



DEVON COUNTY INDOOR BOWLS ASSOCIATION

*** MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR 2023/2024 SEASON HELD AT PLYMOUTH L.C. ON THURSDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2024. PRESIDENT CHRIS FENNER**

The President opened the meeting at 6-55 pm stating the procedures to be observed during the meeting.

- 1) Apologies for absence were received from K.Davey, G.Heaven, G.Taylor, A. Thomas and I.Turner.**
- 2) Obituaries notified were for David Butterworth, Ernie Knight, Ces Semple and Alan Paxton.A minute of silent reflection of loss was observed by all.**
- 3) The minutes of the previous meeting of 18/9/23 were approved and signed off.**
- 4) The Acting County Treasurer's report was read out by him, a copy of which together with accounts prepared by professional accountants with information supplied by him had been circulated earlier.**

Obviously some questions could not be answered in detail as acting treasurer has yet to get David Butterworth's working papers and previous accounts, especially in regard to any accounts that may be requested by others. TUIBC expressed with some hostility that their members did not want to pay the proposed new capitation fees and most of them were not interested in county affairs or playing for the county. They stated that only 40% of their members had any interest in county.South Hams also expressed concern at the increased fee as the club were already struggling to maintain membership numbers. The acting treasurer said that if the percentages quoted b TUIBC were realised the capitation fee would have to rise to £16-33 per playing member to maintain county reserves. TUIBC asked for copies of accounts and was referred to earlier comments by acting treasurer, who did confirm that when the VP's account was paused, there was a credit balance of £25-68, with the last payment from the account being the sum of £200-00 paid direct to Colts.Acting Treasurer also confirmed that as soon as possible a new DCIBA(DEVON COLTS) bank account would be opened. In the

meantime all financial statements were reflected in the DCIBA accounts presented to the meeting showing payments made to Devon Colts in support of their aim to be as financially self sufficient as possible. This would be further addressed in item 7. TUIBC then questioned the level of funds being carried over. The Acting Treasurer pointed out that if our inter county teams had had success in reaching national finals a great proportion of that figure would have been wiped out by financial support for those teams. It is the responsibility of the county to be prepared for those successes. The Acting Treasurer's report and accounts were approved by the meeting. (Proposed by Keith Young and Seconded by Kevin Phillips.) The County Secretary G.C. made it clear to G.H that the accounts clearly showed that he had not received £600-00 as webmaster allowance for the year 23/24 as the podcast for bowls revolution which was broadcast from TUIBC had said. For clarity the accounts show that the website allowance was only paid to David Butterworth and Gary Hitching, and G.C. has not received any payments for that position at any time. There were no comments from clubs.

- 5) Anticipated member levels were discussed. A drop of 15% was anticipated by both Sidmouth and TUIBC. Definitive figures would not be known until subscriptions were received by clubs in October from their members.
- 6) The 51st report on the County's activities during the past year. Was read out to the meeting by the County Secretary
- 7) Allowances and mileage payments were accepted and approved by the meeting. In regard to the capitation fees TUIBC, Sidmouth and South Ham's objected. TUIBC thought that it punished smaller clubs. It also affected TUIBC to the extent that they may follow the Ladies and start their own leagues and competitions and no longer need the county. They provided a lengthy story of how they had increased their membership to over 200 and increased the levels of sponsorship and grants from various organisations including disability support finances. The Acting Treasurer pointed out that the county accounts showed that TUIBC had only paid for 112 members capitation fees for 23/24 year. (The Treasurer apologises for quoting the wrong figure for that year as that was for the previous year) Sidmouth and South Ham's both registered disquiet at the increase that may affect their membership levels. The treasurer referred to his report to the executive meeting of 25/3/24 where he detailed how £0-65 of the increase from £4-95 to £5-80 would be ring fenced and paid to the Devon Colts to afford them greater strength in competing with more affluent counties. Sidmouth suggested that one man

(G.C.) should not be doing three jobs. G.C. and K.B. both stated that vacancies for six officers were made quite clear to all clubs at the end of 2022 at executive meeting and followed up by specific notice of possible uncertainty if those posts were not filled. G.C. is acting in a caretaker role as web master until that post is filled. TUIBC also suggested that costs could be driven down by holding AGM's and other meetings on line. Whilst wary, K.B. suggested that TUIBC should submit a proper proposal in that respect to the next executive meeting (4/11/24) at Mid Devon. KB also pointed out that TUIBC had not attended any County meetings since 2019, when their views could have been discussed in a proper manner. Plymouth pointed out that if the Colts element had not been included in capitation fees then the fee would only have increased to £5-15. An exchange of views regarding website became over heated and personal between G.C and G.H from TUIBC and was shut down by the chair and asked to move on to a vote, which resulted in the approval of the new capitation fee of £5-80 by the meeting. The fees therefore agreed for 2024/2025 are Capitation Fee 5-80 per member. Mileage £0-35 per mile. Allowances President £1000-00, County Secretary £700-00, Treasurer £400-00, Match Secretary £300-00, Fixtures Secretary £300-00 Competitions Secretary £300-00, Leagues Secretary £300-00 Website Manager £20-00 per month. Club County Membership £1-00 per year.

- 8) The Ratification of the President and his officers for 2024/2025 as listed below was unanimously approved The Chain of Office was passed to Ray Sandercock of Torbay. Executive Officers will be President Ray Sandercock, Senior Vice President Leighton Burston (Honiton), Junior Vice President Roger Williams (Madeira) Immediate Past President Chris Fenner (Plymouth), County Secretary George Coxwell (Kingsley), County Treasurer Ken Brenchley (Torbay) Match Secretary Chris Beer (Mid Devon) Fixtures Secretary (Kingsley) Competitions Secretary George Coxwell (Kingsley) Inter Club Leagues Secretary Anthony Davies (South Hams). Liberty Trophy Manager Kevin Phillips (Exonia) Safeguarding Officer Ian Turner (Mid Devon) Devon Colts/Under25s-30s/ Under18s Managers Adam and Heidi Fielder (Plymouth) Website Manager Vacant, Over 60s Inter County Stuart Evans and Glyn Lawrence (Plymouth) Kevin Phillips (Exonia) County Tour Managers Chris and Jill Beer. Regional co-ordinators Chris Fenner (Plymouth), Gary Osbourne (Honiton) Brian Stubbington. (Torbay) Auditor Vacant.
- 9) The Proposal to provide names of members when submitting capitation Fees was, after discussion rejected.

10) The proposal to adjust competition prize monies was, after discussion rejected .

11) After the completion of the official business of the meeting, Chair Chris Fenner closed the meeting at 8-00pm

Footnote 1) It should be noted that TUIBC attendees had only one delegate, who was actually registered for 2024/2025 season and two others. However, it was felt that it would be churlish not to allow him and his club secretary to speak after the long absence from meetings so, extraordinarily they were allowed to do so. This would be in the county interests. Similarly, clubs that offered valid reasons for their enforced absence were given the chance to have their vote(s) recorded.

Footnote 2) After the AGM business was closed the pot draws was made for DCIBA 24/25 team competitions as follows:

COUNTY TROPHY - POT 2

TOP CLUB - POT 5

CHARLES PARROTT POT 1

The Draw was made by Ken Wheeler of Sidmouth IBC, and will be on website as soon as possible

Footnote 3) After due diligence in assessing possible costs, the Treasurer has worked out that the amount of costs involved in reclaiming paid expenses would not be of any benefit to the county. It would divert funds that could be spent elsewhere within the county.

Footnote 4) After discussion with the solicitors dealing with David Butterworth's estate .The treasurer has been informed that the information he needs is possibly contained in memory sticks found in his property that is part of David's estate and it would not be possible to forward these sticks to me due to the fact that the completion of the estate affairs would have to be concluded before permission could be given.

Footnote 5) Gary Osborne of Honiton has informed County that he is unable for personal reasons to continue with the role of Regional Co-Ordinator. Leighton Burston , also of Honiton has agreed to step back in to the role, for which we thank him
