

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS MONDAY 4TH APRIL AT SOUTHEY & TUESDAY 5TH APRIL AT STOKE PARK

Those present: President Linda Pillman (LP); Secretary Sheron Mitchell (SM); Treasurer Zoe Hollins (ZH); Competition Secretaries Shan Maylin (SM) & Ann Rapley (AR); Match Secretary Dorothy Robert (DR); Assistant Secretary Pam Garden (PG); Benevolent Fund Secretary Caroline Duarte (CD); BS Members SCBA John Tucker (JT); Administrator: Colin Homes (CH) Communications Officer and Milford Delegate Charlotte Emanuel (CE), Members' Officer Veronica Pickering (VP) for SCWBA.

Life Members: Jan Pedersen (JP); & Gill Platt (GP)

Area Secretaries: Pat Chappell (PC), (Area 2) & Carlyne Stevens (CS), (Area 4) Delegates from Clubs: Ashted; Bookham; Camberley; Cheam; Cheam Fields; Chertsey; Cranleigh; Egham; Ember; Epsom Park; Godalming & Farncombe; Godstone; Knaphill; Leatherhead; Malden Lime Grove; Malden Manor; Milford; Mytchett; Newdigate; Old Coulsdon; Oxshott; Purley; Purley Bury; Redhill; Southey; Stoke Park; Supreme; Sutton; Wallington; West Byfleet; West Wimbledon; Wimbledon Park; Windlesham; Woking Park; Wondersh

Those present were asked to reflect & remember those we have lost; Ann Bolton, Maggie O'Sullivan, Ann Roll, Michelle Self, Maureen Froude, Blanche Overend, Brenda Reed & Gladys Dwight.

1. Apologies for Absence

Life Members: Marianne Ward & Jackie Taylor

Area Secretaries: M Ann Brown (Area 1); Linda Aburn (Area 3)

Delegates & Clubs; Jane Fiducia (Bookham), Shirley Heard (Cheam), Miki Aynsley (Purley), Sue Sims-Handcock (Godalming & Farncombe), Pauline Biddlecombe (Cheam Fields),

Elaine Tunsell (Croydon Mo's) &

31 other clubs and/or their delegates

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2021 at Imber Court which had been circulated prior to the meeting, were approved with the following amendment:

"16.4 Bowls' Big Weekend 27th- 29th May inclusive (PC; DR; GP & JP proposed & seconded)"

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Club constitutions are trickling into Colin Holmes but please ensure that your club send theirs as soon as possible. Since the meeting CH will let SM know the clubs who have yet to submit & the relevant delegates will be contacted.

3.2 The November AGM will be virtual. CH reported the attendance whether actual or virtual are similar but this will be reviewed. LP advised that the Presidential Chain will be presented to the incoming President at the Dinner

3.3 Emissions charge ULEZ on agenda as requested by Sylvia Russell (Cheam Fields)

3.4 Croydon Parks covered in Secretaries report but information is also attached

4Secretary's Report

I hope you are all looking forward to the outdoor season as much as I am and that the weather will be as beautiful as it has been during the middle weeks in March.

This year marks our 90th anniversary. Surrey County Women's Bowling Association.

On 29 October 1931, sixty-three women attended a meeting held at the Broomwood Wesleyan Headquarters to discuss the formation of a Bowling Association for the women of Surrey. Tom Haydock who was then the Honorary Secretary of the Surrey County Bowling Association presided at these meetings until a President was elected at the first general meeting in December when Mrs Youdon of Coulsdon was elected as the first President.

The clubs involved were: Broomwood, Byfleet, Coulsdon, Farnham Gostrey, Hersham, Kingston Canbury, Peckham, St. George's, Waddon Residents and West Wimbledon.

SM started the Association's history with some help from Carol McGrail but since then Penny Bruno has taken over the whole task and is doing an amazing job translating all the different types of handwriting. You will appreciate the amount of work involved in this task; we are talking about 90 years of minutes!

As you know the winter months are probably the busiest time of year for the Executive as we prepare to get the season under way.

However, as in all things sometimes things do not run smoothly. John, Howard, Charlotte, Trevor, Marianne Ward and I were due to have a look at the new website but due to COVID this could not happen. We have now arranged a meeting on 8 April. Due to the fact that the match, affiliation and competition systems had to be brought into line with the new website a number of glitches have been found in all three systems. As we discovered the different problems our programmer has been putting them right. We are now hopeful the match system is now right and at the time of writing this report, we are almost there with the competition system.

John Tucker, the SCBA Secretary, is our guru with regard to the systems and is the person who is in constant touch with our programmer. I am sure he will not mind answering any questions you

may have but meantime I would like to give him my personal thanks for all his help and support.

The Yearbook is now with the printers and will be ready later in the month. As soon they are delivered we will organise pick-up points in each area.

Competitions:

Not surprisingly things have not yet got back to normal. The women's entries are down again this year. This has made the draws even more challenging. We have had to do some balancing between areas but we have tried to keep this down to an absolute minimum. We have also taken into consideration fuel costs of travelling from one area to another. Any competitor or team that has been moved will be notified prior to the competitions being published.

Going forward SCWBA may have to consider reducing the number of rounds to be played to five in order for women to achieve their badge if numbers continue to decline.

At this point I would like to thank Trevor Prentice on behalf of SCWBA for all the work he has done for us and the assistance he has given to our competition secretaries. As mentioned above this has not been easy as we discovered various programming problems.

Matches:

I am glad to say that despite COVID still being with us (just like flu), all of our matches have been arranged and are on the system. Therefore, please start putting your names down for the remaining eight matches in readiness for the selection meeting on 28 April. The first four games have been selected and the letters for the last two games will be going out shortly.

Some of you will have experienced some strange things with incorrect letters being sent and some of you not being able to get onto the system etc. Hopefully these things have now been sorted out but if you have any difficulties, please contact me in the first instance and, if necessary, John Tucker. A change from last year is that if you forget your password you can now ask for a reset direct so you no longer have to contact Dorothy, myself or John. One of the problems we have discovered is that some members are using an old browser. We believe the best one to use is Google Chrome.

There is a new bank account which is set aside for matches so please bear in mind that you need to amend your bank records. If you have any queries please ask Zoe and/or Dorothy.

Bowls England news:

(a) **BBW.** As you will have seen from the Newsletter some club have already registered for the Bowls' Big Weekend. The County has had regular reports from Bowls England and you will see from the BE Report that as at Sunday 3 April 55 clubs are registered in the first tranche. I should add that I had reason to speak to Shirley Tilley of Bourne BC about something totally unconnected and she was sure she had already signed up. However, it seems that she completed the 'pre-registration' but not the actual 'sign up'. We are aware of a number of other clubs who have registered an interest but have not actually signed-up. If you are one of those clubs or are still interested please ensure you go through the following link. <https://www.bowlsbigweekend.com/sign-up/>.

(b) Bowls England Bowl have announced that the Regional Finals of the Walker Cup will be held at Cranleigh Bowls Club on 17 July 2022;

They have also announced that the Regional Finals of the Men and Women' Senior Singles will be held on Friday 5 August, the Men and Women's Senior Pairs and the Men and Women's Champion of Champions will all be held at Southey BC on Friday 5 August to Sunday 7 August respectively.

(c) For those of you who may be interested BE has offered to host a home nations event at Leamington in 2022. Events will be for both men and women to be played at the same time and the same venue, Format to be that of global international competitions (assume this will be the same as the Commonwealth Games). Teams consist of 5 people concurrently 1 plays the singles and the rest play the fours and concurrently 2 play pairs and three plays the triples

(d) British Isles Championships will be held at Llandrindod Wells in Wales at the end of June. Unifying event involving male and female champions from each nation.

BE will hold a play-off between the 2019 and 2021 champions to decide who will represent England at the end of June. No fuller details.

(e) The European Championships will be held at Ayr between the 9th and 14th July. The England squad will be different from the Commonwealth Games Squad.

(f) A combined junior international series will take place in Belfast over the weekend of 17/18 September. Participants must be aged 27 or under on the 1 April 2022. Each nation will select a team of 12 men and 12 women to participate in a six rink international series.

(g) For 2023 it is proposed to launch a new home nations event. Details to be finalised by a cross nation working party.

(h) Administrators/County Secretaries have been asked to provide their calendar of events ie quarter final, semi-final and final dates so that national selectors can attend if they are able to do so.

Bowls England are committed to trying to bring bowls to the fore of sporting activities and have various ideas about how to get more people playing bowls. They have certainly been doing a great deal of research nationally and internationally and want to use the opportunity the Commonwealth Games brings through TV and social media to encourage more people to get involved and play bowls.

Croydon Parks

The background is that 7 clubs in Croydon have poor greens because the council is bankrupt and has reduced green maintenance down to the bare minimum. Nobody at the Council were communicating with the clubs and the only information they were getting was from the parks' employees cutting the grass who were telling the clubs that anything from 3 to all clubs could be closed.

The clubs have combined and put together a proposal to seek a 2-year period of grace during which time the council would aim to get the greens up to a good playable standard and the clubs would endeavour to increase membership. The clubs accepted however, that if, at the end of the two years, membership hadn't increased sufficiently individual clubs would consider closure and amalgamation with another club.

There will be a further meeting between representatives from the Park Clubs and the local authority in two week. However, council elections take place in May – watch

Meantime the two Associations and Bowls Surrey will give them as much support as possible and Bowls England are also being kept in the loop so they can become involved as and when necessary. A fuller report will be circulated with the minutes of this meeting and other documentation.

Health & Safety: As we get nearer to the beginning of the Season, it is good to see and hear of clubs getting outside and preparing for when their club opens. However, please be mindful to ensure you assess any

risks very carefully and take the appropriate precautions to safeguard yourselves and your members.

At this point I am delighted to report that Di Double of Sutton has agreed to take on the role of Safeguarding Officer for Bowls Surrey and I am sure we would all like to thank her for taking this on.

Finally, the Executive would like to wish all members and clubs a good, successful and fun bowling season.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact any member of your Executive or email me. PLEASE NOTE MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS SCWBAsecretary@gmail.com sheronwmitchell@yahoo is open for historical reasons only.

Sheron Mitchell, County Secretary

5. Treasure's Report

The numbers of our ladies entering the county competitions are down this year, which is disappointing. We are aware the number of ladies affiliating is also down but we need as many entries as possible to ensure the costs of running these competitions are as near to break even as possible.

These costs, as you might be aware, are going to put a strain on our finances this year more than ever before so every little helps.

If there are any reasons you are aware of other than less ladies affiliating I would appreciate if you could discuss with us, your committee, to see if there is anything we can do to promote these and hopefully get more ladies entering.

Petrol and diesel is now at an all time high and we, your county, will do as much as possible to ensure your travel costs for near away matches are reasonably covered. I am having a finance meeting and a Bowls Surrey meeting next week when this will be discussed and agreed. We will report back directly via your secretary, Sheron.

The match fees are going into the correct account now, Lloyds Bank plc, account number 0199043, sort code 30-99-09, however we are all not putting the correct references on the payment. You do not need to put your name, but perhaps your initials if you feel more comfortable with this but then enter the date or venues you are paying for. There is limited amount of space and your name comes up automatically so the most important information is the date/venue as mentioned previously. This will ensure your match secretary, Dorothy, allocates to the correct match accurately.

The county dinner this year will be at Tyrells Wood again on the 21st of October 2022, a date for your Diaries.

Zoe Hollins SCWBA Treasurer

Question from Jean Bailey (Chertsey) Are we in receipt of any Sport Funding.

Answer: As we are an association not a club we cannot apply for such funding.

6.Bowls England Report

County Associations first learned that there would be no prize winners' dinner at the National Finals at Leamington. There was also no formal presentation of BE badges and people received their badges in envelopes. (I had thought that this was a sensible precaution in view of COVID. However, this was not the case). A new Awards Dinner was to replace of the Winners' Dinners.

Hampshire proposed three motions to be voted to the BE AGM:

1, Re-instatement of presentation of badges – Agreed at the BE Counties meeting in November. Hampshire still requested a formal vote at the AGM where it was carried.

2. Re-instatement of prize-winners' dinners. Hampshire were content with the suggestion that the dinner should be a joint one. This was agreed at the AGM in February.

3. Reinstatement of Round Robin format no later than 2023 for Johns Trophy and Middleton Cup. At the AGM, on a close vote, it was agreed that the round robin format would be reinstated for 2023 by a majority

At the Counties' meeting at Loughborough University in November it became clear that there were some strong views within the counties about lack of consultation about the above changes. This issue was raised again at the AGM. Bowls England have now instituted monthly "Drop-In" sessions for County Administrators and/or Secretaries as appropriate. This is proving to be very useful. The Awards Dinner was held in February. Over 300 people attended; it was a great success. Bowls England is now trying to engage with all clubs and I would strongly recommend that clubs support this Awards evening particularly if you have a worthwhile story to tell and/or your club has a story to tell. Both Addlestone Victory Park and West Wimbledon were both nominated for the "Story of the Year" award which was won by 87-year-old Barrie de Suys of Addlestone Victory Park. The Milford triple was also nominated for the "Team of the Year" award. Congratulations to all the nominees and particularly to Barrie for his well-deserved award. Surrey was well represented at the evening and from what I saw everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Recruitment is very high on Bowls England's agenda, as it is with all clubs and counties. BE have a number of initiatives in the pipeline. BE intends to use the Commonwealth Games as a means

of publicising the sport in order to encourage people to take up the sport. They have been encouraging clubs to sign up for their Bowls Big Weekend at the end of May and I can advise that as at 3 April 55 clubs have signed up.. They have also been asking Clubs to appoint an Activator so that they can contact clubs direct with any information that clubs may find relevant.

As mentioned above, following the complaints about lack of consultation, BE have now started a monthly drop-in for counties. Working parties have been established to look at Bowls England's governance and also disciplinary procedures.

The drop-ins are chaired by Jon Cockcroft the CEO and most members of BE staff are present. They have been looking at initiatives in Australia to encourage people with less time to bowl for, say, just an hour. I was asked if I knew anything about a Patrons Cup competition for women. After some investigation Bowls England advised us that it was a game played by Patrons run very much on the lines of an aggregate. For those of you who have been bowling for some years, you may well have heard of it and even participated in it but having spoken to a number of the players who have been bowling for a long time nobody seemed to know anything about it. I have copies of the rules available and will send these rules out to the clubs who cannot attend. Whilst I do not want to discourage any form of competition, I feel that this could be a step too far. To organise such a competition would be extremely difficult and, because we are a large county, our diary is already very full. Your Executive would not recommend participation and quite frankly we do not have the capacity to run yet another event. Another subject which came up was the question of equality. Bowls England is helping a county which is being faced with such an equality issue. All clubs and counties should be aware that their governance should ensure there is no difference in treatment on the basis of gender or any other protected characteristic.

Sheron Mitchell SCWBA Secretary

Patron's Cup: Charlotte Emanuel endorsed the Counties' view not to participate in this event as it would be too difficult to manage.

7. Website, Match & Competition System

JT asked that we encourage everyone to use the online system as much as possible as literally everything you need to know is all on there. Yes problems have & will arise but he is available to offer his help/guidance.

It is not only those competing , anyone can access the site & will be able to see all the competition draws across all the areas.

The BS website will eventually replace the two current websites (Men & Ladies) & the need for the time consuming handbooks.

If any club wishes to advertise on it they can do & cannot stress enough the availability this website will have to anyone. It is hoped that by the end of the year this unrestricted access will be operational.

8.Benevolent Secretary Report

President Linda, executive and delegates

The balance at the 28th of January 2022 is £8,844.29

Once again I must thank all of you for contacting me when you have known about a bereavement or someone who is unwell or just someone who you felt would benefit from a card / telephone call. I really am gladdened by all your generosity of time and how caring you all are towards your bowling friends and colleagues.

Since the beginning of the year several cards, flowers and gifts have been sent to the following clubs; Sutton Common, Warlingham Park, Mytchett, Ashburton Park, Cranleigh, Milford, Horley and Southey.

Please continue to contact me if members are ill, injured or had an operation. All details of the Benevolent Fund are listed on the county website.

As I come to the end of this report I cannot miss an opportunity to thank those clubs and individuals that have already made donations to the fund and maybe a few more clubs will remember to send a donation- you don't realise just what a difference it makes to the person or persons receiving a gift or a card from you all.

It has been a pleasure and an honour to hold this position and I will continue until a replacement is found. Sadly Liz Anderson who was to takeover from me is not now able to do so due to personal reasons.

Caroline Duarte Benevolent Secretary.

CS said she had received three such gifts over a period of time and it really does make a difference.

9.Safeguarding there is no safeguarding officers report but you will have seen that we are delighted to confirm Di Double as the new county Safeguarding Officer.

10.VACANCIES both SCWBA and Bowls Surrey

BS is currently seeking a Development Officer, a male Members' Officer & a Chandler (County Uniform). The current SCBA Senior Vice President will be handing all uniform over to John Tucker (much to Geraldine's surprise). Sheron went on to say she also holds a substandard but perfectly wearable stock of shirts & is expecting delivery of a replacement order around Easter.

At the AGM the SCWBA Presidential team was reduced from 4 to 2 (removing IPP & JVP) hoping to attract more volunteers but sadly this has not been the case.

The position of Vice President (VP) is vacant.

LP announced that SM is very happy to become President in 2023 but Sheron was quick to add **this should not deter anyone else applying as all nominees need to be ratified at the forthcoming AGM.** Sheron would not wish to see the county without a President **but urges anyone interested to apply,** Past Presidents all endorsed their enjoyment in this role. Full job description is available on the website.

The position of Benevolent Secretary is also sought & whilst sometimes hard, CD has found it very rewarding.

11.Dinner

As confirmed earlier this will be on 21st October at Tyrells Wood.

12.200 Club

Draw made

1st prize £100 - Ann Rapley

2nd prize £50 – Pauline Biddlecombe

3rd prize £25 – Sylvia Russell

Zoe urged everyone to promote this within their club as this helps & supports the County with the juniors benefiting from this last year.

Forms were made available & can also be downloaded from the website.

13.ULEZ area & going forward

Both Sylvia Russell & SM went onto explain that currently Temple, Putney Town, Southwark Park & Southwark Sports are situated in this zone so everyone would need to do a vehicle check to see whether their car meets with the minimum emission standards or the daily charge of £12.50 must be paid.

The current Mayor (Sadiq Khan) has certainly muted that this area could be extended to include all London Boroughs and reaching as far as the M25. There

was talk of a £3.50 charge being paid for vehicles coming into the Greater London Area.

Since the meeting SM has been able to confirm the following;

“ The £3.50 charge for people driving into the Greater London area was confirmed “ dead in the water “ on the 4th of March 2022. TFL advised the mayor it was not cost effective. The Mayor of London is now looking at other methods to slow down the amount of traffic coming into the capital, so we all need to be vigilant and watch out for anything that he may come up with which will certainly have an adverse effect on our sport! “

14.Date of next Council Meeting

Tuesday 25th October venue **tbc**

15.AGM REMINDER – SATURDAY 26th NOVEMBER BY ZOOM –
County Secretaries have been notified

16.ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MONDAY

(a) Shan Maylin – This is the first time that entrants into the Officers Cup can play for their County Badge & although too late to enter this year. Delegates are asked to urge more of their officers to enter.

The mixed pairs & mixed fours also fall under this category & it was pleasing to see an increase in entries.

Across all the other competitions the numbers are dropping& we are urged to encourage more to enter otherwise we will see more & more clubs being moved from one area to another.

(b) John Tucker – Personally wanted to thank SM for all her hard work, they talk at least once a day , sometimes more, working out issues/problems & stated that it was a privilege to work alongsideher. This was acknowledged by attendees.

(c) Charlotte Emanuel – The Newsletter & the County Facebook page are there to promote whatever your club is doing & if anyone needs any help please do not hesitate to contact her.

Recently Croydon club promoted their 12 hour bowling marathon for the Ukraine appeal & raised in excess of £3,000.Congratulations were given.

TUESDAY

(a) Linda Pillman – Wished to thank Sylvia Collingwood for the memorabilia given to her & to Stoke Park for hosting the meeting & providing Tea & Biscuits.

(b) Sylvia Russell – We are asked to use Google Chrome, considered to be the best search engine for using the new county website but sadly older computer/laptops are not compatible.

(c) Gill Platt – Will the proposed coloured trousers be for county friendlies?

SM replied that these will not be worn this year as a suitable supplier / material & colour match for the navy in our shirt has yet to be sourced. This change also needs to be fully approved by BS (d) Carolyn Stevens asked could we not seek the dye code from the shirt & Jan Pedersen offered to pass to SM information from her club Mytchett's supplier in Weston Super Mare to see if they can help.

Just prior to close of meeting Gill Platt was congratulated on her nomination to be the torch bearer in the forthcoming Commonwealth Games. Attendees showed their congratulations & wished her good luck.

Monday meeting closed 8pm

Tuesday meeting closed 12.15pm