

ESSEX BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, Saturday, 26th November 2022 at Millennium Hall, Great Baddow, CM2 9RL

Present: Thirty-two members attended, including all EBA Board Officers and delegates representing 24 clubs. An attendance sheet is attached to the master copy of these minutes

Welcome: Tony Ellis, Chair, opened the meeting by asking everyone to join him in a moment's reflection in memory of all the family, friends and loved ones lost since our last AGM. Tony then welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

Apologies: Buckhurst Hill, Clock House, Connaught, Frinton, Halstead, Holland-on-Sea, Wanstead Central.

Minutes of AGM Meeting held on 11th December 2021. The majority of members present informed they had not received these minutes* However, it was agreed they could be signed as a true record and arrangements would be made to circulate the above minutes with the current ones.

Proposed by: Kim Wiggins White Hall B.C. Seconded by: Anne Phillips. Liberty B.C.

*After the meeting Pauline Mount (Mins Sec) emailed the Secretaries of the 8 clubs asking them to kindly, advise their delegates minutes of the AGM for 2021 were posted on the website on 23rd January 2022, for them to print off. Hopefully, this has resolved this issue.

Matters Arising:

The only issue outstanding is "climate change" which Tony Ellis will cover in his report.

County Administrator's Report* -- Tony Ellis

This is my tenth Annual General Meeting report from me as your County Administrator.

My invitation to Jon Cockcroft Chief Executive Officer of Bowls England, to attend one of our meetings has at last met with success. He is scheduled to come to our EBA Board meeting on Thursday 2nd February 2023. I am aware many of you would like to be included and I intend to invite all clubs to an Open Forum meeting with Jon after the Board meeting. I recently had a one-to-one discussion with Jon. **Tony to action**

I started with the question "Why does Bowls England dislike Essex so much." He said this was not true. So, I answered for him. When Bowls England asked Counties to jump most of them answered how high. Essex questioned Bowls England on numerous decisions and timetables they made and offered constructive criticism which the Bowls England staff did not like. I also reminded them very often that the County Officers are volunteers and not salaried staff who are paid by Bowls England. It is obvious there is not a happy ship at Headquarters. Staff had left within twelve months of being appointed. That was five to my knowledge. In my discussion with Jon, he agreed with me that when he was appointed, he decided to make clubs his priority, particularly in communications. County Associations were side-lined. He has admitted that was an error and has realized that County Associations do play an important role in their respective Counties.

At the Counties Conference the following was agreed on.

- Continue to have one in-person meeting per year
- Set up monthly drop-in zoom call for Counties to hear what BE are working on and the following month to give feedback
- Explore regional meetings and cross-county working to tackle strategic projects such as the future affiliation model. Consultation on these issues.
- Everyone to put more effort into the Facebook group – BE to add updates, share best practise and counties to contribute information.

- Counties to receive Club updates 24 hours in advance on the proviso these are embargoed, and counties do not forward/make public in advance
- Explore areas for collective buying – kit, hotels, green supplies

I was unable to attend the recent Counties Meeting due to family commitments, but Terry Mizen attended in my place. I have not seen minutes of the meeting but have received an update from Linda Mills.

The topics discussed were: -

Fit for future Strategy: County Relations and Management and Review work: Bowls Bash:

Future of Affiliation: Competition Review and Finals Qualifications.

Our delegates could not ask questions.

We had a Question for them regarding what was asked at last years AGM on climate change.

Perhaps we can follow up with Jon on his visit.

Management and Audit Review Committee

MAR County Consultation – Scope of Work

County Associations play a critical role in the fabric of our sport and will play an extremely important part in the successful execution of the Bowls England 2021-26 Strategy Fit for the Future. Bowls England is evolving as an organisation and investing its resources in different areas. It is keen to engage beyond the bowls community, wants to embrace a digital-first approach and is communicating directly with clubs and bowlers.

As Bowls England is changing and with new demands that come from the strategy, it is important that County Associations and clubs to reflect on the role they play, their capacity and capability to support this strategy for our sport. As Bowls England is developing and delivering an implementation plan for the Governance Working Party's recommendation. The Board would like MAR to consult with Counties Associations on what the future looks like for them.

Scope of Work

To assess the Counties role in the "Fit for the Future" strategy. To identify where Counties are currently supporting the delivery of the strategy and where they are well-equipped to deepen or expand their role.

To identify where Counties are not well-placed to deliver the strategy and what support they may need.

To explore any regional variations to endeavour to develop a greater consistency of County delivery.

Explore County Governance with GWP and alignment with GWP work.

To understand the County Associations governance models and the extent to which they are consistent with Sport England's view of good governance.

To explore ways in which County Associations might evolve their governance to become more effective in delivering their role in the "Fit for Future" strategy.

To shape the County Associations relationship with Bowls England.

To identify the critical interfaces between County Associations and Bowls England.

To explore how Bowls England can offer more support to County Associations.

Regarding the work I have carried out this year. I once again have acted again, 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 in February, which will discuss items that will be on the agenda of the forthcoming Bowls England Annual General Meeting scheduled for Saturday 25th February 2023.

I would like to thank all the Essex Bowling Association Board for all their hard work. The members of the Essex Bowling Association Board are: Jill Polley, Jenny Hyland Sheila Brickel Pauline Mount Terry Mizen, Pat Finney, Stephen Hill, Trevor Hackett and myself. Bowls England County Delegates are Linda Mills and myself. Personally, I would like to thank Pauline for keeping such thorough minutes of our Meetings.

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: -- Terry Mizen

We had a very good season Competition wise.

It started with the play offs in Oxford where the Men's Singles, Men's Triples, Ladies Fours and Ladies Junior Pairs qualified for the British Isles Championships.

Then it was off to Wales for the British Isles Championships. Ed Morris won Gold the Singles and with Chris Muir and Steve Gunnell won Gold in the Triples.

Our Ladies Fours and Junior Pairs gave a good account of themselves but unfortunately did not have much success.

The support at both Competitions from Essex was tremendous and I am sure that the Players appreciated it.

Ed Morris went on to represent England at the European Championships winning Gold in the Pairs.

Our County Championships went very well thanks to our Competition Secretary John Tully

The men won the Balcomb Trophy at Leamington and Ed Morris won the National Singles for the second time in 3 years.

35 Twicer Badges were awarded, and 35 Full Badges awarded during the Season.

Our Friendlies for next Season have now been finalised thanks to our Match Secretary Pat Finney.

We have heard 3 complaints against Clubs which have now gone to Bowls England.

Our President Dave King and the Ladies Senior President Joan Barrett were at Leamington for the duration, assisted by the Senior Deputy, Richard Dodd and the Junior Deputy, Dave Starkey for one week each.

Linda Mills and I attended the Bowls England Counties meeting last weekend, Linda will be giving a report later in the meeting

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

2022 has seen us getting back to a more normal year. Our membership increased by a few as some of the ladies returned to bowls and the competition entries were reasonably stable.

We began the year traditionally with President Jennifer Spearman hosting her President's Day at Upminster B.C. The role of Senior Vice-President had not been filled at the AGM but I am delighted to say that we were able to welcome Joan Barrett (Witham) as she took up this position in May. The role of Junior Vice-President remained vacant.

We were able to fulfil 8 out of the 11 Inter- County friendly matches that had been arranged. Two were cancelled by the other counties who were unable to field a team and the third because of the extremely hot weather conditions. The ladies enjoyed the two mixed celebration games that were played at Stock & Buttsbury and Clacton and our annual match versus the men.

The Johns Trophy team had a superb win in the first round against Hunts, but unfortunately lost in the second round to Norfolk. We are pleased that this competition reverts to a round robin format next year. The Walker Cup team secured a good win against Northants, but lost to Norfolk at the Regional Finals. It was disappointing that the Amy Rose Team had to concede their first game to Cambridgeshire because, had they progressed to the next round, it would have clashed with the British Isles Championships and they wouldn't have been able to field a team. Our County finals produced some fine bowling and were followed by the National Championships. These saw more successes for Essex. Elaine Score (The Springhouse) was the Singles finalist and Sylvia Bloomfield (Harlow) and Paul Smyth (Larsen) made sure that the winners' trophy for the National Mixed Pairs stayed in the county.

Jasmine Wilson (Radwinter) played in the Home Junior International Series held in Belfast. Jasmine was joined by Hayley Kenny (Clockhouse) to represent England in the Junior Pairs at the British Isles Championships. Hayley Kenny, Michelle Squires, Serena Madgewick and Rebecca Smith (Clockhouse) also played in the Fours.

19 County Badges were awarded this year and 7 Certificates of Merit were presented.

I give my thanks, as always, to my county officers, the men's association and members of the board for their support and hard work during the year. Colleen Moss, our C Area Secretary has stood down, but I am pleased to say that Pat Barrett (PML) has stepped in to the role. We do not have a Senior Vice-President or Junior Vice-President for 2023, but I am hopeful that someone will come forward. Our Board Members for 2023 are Jill Polley, Jenny Hyland, Sheila Brickel, Pauline Mount and Linda Mills.

I look forward to another successful outdoor season next year.

Essex Bowling Association Treasurer's Report: * -- Stephen Hill Balance Sheet attached.

The accounts show a healthy surplus for the year of £770 after the one-off payment (Sundry expenses) to Pat Foley for his work on the web site over many years.

There is an amount of £80.52 which is due to the ECBA for travel assistance re the Balcombe Trophy win, and a small amount of expenses claims out standing

We have not made any repayments to either the men or ladies' section again this year

So total assets represented by Bank Balances have increased to £3,268.64p from £2,498

Coaching

It has been agreed that £500 be paid by EBA for the Ladies and Men's contributions to the coaching scheme. I was happy to support this proposal and feel that this is sensible way to meet the County's commitment. Stephen then advised the EIBA would also be contributing £500 to EBCA.

My thanks to Mike Ferris of Dunmow B.C for his examination of the accounts.

Adoption of the above reports. Proposed by: David Starkey, S. Benfleet & Canvey B.C.

Seconded by: Kim Wiggins, White Hall B. C.

David Starkey enquired if B. E's accounts are published? Pat Finney stated they were always included in the B.E. handbook but can now be found on the B.E. website. Tony Ellis confirmed they should be included in the B.E. Annual report.

There being no further business, Tony thanked everyone for attending today and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year before closing the meeting.

Meeting Closed at 11 a.m.

Date of next EBA AGM,

Saturday, 2nd December 2023

Open Forum

1. Coaching Report presented by Terry Mizen*

The Essex Bowls Coaches Association has been busy establishing itself by working with all County Associations, Clubs, Coaches and Bowlers. We have provided numerous courses, road shows and individual assistance to coaches and bowlers. We now have a core group of highly qualified and experienced coaches who have gained the respect of all that they have worked with.

During the last year we have organised the following: -

2 EBCS level 1 courses resulting in 32 new coaches.

1 EBCS level 2 course resulting in 6 upgraded coaches

1 EBCS level 3 course currently ongoing, 7 coaches will complete giving Essex 3 times more level 3 coaches

3 Coach Bowls Level 1 course resulting in 20 new coaches

2 Level 2 Courses resulting in 12 upgraded coaches

3 Coach Bowls level 2 coaches have become qualified as Coaching Mentors.

1 Markers Course completed resulting in 18 new markers

17 Roadshows. that's group visits to clubs coaching both new and experienced bowlers

Over 400 club bowlers have been coached during these visits

In addition, we have assisted clubs in completing Safeguarding courses and coaches in obtaining DBS certificates.

So overall a great year none of which could have been achieved without the support of the associations and our coaches.

So are we going to sit back and rest on our laurels, absolutely not, we have already organised for Feb / March EBCS level 1 and 2 courses, and the first of our new refresher sessions, in total 65 coaches will be trained or upgraded. We also have 25 coaches and bowlers on an EBUA markers course. I'm pleased to say the uptake has been tremendous with all courses already full or close to full.

Finally, we have facilitated a DBE session at Falcon on Sat 3 Dec, which I strongly recommend, as it covers what assistance clubs can give, not just to the disabled, but also to our older bowlers which will enable many to bowl longer.

Tony Ellis thanked Terry for his update on coaching in the County and explained that the EBUA provide the marking courses.

P Gaywood, Tillingham B. C. congratulated the County Coaching team and thought they were doing a good job.

2. Pat Finney commented on the apathy shown by clubs to this meeting. It was suggested this could be due to the agenda being sent out in the closed season. Possible solution the agenda be sent out during September before clubs closed down for the winter. **Action PM to review at next Board Meeting.**

No further questions, Tony thanked Jenny Hyland for organising the refreshments and closed the meeting.

Meeting Closed 11.30 am

**Essex Bowling Association
Income & Expenditure Account**

2021	Income:	2022	
£		£	£
	County Affiliation (B.E)		
24,225	ECBA	25,615.00	
<u>10,915</u>	ECWBA	<u>11,240.00</u>	
35,140			36,855.00
	Competitor Entry Fees		
3,840	ECBA	3,332.50	
<u>3,105</u>	ECWBA	<u>3,150.00</u>	
6,945			6,482.50
	B. E. and Competition Sponsors:		
	B.E. Balcombe	80.52	
993	BE Nat Travel Assistance	<u>1,106.24</u>	
			1,186.76
	EBA Affiliation fees		
1,211	ECBA	1,280.75	
<u>546</u>	ECWBA	<u>555.50</u>	
1,757			1,836.25
	Bank Interest		
			<u>46,360.51</u>
	Expenditure:		
35,140	Bowls England Affiliation		36,855.00
7,005	Bowls England Competition fees		6,482.50
510	Competitors expenses - ECBA		483.12
483	Competitors expenses - ECWBA		456.28
0	Refunds to ECBA/ECWBA		140.00
0	Friends of English Bowls		100.00
300	Officers Expenses		548.80
	Sundry Expenses		500.00
	Hall/Venue Hire		24.00
	Web Site		
<u>43,438</u>			<u>45,589.70</u>
<u>£ 1,397</u>	Surplus Income over Expenditure	<u>£ 770.81</u>	
<u>£ 44,835</u>		<u>£ 46,360.51</u>	

**Essex Bowling Association
Balance Sheet**

as at 30th September 2022

£		£	£
1,101	Opening Reserve	2,497.83	
1,397	Surplus Income over Expenditure	<u>770.81</u>	3,268.64
	Net Creditors		
<u>£ 2,498</u>			<u>£ 3,268.64</u>
	Represented by:		
2,496	Barclays Current A/c:		3,266.73
2	Barclays Business Premium A/c:		<u>1.91</u>
<u>£ 2,498</u>			<u>£ 3,268.64</u>

FINANCIAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE

I have examined the above Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet which I report to be in accordance with the records submitted to me.

Mr M Ferris

Date:

18/10/22