We are grateful for your continued support, Steve. It has been a pleasure to welcome Will Hart and Muavia Javed, who have joined us as our Governance and Operations and Finance Administrators, respectively.

To our Board of Directors: your time, energy, and commitment, all freely given, continue to be vital to the health of our sport. The impact of your efforts cannot be overstated – thank you for staying the course and leading with passion.

I stand here today with a firm belief that we are entering a defining era for bowls. Yes, we face challenges – but more than that, we face opportunities. Opportunities to evolve, modernise, and reimagine what bowls in England can look like for future generations.

Our sport is steeped in history, but it is far from a relic. Bowls still has the power to bring people together, to offer friendship, fitness, competition, and community. We are not here to preserve it – we are here to grow it, to adapt it, and to pass it on stronger than we found it.

Let's be honest – participation has been under pressure. But pointing fingers or dwelling on the decline won't turn things around. But what will make the difference is united action, a shared vision, and a commitment from every part of the bowls community – national, county, club, and individual – to be part of the solution, not the problem.

We committed to a three-year freeze of affiliation fees in 2023, and this AGM marks the start of the third and final year of this commitment. I want to make another commitment to you today. Of course, running a national governing body comes with costs, and we've worked hard to shield our members from increases for as long as possible. But with shrinking reserves and rising pressures, we must now take steps to ensure the EIBA remains stable and sustainable.

I want to reassure you that this isn't just about numbers. It's about what we do with those resources: investing in better support for clubs, expanding recruitment efforts, strengthening governance, and building pathways from the grassroots to the international stage. My commitment to you is this: as we consider our future and our affiliation fees, we will be bold and ambitious, but we will always be respectful and transparent. Any increase will not be simply for the EIBA's survival. It will be for bowls to thrive.

When I first picked up a bowl at age 10, I never imagined I'd one day be standing here as Chairman of the English Indoor Bowling Association. This sport has given me years of memories, competition, joy, and friendship. I know I'm not alone in that.

But, as I have said before, we've had our turn. Now, it's about those who come next – the new faces yet to walk into a club for the first time. The future champions, administrators, volunteers, and community leaders. It's our job to make sure the door is wide open for them.

Bowls has the potential to be a truly modern, inclusive, and dynamic sport – but only if we work together to shape that reality. Thank you.

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of EIBA Ltd held on 18th May 2024

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 May 2024 were then proposed by Arthur Broadberry (Leicestershire CIBA), seconded by Mark Cohen (Southend-on Sea 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 Chief Executive addressed the meeting commenting as follows:

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I can confirm that as indicated on the front of the Accounts booklet, the EIBA Board approved these accounts for the year ending November 2024 on 22nd April 2025.

The results for the year were greatly impacted, as outlined in the Directors' report by unexpected Professional Fees of just under £21,000 for legal and HR consultants.

- *hosting of the BIIBC International Series and Championships, which meant international expenditure was £26,000 higher than the previous year. Mainly through the hosting agreement requiring us to provide seating for 500 spectators each day.*
- *Finally the challenging commercial market still prevailing, which did not allow, conservative targets being secured and regrettably the loss of Potters Resort and Fred Olsen as our partners.*

There was continued increases in income generated, through the Affiliation and Levy fees and higher entries into the Summer National Competitions, an encouraging start to the programme which will again be reflected next year.

The level of club membership across the country has stabilised, around the 64,000 mark.

Whilst positive in terms that this has bucked the trend over the previous 15 years of annual decline, it does mean that the income received is also remaining at the same due to the EIBA committing not to raise the annual levy above £5 for 3 years.

In relation to the expenditure there was an increase in salaries from the previous year, just over £19,000. This was due to returning the number of staff back to, the ideal minimum of, 6 from 5 to deal with the increasing workload Head Office was facing, especially in the areas of governance and safeguarding. In addition, temporary contract staff was needed to cover long term staff sickness.

The £21,000 additional spend in advertising was the production and commentary costs for the live streaming from the National Finals, Mixed Finals, Champion of Champions and U25 Singles on EIBA TV.

This was to fulfil the increasing demand from the bowling community to be able to watch more bowls on television.

Pleasingly the number of views across the season are at levels which make future sponsorship / advertising deals attractive and secured. This will be shown in next year's accounts.

In concluding as is felt across the country, costs continue to increase and whilst the Company will continue to find ways to operate efficiently it has again made the recommendation to increase its membership fees, to lessen the burden.

As the Chairman mentioned in his opening address there will be the need to critically review the levy fee for the 2026 onwards and business case presented to the membership.

This ends the financial report, but we are happy to take any questions you may have on the Directors' report and or accounts.

The Chairman enquired as to whether there were any Club or County Representatives who wished to make any comments.

Steve Charlesworth (Slater Street Leicester IBC) made the following comments:

- Page 5 of the Accounts shows a Deficit of £54789 for 2023 and £76300 for 2024 – a combined loss of £131089.
- Page 6 of the Accounts shows: Net Assets £17051 for 2023, but a Net Liabilities figure of £59249 for 2024
- Page 6 also shows Creditors falling due within one year of £178562
- Surprised that the Auditors have not made any comments about the EIBA being a “Going Concern”.
- In his opinion, the Accounts show that the EIBA is “Bankrupt”
- If the EIBA does become insolvent, what will be the risk for all Clubs and Counties?

The Chief Executive commented as follows:

- 65% of the Competition Entry Fees that are received in the Year ending November 2024 are treated as “Creditors” as the actual Competition Events do not take place until the following Financial Year.
- In effect these monies are treated as “Advance Payments”, which would be more explanatory way of describing the Creditors in the Accounts.
- The question of being a “Going Concerned” is mentioned in the Auditors Report to the Board of Directors.
- Every Member of the Association undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Association in the event of the Association being wound up to the amount of £1.

Stephen Rodwell (Company Secretary) commented as follows:

- Bowlers are used to seeing an “Income & Expenditure Statement” which would show if the EIBA has spent more OR less than it receives as Income.

The Chairman commented as follows;

- The Board of Directors were acutely aware that continued losses cannot happen. They are reviewing all aspects of the EIBA business, with a view to addressing this matter through increasing core income and or reducing areas of expenditure.

Tony Thurlbeck (Avon Valley IBC) made the following comments:

- Is the EIBA losing money?
- Is the EIBA obtaining sufficient Income to cover all Costs?
- He questioned why the EIBA had to incur legal costs of £21000 for a Safeguarding Case. Why was the EIBA getting involved in such matters?

The Chief Executive commented as follows:

- Our core income source will not have been increased for three years by end of 2026 and due to annual increase on costs this will need to change.
- The EIBA is committed to making the sport a safe environment for all and as such Safeguarding was an important function of the organisation and should also be for clubs and counties.

The Chairman then sought acceptance of the Directors Report, Business Review and Financial Report (with Accounts) - proposed by Mark Cohen (Southend-on-Sea IBC) and seconded by Arthur Broadberry (Leicestershire CIBA). The meeting accepted the Reports.

6. Formal Special Resolution from the Board

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

a) Stephen Rodwell (Company Secretary) would act as Scrutineer, with 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 (<i>Blue</i>), followed by A (<i>Orange</i>), followed by abstentions (<i>Blue or Orange</i>).
CLUB - TWO VOTES	F (<i>Light Green</i>), followed by A (<i>Red</i>), followed by abstentions (<i>Light Green/Red</i>).
COUNTY - ONE VOTE	F (<i>Yellow</i>), followed by A (<i>Pink</i>), followed by abstentions (<i>Yellow/Pink</i>)
UNIFIED COUNTY – TWO VOTES	F (<i>Light Blue</i>) followed by A (<i>White</i>), followed by abstentions (<i>Light Blue/ White</i>).

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 110, with 75% thereby being calculated at 83 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 110, with 51% thereby being calculated at 56 Votes.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

From Annual General Meeting in May 2026 the Officers of the Association to be the President and the Vice President.

Article 1.1.16 will be amended to read as follows:

DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1.16. "Officers" mean the President, Senior Vice-President and Junior Vice-President but from the 2026 annual general meeting, "Officers" will mean the President and Vice-President, as appointed in accordance with Article 37 and 38.

Articles 37 to 39 will be amended to read as follows:

OFFICERS

37. *The Officers of the Association shall comprise the President, Senior-Vice President and the Junior Vice-President, but from the 2026 annual general meeting, Officers of the Association shall comprise the President and Vice-President.*

38. *At each annual general meeting and subject to Article 39.2:*

38.1. *With effect from the 2026 annual general meeting, the following procedures shall apply:*

38.1.1 *The Members shall elect a Vice-President, either a man or a woman. A prospective Vice-President or other Officer must be proposed and seconded by Member Clubs and must sign a nomination form to signify his or her willingness to act which contains a description of that person not exceeding 100 words to include details of his or her relevant experience and expertise and must be sent to the Association no more than 120 clear days and no later than sixty clear days before the annual general meeting.*

38.1.2 *At the 2026 annual general meeting, subject to Article 39.2, the incumbent Junior Vice-President will be elected President*

38.1.3 *At all future annual general meetings, subject to Article 39.2, the Vice-President elected at the previous annual general meeting shall become President.*

38.2. *The President who succeeded to this office at the previous annual general meeting shall retire from office.*

- 38.3 *The Members shall also elect a man or a woman to fill any vacancy which there may be as a result of there being no candidate to succeed to any of the positions referred to in Sub-Articles 1.1 to 38.2 (inclusive).*
- 38.4 *A prospective candidate must be proposed and seconded by Member Clubs and must sign a nomination form to signify his or her willingness to act which contains a description of that person not exceeding 100 words to include details of his or her relevant experience and expertise and must be sent to the Association no more than 120 clear days and no later than sixty clear days before the annual general meeting.*

39.

- 39.1. *The Members in general meeting may remove any Officer or member of the Board in accordance with the provisions of the Act in relation to the removal of a Director.*
- 39.2. *If any Officer dies, retires or is removed from office, the following provisions shall apply:*
- 39.2.1. *if the President ceases to hold office, the Vice-President shall become the President.*
- 39.2.2. *the person succeeding to an office under this sub-clause shall hold office until the next annual general meeting and for the period until the next annual general meeting thereafter*

The Chairman formally proposed the motion on behalf of the Board, duly seconded by Steve Charlesworth (Slater Street Leicester IBC).

The Chairman announced that as Chairman he was carrying the following Proxy Votes – 80 (For); 0 (Against) and 4 (Abstentions).

The Chairman enquired as to whether there were any Club or County Representatives who wished to make any comments on the resolution that was being considered.

Tony Thurlbeck (Avon Valley IBC) sought clarification as to the current Presidential arrangements. The Chief Executive outlined the current procedure of President, Senior Vice-President and Junior Vice-President, where the gender alternates each year, but unfortunately nominations were not being received.

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

The Resolution was CARRIED – 106 (For), 0 (Against) and 4 (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 2026, 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 2025, shall be £5.00. This sum to be paid by 31st December 2025.*

The Chairman formally proposed the motion on behalf of the Board, duly seconded by Mark Cohen (Southend-on-Sea IBC)

The Chairman announced that as Chairman he was carrying the following Proxy Votes – 77 (For); 6 (Against) and 1 (Abstentions).

The Chairman enquired as to whether there were any Club or County Representatives who wished to make any comments on the resolution that was being considered.

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 – 103 (For), 6 (Against) and 1 (Abstentions).

Annual Subscription for Clubs

- 7.2 *The Board propose that in accordance with Article 5.1, "For the 12 months ending 30th November 2026, the Annual Subscription for Clubs shall be £136.50. This sum to be paid by 31st December 2025."*

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 – 76 (For); 6 (Against) and 2 (Abstentions).

The Chairman enquired as to whether there were any Club or County Representatives who wished to make any comments on the resolution that was being considered.

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 – 102 (For), 6 (Against) and 2 (Abstentions).

Annual Subscription for County Associations

7.3 *The Board propose that in accordance with Article 5.1, "For the 12 months ending 30th November 2026, the Annual Subscription for Unified County Associations shall be £66.15 and £44.10 for County Associations who are responsible for just Men or Women. This sum to be paid by 31st December 2025.*

The Chairman formally proposed the motion on behalf of the Board, duly seconded by Mike Davies (Warwickshire CIBA).

The Chairman announced that as Chairman he was carrying the following Proxy Votes – 78 (For); 2 (Against) and 4 (Abstentions).

The Chairman enquired as to whether there were any Club or County Representatives who wished to make any comments on the resolution that was being considered.

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), 2 (Against) and 4 (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

With only TWO nominations being received by the deadline of 17th March 2025, in accordance with Article 48.1 the following persons was duly elected for a period of three years.

- Susan Jane Johnston – proposed by Lincoln & District IBC and seconded by Louth & District IBC
- John Graham Stewart - proposed by Essex County IBC and seconded by Egham IBC.

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

9. Installation/Election of Presidents

9.1 Presidential Address

Pauline Adams Retiring President addressed the meeting as follows:

It had been an interesting and enjoyable year. What an experience! The Year has gone too fast.

Pauline highlighted the following events:

- *Disability Fixture*
- *International Events*
- *National Championship Finals*

Wished Jeremy well in his forthcoming Presidential Year.

Thanks to all of the HQ Staff, Mark Cohen, Peter and Josh for their assistance.

Finally – thanks to all of the EIBA Members for allowing her to have the honour of being the Associations President.

9.2 Installation of President

The Chairman announced that in accordance with Article 38.3.2, **Jeremy Baker-Deam from Isle of Wight IBC** would be President for the next 12 months.

Pauline Adams presented Jeremy with his Chain of Office, Presidential Medallion and Plaque.

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

9.3 Installation of Senior Vice-President

The Chief Executive advised the meeting that:

- there had been no nominations by the deadline of 17th March 2025. as such for the 2025-2026 Season, there will be no Senior Vice-President.
- as result of the meeting approving the Special Resolution, Brian Hearn as the new Junior Vice-President will become President at the 2026 Annual General Meeting.

9.4 Election of Junior Vice-President

The Chairman announced that with only one nomination having been received by the deadline of 17th March 2025, in accordance with Articles 38.3, 38.3.5 and 41.1, **Brian Hearn from Herga IBC** would be Junior Vice-President for the next 12 months.

Pauline presented Brian with his Junior Vice-President's Medallion and Blazer Badge.

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

10. **Installation of Life Member**

10.1 The Chairman announced the Installation of the following Life Member:

- Pauline Adams – Falcon IBC

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

Pauline 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 "Westcotts" on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Board – proposed by Arthur Broadberry (Leicestershire CIBA) and seconded by Mark Cohen (Southend -on-Sea IBC).

CLOSE OF BUSINESS

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

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 Davies (Warwickshire CIBA) expressed concern at the lack of attendees for the Annual General Meeting.

He wondered if the Board had considered moving the date of the meeting until later in the year, as many Bowlers are playing Outdoors in May.

The Chairman advised that the Attendance data will be reviewed at future Board meetings.

With nobody else wishing to make any further comments, the Chairman closed the Open Forum, thanking everybody for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 3.25 pm

Signed: (Chairman)

Date:

2025 AGM's - Attendance

TOTAL				TOTAL	Grand total of Votes (Attend/Proxy)	110
Clubs	MC	LC	UC	QUORUM (attend/chairman p)	For Propositions - 51% of those in attendance/proxy	56
8	2	0	0	Reps/Noms/Personal Proxy	10	83
30	9	3	1	Chairman Proxy	43	
38	11	3	1		53	
				Required	46	15% of those entitled to vote in person/proxy (Clubs - 254; Counties - 27 M; 20 L; 2 U) - Total 303

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

A	AP	CP	MEN County Name
		1	BEDFORDSHIRE CIBA
		1	DEVON CIBA
		1	GLOUCESTERSHIRE CIBA
1			LEICESTERSHIRE CIBA
		1	LINCOLNSHIRE CIBA
		1	MIDDLESEX CIBA
		1	NORFOLK CIBA
		1	SURREY CIBA
1			WARWICKSHIRE CIBA
		1	WILTSHIRE CIBA
		1	WORCESTERSHIRE CIBA
2	0	9	

A	AP	CP	LADIES County Name
		1	BEDFORDSHIRE WIBA
		1	OXFORDSHIRE WIBA
		1	SUSSEX CWIBA
0	0	3	

A	AP	CP	UNIFIED County Name
		1	ESSEX CIBA
0	0	1	

A	AP	CP	CLUB
		1	ACLE
1			AVON VALLEY
		1	BASSETLAW
1			BLETCHLEY
		1	CARTERTON
		1	CENTURY
		1	CHAWTON PARK
		1	CHIPPING NORTON
1			EGHAM
		1	ESSEX COUNTY
		1	FAIRFORD
		1	FALCON
		1	FERRYHILL
		1	FIVE RIVERS
		1	GALLOW
		1	HARROGATE
		1	HARTLEPOOL
1			HERGA
		1	HONITON
		1	KINGSTHORPE
		1	LEEDS AND DISTRICT
1			LINCOLN & DISTRICT
		1	MOLE VALLEY
		1	NAILSEA
		1	NORFOLK BOWLING CLUB
		1	NORTH WILTS
		1	NOTTINGHAM
		1	OLD COULSDON
		1	PARKS
		1	PRINCE ARTHUR ROAD
		1	ROUNDWOOD
1			SLATER STREET* LEICESTER
1			SOUTHEND-ON-SEA
1			STAMFORD AND DISTRICT
		1	WELFORD-ON-AVON
		1	WEST MERSEA
		1	WHITEKNIGHTS
		1	WYMONDHAM DELL
8	0	30	