**BOWLS ENGLAND STATEMENT ON CORONAVIRUS (Simplification)**

The following decisions regarding the 2020 season and the operations of Bowls England have been taken (this document is a simplification of the more detailed BE statement) picking out the main points :

**Operations**

The Bowls England Head Office will close at 5pm on Friday 20th March 2020. All staff will work from home from Monday 23rd March 2020, until further notice, so there will be no change in the support that we are able to provide.

**Retirement**

Tony Allcock OBE will stillretire as Chief Executive on 31st March 2020, with Jon Cockcroft

taking up his position as Chief Executive on 1st June 2020. During the interim period, Bowls England’s

operations will be led by Alistair Hollis (Operational Services Manager) and Penny Maguire (Business

Services Manager) with close support from Board Chair, David Tucker, and the Board Directors.

**Board & Meetings**

The Board will be meeting regularly via Skype/Conference Call, to review the ongoing impact of Coronavirus on Bowls England, County Associations, Clubs and bowlers, and to plan accordingly. All other meetings have been postponed until further notice.

**Celebration Matches**

All Celebration Matches scheduled up to 1st July 2020 are cancelled. The programme for the

remainder of the year will be reviewed on 1st June 2020.

**Presidential Team**

The Presidential Team be ‘deferred’ for one year (i.e. Paul Robson to be President in 2021/Terri Keen

2022/Deepak Tanna 2023) in order for them to enjoy a full year in office.

**Club Loans**

Any clubs facing hardship with repayment of a Bowls England Club Loan should discuss their

situation with the Business Services Manager.

**National Championships**

The National Championships are cancelled in their entirety for 2020 (including all County

Championship qualifying rounds). This decision has been taken because most County Associations

hold their qualifying rounds leading to the National Championships from May to July, and we believe

it is impractical for these to be completed this season.

Bowls England will refund all entry fees to County Associations and we ask that the Associations then discuss directly with entrants whether they wish to ‘roll over’ their entry to 2021 or receive a refund.

**National Competitions**

The National Competitions are cancelled in their entirety for 2020. Again, the timing of the earlier

rounds of the National Competitions means it is impractical for these to be completed this season.

Bowls England will rollover all entry fees to 2021 (but refunds will be available on request).

**International Events**

All Bowls England Trials and Training linked to International Events are cancelled.

**Festival of Bowls**

We appreciate that cancelling the National Championships and National Competitions will be a big

blow to many bowlers, clubs and counties. So, subject to any restrictions that may or may not be in

place later in the season, Bowls England will seek to organise a ‘Festival of Bowls’ in

August/September. A possible format being considered is local qualification events and finals held at

Victoria Park, Royal Leamington Spa. Our hope is that by this stage, the Government advice will have

changed, bowls clubs will have opened and bowlers will be looking for competitions to play in. The

Festival of Bowls could also be linked to club recruitment drives and publicity.

**Counties Meeting – Saturday 21st November 2020**

This event is subject to review.

**Women’s Annual Dinner and Presentation of Prizes – Saturday 21st November 2020 and Men’s Annual Dinner and Presentation of Prizes – Saturday 27th February 2021**

The above events are cancelled.

**AGM – Saturday 27th February 2021**

This will be held , to provide an opportunity for all attendees to look forward to the 2021 season.

**Affiliation Fee**

In support of Clubs at this difficult time, Bowls England will refund the Affiliation Fees paid for 2020

by each playing member. Bowls England will arrange refunds to the County Associations, who are

mandated to ensure that all monies are then paid to their Member Clubs.

**Club Support**

Bowls England recognises that many clubs will be facing a difficult season ahead and there will be a

number of areas in which they may require support in 2020 – for example:

 Greens Maintenance (Bowls England intends to provide advice to clubs on the minimum

maintenance that is required to maintain greens so they are playable when we resume

bowling)

 Funding

 Club Loans

 Recruitment

 Encouraging members to support their clubs financially by continuing to pay their annual

subscriptions – in order that the clubs will be there for them when we are able to resume

bowling.

 Looking after members (We will encourage members to keep an eye out for each other i.e.

shopping/contact etc especially those members who may live on their own)

 Staying fit (Bowls England intends to produce a “Bowlers’ Workout” in order to keep

members active and fit, during isolation or working from home, so we’re all ready to play

when we resume bowling)

These areas will form a key part of work for the Bowls England Staff over the coming weeks/months.

**Bowls England new Head Office**

Given the current financial uncertainty facing Bowls England and its member clubs, no further

progress on the building work relating to our new headquarters building will be taken until further

notice.

**Coronavirus Guidance**

A dedicated page will be created on the Bowls England website containing relevant links to

Coronavirus guidance and providing updates on the impact on Bowls England.

**Membership Register**

Work on the Membership Register will continue, as its further development will enable Bowls

England to communicate directly with its members and provide tailored support in situations such as

this. We encourage Clubs and County Associations to spend this time putting together their

membership information – the more we know about our Clubs and bowlers, the more we can tailor

our advice and support during this difficult time.

**Coach Bowls**

Coach Bowls has postponed all courses from Monday 16th March until further notice. Bowls England

will consult with the English Indoor Bowling Association regarding when Coach Bowls activity should

resume.