

SECRETARY'S REPORT

President Shân and fellow bowlers

The Summer Season of 2017 seemed to absolutely fly by. So many highs and lows and a great many changes within the County regarding competitions, umpiring, marking, forms, the road to unification to name but a few.

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 the smooth running of the Competitions which, for the first time, involved the Benevolent Triples.

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.

I would particularly like to thank Southey, Croydon, Sutton and West End for hosting the early rounds of the two wood singles. Moving back to a Monday seemed to work well. Although we had fewer entries we had far less competitors pulling out at the last minute. There were 167 entries for this competition of whom 131 actually played. The majority were courteous enough to let the competition or zone secretaries know they could not play before the day. It is therefore intended to keep 2Wood day on a Monday.

Twenty four ladies qualified for their County Badge:

Mrs Carolyn Lythgoe, Ms Jacqueline Wilson and Pauline Worrall (Camberley BC), Mrs Anne Blewett and Mrs Ruth Newbury (Milford BC), Mrs Christine Clist (Mytchette), Mrs Judith Morris (Newdigate), Mrs Valerie Wilkins (Oxshott), Teresa Orriss (Sutton), Mrs Beverley Wickings (Windlesham), Mrs Susan Newby-Robson and Mrs Valerie Tangney (Old Coulsdon), Mrs Pauline Conrad-Banks (Malden Manor BC), Mrs Anne Wellington (Warlingham Park BC), Miss Gill Tarrant (Chipstead BC), Mrs Samantha Gingell, Mrs Sue Lammis and Mrs Anne Kenny (Croydon BC), Mrs Angie Leniston (Godstone BC), Miss Stephanie Crates (Sutton) Mrs Linda Loftly (West End) Clare James (Ashburton Park) and Jane Edean (Oxshott) and Mrs Sue McSherry (Malden Lime Grove).

Our congratulations to you all.

Other County competitions - Once again our thanks go to Jacqui Poat and Maureen Stone who ran the Officers' Cup and Surrey Champion of Champions respectively. We believe Jacqui is moving to Nottingham in the foreseeable future and we are pleased to advise that Shân Maylin has kindly agreed to take on the running of the Officers' Cup in the future.

The two County Secretaries ran the Benevolent Triples on two set days but also included preliminary play-by dates. I understand that everything went well. However, it is imperative that the published Rules are adhered to. For example, competitors who have no hope of winning the game, must play on to the bitter end as the National Winner is decided on an average of points won. If the game is not played out in full it puts any County winner at a disadvantage nationally if they have not played all the ends.

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.

I had the privilege of going to Leamington for the first week and thoroughly enjoyed watching the bowling, although at times it did get a bit hectic running between the greens particularly, as for the first time, we had three representatives in five disciplines of the National Championships. The Surrey Four of Dee Moores, Lizzie Anderson, President Shân and Debbie Souter so very nearly became National Fours Champions and I really believed they would do it. I know that they were very disappointed at losing the final but how proud we were of them and what they had achieved. The following week saw Sheila Seddon winning through the semi-finals of the Senior Singles despite the fact that she had been in hospital and was in some discomfort with her leg. All our National Finalists did us proud and we saw some wonderful bowling.

JOHNS TROPHY AND WALKER CUP

Having finished first in our group in the Johns Trophy, all of us were disappointed when we played the quarter-final of the Johns Trophy at Worthing Pavilion. All the rinks struggled with the pace of the greens whereas our opponents, Kent, settled much more quickly. We eventually lost 118—103. Although disappointed, the ladies did us proud.

This year our Walker Cup (double rink) reached the quarter final at Old Coulsdon. AS Team Manager, I found it very difficult handing over the reins to someone else as I, for reasons unknown to me, became the Bowls England representative. I therefore had to be unbiased. Not an easy task believe me! We lost to our old adversaries, Kent, but only by 2 shots. I really believed we were going to succeed but sadly it was not to be. Well done ladies. We will back in 2018 even more determined.

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AMY ROSE

What can I say about this competition for under 31s? The Executive decided to appoint a Team Manager and asked Debbie Souter to take on the role with Charlotte Emanuel as her Assistant. Despite many difficulties, Debbie managed to arrange a get together with the girls a few weeks before Leamington.

What a revelation and what a shame more people could not have been there to see these ten girls some of whom had never been to Leamington and never played in such an environment in their lives. They lost the semi-final by four shots to Devon when they faced internationals including Commonwealth Games Winners. We as a County are really proud of them. With young ladies like these I feel sure bowling in Surrey will go from strength to strength.

INTERNATIONALS

The International Series was held at Llandrindod Wells which is a delightful place near Brecon. Debbie Sarratt played for England in all the games and Margaret Smith was reserve. Sadly she did not get a game but I have to say kept the England players well supplied with water as the heat was intense. England won the series. We also had the pleasure of seeing our last year's winning four of Doreen Hankin, Glenda Dexter, Norma Beales and Pauline Clarke represent England in the British Isles Series. Our ladies beat Scotland 30-21 in the preliminary round; and hosts Wales by 22-10 in the semi-final. In a close and exciting final, they beat Jersey on an extra end to win the title.

Very well done!

THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL TOP CLUB

The Surrey Top Club was Sutton this year and they went on to represent the County in the National Finals where they beat Swinton, Yorks by 80—66 before losing to Wigton, Cumbria by 74—72 in the semi-final. Wigton went on to win the final 4-0. Well done Sutton.

BENEVOLENT TRIPLES

Sutton's Sharmishta Patel, Maureen Vandrau and Pat Bourne were the Surrey Benevolent Triples winners and finished 9th nationally.

COUNTY, EXECUTIVE AND INTER-ZONE MATCHES.

This year, twelve friendly matches against other Counties were arranged. We won 9 matches and lost 2. One game was rained off as the rain pounded down and both Executives were concerned that some of the more senior team members could slip! However, Surrey did win the match by 5 games to 1 at Bingo!

Selection for these games is always very difficult, as the team selected very rarely plays because so many people drop out at the last minute. Selection is not helped by bowlers only selecting one game. If members only choose one game it is possible that they may not be selected at all.

In 2018 there will be NO trial games for the Johns Trophy and Walker Cup against other counties. This means that all twelve County friendlies are open to all badged players provided they have entered into the relevant Championship Competitions.

We played 7 Executive matches including our annual fixture against the Surrey Men. Unfortunately, this year we lost. 96—120. We also played Executive mixed matches against Southey, Croydon MOs Stoke Park, Ottershaw and the English Civil Service Bowling Association. Unfortunately a proposed match against West Byfleet was cancelled. All the mixed Executive matches were won except the fixture against President Shân's club Southey. Her loaded team won 161—91!

Many thanks to all these clubs for your hospitality; let us hope you go on for many years to come. Many thanks to Treasurer Zöe for all her hard work in organising these games – not an easy task!

The Inter-Zone matches again proved very competitive and the winners were Zone 1.

First and foremost, I must thank all those ladies who actually play and support the Zone Secretaries in these games. Without exception everyone who partakes seem to enjoy themselves.

Last year, we had moans that the games were held on a Friday as there were traffic difficulties getting home on a Friday evening. This year we had different complaints because it was a Thursday and interfered with various leagues that run within the County.

Zone	POINTS 10th August	POINTS 17 th August	POINTS 24 th August	TOTAL POINTS
1	4	11	9	24 WINNERS
2	7	2	2	11
3	9	9	2	20
4	2	0	9	11

COUNTY TOUR

I was unable to go on the County Tour but I have heard amazing reports from a variety of ladies who went; so I will leave this to President Shân to elaborate.

LOYAL SERVICE AWARD

We were delighted to give five Loyal Service Awards this year to Pat Teasdale of Purley Ladies, Diane Tarran of Purley Bury, Jean Fisk of Milford, Norma Goldsworthy of Reigate Priory and Pat Wye of Malden Manor. Congratulations to all of those ladies.

SAFE GUARDING

Following a meeting between Derek Harvey (County Administrator and Surrey County Bowling Association's President and Secretary) and myself, Chelsea Brady has now been appointed Safe Guarding Officer for the whole of bowling in Surrey. She is a very well qualified young lady from Tongham. Her details will be appearing in the Year Book and on the website in due course.

BENEVOLENT FUND

Jill Huggett sadly had to relinquish her role a little sooner than she anticipated due to a nasty accident has seen her in and out of hospital. Caroline Duarte has kindly volunteered to take over this important role. I would like to pass on the County's thanks to Jill for all her hard work over the last four years and to welcome Caroline on board.

SURREY BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Sponsorship: "Co-operative Funeralcare" will continue to sponsor us for 2018.
"Leighton" Opticians have agreed to sponsor all four Associations for five years starting in 2017.

Development: Rural Surrey continued to run smoothly and I believe clubs have achieved new memberships. Rural Surrey is the combination of a number of District Councils who support bowling and one or two other sports. I am advised, however, that next year there will be no funds as more cuts are made in Council Services. The only funding will be coming from the BDA and from a competition Derek Harvey has set up with one of the Bowling Holiday organisations.

YEAR BOOK and WEBSITE

Marianne Ward continues to do a wonderful job with both the website and Year Book and I would like to express my personal thanks to her for all her support and hard work.

We are still working through the names of all badged ladies. As you know, the aim is to put the names of all badged ladies, whether they bowl or not, on the website. However, we have found that some of the ladies still listed have actually passed away and so we are trying to make sure that we have as comprehensive list as possible.

AFFILIATION FORMS AND COMPETITION ENTRIES

Once again I must reiterate that it is important that secretaries ensure that their final club forms are completed in clear writing particularly with regard to telephone numbers and that ladies check with whoever does the final entries that these telephone numbers are correct. On the main competition form all that is needed is the name of the contact, NOT the names of all members of a team. Appendix A is for the team names. Once again please ensure that your Club Champion is aware she is being entered into the Champion of Champion competition as we have had some ladies totally unaware that their club had actually entered them.

As I have said before, your Executive are still aware that some of you do not have computers and you may feel aggrieved by the constant expansion of documentation onto computers but we have tried to ensure that all delegates/secretaries do have access to the documentation by computer. Those that do not, please speak to Jan Pedersen and she will ensure that you receive things by post, thereby keeping you informed and up to date.

SURREY COUNTY BOWLS and JOINT CONSTITUTION

Derek Harvey, Administrator, three representatives from SCWBA, myself, President Shân and Pauline Biddlecombe continued working with the three representatives from SCBA to write a new joint Constitution which can be adopted by both Associations. Once adopted there will be a joint AGM. The Constitution incorporates various amendments as suggested by numerous club members who attended the four introductory meetings. It is hoped that this Constitution will be adopted at this year's SCBA and SWCBA AGMs so that in 2018. The venue and date has yet to be decided.

An Addendum to the Constitution which includes all previous SCBA Bylaws and our Rules and Regulations and those items reclassified from the previous Constitution is at present being compiled. It will include relevant information from SCBA and SCWBA and will be published as soon as possible. In the meantime, the present Rules and Regulations should be used prior to the distribution of the new document. (The new Constitution provides that the Executive may propose new Rules and Regulations subject to the approval of Council).

There have been a number comments enquiring why we cannot be completely united. Can I just say that the joint Constitution is the start of the process and we will be continuing to work on the integration of the two Associations. However, what has become clear is that the two Associations work very differently and there will have to be a great deal of work to completely unify us.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Executive has updated the Rules and Regulations for the 2017/2018 year.

In future no points will be awarded for the Senior Fours. Only the winners if they are unbadged and provided they have played in four rounds to include the final will be awarded their County Badge.

As now all players reaching the last 16 of the relevant Championships will receive 1 point. A player who has played at least four rounds to reach the last sixteen will receive an extra point. Quarter finalists will receive 2 further points.

Sadly Priory Park and Shere Bowls Clubs have now closed. Our particular thanks go to Isobel Kimber who has been a delegate for twenty four years, first at Lonsdale and then at Priory Park. I hope the members of both clubs are able to join new clubs and continue to enjoy their bowling.

REMINDERS:

1. We are looking for a new Assistant Secretary to shadow Jan Pedersen prior to her retirement from next year's AGM.
2. I cannot reiterate more strongly the need for ladies who enter competitions to have a Year Book. Unfortunately this year we had one or two instances where competitors quite clearly had not checked the rules and played a singles competition just before going on holiday knowing full well that they would be unable to play in the next round. This is a clear breach of the rules. As soon as a player is aware that she cannot play in any later round or where relevant at the National Championships, she MUST concede the next game to her opponent. Any failure to do so renders the player liable to immediate disqualification and possible exclusion from the following season's County competitions and championships.
3. The Executive have taken the decision to amalgamate Zones 1a and 1b because of the limited number of entries in competitions.. This will bring the two zones in line with the other three zones.

Finally, I would just like to thank the whole of the Executive for their support and help, this year which has been particularly busy in view of the enormous changes we are contemplating and putting into place with regard to Selection and under 31s structuring, to make our County much stronger for the future.

Sheron Mitchell. County Secretary
October 2017