

# VOTING

### BOWLS ENGLAND

CAs and the board members have a vote, with 91 votes available in 2025/26.

If a CA has more than 5% of the membership it gets 4 votes (6 out of 35 get 4 votes each and they are: Hampshire, Devon, Surrey, Essex, Kent, and Sussex) and the other 29 counties each get 2 votes.

Each of the 9 Board members has a vote.

### EIBA

Both clubs and CAs vote, with a combined total of 631 votes.

There are 253 clubs, 36 of which each have four votes and 217 have two votes each, with 51 counties having 53 votes – Essex and Suffolk as unified counties each get 2 votes.

# The context

- The current arrangements for both NGBs will not operate in the new NGB as is, since both have different arrangements in place – with the **EIBA** having provisions for both **clubs and counties** to exercise votes, and **BE** having provisions for **counties and its Board** members to vote
- Both systems operate with 'weighted' voting
- However, merger does offer an opportunity to 'tidy up' current arrangements, framing the arrangements that reflect a modern approach that meets governance standards, respects the sports heritage and ensure we have a more democratic approach.
- By retaining and amalgamating the three key voting groups (clubs, counties and Board) it is possible to design a modern, governance-sound model for England Bowls.

# The principles that have guided our thinking

## A merged NGB needs a voting model that is .....

- **Unified** – recognition of both indoor and outdoor bowls interests.
- **Fair and Democratic** – Power resides with the clubs, but although they have the strongest voice, power must be checked. No single group should be able to force through or block decisions if you carefully have weighting / thresholds values. Ensures counties and the board remain meaningful constitutional actors
- **Respectful of structure** – Counties retain meaningful influence, respecting bowls' federated heritage
- **Scalable / adaptable** – can flex if either the number of clubs and / or their membership numbers change
- **Transparent** - easy to administer and encourages accurate reporting
- **Inclusive** – every member body has a voice
- **Compliant** – meets Sport England requirements
- **Modern** - creates a stable, balanced, democratic, modern constitutional structure
- **Future-proof** - supports a merged indoor/outdoor structure with shared legitimacy.

- The **Articles Group** was established to drive through the **Legal changes** required for the merger
- Attendees are **Peter Thompson, Foster Johnson, Steve Warren, David Williams (Campbell Tickell) and Darren Hooker (Capsticks)**
- The items that the Articles group were tasked with resolving were:
  1. 3 Chamber Voting Groups
  2. Voting Mechanisms
  3. How members raise resolutions
  4. Affiliate members / bodies

# How members will influence England Bowls:

- Via Appointment of **member-elected Directors**;
- Regular **county and regional forums** to ensure debate and listening;
- More **formalised working groups** with reps from clubs/counties as with the current Stakeholder group;
- Via **formal voting at AGM.....**

## **What Members vote on at the AGM (documented in ARTICLES):**

- Changes to **Articles**, including the company name (75% threshold)
- Appointment and removal of **member elected Directors** (majority)
- Any other **business specifically reserved to them in the Articles**, or **put to them by the Board** (51% threshold)
- Appointment and removal of **auditors** (majority – an in person show of hands)

**Going forward in addition to “in person” and “proxy” voting, England Bowls will establish online voting to ensure as many members have a voice as possible.**

# 1. The Proposed Three Chamber Voting Groups



# Clubs - number of Votes

## (documented in Rules and Regulations)

Outdoor and Indoor clubs voting determined by member numbers

|                 |          |                 |          |                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| 0-100 members   | 1 vote   | 101-200 members | 2 votes  | 201-300 members | 4 votes  |
| 301-400 members | 8 votes  | 401-500 members | 10 votes | 501-600 members | 12 votes |
| 601-700 members | 14 votes | 701+ members    | 16 votes |                 |          |

| Votes             | Outdoor Clubs | Notes                         |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 8+                | 0             |                               |
| 4                 | 2             | Essex County, Hove & Kingsway |
| 2                 | 120           |                               |
| 1                 | 1641          |                               |
| Total Votes: 1889 |               |                               |

Note: Whilst we lack a single source of member data, individuals can be represented by multiple clubs in voting. Voting mechanisms should be reviewed once this single data source exists to consider those scenarios against the principles.

| Votes             | Indoor Clubs | Notes                                          |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 16                | 2            | Dolphin, Lincoln                               |
| 14                | 4            | Northampton, Bristol, Palmerston, Whiteknights |
| 12                | 11           |                                                |
| 10                | 22           |                                                |
| 8                 | 54           |                                                |
| 4                 | 60           |                                                |
| 2                 | 68           |                                                |
| 1                 | 25           |                                                |
| Total Votes: 1273 |              |                                                |

# Counties - number of Votes (documented in Rules and Regulations)

For affiliated Outdoor and Indoor counties, number of votes equivalent to size of membership

- **1 vote** – up to 1,000 affiliated club members
  - **2 votes** – 1,001 -2,000
  - **3 votes** – 2,001 – 3,000
  - **4 votes** – 3,001 and over
- Assumes all Counties amalgamated male/female*

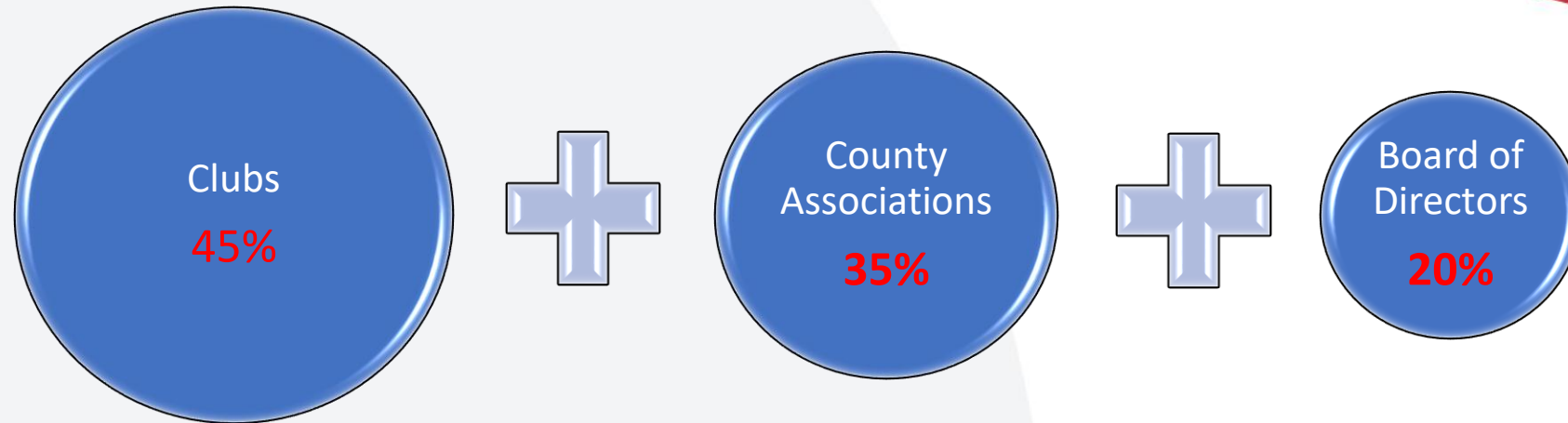
| Votes            | Outdoor Counties | Notes                                                                                    |
|------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4                | 9                | Devon, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent<br>Leicestershire, Somerset, Surrey, Sussex |
| 3                | 8                |                                                                                          |
| 2                | 10               |                                                                                          |
| 1                | 8                |                                                                                          |
| Total Votes = 88 |                  |                                                                                          |

| Votes            | Indoor Counties | Notes                                                |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 4                | 6               | Essex, Kent, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Somerset, Sussex |
| 3                | 9               |                                                      |
| 2                | 6               |                                                      |
| 1                | 7               |                                                      |
| Total Votes = 70 |                 |                                                      |

**Non-amalgamated counties** will have to agree how to allocate their votes prior to any event. Number of votes will be reset annually based on updated membership numbers as at an agreed date or dates in the previous year.

If a county decides to **amalgamate indoor and outdoor organisations**, then the calculation above still applies but the **county may have up to 8 votes**.

## 2. Voting Mechanism



### **Voting Structure (documented in ARTICLES):**

- Voting structure will be 45% Clubs, 35% Counties, and 20% Directors
- Principal is that Clubs have the highest percentage, and that the Board retain a small vote to ensure that no single group can dominate decision-making.
- Agreed not to have a double or triple lock, just overall weighted.

# 3 Chamber Voting Groups

The following examples show how the weighted voting system works in practice

## Example 1 – special resolution needing 75% of vote

**Clubs** vote 95% in favour =  $95 \times 45\% = 42.75\%$  (out of 45%)  
**Counties** vote 95% in favour =  $95 \times 35\% = 33\%$  (out of 35%)  
**Board** vote 0% in favour =  $0 \times 20\% = 0\%$  (out of 20%)

*Total weighted vote = 75.75% **passed***

## Example 2 – special resolution needing 75% of vote

**Clubs** – vote 100% in favour =  $100 \times 45\% = 45\%$  (out of 45%)  
**Counties** – vote 0% in favour =  $0 \times 35\% = 0\%$  (out of 35%)  
**Board** – vote 80% in favour =  $80 \times 20\% = 16\%$  (out of 20%)

*Total weighted vote = 61% **failed***

## Example 3 – ordinary resolution needing 51% of vote

**Clubs** – vote 35% in favour =  $35 \times 45\% = 15.75\%$  (out of 45%)  
**Counties** – vote 35% in favour =  $35 \times 35\% = 12.25\%$  (out of 35%)  
**Board** – vote 100% in favour =  $100 \times 20\% = 20\%$  (out of 25%)

*Total weighted vote = 48% **failed***

## Example 4 – ordinary resolution needing 51% of vote

**Clubs** – vote 70% in favour =  $70 \times 45\% = 31.5\%$  (out of 45%)  
**Counties** – vote 60% in favour =  $60 \times 35\% = 21\%$  (out of 35%)  
**Board** – vote 50% in favour =  $50 \times 20\% = 10\%$  (out of 20%)

*Total weighted vote = 62.5% **passed***

# RESOLUTIONS

## **3.1 Member Proposed Resolutions – for AGM**

**(documented in Articles)**

- A resolution can be raised to the AGM from any member, together with a seconder.
- Resolutions must be submitted 60 days before the date of the AGM, in writing and supported by a rationale.
- The resolution must have been considered within appropriate consultation forums ahead of being raised.  
The Board can advise on the best way to achieve this.
- If a resolution is not successfully voted for, it cannot be resubmitted for 2 calendar years.

## 3.2 Special General meetings (documented in Articles)

- A special general meeting can be called at any time and a resolution proposed by:
  - 50% of Directors or
  - Full members representing at least 10% of the total voting rights of either the clubs or the counties and drawn from at least 10 clubs or counties.
- The England Bowls Board is required to respond to the call within 21 days and make arrangements for a SGM to be held within 28 days of the notice convening the SGM.

10% of Club Chamber  
= 316 votes

With a minimum of 10 different  
clubs

10% of County Chamber  
= 10 votes

with a minimum of 10 different  
county associations

# ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

## 4. Affiliate Members / Bodies

- To be called associates and unable to vote
- Pay a fee to be linked to EB but specified outside the articles