



SURREY COUNTY WOMENS BOWLING ASSOCIATION May 2020

Ladies

First and foremost, I hope you are all keeping safe and as well as can be expected in these very trying and difficult circumstances.

To bring you up to date, I am pleased to let you know that Caroline Duarte is staying in the County and has kindly agreed to come on the Executive as Assistant Secretary.

As you know we had to cancel our usual April Council meeting and even worse our three open forums due to have been held in April. These meetings were our opportunity to tell you about all the things we hoped to be doing this year and what had been worked on over the winter.

Following the AGM, this year was to be a time for the two Associations to work together to see how we are able to unite under Bowls Surrey.

We have no idea what the future holds and whether we will be able to have a Council meeting in October or even an AGM in November and if we do whether it will have the same format. It may well be that we will have to hold these meetings "virtually" which with 100 plus people could be a challenge for us all.

During the winter months, we had various meetings with the SCBA and Bowls Surrey. The following has now been put in place or is currently being put in place:

- There will be a Bowls Surrey ("BS") website which hopefully will be introduced in November this year. Everyone will log into the BS web page to reach the SCBA and SCWBA sites. Everything which is relevant to both Associations, coaching, BE notices, umpires, development to name but a few will be put on the main website of BS. Currently it is intended that competition draws, results etc will be viewed on each Association's website;
- As you all know the affiliation system operated for the first time in November and even though there were a few tiny problems, these have now been resolved but on the whole the system worked well;
- SCBA also use this site and have done for two years for their matches. By this I mean matches are put on the system and bowlers are invited to choose which matches they wish to play in. For those who do not have computer access, letters will be sent in the post. From this information selectors will be able to pick the people and a letter will be emailed or posted to them advising which game, if any, they have been selected for.

During this period, the names and emails of all Johns trialists, all County players have been entered onto the system so that next year we will be ready to use the system.

- It is further intended that all competition entries will be processed on this system too. The draws will be done in a manner that if you want to see the draws being made you can do so. Once done everything will be put on the BS website under the members' pages, so that going forward when you have played your game and won you can put your result on direct and check to see who you are playing next. Obviously those who do not have access to a computer can ring the Competition Secretaries in the usual way. We are hopeful this will all be live for next year.



- We have implemented a newsletter. Currently this is sent to Club contacts and hopefully now delegates. Anyone can receive the newsletter. Email Charlotte Emanuel on BowlsSurrey@gmail.com and let her know you would like to receive the newsletter and she will add you to her mailing list.
- Joe Cable (SCBA President); Charlotte Emanuel (SCWBA President) John Tucker and myself are in the process of contacting all the clubs by telephone to make sure they are aware of the funding that is available to them and see how they are faring.

We have had Exec meetings and an Association working party meeting by “Zoom” to keep things going forward and one of the most challenging items for us has been Badge Qualification.

Both Associations have had to do a lot of number crunching as currently the imbalance in the County of clubs and their Areas/Zones is not good for either Association. We have used this year's competition entries for this purpose.

We are therefore looking at how to address this problem; SCBA have been looking at SCWBAs points system and SCWBA are looking at SCBA's badge system. We are trying to ensure fairness for all and choosing the best system for the future.

We are talking to SCBA and discussing badge qualification for all competitions with one or two exceptions ie The Palm Trophy and Sutton Winson which are extremely restricted and have totally different criteria.

As soon as we are in a position to make a full recommendation to you we will do so. Whatever the recommendation is when we finally reach that stage you can rest assured that we will have gone through every scenario regarding fairness for all and spent many hours making sure we have it right for the future..

I have been in contact with the Secretaries of Berkshire, Hampshire, Sussex, Kent, Buckinghamshire, Middlesex and Oxfordshire with a view to starting up a Home Counties league for women. If the counties are in favour it will be for all players badged and unbadged and will be a stepping stone to the Johns trophy. Hopefully I will have more news to report and will do that via the Bowls Surrey newsletter.

As you can see your Executive have been extremely busy during this unprecedented time.

It remains for me, on behalf of the SCWBA Exec, to send you and your club our very best wishes and if and when you do manage to get on the bowling green, please follow all the guidelines and stay safe.

Sheron Mitchell
SCWBA County Secretary