

MINUTES OF ECWBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2023
AT THE MILLENNIUM HALL, GREAT BADDOW AT 2PM

PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS: Joan Barrett welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

A minute silence held in remembrance of Jean Carl and Shirley Bowley (Silverthorn).

APOLOGIES: Received from Sylvia Bloomfield, Jenny Paternoster, Chrys Mole, Aveley, Woods, Harold Hill, Southend-on-Sea, Elsenham, Frinton, Jacqui Adams, Braintree, Pitsea, Seven Kings, Colchester, Woodford, Thorpe Bay, Silver End, Great Wakering, Thaxted, Wanstead Central, Bocking Alliance, RHP and Pauline Adams.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: After adding apologies from RHP, Carreras and Brightlingsea these were agreed and signed.

Proposed: Kim Wiggins

Seconded: Pat Barrett

MATTERS ARISING:

- The Intergroup games questionnaire was circulated at the beginning of 2023. The replies were collated by Brenda Bowyer. After discussion at the following Executive meeting it was decided that no changes would be made to the current format.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Thorrington Bowling Club has closed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

This had been previously circulated and is attached. There were no questions arising from the report.

Adoption of the report: Proposed: Colleen Moss

Seconded: Brenda Bowyer

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Jenny thanked Linda Drew for auditing the accounts which have been signed and circulated.

The Accounts show a deficit of £5029.00 which Jenny explained:

Expenditure

- Due to the increase in fuel the cost of 2 coaches for 2023 County Friendlies was £1500 compared to one coach which cost £650 last season.
- The great success of our Johns Team increased the Leamington Expenses from £2660 in 2022 to £4580 in 2023.
- Refreshments for 2023 are up by £1652.21 which includes 2 more County Friendly games than last year; Intergroup game refreshments; Ladies v Men game and extra Johns refreshments.
- Admin Travel Expenses increased from £2945.85 in 2022 to £4130.75 in 2023. This was due to Round Robin fixtures for the Johns Trophy and increase in fuel costs.

Income

- Clothing stock had been passed to Valence Bowls to sell. It had been agreed with Valence that any of our stock sold would be paid to ECWBA at an average value of £17.50 per item. This equates to the following:- Sales in 2022 were £1039.50 and in 2023 were £209.50. Income decreased by £839.00.
- Affiliation Fees were up by £751 and Competition entry fees were up by £624. Increase £1375.00
- The Bank Current Account stands at £1279.91 and £20500 in the Deposit Account. The Current Account has been boosted since the end of the Financial Year by receipts of £7482.00.00 for 2024 Competitions, £18462.00 for Affiliation Fees and £2468.00 for the purchase of Handbooks.
- All those attending the Luncheon were very generous and enabled the raffle to make £775.00.
- Jenny thanked everyone for their support of the 200 Club which raised £980.00, This meant that £490 was made available for prizes and £490 to the ECWBA. The last draw was held. Congratulations to all who won.

200 Club Draw:	1 st Prize	No. 23	£58.20	Debbie Brown (Kings Chase)
	2 nd Prize	No. 69	£38.80	Wendy Buckingham (Great Baddow)
	3 rd Prize	No. 10	£24.25	Pauline Ellis (The Griffin)

Adoption of the report: Proposed: Pauline Mount Seconded: Pat Brown

BENEVOLENT FUND SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Wendy reported that the fund was healthy.

- The 2022/3 year started with £8,441.69 in the Deposit Account and £676.40 in the Current Account. Total £9,118.09.
- The audited account as of 31st September 2023 is £9,306.42 in the Deposit Account and £186.60 in the Current Account. Total £9493.02
- This account has been circulated to all clubs.

Wendy stated that she has, regretfully, handed over to Brenda Bowyer as the new Benevolent Fund Secretary, who will take the fund forward to online banking.

Wendy stated that it had been a privilege and thanked everyone for their support over the years and thanked Tony Ashton who audited the accounts.

Adoption of the report: Proposed: Lesley Harvey Seconded: Liz Garrett

BOWLS ENGLAND REPORT:

Bowls England Office Relocation

- In October following the closure of Riverside House, Bowls England begun the process of relocating their offices. The office move will be formalised on 1st December. From this point, any correspondence should be sent to their new address. Up until 1st December correspondence should still be sent to their current address.

New address: Bowls England, The Pavilion, Victoria Park, Archery Road, Royal Leamington Spa, CV31 3PT

Leamington Finals

- This year the Leamington finals consisted of a mixed programme of Men and Women playing their games on the same days. The Essex Men and Women Officers worked closely in supporting the Essex bowlers and supporting one another. This resulted in all games having official supporters, continuing to strengthen the relationship between the Men and Women. Three disciplines reached the quarter finals: Elaine Score in the singles, Sylvia Bloomfield in the Senior Singles and Hayley Kenny, Michelle Squires, Serena Madgewick and Rebecca Smith in the fours. The Clockhouse triples team of Hayley Kenny, Michell Carlin and Rebecca Smith went on to reach the semi-finals, just losing by 3 shots. The Ladies reached the semi-finals of the Johns Trophy, losing by 6 shots against a strong Devon team. The Walker Cup team progressed to the regional finals.
- Linda felt that Bowls England need to look at preventing the doubling up of players reaching the finals of more than one discipline, necessitating play at the same time on the same day.

Award Nominations

- Bowls England have invited members to nominate people or clubs for various awards which they must receive by 27th November 2023. There are 15 awards a few examples are, England Bowlers of the year, County of the year and club of the year. The awards will be presented at a dinner on the 24th of February 2024. If interested more details are available on the Bowls England Website.

2024 National Competitions

- Entry into the 2024 National Competitions via the Bowls England competition portal will open in December the closing date and the draws date still to be announced. Check the Bowls England website.

Defibrillator Offer

- Bowls England has teamed up with the Community Heartbeat Trust charity, the UK's leading provider of defibrillator solutions, to offer all affiliated clubs a choice of high specification defibrillator packages.

The link to order is www.communityheartbeat.org.uk/BowlsEnglandOrder .More information is on the Bowls England website.

Discount shopping offer

- Club members could earn their bowls club unrestricted funding when buying goods online via **easyfundraising**. The online charity platform will direct them to a retailer, where they can buy goods . The retailer sends the bowls club 3% of what was spent. This also includes funding for clubs from food shops, holiday and travel bookings, insurance buying, and all general online shopping at more than 7,500 well-known brands.

To participate you need to register your bowls club with www.easyfundraising.org.uk.

Adoption of the report: Proposed: Judy Bohannon Seconded: Ireen Parr

Pauline Mount urged everyone to vote for the County of Essex in the Bowls England Awards Nominations. According to the Bowls England website a panel makes this award – so Watch This Space!

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES: Jenny Hyland is looking carefully at the income and expenditure and any future adjustments would be discussed at the next Executive meeting. There were no changes to be made at present.

PROPOSITION: Proposed by The Executive that the ECWBA rule 8.2 be amended to read as follows:

The Team Manager shall be appointed annually by the members of the Selection Committee at their first meeting after the Annual General Meeting. The Team Manager may be, but need not be, an existing member of the Selection Committee. The Team Manager and Selectors will not be eligible to play in the Johns Trophy or Walker Cup.

Votes For 43 Votes Against 0 Abstentions 0

The proposition was unanimously carried.

PRESENTATIONS: Presentations were made to Sylvia Bloomfield retiring D Area Selector and Wendy Buckingham Benevolent Secretary/Treasurer, to thank them for the time they have given to their roles in the County.

PRESIDENT'S RETIRING SPEECH:

- Joan thanked Jill, Sheila, Jenny, the other County Officers (especially Linda) and all the County players for their support.
- Working as President without a Senior or Junior Vice had been very hectic but gave many happy memories watching the players get through the rounds before leading to the finals at Leamington, where they put up a gallant effort.
- Joan played in 8 of the 10 inter-county friendlies and the 2 mixed Executive games and reported that the ladies now hold the ECBA v ECWBA Trophy for the first time in many years.
- Thanks were given to Jill for organising the President's Day out to Rutland Water and the County Luncheon which will always be remembered.
- Thanks were given to all for raising over £1,800 for the President's charity, Children in Need.
- Joan handed over the Chain of Office to the incoming President, Wendy Buckingham from Great Baddow Bowls Club, and the badges of office to Colleen Moss, Senior Vice President from Colchester West End Bowls Club and Junior Vice President Carol Morgan from Clacton Bowls Club and wished them all a very happy season.
- Joan reported that the last year had been a privilege and that she was looking forward to keeping in touch as Past President.
- The speech was concluded by Joan wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

OFFICERS FOR 2024

President: Mrs Wendy Buckingham

Senior Vice-President: Miss Colleen Moss

Junior Vice-President: Mrs Carole Morgan

Hon. Secretary: Mrs Jill Polley

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs Jenny Hyland

Hon. Ass. Sec/Match Sec.: Mrs Sheila Brickel

Hon. Comp. Secretary: Mrs Jill Polley

Hon. Ben. Secretary: Mrs Brenda Bowyer

Bowls Eng. Delegate: Mrs Linda Mills

Area Secretaries: (A) Mrs Pat Brown (B) Mrs Brenda Bowyer (C) Mrs Pat Barrett (D) Mrs Pauline Adams

Area Selectors: (A) Mrs Pauline Mount (B) Mrs Jenny Paternoster (C) Mrs Wendy Buckingham (D) Vacant

Essex Board Members: Mrs Pauline Mount; Mrs Sheila Brickel

Hon. Auditor: Mrs Linda Drewe

After her inauguration Wendy explained that she had sat at the end of the table for 11 years. Wendy Coldham had given her good advice in how to tackle any nerves that she may have had and now she was realising a dream to become President of the ECWBA. She would do her best and was looking forward to meeting everyone during the year.

Wendy spoke from her heart and told the meeting why she had chosen Farleigh's Hospice as her charity for 2024.

ANY RELEVANT BUSINESS:

- Photographs of the County Winners needed by Jill for the 2024 County Handbook by 1st December 2023. Can be emailed.
- There are a few outstanding registrations and many queries to be followed up on.
- Reminder that delegates should attend the Essex Bowling Association Annual General Meeting. This is being held on Saturday 2nd December 2023 at the Millennium Hall, Great Baddow at 10.30am.
- Format for competition play in 2024 had been reviewed and discussed by the Executive. There had been no further communication from Bowls England, so it had been decided to simplify and unify things in the county. The Championship Pairs, Championship Fours, Junior Pairs, Senior Fours and Unbadged Pairs would all be played over 18 ends. Pairs will be 4 bowls and Fours 2 bowls. The Albert Crabb Double Rink to be 2 bowls and 18 ends. In the County Top Club the Pairs will be 4 bowls 18 ends and the Fours will be 2 bowls 18 ends.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT: 2.55pm

THANKS TO THE CHAIR: Kim Wiggins expressed thanks and appreciation to the Executive for their hard work carried out on behalf of the County.

Proposed: Kim Wiggins

Seconded: Ann Aston

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL 2024 AT 2.00PM IN THE MILLENNIUM SUITE, GREAT BADDOW MILLENNIUM HALL.