

ESSEX BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, Saturday, 30th November 2019
at Millennium Hall, Great Baddow, CM2 9RL at 10.30am.

Present : Forty-eight members attended including nine EBA Board members representing 33 clubs. An attendance sheet is attached to master copy of these minutes.

Welcome: Tony Ellis, Chair, welcomed everyone, thanking them for attending and then asked each member of the EBA Board to introduce themselves.

Apologies: Alex Wightman (Board Member). Clementswood, Epping, Great Wakering, Hadleigh, Hockley, Kings Chase, North Weald, Radwinter, Rochford, Thorrington, Thorpe Bay, Thurrock, Tiptree Jobserve.

Minutes of AGM Meeting held on 1st December 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record.

(noted name error Barbara Langford, amended in master copy)
Proposed: Alan Smith, Falcon. B.C. Seconded: Jennifer Spearman, Upminster B.C.

Matters Arising

pen Forum 2. reference coloured jack – Tony Ellis is waiting for new law book to become available.

Tony referred to Reg. 9 from his report. A Disciplinary Booklet has been printed and will be circulated to all clubs.

County Administrator's Report* -- Tony Ellis

This is my seventh Annual General Meeting report from me as your County Administrator. Can I once again I thank for those attending.

I have attended the Bowls England AGM, and Counties meeting since our last Annual Meeting. I attended two meetings of the Audit & Review Committee. This committee has proposed, and it has been accepted that Bowls England appoint a Marketing Director. I have also attended the Regional Meeting in April.

The first item to report is that David Mitchell-Gears has stepped down as Chairman and David Tucker has replaced him. Also, I can report Tony Allcock is also retiring in April next year

At the Counties Meeting last Saturday a whole range of topics were on the agenda including; Commonwealth Games 2022. Hosted by the city of Birmingham. Bowls to be played at Leamington.

Coaching was mentioned and I will discuss the Counties new approach to the subject later on in the agenda.

Loans from Bowls England will be higher and the set up cost will be cheaper.

BDA made their usual presentation. Their major areas of work will be. Club Development Programme, Play Bowls Package, WomenCan/WI Initiative, Safeguarding, Disability (Love Fisher Brown Award)

My own Committee Management Audit and Review made a presentation. Explaining the background of the committee and what it was trying to achieve. Mentioning Sport England Code of Governance Tier 3, Director of Marketing Branding and Communication. Safeguarding.

Also, Bowls England will set up on their web site a link to Third Party Funding, which will give you links to over eight thousand sources of funding for clubs.

Last but not least, Bowls England have produced the Regulation 9 (Disciplinary Regulation) booklet. This will be sent to all clubs.

Please can I make a plea to all club Officers when having to go down the road of discipline make sure you stick to Regulation 9. In all these matters the club must deal with discipline firstly, only come to the County when and if the club cannot deal with it. If the County, then cannot deal with it then goes to Bowls England. But please exhaust the clubs disciplinary procedures first.

I would like to report on the activity of the Essex Bowls Association over the last twelve months. I have chaired three meetings that have taken place, which have discussed such subjects as:

Affiliation & Competition Fees 2018/2019

Bowls England Annual General Meeting (Saturday 22nd February 2019)

Bowls England Counties Meeting (Saturday 23rd November 2019)

White Rose and Amy Rose Format, Coaching, Discipline

I once again have acted as a post box for both ECWBA and ECBA and forwarded all communications from Bowls England to the EBA committee. Our next meeting will be on the 10th February, which will discuss items that will be on the agenda of the forthcoming Bowls England Annual General Meeting scheduled for Saturday 22nd February 2020.

I would like to thank all the Essex Bowling Association Board for all their hard work and dedication. I will and must, make a special mention of the EBA Treasurer Wendy, who is standing down. She helped in so many ways firstly with the Boards constitution those years ago. Secondly all the work she has carried out on our behalf acting as Treasurer. Lastly being just a friend and helping me in so many ways and making sure I did not make many mistakes. She was a great sounding board and listener. I will miss her wise council and well-spoken words.

I am ever so grateful to Stephen for taking on Wendy's role for the Essex Bowling Association.

The members of the Essex Bowling Association Board are:

Jill Polley, Wendy Coldham, Sheila Brickel Pauline Mount and Linda Mills.

Alex Wightman, Pat Finney, Stephen Hill, Trevor Hackett and myself.

Bowls England County Delegates are Linda Mills and myself.

Finally, I wish you all well for the future a very Happy Christmas and a very healthy New Year.

Essex County Bowling Association Secretary's Report* -- Alex Wightman

As I start my final year as County Secretary, and my membership of the Board, it is with some regret that I have to report a serious increase in cases of indiscipline resulting in disciplinary hearings having to be arranged. Whilst I appreciate that Essex is not alone in this regard, it is to be hoped that this trend will not continue. We have enough work to do promoting our sport so washing our dirty linen in public does little to help our cause.

I must also raise the subject of County returns. It seem that some clubs are not aware of the importance of getting their returns completed and sent to the Competition Secretary within the deadline of 31st October. Any delay impacts on the ability of the Competition Secretary commencing the draw and this then snowballs with the Handbook Editor having to delay sending the paperwork to the printers. I would also stress that John Tully is the Competition Secretary, not me, so please do not continue to send your returns to me.

We are pleased to report that getting to the National Finals as the third named competitor has for the third time produced a National Singles Champion. This time it was Ed Morris from Essex County B.C. In the Eastern Counties Jack Butcher won the Junior Singles. Ed Morris and Steve Mitchinson represented England in the British Isles Championships, and Steve won the Gold Medal in the Atlantic Championships. Andrew Squire was again our County Singles Champion. He is making quite a habit of this and it is disappointing not to see him progress internationally, especially as he is a former National Champion.

Whilst she is obviously not part of the E.C.B.A, set up, I would like to express my delight at the success achieved by young Jazz Wilson. She bowls out of Radwinter, a club in my Group and at Turpins I.B.C. where I work. I have played both with and against her. She is a prodigious talent, with a wonderful temperament and I would wish her continued success in the future. I am sure the E.C.W.B.A. are very proud to have such a gifted youngster amongst them.

We have managed to recruit a Junior Deputy President for next year, but in truth it was difficult. People are becoming more reluctant to take on the big jobs. I leave my role as County Secretary next November and as yet have no replacement

Having been a member of this Board from the beginning it is satisfying to see what has been accomplished. This in no small measure due to the dedication of members like Wendy Coldham, who is standing down as Treasurer. I am sure I speak for everyone when I wish her the very best for the future. I wish all members of the Board a very happy Christmas and peace and prosperity for 2020, and of course good bowling next season. My thanks to Tony Ellis for his support during the course of this and all the years we have been on the Board.

Essex County Women's Bowling Association Secretary's Report* -- Jill Polley

The Essex Ladies have had a successful year in many respects. Despite our overall membership being slightly down, our competition entries were up in general and we maintained our C entry at the National Championships in all disciplines.

Our inter-county friendly matches were enjoyed by everyone, including our 15 newly badged bowlers. These matches resulted in the honours being equally shared. We will not have friendly matches against Buckinghamshire and Berkshire next year, but these have been replaced with home and away matches with Hertfordshire and Middlesex. I congratulate the men on their fine win in our annual match and we will be hoping to reverse this result next year. Our Johns Trophy team had a wonderful season and after a magnificent win versus Hertfordshire in the Regional Finals, went on to play Wiltshire at the National Semi-finals. This was a very tight match and it was very disappointing to lose by only 3 shots overall. The Walker Cup team also qualified for the Regional Finals, but lost to our nemesis Huntingdonshire.

At the National Championships the ladies had little success until the Junior Pairs competition was played. A huge well done to Hayley Kenny and Jasmine Wilson who won in style, convincingly out-bowling last year's winners in the final. Jasmine has had a wonderful year. She played in the Junior International team, retained the Essex 4 Wood Singles title and skipped the Triples team from Radwinter that played at the National Championships as our C entry. I am delighted to report that Jasmine won the Junior Bowler of the Year award which was presented at the Bowls England Women's Annual Dinner last weekend. Elaine Score and Edward Morris reached the semi-finals of the Mixed Pairs and our Amy Rose team also played well to reach the semi-finals.

Our county competitions ran well this year, with some new names appearing on the trophies. Another of our youngsters, Jodie Gosling (Colchester West End) won the Unbadged Singles Competition. It is good to see some new bowlers emerging.

Our Annual Luncheon and Prize giving held on Wednesday 23rd October was attended by 196 ladies and we were pleased to welcome Terri Keen, Junior Vice-President Bowls England as our special guest. After the trophy presentations 7 Certificates of Merit were awarded. One of these was a special presentation to our retiring Treasurer, Wendy Coldham. The certificate was not just to thank her for her service to the county as Treasurer, but mainly to recognise the valuable contribution she has made to the county in producing and maintaining valuable statistics, databases and records, giving the county an indispensable point of reference. Carol Cooper took up the post of C Area Secretary this time last year and has done a great job. Unfortunately, she will be moving to Suffolk and we wish her all the best for the future. Collen Moss (Colchester West End) will be taking up this mantle. I sincerely thank all our other officers for their hard work on behalf of the county this past year and am delighted that they will be continuing in their posts. At present we have not filled the position of Junior Vice-President and more worryingly, no-one has come forward for Treasurer. Linda Mills, Pauline Mount, Sheila Brickel and I will continue to serve on the Essex Bowling Association Board and one position has yet to be filled, dependant on the appointment of a County Treasurer.

Thank you to everyone who has given their time to serve on the Essex Bowling Association Board this past year. I hope everyone enjoys good health this winter and I wish you well in 2020.

Essex Bowling Association Treasurer's Report* -- Wendy Coldham

Balance sheets were circulated before Wendy gave her report.

The Essex Bowling Association account is a non-profit making account, funded annually by 25p per person taken from the affiliation fees received from our Essex bowlers. It is a purely administrative account, paying some common expenses of our two underlying County Associations and co-ordinating the transfers of money between Essex and Bowls England. The account can be split into three categories, monies from our underlying associations to be passed on to Bowls England, monies received from Bowls England to be distributed to the ECBA and ECWBA and administration costs.

In the first category, covering the money channelled from the county to Bowls England, affiliation fees were down by £1190, reflecting the drop in overall membership from 8515 to 8277. We affiliated 5,599 men (down 128) and 2,678 women (down 110). Competition entry fees were down by £375, the men's portion being down £452.50, whilst the women actually increased their participation by £77.50. In total we passed £50,120 to Bowls England.

The second category covers money received from Bowls England for our officers and competitors. The increase in meeting expenses results from Bowls England paying hotel expenses for the November Counties meeting. The male competitors expenses break down as Leamington £671.00, Balcomb Trophy £118.80 and White Rose £37.95. The female competitors expenses break down as Leamington £697.84, Walker Cup £65.67, Amy Rose £228.10 and Johns Trophy £867.08. Overall we received £3071.03 from Bowls England and, as you can see, these amounts were passed directly on to the relevant underlying County Associations and Officers.

The third category covers EBA affiliation fees and administrative expenses. Affiliation fees paid to the EBA totalled £2069.25, down £59.50 reflecting the drop in bowling membership. The expenses paid out by the EBA, ignoring the error payments, totalled £2468.20 up £425. An extra £300 was refunded to our associations, and officers expenses increased by £134 with fuller attendance at meetings. These two increased payments account for the increased expenditure and also the drop in balance carried forward of just under £400.

With £1060 in the account the Board agreed, at its meeting earlier this month, that a refund of £400 should be made to the ECBA and of £200 to the ECWBA. This leaves just over £460 in the account to cover any expenses incurred before the 2019-2020 affiliations fees come through in January.

Finally, I should like to thank Pat Watson for auditing these accounts every year since inception of the Essex Bowling Association and my fellow officers for their help and comradeship over the years since we first started talking about unification, in 2008.

Tony Ellis thanked the Officers for their reports and asked for all 3 reports to be accepted by the meeting.
Proposed: Kim Wiggins. White Hall B.C. Seconded: Brian Stubbings, Maldon B.C.

Coaching* – Tony Ellis

Greg Moss (Director of Falcon Bowls Club) and I have been discussing the subject of coaching in Essex for some considerable time.

Mike Ferris has acted as point of contact for any new, would be coaches, asking advice on courses and also existing coaches asking on how to progress with their coaching career. This is not a desirable situation and is not meant as any criticism of Mike, who has helped with many enquires. I am pleased to report that he is to join us on our newly formed sub-committee. Last years outdoor President Terry Mizen has also raised the subject at an Executive meeting and has been a great inspiration to me to see what could be done on the subject of coaching in Essex. He has also volunteer to be on the sub-committee.

The concerns Greg and I both feel concerning the subject of Coaching within Essex and Nationally have already been briefly aired in our previous report dated 29th September 2019. The subsequent decision by The Essex Outdoor and Indoor Bowling Association Executive to authorise a Sub Committee to look into this matter provides a great opportunity to achieve Four KEY objectives:

1. To explore all possibilities regarding Coaching, with an objective of creating a co-ordinated Coaching Strategy for the Essex Bowling Community, (both Indoors and Outside)
2. It provides a platform to explore the reasons why all existing Coaching Schemes can't be integrated to acknowledge the existence and professional ability of all Coaches and provide one system of Coaching which encompasses all the requirements of both Individual participants and the Sport of Bowls itself.
3. It provides an opportunity to make recommendations to both the Indoor and Outdoor Essex County Bowling Executives regarding Coaching with a view to implementation across the County.
4. Finally, it proves an opportunity to make recommendations regarding the National Coaching Strategy for Bowls to the County Executive, for submission to National Bodies if felt appropriate.

We have five members on the sub-committee at present.

Greg Moss to be Chairman. Terry Mizen, Mike Ferris, Trevor Hackett, Alison Blake.

We are still waiting for a lady to join us representing the Ladies County Indoor.

We have a meeting scheduled for next month and we have given ourselves three months to make recommendations to the County Executives.

Tony Ellis then thanked Wendy Coldham for all her hard work and support as a member of the EBA Board since its inception and presented her with a gift voucher, Jill Polley presented flowers. Tony then thanked everyone again for attending and wished everyone a safe journey home.

Meeting Closed 11.00am.

Date of next EBA AGM Saturday, 28th November 2020

*Officers' reports scanned to these Minutes. Originals filed in Master. Folder.

Open Forum

1. Sandy Dron, Upminster B.C. asked for confirmation that the new disciplinary booklet was being sent to every club. Tony was under the impression this was the case.
2. Paul La Plain, E.C.B.C. suggested Bowls England should be promoting the game of bowls to the u/25's especially after seeing the enthusiasm of the u/25's event which E.C.B.C. hosted this year. It was agreed the sport needs better promotion and B. Eng. are looking towards this end by appointing a Director to cover this area. It was suggested the EBA write to B. Eng. expressing our concerns.

Referred to next Board Meeting.

Further references was made re coaching in Chelmsford schools with an emphasis on the need for DBS (Discharge and Barring Service) certificates being updated every 3 years.

3. M. Boote, Hainault B.C. informed, at London Parks A.G.M. agreed to mixed leagues and some clubs are now holding mixed competitions. Question, how can these clubs put forward respective Champions for County competitions in the future. **Referred to next Board Meeting**
4. Richard Dodd, Braintree B.C. enquired if there were any rules concerning the new style of bowls shoe with its grooved sole and/or small heel. Since these shoes have been accepted by B. Eng. clubs can only notify visiting clubs in advance that this style of shoe will not be accepted on their Green.
5. Alan Smith, Falcon B.C. advised clubs to check their details on B. Eng. website as he found an error with his name and email address. B.Eng. will provide a code to make amendments.
6. Sheila Thompson, Carreras B.C. questioned the necessity of having 3 groups within the EBA suggesting as a unified body we should be moving forward towards one unified committee. Tony Ellis responded by stating it took 4 years of consultation and discussion between the Men's and Women's County Associations to decide on the present format. Pat Finney, ECBA, Match Secretary, stated, as Essex is one of the largest counties, it would be impractical although it may work for smaller counties. Other general comments referred to the workload for one individual to cover both sections and a possible need to make changes to competition schedules etc. When developing the present format it was agreed some compromises had to be accepted and to date this has worked well for both sections.

(For reference from B. Eng. Official Yearbook 2019. Essex has 144 clubs, second only to Kent with 158.

It should be noted the majority of counties listed in the Yearbook still have separate Men's and Women's Officers as Secretaries and Match Secretaries. Presumably, they too, are operating a similar system as Essex and spreading the workload between respective sections whilst still operating as a unified body.)

Tony Ellis thanked everyone for their contributions and thoughtful discussions to this part of the meeting then closed the meeting with seasonal greetings to one and all.

Meeting closed 11.45 am.