

**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 18th May 2024 commencing at 2pm**

Present:

Clubs and Counties

Nominee Member /Representatives/Personal Proxy from Affiliated Clubs - 9

Chairman's Proxy from Affiliated Clubs – 37

Nominee Member/Representatives/Personal Proxy from Affiliated Counties – 1 (Female); 4 (Male):1 (Unified): Total 6

Chairman's Proxy from Affiliated Counties – 5 (Female); 5 (Male); 1 (Unified): Total 11

Quorum required (15% of 255 Clubs and 49 Counties) – 46; Quorum achieved - 63

See Appendix 1 for full details

Board of Directors/Chief Executive/Officers/Staff

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

Other Directors: Stephen Hill and John Stewart.

Other Officers: Pauline Adams (Senior Vice-President) and Jeremy Baker-Deam (Junior Vice-President).

Staff – Stephen Rodwell (Development Manager/Company Secretary), Susan Bakewell (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 18th May 2024 at the Melton Mowbray Baptist Church was despatched on 17th January 2024 to:

- 255 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 (unwell); Patrick Canavan; Michael Lambert (medical) and John Rednall (family matter)

Affiliated Clubs

Bromley, Daventry, Harrogate, Herga, Malvern Hills, Minehead, Palmerston, Roundwood, Rugby Thornfield, Torbay, Watchet and Whiteknights.

Affiliated Counties

Devon CIBA; Gloucestershire IBA; Leicestershire LCIBA; Norfolk CIBA; Nottinghamshire CIBA and Somerset WCIBA

Life Members

Tony Allcock OBE; Clare Beahan; Jan Byford; Geoff Day and Jean Murrell.

Individuals

Les Bingley (Harrogate).

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 2024 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. (Thank you at the end).

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. Steve, Sue, Carl, Sophie and our Chief Executive, Peter Thompson, we thank you for your continued efforts - your hard work has not gone unnoticed.

The Board of Directors have continued to work 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. Patrick Canavan and Stephen Hill are standing down from their directorships as of today's meeting and we thank them for their hard work and dedication during their time spent working with us.

We have made some fantastic progress over the last 12 months. We are acutely aware of the hard work we still have to do, but I truly believe that we are at such a pivotal moment for the sport of bowls, and some of our marginal gains and 'small wins' as some people like to call them should be recognised. Affiliation numbers are finally starting to plateau; for the first time since the pandemic. The numbers of female bowlers affiliated has risen slightly and entries into our Winter National Competitions are rising and the introduction of our Summer National Competitions has created a whole new community of bowlers during the summer months.

This year we re-launched our EIBA TV channel and have, I am pleased to share, nearly 10,000 people who have signed up, logged in and watched our National Finals. We have also invested in our profile and our community engagement and shone a spotlight all so many wonderful stories from within our bowling community. I would urge you, if you haven't already to read some of our amazingly influential and inspirational stories on our social media channels and website.

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.

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 22 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 13th May 2023

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 13th May 2023, were then proposed by Susan McLintock (Royal Tunbridge Wells IBC), 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.

Stephen Hill (Director – Finance) 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 2023.

The results are an improvement on 2022, but, as your club / county will have experienced, it has remained a difficult time financially.

The improvement in the turnover surplus is encouraging thanks to a better result from the open singles circuit, entries into National Winter and for the first time Summer Competitions.

In addition, the membership fees (levy payment) were up, helped by the small increment and numbers declared (64,211) being marginally lower than the previous year.

A negative was the 49% fall in sponsorship revenue. This was mainly due to the marketplace being challenging and fact that opportunities for companies to obtain a return on investment being limited. However, the Company are appreciative of the continued support of Utility Bidder, O'Neills and Fred Olsen.

The continual increases in inflation (cost of living) impacted the company with costs of air flights / hotel rooms and core central costs increasing. This has of course followed on to the current year as well.

The jump in administrative expenses is partly a result of the profit in 2022 from the sale of our HQ (David Cornwell house) but is also flattered by the reduction in salary figures.

During the year we increased salaries in line with the rate of inflation but also the average number of employees was 5 verses 6. For the good operation of the association this will have to change with a resulting increase in costs for the current year. The full impact of the improvement in salaries will not be felt until 2025 accounts as for most of this year we have continued to run with just 5 staff.

From the accounts you will see there was a higher expenditure in our own affiliation fees. This is down to our fees to Coach Bowls and Bowls Development Alliance now being included in this cost centre and not new expenditure. The extra spending under advertising was through the engagement of Sian Honor to showcase the achievements of individuals across all aspects of the sport via interviews / articles on the website and across our social media platforms.

These have helped significantly increase the number of individuals following our activities and help us widen opportunities to attract more and new commercial partners.

As is felt across the country, costs will continue to increase and whilst the Company will continue to find ways to operate efficiently it has made the recommendation to increase its membership fees.

In securing the £5 levy last year we made the commitment that there would be no further increase sought until 2026-2027. The benefit of the £5 fee will be shown in the 2024 accounts.

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

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 Mark Cohen (Southend-on-Sea IBC) and seconded by Teresa Perry (Essex County IBC). The meeting accepted the Reports.

6. Formal Ordinary Resolutions from the Board

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

- a) Stephen Rodwell (Company Secretary) would act as Scrutineer, with Susan Bakewell 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. an 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 133, with 51% thereby being calculated at 68 Votes.

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.*

The Chairman formally proposed the motion on behalf of the Board, duly seconded by Jeremy Baker-Deam (Isle of Wight IBC)

The Chairman announced that as Chairman he was carrying the following Proxy Votes – 91 (For); 6 (Against) and 3 (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 – 119 (For), 7 (Against) and 3 (Abstentions).

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."*

The Chairman formally proposed the motion on behalf of the Board, duly seconded by Jeremy Baker-Deam (Isle of Wight IBC).

The Chairman announced that as Chairman he was carrying the following Proxy Votes – 84 (For); 13 (Against) and 3 (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 – 112 (For), 14 (Against) and 3 (Abstentions).

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.*

The Chairman formally proposed the motion on behalf of the Board, duly seconded by Jim Lumsden (Bedfordshire IBA).

The Chairman announced that as Chairman he was carrying the following Proxy Votes – 75 (For); 7 (Against) and 18 (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 – 97 (For), 8 (Against) and 18 (Abstentions).

7. Board

7.1 Election of Board Members

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

With only ONE nomination being received by the deadline of 18th March 2024, in accordance with Article 48.1 the following person was duly elected for a period of three years.

- Michael Peter Lambert - proposed by Egham BC and seconded by Essex County IBC.

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

8. Installation/Election of Presidents

8.1 Presidential Address

Steve Boughton Retiring President addressed the meeting as follows:

At the end of my term of office, I am delighted to say that the whole year has been a most rewarding and pleasurable experience.

Hectic – YES – travelling many miles to events across the Country.

I have met a large number of interesting people and I am grateful for this.

Disappointing - when I attended both of the Junior International Series and watched the Scottish President collect the trophies after the England teams had been narrowly beaten by Scotland.

Enjoyable – when the England Team won the Gedling Trophy at the British Isles Championships and the Hilton Trophy when winning the International Series.

I learnt early on that the President needs help – thank you Peter, Carl and the team at HQ.

Thanks to Arthur Broadberry as Presidents Match Secretary and to all of the Players who supported me as we travelled the Country to celebrate Clubs Special occasions

Pauline and Jeremy – thanks for your support throughout the year

To the "Management" of the International Squads – thank you for making me feel so welcome and included in the International events

My year comes to an end and I will be sorry. It may have cost me a holiday to compensate my wife for all of the time that I have been away, but I have enjoyed every minute

I wish Pauline well in her year of Office as President

8.2 Installation of President

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

Steve Boughton presented Pauline with her Chain of Office, Presidential Medallion and Plaque.

Pauline thanked the meeting for conferring upon her honour of being the Associations President, and thanked Mark Cohen for encouraging her to put herself forward to hold this position.

Thanks to Steve for all of his support whilst she has been Senior Vice-President and thanks to Peter and Carl for their guidance.

8.3 Installation of Senior Vice-President

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

Pauline Adams presented Jeremy with his Senior Vice-President’s Medallion and Blazer Badge.

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

8.4 Election of Junior Vice-President

The Chairman announced that that with no nominations having been received by the deadline of 18th March 2024, the position of Junior Vice-President will remain vacant until the next AGM, when nominations will be sought for the position of “Senior Vice-President” and “Junior Vice-President”.

9. Installation of Life Member

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

- Steve Boughton – Malvern Hills IBC

The Chairman presented Steve with his Life Members Badge and Certificate.

Steve 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 Mark Cohen (Southend -on-Sea IBC) and seconded by Martin Cooke (Leicestershire IBA)..

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.

With nobody wishing to raise any Questions or make any comments, the Chairman closed the Open Forum, thanking everybody for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 2.45 pm

Signed: (Chairman)

Date:

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

2024 AGM's - Attendance

TOTAL				TOTAL	Grand total of Votes (Attend/Proxy)	133
Clubs	MC	FC	UC	QUORUM (attend/chairman p)	For Propositions - 51% of those in attendance/proxy	68
9	4	1	1	Reps/Noms/Personal Proxy	For Propositions - 75% of those in attendance/proxy	100
37	5	5	1	Chairman Proxy		
46	9	6	2			
				Required	46	15% of those entitled to vote in person/proxy (Clubs - 255; Counties - 27 M; 20 F; 2 U) - Total 304

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	GLOUCESTERSHIRE CIBA
		1	HAMPSHIRE CIBA
		1	KENT CIBA
1			LEICESTERSHIRE CIBA
1			LINCOLNSHIRE CIBA
		1	NORFOLK CIBA
		1	WILTSHIRE CIBA
4	0	5	

A	AP	CP	LADIES County Name
		1	BEDFORDSHIRE WIBA
		1	NORFOLK CWIBA
1			OXFORDSHIRE WIBA
		1	SOMERSET WCIBA
		1	SUSSEX CWIBA
		1	YORKSHIRE LIBA
1	0	5	

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

A	AP	CP	CLUB
		1	ACLE
		1	BANBURY CROSS
		1	BANISTER PARK
		1	BROMLEY
		1	BUDLEIGH SALTERTON
		1	CHAWTON PARK
		1	DAWLISH & DISTRICT
		1	EGHAM
1			ESSEX COUNTY
		1	FAIRFORD
		1	FALCON
		1	FERRYHILL
		1	GATESHEAD
		1	GEDLING & DISTRICT
		1	GRATTONS (CRAWLEY)
		1	HARROGATE
		1	HARTLEPOOL
		1	HONTON
		1	HOUGHTON IBC
		1	ISLE OF WEDMORE
1			ISLE OF WIGHT
		1	JACKS CENTRE
1			KEMPSTON PARK
		1	KING GEORGE FIELD
		1	KINGSTHORPE
		1	LANGNEY SPORTS
		1	LEEDS AND DISTRICT
		1	LINCOLN & DISTRICT
1			LOUTH & DISTRICT
		1	MALVERN HILLS
1			MELTON & DISTRICT
		1	MINHEAD
		1	NORTH WILTS
		1	OLD COULSDON
		1	PRINCE ARTHUR
		1	ROUNDWOOD
1			ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS
		1	SOLIHULL
1			SOUTHEND-ON-SEA
1			STAMFORD AND DISTRICT
		1	TILBURY COMMUNITY
1			TURPINS
		1	WATCHET
		1	WELFORD-ON-AVON
		1	WEST MERSEA
		1	WHITEKNIGHTS
9	0	37	