

## SECRETARY'S REPORT 2015

President Zoe, fellow bowlers

This is my first report and I have no doubt it will not prove nearly as interesting as my predecessor's! When I agreed to take this position on, I have to confess I had not realised quite what was involved. Shadowing gives some idea but only when one takes over does one understand all the varied demands of the job. Having said that, I must say I have enjoyed it enormously and have actually started to remember names of people from other Clubs! I now realise quite how hard Bobbie worked over the preceding twelve years. On your behalf I thank her again for all that she has done for the County.

I could not have managed this year without the help and support of the whole Executive and, in particular, of Assistant Secretary Jan Pedersen and Treasurer Jackie Taylor, both of whom have been at the end of the telephone to listen and help

Before starting my report for 2015, I thought I should let all members of the County know that at last year's Surrey Dinner, Michael Jennings, the Bowls England Junior Vice President, presented Jackie Taylor with the Bowls England Certificate of Merit. Jackie is the first Surrey lady to receive this award which is given for outstanding service to the sport of Bowls at club and county level. This is a great honour and thoroughly deserved. Since then Jackie, is now looking so much better and we are delighted to hear that her illness is currently in remission.

### COMPETITIONS

Our competition entries for the National Championships all ran smoothly. Once again our thanks to Jean Hewett and Ann Rapley, our Competition Secretaries for all their hard work.

Many thanks to all the clubs who allowed us the use of their greens and to the Club members who made everyone so welcome and provided excellent refreshments during the final rounds of our competitions,

I would particularly like to thank Southey, Croydon, Sutton and Burpham for hosting the early rounds of the two wood singles. I mention these Clubs particularly because they try so hard to provide markers for the first and second rounds. As we all know, it is very difficult to get markers for competitions and these Clubs always manage to get volunteers.

Ten ladies qualified for their County badges –

Sylvia Bridger (Oxshott), Glenda Dexter (Egham), Carole Gray (Shirley Park), Mary Green (Oxshott), Christine Hames (Knaphill), Lesley Hodge (West Field), Lorna Kilpatrick MBE, (Oxshott), Sue Markham (Woodbridge Hill); Janet McEntee (Albury), and Pat Patching (Purley Ladies), Congratulations to you all.

Our other County competitions - Officers Cup, Surrey Champion of Champions and Benevolent Two Wood Triples were run by Jacqui Poat and Jan Pedersen, Maureen Stone and Shirley Clarke respectively. As usual there not too many problems with these competitions. Although a number of teams "dropped out" from the Benevolent Triples, most I believe contacted Shirley and their opponents. Our grateful thanks to Jacqui, Maureen and Shirley for their time and help. Shirley has now decided to relinquish her role as Benevolent Triples organiser and depending on what is decided at the Council meeting with regard to this popular competition, we currently do not have a replacement. Shirley, all I can say is thank you so very much for all your hard work.

Our umpires and markers have again been busy and we thank them for helping us run our championships and competitions.

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA – The joint National Championships and Competitions have proved a great success again and it was lovely to see and hear the Surrey Ladies cheering on the Surrey men with gusto when there were no ladies playing and vice versa.

We had two wonderful individual successes this year. Firstly Gemma Barnett reached the Final of the National Four Wood Championship. Bearing in mind Gemma had not intended to bowl following the birth of her daughter, this was a wonderful achievement and we are all extremely proud of her.

Then in the second week we enjoyed the excitement of Margaret Smith winning the Two Wood Singles. Margaret tells me that she was not cool, calm and collected although I have to say she certainly looked it! Sharmista Patel also got through to the quarter finals in the same competition. I personally think the 2 wood competition can be extremely difficult and in all the games played by both Margaret and Sharmista there were some very interesting ends!

Congratulations too to Egham on reaching the semi-finals of the Tony Allcock Trophy, to Kate Capon on reaching the quarter-finals of the BE Champion of Champions and to Kelly McCarthy and Rachel Winter on reaching the semi-final of the Junior Pairs.

## JOHNS TROPHY AND WALKER CUP

On the opening day of the National Championships Surrey retained Johns Trophy. Happily for the blood pressure of our supporters, this year's matches were more comfortable than last year's. In the semi-final Surrey beat Somerset 151 – 95 and in the final beat Leicestershire 135 – 103. Warm congratulations to all those involved.

Our Walker Cup (double rink) team reached the Regional Finals at Bounds Green where sadly they gave away an early lead and lost narrowly 37 – 39 to Buckinghamshire.

Once again thanks are due to our psychological adviser, David Bourne. As you all know by now, David has been talking to the team before each game and advising some players on an individual basis. I was asked on numerous occasions whilst at Leamington what the secret of our success was but didn't reveal our secret and simply replied "Mars Bars".

Having been runners-up in the two previous seasons our Amy-Rose (under 31's) double rink went one better this year and were triumphant in the final, beating Somerset 37 – 34.. Well done to the whole team and thanks to Jan Pedersen, the Manager, and to everyone who has encouraged our under 31s. Sadly we will be losing Gemma and Sarah Poat next year but, as the old saying goes, as one door closes another opens. Hopefully we will have one or two more up and coming youngsters to step into their shoes.

## INTERNATIONALS

Pat Bourne (Purley Bury) played again for England in the Senior International team this season and again England won the series and retained the Eve Trophy. Pat played three to Kent's Wendy King once again and they won three out of four games.

On 31 May last year's winning Walker Cup team with two other rinks from our Johns Team were asked to play a practice match against the England team. We were given one week's notice to get everything organised! I have suggested that BE let counties know sooner if they want to repeat this as it had a huge effect on our own calendar.

Pat has again been selected to play for the 2016 team and I know you will all be delighted to hear that Margaret Smith (Sutton) and Gemma Barnett (Cheam Ladies) have both been selected to play for England with her in next year's series. Debbie Sarratt (Egham) has been selected as travelling reserve and Shan Maylin(Southey) as a non-travelling reserve. Surrey therefore have five ladies in the England International Squad. Well done to you all, it is very well deserved.

THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL TOP CLUB attracted 32 entries from Surrey clubs this year. Egham were again Surrey Champions and again qualified for the Finals where they retained the National Trophy. They beat Box BC of Wiltshire by 9 shots in the quarter final. They went on to beat Madeira BC of Devon 3 and 1 in the semi-finals and finally beat Banbury Central BC of Oxfordshire in the Final by 10 shots.

## COUNTY AND EXECUTIVE MATCHES.

This year, thirteen friendly matches against other Counties were arranged.. The match against Sussex was cancelled due to the green being waterlogged and two matches were completed at 18 ends, one because of extreme heat and the other because of extreme wet! We won 8 matches and lost 4 with 1369 shots for and 1219 against. Sadly we have lost another County game as Dorset have now decided that it is too expensive to travel to Surrey and so next year we will only have 12 games. We are looking at ways we might manage to organise another County game but I doubt it will be possible for 2016. As ever the Selection Committee headed by Pam Garden our Match Secretary work hard to try to ensure all who apply for these games are accommodated.

We again played our annual fixture against Surrey men, which we lost this season. We also played Redhill BC, Purley Bury B.C., Caterham to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> year, Banstead Neville in their 80<sup>th</sup> year, Reigate Priory for their 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Newdigate for their silver anniversary, Guildford for their 130<sup>th</sup>, Milford, and finally Burpham for their silver anniversary. Many thanks to all these clubs for your hospitality. Let's hope you go on for many years to come. Many thanks to Past President Maxine for all her hard work in organising these games – not an easy task!

The Inter-Zone matches again proved very competitive and again the winners were Zone 4 with 23 points. Zones 1 and 2 both finished with 19 points and Zone 3 with 4 points. I did speak to Pat Chappell briefly who advised that she had had great difficulty getting teams out even with the new arrangement.

## COUNTY TOUR.

This year, our tourists visited Dublin and I will leave President Zoe to give you her report on what was, I am led to understand, a very enjoyable tour. A great time was had by all. Next year we will be going to Deal.

## LOYAL SERVICE AWARD

Clubs have continued sending nominations in for this prestigious award. This year, three ladies received the award with certificates and badges being presented by President Zoe 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:

"Since my last report I have continued to be available to give safeguarding advice to club officers. All enquiries have been about whether or not DBS clearance is needed. I refer those who need clearance to Bowls England who supply the application forms. I am pleased to report that there have been no other serious matters reported to me."

## BENEVOLENT FUND

Jill Huggett (Reigate Priory) has done a sterling job sending get well cards, vouchers, and flowers. She has been extremely busy since taking over from Sandra and I would like to thank her on behalf of everyone as I know this means so much to those ladies who have been unwell or have faced great sadness. Once again many thanks Jill. Thanks also to our auditor of the Benevolent fund accounts, Sylvia Russell.

## YEAR BOOK and WEBSITE

These two items are very important to our County. Over the years the cost of the Year Book has risen and is now proving to be prohibitive. At the last Council meeting the price was put up to £4.00 as the County were making a substantial loss. To reduce printing costs, we have taken some of the content from the Year Book and have published it on the website for example the history of the County. Only the name of those Officers who have served during the last ten years will appear in the Year Book in the future. The full list of past officers appears on the website. Similarly only competition winners and runners up will appear in the Year Book and full details for earlier years can be found on the website.

As now, only those ladies who played for the County in 2015 will be published in the forthcoming Year Book. However, it has been suggested to me that those ladies who have worked so hard for their badge would like their names to continue to appear even if they are unable to play for the County. Therefore we will now publish the names of all badged players on the website. It has also been decided to list the names of competition entrants alphabetically with their telephone numbers in a telephone directory format and not under the name of each individual Club.

I would like to thank Marianne Ward who has been and continues to work really hard at this formidable task particularly with so many changes being made.

Your Executive are aware that some of you do not have access to computers and you may feel aggrieved by the increase in the volume of documentation available on line. However, we have tried to ensure that all delegates/secretaries do have access to the necessary documents.

## SURREY BOWLS ASSOCIATION.

As you know, 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 the AGM of the Association in December. Derek is the sole contact for Bowls England. More Clubs are now unifying and he has been asked why there were different forms for the men and women. We have therefore now provided joint competition and affiliation forms thereby enabling clubs to issue either one cheque or BACS payment. I hope after the few initial teething problems these forms will prove ideal. To ensure Clubs receive these forms, both Derek and I sent them out to the ladies and men; so we hope that each Club will have received them.

Sponsorship: As you all know, the County is sponsored by Co-operative Funeralcare and this will continue for the next two years. I believe most ladies have now had their queries regarding shirts and jackets resolved and we are now back on an even keel. The loan from Surrey County Women's Bowling Association to Surrey County Bowls for the purchase of shirts and jackets has now been repaid in full.

## ZONES

The question of the division of the zones remains to be resolved to everyone's satisfaction, but I am hoping that with more flexibility with most competitions/championships some of these difficulties will ease..

## FINALLY

Constitution.

The following amendments are proposed:

- 2.1 "game of bowls" to be amended to "sport of bowls";
- 3.1.2 Affiliated Clubs shall adopt Rules for their self-government and a copy of such rules shall be lodged with the County. If, from time to time, amendments are made to those Rules, such amendments should be notified to the County. (Presently Clubs are required to submit their Constitution for approval and to submit any subsequent alternations for approval)
- 5.1.1 We wish to create a new position of Assistant Treasurer. We therefore need to amend this clause to incorporate the position.
- 5.4 To provide for the appointment of a Delegate to Bowls England on the same basis as the Webmaster and Safeguarding Officer.
- 6.7 Correct a typographical error.
- 6.10 The Webmaster shall be responsible for the upkeep of the County Website as directed by the Executive Committee  
This is a new clause describing the role of the Webmaster.
- 9.2.1 We propose that the Hon Assistant Treasurer be appointed to the Executive Committee;
- 9.4.3 We propose that the two Competition Secretaries should be appointed to the Johns' Trophy and Walker Cup Selection Committee. We also propose that the Committee should have the power to co-opt a replacement member onto the Committee should any elected member decide to stand down for whatever reason.

Copies of the Constitution have been sent out to the Clubs for the amendments to be discussed and voted on.

The Executive have also updated the Rules and Regulation (formerly By-laws). This year I received so many phone calls asking a variety of questions ranging from what is the difference between a competition and a championship to how many ends do you have to play in the Pairs Championship? We have therefore attempted to explain in detail the Regulations as they apply to each competition and championship. I would urge all Clubs to read them. We urge all coaches to explain the contents of the Year Book to new members.

Some changes to the Regulations were necessary because we are obliged to follow the Bowls England Regulations in respect of County Championships leading to National Championships. For example, Bowls England Regulations require that qualifying competitions are played either at weekends or on weekdays not earlier than 6pm except by mutual agreement. We have continued to specify the dates on which various rounds of Championships shall be played but we have now provided that they may be played on an earlier date if both sides agree. Similarly they may be played earlier than 6pm if both sides agree. However, in the absence of any such agreement, matches shall be played no earlier than 6pm on the date specified in the Year Book.

We have also spelt out in detail the Regulation in respect of the Benevolent Triples competition to ensure they fully comply with the relevant Bowls England Regulations.

In conclusion, I should like to thank again the Executive and other Officers of the Association together with others who work so hard for the County and its Clubs for your help and forbearance whilst I was learning the ropes. My thanks to Club Secretaries, Officers and volunteers for all the help you have given me and for all you do for our sport.

Congratulations to Zoe on a wonderful year. I hope you enjoyed your Presidency as much as we did. Good luck to Sandra for a successful and enjoyable 2016.

Sheron Mitchell.  
Hon Secretary SCWBA

4 October 2015