



Minutes of NSMBA Meeting 30th June 2026 Held at Harpole Bowls Club. 7pm start.

Apologies:- Janice Fox, John Fox, Wendy Kean, Mike Edwards, Nicky Frost.

BDA:- Sue Gunter arranged for a young Lady called Vicki to be present at this Committee meeting, we asked who they are, what they do and how they can help us. They help to promote and encourage sport within a community, they are the Bowls Development Alliance they are funded by Sport England and created by the Sport National Governing Bodies. They will endeavour to help us as a county to develop the sport of Short Mat Bowls by trying to help clubs to associated with the governing bodies, they can help individual clubs in becoming more involved in the sport. We have only just started the process with them so it may take some time for us to get any procedure, be assured we will keep you informed. We promised to try and move on with our Association and at this present time this is what we are doing.

Registration:- As registration time is nearly upon us again, Mike will be sending out to all Club Secretaries a form to register all your club players from 1st September. His intentions are to send out these form after the ESMBA AGM which is on 18th July 2026, as he will not know if the ESMBA will be putting up the prices for their registrations.

Accounts:- Nicky has attached a summary of the NSMBA Accounts FYI. She also asked the committee that seeing that we have had so much trouble with the Metro Bank that we changed to Lloyds, As all banks now have a monthly charge the committee agreed that the change would be better. So the procedure or changing is in Progress. We have also discussed about moving onto Electronic payments. This will be discussed further after we have changed banks.

The NSMBA received a letter from a Club Secretary with regards to the cancellations of league games. It has now been discussed and the new ruling will follow in your new Match Play Rules with your league cards. It will also be present on our website in a few days. John to write to the Club Secretary in question with a reply.

They also received another letter from a Club Secretary with regards to the League 5's competition, the committee discussed the issues and have decided that if there are enough

clubs enter that they will do Divisions rather than Groups which will mean relegation and promotion for each Division. The Divisions cannot be decided who plays who until we have a full list of clubs who wish to play. Adam to reply to this Club Secretary.

Club Captains:- We are updating our records for the New League co-Ordinator so that if there are any problems he can contact the Club Captains directly rather than going through the Club Secretary. Can all Club Captains please e-Mail Tim or any other committee member to update your records with us.

Competition Dates:- All dates are now correct and are either on our webpage or our Facebook page. Chris Weston will be sending out forms shortly for our Singles, Pairs, Triples etc etc, as the ESMBA expect all Counties to submit their entries by November 2026. The charges for entry to all of these competitions is now £8.00 per person. The Treasurer has asked that there be no more cheques please, payment will be cash on the day.

There is another Randoms Competition on August 16th at Harrold Bowls Club. Please contact Chris Weston or any other Committee member to put your name forward for this.

County Teams:- All letters have been sent out to those who have been chosen to represent the NSMBA in there forthcoming County Competitions. Can those people who have been asked please let Chris Terry know ASAP please. Chris Terry has a list of contact details for those County Players but if you have changed any of your details can you please let Chris know. Thank you.

Presentation Day Update:- All went well on presentation Day with most teams making a turn out to collect their trophies. A good days bowling was had by everyone. The trophies were less in price this year, as our Chairperson negotiated with the engravers. Two new plaques were purchased for the new format of 5's. Pictures of the event will be on our website.

It was discussed about our coaching day and it was agreed that on 13th September 2026 at Harrold Bowls Club, Bedford that we would have a NSMBA Squad Day and combine this with an open day for anybody to come along and give bowling a go, but also if anybody would like to come along for advice please feel free. There will be 2/3 designated mats for anybody who wishes to come and practice.

Matchplay Rules:- The new changes regarding cancelled league games were discussed and agreed to be changed. You can find these on our new website or if you need to discuss these any further please contact Tim Gunter.

Safeguarding:- After our discussion with Vicki from the BDA it was suggested that Tim contact the ESMBA with regard to a question that was brought up about How many Clubs a Safeguarding Officer can represent.

The over sixties competition was discussed and now that the retirement aged has increased to 67 a lot of over 60's are still working so will miss out in playing, so it has been decided that Part 1 will be played in November and Part 2 in February BUT it will be played on a weekend that is available.

AOB:- A letter was sent to the ESMBA from SG, it read,

To Whom it May Concern.

I'm not quite sure who I should direct this e-mail to, so perhaps you could pass it on to the relevant department for me please.

I attended the mixed fours competition on Saturday as many of our teams did.

I heavily invested time to tell our teams that they must all be dressed the same and the trousers needed to be either bowls trousers or tailored trousers.

As I looked around the hall I could see people wearing outside shoes (sketchers etc) along with jeans, cargo pants, leggings, short skirts and tights etc etc.

I was also informed by one of our team members that on the Sunday at the over 55's a team were wearing completely different shirts.

now the week before people were told about their attire.

There was another county which noticed this to and were pretty fed up.

We were told that if we went outside could we please change our shoes or wear shoe coverings, what is the point of this when people turn up in the shoes they are wearing outside to come into the venue and then bowl?

It does not make sense when you are obviously not singing from the same hymn sheet.

It did make a mockery of me after telling our players that they would not be able to play if they turned up in the wrong attire.

I do understand that we have to move on with the times but there is a dress code to follow.

Could you please discuss that at your next committee meeting and let me know the outcome.

Kind regards

Suzanne Gunter

Their reply was:

Hi Suzanne

As requested your complaint about people not following the dress code was discussed at our meeting and we thank you for highlighting this and appreciate your efforts in ensuring your county players comply with the dress code. An email will be sent to all counties reminding them that these codes are for the benefit of everyone and that adherence must start at county level.

As I am sure you will appreciate there are not many committee members at events like the open competitions and they are all trying to make sure the day runs smoothly and do their individual jobs. This means we do not always see those players who are not complying with the dress code and I know that I was bowling in the Mixed Fours but was not looking at what people were wearing. The only way we can improve on this situation is for us all to tactfully point out the problem so it can be sorted at the time or, alternatively, inform a committee member or umpire.

Kind regards.

Linda

This paragraph were in the ESMBA minutes:-

BH had received an email regarding footwear and it was agreed that there were several changes which needed to be made to the rule book. An item will be put on the Open Forum agenda so that these amendments can be discussed and agreed allowing all changes to come into force from September. BH to put together a document which will be circulated with the AGM Paperwork.

All County secretaries received this:-

We have noticed that Dress Code rules are in a minority of cases slipping at our National events and would ask you to please remember these codes are for the benefit of all. Adherence must start at County level so please could you ensure your members are fully aware of the Dress Code rules and we can then avoid embarrassment on the day.

We appreciate your help in getting this message out to everyone.

Meeting closed at 10 minutes past 9.

Next Meeting will be 11th August 2026 at 7pm at Harpole Bowls Club.