

## MINUTES OF THE ECWBA COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024

### AT THE MILLENIUM HALL, GREAT BADDOW AT 2.00PM

#### PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS:

Wendy welcomed all the Delegates to the meeting and especially welcomed Senior Vice President, Colleen Moss, Junior Vice President, Carole Morgan and Benevolent Secretary Brenda Bowyer. Wendy said that she was looking forward to working with them this season.

A minute silence was held in remembrance of Veronica Boylan (Thurrock), Marina Thorne (Brentwood incorporating Central Essex), Janet Hutchins (Woodford), Margaret Waite, Pat Taylor (West Mersea)

**APOLOGIES:** Received from Linda Mills, Happy Valley, Thorpe Bay, Tillingham, Boreham, Ford Sports (Basildon), Clementswood, Mistley & Manningtree, Stansted, The Springhouse, Orford House, Harold Hill, Great Wakering, South Benfleet & Canvey, Lionmede.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** After adding apologies from Colchester B.C. these were agreed and signed.

Proposed by: Kim Wiggins

Seconded by: Sylvia Bloomfield

#### MATTERS ARISING:

- D Area Selector: As a selector for D Area was not appointed at the AGM Sylvia Bloomfield has agreed to continue in this role. Maureen Norgate (Wanstead Central) will be shadowing her and assisting for the 2024 season.
- Competition portal. Update presented by Colleen Moss who had spoken with Dave Jarrold looking at the logistics of using the competition portal.

We have been trying for some time to look into what is involved with the running of a Competition Portal for the ladies to use, in conjunction with the one the men currently have in place. A few meetings/conversations have now taken place and this has raised some issues with the administration of the portal and the financial implications to the ECWBA. Using the figures from the 2024 season, it has been established that the cost to the ECWBA would have been £1070.90 for this year. (This does not include a software upgrade of £475). Whilst this may not seem a large sum, it is money that currently the ECWBA do not have to spare. Last year the ECWBA had a large deficit (Approximately £5,000) and unfortunately, larger ones are predicted for the future. If the ECWBA are to proceed with the Portal then the costs need to be found from somewhere. The cost of the portal will be covered by an increase in the competition entry fees. We will be going ahead with the Portal.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

- Linda Mills encountered some difficulties last year when recording the points towards the County Badge. These were caused by substitutes not being indicated on the score cards. If a substitute is used in a competition SUB must be written by their name on the score card.
- Essex Ladies will have two entries at the National Championships in the Singles, 2 Wood Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours. One entry in the Senior Fours, Junior Singles and Junior Pairs.
- Aldersbrook B.C. Janet Richardson's details are listed in the handbook as the Match Secretary. She is now the Secretary as well, so please use her contact details in future.

- Change of phone no. Christina Allen (Upminster) 01376 785306 Mob. 07952 467888

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

Jenny reported that the Current Account Balance is £9013 and the Deposit Account is £45500.

- BE Affiliation Fees still to pay £15895.
- Cost of Handbooks still to pay £ 3022
- Balance £35596 which is close to the same as last year.

### **200 Club**

- Very well supported. 102 entries paid for = £1020
- £510 for prizes and £510 for ECWBA
- 4 draws of Prizes totalling £127.50 - First prize £61.20; Second Prize £40.80; Third Prize £25.50

### **Valence Bowls Stores**

- Valence have advised that instead of Postage and Packing to be included in their price they are now quoting prices excluding postage and packing. This will allow them to charge any P&P at cost. It is presumed they were losing money!!
- New Prices excluding P&P are as follows:—

County Blouse and Johns Blouse price was £22.95 Now excluding P&P £20.75

Zip ups price was £23.00 Now excluding P&P £21.50

Waterproof Jackets price was £40.00 Now excluding P&P £39.75

Valence is not stocking Sleeveless Zip Ups which they should be. Jenny will contact them.

### **200 CLUB:**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize:                      No. 6                      £61.20 Pat Barrett (PML)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:                      No. 67                      £40.80 Jenny Hyland (Billericay)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:                      No. 60                      £25.50 Yvonne Pain (Colchester)

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

### **BENEVOLENT REPORT:**

Brenda reported that the accounts were healthy: Deposit Account £9639.63  
Current Account £161.20.

She was still attempting to change the account into her name.

Adoption of the report: Proposed by      Judy Bohannon                      Seconded by: Pat Barrett

### **BOWLS ENGLAND REPORT:**

1) This year the Bowls England Presidential Team have no JVP - it's intended that due to a reduced number of Celebration Games the JVP responsibilities will be divided between the President, SVP & Board Members although someone had approached Bowls England the morning prior to the AGM showing interest as yet we are still awaiting any updates on the situation

2) At the 2024 AGM it was agreed the 2025 Bowls England Affiliation Fee will increase aligned with inflation the inflation level will be taken from the Consumer Price Index based on inflation for September & County Associations will be advised of the exact increase in Mid-October

3) The following 19 Bowls England recommendations regarding 2025 competitions were voted on

**1) Elevate Blue Riband and Performance events at the National Finals – retain current formats in all rounds of blue riband events namely**

Singles 4 Bowls per player 21 shots

Pairs 4 bowls per player 18 ends

Triples 3 bowls per player 18 ends

Fours 2 bowls per player 18 ends,

retain current National Finals qualifier numbers in Blue Riband events

adopt current approach to qualifier allocations by County per event

play in qualifying rounds to be evenings & weekends – daytime by mutual agreement,

qualifying for all four events to be managed by counties as current

**2) To elevate top-level county competition consistent with world level for the Balcombe Trophy & Walker Cup**

10 players per county

Playing 4 disciplines

Formats to mirror world level events

**3) To amend players & formats in White Rose Trophy & Amy Rose Bowl**

5 players per county playing 4 disciplines.

Maximum of two entries per county – 48 Nationally

Counties can merge for participation (not performance) reasons subject to agreement of Bowls England & Agreed plan to develop more junior players on county over course of 3 years.

No Senior Internationals permitted in White Rose Trophy & Amy Rose Bowl

**4) To standardise the age in all junior events to under 24 on 1<sup>st</sup> April annually for both genders**

Applies to White Rose Trophy, Amy Rose Bowl, Junior Singles & Junior pairs

Qualifying for Junior Singles & Junior Pairs to be managed by Counties as current

**5) To introduce an under 17 singles event for both genders**

Managed as a National Competition by Bowls England

**6) To create multi-county regional events**

Provide a more intense experience for players and coaches replicating international competition.

Promote the sport of bowls and the essence of inter-county competition across the country

Generate revenue and publicity for host clubs

Bowls England resources to support – commercial; broadcast;

Performance Team view all players at single venue

Understand Counties concerns re Logistics – Additional work undertaken 8 single green venues: geographically accessible; 8 venue winners progress to National finals

**7) To retain Middleton Cup & Johns Trophy as a KO with Plate or Round Robin – it was voted on & agreed to accept the Round Robin format**

**8) To introduce a Mixed Over 60 Inter County event played as straight knockout**

All players 60 & over on 1 April Annually

24 players per county (12 men & 12 women playing as 6 mixed rinks)

All fixtures midweek/daytime on set dates

Final Played during National Finals

**10) To amend the Club Two fours to an open event**

8 Players per club (playing 2 rinks)

Final stages played during National Finals

**11) To restrict entry in the Champions of Champions to Club Champions ONLY**

**13) To increase the age limit for all senior events (excluding Senior Fours) to players aged over 60 on 1 April annually and permit daytime play in those events**

Applies to Senior Singles, Senior Pairs & Tony Alcock Trophy

**14) To retain Senior Fours age limit in line with British Isles qualification requirements**

Currently over 55 on 1 April annually

Play to be evenings and weekends – daytime by mutual agreement

Qualifying rounds managed by counties as current

**15) To Introduce Novice Pairs for new & less experienced players**

One player who is not badged i.e. not played at National Finals

One player no more than 3 years' playing experience (both could have less than 3 years' experience)

All players under 17 eligible regardless of playing experience

Entry policed at 'point of entry'

Managed by Bowls England

Further work by Implementation Group to clearly define entry criteria

**16) To change eligibility to the Family Pairs to anyone who has NOT played International or County level (Balcomb and Walker) representative bowls in the last 5 years**

Further work by Implementation Group to clearly define entry criteria for players outside England

**17) Competition Management**

To further investigate how to consolidate the administration for the benefit of players and administrators as part of implementation plan, taking into account the array of systems already in place at County level

Single point of entry

Consistent dates nationwide for entry to enable national marketing campaign to drive entries

Online competitions management

**18) Counties to continue to manage Championship events**

Singles, pairs, triples, fours, U24 singles, U24 pairs, Senior Fours

**19) Competition Management**

To introduce set dates in the later rounds of the Top Club as a trial for 2025 as part of National Calendar

**The above 17 propositions were voted on and passed**

**9) To re vamp the Top Club event**

6 players per club (playing pairs and triples in sets format)

Session 1 consists 2 teams of triples

Session 2 consists 3 teams of pairs

Separate events for each gender

Final stages played during National Finals

**12) To remove the 2 Bowl Singles Championship from the National Finals programme**

## **Propositions 9 and 12 were voted on and rejected**

Also, at the AGM the following 2 propositions were put forward by Devon & Cornwall:

Devon proposed adding the following paragraph to the qualifiers for the Nation Finals competition  
The counties with 2 entrants (A & B) shall be shown in the Championship draw to be in separate halves therefore removing the OPEN draw that is now in place

Cornwall proposed that the area final stage of the Tony Alcock Men's & Ladies top club & the Men's Club 2 fours to be played on a neutral green

## **Both Propositions were voted on and accepted**

Adoption of the report: Proposed by: Dawn Hood                      Seconded by: Kim Wiggins

### **PRESIDENT'S DAY TRIP REPORT:**

The day trip to Suffolk on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024 is fully booked with a waiting list of 11 ladies. Due to unforeseen circumstances the pick-up times and itinerary have had to be altered:

Pick-up at Brentwood – King George's Playing Fields A128 entrance is 7.45 for 8.00am departure.

Pick-up at Falcon B.C. is 8.15 for 8.30am departure. Cars must be parked in the first parking bay as you turn into the Falcon.

We will then go to Southwold for some free time, then to Dunwich for our fish and chip lunch, finally we will call into Aldeburgh for a quick stop on the way back. We are all looking forward to enjoying our day out with President Wendy Buckingham.

### **SELECTION FOR THE JOHNS TROPHY AND WALKER CUP:**

Due to her other commitments, Wendy Buckingham has stepped down from the role of Team Manager. Many thanks were given to her for the time she has given to this position. Sylvia Bloomfield has agreed to take on the role for this season and is looking forward to working with the team. We also thank Elaine Score for continuing as the Team Manager for the Amy Rose Bowl team.

The following ladies will be attending the two trial sessions being held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May at the Falcon B.C. and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May at Great Baddow B.C. both at 10 for 10.30am.

Jane Bouch	Arclight
Serena Madgewick	Braintree
Julie Watkins	Buckhurst Hill
Michelle Carlin, Hayley Kenny, Rebecca Smith, Michelle Squires	Clockhouse
Doreen Butcher, Tina Howard, Debbie Sales	Dunmow
Sue Feeney, Linda Mills	Elm Park
Emma Chapman, Elaine Score	Essex County
Shirley Beavis	Falcon
Di Abel	Harlow
June Linehan	Holland on Sea
Sue Charles	Larsen
Lynn Farrugia	Rainham
Brenda Bowyer, Jacqui Miller, Jan Soar	Rochford
Donna Law	Silver End
Carol Heavin	Silverthorn
Pauline Lowe	The Springhouse

Judy Bohannon, Steph Heard  
Christina Allen  
Jackie Barham-Holt, Cheryl Rayner, Karen Ryan

Tiptree Jobserve  
Upminster  
Wanstead Central

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Please note that there will not be a Council Meeting on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024. As the October meeting was poorly attended last year it was decided to leave this one out of this year's schedule.

**THANKS TO THE CHAIR:** Proposed by: Cherry Richardson      Seconded by: Kim Wiggins

**MEETING CLOSED AT:** 14.55

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024 AT 2.00PM AT THE MILLENNIUM HALL, GREAT BADDOW.**