SUSSEX COUNTY BOWLS

(Member of Bowls England & the Home Counties Bowls Association)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Popes Mead BC at 14.00 hours on Tuesday 24th November, 2026 at 14:00 hours.

Prior to the commencenment of the meeting the Chair, Women's President Anne Chuter, introduced all of the members of the current Management Committee who were sitting at the top table.

1. **Notice of Meeting.**
   The County Adminstrator Rod McBeth (RMc) read the notice he had issued to all clubs on 1 November, 2026, convening the meeting.
2. **Welcome.**
   Members were then welcomed to the meeting by the current Joint Chair - Anne Chuter.
3. **Obituary List:**
   RMc read out the list of Obituaries and the members then stood in silence for one minute.
4. **Apologies.**
   There were 10 apologies from male delegates and fifteen from the female delegates. 83 members who were eligible to vote were in attendance. A considerable number of eligible voting members, failed to attend or to submit apologies.
5. **Revised Joint Constitution.**
   a) Geoff Fitch proposed and the proposal was seconded by Kim Hudson, that the Joint Constitution be accepted and a vote by both male and female members to accept was unanimous.

   b) A proposed amendment to the Constitution to add the Women's Match Secretary as a member of the Women's GPC, was proposed by Vanessa Copper and seconded by Jane Gray and a vote by the female members only, resulted in a unanimous acceptance.
6. **Approval of Previous Minutes.**
   a) The minutes of the Men's Section 1 Dec 25 AGM, as had been circulated, were accepted by the male delegates as a true record and there were no matters arising.
   b) The minute of the Women's Section 4 Nov 26 AGM, as had been circulated, were accepted by the female delegates as a true record and there were no matters arising.
7. **Address by Current Presidents**
   The Men's Section outgoing President, Martin Graham-Hyde gave a short speech and this was followed by a similar speech from the recently appointed Women's President Anne Chuter. (Speeches are attached to the filed copy of these minutes).
8. **Annual Reports from Section Secretaries**
   Annual reports from the Secretaries of both the Men's and the Women' s Section had been circluated prior to the meeting and both were accepted.

9. Financial Matters

a) Financial reports for both the Men's and Women's Section had been circluated prior to the meeting and both were accepted with no queries being raised.

b) Financial reports for both the Men's and Women's Section Benevolent Fund had been circluated prior to the meeting and both were accepted. It was clarified that what was previously known as the Sussex County Bowls (Mens Section) Benevolent Fund was being renamed as the Sussex County Bowls Benevolent Fund (open to both men and women) of clubs who make a donation each year. The fund that was previously known as the Women's Benevolent Fund has been renamed as the Sussex County Bowls Friendship fund.

c) The County and BE affiliation fees and Competiton entry fees, had been issued to all clubs and as a paper for this meeting. RMc reported that BE had increased both sets of fees once again this year.

d) Men's Section Honoraria payments (now to be called ex-gratia payments) for which approval of payment has been sought annually by the Mens Section, had been issued as a paper for this meeting and in a vote by the male delegates the proposal was accepted, with one vote against.

10. Mike Newth Trophy

RMc gave a brief resume of the origination and purpose of the Mike Newth Trophy and confirmed there had been 8 excellent nominations from clubs for the Management Committee to consider.
Al After due consideration of these 8 excellent nominations it was agreed that the trophy for 2026 should be awarded to a person who had been a member of her club for 49 years and during that time had contibuted to the club is so many ways.

The award for 2026 was presented by the Chair - to Joan Howson of Burgess Hill BC.

11. Election and investiture of Men's Presidential Officers

a) Current Men's President Martin Graham-Hyde handed over the Men's chain of office and invested the incoming President Geoff Fitch with his badge of office.

b) President Geoff then made a short speech and followed this by presenting the outgoing President Martin, with his Presidential jewel. He then continued to invest the new Men's Vice President David Page with his badge of office.

12. Election and investiture of other Officers and Appointments

All Officers and appointments as detailed on the Form F3 that had been circulated prior to the meeting and is attached to these minutes, were then elected unopposed as there was only one nomination for any position.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the first Joint Executive Meeting was confirmed as **Wednesday 14th April, 2027.**

The Chair closed the meeting at 14.51.

NB: All Speeches are attached to the filed copy of these minutes.

Signed: ……
Mark Broadway (Chair)
Date: November, 2027