

# ESSEX BOWLING ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting, Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at Falcon Bowls Club, CM3 3FB

**Present:** Thirty-two members attended, including nine EBA Board members, representing 27 clubs. An attendance sheet is attached to the master copy of these minutes

**Welcome:** Tony Ellis, Chair, opened the meeting by asking everyone to join him in a moment's reflection in memory of all the family, friends and loved ones lost since our last AGM. Tony then welcomed everyone and thanked Falcon B.C. for accommodating us at such short notice. He then apologised for Jon Cockcroft's absence, due to Covid, stating this visit will be re-arranged for early in the New Year. Tony advised a list of questions, formulated at the last EBA Board meeting, had been sent to Jon and Jon had sent his responses which Tony will deal with in the Open Forum. These questions/answers will be sent to all clubs.

**Apologies:** Jennifer Spearman (President ECWBA) Kim Wiggins (IPP ECWBA) Linda Mills (B.E. Delegate ECWBA) Jenny Paternoster, Ken Clarke, Gordon Barrett, Dave Griggs, Malcolm Stark, Karen Newstead, John Pavely, Ian Carter, John Scraggs, Ray Wollard, Peter Gaywood, Frinton BC, Orford House, Saffron Walden Town, Southchurch Park, Larsen, Mistley & Manningtree, Holland-on-Sea, Mersea Island and Silverthorn.

**Minutes of AGM Meeting** held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019, were agreed and signed as a true record.  
Proposed by: A Smith, Falcon B.C. Seconded by: D King Romford B.C.

### **Matters Arising:**

- (i) Open Forum, 1, "Letter to EBA re promoting bowls to u/25's" Unfortunately, due to Covid this was not followed up but recent articles from B.Eng. indicate they are aiming to promote the game of bowls to all age groups.
- (ii) Open Forum, 3, "EBA to discuss how clubs who only run mixed competitions put forward respective Champions for County competitions." The Board decided this is a matter for each individual club to resolve.
- (iii) From EBA Board Meeting, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021, it was agreed, along with the minutes of the last AGM, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019, a copy of the Officers' reports which were sent to all clubs last year when the AGM was deferred, will be agreed and signed at this AGM"

Proposed by: S Smith, Aveley B.C. Seconded by: A Dron, Upminster B.C.

### **County Administrator's Report\*** -- Tony Ellis

This is my ninth Annual General Meeting report from me as your County Administrator.

It is again uncertain times we have. Over the last two years thanks to Council Grants most clubs I hope have survived. We all seem to knock our National Governing Body but thanks to them lobbying the Government and getting our sport to be defined as an Organised Sport and not a Recreational Sport most clubs managed to get members on their greens last year. It also helped this year, which allowed even more bowling on the green.

My invitation to Jon Cockcroft to attend this meeting was cancelled by him on Tuesday to being unwell. The Board believe there is a lot of questions to ask him because of the unhappiness of many bowlers and administrators in Essex. He has promised to re-arrange his visit early in New Year. I am sorry that many of you are disappointed at the no show. I will try to provide answers to some of the questions in our Open Forum.

I was unable to attend the recent Counties Meeting due to family commitments, but Terry Mizen attended in my place. I have received feedback from Bowls England particularly with regards to elections.

### **This is what they say.**

BE recently advertised three member-elected director positions ahead of the 2022 Annual General Meeting. Stephen Hemsley (Lancashire) was re-elected unopposed for a three-year term as Director of Finance. Following a ballot of members, Margaret Docherty (Cumbria) and Foster Johnson (Durham) were re-elected as Director of Competitive Events and Director of Governance.

Stephen Hemsley joined the Bowls England Board in 2017, as Director of Finance he has led the Board level on Finance, Sponsorship, Commercial Contracts and Property. He has been active in Bowls Administration at Club, County, Regional and National level over the last 30 years.

Margaret Docherty, Director of Competitive Events, started playing our sport in 1978, before becoming County Secretary of Cumbria Women's Bowling Association in 1994 a position she still holds today. She returned to the Board, where she has held a Director position since the formation of Bowls England in 2007.

Foster Johnson first joined the Board in 2020, since then as Director of Governance; he has chaired the Governance Working Party. Before his position on the Board, Foster was the chair of the Management Audit and Review Committee. Foster is the Secretary and County Administrator for Bowls Durham.

Bowls England would like to thank Julie Leake (Dorset) and Patrick Canavan (Hampshire) for their interest in the Director position.

Following the recent Independent Director interviews, we are delighted to announce the three-year appointment of Dr Jonathan Doust (Sussex) and the three-year re-appointment of Dr Anna Molony (Warwickshire).

As explained at the recent County Conference, we recently advertised for the position of Junior Vice President. It was the first time we had developed a job description for the nominations process. The advert was aimed at both genders with a section detailing that the election and appointment was to be undertaken on a gender rotation basis. For this election, it was clear the female nominations would take precedence. There were no female nominations, the first time we have had no nominations from the gender with priority, and David King Taylor was the only male nomination. We informed David and announced he was JVP elect.

Following further discussions with David King Taylor and the board, we came to the conclusion that the wording in the job advert could have been clearer and that there may have been some other male nominations had it been known that no females had been nominated. Consequently, in the interest of fairness and transparency, we have made the difficult decision to open up the nomination process to any other male candidate who wish to be considered for the Junior Vice President role. County Associations have until 3 January 2022 to make their nominations. If a candidate, or candidates, are nominated, we will run an election process with ballots circulated on 4 January 2022 a deadline of 2 February 2022 for votes to be returned. Please find the Job Advert and Nomination Form.

We would like to thank David King Taylor for his openness and desire to arrive at a fair outcome. We have amended the regulations for the avoidance of future doubt (see attached) and will be advertising for a female JVP in the autumn of 2022. We apologise for any confusion and invite you to consider whether you wish to nominate a male candidate for the role.

### **Management and Audit Review Committee**

As detailed at the County Conference, MAR will resume as we develop an implementation plan for the Governance Working Party's recommendations. MAR is tasked to review Bowls England's Risk Register and will also consult with Counties about governance across the sport and their role in the Fit for the Future strategy. A full scope for this work will be developed by Bowls England in conjunction with MAR Chair, Steve Walker.

MAR is made up of four area representatives and facilitated by Anna Molony on behalf of the Board. Steve Walker (North), Tony Ellis (East) and Kath Lloyd (West) currently sit on the Committee. There is currently a vacant position for a representative from the South. We are encouraging applications from any interested parties. Anyone interested should contact Steve Walker in the first instance ([cbabowlssec@outlook.com](mailto:cbabowlssec@outlook.com)) who will be able to provide more information on the position.

### **Disciplinary Working Party**

We are delighted to announce the formation of the new Disciplinary Working Party. The scope for this group is to review the current regulation 9 and the connected policies, to review the capacity and capability within the organisation and to explore best practices. Following series of strong interview, appointments have now

been made and the initial kick off meeting has been arranged for December. The group consists of Adam Tanner (Chair), Francis Fletcher, Stuart Ingram, Lucy Valerio, Colin Mitchell, Jon Cockcroft and Helen Slimm (project manager).

Francis Fletcher has been involved in our Disciplinary Panel for a few years, is an umpire and has a working knowledge of the law after 15 years as a magistrate.

Stuart Ingram is a Licensing Manager at the Engineering Council and has a strong grasp of governance, professional standards and quality assurance. He has recently started playing bowls.

Lucy Valerio is a qualified lawyer and currently Governing & Compliance Officer of The British Mountaineering Council. Her role interfaces with the disciplinary side of the BMC's work and she will bring a good perspective from outside our sport.

Finally, Colin Mitchell used to work for the Home Office, dealing with High Court judgements and Judicial Reviews related to immigration cases. He has a good working knowledge of our disciplinary regulations processes. The group is meeting for the first time on 8 December.

That concludes my report except to say, once again I have acted as a post box for both ECWBA and ECBA and forwarded all communications from Bowls England to the EBA committee. Our next meeting will be in February, which will discuss items that will be on the agenda of the forthcoming Bowls England Annual General Meeting scheduled for Saturday 19th February 2022.

I would like to thank all the Essex Bowling Association Board for all their hard work.

The members of the Essex Bowling Association Board are:

Jill Polley, Jenifer Spearman, Jenny Hyland Sheila Brickel Pauline Mount

Terry Mizen, Pat Finney, Stephen Hill, Trevor Hackett and myself.

Bowls England County Delegates are Linda Mills and myself.

Finally, I wish you all well for the future a very safe and Happy Christmas and a very healthy New Year.

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

This being my first report to the EBA please accept my apologies in advance if I have not included something I should have done.

As far as I am concerned The Season went well, there were no great problems for me to sort out.

The Competition Portal was very much appreciated by those that entered and lightened the load for the Competition Secretary.

One of the problems on Finals Day was that Edward Morris was on international Duty that weekend, so 3 Finals had to be played during the next 2 weeks.

Leamington was a great success for Essex, starting with the Ladies from Clockhouse winning the National Fours. Edward Morris reached the Final of the 2 woods Singles, and with Chris Muir and Steve Gunnell won the National Triples. Then ended up winning the National Mixed Pairs with the "old bird", Elaine Score. I was fortunate enough to be at Leamington to see all these triumphs, except the Clockhouse Ladies, who won the day before I arrived.

I give them all my best wishes in the British Isles Championships.

My thanks go to Tony Ellis and Pat Finney for all their guidance during the season.

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

2021 has been a strange year, during which we have followed the Government guidelines and played bowls within our own comfort zone. There were some inevitable changes and cancellations, which were met with mixed reactions. Our biggest disappointment was the cancellation of all our Inter- County friendly matches and County Inter-group games. The only County competition not played was the Top Club. We look forward to having a full calendar next year.

Our Officers gradually took up their responsibilities and Kim Wiggins was at last able to take up her role as President. Unfortunately, our Junior Vice-President, Sandra Fenton, decided to stand down and currently we do not have a Senior Vice-President or Junior Vice-President for 2022. All other positions have been filled.

Because of the cancellation of our Inter- County friendly matches our 12 colts were awarded their County Badges at either the Luncheon or AGM. They had already waited an extra year. 2 Certificates of Merit were awarded at the Luncheon.

Numbers were down right across the board, both in membership and competition entries. This was as expected, but I am pleased to say that there are signs of some recovery for next year.

We have battled on and enjoyed so much. The Johns Trophy team won their first match, but lost the second. Both Amy Rose and Walker Cup teams reached the Regional Finals. Our County Finals produced some fine bowling and then came the National Championships. What a fantastic year for Essex. Our successful men and women have put Essex on the map. We were all delighted when Elaine Score and Ed Morris finally achieved their win in the National Mixed Pairs. We were so proud of our winning National Fours team from Clockhouse, Hayley Kenny, Michelle Squires, Serena Madgewick and Rebecca Smith. Fabulous and a tremendous well done.

History was made this year when we played a mixed match at Writtle to celebrate their centenary. This was enjoyed by all those who participated and we look forward to further mixed matches next year. We also enjoyed our annual match versus the Essex men. The ladies came second, but intend to reverse this result next year.

As always, the County officers have worked hard behind the scenes and I was relieved to welcome Jenny Hyland as our new Treasurer. I sincerely thank them all.

Our plans are in place for next year and with fingers firmly crossed, we look forward to a full season.

**Essex Bowling Association Treasurer's Report: \*** -- Stephen Hill

Balance sheets were circulated to all members present. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Stephen outlined relevant areas as follows:

- a) No refunds made to county sections. This will be made when discussions on next year's costs are resolved.
- b) Expenses were reduced due to no site meetings which were held via zoom
- c) There were no web site costs
- d) No payment was made to Friends of English Bowls
- c) There was no hall hire or sundry expenses.

Stephen remarked on the reduction of affiliation and membership fees which he estimated is down 12.5 -15% prior to Covid 19 but was pleased to report we are still in a strong position.

M Boote, Hainault B.C. asked if it were possible to send all fees to the EBA Treasurer rather than send separately to each section. It was explained this would be too onerous a task for one person to oversee the collection of affiliation and competition fees especially as some clubs always require reminders. B.Eng. will only deal with one contact per County which why everything is then passed on to the EBA Treasurer.

Tony thanked the Officers for their reports and asked that they be accepted by the meeting.

Proposed by: M Boote Hainault B. C.

Seconded by: D King Romford B.C.

Tony thanked everyone for attending today and once again apologised for Jon Cockcroft's absence. He then wished everyone a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year before closing the meeting.

**Meeting Closed at 11 a.m.**

**Date of next EBA AGM,  
Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

## **Open Forum**

1. Tony Ellis opened this section by reading through the 24 questions sent to Jon Cockcroft prior to his visit and his responses. Various comments were made from time to time but it was agreed these would be presented to Jon when he visits in the New Year. It was also suggested it would be useful if these questions/answers could be sent to all clubs. (Following the AGM these questions/responses and other relevant B. Eng. information have been emailed to all Club Secretaries and included on both EBA websites.)  
M. Boote, Hainault B.C. asked if Club Delegates could be added to the County mailing list as Club Secretaries do not always pass on County information. Both Section Secretaries are aware this is a problem in some clubs but felt this was a matter for the clubs to resolve. Suggestion, perhaps a note could be added to Club Secretaries, on future mailings, asking them to forward relevant County information to their Club Delegate.

2. Tony Mizen reported from the Counties Meeting, the proposal of a “Pay and Play” which is the introduction of any member of the public turning up at a Bowls Club and playing bowls. He stated none of the Counties present supported this idea, Problems foreseen were footwear, damage to green, supplying woods and use of clubhouse.

Dave King, Romford B. C. stated he was aware of a proposal that for an Affiliation of £5 to B. Eng. a player could go to any bowls club and play. **2 more question for Jon Cockcroft.**

3. D Mold, Tiptree JobServe B.C. asked what plans the EBA had for “Climate Change” and how this would impact on clubs, travelling and competitions. Tony Ellis responded this is the first time this issue has been raised and will refer it to the EBA Board at their next meeting.

**EBA Agenda Item.**

No further questions, Tony closed the meeting.

**Meeting Closed 11.30 am**

**Essex Bowling Association**  
**Income & Expenditure Account**

2020	Income:	£	2021	£
	County Affiliation (B.E)			
27,625	ECBA	24,225.00		
12,675	ECWBA	10,915.00		
40,300				35,140.00
	Competitor Entry Fees			
4,910	ECBA	3,840.00		
3,812	ECWBA	3,105.00		
8,722				6,945.00
	B. E. and Competition Sponsors:			
145	B.E. Meetings expenses			
-	Competitors expenses - male	509.96		
-	Competitors expenses - female	483.12		
145				993.08
	EBA Affiliation fees			
1,381	ECBA	1,211.25		
634	ECWBA	545.75		
2,015				1,757.00
	B.E.Handbook			
	ECBA			
531	ECWBA			
	Refunds			
49,022	Bowls England			
48	Memorial park			
2	Bank Interest			
100,786				44,835.08
	<b>Expenditure:</b>			
40,300	Bowls England Affiliation			35,140.00
8,722	Bowls England Competition fees			7,005.00
556	Bowls England Handbooks			
-	Competitors expenses - male	509.96		
-	Competitors expenses - female	483.12		
600	Refunds to ECBA/ECWBA			
100	Friends of English Bowls			
837	Officers Expenses			300.00
125	Sundry Expenses			
148	Hall/Venue Hire			
400	Web Site			
48,958	Club Refunds			
100,746				43,438.08
	<b>40 Surplus Income over Expenditure</b>			<b>£ 1,397.00</b>
<b>£ 100,786</b>				<b>£ 44,835.08</b>

**Essex Bowling Association**  
**Balance Sheet**

as at 30th September 2021

1,061	Opening Reserve	1,100.83	
40	Surplus Income over Expenditure	1,397.00	
			2,497.83
150	Net Creditors		2,497.83
1,251	Represented by:		
1,249	Barclays Current A/c:		2,495.92
2	Barclays Business Premium A/c:		1.91
<b>£ 1,251</b>			<b>£ 2,497.83</b>

**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.

Mr M Ferris                      Date: