

MINUTES OF THE ECWBA COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH APRIL 2023

AT THE MILLENNIUM HALL, GREAT BADDOW AT 2.00PM.

PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS: Joan opened the meeting by saying how lovely it was to see everyone. She hoped that they had wintered well and were looking forward to the season.

A minute silence was held in remembrance of Pam Foley (Previous C Area Secretary, Press Officer ECWBA and member of the original Colchester Ladies), Marion Bond (Great Baddow), Anne Fearnley (Wanstead Central), Yvonne Sharp (Stansted), Chris Hewing (Princess Marie Louise), Edna Hillman (Romford), Pat Halpin (Elm Park), Barbara Smith (Sth Benfleet & Canvey), Pam Sims (Prittlewell), Carol Perry (Hadleigh) and Maureen Ward (Thorpe Bay).

APOLOGIES: Received from: Jennifer Spearman, Colchester, Woods, Stansted, The Springhouse, Thorpe Bay, Rayleigh, Thorrington and Wivenhoe.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: These were agreed and signed.

Proposed by: Christina Allen

Seconded by: Liz Garrett

MATTERS ARISING:

- The positions of Senior Vice-President and Junior Vice-President remain vacant for this season. Jill Polley would welcome any enquiries regarding these roles from any lady affiliated to the county.
- The implementation of the Competition Portal for the Ladies' Competitions is still progressing and it is expected to be up and running for the 2024 season. Other club registration and affiliation forms will be circulated in July for return by the 1st November 2023.
- The enquiry made by Gidea Park as to whether the County Top Club competition games could be split between home and away venues, so that the Singles and Fours play at one venue and the Pairs and Triples at the other venue was discussed by the Executive at their next meeting. It was unanimously agreed that this would NOT be an option and all disciplines will be played on the challengers green. The executive felt that the Top Club is a team game. Playing at the same venue enables players to look across, encourage their team and to keep an eye on the scores, which may influence the shots to be played towards the end of the game. Playing at one venue would eliminated the necessity to phone to check on the progress of play.
- The 4th edition of the Laws of the Sport which came into force from the 1st April 2023, is available and the purchase will be covered later in the meeting. The new laws can be viewed on the Bowls England, World Bowls and English Bowling Umpires Association websites.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Change of Secretary for Larsen: Hon. Sec. Mrs Sue Charles. Tel: 01992 767038. Email: suecharles.dcm@hotmail.com
- Change of website address for Witham B.C. <http://witham-bowls-club.weebly.com>

- ECWBA will have 2 representatives in the Championship Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours and 2 Wood Singles and 1 representative in the Senior Fours at the National Championships in August at Royal Leamington Spa.
- New Telephone number for Pat Powder (Romford) 01708 960347.
- Tye Green B.C. has unfortunately closed.
- A letter from the R.N.L.I. had been sent to Past President Jennifer Spearman to thank her for the generous donation of £1,500.00. This was read out.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Jenny reported:

- the account currently had £27808.87 in the Bank Current Account and £20500 in the Deposit Account. There are £11315.00 Affiliation fees still to pay to Bowls England and £565.75 Affiliation Fees to EBA leaving a total £15928.12.
- ECWBA has received £5143.50 Affiliation Income and £822.50 Administration Fee Income this year. Both up from the previous year.
- Leaving us in a healthy position which will help to pay for at least 2 coaches required for the County Matches.
- The 200 Club has increased revenue this year with 97 applications being received. Last year it was 81. £485 will be used for prizes (£58.20 1st prize, £38.80 second prize and £24.25 for 3rd prize. Dave Jarrold will be asked to post a list of allocated numbers on the website shortly. Many thanks to all who supported this fund raiser.

Handbooks

- These have been paid for at a cost of £3016.00 and £280.00 has been collected for 9 adverts.

Competition Portal

- This is still ongoing

ECWBA Clothing

- Valence Bowls should hold stock for any future orders. Please let her know if there are any problems.

Catering

- Single use plastic stirrers will not be allowed from later this year. Jenny suggested metal teaspoons be purchased. Maybe members have some spares they can donate.

World Bowls - Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark Fourth Edition (Version 4)

- 50 have been ordered and will be sold to members at £3.50 each when delivered.

200 CLUB:

1 st Prize	No. 77	£58.20	Margaret Langwith (Buckhurst Hill)
2 nd Prize	No. 6	£38.80	Jean McCloud (Rochford)
3 rd Prize	No. 44	£24.25	Carole Riley (The Springhouse)

Adoption of the report: Proposed by Brenda Bowyer

Seconded by Lesley Harvey

BENEVOLENT REPORT:

Wendy reported that the Fund was healthy:

Current Account:	£574.80
Savings Account:	£8,483.15
Total;	£9067.95

The Benevolent Triples and Charity Day is July 13. C Area have a new venue at Holland-on-Sea, after many years having been held at Wivenhoe. Wendy wished to convey thanks on behalf of the County to all the people of the Wivenhoe club for their hard work and dedication over the years.

Adoption of the report: Proposed by Kim Wiggins

Seconded by Pauline Mount

BOWLS ENGLAND REPORT:

- Mo Monkton has been appointed Interim Performance Director in the absence of John McGuinness, with Sandy Hazell stepping up as Interim Women's Team Manager.
- Aviva and Bowls England announced a strategic multi-year partnership, with the Insurance, Wealth and Retirement Company becoming the principal partner to us, the governing body for lawn bowls in England. The partnership is hugely significant for lawn bowls in England at all levels. The agreement will see the integration of Aviva from grassroots clubs to elite teams as they become the Principal Partner of the England National Teams, Title Partner of the Bowls England National Finals, as well as Official Partners to our community initiatives, Bowls Bash and Bowls Big Weekend. Aviva branding will feature on the England Teams' kits.
- At the Bowls England AGM it was agreed that from 2024 Bowls England affiliation fees will be increased from £5 to £7.
- The Bowls England National Finals at Leamington will run from Thursday 10th to Sunday 27th August inclusive. Essex Ladies will have 2 qualifiers in all National Championship events with the exception of the Senior Fours which will be one.
- Should scheduling clashes occur involving the following National Competitions: all inter-county events, all inter-club events, national mixed pairs, mixed fours and senior pairs, teams will be required to provide substitutes.
- The National Competition draws are now available to view on the Bowls England website, but competitors should already be aware as Bowls England should have notified every entrant with the details.
- This year the following time limits (including trial ends) are being introduced at the Leamington Finals only.

National Championships	
2 Bowl Singles	one hour 15 minutes
4 Bowl Singles	two hours 30 minutes
Pairs, Triples & Fours	three hours 30 minutes
National Competitions	
Singles	two hours 30 minutes
Pairs	two hours 30 minutes
Inter-club	three hours 30 minutes
Inter-county	TBC
- Bowls England have set up a working party to review the whole aspect of the competitions going forward and a report will be submitted to the Bowls England board before being shared with County Associations.

- The Laws of the Sport of Bowls – Crystal Mark 4th Edition was approved in August 2022 and came into force for outdoor play in England on the 1st April 2023. A print version will be available to purchase direct from the ECWBA for £3.50 each, which is a considerable saving compared with buying them individually.
- As of May 2025 all clubs that wish to affiliate to Bowls England must have a safeguarding officer. Any club or organisation that offers sports or activities has a responsibility to safeguard their members and this relates to both children and adults. Bowls England send out monthly bulletins to club safeguarding officers providing training and useful advice. They have revamped the safeguarding section of their website to include useful information and resources for clubs and associations. Your safeguarding officer can sign up for the monthly bulletins on the website.
- The Bowls Big Weekend this year is taking place from Friday 26th May to Monday 29th May inclusive. This gives the bowls community the great opportunity to come together and celebrate our great sport, with clubs opening their doors for new people to start their bowls journey.
- Bowls England have teamed up with the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) to offer all affiliated clubs access to two high specification defibrillator packages plus training opportunities. If interested you can find more details on the Bowls England website.

Adoption of the report: Proposed by Sylvia Bloomfield

Seconded by Kim Wiggins

PRESIDENT'S DAY TRIP REPORT:

Unfortunately 3 ladies have had to withdraw from the outing, so the first 3 ladies on the waiting list have taken their places. We currently have the full coach of 53, with 11 on the waiting list. We are looking forward to joining President Joan on her outing to Lincolnshire.

SELECTION: JOHNS TROPHY/WALKER CUP SQUAD:

The following ladies have been selected for the 2023 squad:

Sue Feeney, Linda Mills	Aveley
Julie Watkins	Buckhurst Hill
Michelle Carlin, Hayley Kenny, Serena Madgewick, Jane Preston, Rebecca Smith, Michelle Squires	Clockhouse
Hazel Greneski	Courtauld Halstead
Doreen Butcher, Tina Howard, Debbie Sales	Dunmow
Emma Pitts, Elaine Score	Essex County
Shirley Beavis	Falcon
Di Abel, Sylvia Bloomfield	Harlow
June Linehan	Holland-on-Sea
Sue Charles	Larsen
Shirley Bell, Lynn Farrugia	Rainham
Brenda Bowyer, Jacqui Miller, Jan Soar	Rochford

Rita Fabbri

Stock & Buttsbury

Pauline Lowe

The Springhouse

Judy Bohannon, Steph Heard

Tiptree Jobserve

Jackie Barham-Holt, Cheryl Rayner

Wanstead Central

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- It has been confirmed that the timings for the matches at the National Championships will only apply at the Nationals at Leamington and do not affect the games at County Level.
- 3 Wood Pairs will be played in the following National Competitions – Women’s Senior Pairs, Mixed Pairs and Family Pairs. All disciplines will be 3 bowls and 18 ends.
- An Intergroup questionnaire had been circulated in January as the Executive were concerned about the lack of interest in these end of season games. Just one of the three matches was played in 2022. The Intergroup matches are played at the end of each season to enable County Badged Bowlers, Colts and those who have some points towards their county badge to participate in a friendly competition. It gives another opportunity for those players to play in three extra round robin matches, after which the Dorothy Green Trophy is presented to the winning Area at the County Luncheon. It has been decided not to change the format for this year, but everyone was urged to encourage the ladies in their club who are eligible to play, to participate. The forms for these matches will be circulated in June, to be returned to the four Area Secretaries by the 21st July 2023. Venues and other information will be on the forms. Jill Polley emphasized how important it is to support these matches because we do not want to lose them.
- Jill Polley expressed her disappointment at the poor response to the invitation for one lady member from each affiliated bowling club to attend Joan Barrett’s President’s Day. It is so rude to ignore the R.S.V.P. request and disrespectful to the President. Even with the few apologies received at the meeting, only 36 replies were received from the 118 invitations sent out. Just 23 clubs will be represented at President’s Day along with the 16 County Officers.

THANKS TO THE CHAIR: Proposed by: Pat Brown Seconded by: Brenda Bowyer

MEETING CLOSED AT: 2.55pm

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 19TH JULY 2023 AT THE MILLENNIUM HALL, GREAT BADDOW AT 2PM