



## SURREY COUNTY WOMEN'S BOWLING ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: MRS PENNY BRUNO

### MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 APRIL 2019 AT THE MANSEL CENTRE, WIMBLEDON

Those present: President Mrs P Bruno; SVP Mrs C Emanuel; JVP Mrs L Pillman; IPP and Match Secretary Mrs D Roberts (DR)\*; Secretary Mrs S Mitchell (SM); Treasurer Mrs Z Hollins (ZH)\*; Competition Secretaries Mrs J Hewett (JH)\* and Mrs A Rapley\*; and Assistant Treasurer Mrs C Stevens\*

BE Delegate Mrs P Biddlecombe (PB); Benevolent Sec and Treasurer Mrs C Duarte (CD); Web Mistress and Year Book Secretary Miss M Ward; Life Members: Mrs G Platt, Miss R Potheary, Mrs J Taylor and Mrs Pam Garden. Past Presidents: Mrs A Bolton, Mrs T Davis, Mrs V Pickering, Mrs M Vandrau and Mrs S Maylin.

Zone Secretaries: Mrs P Chappell (PC), Mrs V Hobart (VH) and Mrs M Beach (MB).

Prior to the start of the meeting Penny explained that her Charity for the year is called GUTS which stands for Guildford Undetected Tumour Screening.

Those present were asked to stand to remember those we have lost during the winter months.

#### **1 Apologies for absence**

Safeguarding Officer Chelsea Brady, Zone 3 Secretary Mrs J Colvin, Past President Mrs Gill Bonnell, Mrs M Stone and 14 delegates

#### **2 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 October which been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read. Proposed for acceptance: by Mrs Christine Wooler (Oxshott) and seconded by Mrs Gill Platt (Milford).

#### **3 Matters arising**

3.1 Top Club: SM advised that two clubs had written to Bowls England (BE) to ask for fixed dates. She advised that the Exec would not be fixing dates as we did not know which counties would be in the draw with Surrey. They may not have fixed dates. Previously, when there were fixed dates, from time to time a team which did not wish to play on the fixed date would ring Bowls England directly who would then confirm that fixed dates were not compulsory. In any event, the Surrey calendar could simply not accommodate fixed dates at the moment.

Sylvia Russell of Cheam Ladies enquired if there was any movement on the round before the Regional Finals being played on a neutral green and SM confirmed that in future it would be. [BE Regulation 52.1.17 (in respect of all National Competitions) now says "All final qualification rounds shall be played on a neutral green midway between the two clubs (unless mutually agreed). This applies for 2019 onwards.]

3.2 AGM Venue: SM confirmed that the venue for the November AGM on 9 November 2019 at 9.30 would be Imber Court. Drinks were available but would not be provided by the County. She advised there was plenty of car parking space and it was more central. The facilities were excellent including a good PA system and room for over 250 people.



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### 4 Secretary's Winter Report

Firstly, as you will see from the new Year Book, there was an error with the Victrix Ludorum. It was announced that Rachel Winter had won this award outright having acquired the most number of points. However, following the County Dinner the Competition Secretaries and I checked everything through once again as there were some anomalies. After checking and double checking yet again, it was realised that both Margaret Smith and Rachel had an equal number of points and therefore for 2018 we had a tie. Both players were notified, received apologies and the discrepancies were explained.

For those ladies who do not know the Access database is a very powerful tool but in order to be more transparent it is really not practical as most people do not have this programme on their computer. ??? Therefore, I believe that it is important the Competition Secretaries have access to a programme they can access directly as competitions and rounds are played. At the same time players can also access their points and see how many they have earned in one year and how many have dropped off without having to contact the Executive to ask. I am sure you will agree that this will be money well spent.

The County Dinner will be held at Tyrells Wood this year. It is in a lovely setting and has a good size car park. I understand that we will have the bar area and the room is lovely. However, numbers are limited so it will be a first come, first served basis. Therefore if you wish to come to the County Dinner, you will have to book early. The menu has been chosen and will be on the website shortly.

As most of you will know, we run the Palm Trophy, a competition for the under 31s. It was run last year having been dormant for a while. This competition will take place on 30 June and it is important that clubs encourage any under 31s to participate. Therefore, please make sure they are aware of this competition. Equally we need to be told of any under 31s who may be members of your club so that we can ask them to come along to any get togethers for the "juniors" in conjunction with the under 31 men. Last year we struggled to put together an Amy Rose team whereas some counties put in two. I cannot emphasise enough these young women are very important to our future.

Last year, we were delighted as a County to have won the Johns Trophy for the twenty-second time, breaking all records for the number of wins. However, although we were successful with the Johns Trophy the same thing could not be said of the Walker Cup. Clearly the Selectors made some serious mistakes. That said, we cannot be sure that had we dealt with things differently, the result would have been any different, not least because the Walker Cup Regional Finals were the day after our triumph against Kent in the Johns Trophy.

As most of you know, I have always been of the opinion personally, that one should not be playing in either of these competitions if you are a selector. There are no other sports where the selectors of a team actually play. So this year we are trying something different. If successful, we will ask Council to agree to a permanent change in the format of the Selection Committee. If it is not successful, then we can always revert back. Historically, the President, Secretary (ex officio) were automatically on selection and the remaining five selectors were elected by the Executive and the four zone secretaries. Two years ago this was changed so that the President, Secretary, Two Competition Secretaries and Match Secretary were automatic and two others were elected. The purpose being to try and cut down on the number of playing members of the Committee. Last year out of seven selectors there were four playing members either automatic or elected onto the Selection Committee.



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This year as a trial, the Executive decided to have only five selectors, myself, Jean Hewett (Zones 1 & 2 Competition Secretary), Ann Rapley (Zones 3 & 4 Competition Secretary and current Johns player), Jan Pedersen (Zone 4) and an independent selector, Caroline Duarte, who most will know as a past England International and stalwart of past John Trophy and Walker Cup teams. The President can attend selection meetings and can advise. Sadly Jan has had to pull out for personal reasons but we are leaving the door open and keeping her apprised of our decisions and reasons. It was decided not to replace Jan at this late stage. All selectors are experienced bowlers and have been part of a Johns Trophy team at some point. The reason for this was to try and cut down on the number of actual Executive players taking part in selection. By doing this the ratio of playing members of the Executive has been reduced from 2 non players : 5 players 2015/2016/2017; 3 non players : 4 players 2018; to 4 non players : 1 actual player and also including an independent selector. Although we have one playing selector it is a huge difference than what has occurred before.

Having won the Johns trophy three times in the last five years, we are mindful of the fact that other counties will be doing their best to beat us and therefore we must be innovative in order to keep ahead.

I now come to the County Tour. In 2018 Dorothy's tour took her to Worcestershire but sadly the tour was not well supported and was very nearly cancelled. Fortunately the numbers did rise to 24. In view of this and the fact that there was no time to do anything else due to the October meeting over-running somewhat, PB decided she would like to do something different and has organised a cultural tour to Italy which has the support of 49 tourists! In a similar way CE has opted for something different too for which you will have seen the fliers on your chair. This one is slightly different as the bookings have to be made in April this year and therefore I have not been able to put anything before Council before today.

You will see that "Tours" is an item on the Agenda. We will set out the options and I should be grateful if you report back to your clubs for their views.

I am not sure how many of you are aware but SCBA has a match selection computer programme which is quite sophisticated. We have looked at this and it is quite clear it is an excellent programme. It was used last year and has been updated with some of the teething problems being sorted out. It is being proposed that SCWBA also use this programme for friendly county matches, Executive games, Johns and Walker Cup. With the exception of the latter two, it means that members can apply for games on line; letters will be sent out automatically either inviting players or advising them they have not been successful. Clearly this is fine for those ladies who are computer literate and happy to use computers but I want to reassure you that this will not affect those ladies who do not use computers as they will still be offered games as the forms will go out to them in the usual way and they can reply by post.

Before turning to an update from Bowls Surrey I have been asked by two clubs for guidelines on transgender. I have been in touch with BE and have been supplied with one A4 page produced in 2011 and a fuller pamphlet written in 2014. These pamphlets will also be going on the website for clubs to access.

### Bowls Surrey

Howard Quinnell (Bowls Surrey Treasurer) and myself found the affiliation of members quite interesting and frustrating this year. The numbers for both men and ladies are down. The ladies have 2394 members and are therefore down by approximately 140. Apart from the downward trend of membership to our

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sport, the view of Howard and myself is that some clubs, quite understandably, did not affiliate everyone due to the confusion of trying to guess who will be members for the forthcoming year.

These affiliation forms which clubs are asked to complete are time consuming for secretaries who have to list the same members every year. Therefore, we are currently devising a new scheme whereby secretaries can complete the form "online" using a login and password, only available to their own club. They will be able to add names and/or delete names. The competitions too can be entered on line and the forms will automatically add up the amount of money owed for affiliation by that club. Basically all forms that are currently completed will be dealt with on line. Those clubs who do not have access to a computer will be able to complete the forms in the usual way and their information will be put on the system for them. Even for the non computer literate people, it is hoped they will find the process simpler as they are guided through the prompts. Once the process of entry is complete, the system will automatically add up everything including Year Books, Competitions, affiliations for both men and women and the amount due will be shown.

It is proposed that in October/November meetings will be held for secretaries to learn how to use the system and for those who struggle with computers for someone to be on hand to either help them or input the information for them. So if Secretaries wish to bring their laptops with them.....Obviously there will be some instructions for Club Secretaries.

This year I made just over thirty telephone calls to clubs where the information entered onto the forms was incorrect, whether because more members being paid for than listed, fewer members paid for than were listed, men entered as women and vice versa, incorrect email addresses, assumptions being made that because the club champion was entered on the front of the A form, they did not have to be entered on the competition form and so on.

Following the various meetings that have taken place to attempt to harmonize the administration of our two associations, as ZH will explain, it is envisaged that in 2020 the womens's match fees will be reduced to £13 and the men's will increase to £13. This, however, is not yet confirmed so we need to agree this today and the men also need to agree it.

What has become clear is there are many differences between the two Associations and how they are run. Going forward both Associations will continue to be run under the umbrella of Bowls Surrey and where they can be brought in line then they will. As ever this all takes time.

CE, our current SVP, is the Director of Communications and has already started a Bowls Surrey Facebook page. If you have any events happening at your club, Open Days, Special Events, etc please be sure to let Charlotte know as she will be putting these items on Facebook where she already has a good following. This will increase as more bowling Facebook users become aware. She and her team are also looking at Twitter and the websites. It is intended to run a Bowls Surrey website with links to the two Association websites. Clearly, it is not sensible or cost effective to run three websites and so in time, hopefully, this will reduce to just one, namely, Bowls Surrey. Meantime, however we will be going through a transition period.

As 3.2 above, I confirm again that the next AGM of Bowls Surrey will be held at Imber Court at 10.00 on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019. This follows various complaints from both the men and women regarding lack of space, disorganisation, parking, to name but a few, at the previous venue.

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For those not familiar with Imber Court it has a car park holding 125, an overflow car park and it is also possible to park in the road. The meeting will be held upstairs where there are facilities for 250; it also has a very good amplifier system. There will also be two microphones available. There will be no tea/coffee served. However, there is coffee and tea etc available should anyone want refreshments.

The Bowls Surrey Board realised that there was a great deal of dissatisfaction with how the meeting was run. Therefore BS is looking at ways to ensure improvement. This was the first time a joint AGM had been held and though there were teething problems, BS is determined things will improve and a more professional AGM will occur!

Our sponsorship with the Co-op FuneralCare comes to an end at the end of September but everyone can continue to wear the shirts as they are now. Surrey Bowls Group is in negotiation with another new sponsor and I am assured they will have no objection for us to continue wearing our current shirts.

We have some newly badged players this year and we are suggesting they borrow County shirts with the Co-op logo until the new ones are available on 1 October. The new sponsor's logo will be on all new County shirts purchased after 1 October.

PB and I went to the Bowls England regional meeting on 27 March which proved very interesting. PB will be reporting more fully on this but I wanted to say that I am arranging for a pamphlet supplied by the BDA to be put on the website which I am sure will be of interest to most clubs.

Shân Maylin (Southey) enquired if the sponsor's name in future would be printed on the shirt. ZH said it is early days things are being discussed. SM confirmed the sponsor's name would be printed on the shirt. When questioned, SM confirmed that the Mens' Indoor and Outdoor and Women's Indoor Associations voted in favour of printed shirts. Maureen Vandrau (Sutton) asked for confirmation that County shirts with the Co-op logo could continue to be worn and SM confirmed this was the case. SM confirmed once again that until 30 September we should continue to wear our County shirts with the Co-op logo. From 1 October, any new shirt purchased must have the new logo. SM further confirmed that the contract had been agreed in principle but had not yet been signed. Carolyn Lythgoe (Camberley) and Val Hobart (Purley Bury) could not understand why the Ladies Indoors had voted for the printed shirts when it had not been agreed in Committee. SM advised this was not a matter for this meeting and she could not comment on anything that happened at Indoor Committee meetings.

### 5 Financial Report

ZH thanked everyone who were paying their match fees on line. ZH said as long as she knows a month in advance or a dire emergency occurs, the money would not be refunded.

She reported that pockets would no longer be presented to newly badged players but brooches will be presented instead. The cost is £3 each. She also reported that we now have flashes for the Johns Trophy and Walker Trophy which can be sewn on shirts.

As there are no Bowls Tours for a couple of years, there were some bags for sale at £2 which were usually given out on the County Tours.

Carolyn Stevens, as Assistant Treasurer, will take up the running of the 200 Club.

ZH confirmed that for 2020 match fees would go down to £13 and hopefully the men's fees would go up to £13.

She further confirmed that the County's accounts were in good order.



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### 6 Competition Secretaries' Report

JH wished everyone the best of luck in their Surrey competitions this year and asked that results are telephoned in before 10pm.

The Benevolent Triples: Zone 1 and Zone 2 have been amalgamated as there are only four entries for Zone 1. In order to make the competition easier and fairer this year, as a trial only, there will be three teams through to the quarter finals from Zones 1, 2 and 4 and two from Zone 3.

The draw for the Under 25 Pairs had to be re-drawn due to one team having been omitted.

### 7 Bowls England Delegate's Report

At the Bowls England AGM held on 23 February, I confirm that The Presidential team for 2019 is President Hazel Marks (Hampshire), SVP Paul Robson (Hampshire), JVP Terri Keen (Buckinghamshire) and Bill Smith Leicestershire IPP.

The full report will follow shortly.

The Governing Body continues to be in a healthy financial position and Stephen Hemsley (Lancashire) is carrying on the good work initiated by Howard Pryse (Wiltshire) who has now retired.

The Board is now: Chairman – David Mitchell Gears MBE; Coaching – Malcolm Evens following John McGuinness resignation since his appointment as High-Performance Director

Competitive Events – Margaret Docherty

Development – Adam Tanner

Finance – Stephen Hemsley

Governance – David Tucker

Independent – Dr. Anna Molony

Not forgetting of course our Chief Executive Tony Allcock MBE.

Following the presentations at the Regional Meeting – and may I mention that Surrey's representatives were Sheron Mitchell, Tony Bourne, Howard Quinnell and me – and one of the first jobs to be carried out by clubs is that on behalf of Bowls England you are being asked directly for your contribution to a major piece of research regarding our Clubs. The purpose of the project is to provide Bowls England with comprehensive and robust evidence regarding the quality, adequacy, security and ownership management profile of all clubs across the country. There is also an indoor project running concurrently which means this research will provide the most comprehensive information on flat green bowls ever gathered in England.

This information base will enable Bowls England to support clubs and county associations more effectively over the coming years, particularly with facility related enquiries, negotiations with local councils and grant funding applications. This is an online survey and can be accessed through <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Bowls> England Survey.

If you should have any questions prior to completion please contact Richard Boardman at 4global by email: [research.team@4global.com](mailto:research.team@4global.com)





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Bowls England is now in the position to advise further regarding qualification for the 2019 National Championships.

All counties with 5% or more of the total number of entries in that National Championship from the previous year will be entitled to three representatives at the National Championships.

Singles – women number of entries required in 2019 = 104

2 Wood Singles - -do- = 101

Pairs -do- = 122

Triples -do- = 89

Fours -do- =54

Surrey will have two qualification places in Junior Singles but only one in the Junior Pairs

Hopefully the National Championship Draws will be circulated to County Associations in early May.

The future of coaching in the sport of bowls is in safe hands.

That is the message from Bowls England and the English Indoor Bowling Association who will assume the responsibility for COACH BOWLS from the Bowls Development Alliance.

The current Coaching Manager – Amanda Scriven-Purcell will transfer to Coach Bowls Ltd. to ensure it is business as usual

For clubs, coaches, county coaching co-ordinators, tutors and other key stakeholders will continue to be supported by Adam Durnin.

Coaching is vital to the long term future of the sport of bowls. Coach Bowls Ltd will also continue to work in partnership with British Crown Green and English Short Mat to ensure that their respective coaching needs are met in accordance with their current agreements.

Four Directors have been appointed to run the new company Tony Allcock MBE, John McGuinness (Bowls England), and Peter Thompson and Gordon Thomas (EIBA).

Amanda Scriven-Purcell intends to visit counties but any queries related to Coach Bowls should be directed to Amanda Scriven-Purcell(Coaching Manager) on 01926 334910 or email [office@coachbowls.org](mailto:office@coachbowls.org)

There is funding available to assist Club Development up to £500. The programme offers support and guidance to help clubs to sustain and grow their membership, support volunteers, upskilling their volunteers and coaches, providing new opportunities for those with a disability to play the sport, promoting the club effectively and attracting funding for facility development if required.

Some local authorities are being given a document Playing Pitch Strategy. This document will be used by Local Authorities when assessing needs. Support offered will vary depending on each club's needs and present circumstances but the overall package includes:

- Identifying the main challenges the club is facing and look at how to overcome them;
- Sharing case studies and examples of best practice from clubs around the country;



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- Offering clubs a variety of templates, forms and other materials they can use either instantly or after bespoke modifications;
- Linking clubs with influential local groups and organisations that they may be able to benefit from;
- Dedicated support from a member of the BDA team.

John Hart may be the man to help or Amanda Scriven-Purcell.

They will need to know about efforts being made to recruit.

The club must also be aware of Safeguarding – this is vital for all adults. It is everyone's responsibility. A policy is needed. Need to identify adults at risk. Difference between adults and children. Different laws for adults and children. Different laws for adults. Mental capacity act applies to everyone over the age of 16.

Through John Hart and Amanda Scriven-Purcell obtain "Play Bowls Newsletter" Issue 36 covers Women Can, Adult Safeguarding in Bowls Module, Club Development Programme,

Play Bowls Package - 01926 334910 or [www.playbowls.org](http://www.playbowls.org)

Bowls England looking for new office accommodation which needs to be near to Victoria Park. A property has been identified and negotiations are ongoing with Warwick District Council.

Re National Membership Register – Appointed AZOLVE

-System fully GDPR compliant

System testing in progress and has just about been completed;

To go live in Summer 2019 with pilot counties – 5 identified Devon, Durham, Norfolk, Surrey and Warwickshire. Surrey to report back at the regional meetings next year – trying to get all counties on board by 2022.

2019 Atlantic Championships – tickets are now on sale and all details are on [www.welshbowls.co.uk/atlanticrim2019](http://www.welshbowls.co.uk/atlanticrim2019)

"Dream Team" to lead bowls renaissance – refer to [worldbowlspr@gmail.com](mailto:worldbowlspr@gmail.com)

They say you always leave the best to last! Nancie Colling MBE the immediate past Hon. Secretary of the EWBA and a Life Member of World Bowls celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 19<sup>th</sup> April – please liaise with me if you need her address to send her a card.

Together with Emily Ferguson of Kent, Teresa Orriss, Steph Crates and Margaret Smith from Sutton put in some fine performances over eight days of competition reaching the semi-finals of the Tiger Bowls event in Hong Kong and on the Zhuhai Tour in China. As a final gesture and out of their own pockets the English representatives gave £600 to two young male and female Malaysian teams.





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### 8 **Year Book Secretary's Report**

PB enquired if Marianne Ward (the Year Book Secretary) had anything to report but Marianne said she had nothing to say. PB thanked her for all her hard work on the Year Book on behalf of the County.

### 9 **Benevolent Secretary's Report**

CD reported that as at 31 March 2019 the bank balance stood at £9,351.06.

To date CD had only received six donations for the current financial year but expects this will increase in time. She reminded Council the fund supports and recognises either current or past members of the County whose circumstances have undergone change. They need our support no matter how small; just a card can speak volumes, especially in someone's time of need or in loneliness. Donations must be received by September 30<sup>th</sup> 2019 to ensure that they are registered in the 2020 handbook. There is a reminder regarding donations within the information you will be receiving today and should you have any queries or concerns then please contact me.

Since the beginning of the year several cards, flowers, plants and gifts have been sent to people in the following clubs: Belmont, Chessington, Knaphill, Croydon MOs, Southey, Purley Bury, Mytchett, Redhill, Chertsey, Ember and four gifts to past players whose status is unattached.

Naturally cards and flowers in some instances have been sent to families of the bereaved. We try not to miss anyone but ladies I am relying on you to let me know when someone needs some help and attention.

### 10 **Child Protection Officer's Report**

SM confirmed that Chelsea Brady had advised that she had received two enquiries this year so far and they had been dealt with.

### 11 **Zone Secretaries' Report**

Zones 1 and 2 Secretaries (Pat Chappell Southey) and Val Hobart (Purley Bury) both advised they had nothing much to say except that they would be in touch later on with regard to the Zone Games and hoped that everyone would support them. Zone 3, Jean Colvin (Sutton) sent apologies but also confirmed that she would be contacting everyone by email regarding the Zone games later on. Zone 4, Marion Beach (Zone 4) confirmed that "she had completed her forms for the Zone 4 games. She asked that all Zone Delegates who were present see her after the meeting to pick up their club forms. She asked that the ladies of Zone 4 support her. This will be her last year as Zone 4 Secretary so if anyone is interested in taking on the position, could they please let her or the Executive know. Thank you." Marion Beach.

### 12 **Tours**

SM advised that due to last year's tour to Worcestershire very nearly being cancelled because of lack of support, the Executive wondered whether there was a need for such tours in the future. She reminded Council that in 2014/15 Council had voted against mixed tours and wanted to keep the status quo.

This year the President had decided on a cultural tour to Italy and there were 49 people supporting this tour. The SVP's tour next year was a special train tour to Switzerland for which she had already had some support.

The questions are:



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- a. should SCWBA continue with Ladies' Bowling tours?
- b. should SCWBA consider unifying their tour with SCBA (ie Mixed Bowling Tour)?
- c. should SCWBA move away from bowling tours altogether?
- d. Have bowling tours had their day?

Delegates were asked to enquire of their clubs and report back to us at the October Council meeting.

### 13 **200 Club**

The 1<sup>st</sup> prize is £125, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £75 and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize. ZH said we needed more support for this. 1<sup>st</sup> Prize was won by Mrs Pauline Biddlecombe, ZH stated that Pauline supported the 200 Club very well. 2<sup>nd</sup> prize was won by Pauline again who asked for it to be re-drawn. 2<sup>nd</sup> prize was won by Veronica Owens, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize Nancy Robinson.

### 14 **Any other business**

- 14.1 PB announced that Life Membership had been awarded to Mrs Pamela Garden for all her hard work for the County and it was with great pleasure she was able to present her with her award.
- 14.2 Sylvia Russell (Cheam Fields) enquired whether there would be a neutral green for the final round of the Top Club. [Note BE regulation 52.1.17 now stipulates that all final qualification rounds for National Competitions shall be played on a neutral green midway between the two clubs unless mutually agreed.]
- 14.3 Veronica Owens commented that collections for Benevolent Fund had always been held on Semi-Finals Day and Finals Day. SM said the Finals Day collection had been collected for the President's charity. SM confirmed she would investigate to see what had happened and Veronica enquired if it was possible to re-introduce this practice.
- 14.4 Carolyn Lythgoe said the last two digits of her telephone number was incorrect in the Year Book for the competition contacts.
- 14.5 Sylvia Collingwood (Redhill) thanked everyone for all their hard work.

### 15 **Date of next meeting Tuesday 1 October 2019.**