

ESSEX COUNTY BOWLING ASSOCIATION GROUP 6

A.G.M. MEETING 22nd OCTOBER 2015 7p.m.

Meeting opened at 19.04

In Memoriam

A minute's silence was observed in memory of fellow bowlers who had passed away during the past 12 months.

Apologies for Absence

Chris Chorley, David Barnes, Alexandra B.C.

Delegates Present

Belfairs; Bournemouth Park; Castle Point; Eastwood Park; Essex County; Hadleigh; Hockley; Rayleigh; Rochford; Runwell; South Benfleet & Canvey; Southchurch Park; Southend; Thorpe Bay; Whitehall; Wickford; Woodside

Delegates Absent

Alexandra; Carreras; Chalkwell; Memorial Park; Prittlewell; Shoebury

Officers Present

David Jacobi; Steve Gunnell; Richard Shillitto; John Welton; Kevin Watkins; Gary Telling; Ken Griffiths

Chairmen David Jacobi welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes of the Spring Meeting

The chairmen requested a show of hands that the Spring Meeting minutes were an accurate record of that meeting.

Carried unanimously.

Matters Arising

- R. Bidmead (Castlepoint) asked the committee to clarify why the meeting was not being asked to approve the 2014 AGM minutes as was normal protocol at AGM's.
The Secretary stated that delegates at a previous meeting (within the last 2 years) had agreed that the AGM minutes would be approved at the following Spring Meeting, not the next AGM.
This was to reflect that the Group only held two meetings a year and waiting 12 months to approve the minutes would mean some items would have already been discussed at the Spring meeting.
- R. Bidmead (Castlepoint) asked the meeting to clarify the situation regarding changes to the constitution and rules.
SG stated that changes to the rules and constitution can only take place at an AGM.

Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 8th September 2015

The chairmen requested a show of hands that the minutes of the 8th September were an accurate record of that meeting.

Carried unanimously.

Matters Arising

- The Chairman raised the subject of the rules regarding games being stopped due to bad weather.

Members of the committee clarified the rule that if both captains agree the green is unplayable or the weather (lightning) is dangerous, the game is delayed or not played.

If a game has started and bad weather intervenes (see above) and the teams come off, the game can recommence if the weather has improved (no lightning) and there is no standing water on the green.

In the event that the two captains cannot agree about the standing water and one team refuses to carry on, a photograph of the disputed green should be sent to the League Secretary as soon as possible who will act as arbiter.

The meeting agreed that the rules should be amended to clarify the matter of unplayable greens. League Secretary to update.

- C. Cann (Eastword) asked how will the green testing procedure will be policed.

Richard Shillitto as County Competitions Secretary will be monitoring the procedure to ensure that only greens that comply with the green (rinks) testing rules will be sanctioned to play County Competition games. Any games taking place on greens (rinks) not complying, will be deemed to have not taken place.

The Secretary confirmed the wording on the Green Testing form 'not to be sent to the Secretary' has been removed from future forms.

Note! This rule does not apply to playing Group 6 league games, these games are allowed to be played on untested greens.

OFFICER REPORTS

Chairman's Report

I would like to say that I have enjoyed my year as Group 6 Chairman and that things went relatively smoothly during this past year.

I would like to thank the officers for all their hard work and dedication to the Group.

Steve Gunnell as Secretary has kept us all in order with the paperwork. As you know Steve is stepping down as Secretary after this AGM so I would like to say on behalf of us all in Group 6, thank you for the work you have done during your time as Secretary and also his involvement in running the Group 6 competitions.

Chris Chorley as Treasurer. I know his is unable to be with us tonight, but he has provided us with up to date accounts for all of us to see and it is good to know that we are no longer operating in the dark.

John Welton who has done an excellent job of running the Group 6 Leagues and equally important, keeping the website up to date.

Richard Shillitto for his work as the County Competition Secretary for you Group.

David Barnes as Group Match Secretary. Although he is unable to be with us tonight because of his wife's illness, he does an excellent job of organizing our friendlies. As I have said before, if any club or indeed individual member of Group 6 would like to play for the Group in these friendlies please let David know.

Kevin Watkins, Ken Griffiths & Gary Telling as the Group Selectors. It has been an excellent year for Group 6 winning both the Ashford Cup and Group Knockout Cup. Well done to the players concerned and well done to the selectors.

As I said earlier, I have enjoyed my year as Chairman and I am more than happy to continue as your Group 6 chairman.

Finally could I thank you all for your support throughout the season.

Treasurers Report

Although the treasurer cannot be with us tonight, everyone should have received a copy of this years accounts that show the Group to be in a healthy financial situation.

The Chairman stated that the committee were considering recommending a reduction of the affiliation and league entry fees. This would be an agenda item at the Spring meeting for possible recommendation at next years AGM.

Secretaries Report

An amended 'Green Testing' form was accepted at the Spring meeting and it was agreed by the delegates that the completed form would be e-mailed back to me and forwarded to the League Secretary who would display them on the Group 6 website.

After a few reminders were sent out there were a few clubs who did not send a completed form back to me (Hockley, Whitehall, Prittlewell, Eastwood, Chalkwell & Carreras), this needs to be improved for next season.

The Group 6 competition Finals Day took place at Bournemouth Park Bowling Club on the 20th September with the following results: -

Singles R. Telling 21 – P Brandon 8

Triples I. Smith, A. Hanton, P. Bates 16 – D. Birch, J. Davey, E. Clarke 8

There were 24 entries for the Singles and 20 entries for the Triples

League Secretaries Report

All the leagues ran well last season with the exception of one incident that will be discussed later. I would like to congratulate all the winners and commiserations to the relegated clubs.

There is a proposal to change the rules regarding rearranged games, which I personally don't think there should be any rearranged games, they should all take place as scheduled, but this is for the delegates to decide.

There are two new teams joining the league next year: -

- Thorpe Bay 'D'
- Prittlewell 'B'

Both teams will play in division 6 next year.

Woodside 'B' have withdrawn their team so Division 5 will consist of 9 teams and all other divisions will be 8 teams

I would like to thank you all for cooperation during the season.

County Competition Secretaries Report

Generally all County Competitions went well last season although there were a couple of items that need to be noted.

- County Handbook errors that resulted in all clubs receiving an amendment sheet. There were one or two incidents last season where possibly this amendment sheet was not read or displayed.

A possibly solution to this problem in the future could be to use the Essex County website as the source of accurate and up to date information regarding competition draws. The subject of whether a handbook is relevant in today digital world is a matter for Essex County Bowling Association to decide.

- The other matter that needs to be sent to all competitors in County competitions is; please phone the result of your game to the County Competition Secretary (Richard Shillitto) on the evening the game takes place, no matter how late that might be.
To ensure all competitors know who their next opponent is, as quickly as possible, it is vital that results from all games are reported on the day. Any delay will cause the website update to be delayed and competitors not being able to arrange their next game.

- Finally I would like to draw your attention to the Essex County Competition Regulations, specifically clause (q), to quote: -

All protests appertaining to (a) the green etc., must be intimated before the commencement of the sixth end (match to be completed). The protestor on completion of the game shall inform the County Competition Secretary that a challenge has been intimated and inform the club that they should take necessary actions to attempt no changes to the green taking place within the next 24 hours allowing time for the County Competition Secretary to have the green independently tested, and (b) against a player within three days after the match.

The club or competitor lodging the protest shall deposit with the Competition Secretary the sum of £20.00 which may be forfeited or returned as the Executive Council shall determine after considering and disposing of such protest. No protests shall be withdrawn except by leave of the County Competition Secretary. Protests must be lodged in duplicate.

The Competition Secretary recommends that if such a situation arose it would be prudent for the protesting player to note the protest on the scorecard before the opposing player signs it, this would avoid any subsequent disputes.

The Competition Secretary also commented that it would be very unlikely that he personally would recommend retaining the £20.00 deposit.

PROPOSALS

Proposal 1

A paper vote took place for one of the following proposals in relation to Group 6 league games.

In the event of a team being unable to field a team for a Group 6 league game, one of the following to apply: -

- a) No re-arranged games
- b) No re-arranged games unless both teams agree
- c) No re-arranged games, but extend the gap in May/June for County pairs, and have games of Tuesday and Thursday towards the end of the season.

Result:

- a) 6 votes
- b) 9 votes
- c) 1 vote

No re-arranged games unless both teams agree will apply to Group 6 games next season

Proposal 2

A show of hands vote took to place on the following Runwell proposal.

The 17:45hrs start time for league games at the start and end of the season be changed to 17:30hrs, to ensure games are finished in a reasonable light situation.

Results:

- For - 8 votes
- Against - 7 votes

The start time for league games at the start and end of the season will be changed to 17:30hrs

Election of Officers

There are a number of Officers who are standing un-opposed, and as a result of Steve Gunnell standing down we have a vacancy for Secretary.

The un-opposed positions are: -

<u>Chairman</u>	David Jacobi
<u>Treasurer</u>	Chris Chorley
<u>League Secretary</u>	John Welton
<u>County Competition Secretary</u>	Richard Shillitto
<u>Match Secretary</u>	David Barnes
<u>Selector</u>	Kevin Watkins
<u>Selector</u>	Gary Telling
<u>Selector</u>	Ken Griffiths

Essex County Bowling Club has proposed Chris Flack, and they're being no proposals from the floor of the meeting, Chris Flack is now Group 6 Secretary.

A.O.B.

1.

Gary Telling (Bournemouth Park) re-emphasised the rule that all bowlers should wear 'flat soled shoes' on the green should be enforced by the clubs.

2.

Gary Telling (Bournemouth Park) stated that all players of the same team should wear the same club shirt

3.

Henni Gras (Thorpe Bay) outlined the details of a league game where ECBC 'A' could not field a team against TBBC on 21st July 2015; these details had previously been circulated to all the clubs in a letter by TBBC.

Henni reminded the meeting of the rules surrounding re-arranged matches, he also informed the meeting that he was recently made aware of another match between ECBC and Southend B.C that was cancelled due to same circumstances where the committee had awarded all 6 points to Southend B.C. (This was subsequently refuted by the League Secretary)

He would like the Group 6 officers to explain why they decided to award 3 points to both teams in the ECBC v TBBC game.

TBBC feel this decision was wrong.

The Chairman responded that the decision of the committee was made by non-ECBC members only.

Secondly the fact that TBBC had original 'agreed' to play the game on 25th August unaware that this was one day after the end of the season and when told this would be allowed they decided not to agree to play. This, the committee felt was not in the spirit of the competition.

Thirdly that Rule 7 (that re-arranged games must be played before the end of the season) whilst still in the rules was primarily aimed at avoiding re-arranged games being played after the play-off games, which had been the case prior to this season.

In this situation playing a game after the end of the season would be permitted.

It was also agreed that from a constitutional point of view it is not possible to have a vote at tonight's meeting without having a proposal put forward prior to the AGM, this was not done.

After much debate by the meeting the subject of a vote of confidence in the committee was raised (not a proposal). Some committee's members stated that if this should occur they would stand down.

This subject was concluded with the representative of TBBC reluctantly agreed to accept the committee's decision.

4.

The date of the Group 6 2016 Spring meeting will be Thursday 17th March @ 7pm, venue Rochford.

5.

The date of the Group 6 2016 competition finals day will be Sunday 25th September. Venue T.B.A.

6.

The County Competition Secretary informed the meeting that the 2016 County Two Wood singles finals day will be held at Essex County Bowling Club. This meaning that the four area's providing finalists will hold their semi's and finals on the same day at ECBC. Date to be advised.

Presentation of League Trophies

The Chairman presented the winners Trophies to the delegates from: -

Division 1 – ECBC 'B'

Division 2 – South Benfleet & Canvey 'A'

Division 3 – South Benfleet & Canvey 'B'

Division 4 – Eastwood Park

Division 5 – Bournemouth Park 'E'

Division 6 – Rayleigh 'C'

They're being no other business; the chairman closed the meeting at 8:30pm