

ESSEX BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting, planned for Saturday, 28th November 2020
now deferred to 2021, date to be advised.

The following reports have been submitted by EBA Officers for information,
according to usual Agenda format

Minutes of AGM Meeting held on 30th November 2019, attached separately,
will be agreed and signed at next formal meeting.

Matters Arising will be taken at next formal meeting.

County Administrator's Report* -- Tony Ellis

This is my eighth Annual General Meeting report from me as your County Administrator. During these unprecedented times we are unable to have a physical meeting, so the Annual General Meeting of the Essex Bowling Association has been postponed until further notice.

My heartfelt condolences go to all bowlers and clubs who have lost family and friends during this awful pandemic. It has been a terrible year for everyone. Let's hope and pray that sometime next year life returns to normality and we can continue to enjoy our sport.

The ongoing worry for all Essex bowling officers, administrators and bowlers, is that clubs can survive this and come through this horrible year.

I can report the following.

I have attended the Bowls England AGM, since our last Annual General Meeting.

The most significant event to report is the retirement of Tony Allcock and the appointment of Jon Cockcroft the new Chief Executive. Linda Mills and I had a zoom meeting with him during the summer and reporting for both of us we were suitably impressed. I believe things will change, for the better, under this new style of management. I believe we can look to the future for a better organised National Governing Body, with new ideas and initiatives, and hopefully a new look at all aspects of our beloved game.

I attended two zoom meetings of the Audit & Review Committee. With a new Chairman our Terms of Reference are being changed to make the Board more accountable to all of Bowls England members. I deputised for Linda Mills and participated in a Zoom Communications Meeting and participated in a Zoom Coaching and Junior Development Meeting.

There has been very little activity of the Essex Bowls Association over the last twelve months. The usual February meeting took place and we had a zoom meeting in September, where we discussed such subjects as:

Affiliation & Competition Fees 2019/2020, Bowls England Annual General Meeting (February 2020) and Coaching

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 on the 10th February, which will discuss items that will be on the agenda of the forthcoming Bowls England Annual General Meeting scheduled for Saturday 22nd February 2020.

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, Sheila Brickel, Pauline Mount, Linda Mills and Jennifer Spearman-Adkins
Alex Wightman, Pat Finney, Stephen Hill, Trevor Hackett and myself.

Bowls England County Delegates are Linda Mills and myself.

Essex County Bowling Association Assistant Secretary/Match Secretary Report*

-- Pat Finney

What an unprecedented year for us all, but I think we have all coped very well considering all that has gone on.

The 2020 Programme will be carried over to 2021 in its entirety (Covid permitting) all other Counties are in agreement the Dates will go forward by 6 days, the Proposed programme has been posted on the Website, subject to any changes.

Competitions: None of the Major National Competitions were able to take place, but John Tully managed to run three of the County Competitions Unbadged Singles, Benevolent Cup & Secretaries Cup, albeit with a restricted entry, well done John.

Unbadged Winner Jerry Quy Aldersbrook, R/Up Ken Smith Essex County.

Jerry & Ken were presented with their County Badge after the Final.

Benevolent Winner Edward Morris Essex County, R/Up Mark Hodges King Chase.

Secretaries Winner Edward Morris Essex County, R/Up Mike Portway Romford.

Men's changes for 2021.

Alex Wightman has stepped down from Office as from 7th November 2020, after 5 years (2008-2013) as Competition Sec and 8 years as Secretary 2013-2020, and as an EBA Board Member from its formation to date. We all wish him a healthy retirement.

Alex's successor as Secretary and EBA Board Member will be Terry Mizen our 2019 President, I am sure Terry will relish the challenge.

Pat Foley Press Representative (1999-2020) has stepped down as from 7th November 2020, Pat has performed his roll for over 20 years and the Website he started is the envy of many other Counties.

Pat's successor albeit with a New Title of (Media Officer) will be Dave Jarrold, I am sure Dave will be an excellent replacement.

To date I do not know of any other changes.

The 2020 Presidential Team of Sandy Dron, Dave King & Richard Dodd, will carry on a year late.

The Men's appointments to the EBA Board will be:

Administrator: Tony Ellis, Members: Terry Mizen, Pat Finney, Stephen Hill (Treasurer) & Trevor Hackett.

I would like to record a vote of thanks to Tony Ellis for the way he has organised the Zoom meetings and the distribution of all correspondence Tony (do you ever stop ?)

Finally, to you all please stay safe & well we need you all for next season.

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

We all began the year with great optimism, but it came to an abrupt halt when the country was locked down in March 2020. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic our bowling season was decimated. All County activities were cancelled. Bowls England returned our affiliation fees and these were refunded, along with all the competition fees. A great deal of work of a very different kind went on behind the scenes. Eventually the stringent restrictions were partially lifted. Following the strict guidelines set by Bowls England, many bowls clubs were able to introduce some socially distanced social bowling and even play some domestic competitions. Sadly, some clubs remained closed and a few others have been forced to close forever.

Our membership this year was 2535 and I hope the year off, caused by Covid-19, will not have too great an impact on membership next year.

It has been very disappointing for us all to miss our bowling season, especially the clubs who had special plans to celebrate significant anniversaries. I send them my congratulations and maybe they will celebrate in 2021 instead.

As announced in March, the points gained towards a County Badge have been carried over to next year. I look forward to meeting our colts in 2021. It is a shame that they have had to wait longer to receive their County Badge.

Wendy Buckingham has continued to send out gifts from the Essex County Women's Bowling Association Benevolent Fund. I am certain that they have brought happiness to those who have been ill during these difficult times. Sheila Brickel has also worked behind the scenes and has arranged all our matches for next year. Unfortunately, no-one came forward as Treasurer following Wendy Coldham's retirement, so I have kept the books for 2020. I am pleased to say that the finances have remained on an even pathway, showing a surplus of £82.59 for the year.

Pat Foley has been busy keeping the website up to date and the ladies thank him sincerely for this and send him our best wishes for his retirement.

Ann Sims D Area Secretary announced in April that she was retiring from her role. Following her term as President in 2014, Ann immediately took over from Alma Willox and has kept D Area moving forward. I thank Ann sincerely and wish her well. Alison Blake also followed her term as President by taking on the position of C Area Selector. I thank her for her input over the last couple of years and wish her well as she retires from this role. I am grateful that all other officers have agreed to continue in their positions for 2021 and I look forward to working with them again. I am delighted that we will be welcoming Sandra Fenton as our Junior Vice-President for 2021 and very pleased to say that Jenny Hyland will come in as Treasurer. Wendy Buckingham will be our C Area Selector, which just leaves the position of D Area Secretary as vacant. When we get to 2021 it will almost seem as if 2020 didn't happen. I know that Kim Wiggins is looking forward to completing her year as Ladies President and likewise, Jennifer Spearman as Senior Vice-President.

On a very personal note, I thank everyone most sincerely for their support throughout these difficult times. We are still working through many challenges, but I feel certain that, with all the plans in place for next year, we will emerge to enjoy our bowling and appreciate even more the social side of our sport.

Take care, keep safe and I look forward more than ever to seeing you again in 2021.

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

Treasurer Report Financial Year ending 30th September 2020.

Balance Sheet attached separately.

I would like to start with a thanks to Wendy Coldham for her past service as treasurer and for handing over to me in such interesting times.

A strange year to report on but a busy one for me, having to return Bowls England affiliation fees along with the fees paid to enter the national championships to 144 clubs. I hope you will forgive me in not explaining the whole details of the repayments to each and every club individually, but the details were clearly spelt out on the Web Site and agreed by the emergency executive committee. I commend the regular visiting of our website by all clubs' administrative officers.

As a result of the EBA board having to reduce its meetings there has been a reduction in the Travel expenses of its officers. There were two retirement gifts, to long serving members, increasing the sundry expense number. Both very well deserved after much hard work on our behalf. The increase in venue hire was the cost of the County coaching meeting.

The net fall in expenditure has resulted in our net worth remaining at around £1100 as at the end of the financial year. I will be recommending to the board that we return to the Ladies and Men's sections a sum of £600, in line with last year's refunds.

You will note from the accounts that there was a slight fall in the affiliation fees from both men and ladies' sections. This is likely to be of a greater magnitude this year although at present I am unable to give an indication of how big this might be.

I wish to thank Pat Watson for her past service as financial examiner and welcome Michael Ferris and thank him for his insightful and diligent examination of your Counties accounts and hope that he will be happy to continue this function next year.

Date of deferred EBA AGM for 2019/2020 Season to be advised

*Officers' original reports scanned to these Minutes. Originals filed in Master. Folder.