

## ITEM NO 5

### BOWLS DURHAM (MEN'S SECTION) ANNUAL REPORT OF HONORARY SECRETARY

#### COUNTY TEAMS

It has been another steady year in so far as the County Teams are concerned. The continued wish and desire from many players to play for the County is still prevalent and this was shown in an improved level across the teams, under the captaincy of David Bolt and Dale Oram.

The A Team performed well in the main but when it comes to that piece of good fortune to enable the breakthrough in the Middleton Cup Matches was missing. Despite their best efforts they were just not able to qualify for the quarter finals as a consequence of a narrow defeat in the round robin stages

So far as the Muras Trophy was concerned it was a similar pattern to the previous year when a defeat by Northumberland cost the County the chance of the Title.

The B Team (Alsop) had another steady season under the Captaincy of Dale Oram but they failed to repeat the success of previous years when a heavy defeat to Cumbria put paid to their chances

As reported last year the future format of the Muras Trophy Competition and indeed its future as a whole is still under consideration by the Northern Counties Association. At its Annual General Meeting in November the continuation of the Competition will be confirmed.

There was no success for the County in the County Double Fours and the Under 25 Double Fours Competitions

Our thanks go to all the Team Managers and Youth Development Officers of the County for all their hard work.

#### COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Winners	Runners Up	
Singles D.Bolt (Silksworth)	M.Peach (Houghton D.L.)	
Pairs G.Williams	K.Briscoe	
M.English (Dipton)	J.Thurlbeck (Houghton D.L)	
Triples B.Hopkins	P.Dixon	
M.Jones	G.Farquhar	
A.Kirtland (Darlington R.A)	D.Bolt (Silksworth)	
Fours P.Dixon	D.Reed	
N.Ridley	D.Warnaby	
I.Riches	I.Peacock	
D.Bolt (Silksworth)	G.Robson (Leadgate)	
Junior J.McKenna (Silksworth)	K.Burton (Darlington R.A)	
2 Bowl D.Bolt(Silksworth)	P.Coulson(Darlington R.A)	
Champion of Champions	A.Jobling (Dunston)	Peter Thomson (Roker Marine)
Senior Fours G.Williams	R.Fairhurst	
C.Pearson	P.Heath	
M.Gregan	B.Attwood	
M.English (Dipton)	D.Gibson (Spennymoor)	
Junior Pairs K.Burton	J.McKenna	
L.Macey (Darlington R.A)	J.Halcrow (Silksworth)	

Congratulations are extended to all winners and runners up. All the qualifying players took part in the National Championships at Leamington and the Northern Counties Championships. Special congratulations are extended to David Bolt on appearing in five county Finals in 2018 a unique achievement and with his team mates on winning four of them

Of those attending the National Championships our warmest congratulations are extended to the Fours Winners and Triples Runners Up who were Semi-Finalists in the overall competition and to David Bolt who reached the Semi-Final of the Singles Competition.

It was a tremendous year for the County in the Northern Counties Championships with David Bolt winning the Singles Competition, The Two Bowls Singles, and with Scott Baker, Neal Ridley and Ian Riches the Fours Championship. George Williams and Michael English won the Pairs Championship and the County U25 Team of Josh Halcrow, Jaxon McKenna, Brian Henderson, Sam Patterson, Jordan Harston and Matt Gleeson won the Northern Counties U25 Team event.

David Bolt has also retained his place in the England Team for the Home International Series, in 2018, but his biggest achievement at this level was representing his Country in the Commonwealth Games in Australia and returning home with a deserved Bronze Medal from the Fours Competition. . .

## **GENERAL**

Bowls Durham place on record their thanks and appreciation to all those clubs who have assisted in staging county competition and presidential matches or helping in any other capacity. In particular our thanks go to the Officers and members of Houghton Dairy Lane who have made their facilities available to the Association.

## **BOWLS ENGLAND MATTERS**

So far as these matters are concerned the major changes to the governance of Bowls England have been implemented and have seen the replacement of the current committee system with the establishment of smaller but more streamlined system of Directors with a range of portfolios covering the services operated.

There are also a number of other ongoing initiatives including revised financial planning, policy, member's services, selection, rules and regulations, championships etc.

Of these the issue of a Membership Scheme is at the forefront of a review by Bowls England Policy makers. Work is ongoing with a view to the implementation of a Pilot Scheme in four counties. These are located in the North, South, East and West of the Country with Durham having been chosen as the Pilot Scheme for the North. The format of the Scheme is still being worked through and when the County receive details the County Officers will become involved in the process. All Clubs will be kept apprised of the issues and can be assured that no actions will be taken without thorough consideration and consultation with them.

Issues across the breadth of the services provided by Bowls England including affiliation fees, membership and civil liability insurance, travelling expenses for competitors, and Rules and Regulations and changes to national championships and competitions have been concluded.

So far as affiliation and competition fees are concerned there will be no increase in affiliation fees for 2019 and this has been reflected in the information that clubs received earlier this year. However this is not to say fees may not increase thereafter. The County's representatives to Bowls England will monitor the situation and give early notification to you of any proposed changes...

With regard to the Championship Programme work is ongoing into the feasibility of possible alteration to the timeframe on which they are held. More information will be issued as and when it becomes available.

When Bowls England approved new Articles of Association and revised Rules and Regulation it was agreed that and they would be circulated to all clubs together with a Model Constitution for use by clubs. This has now been carried out and is also available on the Bowls England Website

Of particular interest and concern to Clubs will be those Rules regarding disciplinary matters and equal opportunities/discrimination in relation to membership etc. There have been a number of issues raised recently at national level where Clubs have left themselves open to challenge under these regulations.

## **BOWLS ENGLAND MATTERS (con'd)**

It is imperative therefore that you should take notice of these and ensure that they are included in your club's own Constitution and be strictly adhered to. I make no apology for the repetition of this advice.

Clubs should have received information from Bowls England on a range of topics including the Equality Act 2010 and the Bowls England Inclusion Policy Statement, Club Funding and Development Loans, Anti Doping, and Children and Vulnerable Adults. These should also be taken into consideration along with the above paragraph.

You should have also received a copy of the Bowls Durham Safeguarding Policy which I circulated to all Clubs following approval by the Executive Committee.

Following the implementation of changes to the National Championship Rules that all County Championships leading to the National Championships shall be played either on weekdays in the evening with a start time of no earlier than 6pm or at weekends, the County Women's Competition Rules have been altered to reflect this requirement as are their Rules regarding reinstatement of Competitors into Championships. A further edict has been received from Bowls England on the matter which will be implemented by the County.

Perhaps the biggest issue facing clubs across the length and breadth of the County is the changes being made by local authorities to their funding regimes in support of leisure activities and in particular parks and bowling clubs. Because of this a number of clubs are suffering because of higher costs, reduction in members and complete closure. We in the County are looking into the future in order to try and sustain and perhaps even develop the game.

To do so we need your assistance to keep us aware of what is happening in your area and club. If you are aware of issues can you please advise your respective District Secretaries or e-mail information to any officer of the County. This can include any work your respective District Associations are doing.

### **CONCLUSION**

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Management Committees may I take this opportunity to thank all the member clubs for their support of the Association and their Officers

**F. JOHNSON  
HONORARY SECRETARY**