

## **MINUTES OF THE ECWBA COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024**

### **AT THE MILLENNIUM HALL, GREAT BADDOW AT 2.00PM**

**PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS:** Wendy welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

A minute silence was held in remembrance of Christina Slatford (Gidea Park), Isabel Anderson (Wanstead Central), Barbara Clements (Sth. Benfleet & Canvey), Val Butler (Great Baddow), Jill Driver (Maldon), Olive Whiteman (Writtle), Barbara McGregor (Hadleigh), Vera Bayliss (Falcon)

**APOLOGIES:** Received from Colleen Moss, Sylvia Bloomfield, White Hall, Silver End, Courtauld Halstead, Chelmsford, Bournemouth Park, Runwell Hospital, Larsen, Frinton, Essex County, Falcon, Brentwood (incorporating Central Essex), Carreras, Tiptree Jobserve, Great Wakering, Griffin, Billericay, Mistley & Manningtree, Tillingham.

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

Proposed by: Liz Garrett

Seconded by: Carolyn Barry

### **MATTERS ARISING:**

- The implementation of the Competition Portal is ongoing. The registration and affiliation forms are being re-written. These will not be available for completion until October because Jill has to wait for Bowls England to notify us of the changes to their affiliation fees.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Letter from West Mersea B.C. regarding a few problems encountered at the 2 Wood Singles Day at Venue 3. After discussion it has been agreed that Jill Polley will assist Pat Barrett in 2025, but it should be mentioned that to help with the smooth running of the competition it is essential that ladies stay to mark subsequent matches. An apology has been sent to West Mersea.
- A letter has been received from Frinton B.C. outlining the problems they had at the beginning of the season because of the early rounds of the competitions starting at the beginning of May. They have requested that they start a fortnight later. At this moment in time Jill is unable to work on the 2025 calendar. A scanty outline of the dates set by Bowls England for Inter-county competitions, International events and National Finals has been published but these have yet to be confirmed. Our timetable is restricted by these dates. County friendly matches and other events have to be finalised before the rounds of the competitions can be fitted round them. The number of rounds is also governed by the number of entrants for each competition. Jill would like nothing better than to start the county competitions later, but sometimes it is a logistical nightmare to squeeze everything in.
- Information has been received from Bowls England regarding ongoing safeguarding issues. They advise clubs to check the identity of new applicants and ensure that they have a safeguarding officer appointed by the beginning of the 2025 season. Helen Price is now the Safeguarding Manager at Bowls England and she will be holding online sessions about safe membership in August.
- New address for Bush Hill Bowls whose advertisement is on P.146 in the County Handbook. 250 Bury Street West, Enfield, N9 9LB. There is now free customer parking. Other contact details remain the same.

## **LETTERS OF RESIGNATION:**

### **THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS WILL NOT BE CONTINUING IN OFFICE FOR THE 2025 SEASON:**

Carole Morgan: Unfortunately Carole has had to stand down as Junior Vice-President from today due to personal circumstances.

Sheila Brickel: Has decided after 8 years to step down from the position of Assistant/Match Secretary as from the AGM in November. She will also step down from the EBA Board and Coaching Committee.

Pauline Mount: After 9 years Pauline is standing down as A Area Selector, Pauline has been a member of the EBA Board since its formation in 2015 and is also relinquishing this post.

Linda Mills: Is standing down as our Bowls England Delegate and from the EBA Board where she has represented the ECWBA since 2015.

Pat Brown: After 18 years as A Area Secretary Pat has decided that both age and technology have caught up with her and with great sadness she is retiring from this post.

We cannot thank these ladies enough for the hours, weeks and years that they have dedicated to the County, often in more than one capacity. I am going to miss them all. It is going to be very different.

The county will be in dire straits if these posts are not filled. If you still want to have a county association we must have the officers to do these jobs.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jenny reported that there is £5,200 in the Current Account and £40,500 in the Deposit Account. There are a lot of payments to be made soon, including an extra £1500 approx. for the successful Johns Team going to Leamington.

- Increase in affiliation fee when B.E. decide what their fee will be as of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024

### **WI Essex Sponsorship**

- A representative has been invited to attend our Finals Weekend.
- Two Trustees have been invited to attend our Presentation Lunch on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024.
- Extra WI banners have been purchased and Jenny will be giving one to each of the Area Secretaries to use at area events to show their sponsorship.

Jenny Hyland has some uniform items in stock for sale at reduced prices.

### **200 CLUB:**

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	No. 37	£61.20	Hazel Pudney (Clockhouse)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	No. 52	£40.80	Sheila Brickel (Great Baddow)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	No. 26	£25.50	Jennifer Spearman (Upminster)

Adoption of the report: Proposed by Jackie Barham - Holt          Seconded by Christina Allen

**BENEVOLENT REPORT:** Brenda Bowyer is still trying to set up a new Benevolent Fund Account. So far 11 gifts have been sent to members who were unwell. These have either been flowers or an M&S e-gift card. The account is healthy and the statement of accounts will be presented at the AGM in November.

Adoption of the report: Proposed by Pat Barrett          Seconded by Pauline Mount

**BOWLS ENGLAND REPORT:** Linda Mills reported that:

- Bowls England have appointed Catherine Pople as the selector for the East region. Catherine is a member of Brampton BC in Hunts. She officiated at the British International Series and attended the Amy Rose and Walker Cup regional finals.
- This year's Bowls Big Weekend was a resounding success with over 660 clubs opening their doors for free over the Bank Holiday weekend, truly highlighting the joy and inclusiveness of bowls.
- Congratulations to Evie Mills (Braintree) who was selected to play in the Bowls England Under 18 International Squad in the International series held in Belfast on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> and Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024.
- This year's Aviva National Finals at Leamington runs from the 15<sup>th</sup> August to the 1<sup>st</sup> September. Tickets can be purchased in advance via the website or on the day at the gate. Prices vary according to days, dates and time of purchase, starting at £5.50 for adults and £2 for 18 and under if purchased in advance for standard days. Premium days include finals days and Inter-county games, costing £6.50 for adults and £2.50 for 18 and under purchased in advance. All prices are more if purchased on the day at the gate. Family and friends can save money with a group offer of 5 tickets for the price of 4. An event pass to cover all 18 days can be purchased for £85 for adults and £25 under 18s. Hospitality tickets can be purchased for £85 for an adult and £25 for under 18. This day pass gives you: a food hamper, free refreshments and snacks throughout the day in the VIP area, premium reserved seating at the show green, free parking, an opportunity to play a fun game of Bowls Bash with an expert, free event programme and a souvenir cool bag. Club offer and Hospitality tickets can only be purchased in advance via the B.E. website.
- During the National Championships there will be a Club Zone programme consisting of 15 sessions hosted by expert speakers on topics which include club funding, recruitment, coaching, umpiring, greens maintenance and much more to help provide the best advice to support clubs, their committees and all members. Every booking will receive 2 free tickets on the day of your session so that once the seminar is finished you can watch the bowls. More details available of the B.E. website.

Adoption of the report: Proposed by Pauline Mount

Seconded by Pat Barrett

**PRESIDENT'S DAY TRIP REPORT 2024:** President Wendy was accompanied by 50 ladies from the County on her trip to Suffolk. After time spent at Southwold lunch was delicious fish and chips at Dunwich. We then went on to Aldeburgh for some more free time before returning to Essex. Altogether it was a most enjoyable day.

**PRESIDENT'S DAY TRIP 2025:** Our proposed outing for 2025 is a morning visit to Green Island Gardens at Ardleigh (Essex) with a ploughman's lunch, followed by The Summer Variety Spectacular at the Westcliffe Theatre, Clacton on Sea. Date and time is yet to be finalised. The cost is also to be finalised but will be in the region of £45 including gratuities. As soon as the arrangements have been made Jill will circulate the booking forms.

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE E.C.W.B.A. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT 2024 MUST BE IN BY 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2024.**

**COUNTY LUNCHEON:**

This will be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at Stock Brook Golf and Country Club, Nr. Billericay at 11.15am for 12 noon lunch. The application form for tickets has been emailed to clubs. The

number of places required, names of ladies attending, dietary requirements and payment of £36 per person to Jill Polley by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024. The menu will be:

Chicken Liver Pate served on grilled sourdough with a red onion marmalade.

Dietary option: Butternut squash & thyme arancini, plum gel with watercress

Slow roasted crispy pork belly and red wine jus, fondant potatoes, green beans.

Dietary option: Wild mushroom and cubed roasted butternut squash risotto infused with sherry & reduced with a garlic & chervil vegetable stock reduction.

Triple chocolate brownie, vanilla bean ice cream and chocolate sauce.

Raffle prizes on the day would be gratefully received and tickets will be sold in sets of 6 strips for £5.

Names are required for ladies to be invited under the Thelma Herring Fund (written application to Jill Polley)

Please support your President and fill the room with chatter.

#### **NOMINATIONS FOR ALL COUNTY OFFICERS ARE REQUIRED BY 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024:**

We have a lot of canvassing to do before the AGM. Please look around and think who could fill the vacant roles. Maybe it is YOU. Jill has job descriptions and all the current officers will be happy to explain exactly what the job entails. Please come and talk to us.

#### **COUNTY FINALS:**

To be held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at the Falcon B.C. at 9.00 for 9.30am start.

4 Wood Singles: June Linehan (Holland on Sea) v Debbie Sales (Dunmow)

2 Wood Singles Semi-finals: Jane Preston (Clockhouse) v Judy Bohannon (Tiptree Jobserve)  
Sue Charles (Larsen) v Pat Hough (Elm Park). These will be followed by the Final.

Pairs: Elaine Score, Emma Chapman (Essex County) v Jo Willis, Lorraine Farrugia (LOH)

Fours: Hayley Kenny, Michelle Carlin, Michelle Squires, Rebecca Smith (Clockhouse) v  
Olive Hawkins, Evie Mills, Alison Smart, Serena Madgewick (Braintree)

To be held in the afternoon approximately 1/1.30pm Final Top Club Dunmow v Clockhouse.

To be held on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at the Falcon B.C. at 9.00 for 9.30am start.

Triples: Hayley Kenny, Michelle Carlin, Rebecca Smith (Clockhouse) v  
Sue Kemp, Elaine Score, Emma Chapman (Essex County)

Senior Fours: Tina Fisher, Rose Kerridge, Sue McKay, Colleen Moss (Colchester West End) v  
Jane Preston, Debbie Walmsley, Michelle Squires, Janice Fortune (Clockhouse)

Please come and support the players on both days.

#### **PROVISIONAL DATES FOR 2025:**

Jill Polley will circulate these and publish them on the website as soon as they are available.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- The Johns Trophy squad have had another superb year. So far they came top of their group and progressed to the East Area Final. Last Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July they played Leicestershire securing a win on all 6 rinks. They will be playing the National Semi-final on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>

September at Leamington Spa at 9.30am versus Lincolnshire. We wish them all success and hope that they lift the Johns Trophy this year.

- Evie Mills (Braintree) was selected to play for England in the Under 18 International Series in Belfast last weekend. England came second to Scotland. Congratulations to Evie.
- Some of the handbooks are falling apart. Jill has contacted Colt Press. They have apologised and said that the binding machine had been repaired and this probably affected the beginning of the run. Jill has a few spare books if anyone would like a replacement.
- Please return all trophies after cleaning to Jill by the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024.
- Names for Essex Patron's Day to Sheila Brickel by 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024 with £9.00 per patron or £10 if not already a patron. Patron's day is on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at either Hockley or Maldon. Entry forms have been sent out and are available on the county website.
- There will not be a Council Meeting in October 2024.
- The Annual General Meeting of the Essex Bowling Association is on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 10.30am at the Falcon B.C. A male and female delegate from each bowling club should attend.
- ECWBA List of Badged Points: Ladies collect points towards their County Badge over a period of 6 years. The badge points list is updated and published on the website at the end of the season. No updates can be made during the season. The 6<sup>th</sup> year is removed then the points gained during the current year are then calculated and audited before adding to the list. The ladies who have gained their 8 points at the end of that season are classed as badged, play their 2 colts games the following year and are presented with their county badge. Problems have arisen because ladies are not aware that the list has to be adjusted to show the points for the last 6 years. The Badged Points list will be published at the end of the season with a reminder that any points earned prior to these 6 years have been deducted.
- Any payments made to the county can be made by cheque (Essex County Women's Bowling Association) or via BACS: NatWest Bank Acc. No. 44964757. Sort code: 60-05-33 with an identifying reference.
- Jenny Hyland explained that County uniform is now purchased through Valence Bowls. Their details are on the back cover of the County handbook. A letter regarding this is included when the colts receive their county badge.

**THANKS TO THE CHAIR:** Proposed by Pat Brown

Seconded by Carol Riley

**MEETING CLOSED AT:** 15.05

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE THE E.C.W.B.A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 AT THE MILLENNIUM HALL, RECREATION GROUND, GREAT BADDOW, CM2 9RL AT 2.00PM**