

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2014

Madam President, fellow bowlers

My last annual report is shown below, this details the major activities of our Association during 2014. Please take a few minutes to read it as this is your County and we need your input to help us to run it on your behalf.

COMPETITIONS

Our competition entries for the National Championships all ran smoothly. Thanks to Jean Hewett and Ann Rapley, our Competition Secretaries. This was Jean's first year and all went well. Thanks to Doreen Prior our Life Member and previous competition secretary for her help in taking results when Jean was on a pre-arranged holiday.

Many thanks to the clubs who allowed us the use of their greens and facilities to hold the final rounds of our competitions, Malden Manor, Old Coulsdon, Caterham, Egham and Horsell B.C.'s. Also thanks to Southey, Croydon, Sutton and Guildford B.C.'s for hosting the early rounds of the two wood singles and Ember for hosting the final.

Ten ladies qualified for their County badges –

Jennifer Asten (Sutton), Jackie Cornwell (Imber Court), Rosemary Edwards (Godstone), Elizabeth Fry (Purley Ladies), Hazel Gater (Ember), Gillian Long (Croydon), Kelly McCarthy (Egham), Vivien Mutucumarana (Gonville), Lyn Nelhams (Mid-Surrey) and Carolyn Probert (Caterham).

Our other County competitions - Our Officers Cup, Surrey Champion of Champions and Benevolent Two Wood Triples were run by Jennifer Asten, Maureen Stone and Shirley Clarke respectively. These ran with not too many problems with the exception of the Benevolent Triples where last minute 'drop-outs' meant some teams having to wait several hours before they played. Many thanks to Jennifer, Maureen and Shirley for your time and help. This is Jennifer's last season as Officer's Cup organiser and we thank her very much for all her hard work. We will welcome Jacqui Poat (Woking Park) next season. Thanks also to North Sheen, Chipstead, Oxshott and Woking Park B.C.'s who hosted the rounds of the Benevolent Triples and to Cuddington for hosting the final.

Our umpires and markers have again been busy and we thank them for helping us run our championships and competitions. Any newly qualified markers who would like to help out in 2015 please let Ann Rapley our competition secretary have your details.

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA - The Venue for the National Championships and Competitions for both men and women this season and the first time here for the men. It was also the first time some of the events for men and women were held at the same time. The Johns Trophy and the Middleton Cup being both held on the first day of the championships which was a success.

JOHNS TROPHY AND WALKER CUP

Surrey won the Johns Trophy, The Women's National Inter-County Championship, on the opening day of the Bowls England National Championships. In the morning after a very slow start, the team gradually overhauled Northamptonshire and won 119 shots to 115. In the afternoon they faced last year's winners Devon who had beaten our team in the semi-final last year. The team were magnificent this year beating Devon by 129 shots to 110, a suitable revenge.

Having won the Johns, our Walker Cup (double rink) team were looking to emulate the success of 1998 by winning both competitions. This was held on the last day of the women's section of the championships. In the semi-final they played Bedfordshire. Again a very slow start being 12 shots down after 5 ends and still 7 shots down after 10 ends. This is where all changed and after 15 ends we were 6 shots up and then Surrey won by 3 shots. Half the job down, now for Nottinghamshire. After 5 ends the scores were 9-9, after 10 ends 18-18, after 15 ends 27-26. The spectators were cheering every shot Surrey produced. Finally with nails bitten down, our team won by two shots and the 'double' had been achieved.

Thanks are due to our psychological adviser, David Bourne. David has been talking to the team before each game and advising some on an individual basis. I am certain this has been the main reason for the change in our fortunes. They now have the will to win.

Unfortunately, I was unable to watch either of these games as I was actually in hospital when the Johns was played but received very welcome bulletins. Thanks Maxine, Jackie and Sheron.

Our Amy-Rose (under 31's) double rink reached the final before being beaten by Sussex. Last year they were beaten in the final by Devon but this year beat them in the quarter final. Let's hope next year will be third time lucky. Thanks to Jan Pedersen the Manager and our Assistant Secretary for all her efforts.

INTERNATIONALS

Pat Bourne (Purley Bury) played again for England in the Senior International team this season. England winning the series. Pat was three to Kent's Wendy King and they won all their games. Kylie Hampton (Knaphill) was also selected and played in one game. Pat has again been selected to play for the 2015 team and Debbie Sarratt (Egham) has been selected as non travelling reserve.

THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL TOP CLUB run by Bowls England attracted 33 entries from Surrey clubs this year. The Surrey winners were Egham who won two inter-county rounds to reach the semi-finals at Leamington. At Leamington they continued their winning way and beat Kings B.C. (Devon) in the quarter final; Broadway, Worcestershire in the semi-

final and to top it all Saffron Ladies, Sussex in the final to become the first Surrey club to win the top club since its inception in 1996.

COUNTY AND EXECUTIVE MATCHES.

This year, we played fourteen friendly matches against other Counties, winning 8 and losing 6. One better than last year. The total shots were 1627 for and 1474 against. The Selection Committee headed by Pam Garden our Match Secretary work hard to try to ensure all who apply for these games are accommodated. Pam, with the help of Treasurer Jackie Taylor, has a very difficult task when it comes to finding replacements for players dropping out at the last minute.

The Inter-Zone matches again proved very competitive and the winners were Zone 4. The results were Zone 1 - 7 points, Zone 2 - 13 points, Zone 3 - 17 points and Zone 4 - 29 points. The Zone Secretaries, Pat Chappell (Zone 1), Diane Tarran (Zone 2), Jean Watson (Zone 3) and Marion Beach (Zone 4) really have their work cut out to get players. Zone 1 finding it particularly difficult. The criteria for the player in these games will be investigated to see if any improvements can be made in this direction.

The other matches played were our annual fixture against Surrey men, which we lost this season. We also played Cheam Fields B.C., in their centenary year, Croydon Ladies to help celebrate their 40th anniversary, Cheam Ladies B.C., their 50th anniversary year, Woking Park B.C., also in their centenary year, Dorking B.C. in their 50th year and Redhill B.C. Ladies Section in their 80th year. Many thanks to all these clubs for your hospitality, let's hope you go on for many years to come.

COUNTY TOUR.

This year, our tourists visited Somerset. Unfortunately, because of drop-outs, the tour had to be cut down to five days from Monday 8th to Friday 12th September inclusive. However, this did not dampen the enthusiasm and a good time was had by all. These tours are well worth joining with good friends and good company. In 2015 there are plans to visit Dublin.

PATRONS

As no-one was willing to take on the role of organising our patrons game, our Immediate Past President Maureen Vandrau attempted to raise a team to play Surrey men's patrons. Unfortunately, Maureen was unable to get enough ladies to play and this fixture had to be cancelled. There appears now to be insufficient interest for this event to be continued.

LOYAL SERVICE AWARD

Clubs have continued sending nominations in for this prestigious award. This year, six ladies received the award with certificates and badges being presented by President Maxine accompanied by several of our Executive. Thank you to all those clubs who helped make their recipients very happy ladies by showing how much they appreciated their efforts.

SAFE GUARDING

Kate Allan our Safeguarding Officer sends her best wishes to you all and says: I feel almost embarrassed that I have so little to report. In the past six months I think I have had only three queries about Vetting and Barring Service clearance, all resolved by referral to Bowls England. Not much of a report but of course it is good to have so few problems arising. As Kate says, this is good because it means there are very few problems with safeguarding.

BENEVOLENT FUND

It is nice to think that when fellow bowlers are ill or suffer injury, someone thinks about them. Sandra Tracey (Sutton) started the season off but then was recruited as Junior Vice President. Jill Huggett (Reigate Priory) took over and has done an excellent job – many thanks Jill. Thanks also to our auditor of the Benevolent fund accounts, Sylvia Russell.

YEAR BOOK

Our year book is a very important publication as it contains the history of the Association and the draw for competitions. Marianne Ward (Egham) makes an excellent job of this task. Many thanks Marianne.

WEBSITE

This season our website was changed completely since being taken over by Marianne Ward (Egham). Marianne has worked very hard and long and produced an excellent website which is kept constantly up to date. Congratulations, Marianne, we are proud of www.ladiesbowlssurrey.co.uk it is a credit to you and the County. The site has been the subject of high praise from players and advertisers. Players are invited to comment and suggest items for inclusion. This season has also seen the minutes of our Council meetings included at the suggestion of one of our players. This now gives all members the opportunity to see what is going on in the County.

SURREY BOWLS ASSOCIATION. This is the managing body for the two sections, SCBA and SCWBA. Derek Harvey SCBA secretary is currently the Board Manager although this position comes up for re-election at each AGM of the Association in December. Derek is then the contact with Bowls England. As you know, Surrey agreed to take the 'umbrella' approach of a Managing Board with both Associations continuing to carry on as normal. This structure has worked well and has allowed both SCBA and SCWBA to continue our normal day to day activities without any major problems to our members. Although the unified association Surrey Bowls Association has its own AGM, and all clubs are given details and invited to attend, the attendance in December 2013 indicated the apathy of most members. However, as the requirement to unify comes from Sport England and at the heart of the requirement is money, we are obliged to stay with it.

SPONSORSHIP Sponsorship has been obtained from Co-operative Funeralcare to provide new shirts and matching jackets for both indoor and outdoor players, men and women. These have been supplied throughout the season by our very overworked Treasurer Jackie Taylor who visited all the indoor clubs and has attended all the outdoor games and events with her car fully loaded with shirts and jackets. This has not been helped by a change of suppliers with different sizes. Very many thanks to Jackie.

CLUBS

HERSHAM VILLAGE B.C. has been forced to close because of lack of members. This is particularly sad as the club was founded in 1927.

ZONES

There are problems with the loss of clubs and members and consequently the number of competition entries in Zone 1. This is not a problem which only applies to Zone 1, but to give some idea of the problem, Zone 1 in 2014 had only 279 members as opposed to 737 in Zone 2, 800 in Zone 3 and 709 in Zone 4. The number of competitors in Zone 1 was 168, Zone 2 – 228, Zone 3 – 259 and Zone 4 – 263. The result of all this is that players in Zone 1 play fewer games to reach the quarter finals where they qualify for points towards their County badge. Your Executive have been trying, so far unsuccessfully, to find a solution – if there is one – to this problem. A sub-committee has been set up under the chair of match secretary, Pam Garden. The committee members include the two competition secretaries and the four zone secretaries. Clubs in Zone 1 have been asked for their views. This may be impossible to solve as the main problem in Zone 1 is the traffic which gets worse.

FINALLY

This is my last report as I will not be seeking re-election in November. I have really enjoyed my 12 years as your secretary and will no doubt miss all the work. However, I shall continue to be delegate for my club West Byfleet and will still be attending Council meetings. My replacement will be Sheron Mitchell (Croydon). She will make an excellent Secretary and bring in new ideas.

Before I sign off, I want to say a big ‘thank you’ to our senior officers. In particular our Treasurer, Jackie Taylor (our little treasure). I have already mentioned the work Jackie has done with the distribution of the new shirts and jackets. Jackie has also helped each of our Presidents with their tours, arranging hotels, coaches and games at the venues, printing the itineraries, collecting the monies and generally working hard to make these occasions run smoothly. Our annual dinner and presentation of prizes, again with Jackie’s help with the seating and liaison with the caterers, also runs smoothly. Jackie is suffering with health problems and we all wish her well. Thanks to Jan Pedersen our assistant secretary for your patience and coping with all the copying for our mail-outs twice yearly, a truly mammoth task. To all our Executive thanks for your friendship and support over the last twelve years. I have no doubt I will miss you all. Not forgetting our Presidential team of President Maxine, SVP Zoe and JVP Sandra. Good luck to Zoe in your exciting year to come.

