



# The Friends of English Bowling

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting

**28th August 2025 at 11.30pm at the Bowls England Club Zone, Royal Leamington Spa**

The Meeting was attended by 36 members including the following members of the Executive Committee: Kath Lloyd (Chairman), Neil Fletcher (Secretary), Adie Lloyd (Match Secretary), Clive Handscombe (Treasurer), Mike Bertrand (Competitions Co-ordinator), Carolyn Hunt (Webmaster), Jenny Ralph (Assistant-Secretary), Paul Robson (Membership Secretary), Danny Holland (Safeguarding Officer).

**1. Apologies Received from:** D Butcher, P Cottee, S Knaus, V Knaus, C Fletcher, C Smithers, G Mariner, T & A Allman, D & D Slaughter, D Parr, M & R Pearce, G Webb, M & V White, L & J Bangs, S Wright, M Ellis, T Wright, D Smith, G Ellis, J Bishop, L & D Brown, M Fletcher, B Wilmot, J Smith, M & B Bailey.

**Committee members:** J Thompson, G Annetts, M Dunstone.

**Members Present:** S Aldridge, A Cole, A Hunt, L Summersgill, L Hall, S Skerry, M Skerry, M Leafe, M Poole, C Brett, A Booth, R Somerton, A Smith, T Dean, B Dean, S Thacker, A Farnsworth, J Scholey, T Scholey, H Marke, P Songer, Margaret Morris, M Morris, B Carter, M Laurence, N Roderick, S Atkinson.

The reports are shown below, having been previously sent to all members.

### **2. Welcome & Introduction (Kath Lloyd)**

Kath welcomed all to the AGM, and for those members present Kath introduced all the Committee Members.

### **3. Minutes of the AGM held on 27th August 2024**

The minutes having been previously circulated, were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Mike Morris and seconded by Chris Brett, and carried unanimously and signed by the Chair.

**4. Matters arising from Minute's** - No matters arising.

### **5. Report by the Chairman (Kath Lloyd)**

Altruism seems to be an old fashion word nowadays, but altruism is the foundation of our association. With the money from our members we can support the running of the Participation and the Team Spirit competitions and who does not like playing in or watching these?

We also receive donations from the clubs we visit, which is a lovely surprise. A big Thank You to these clubs.

Bowls England have introduced new competitions this year, which we are proud to support. They are the Under 17 Singles, as part of the pathway for younger players, and the Foundation Pairs to encourage new players into competitions and so to the Finals.

Support, encouragement and enjoyment is our aim for our sport.

Thank you to all our members for their continued support and thank you to the committee members for their strength and good humour.

### **6. Report from the Secretary (Neil Fletcher)**

We continued to use Zoom for our meetings in November and February, and in May we met at Berkhamsted Bowls Club with a Friends game following. We expect to follow the same format for the rest of 2025 and 2026. Whilst we may not get together for these meetings, we seem to meet up at some of the various games organised by Adie

Lloyd. The reports in Bowls International each month help us to keep in touch with our members. Our Summer Newsletter will follow after the AGM, and hopefully we will pick up some new members from this years National Finals. Special thanks to the Committee for all its hard work in the past 12 months.

#### **7. Report from Treasurer (Clive Handscombe)**

The report and accounts for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 have been sent out prior to the meeting and are posted on our website, I hope that everyone has taken the time to look at the accounts. As the accounts have already been sent to the Revenue and Tax paid I hope that there will not be a need for any adjustments, but I welcome any questions. I will then seek acceptance of the accounts.

As far as our current position we hold £94,000 of reserves from which we are due to pay Bowls England £25,000 to assist with the National Championships, Youth Development and Disability Bowls England. We decided to continue to donate more than we received in subscriptions as our reserves will allow us to do this for many years to come and the funds are better used in the sport than in the bank.

The acceptance of the accounts for 2024, having been previously circulated were proposed by Mike Poole and seconded by Hazel Marke, and accepted unanimously.

#### **8. Report from Membership Secretary (Paul Robson)**

Our 2025 individual membership stands at 168 which is 5 down on the previous year. During the last couple of months we have had 9 new members so our total individual membership is now 177. I expect this to rise slightly as we go into the National Championships which is the normal trend.

We currently have 24 County members. Three indicated that they no longer wished to support us and the remaining 8 did not reply to my emails.

The Google Group is constantly being updated due to email changes and new members but If you know of a member who is not receiving the Group emails, please let me know.

#### **9. Report from Match Secretary (Adie Lloyd)**

I would like once again to thank all the members for their support during 2025 season.

We had a problem with the 3 games in Lancashire, but the members rallied round and made sure we fulfilled our fixtures. You know who you are, thank you.

The Friends have been very lucky with the weather this season, our trips around the country have been blessed with sunshine.

Next year there will be 3 games in each of the following Counties: Cambridgeshire, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and 4 games in North Devon, we will have about 26 fixtures once again.

As I stated in the summer newsletter, 2025 is The Friends 20th Anniversary and so we are making a trip to Albufeira, Portugal for 7 days. 4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November. There will be 45 members on this tour.

Good Health & Good Bowling to you all.

#### **10. Report from Webmaster (Carolyn Hunt)**

Friends' bowling this summer has been everything we hoped for—and more. I can't tell you how much I look forward to our games, our little weekends away, and the chance to visit so many bowls venues. Along the way, we've met old friends and made new ones, and at the heart of it all, it's about the people.

We come in all shapes and sizes, with our own stories, challenges, and quirks. And yet, a simple game of bowls has this wonderful way of bringing us together.

As the summer winds down, some of us will be flexing our bowling arms indoors, while others might finally tackle that long-overdue housework! For me, that includes giving our website a bit of a refresh. Did you know we've kept

five years of reports and photos online? If you played in any of the 24 games back in 2018, now's the time to take a look before they're archived.

A special thank you to *Bowls International*, who've done Friends proud by featuring us in their magazine every single month this year. What a lovely way to share our news.

In summary, it has been a busy, and joyful summer for Friends.

#### **11. Report of the Safeguarding Officer (Danny Holland)**

I am sure that through your club and county you will know the importance and relevance of safeguarding which is everyone's responsibility in ensuring that everyone who participates in bowls can do so in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment.

Over the course of this year a review of the Friends Website and the Code of Conduct, in respect of safeguarding, has taken place to ensure that as an organisation we are in line with the guidance issued by the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA), as the umbrella organisation of the development of the sport of bowls to provide a framework of policies and procedures which help ensure a safe environment for everyone to enjoy playing bowls. Training has also been undertaken.

Through your awareness of the importance of safeguarding I am pleased to report that there have been no incidents raised. Thank you for your continued support and understanding around Safeguarding.

**12. Acceptance of Membership Forms:** This to be discussed by the committee at its next meeting.

**13. Motions to the AGM – None were received**

#### **14. Election of Officers and Committee:**

The election of the Officers was taken en bloc and carried unanimously.

##### **Officers**

Hon. Chair	Kath Lloyd (Wiltshire)
Hon. Secretary	Neil Fletcher (Hampshire)
Hon. Treasurer	Clive Handscombe (Herefordshire)
Hon. Match Secretary	Adie Lloyd (Wiltshire)
Hon. Membership & Information Secretary	Paul Robson (Hampshire)

Marcia Dunstone has announced she will be standing down as Assistant Treasurer and Steve Atkinson was introduced as joining the committee and taking the place of Marcia.

The election of the Committee was taken en bloc, and carried unanimously.

##### **Committee Members.**

Safeguarding Officer	Danny Holland (Wiltshire)
Asst Match Secretary	Graham Annetts (Wiltshire)
Asst Treasurer	Steve Atkinson (Yorkshire)
Web Site Liaison	Carolyn Hunt (Buckinghamshire)
Asst Secretary	Jenny Ralph (Bedfordshire)
Asst Membership Sec	John Thompson (Hertfordshire)
Competition /Raffle Coordinator	Mike Bertrand (Bedfordshire)

**15. AOB:** No items for inclusion had been received.

**14. Date of next Annual General Meeting –. Venue and date tba.**

The Chair KL closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting Closed at 11.42