

## **MINUTES OF THE ECWBA COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025**

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

**PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS:** Colleen Moss welcomed everyone to the meeting and hoped that they were ready and raring to go for the season ahead.

A minute silence was held in remembrance of Sue Taylor (Fairwood), Pat McGuinn (formerly The Billet), Mary Stockwell (Danbury), Wendy Calderbank (Colchester), Audrey Lait (Wanstead Central), Viv Haste (Falcon), Janet Richardson (Aldersbrook), Pam Wager (RHP), Lorraine Mead (Epping) and Joan Walker (Wanstead Central).

**APOLOGIES:** Received from Wendy Buckingham, Sue Harrington, Pauline Adams, Ford Sports (Basildon), Radwinter, Southchurch Park, Arclight, Falcon, Wivenhoe, Happy Valley and Woods,

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING:** Apologies from Lionmede had been added and then they were agreed and signed.

Proposed by: Pat Barrett

Seconded by: Jackie Barham-Holt

### **MATTERS ARISING:**

- After much hard work by Colleen Moss, Jill Polley and Dave Jarrold the Competition Portal is now ready for use. A copy of the instructions for accessing and registering on the portal will be circulated with the minutes of this meeting. Ladies who wish to enter the county competitions in 2026 onwards can register on the portal between now and the July council meeting. After that instructions will be circulated detailing how to enter the competitions via the portal. It is anticipated that the facility for competition entries will be 'opened' on the portal on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 and will 'close' on the 31st December 2025. This will give time to complete the competition draws on the portal, ready for the start of the 2026 season.
- The positions of Senior Vice-President and Junior Vice-President are still vacant. No nominations were received from the floor.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Unfortunately Jenny Paternoster has had to step down as B Area Selector. She is due to have an urgent hip replacement which will be followed by a period of recuperation then a second hip operation. The County sincerely thanked Jenny for her service to the county and wished her well. Nominations for the position of B Area Selector can be taken from the floor because Jill hadn't had any response from B Area for someone to take on the role.

### **HANDBOOK CHANGES:**

- Change of Secretary for Brightlingsea. Change to Ron Bennett. Tel: 01206 973215. Email: [ronbennett388@gmail.com](mailto:ronbennett388@gmail.com)
- Pitsea Riverview: Phone number for Mary Hedges 07813 085777.
- Thorpe le Soken Club: Change to 07746 095139.
- Frinton Secretary: Change to Gavin Cowell. Tel: 07901 822023. Email: [secretary.frintonbowlsclub@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.frintonbowlsclub@gmail.com)
- Silver End: Phone number for Julie Moss 07707 790934

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- Current account balance: £2844. Deposit account balance: £35500 which includes £2500 Herring Fund. We are receiving on average £33 bank interest per month. These funds are healthy at the moment, but will have to cover us throughout the year.
- We have received Sponsorship from Essex WI for another year - £1500 which includes payment of £45 for their 2025 colour advert in the handbook. This money will again be used to sponsor our finals days.
- Handbook advertising. Same adverts as last year providing £295 towards the cost of printing 700 handbooks at £2980.
- County Clothing: This is still in the hands of Valence Bowls and Jenny will be checking with them that all is okay for the coming season.

### **200 CLUB:**

We have a bumper year with 116 entries sold, 14 more than last year. £1160 collected making £580 available for the ECWBA and the prizes. Each draw will have a 1<sup>st</sup> Prize of £69.60, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize of £46.40 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize of £29.00. A list of entries can be found on the website. Jenny thanked Jill for her efforts in promoting the draw and asked the delegates to convey our thanks to members of the Association for their support and generosity.

Proposed by: Kim Wiggins

Seconded by: Judy Bohannon

200 Club draw:

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize: £69.60	No. 23	Winner: Debbie Brown (Kings Chase)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize: £46.40	No. 32	Winner: Jill Polley (Maldon)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize: £29.00	No. 94	Winner: Thorpe le Soken

### **BENEVOLENT REPORT:**

Brenda Bowyer reported that she now has control of the bank account, following the transfer from HSBC to NatWest. This has saved £5 per month in account charges.

The annual accounts, which were not available at the AGM, have now been completed with the help of Treasurer Jenny Hyland. These have been circulated and are in the County Handbook on page 77.

Current Account balance: £9596.30. This is a healthy balance and Brenda will be looking to set up a Deposit Account in order to accrue interest.

Benevolent Triples: The entry fee is £12, but this does include the green fees, so these will not have to be paid on the day. Entry forms have been circulated and a copy can be seen on page 139 in the county handbook. Please support Benevolent Triples day as it is the main day for raising funds for the Benevolent Fund. Proceeds from the raffle will be shared equally between the Benevolent Fund and the President's Charity, Cancer Research UK. Please get your entries in by 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and we look forward to wonderful support on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

Proposed by: Jackie Barham-Holt

Seconded by: Hazel Greneski

**BOWLS ENGLAND REPORT:** Marie Houlding reported that the main points from the Bowls England AGM were:

- Jon Cockcroft, the CEO of Bowls England gave his annual report stating that 2024 was a positive year for Bowls England, with thousands of new people trying our sport.
- Significant safeguarding progress is making our sport safer and more inclusive.
- Stable affiliation numbers and more people seeing our sport through media interest.
- Bowls England put forward three propositions to amend the Articles of Association to create alignment with strategic developments and Sport England's Code of Governance. All these were passed.
- Northamptonshire presented propositions regarding time limits at National Finals, four bowl singles to 2hrs 30mins excluding trial ends and two minutes time out to be added if the Umpire is called upon. These failed.
- Suffolk proposed a change to the Articles of Association suggesting supporting information regarding the AGM is received at least 42 days prior rather than the current 14 days, to allow sufficient time for Counties to involve clubs and members in discussion. This passed.
- Two new elected Board Members were introduced: Sian Honour and Steve Warren. Board member Foster Johnson was re-elected.
- Sheila Storey, who was to become the new President, unfortunately had to step down for health reasons.
- Kim Harris (Devon) and Paul Green (Northamptonshire) were sworn in as Vice-Presidents.
- Blythe Liggins was appointed as BE Lawyers and Dafferns as BE Accountants and Auditors.
- Affiliation fees for 2025 were ratified at £7.10 and £7.10 plus inflation for 2026.
- Stephen Hemsley, Finance Director, gave his update stating that 2023/24 saw increased levels of investment back into the sport. He also reinforced the positive picture and detailed the significant increase in our cash reserves, due to a reduction in debtors. His projection for 2024/25 season is a break-even budget against £25000 loss in 2023/24.
- The Annual Report, Financial information and revised Articles of Association can be found on the BE website.

Proposed by: Dot Pope

Seconded by: Kim Wiggins

**PRESIDENT'S DAY TRIP:**

38 Ladies are currently booked to come on the outing to Green Island Gardens at Ardleigh with a ploughman's lunch, followed by an entertaining afternoon at the Westcliff Theatre in Clacton on Sea. There are 15 places available for anyone else who would like to join us. The inclusive cost is £45. Please reserve your place with Jill Polley.

**SELECTION FOR JOHNS TROPHY/WALKER CUP:**

The following 40 ladies have been invited to attend the trials on Sundays 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

Jane Bouch – Arclight

Christina Allen, Serena Madgewick, Evie Mills, Alison Smart – Braintree

Sue Charles, Julie Watkins - Buckhurst Hill

Michelle Carlin, Lynn Farrugia, Janice Fortune, Hayley Kenny, Rebecca Smith, Michelle Squires, Debbie Walmsley - Clockhouse

Sue McKay, Colleen Moss - Colchester West End

Doreen Butcher, Debbie Sales, Tina Howard - Dunmow

Sue Feeney, Pat Hough - Elm Park  
Emma Chapman, Sue Kemp, Elaine Score - Essex County  
Shirley Beavis - Falcon  
Di Abel, Joanne Hurley - Harlow  
June Linehan - Holland on Sea  
Jan Soar - Rayleigh  
Brenda Bowyer, Jacqui Miller - Rochford  
Dot Pope, Pat Powder - Romford  
Donna Law - Silver End  
Carol Heavin - Silverthorn  
Rita Fabbri - Stock & Buttsbury  
Pauline Lowe - The Springhouse  
Judy Bohannon, Steph Heard - Tiptree Jobserve  
Jackie Barham-Holt - Wanstead Central

These ladies were congratulated and wished good luck.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** No other business was discussed.

Post meeting note: Marie Nicholls (Pitsea Riverview) offered her services as B Area Selector should no other nominations be forthcoming.

**THANKS TO THE CHAIR:**

Proposed by: Kim Wiggins

Seconded by: Pat Brown

**MEETING CLOSED AT:** 3.00pm

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2025 AT THE MILLENNIUM HALL, RECREATION GROUND, GREAT BADDOW, CM2 9RL AT 2.00PM.**