WEST LOTHIAN BOWLING ASSOCIATION (WLBA)

MINUTES OF 136th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2018 AT EAST CALDER BOWLING CLUB

1. PRESENT:
   - PRESIDENT: J McLelland (Harrysmuir)
   - VICE PRESIDENT: I McGill (East Calder)
   - TREASURER: F Muirhead (Uphall Stn.)
   - HONORARY PRESIDENT: S Meikle (Kirkliston)
   - HONORARY PRESIDENT: M Wilson (Armadale)
   - BOWLS SCOTLAND DISTRICT SECRETARY: F Muirhead (Uphall Stn.)

Representatives attended from 26 of WLBA’S 34 Clubs. Apologies were tendered on behalf of Glenmavis and Harthill, with apologies also received from Kinneil and Philpstoun but inadvertently not reported at meeting. The other 4 Clubs not in attendance were Letham, Middletonhall, Pumpherston and Stoneyburn. Other apologies tendered were from D. Doyle, East Calder (Secretary), J Weir, Whitburn (Immediate Past President), G Smith, Linlithgow (Sponsorship Convener) and K Mitchell (Buchan Park). President opened the meeting with a warm welcome to all delegates and asked all present to observe a minute’s silence in memory of all members who had passed away in the past year, mentioning in particular Past “County” Presidents Marshall Sneddon (1997) and Dennis Cavanagh (2014), Tom Mulholland (Bridgeness) and international bowler Linda Brennan (Middletonhall); Stewart Meikle paid a glowing tribute to the contributions of these well known individuals to bowling in West Lothian and well beyond. President also informed the meeting that due to the Secretary being unavailable to attend the meeting Mark Wilson agreed to take responsibility for producing the Minutes of the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF 135th (2017) AGM

   The Minutes of the previous AGM (issued to Clubs by email on 25 January 2018) were taken as read. The Minutes were approved on the motion of A Lynch (West Calder), seconded by R Mutter (Spring Grove). There were no “matters arising”.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

   A copy of the Accounts for 2017 had been issued with the AGM Agenda. Treasurer provided details behind the various items of income and expenditure and said that the balance of £19,547 carried forward at the end of 2017 showed the Association to be in a healthy financial position going forward. There were no questions from delegates. The Accounts were approved on the motion of R Reeve (Harrysmuir), seconded by E Caulfield (Bellsburn).

4. SECRETARY’S ANNUAL ORAL REPORT

   With the Secretary unable to attend the AGM due to being overseas on holiday his oral report this year was replaced by a written report which was issued by email to all Clubs prior to the AGM. A further copy of the annual report will be attached as Appendix 1 to the AGM Minutes when these are issued to Clubs. There were no questions from delegates regarding any items included in the Secretary’s written report.

5. APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY PRESIDENTS

   Lord Rosebery, Stewart Meikle (Kirkliston) and Mark Wilson (Armadale) were all unanimously re-elected on the proposal of I McGill (East Calder) and seconded by A Lynch (West Calder). There were no new nominations.

6. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MOTION

   The following Management Committee Motion was included on the AGM Agenda when issued to Clubs:- **that a permanent post of Match Secretary be created and be added to the Management Committee thus raising the elected Management Committee posts from 6 to 7**. The Motion was moved by I McGill (East Calder), seconded by J McLelland (Harrysmuir), and carried unanimously.
7. ELECTION OF OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT: Outgoing President Joe McLelland (Harrysmuir) thanked all Clubs for the way he had been received during his visits through the “County” during his year in office; he also thanked Management Committee members for their help and support; and stated that he had thoroughly enjoyed seeing a great number of top bowlers on his travels. President nominated Ian McGill (East Calder) as the new President for year 2018; this was seconded by R Reeve (Harrysmuir) and carried unanimously. The outgoing President wished the new President all the best for the coming season and presented him with his badges of office. In accepting the Presidency (and from this point the chairmanship of the meeting as President) Ian stated that it was a great honour and pleasure both personally and for his club to be given this post and he promised to do his best to keep West Lothian at the forefront of bowling in Scotland while at the same time doing his utmost to support all member clubs whom he thanked for the confidence shown in him. He stressed that in particular he would be looking to improve matters in a number of areas such as establishing contacts with Clubs’ key officials (more information to follow), the appointment of WLBA “special envoys” at Club level, better communications and higher entries in the “pay to enter” competitions.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Joe McLelland (Harrysmuir) was unanimously elected to this post after being proposed by the President and seconded by R Reeve (Harrysmuir). President presented Joe with his badge of office and thanked him for all his hard work as President during 2017.

VICE-PRESIDENT: On rotation it fell to West Calder to supply the Vice President. President nominated as the new Vice President Tommy Sutherland (West Calder), seconded by A Bruce West Calder) – this was unanimously approved. President presented Tommy with his badge of office. Tommy was delighted to accept this post stating that it was a great honour both for himself and his West Calder club and he thanked his Club for entrusting him with this office. President informed delegates that the next 5 Clubs now due to take the Vice-Presidency on rotation were: Linlithgow (2019), Middletonhall (2020), Deans (2021), Letham (2022) and Mid Calder (2023). It was hoped that this information, which will be updated at all future AGMs, will help Clubs prepare well for the tasks of the posts of Vice-President and, subsequently, President.

SECRETARY: President confirmed the information shown on the AGM Agenda that Davy Doyle (East Calder) had intimated that he did not wish to stand for re-election as Secretary. AGM delegates recorded their massive thanks to Davy for all his hard work in that post during the last 4 years. Although unable to attend the AGM Keith Mitchell (Buchan Park) had confirmed that he was prepared to offer himself as a candidate for the post of WLBA Secretary. Stewart Meikle presented a resume of Keith’s CV. President proposed that Keith Mitchell (Buchan Park) be elected as WLBA Secretary, and this was seconded by B Sword (Buchan Park) and carried unanimously.

Treasurer: Frazer Muirhead (Uphall Station) informed the Management Committee well in advance of the AGM that due to pressure of work and other voluntary commitments in his capacity as the District’s Bowls Scotland Secretary he was not seeking re-election as Treasurer this year. AGM delegates recorded their massive thanks to Davy for all his hard work in that post during the last 4 years. Although unable to attend the AGM Keith Mitchell (Buchan Park) had confirmed that he was prepared to offer himself as a candidate for the post of WLBA Secretary. Stewart Meikle presented a resume of Keith’s CV. President proposed that Keith Mitchell (Buchan Park) be elected as WLBA Secretary, and this was seconded by B Sword (Buchan Park) and carried unanimously.

SPONSORSHIP CONVENER: Gary Smith (Linlithgow) was unanimously re-elected as Sponsorship Convener for 2018 after being proposed by A Stenhouse (Linlithgow) and seconded by B Walker (Queensferry).

MATCH SECRETARY: Davy Doyle (East Calder) was unanimously elected to the newly created post of Match Secretary on the proposal of I McGill (East Calder) and seconded by J McLelland (Harrysmuir).

8. AUDITORS

I McGill (East Calder) proposed, and D Rennie (Winchburgh) seconded, that R Erskine (Winchburgh) and G Scott (Armadale) be re-elected as Association Auditors. This was endorsed unanimously.

9. EXPENSES

The Management Committee’s recommendation that expenses to Secretary, Match Secretary, Treasurer and Sponsorship Convener should be £500 (Secretary), £300 (Match Secretary) £300 (Treasurer) and £300 (Sponsorship Convener) had been communicated to Clubs with the AGM agenda. I McGill (East Calder) proposed that this be accepted and this was seconded by R Mutter (Spring Grove). On the basis that the Secretary’s workload would be reduced with the creation of the new Match Secretary post A Purves (Buchan Park) made a counter proposal that the expenses for all 4 posts should be £300; this was seconded by D McCormick (Bathgate). Following a vote of the 26 Clubs present the Management Committee’s recommendation was carried by 14 votes to 12.
10. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Management Committee’s recommendation that there should be no change in the level of annual subscriptions (other than the introduction of a new competition “Seniors Top 10 knock-out”) was included on the AGM agenda. The recommendation was unanimously approved after being proposed by I McGill (East Calder) and seconded by A Bruce (West Calder). The fees therefore for 2018 are:- Basic-£120; Rosebery Cup-£20; Livingston Trophy-£5; Capitation -40p a member; John Dickson-£5; Seniors’ Top Ten-£10; Seniors’ Top 10 knock-out-£10; and, Masters Programme Levy-£15.

11. SPONSORSHIP

In the absence of Sponsorship Convener Gary Smith, due to work commitments in Australia, Mark Wilson read out Gary’s written report of season 2017 provided by Gary before he left and reproduced as Appendix 2 to these Minutes.

Stewart Meikle (Honorary President) informed the meeting of the various sponsorship deals struck to finance the new “County” players’ tops introduced during season 2017 as follows:- West Lothian Council (lead sponsor), Alan Steel Asset Management, Tony Macaroni, Matt Purdie & Sons, Pat McGinley Auto Care, Specsavers and Welso Housing. Stewart reminded the meeting of the two way challenge in securing sponsorship deals i.e. getting companies/individuals to come on board and appealing to beneficiaries of sponsorship to patronise the various companies.

12. BOWLS SCOTLAND REPORT

Bowls Scotland’s (BS) West Lothian District Secretary Frazer Muirhead (Uphall Station) addressed the AGM and covered the following points:-

  a.) thanked Clubs for their help in hosting 2017 SBA District Championships, in particular Deans for staging District Finals;
  b.) thanked Jim Gibson (Armadale) for updating the WLBA website with BS results;
  c.) thanked Grant Logan (Kirkliston) for updating WLBA Facebook Page with BS results;
  d.) congratulated Neil Speirs and Grant Logan (both Kirkliston), Thomas Mann (Newbridge) and Ewan Shearer (Linlithgow) on being selected to play for Scotland;
  e.) appealed to ALL Clubs to pay all fees by the due date of 28 February to allow him to draw up the various District Tournaments (24 Clubs still to pay);
  f.) reminded Clubs to let him know of any significant anniversaries this year e.g. 100th, 125th, 150th etc. to allow BS to mark such an occasion;
  g.) outlined changes in Scotland team selection arrangements, which he considered to be improvements, such as teams being selected internationalists Paul Foster and David Peacock assisted by Robert Grant, Scott Kennedy and Andy Meekison with David Ferguson joining in for the Under 25s squad; in addition the selection process will also undergo changes such as no trials, pre-selection of high performance members on advice from David Gourlay, self-nomination by players and “Cities & Counties” nominations via Team Managers/Association Management Committees;
  h.) intimated there would be no changes in the Hamilton Trophy format this season with these likely to figure in 2019 when 2 sections of 4 per Association area would be the organisation for the qualifiers;
  i.) reported 2 changes for this season’s Scottish Championships viz. 2 entries will be accepted from each Club for the Mixed Pairs; and, a change in the substitution rule at Stage 1 that allows for a player to drop out and then comeback in again in a later round;
  j.) mentioned that BS’s new website is now up and running; and,
  k.) wished WLBA officials and all Clubs and players a successful 2018 season.

A Purves (Buchan Park) and J Gibson (Armadale) raised an issue concerning Child Protection which Frazer agreed to check out with Bowls Scotland on 25 February 2018 and clear back to Clubs via correspondence.

13. INTER ASSOCIATION TOP 10

Gary Clelland, WLBA Representative on the Inter Association Top 10 Committee, reported that:-

  a.) this year’s WLBA qualifier for the Inter Association Top 10 tournament – Kirklinton – had been drawn away against Adrian BC (Falkirk – Stirlingshire East) with tie to be played on 13 May:
  b.) the Association fee was £110 (£80 entry fee and £30 for programmes); and,
  c.) the Kenny Milne Trophy played formerly by Inter Association Top 10 members would no longer take place.

Stewart Meikle added to Gary’s report with an intimation that he had secured sponsorship for the Inter Association Top 10 tournament from two companies, viz. “Scottish Water” and local firm “Purdie Worldwide”.

14. ASSOCIATION BOWLING CALENDAR 2018

Proposed bowling calendar for 2018 had been issued with the AGM agenda. President intimated that the calendar contained an error in that it stated that Andy Semple was a Hamilton Trophy selector when the name should be Andy Suddon. Two comments were made by delegates, as follows – a.) why is the Livingstone Trophy competition much earlier this year? and, b.) moving the WLBA Championship quarter and semi-finals to a week end may cause difficulties for some players who have other week end commitments.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a.) President intimated that the Management Committee had appointed last year’s Immediate Past President, John Weir (Whitburn) as a WLBA ambassador for the 2018 season;
b.) President reported that there was a vacancy for a selector to join the Hamilton Trophy Selection Committee and work alongside Team Manager Gordon Logan and the other two selectors. President made an appeal to delegates to try and find an appropriate person, and in particular someone from the west side of the Association’s area;
c.) President informed the meeting that the Association would be holding a Presidents’ Dinner at Whitburn BC on Friday 27 April 2018. Clubs will be asked to send 3 representatives per Club at a cost of £15 per person. One of the plans for this evening is to draw up the Rosebery Cup and Top 10 Competitions. Further information will be issued to Clubs in due course;
d.) D McCormick (Bathgate) asked why the great bulk of Hamilton Trophy home venues for a number of years had been loaded very much towards the east and north of the Association’s area with very few coming westwards. President responded that the Management Committee, having appointed a Team Manager who will be judged by, and accountable for, results in the Hamilton Trophy tournament, was very much guided by his assessment of where successful outcomes of games could be best obtained; and,
e.) T Hill (Ratho) informed the meeting that an attempt last year by the Matt Purdie Selection Committee to get ALL Clubs to respond to an Association letter asking them to notify that committee of all players regarded as potential selections for WLBA’s Matt Purdie team resulted in only half of Clubs responding. He stated that another attempt would be made this year and he appealed to ALL Clubs to reply to the appropriate letter once received and help the dedicated selection committee with their task of picking the best team.

16. NEXT MEETING

The 2019 AGM will be held on Friday 22 February at West Calder BC.

17. VOTE OF THANKS

In closing the meeting the Vice President thanked both Joe McLelland and Ian McGill for their efficient conduct of the business of the meeting, and also East Calder BC for hosting the meeting in their premises. Additionally he thanked Clubs’ delegates for attending the AGM and wished all Clubs good luck for the 2018 season.

MARK WILSON
26 February 2018

Davy Doyle Secretary’s Report for Season 2017.

Appendix One

Good evening everyone, this will be my last Secretary’s report and I am sending this to all clubs as I am unable to attend our AGM, the first one I have missed.
I have found this year that being your Secretary and running the competitions has now proved to be too much for me, it seems that age and health, or lack of it, has finally caught up with me but I would like to remain involved with the competitions, work that I can do in the main from the comfort of my home. I am hoping that the proposal to elect me as Match Secretary is approved at our AGM.
I am certain that Keith Mitchell, Buchan Park BC, (proposed to be our new Secretary) will prove to be an exceptional Secretary.
He is young, half my age, but he is very knowledgeable and has already contributed greatly to the running of the Association, bringing with him a fresh point of view.
I need to start by saying thank you to a great many people, too many to mention here individually.
Before any-one could do the task of Secretary or Convener for any tournaments you need the help and co-operation of all club Secretaries and Match Secretaries and I did enjoy great co-operation for the most part from them all.
The re-election of Mark Wilson and Stewart Meikle as Honorary Presidents has once again proved to be of great benefit to the WLBA Management Committee and they have helped the Management Committee tremendously with their knowledge and experience over many years and they have both helped in various ways. Stewart has proved that he still has all the skills he had when he was Sponsorship Convener of WLBA and he has used his old contacts to bring extra prizes to the WL Masters and has struck deals to attract sponsorships which enabled us to obtain lots of new tops without us paying for them.

Stewart and I have attended quite a few meetings with WL Council to discuss sponsorship among other things and we have started the process of taking bowls into the primary schools. This started in the East Calder area and proved to be a huge success although the two junior coaches had to work extremely hard in the schools then on the green on the last day. Dave King, Deputy Provost and member of East Calder BC, attended on the day as did quite a few of our top bowlers, complete with the brand new WLBA tops and jackets. It is to be hoped that other clubs will take up the offer of help from WL Council. Mid Calder have already made inroads last season.

Mark Wilson has helped me in so many ways for the years I have been Secretary and never once got fed up with me phoning him constantly, at least I don’t think he did, he has also proved a perfect sounding board for some of my ideas and his advice has definitely prevented me from making quite a few mistakes.

Ian McGill, East Calder BC, will now be President and I have no doubt that he will work very hard for WLBA, and already he has used his many years of experience in personnel management to head hunt a new Secretary and Treasurer to replace Frazer and I who are stepping down.

Frazer has finally been forced to admit that he had just too many responsibilities. Bowls Scotland District Secretary, Umpire and he also has duties on behalf of Bowls Scotland to bring on the younger bowlers, our future stars. Frazer did advise us last year that he would be standing down at this AGM.

I have already met Ken Lawrie, Mid Calder BC, (proposed to be our new Treasurer), and here again we will benefit with new ideas, like a breath of fresh air.

I have absolutely no doubt that Keith and Ken will both prove to be excellent choices for these very important positions. Joe McLelland, Harrysmuir BC, will now become Imm Past President and Joe too has helped out as and when required. Tommy Sutherland, West Calder BC, will be our new Vice President. I have already met him and I know that he will fit in with the team very well. He has shown a great interest in committee matters and will be an able, hardworking member of the team.

Unfortunately, John Weir, Whitburn BC, has now completed his three years on the Management Committee and I will really miss him. Nothing was ever too much trouble for John right from the start and he is a tremendous, enthusiastic worker. He and his wife Jean attended the vast bulk of Semi-Finals, Finals, Andrew Hamilton Trophy, Under 25s and Matt Purdie games, both home and away. The good news is that Ian McGill, our President for 2018, has managed to persuade John to stay on for another year as a WLBA Ambassador and he will help to represent WLBA in all our endeavours, well done Ian.

Jim Gibson, Armadale BC, is our website convenor and he works very hard with all the information I send him plus the senior’s information he now receives from the Linlithgow and Broxburn Seniors Areas, to make sure that our clubs are kept up to date. Jim has now added a Gallery Page to the website to display the photographs I send him.

Our Umpires really need do special mention, they travel to any green in the County and they all do so without payment, not even transport costs. There could not be any competitions without umpires.

Many thanks are also due to our green keepers and green rangers who ensure that play can go ahead and thanks also to the ordinary club members who lend a hand as required, not least by marking singles ties, a very necessary task you will agree.

Under 25s

The outdoor season started as usual with a trip to Hawick and Buccleuch greens for an Under 25s competition. There we defeated Borders BA, Mid Lothian BA and East Lothian BA bringing back the Trophy and the first prize.

In the league we had an excellent start with wins over Stirlingshire BA and Renfrewshire BA. This was our first win over Renfrewshire BA in a few years however, we then lost to Dumbartonshire BA and we failed to qualify for the next stages. The Under 25s Scottish Cup again saw us winning our first two rounds against Fife BA then Renfrewshire BA to reach the Semi-Final, only to lose by one shot, on a measure, to Edinburgh and Leith BA, very unlucky, you can’t get any closer than that.

The last outing for our Under 25s, The David Devaney Memorial Trophy, held annually at Anchor BC, Paisley, fell victim to the weather and play could not even begin due to the water logged greens.

Team Manager Gordon Logan and his selectors have assembled a great team and we look forward eagerly to 2018.

Andrew Hamilton Trophy

We started with a narrow 4 shots defeat away to East Lothian. Then a solid 35 shots victory at Newbridge BC v West Fife. Next match was at Broxburn BC where we beat Borders by 4 shots. This was followed by Midlothian away where we lost by a mere 2 shots. Things were looking bleak for us at that stage and we were third in our league but victories away to Fife, 18 shots up, then we played at Whitburn BC v Stirling County East and won by 47 shots. The last league game, away to Edinburgh & Leith, saw us record a very strong 47 shots victory and then we were in the Quarter Finals at Brechin v Perthshire where we ran out winners by 41 shots. Next match was the Semi-Final v Lanarkshire South and
were knocked out the competition by 37 shots. The same team beat us in the final at Carrick Knowe BC a few years ago.

**Matt Purdie Trophy.**

We began at Glenmavis BC v Edinburgh & Leith and we suffered a 10 shots defeat. East Calder BC was the next venue where we defeated Midlothian by 1 shot, how close was that!

Next we were away to Fife and another defeat, this time by 6 shots.

We beat Edinburgh & Leith at Mayfield by 9 shots to make up for our home defeat.

Second last game was away to Midlothian, a victory by 7 shots followed by our last game of the season and another win, this time by 10 shots.

You will note that all our games were very close so we have high hopes for Team Manager Willie Walker, his selectors and the players for the coming season.

The last time we won this trophy was in 2012 and our WLBA President for 2018, Ian McGill, played in that team.

**County Ties**

The Finals were hosted by Armadale BC.

Singles winner was Glen King, West Calder BC, Runner Up was Steven Fleming, Buchan Park BC.

Pairs were won, yet again, by Andi Gray and Raymond Logan of Kirkliston BC.

The same pair who won it in 2016. Andi Gray won the Trophy in 2015 when his partner was Neil Speirs.

Runners Up in the 2017 Pairs were Ian McGill and Grant Ramsay, East Calder BC

The Triples winners were Kirkliston BC with Kinneil BC Runners Up.

In the County Fours the Final was between Kirkliston BC and Bellsburn BC, the same Final as in 2016. Kirkliston BC won in 2017, they also won in 2016.

**The Fred Meikle Trophy**

This Final was scheduled to be played on the same night as the County Finals but could not go ahead as both Finalists were involved in the County Finals.

The Fred Meikle Trophy Final did go ahead eventually on the day of our WL Masters, played at Kirkliston BC and was won, for a fourth time, by Calum Logan, Kirkliston BC. Grant Ramsay, East Calder BC, was the Runner Up.

**The Livingstone Trophy** was won this year by Pumpherston BC, their first victory since 1974 so congratulations guys.

West Calder BC were Runners Up.

The Rosebery Cup Final was played at Harrysmuir BC, the green of our President Joe McLelland. The winners, for the second year in a row, were Kirkliston BC who beat Linlithgow BC in a very close game as you would expect from two very strong clubs.

**MASTERS.**

In the Quarter Finals Walter McDougall, Glenmavis BC beat Alastair Stenhouse, Linlithgow BC. Neil Speirs, Kirkliston BC beat Davie Hay, Polbeth BC. David Lamb, Uphall Station BC beat Cameron Greer, Bathgate BC and Grant Logan, Kirkliston BC beat William Borland, East Calder.

In the Semi-Finals Neil beat Walter and Grant beat David.

That meant the Final was an all Kirkliston BC affair with Neil running out the winner.

**Top Five**

The final was held at Middleton Hall BC between Newbridge BC and Kirkliston BC and it proved to be a very close and exciting final. The scores were tied at two games each and 20 shots each on the last game. Newbridge BC defeated Kirkliston BC. This was the first triumph for Newbridge BC since 2011.

Newbridge BC will represent us in 2018 in the Inter Counties Top Five and we wish them well.

**Top Ten**

Hosted by Linlithgow BC this was between Kirkliston BC and East Calder BC. Kirkliston BC proved too strong for East Calder BC, who were playing in their first ever Top Ten Final. Kirkliston BC will represent us this year in the Inter Counties Top Ten and we wish them well.

**The WL Trophy.**

The format of this competition was changed radically this year, the brain child of Stewart Meikle and Ian McGill who worked very hard to get this idea off the ground.

First change was that any club could enter as many rinks as they wanted, entry fee was fixed at £6 per rink and there was greatly increased prize money, £1,200. This amount was partly due to a generous sponsorship from a member of Linlithgow BC who wishes to remain anonymous. Unfortunately, this sponsorship will not continue in 2018.

In the early rounds it was on a knock basis and was played over two sets, an extra end play off, then decided the tie if the first two sets resulted in a draw.

Finals day, at East Calder BC, traditionally the green of our Vice President, was run as a round robin and the result was a win for Pumpherton BC.

Pumpherton BC team had two junior players whilst Watson Memorial BC, the runners had all four players very much at the other end of the age scale.

**Proof positive that bowls is indeed a game for all ages.**

The 2018 Final will be hosted by West Calder BC.

**WESLO Seniors Singles.**

Once again the Semi-Finals and the Final were played at Glenmavis BC.

This is because our sponsors, WESLO, have an office nearby.

Beaten quarter finalists were John Weir, Whitburn BC, Ritchie Templeton, Bathgate BC John Eveleigh, Watson
Memorial BC and Norrie Alexander, Ratho BC.
In the semi-finals Brian Walker, Queensferry BC, lost to Robert Saunders, Whitburn BC, and David Peel, West Calder BC, lost to John Collins, Middleton Hall BC.
In the final Robert Saunders, Whitburn BC, ran out the 21-11 winner over John Collins, Middleton Hall BC.
WESLO have already agreed that they will continue their sponsorship for next year which is very welcome news. I have to stress yet again that our Sponsorship Convenor, Gary Smith, works very hard to get sponsors and just as hard to keep them. It is getting more and more difficult each passing year and that is one of the reasons I advise all clubs about all finals and where and when they are being played. Should a sponsor attend a final to present the prizes and is faced with a large enthusiastic crowd that helps tremendously towards keeping that sponsor. The larger the entries the better and it demonstrates to the Management Committee that their efforts to organise these competitions are being appreciated.
Members can also be sponsors if they wish, one example would be our White Knights who each sponsor £100 per year. If you would like to become a White Knight please contact Gary Smith.

The Champion of Champions
Bankton Mains BC hosted this and they were super efficient making sure that everything ran very smoothly, a special thank you to Annette Lynch, Bankton Mains BC President and the hard working Adam McKenzie.

We had an entry of 27 Champions which meant that there was no need for any ties to be played on the Friday night. The last eight who reached the play on Sunday were Glen King, West Calder BC who beat Colin Fraser, Whitburn BC, Andy Forrest, Middleton Hall BC who lost to Gary Smith, Linlithgow BC, Davie Hay, Polbeth BC who lost to James Speirs, Newbridge BC and finally Stewart McKie, Kinneil BC who beat David Turnbull, Mid Calder BC.
Semi-Finals saw Gary Smith and James Speirs win their games to reach the Final. Unfortunately, the weather proved to be too much for play to continue and both bowlers arrived on Monday evening where Gary Smith, Linlithgow BC became the 2017 Champion of Champions by triumphing over James Speirs, Newbridge BC.
East Calder BC, my own club have had two Champion of Champions, Rab Fowler, the first winner in 1977 and then five years later, Mike Lawrie in 1982. Unfortunately both bowlers passed away, very recently, within a few days of each other.
I would to conclude by thanking again all the people who helped me and all the clubs who sent in their results so quickly. You made the position so easy for me.
Thank you all, Davy Doyle.

W.L.B.A. AGM 2018-Sponsorship Convenuer’s Report

Appendix Two
I apologise for not being able to attend this year’s AGM but as Chief Executive of World Bowls I am currently overseas in Australia running the World Youth Championships and the World Cup, this will be followed by my World Bowls duties at the Commonwealth Games Gold Coast Australia plus World Bowls Council and Board Meetings.
I again emphasise that the sponsorship income figure continues to contribute a substantial percentage of the overall income figure detailed in the income and expenditure account.
On behalf of all WLBA members I express sincere appreciation to all our continuing sponsors, which are duly listed as follows:-
Winter Jack High Insurance-County Singles, Triples & Meikle
Mark Feeney (Glenmavis B.C.)-County Pairs
Kirkliston B.C.-County Fours
Bankton Mains B.C.-2017 Champion of Champions & Deans B.C. who will be hosting and sponsoring the 2018 Champion of Champions
WESLO Housing Management-Senior Singles
Derek Logie-West Lothian Trophy (not continuing in 2018)
Armadale B.C., Bankton Mains B.C., Broxburn B.C., Middleton Hall B.C. & Uphall Station B.C.-Top 5
Johnston Oils-Masters Singles with a commitment to increase their level of sponsorship in 2018.
Scotmid continue to provide substantial support for our Masters with printing of programmes, posters and scorecards.

Unless otherwise stated, all the above have either committed to continue their sponsorships of these events in the 2018 season or it is anticipated that they will continue their sponsorships in 2018 season.
Please support all our sponsors in any way you can so that we maintain their valuable support.

I also thank the White Knights for their continued support and thank those who have joined the White Knights ranks since the 2017 AGM, whilst also thanking those individuals for their years of support who decided in 2017 not to continue. I would be delighted to hear from any individual who would be interested in becoming a WLBA White Knight. I would highlight that in recent years the Management Committee has directed the contributions from the White Knights to the County Top Ten competition.

I also express appreciation to Stewart Meikle for all his continuing enthusiasm and efforts in relation to seeking and obtaining substantial sponsorship and advertising income. Stewart will undoubtedly update you all on the substantial investment into our sport committed by West Lothian Council and the other sponsors obtained for the WLBA playing shirts and jackets.
I encourage all attending delegates to discuss our continuing quest to increase sponsorship of WLBA with your club committees and furnish me with details of any parties you/they consider may be interested in sponsoring the county.

Finally, I am happy, if re-elected, to continue in my position of WLBA Sponsorship Convener and support the newly elected Management Committee in their efforts to move the sport forward in West Lothian.

Gary Smith
Feb 2018