

ESSEX COUNTY BOWLING ASSOCIATION GROUP 6

A.G.M. MEETING 19th OCTOBER 2017 at 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; Chris Chorley; Carreras B.C.; Thorpe Bay B.C.

Delegates Present

Alexandra: Castle Point; Eastwood Park; Essex County; Fairwood; Hadleigh; Hockley; Prittlewell; Rayleigh; Rochford; Runwell; Shoebury Park; South Benfleet & Canvey; Southchurch Park; Southend; Whitehall

Delegates Absent

Belfair's; Bournemouth Park; Carreras; Chalkwell; Memorial Park; Thorpe Bay; Wickford

Officers Present

David Jacobi; Chris Flack; John Welton; Ken Griffiths; Richard Shillitto; Jim Bunce; Alan Simpson

Chairman David Jacobi welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes of the Spring Meeting held on 16th March 2017

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 committee meeting held on 5th October 2017

Matters Arising

- No matters arising

Chairman's Report

Prior to me making my annual report I would like to inform the meeting that I am attending today's meeting as the Rochford B.C. delegate as well as the chairman. As you know it is customary for the chairman to have the casting vote in the event of a tied vote for any of the proposals. As a delegate that would mean I would have two votes which is not allowed, so the committee have nominated selector Alan Simpson to have that casting vote, I hope the meeting is happy with that arrangement.

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

I would like to thank all the Officers for their hard work and dedication to the Group during the last 12 months.

However there is one Officer I would like to single out for some special thanks and that is David Barnes our Match Secretary who is standing down this year.

David has served on the Group 6 committee for many years, long before I became a serving member, he unfortunately cannot be with us tonight for us to thank him personally for his many years of hard work, he will be sorely missed. I would like you all to give a round of applause to thank David for his hard work.

I would also like to congratulate the selectors and players who represented Group 6 in the Ashford Cup and won the competition for the 2nd time in 3 years, a great achievement.

In the Group Knockout, we won the first round but were knocked out in the semi-final.

I have tried to attend as many of our representative games as possible during the summer to support the players and selectors, and it was great to see a number of those games including the Ashford Cup final going almost down to the last wood on the last end to decide the winner, so well done to all those involved.

I have also enjoyed my first year as your Group County friendly selector especially when a member of our Group was the County President; Mark Cohen of Southend B.C. it was a privilege to support him.

I would also like to thank those players who stepped in at the last moment to play in a County Friendly when circumstances demanded; it made my job much easier.

Finally I would like to thank you all for your support throughout the last season.

Treasurers Report

Unfortunately our treasurer cannot be with us tonight as he is away on holiday, in his absence the Chairman made the following statement.

I understand a copy of the accounts for the last 12 months has been circulated to all the clubs in advance of tonight's meeting.

If anyone has any questions we will do our best to answer them but as you can see, they continue to show a reasonable balance for future needs, with our only significant purchase being a new Group 6 flag, which you can see displayed here beside our now returned original flag (thank you Bournemouth Park B.C.)

The team entry fees were reduced by £2 this year, and we will continue to supply whatever shirts are needed by members to participate in future Group 6 representative games.

If I could ask for a show of hands for the meeting to formally adopt these accounts, thank you, carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report

Firstly I would like to thank every club for returning your 2018 Affiliation Fees & League subscriptions on time, this will allow John Welton to report next years League structure at today's meeting rather than later. Thank you all.

On the same theme I would like to 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 later this evening.

I would also like to thank the 18 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, hopefully next season will see the same response

I realise that not all clubs have held their AGM's yet, and they don't know who exactly their club officers will be for next season, I will e-mailing all the current delegates early in the New Year asking you to confirm the contact details for your Group 6 delegate and club secretary for the 2018 season. This information will be forwarded to the County Secretary for inclusion in next years County Handbook. I would request that you reply as soon as you can so we can ensure next years County handbook has up to date information.

The Group 6 Finals Day took place at Bournemouth Park Bowls Club on 24th September with the following results: -

Singles: 16 competitors – Adam Miller/SBC 21 – John Flower/BPBC 17

Triples: 18 competitors - Roy Chinery – BPBC
 Dave Cocklin - Thorpe Bay 24
 Bob Locke - BPBC

Bobby Stewart - Thorpe Bay
Michael Coulson - ECBC 15
Adam Miller – BPBC

Group 6 would like to formally thank Bournemouth Park Bowling Club for the use of their facilities and the help of the club members to make it a successful day.

Also I would like to thank Mr. James Bunce for deputising for our President in marking the Singles Final and presenting the trophies, a very professional job, and if I were the current President I would be very afraid for my future.

Finally, I would like to mention our website, I am not sure how much it is used by our members, but hopefully from next season we can make it a bit more responsive to our members needs by posting the relevant information quicker.

So things like the Ashford Cup, Wally Ball, Inter Group team sheets will be available as soon as the selectors have made their decision, likewise the results of those games being posted on the day of the game.

League Secretary's Report

All the leagues ran smoothly this year with results being reported generally on time. Thanks to all clubs for their cooperation.

Rochford have withdrawn one team for next year, so it is proposed to keep 6 divisions, with 8 teams in divisions 1 - 5 and 7 teams in division 6.

There was one game not played this year even though there were 5 weeks remaining in the season when the game was changed. It is up to both clubs to agree a new date as soon as possible. Next year, any game not played will result in zero points and minus 6 shots to both clubs as stated in the league rules.

I had a couple of clubs asking if shorts can be worn in the league, this is up to the home club to decide. I would advise that anyone who wishes to wear shorts should check with the host club before the game.

Finally congratulations to the league winners and I look forward to summer 2018.

County Competition Secretary's Report

The results for County competitions this year went relatively smoothly, I would like to thank everyone who phoned their results through to me on the evening of their game. It meant I was able to send my results spreadsheet through to the County that evening and the website is updated straightway without any delay.

The County website worked very well throughout the season and whilst the County Handbook had some errors they were very minor, and just to remind all the clubs, that if there are errors in future County Handbooks and the County feel it necessary to contact the clubs to correct those errors, they will contact the club Secretary's, whose details appear in the handbook, so it is very important that those details are correct. The club Secretary's can then display the changes on their club notice board for all members to see.

Please be reminded that the County website is the definitive location for all 'up to date' County information.

The one big change that will be happening next year is, the format of the County Men's Fours competition that will be significantly different.

The County has decided to follow the lead of the County Ladies and play the early rounds on block at the beginning of the season, not on the traditional Friday. The dates for your diary are: -

Preliminary Round	14 th May
First Round	15 th May
Second Round	17 th May
Third Round	24 th May
Fourth Round	1 st June
Qtr. Final	6 th July
Semi-final	14 th July
Final	28 th July

All the remaining competitions will stay on their original nights of Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, and to confirm there will not be a clash of dates, as the preliminary dates for the Fours will be concluded before the rest of the competitions start.

Also, be advised that this is a trial and if not successful the Fours could revert back to its original day of the week or change to some other format.

That concludes my report

Selectors

Before his 'official statement, Jim Bunce wanted to highlight the recent success of an Essex Men's team winning the Balcomb Trophy, which is a National Double Four's competition, for the first time in it's history.

They beat a team from Devon that contained four England international players with a team containing three players from Group 6, a great achievement.

Group 6 also had two members in the team who won the National Mixed Fours competition.

And don't forget that Jim Druce from SB&CBC also won the area final of the National Men's Senior Singles and played in the finals at Leamington

Well done to all those Group 6 players.

Ashford Cup - Many thanks to all those players that attended the trial game at Thorpe Bay B.C. I know that some players were disappointed not be included in the squad, but only 30 players can be chosen. We also thank Thorpe Bay B.C. for hosting the trial & home games.

Despite a loss in the first game at Frinton we came back strongly and won both our games at Thorpe Bay to reach the final at Thorpe Le Soken, we had many supporters and thanks go to those that attended.

The final was a very tight game against Group 3, and we finally succeeded in winning 7-5, so bringing the Ashford Cup back to Group 6, well done to all the players.

The challenge is to repeat this performance next year. We will be losing 8 players, so there will be an opportunity for new players.

Our congratulations go to those six players who have now won their County Badge.

Inter Group Knockout – Unfortunately it was not possible for the Knockout team to follow those successes this year, but we will back trying again next year.

Wally Ball – Similar thoughts to those above.

Match Secretary

Unfortunately David Barnes is unable to be with us this evening, but we had two or three friendly games organised by him during the season and hopefully his successor will be organising similar games next season.

As you may remember from our last AGM we did set out to arrange a couple of more friendlies from clubs or associations within Group 6 and although partially successful we hope that we can improve on that next season.

Motions/Proposals

Proposal 1 from League Secretary

As a result of Rochford B.C. withdrawing one of their teams (C) for the 2018 season, the League Secretary is proposing that Division 6 is reduced to 7 teams; the remaining divisions 1-5 stay at 8 teams.

The league remains open to any club that wishes to enter an additional team into league 6, please contact the League Secretary.

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

Proposal 2 from Group 6 Officers

The Group 6 officers are recommending the published draft Group 6 Constitution & Rules dated 24th September 2017 be formerly adopted by the AGM.

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

Proposal 3 from Southend B.C.

Southend B.C. propose that next years Group 6 league games be played on a Wednesday. This proposal is due to the fact most County competitions are played on a Tuesday which causes problems for our club in obtaining 32 players to meet the need to play 4 teams in Group 6.

Various comments were made by delegates, as follows: -

- Group 6 is the only County group that plays league games on a Tuesday, everyone else plays their league games on a Wednesday when there are no County competitions taking place.
- Some clubs have other demands on their members such as the Basildon League that make taking part in Group 6 leagues very difficult.
- Some clubs have other demands on their members such as the Adams League (Southend) that makes taking part in Group 6 on a Wednesday challenging, but not impossible.
- Some clubs would need to restructure their friendly games for future seasons, because they currently take place on a Wednesday.

A hand vote was taken (delegates only) with 5 votes in favour, 11 votes against, 1 abstention, the motion was defeated.

Election of Officers

There are a number of Officers who are standing un-opposed for next season

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>Selector:</u>	Jim Bunce
<u>Selector:</u>	Alan Simpson

We have two Officers standing down from their positions: -

Match Secretary: David Barnes
Selector: Ken Griffiths

We have two nominations received from Group 6 clubs: -

Match Secretary: Ken Griffiths (SB&CBC)
Selector: Dave Starkey (SB&CBC)

In the absence of any other candidates the two nominees were elected unopposed

Presentation of Group 6 League Trophies

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

Division 1 – ECBC ‘A’

Division 2 – Eastwood Park

Division 3 – Castle Point

Division 4 – Hockley ‘B’

Division 5 – Wickford

Division 6 – Hockley ‘C’

Congratulations to all the above clubs

A.O.B.

1.

Richard Shillitto (ECBC) highlighted the number of new faces that were present as spectators at County Finals Day; it was very pleasing to see.

He also advised clubs that if they have any new talented bowlers within their membership, they should be encouraging them to take part in County competitions to gain experience against better bowlers, they will be all the better players for it.

2.

Jim Bunce (ECBC) brought to the attention of the meeting another Group 6 winner this season, that of Steve Gunnell of Bournemouth Park B.C. who won the County Singles title, congratulations to him from Group 6

3.

David Burgess (Whitehall B.C.) asked if the proposed friendly against the Southend Park Circle was likely to happen next season, as this years game didn't get off the ground.

Ken Griffiths the new Group 6 Match Secretary is aware of that game and it is on the list for next season.

Pat Whitbread (Southend) explained that his club had a very successful mixed friendly against Group 6, which bodes well for the future.

4.

Ken Griffiths (SB&CBC) reminded clubs that any player they have nominated for selection for a Group 6 Representative game (Ashford Cup, Wally Ball & Group Knockout) should notify the players concerned, as this year there were instances where some player selected to play were unaware of their nomination and refused the invitation to play. We do not want that to happen again.

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

5.

The date of the Group 6 2018 Spring meeting will be Thursday 15th March at 7pm, venue T.B.C.

6.

The date of the Group 6 2018 competition finals day will be Sunday 23rd September. Venue: T.B.C.

There being no other business; the chairman thanked Rochford B.C. member (Pat) for opening the bar this evening and closed the meeting at 8:05pm