

ESSEX BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, Saturday, 2nd December 2023 at Millennium Hall, Great Baddow, CM2 9RL

Present: Forty-one members attended, including 8 EBA Board Members and delegates representing 29 clubs. An attendance sheet is attached to the master copy of these minutes

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

Apologies: Stephen Hill, EBA Treasurer, Trevor Hackett, EBA Member, Ann Aston, Ian Carter, Peter Dodson, Mike Ferris, Brian Hobbs, Carole Morgan (JVP), Colleen Moss (SVP), Jenny Paternoster, Dudley Payne, Teresa Perry, Brentwood B.C. Clementswood B.C, Elsenham B.C, Hainault B.C, Holland-on-Sea B.C, Larsen B.C. Mersea Is B.C.

Minutes of AGM Meeting held on 26th November 2022. Pauline Mount (PM) advised of a typing error on page 4 line 4. "EIBA" should read "ECIBA" Once TE corrected and initialled the error, the minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the last Annual General Meeting.

Proposed by: Sandy Dron, Upminster B.C. Seconded by: Kim Wiggins White Hall B.C.

Matters Arising: None

County Administrator's Report* -- Tony Ellis

This is my eleventh Annual General Meeting report from me as your County Administrator. I have presided over two EBA Executive meetings and would like to thank Pauline firstly keeping me in line but more importantly acting as our Minute Secretary. I would also like to thank our two Secretary's Jill and Terry for sending out the minutes of our meetings to all Essex clubs.

At these meetings we have dealt with such matters as: -

Jon Cockcroft visit -- National Championships -- Essex Coaching -- Coaching Bursary Application Forms. Safeguarding -- Bowls England Annual General Meeting Preparation -- Bowls England Counties Conference and Regulation 9 Disciplinary Matters.

With regards to Regulation 9 covering disciplinary matters. I can report at a recent hearing Bowls England made a big mistake and fined an Essex club £200. I took this matter up with Jon Cockcroft and I am pleased to report that the club will get the money back and the hearing report will have to be re-written. All the blame will I believe be put on Helen Slim Bowls England supremo on Disciplinary matters. Needless to say like most of the staff she has left Bowls England.

My report usually deals with what was said and agreed on at the counties Conference which took place last Saturday. I am pleased to say Terry will deal with these matters in his report. *To follow Treasurer's Report* That concludes my very short report.

Essex County Bowling Association Secretary's Report* -- Terry Mizen

We had a very good season winning the Balcomb Trophy for the second year running at Leamington, the first time this has been achieved.

Ed Morris and Steve Gunnell reaching the final of the National Pairs and together with Simon Kittle reaching the Final of the National Triples, a great achievement.

Ed Morris went straight from Leamington to Australia as part of the England team for the World Championships, he then stayed on for the World Champion of Champions where he won the bronze medal, terrific Ed.

47 Full Badges, 5 Middleton Cup Flashes and 7 Eastern Counties Flashes were awarded.

At our County Lunch on Sunday 6th November there were:

10 Merit Award Winners and 1 Bill Wallis Award.

Our County Championships went very well, thanks to the organisation of our Competition Secretary John Tully. My thanks go to Essex County Bowling Club and Braintree Bowling Club for hosting the Finals, and to Romford Bowling Club for hosting the Minor Semi-Finals.

Our friendly matches had a few hiccups with selected players pulling out at the last minute, but thanks to our Match Secretary, Pat Finney, they were replaced in time. Our Match programme for 2024 is already close to being finalised, well done Pat.

Our President Richard Dodd was at Leamington for the duration of the National Finals, assisted by the Senior Deputy, Dave Starkey and the Junior Deputy, Paul la Plain.

Congratulations to Richard who carried on the tradition of the County President in his own way, a credit to Essex.

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

2023 has been a full, successful year. Our President Joan Barrett has had a busy season, accompanied by her husband Gordon, who has ably supported her, because we did not have a Senior Vice-President or Junior Vice-President. All other positions were filled and everyone worked hard to make the season enjoyable.

Despite 4 clubs not affiliating ladies this year our membership was slightly up. Competition entries were reasonably stable. We had 3 disciplines reaching the quarter finals at Leamington this year. Elaine Score in the Singles, Sylvia Bloomfield in the Senior Singles, Hayley Kenny, Michelle Squires, Serena Madgewick and Rebecca Smith from Clockhouse in the Fours. The Clockhouse triple of Hayley Kenny, Michelle Carlin and Rebecca Smith reached the semi-finals, just losing by 3 shots to Surrey. Our ladies reached the semi-finals of the Johns Trophy and were disappointed to lose by 6 shots to Devon, but what a terrific game this was, considering that we were fielding several new players. The Walker Cup and Amy Rose teams both reached the Regional Finals, but unfortunately did not progress further. With several new players coming into these teams and gaining in experience, we look forward to building on these accomplishments next year. We played 10 County Friendly matches with shared honours, winning 5 and losing 5. Two mixed celebration games were played and enjoyed at Woodford and Romford. We concluded with our annual match versus the Essex Men and were delighted to win by 19 shots.

Throughout the season 13 County Badges were awarded and 8 Certificates of Merit were presented at the County Luncheon.

We will have a full Presidential team for next year and just have to appoint a D Area Selector. Hopefully this role will be filled soon. As always, my thanks go to everyone who has made 2023 an excellent year and I look forward to further successes in 2024.

Essex Bowling Association Treasurer's Report* -- Supplied by Stephen Hill and read by TE Balance Sheet attached.

The association has a comfortable reserve balance of £3,318.

The small surplus of £50 is a result of:

- Web site expenditure related to both men and ladies' sections.
- Payment of travel expenses incurred last year, which would have reduced last year's higher surplus.
- Balcomb travel payment not accrued in last year's accounts.

These are all one-off items and will not reoccur in the current year. Given our current reserves, I see no need to increase the contribution from the men's and ladies' section, which currently stands at 25p per member.

My thanks to Mike Ferris for his work as financial examiner.

No questions were received re the Treasurer's Report or Balance Sheet.

B Eng Counties Meeting Report * - Terry Mizen, (B. Eng proposals at end of this report)

The first half of the morning session was taken up with the Treasurer talking about the budget, there was not a chance to ask questions, re the one paid for delegate or players expenses. I wanted to ask why they were cutting back on paying for two delegates when that would amount to approx. £3000 when they spent approx.

£10000 for VIPs at Leamington. Also, the BDA and Coach Bowls gave their views on how to go forward, which meant the Big Bowls weekend and Bowls Bash.

We then got onto the Competition Working Party recommendations.

Categorise the events- Agreed by all.

Blue riband event-in the paperwork sent out it stated that traditional formats in all rounds.

When I said that the Pairs and Fours traditionally were 21 ends and not 18 ends, the answer was that they were classing traditional as last season, which they thought was funny. No other County queried this.

Removing the 2 wood singles -When questioned about 31% not wanting, so 69% wanted they gave some figures to show that it was not wanted by more than those that didn't by saying that a lot of those surveyed didn't care. The room then went quiet.

Inter County Events-A lot of discussion on this topic, I pushed for no change to the Balcombe and Walker, but it seemed as if I was the only one. The White Rose and Amy Rose all agreed to the change to give more younger players a chance to play.

Increase and decrease age limits-I did put the question that there would be certain players that had played in the Competitions but would now be excluded, the answer was that by increasing the age to over 65 would level the playing field, so sod those that cannot enter until they reach 65.

Although the over 55 Fours cannot change because of the British Isles format.

The Junior age limits were recommended to change to fall in line with the British Isles.

It seems as if the British Isles are telling Bowls England what to do instead of the other way round.

New Competitions- I questioned the introduction of new competitions as I felt that there were enough with National, County, Group, District and Club, fell on deaf ears.

There was more discussion on barring international players from entering the Family Pairs, I was not that bothered so didn't participate.

Top Club- I could see the benefit for smaller clubs to be able to enter, and for the larger clubs to be able to enter more than one team. This will allow more club players to participate. There were major concerns over the "set dates" as all Counties run their competitions differently.

Club Two Fours- This may allow more Clubs to enter, as it is not mixed, but can have any combination of Male and Female.

Champion of Champions- agreed that it should be for Club Champions only.

At this stage it was getting late so no more discussions took place.

(Proposals for 2025, presented at Counties Conference on 25th November 2023, compiled by PM).

Blue Riband events - Singles – 21 up, 4 bowls per player/ Pairs – 18 ends, 4 bowls per player/Triples – 18 ends, 3 bowls per player/ Fours – 18 ends, 2 bowls per player.

Remove Two-Bowls Singles Championship. – because Player Survey showed "event least valued by current competitors and most problematic for counties to organise early rounds".

Inter-county Events. Balcombe Trophy/Walker Cup – 10 players per county playing 4 disciplines. White Rose/Amy Rose – 5 players per county playing 4 disciplines – max 2 entries per county.

To Increase age limit of senior events – except Senior Fours – to Over 65. This applies to Senior Singles/ Senior Pairs/ Tony Allcock Trophy/ Mixed Inter-County.

To amend age limit junior events, to U/17 and U/24 events and introduce U/17 Singles for both genders.

This to apply to White Rose/Amy Rose and U/17 Singles and U24 Singles.

New Competitions – possible introduction of competition for those never quite able to reach National Finals, in a possible sets format. Also introduce Mixed O/65 Inter-County event – 6 mixed rinks

Top Club event – revised to "six-a-side" format, both genders. Session 1.- 2 x 2 bowl triples – 2 sets of 6 ends.

Session 2. – 3 x 3 bowls pairs – 2 sets of 6 ends. – 1 end tie-break if required in each match.

Club Two Fours revise to open event, as stated in Terry's report.

N.B. Currently these proposals are under review and discussion by B. Eng. and at County level before being presented to the Counties for approval at B. Eng AGM in February 2024.

It was suggested Terry Mizen contacts other Counties for their personal opinions on the new proposals.

TE thanked all the Officers for their reports and asked for them to be adopted. Proposed by: David Starkey, S. Benfleet & Canvey B.C. Seconded by: Paul La Plain, Essex County B. C.

Close of Meeting

TE suggested clubs should check on new member's identity, as there has been a case of someone joining Essex clubs with various pseudonyms. Recommended Driving Licence or Passport as I.D

TE also reminded everyone that clubs will require a Safeguarding Officer by April 2025.
(All Safeguarding issues can be found on Bowls England website)

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

Meeting Closed at 11.05 a.m.

Date of next EBA AGM,

Saturday, 30th November 2024

**Original Reports are filed in Master File.*

Open Forum

1. Dave Starkey asked if expenses could be claimed by delegates for attending EBA meetings – agreed this is a matter for their own clubs to decide.
2. Beverley Newman, Hadleigh B.C. asked if the members of the EBA could be introduced.
Agreed to be adopted at beginning of EBA Meetings
3. David Jacobi, Thorp Bay B.C. asked if Bowls Scotland or Bowls Wales had the same problems. Response, we have no idea or way of knowing.

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

Meeting Closed 11.15 am

Essex Bowling Association

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 30th September 2023

2022	Income:	2023	
£		£	£
	County Affiliation (B.E)		
25,615	ECBA	25,575.00	
<u>11,240</u>	ECWBA	<u>11,430.00</u>	
36,855			37,005.00
	Competitor Entry Fees		
3,333	ECBA	3,607.50	
<u>3,150</u>	ECWBA	<u>3,151.00</u>	
6,483			6,758.50
	B. E. and Competition Sponsors:		
81	B.E. Balcombe	80.52	
1,106	B of E Nat Travel Assistance	939.40	
	John.s Trophv	<u>322.08</u>	
<u>1,187</u>			1,342.00
	EBA Affiliation fees		
1,281	ECBA	1,278.75	
<u>556</u>	ECWBA	<u>571.50</u>	
1,836			1,850.25
	Bank Interest		18.37
<u>46,361</u>			<u>46,974.12</u>
	Expenditure:		
36,855	Bowls England Affiliation		37,005.00
6,483	Bowls England Competition fees		6,765.00
483	Competitors expenses - ECBA		509.96
456	Competitors expenses - ECWBA		429.44
	Bowls England Comp Travel		402.60
140	Refunds to ECBA/ECWBA		80.52
	Coach Essex		500.00
100	Friends of English Bowls		100.00
549	Officers Expenses		870.00
500	Sundry Expenses		48.00
24	Hall/Venue Hire		24.00
	Web Site		189.59
<u>45,590</u>			<u>46,924.11</u>
<u>£ 771</u>	Surplus Income over Expenditure	<u>£ 50.01</u>	<u>£ 50.01</u>
<u>£ 46,361</u>		<u>£ 46,974.12</u>	<u>£ 46,974.12</u>

Essex Bowling Association Balance Sheet as at 30th September 2023

£		£	£
2022			
2,498	Accumulated Fund 30.9.22	3,268.64	
771	Surplus Income over Expenditure	<u>50.01</u>	3,318.65
	Net Creditors		
<u>£ 3,269</u>	Accumulated Fund 30.9.23		<u>£ 3,318.65</u>
	Represented by:		
3,267	Barclays Current A/c:		67.28
2	Barclays Business Premium A/c:		3,221.37
	Great Baddow Hall Advance Payment		30.00
<u>£ 3,269</u>		<u>£ 3,318.65</u>	<u>£ 3,318.65</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.

M. Ferris

October 2023

