

SURREY COUNTY WOMEN'S BOWLING ASSOCIATION
 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 8th APRIL 2014
 AT THE MANSEL ROAD CENTRE, TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH, MANSEL ROAD
 WIMBLEDON SW19 4AA

Those Present: President Mrs M. Glazebrook, SVP Mrs Z. Hollins, JVP Mrs S. Tracey, IPP Mrs M. Vandrau, Secretary Miss R. Pothecary, Treasurer Mrs J. Taylor, Asst Sec Mrs J. Pedersen, Comp Secs Mrs J. Hewett and Mrs A. Rapley, Year book and Webmaster Miss M. Ward, B.E. delegate Mrs P. Biddlecombe, Life Member Mrs G. Platt, Past Presidents Mrs A. Bolton, Mrs G. Bonnell, Mrs R. Pickering, Mrs M. Stone and 62 delegates.

President Maxine welcomed everyone to the meeting, we are in the Old Hall following the very unfortunate fall by Gill Bonnell who is here today but she says she is still struggling but is getting there. We are aware there is a bit of a squash and some of you say you cannot see the top table, but please bear with us.

My charity is the Anthony Nolan fund and there are some key rings and a box circulating

Sadly, we have received reports of ladies who have died, Mrs Marjorie Bennett MBE (Priory Park). You may remember, Marjorie was the skip of the winning Surrey triples in 2006 and played at Leamington when she was 87. Mrs Margaret Edwards (Ashted) and Mrs Rose Hollis (Chessington) both these ladies were County players. Mrs Babs Harman (West Park) who was their delegate.

1. Apologies for absence: Pam Garden (Match Secretary) Kate Allan (Safeguarding Officer) Jean Watson (Zone 3 secretary) Louisa Smith (Life member) Jennifer Cryer (Life Member) Sheron Mitchell (Sec elect) and 11 delegates
2. MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting on the 8th October 2013 having already been circulated were approved and signed by the President.
3. MATTERS ARISING:
 - a) JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT. As most of you will know, we did not have a nomination for Junior Vice President at the AGM. However, we are delighted to welcome Sandra Tracey (Sutton) who has agreed to stand and has been nominated by Sutton and seconded by Banstead Neville. Congratulations Sandra and we wish you well for the next four years.
 - b) PRESIDENT'S TOUR 2014. To Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset from Monday 8th to Sunday 14th September. The new Birchfield Hotel at 8 & 9 Manilla Crescent, Marine Lake, Weston-Super-Mare has been booked. This hotel is just outside the city centre but from the front you can see the sea. Dinner, bed and breakfast will be £43.00 per person per night when sharing making a total for the stay of £258.00. Single supplement is £15. Coach for the return journey, trips out, green fees, tips for the hotel and coach driver will total £130.00 based on 40 tourists. Obviously, the cost can be kept down by sharing a room. A deposit of £100.00 needs to be sent with your booking form to Jackie. There is a flyer and an application form in every club envelope.
 - c) DOREEN PRIOR. As you know, Doreen retired at the AGM in November and clubs donated money towards a gift. Doreen has written to thank Council for granting her Life Membership and says 'I never thought I would be awarded this honour, it was most unexpected. I shall treasure it and wear it with pride when I attend any meetings and events. Doreen also says 'I am not sure how I can thank Zones 1 & 2 clubs for their generous gift. I have decided to buy myself an iPad with all the cheques put together. I can thank Surrey each time I use it. Best wishes to all.'

d) **NEW SPONSORED SHIRTS.** We told you at our last meeting about the new shirts for men and women and indoors and outdoors sponsored by the co-operative funeral-care. These have been distributed to the indoor players and Treasurer Jackie Taylor has visited the indoor clubs to distribute to outdoor players. Any queries on these shirts should be addressed to Jackie. All players in our County friendly games and Officers will be wearing them. This exercise has been a nightmare for Jackie and she is still trying to fit everyone out. There are jackets available to try for size and an order made. After 31st May the offer of exchange for a new shirt with a yellow blouse finishes. The yellow check shirts are obsolete now. Zone games will be played in whites or club shirts and bowlers playing for their badge will wear the new County shirt not their club shirt as in the past. The top layer of every players clothing must have the Co-operative Funeral Care Logo on it. The agreement is if wet weather gear is required then our normal white wet suits may be worn. Clarification of the yellow wet tops will be sought.

There were no further matters arising from the floor.

4 **FINANCE AND OFFICERS ALLOWANCES - Jackie Taylor**

Jackie explained the financial sheet for 2015, affiliation fees for Surrey may be subject to change as we are to be on the same scale as the men and they have not agreed theirs as yet. Champion of Champions to increase by 50p.

Match fees will remain the same but more car travel will be introduced. When a driver carries playing passenger, the Treasurer will pay the driver £5.00 per player

Gifts for Officers to be increased by 1% of the Secretary's Allowance, rounded down.

Markers/Umpires to remain at 35p, plus lunch if they are there all day. Council informed the Umpires Association will be paying 40p – Jackie will discuss with them.

Presentation of accounts approved by Mrs G. Platt, seconded by P. Chappell – approved by Council.

5. **COMPETITIONS - REPORTS:**

a) Competition Secretary - Ann Rapley wished everyone a happy summer, good bowling. When ringing in results of pairs triples and fours please state the team members who have played as these are no longer required on the entry forms for the competitions.

b) Champion of Champions Organiser –Maureen Stone wished everyone a good season, good health and good bowling

c) Benevolent Triples Secretary – Shirley Clarke said all envelopes distributed and she hopes everyone enjoys their games.

Reminder that with the Benevolent Triples, only 15 ends are to be played and the signed cards must be posted to Shirley after phoning in the result to her.

6. **SURREY ANNUAL DINNER and PRIZE GIVING:**

This is on Friday 24th October 2014 – 6.15p.m for 7.0 p.m. The venue will again be Silvermere 'Inn on the Lake', Redhill Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 1EF. This was a great success last year as we managed to accommodate everyone in the one big room instead of having two separate rooms. This year, the numbers will be kept to around 155 so we can be in one room again. Order forms for tickets will be sent to Club Secretaries with the other affiliation forms in September. Tickets and raffle tickets also on sale at the 6th October meeting. Cost of the tickets will be advised to you when the caterers new season menus and prices are set.

Please try to come, both to enjoy a good night out with friends and also to cheer on those players who have won trophies. Not forgetting the chance to win some excellent raffle prizes.

7. **YEAR BOOK SECRETARY'S REPORT - Marianne Ward**

Any Year books not collected were distributed to delegates to take to clubs not represented today. The inside covers of the Year Book are not printed correctly but the advertisements will be placed prominently on the web site

8. BENEVOLENT SECRETARY'S REPORT

As Sandra has now taken on the roll of JVP, Jill Huggett (Reigate Priory) is now our Benevolent Secretary. Jill addressed the meeting inviting all clubs to ask for donations for their sick and ailing members. Her phone number can be found in the Year Book

9. CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER'S REPORT CPO has now been re-named as SAFEGUARDING OFFICER – All club CPO's will now known as Safeguarding Officers. Kate Allen is unable to be here today but said she has nothing to report except to say she had an interesting evening on safeguarding in sport in October.

10. BOWLS ENGLAND REPORT – Pauline Biddlecombe

- The new Bowls England website is now up and running and competition draws can be found there
- At the AGM in February the new Independent Director was appointed – nice young man called Adam Tanner.
- The Investiture of the 2014 Team has taken place – President Adie Lloyd (Wiltshire), SVP Marcia Pearce (Hertfordshire), JVP Michael Jennings (Cornwall), IPP Rosemary Ellman-Brown (Sussex)
- Financially Bowls England is sound with a net worth £2.27million. However, there is a deficit for 2013 and a figure has been accrued under the salaries expenditure due to an unresolved issue regarding car allowances – this form part of an ongoing discussion with the tax authorities. Affiliation fees were £19.000 down and therefore below the 2.5% forecast by Bowls England: the former Worthing Headquarters has now been valued at £600.000 which was a decrease on previous valuation but in line with other building valuations.
- Teams in the National Mixed Pairs and National Mixed Fours from 2015 must all be from within the same County.
- Bowls England lawyers are now Blythe Liggins and there is a legal helpline available through the BE Office.
- Accountants and Auditors continue as Spofforth
- Following an in depth discussion re format for group stages of John's and Middleton Cup matches the overwhelming view was in favour of maintaining the status quo.
- The Bowls England Annual conference was held on 2nd April and the title was “Our clubs, Counties and The Law” there were specialist speakers present and the topics covered can be found on the bowls England website, but most importantly may I remind you all that with regard to disciplinary hearings it is now a condition of membership of Bowls England that Regulation 9 be used by all Clubs and Counties in dealing with any disciplinary matter and the appropriate reference to such should be included within the Constitution(or other governing document) of the Club /County.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

MONDAY (not Tuesday as shown) 6th October 2014 a little later as there are no Year Books to collect - 1.00 p.m. at The Mansel Centre in the main hall.

Remember there is **NO** December meeting.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) NEW CLUB. Westfield B.C. in Woking has affiliated this season. Although they only have four ladies at the moment, they are hopeful this will improve now they are affiliated and can offer their ladies both ladies and mixed National competitions.
- b) WEST PARK B.C. Sadly, West Park B.C. has closed. The decision to close was because of dwindling membership, difficulty in maintaining the green and rent demands from their NHS partnership, the owners. The majority of their members have joined Epsom Court B.C. Those ladies who entered county competitions will still play them in the name of West Park as under

our by-laws they are permitted for one season only to compete under the name of West Park irrespective of which club they have since joined.

- c) **JOHNS TROPHY/WALKER CUP SQUAD:** The Johns Trophy squad list is on the table. Last season we did very well reaching the Semi-Finals at Leamington. Although we were beaten by the eventual winners, Devon, we are sure we can go further this coming season and win. The matches are shown in the year book calendar in the centre pages but are:
 Saturday 31st May away v Berkshire – 1.30pm start at Maidenhead Town B.
 Saturday 21st June away v Buckinghamshire – 1.30pm start at Iver Heath B.
 Saturday 5th July home v Sussex at 1.30pm at Sutton B.C.
 We are having two Trial County games on Thursday 8th May Hampshire at Cove B.C. at 1.30pm and on Tuesday 20th May v Kent at Sutton at 1.30pm. Neither Hampshire or Kent are in our part of the draw.
 These matches are played on alternate years, home and away and last year we played two at home and one away and the opposite this year.
 Please try to come along to support. Travel to the away games is by car.
 We are also holding two squad practices on Sunday 11th May and Saturday 24th May for 9.30am start both at Sutton B.C.
 The Walker Cup team will be selected after the trials. This competition is still on a ‘knock out’ basis and played on Sundays. We are drawn in the first round away to the winners of Bucks v Middlesex on Sunday 2nd June.
 The draws for the 2015 Johns Trophy would normally be in the new B.E. year book. However, Leicestershire have presented a paper outlining potential options for the revision of the areas used for the group stages of the Johns Trophy and Middleton Cup. They say the sole purpose of the proposal is to reduce travelling time and cost. However, we have examined these suggestions and our delegate to the B.E. AGM on 22nd February, Pauline Biddlecombe, was asked to vote against any change, and as we have already heard the status quo has been maintained.
- d) **ENGLAND INTERNATIONAL TEAMS**
 Pat Bourne (Purley Bury) has been selected to play for the 2014 Senior International team in the Internationals being held in Jersey from 15th to 17th June. Kylie Hampton (Knaphill) has been selected as travelling reserve. This team was selected in September 2013. In the past the selection has been in May.
 We have nominated Rachel Winter (Egham) and Kelly McCarthy (Egham) for junior international trials. Both players have been selected for trial which will take place at Leamington Spa on 26th May. This is a Bank Holiday and we hope some of you will fancy a nice day out to support our players. The trials this year take on a different format, instead of the teams of fours playing each other, the players are playing in singles, pairs, triples and fours. Kelly is in a triple and Rachel a four. This should make for a more interesting trial.
 Bowls England have also instigated a Women’s Junior Development Squad. This is for players under 25 who the County do not consider ready for immediate consideration for inclusion in the Junior International team but who are considered to have the potential to reach the required standard. We have nominated three young players, Katie Cumper (Woodbridge Hill), Ellysia Manuel (Dorking) and Olivia Skilton (Mayford Hall). The closing date for nomination was 1st March. This is a wonderful opportunity so we hope they will be selected.
- e) **BRITISH ISLES CHAMPIONSHIPS.** Our winning 2013 National fours team of Sheila Seddon, Zoe Hollins, Gill Platt and Carlyne Stevens (Milford) will be playing in these championships in Jersey on 13th and 14th June. It will be well worth a little trip to Jersey to watch our players and at the same time enjoy Jersey.
- f) **SPONSORED SHIRTS – COUNTY GAMES.** Prior to the sponsorship, players who had qualified for their County Badge and were playing in their first game were asked to wear their club shirts. This was because the presentation of their badge was not made until after the game.

The contract with the Co-operative Funeral Care says players must wear the sponsored shirts, so all players will be wearing the shirt, irrespective of whether they have received their badge.

g) **REPORT FROM BOWLS ENGLAND CONFERENCE**

This was held on 2nd April 2014, last Wednesday, at Leamington Spa Town Hall and attended by President Maxine, Treasurer Jackie, Secretary Bobbie and our delegate to Bowls England Pauline Biddlecombe. The B.E. Conference is arranged so that anyone can attend to listen to what goes on, ask questions and above all to help the clubs and Counties. Due to the increasing number of enquiries received by B.E. from clubs and counties on various legal aspects, this was entitled 'Our clubs, Counties and the Law.' The morning was taken with talks from the B.E. solicitors, Blythe Liggins on Discipline and Liability and Data Protection and club structures. The slides on these talks can be found on the B.E. website.

h) **2015 PROPOSED TOUR TO DUBLIN – SVP Zoe Hollins**

Zoe explained that she would like to go to Dublin but appreciates it would be more expensive with flights and also the euro, from about £650.00 for a shared room and up to £700.00 for a single. Jackie, Ann (Bolton), Jan and Zoe spent a few days at the end of last season in Dublin, have found a good hotel a little way from the city but with frequent bus links into the city. There is some beautiful countryside and there will be the usual days out and $\frac{3}{4}$ matches per player. Zoe stressed you don't have to be a County player to go on tour – we always play in whites. A list is available to put your name on if you are interested, obviously if the numbers are too low we would have to have a rethink.

i) **OFFICERS CUP ORGANISER.** Jennifer Asten (Sutton) who has organised the Officers Cup since 2005 will be giving this task up at the end of the season as she will be captain of her club. We need a replacement – Jacquie Poat (Woking Park) volunteered from the floor.

j) **ZONES.** The number of clubs in our zones has become very unbalanced for example in 2013 there were 10 in Zone 1a; 14 in Zone 1b making a total of 24 in Zone 1; 28 in Zone 2; 29 in Zone 3 and 40 in Zone 4. The total number of competitors in Zone 1 was 176; Zone 2 - 245; Zone 3 - 280 and Zone 4 - 276. This meant that there was marked inconsistency in the number of competition rounds played in Zone 1 compared with the other zones. As you will remember, in 2012, we attempted to eliminate some of this inconsistency when it came to the awarding of points for qualification for the Surrey badge.

Your Executive felt we must look again at the subject of re-zoning. We looked back on the history on this. In 1994/95 the then Executive changed/moved a number of clubs into different zones. In 2004 the Executive were again drawn to the low number of championship entries for zones 1a and 1b. This time, it was decided there would be no changes. This year, we felt the time had finally come when we must address this problem and set up a small sub-committee of our Assistant Secretary, Jan Pedersen, Competition Secretary, Ann Rapley and Match Secretary, Pam Garden. Their remit was the possibility of amalgamating Zone 1; comparing our zones with the men's zones; distances travelled and estimated time taken by competitors for their matches; possible effect on county competition entries and the number of games each zone would play to reach the quarter finals. A map with clubs shown was plotted and shown to the delegates. All the thinking behind many permutations were shared with the delegates. The final conclusion by the sub-committee is: a) Move East Horsley from zone 4 to zone 3; move Grangewood from zone 2 to zone 1; move Cuddington and Auriol from zone 3 to zone 1 and finally amalgamate Zone 1

The Executive committee has agreed these changes will take effect in 2015.

Comments from the floor;

- You could lose many competitors from zone 1 with the amalgamation due to travelling times – maybe not a lot of thought went into that
- Zone 1 are amalgamated for the Champion of Champions and Officers Cup and to date have experienced no issues
- This is a good place to start if we need to look at rezoning again
- Give the opportunity for feedback once a season has passed

NB since the April meeting the Executive have decided not to continue with the rezoning but to create a subcommittee under the chairmanship of Pam Garden (Match Secretary) to include Competition and Zone Secretaries who will reevaluate the possible options.

IF YOUR CLUB HAS ANY SUGGESTIONS – PLEASE SEND VIA YOUR DELEGATE TO BOBBIE POTHECARY BY END OF AUGUST 2014

DRAW FOR THE APRIL 200 CLUB

First – 55 – Jean Taylor (Caterham)

Second – 101-Veronica Owens (Southey)

Third – 63 –Jean Taylor (Caterham)

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

- Charlotte Emanuel (Egham) – Bowls England new rule – No Smoking on the green , not even electronic cigarettes. This will be found in the B.E. books being circulated to Club Secretaries.
- Shirley Clarke (Weybridge) asked why the rule about playing Nationals with partners out of your County was changed – referred back to Bowls England and their Competition Committee.

President Maxine thanked Jean Hewett and Tricia Squibb for doing the teas today and asked for 2 ladies for October – Mary Cathcart (Cheam Ladies) and Norma Powell (Malden)

Meeting closed at: 13.50