

ESSEX COUNTY BOWLING ASSOCIATION GROUP 6

A.G.M. MEETING 22nd OCTOBER 2016 7p.m.

Meeting opened at 19.02

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

David Barnes, Richard Shillitto, Kevin Watkins, Gary Telling, Carreras B.C.

Delegates Present

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

Delegates Absent

Carreras; Chalkwell; Memorial Park; Wickford

Officers Present

David Jacobi; Chris Flack; John Welton; Chris Chorley; Ken Griffiths

Chairman David Jacobi welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes of the Spring Meeting held on 17th March 2016

The chairman asked the delegates if the minutes of the Spring Meeting were an accurate record of that meeting.

Carried unanimously.

Matters Arising

- No matters arising

Minutes of meeting held on 13th October 2016

Matters Arising

- No matters arising

OFFICER REPORTS

Chairman's Report

I would like to say that I have again enjoyed my year as Group 6 Chairman and that everything went relatively smoothly during this past year, without any significant problems

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

Chris Flack as Secretary who has really mastered the job in no time at all and he also ran the Group 6 Singles & Triples competitions this year that also went well.

Chris Chorley as Treasurer for his continued efforts with our accounts.

John Welton as League Secretary who has again done a fine job in collating the results from all the league games and getting the League Tables updated very quickly throughout the season, well done John.

Richard Shillitto as County Competitions Secretary who is not well at the moment but has again done a good job keeping all the County results up to date.

David Barnes as Match Secretary for his hard work in very difficult circumstances.

Kevin Watkins, Ken Griffiths & Gary Telling as Selectors who unfortunately didn't win a trophy this year but did get us to the final of the Wally Ball Cup, where we lost to Group 2. Having won the Group Knockout last year we had high hopes this year but fell at the first hurdle. And also the Ashford Cup where again we had won the trophy last year but finished bottom of our group.

As Gary Telling is standing down as a selector, I would like to thank Gary for all his help over the last couple of years.

I would also like to thank Kevin Watkins who has also stood down. As well as being a selector he also performed the role of one of our two County delegates for Group 6 (myself being the other) as well as being our County Friendly Selector. Thank you Kevin for all your help and I hope we shall see you involved in Group 6 activities again sometime very soon.

John Lloyd of Woodside B.C. asked the Chairman to clarify the role of County Delegate and how this position is filled.

The chairman explained that in most groups across the County, members of the committee usually fill delegate's positions, as is the case in Group 6. Up to now this has not been a nominated position. The County rules only stipulate that each group must have a Chairman, Secretary & Competition Secretary, how each group selects its County delegates is not specified. It was suggested from the floor that we as a Group might wish to consider making these roles nominated positions. This will be discussed at the next Group 6 committee meeting.

As I said earlier, I have enjoyed my year as Chairman and I am more than happy to continue as your Group 6 chairman especially in light of the next County President coming from Group 6, Mark Cohen of Southend B.C. I would like to support him as much as possible.

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

Secretary's Report

The Secretary would like to thank every club for returning their 2017 Affiliation Fees & League subscriptions on time, this will allow the League Secretary to report next years League structure at todays meeting rather than later. Thank you all.

On the same theme he would like thank all those clubs who have returned their nominations for next years Representative games, on time, very helpful, they will be passed onto the 3 selectors following our vote later this evening.

He also thanked the 13 clubs who returned their Green Testing Forms back to us at the beginning of the season, so they could be viewed on our website for everyone to see.

The Secretary has received correspondence from Phil Haslam, the Woodside B.C. Secretary informing us that Woodside will be amalgamating with Fairway Ladies Bowling Club, and from next season will be known as Fairwood Bowls Club, this information has been forwarded to the County Secretary.

Although not all clubs have held their AGM's yet, and they don't know who exactly their club officers will be for next season, the secretary will be e-mailing all the current delegates early in the New Year asking them to confirm the contact details for their 2017 club officers. This information will be forwarded to the County Secretary for inclusion in the 2017 County Handbook. The Secretary requested that the clubs reply as soon as they can so he can ensure next years handbook has up to date information.

Finally, the Group 6 Finals Day took place at Bournemouth Park Bowls Club on 25th September with the following results: -

Singles: 16 competitors - Duncan Barton 15 – Richard Telling 21

Triples: 18 competitors – Kevin Robertson
Kevin Watkins 17
John Andrews

Jerry Telling
Gary Telling 10
Richard Telling

Treasurers Report

Everyone should have received a copy of the treasurer's report containing some additional notes. The Castle Point delegate asked why we received £200 from the County every year. The treasurer could offer no explanation other than assume the County thought we had expenses and the £200 was covering that.

The same delegate asked whether the £240 for the Ashford Cup buffet would not be repeated in 2016 because the Group had not won the competition, this was confirmed.

The chairman informed the meeting that the officers from some other groups claimed expenses as part of fulfilling their roles, Group 6 officers do not claim expenses.

The Treasurer outlined his objective with regard to the accounts and that was to maintain a reasonable balance without building up large reserves, which he felt served no purpose.

In clarifying another question from the floor, the Treasurer illustrated how we had reduced the league fee this year from £7 to £5 to avoid adding to our reserves.

The treasurer also brought it to the meetings attention that the Group had given out 130 shirts to players who had played in the representative games in the last few years and suggested that we consider a way of managing those shirts for new incoming players rather than keep giving away free shirts. Maybe for each club to retain shirts from their players who no longer need them and distribute those shirts to new players.

League Secretary's Report

All the leagues ran relatively well last season with all the results coming in on good time and only a couple of issues over rearranged games. As we have not received any proposals for any rule changes this year he assumes that everyone is happy to continue as we are.

We have one team withdrawing next year, Southend B.C. reducing from 5 teams to 4 which gives us a problem of unbalanced divisions which will be discussed later under Motion/Proposals.

County Competition Secretary's Report

In Richards absence the Secretary expressed thanks to all competitors in last seasons competitions for sending their results on time and including the actual scores, there were no major issues and would ask for the same again next season please.

Match Secretary

In the absence of the Match Secretary to Chairman read out his report.

Due to the inability of many of the other Groups we play in friendlies to field enough players, it has been mutually agreed with them to cease these fixtures. Clearly many players could not afford to play plus there was a reluctance to travel. As a consequence our Committee decided that I should investigate other ways of achieving Group 6 friendlies. In this respect I would welcome any suggestions from our Group 6 Clubs.

Currently next season we have no scheduled indoor fixtures and only 1 outdoor fixture against Essex Vice-Presidents.

One option is that Group 6 Chairman's Select fixtures are arranged against our own Group 6 Clubs. Should any Club wish to host such a fixture at their Club would you please contact the Group Secretary, he will pass that information to the Match Secretary who will sort out the details e.g. number of rinks and costs. Players comprising the Chairman's Select would be on the same basis as the current method i.e. Clubs provide a rink of four players.

It is unfortunate that these friendlies have reduced over the past couple of seasons but hopefully we can achieve some alternatives.

The chairman asked the meeting for their thoughts on this subject.

A number of delegates expressed interest in playing a friendly against a team representing Group 6, specifically Southend B.C. and Thorpe Bay B.C. and possibly the Parks Circle. Delegates were asked to contact the Group Secretary who will pass that information to the Match Secretary.

Selectors

Ken Griffiths as the only selector present gave a brief summary of this years Wally Ball competition. He explained that because he does not play in Group 6 he was able to look at other players that he feels made the squad a success, reaching the final but losing against Group 2. Also, because all lot of ECBC players were picked to play in the Knockout squad hardly any played in the Wally Ball giving players from other clubs a chance.

Whether his is elected a selector again or not he feels the Wally Ball squad has a good foundation for the future.

Motions/Proposals

Proposal 1 from League Secretary

As a result of Southend B.C. withdrawing one of their teams (E) for the 2017 season, there is an in-balance between divisions 5 & 6. Division 5 has 9 teams, Division 6 has 7 teams.

The League Secretary is proposing that Southend C team is moved from division 5 to division 6, so making 8 teams in each division.

The Chairman outlined the proposal for the delegates.

The League Secretary explained his reasoning behind the proposal, stating that in his opinion, having 48 teams total in the league, split between 6 divisions giving 8 in each division was the optimum way of running the league. It gave all teams an equal number of games per season.

The representatives from Southend B.C. vigorously opposed the proposal feeling they were being penalised for withdrawing one of their teams because they are unfortunate not to have the number of bowlers to support five teams. They felt that either the next lowest team in division 5 should be moved to division 6 (Rayleigh B.C.) or the two leagues should be left in-balanced. The league secretary said he was not prepared to run the leagues on that basis.

The chairman stated that a precedent had been set last season when Wickford B.C. were asked to move to the lower division to maintain the 8 teams in each division, to which they agreed.

In answer to a question from the floor, the league secretary stated that if a club wanted to join the league or add an extra team, they would be placed in division 6, giving an in-balance of one. If two teams wanted to join the league (at the same time) one would be placed in division 6 and one in division 5, and so maintaining an equal number of teams in the bottom two divisions.

A hand vote was taken (only delegates) and carried in favour of the motion.

Election of Officers

There are a number of Officers who are standing un-opposed for next season, and three positions that require a vote

The un-opposed positions are: -

<u>Chairman:</u>	David Jacobi
<u>Secretary:</u>	Chris Flack
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Chris Chorley
<u>League Secretary:</u>	John Welton
<u>County Competition Secretary:</u>	Richard Shillitto
<u>Match Secretary:</u>	David Barnes

We have two selectors standing down from their positions, Kevin Watkins & Gary Telling.

Representative Game Selectors:

We have had three nominations

	Jim Bunce	Essex County Bowling Club
	Alan Simpson	Rayleigh Bowling Club
	Richard Telling	Bournemouth Park Bowling Club
Current Standing Selector	Ken Griffiths	South Benfleet & Canvey B.C.

Of the four candidates only Jim Bunce & Ken Griffiths were in attendance, each introduced themselves to the meeting and gave a brief summary of their qualifications to undertake the position.

Alan Blakesley from Rayleigh B.C. introduced Alan Simpson in his absence and Ron Collins from Bournemouth Park B.C. introduced Richard Telling in his absence.

Each delegate had received a voting slip at the beginning of the meeting and was asked to cast their three votes.

Following a count of the cast votes the following result was declared.

Elected as Representative Game Selectors for the 2017 season are: -

Jim Bunce
Alan Simpson
Ken Griffith

County Friendly Selector

The chairman made the meeting aware that with the resignation of Kevin Watkins we have lost our County Friendly Selector, the chairman has been temporarily filling that role for the last few weeks.

Although Kevin is no longer on the committee as a selector he has declared a willingness to help Group 6 in anyway.

After much discussion it was agreed that this position would remain as a committee member, with the chairman fulfilling this role.

Presentation of Group 6 League Trophies

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

Division 1 – ECBC ‘A’

Division 2 – Thorpe Bay ‘A’

Division 3 – Prittlewell ‘A’

Division 4 – Bournemouth Park ‘D’

Division 5 – Whitehall

Division 6 – Carreras

A.O.B.

1.

Bernard Clark (Prittlewell B.C.) asked that in view of the previous discussion (County Friendly Selector) would it be a good idea for the committee to either; review any current rules on the committees Roles & Responsibilities or formulate some new rules to cover this item. This would ensure all clubs would be aware of the various committee members Roles & responsibilities.

The Secretary agreed to investigate any current rules on this subject and update accordingly or discuss with the committee creating some new rules.

2.

Jim Bunce (E.C.B.C.) raised the subject of the recent award by Bowls England to Whitehall B.C. as its ‘Club of the Year’. This was a fantastic achievement and they should be congratulated by everyone.

John Foster from Whitehall thanked the delegates for their appreciation and reminded everyone that this award is not just about Whitehall but about the County of Essex and specifically Group 6 and he wanted to thank everyone for their continued support.

3.

David Jacobi (Rochford B.C.) informed the meeting that at the recent E.C.B.A. meeting a proposal was put forward by Group 8, that the Ashford Cup format should be changed to 5 rinks per game instead of 6 rinks. The rationale behind their proposal being that they feel there is a risk that the players selected would not be up to the standard required to play in this competition, Group 8 being quite a small group with less players than other groups.

The counter argument being for the larger groups in the County such as Group 6, there would be less opportunities for players to compete in this competition.

A vote on this proposal took place with only one vote from each group deciding the outcome, giving a total of eight votes being cast.

The proposal was defeated by 6 votes to 2

The Ashford Cup will continue to be played in its current format of 6 rinks from each club.

The chairman also updated the meeting on the other proposals put to the recent E.C.B.A. meeting

4.

John Betton (Southend B.C.) asked the chairman if the Group league would continue to be played on a Tuesday night. The chairman stated that no proposal to change this had been received from the clubs, so the league games would continue on a Tuesday night.

Although not discussed at the meeting the following items were agreed by the committee subsequently.

5.

The date of the Group 6 2016 Spring meeting will be Thursday 16th March at 7pm, venue Rochford B.C.

6.

The date of the Group 6 2016 competition finals day will be Sunday 24th September. Venue: Bournemouth Park Bowling Club

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