

ESSEX COUNTY BOWLING ASSOCIATION GROUP 6

ZOOM COMMITTEE MEETING

25th JANUARY 2020 at 11pm

Meeting opened at 11.00

Chairman David Jacobi welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A particular warm welcome to our new League Secretary Kevin Robertson, who we all wish 'good luck' in his new role.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank John Welton (previous league secretary) for all his hard work over the last few years and for also assisting Kevin during his first season in the role.

Officers Present

David Jacobi; Chris Flack; Jim Bunce; Kevin Robertson; Dave Starkey; Chris Chorley

1. Apologies for Absence

Ken Griffiths, Kevin Watkins, Alan Simpson

2. Secretary's Report

- 2021 Club Contacts
CF confirmed that the annual task of updating the Group 6 'contact list' for club secretary's, delegates and match secretary's, has been completed and sent to Essex County Bowling Association secretary for inclusion in the 2021 County handbook.
- 2021 League Team confirmations
CF confirmed that he has now received confirmation from all Group 6 clubs regarding the entries into this seasons league competition.
Unfortunately, Bournemouth Park, Rochford, Southend, Thorpe Bay have all withdrawn teams since 2019 (the last time the league was played).
Hadleigh by contrast have increased their teams to two.
The net result being that the league will now comprise of 45 teams not 49 as previous.
The League Secretary will adjust the number of teams in each of the divisions to spread the reduction throughout the affected divisions, when he draws up the fixture list.
- Representative Game Venues (5 year plan)
CF has adjusted the venue list to allow for the loss of last seasons representative games to Thorpe Bay, Essex County and Southend. Those games will now take place this coming season (hopefully) and all remaining games have been moved back a year.
The Group 6 website has been updated accordingly.
- Representative Games – provisional dates
CF has uploaded to the Group 6 website all the 'provisional dates' for the 2021 Ashford Cup, Wally Ball and Intergroup Knockout.
Obviously these are very much 'provisional' considering the continuing impact of COVID.

3. League Fixtures

KR has produced a 2021 fixture list allowing for the reduction in teams.
Bournemouth Park have withdrawn a team from division 3 and division 5
Rochford BC have withdrawn a team from division 6
Hadleigh has entered an additional team in division 6

With 45 competing teams, the layout will be as follows:-

8 teams in divisions 1, 2 and 3

7 teams in divisions 4, 5 and 6

To achieve this, only 1 team from division 3 will be relegated to division 4

The usual practice of the top two are promoted, with exception of division 1 and the bottom two in each division relegated (except division 3 this year).

Also, division 6 where Hadleigh provide the additional team.

The fixture list will be distributed to all clubs very shortly and be available on the Group 6 website at the same time.

Important

The officers also agreed that if the COVID guidelines allow us to play the league games, but still discourage mixing indoors, the games will go ahead but without food being served. If some clubs want to offer drinks (to be consumed outdoors) that is an individual club decision

If the COVID guidelines should change and mixing indoors was allowed, the decision to serve food at each game would be an individual club decision.

4. Representative Games

- Ashford Cup

JB confirmed it was his intention to select a squad of 30 players from the list of nominated players received in early 2020. With the impact of COVID it may be necessary to add some players to the squad to replace those who may not be playing this year, those players will be determined by the selector.

The squad players will be contacted in early April to confirm their availability

- Wally Ball

DS confirmed it was his intention to select a squad of 24 players from the list of nominated players received in early 2020. With the impact of COVID it may be necessary to add some players to the squad to replace those who may not be playing this year,, those players will be determined by the selector.

The squad players will be contacted in early April to confirm their availability

- Inter Group Knockout

In the absence of Alan Simpson, it is assumed that he will select the strongest team available across all clubs.

For various reasons there has been a significant movement of good players within the clubs during the last 12 months, also some good players have moved into Group 6 from other groups, **AS** will need to be advised of these players before his selection.

On a general note, the officers agreed that a green fee of £2.50 will be payable by each player selected for the above games, this fee will also be levied on the away team at home games. The reason for reintroducing this fee is as a direct result that COVID has had on our overall finances.

5. County Competitions update

KW has advised that he anticipates some teething problems as a result of the changes to the way County Competitions are being managed this season, not just with the entry process but also the way the results are recorded. He will liaise closely

with the County Competition Secretary (John Tully) to ensure Group 6 is up to speed.

6. County Two Wood Competition

KW has asked for some assistance in organising 'Markers' for the first round of the County Two Wood competition being held at Essex County B.C. on 12th June

The number of entries will dictate the number of markers required.

The beaten competitors supply the markers for each subsequent round.

7. Group 6 Friendly Fixtures - 2021

In his absence **KG** has advised the following friendly fixtures have been 'provisionally' arranged for the coming season:-

- Thurs 29th July against Essex Vice Presidents at ECBC (Men only)
- Thurs 26th Aug against Southend B.C. at Southend B.C. (Mixed)
- Tuesday 7th Sept against Southend Park Circle at Hockley B.C. (Men only)

We are all keeping our fingers crossed that these games go ahead

8. Group 6 Competition idea's

CF asked the officers their views on what competitions should be organised this season. With expectations that this bowling season could be very similar to last season with not much competitive bowls.

The officers agreed that for the time being we will stick to our normal two competitions, Singles & Triples. We will review the overall competitive bowls scenario in May and if we think it appropriate we can add the Pairs competition at the last minute.

10. Any other Business

- The Treasurer gave a brief summary of our finances that included our balance of £1590 as at the end of 2020. He again reiterated his objective of trying to maintain a surplus of around £1200 to cover any contingencies.
- **CC** expressed concern over the year-on-year cost increase of our website. This had increased five-fold since we started, this in his opinion seems excessive. **CF** agreed to question the cost increase with the supplier, although he was lightly hesitant having only just taken on the responsibility for the website from the previous league secretary, never the less, he will have a conversation and report back. **JB** suggested speaking with the ECBA chairman who has some knowledge on this subject having recently upgraded their website.
- **JB** requested that the Group purchase some extra-large Group 6 shirts for the coming season, as we are in short supply. **CC** agreed for the purchase to take place.
- **DJ** reported that he had received a letter of acknowledgement from ECBC regarding our letter concerning the possible expansion of the Cutler Shield. They have promised to update him before any changes take place.
- **DJ** informed the meeting that his usual practice of selecting Group 6 players for this seasons County friendlies has not taken place this year owing to the uncertainty over whether these games will go ahead. He is confident that should they go ahead, he will be able to identify Group 6 players in good time.

They're being no other business; the chairman closed the meeting at 12:15pm