



SURREY COUNTY WOMEN'S BOWLING ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: MRS PENNY BRUNO

MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 OCTOBER 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

BE Delegate Mrs P Biddlecombe (PB); Safeguarding Officer: Miss Chelsea Brady; Life Members: Mrs G Platt, Miss R Potheary, Mrs J Taylor. Past Presidents: Mrs A Bolton, 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

Benevolent Fund Treasurer & Secretary Mrs Caroline Duarte; Zone 3 Secretary Mrs J Colvin, Past Presidents Mrs Gill Bonnell, Mrs M Stone, Mrs Carolyn Stevens and 19 delegates/ representatives from other clubs.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 April which been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read. Proposed for acceptance: by Mrs Maureen Vandrau (Sutton) and seconded by Mrs Sylvia Russell (Cheam Fields).

3 Matters arising

No matters arising. Except one amendment to 3.1 to amend "Cheam Ladies" to "Cheam Fields".

4 Statement by SCWBA

4.1 "It is with deep regret that I must advise you that the SCWBA bank accounts have been the subject of a very sophisticated scam. The bank account is now secure and we are in process of trying to recover the money. We have written to our bank and also to the two receiving banks and we are of the belief that we have a very strong case. Meantime, we have sufficient working funds and are able to pay all our outstanding bills.

We will keep you apprised of our progress with the banks but we must advise you that this could be a quite a long process. The banks have been advised that we will be going to the Financial Ombudsman and, if necessary, the press depending on their response."

SM explained that we were a "micro enterprise" but, despite that, and as a "business", banks were not obliged to put in the same safeguards as personal accounts. The Daily Mail had recently reported that there had been 57,549 cases of this type of fraud in the first six months of the year with a total loss £207m. It is no consolation but we are not alone.

[Since writing the above we have received 60% of our money back and will continue to chase the banks vigorously.]



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4.2 Council was advised that some funds had been taken from the account of Surrey Bowls Group. SM explained the role of Surrey Bowls Group in respect of recruitment and sponsorship for the four Associations. She explained there had been cause to question to the handling of the account and the Treasurer had admitted that he had used some money for his own purposes. He had tried to repay the money but had been unable to do so. She explained that we did not know as yet the full extent of the loss but currently it was just short of £4k. Also explained that the account had now been closed and that the police had been informed.

5 Secretary's Report

"President Penny and fellow bowlers

Last year I gave you the history of the membership of Surrey County Women's Bowling Association membership for the previous five years. For the 2019 season 2,394 members affiliated from 124 clubs. SCWBA lost 136 members or 5.37%.

The fall in membership continues and, if our sport is to continue through the generations, it is clear that we need to reverse this decline. A Caterham BC member has set an example to us all in what can be done to recruit new members. His dedication to recruitment and his successes are remarkable. If any club would like help I am sure he would be happy to give guidance on how he has managed to find a large number of new recruits. He may even offer to help if he does not live too far away. Jean Hewett can tell you all about him. His work for Caterham and Bletchingley particularly and Warlingham Park and Chipstead has been very successful.

As you know, Bowls Surrey became fully operational following our AGM last year. Perhaps not unexpectedly, our road in the first year has been very bumpy. Unfortunately, the SCBA Secretary (who was also a member of the BS Board), and the SCBA Assistant Secretary felt the need to resign from their posts. The BS Chairperson also resigned shortly afterwards. Sometime later, the BS Administrator also felt that he should resign. As I said in my report last year, SCBA or SCWBA are not recognised as separate County Associations by Bowls England. BE will only deal with Bowls Surrey. They and Sport England require that we have a unified structure. In addition to these demands, we also have to comply with the law, not least equality legislation.

The differences between the administration of the two associations are not many but are important to both genders. For example, the men's areas and the women's zones are different. Both Associations differ in the award of honours. We differ in the payment of expenses; SCWBA has fewer members than the men and therefore less income. All these issues are unlikely to be resolved in a short space of time.

On a positive note, as of today, clubs will be able to complete their affiliation and competition forms on-line. Secretaries or the designated person need only log in to their club's area on the affiliation system. They will not be able to access the any information provided by other clubs. They will need to ensure that the address is correct and details of the club website are correct. The names of existing members will already be listed; so only details of any changes and corrections will need to be inputted. However, in future, we will require first and surnames, affiliated members' contact details, for example, email addresses and telephone numbers. The



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date of birth will also be required for all those entering competitions. An explanatory letter will be sent to all clubs with a full explanation and instructions.

Charlotte Emanuel is the Bowls Surrey Communications Officer. Her Bowls Surrey Facebook page has been a great success and has attracted a very wide following. She has kept everyone up to date with things that are going on in the County for men and women, in particular the scores at Leamington. In August she received over 30,000 hits. A hit is only recorded where someone has opened a page and commented. She has no idea how many people just look at the page without comment; (people like me I am afraid)!

We have been looking at a Bowls Surrey website and as you know we have the Bowls Surrey name already. We have little progress so far but hope to make more progress in the foreseeable future and the Board have just agreed the colours should be blue and yellow.

Website design has changed over the years and in order to achieve what we need, it is essential that it is researched properly. Both webmasters have been looking into this. One of the first things Bowls Surrey worked on was what should be moved to the Bowls Surrey website so that everything that is common to both Associations can be put in one place, therefore halving the work.

COMPETITIONS

Ann Rapley and Jean Hewett (our Competition Secretaries) reported that our entries for the National Championships and other Surrey competitions all ran smoothly.

Once again, many thanks to Jean and Ann for all their hard work to make sure everything ran well.

Thank you to all the clubs who have allowed us the use of their greens, to the club members who made everyone so welcome and provided excellent refreshments during the final rounds, to the green keepers who had the unusually difficult task of keeping the greens in a good playing condition in very difficult circumstances. Last year we had drought, this year we had wind and rain and nausea.

I would particularly like to thank: Mitcham, Croydon, Sutton and Burpham for hosting the early rounds of the two wood singles and Bletchingley, Epsom and Byfleet for hosting the zone rounds and West Byfleet for hosting the Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals and Final of the Benevolent Triples. These bookings are particularly difficult as we appear to get more and more people just dropping out at the last minute. We book the greens on the basis that we need them; it is somewhat disconcerting when so many people pull out and our bookings prevent clubs' own members from using their own green.

Thirteen members qualified for their County Badge:

Sandra Harris (Bourne BC), Jan Ward (Heathfields BC); Joanne Newman (Ewhurst BC); Christine Chambers (Sutton BC); Liz Avis (Milford BC); Shirley Tilley, (Bourne BC), Linda Aburn (Sutton), Sylvia Jones (Ember), Gill Rice (Camberley), Linda Gallagher (Purley Ladies), Linda Ball (Purley Ladies), Kara Lyford (Purley Ladies) and Kat Hornbrook (Milford).



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Our congratulations to them all.

Other County competitions -

Shân Maylin ran the Champion of Champions and the Officers' Cup and all went smoothly I believe. Shân has agreed to continue running these two competitions for 2020. Thank you.

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

INTERNATIONALS

The British Isles Championships and the International Series was held in Jersey this year and a crowd of us went to support the Surrey triple of Sharmishta Patel, Maureen Vandrau and Margaret Smith in the British Isles Championships. Sadly, they lost 21-22 in the prelim to Ireland. They were very unlucky. Both Debbie Seward and Margaret Smith played for England in all the games in the International Series with Debbie moving up to play 3 to Lorraine Kuhler. England won the series and received the Eve Trophy. Congratulations!

I can confirm that both Debbie Seward and Margaret Smith have been selected for the international series for 2020.

Congratulation also to Yasmina Hasan and Rebecca Fey who have been selected for the Bowls England Youth Academy.

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA

The 2019 Season! Once again what an extraordinary season it has been! There were highs and lows! Surrey won the Johns Trophy (for the second year running and for the fourth time in six years) and the Sutton trio of Margaret Smith, Maureen Vandrau and Sharmishta Patel were runners up in the National Triples Championship. Incredibly, it was the third time that they had reached the final in the last four years. We are extremely proud of all three. Camberley won the Tony Allcock Trophy. Debbie Souter reached the quarter finals of the National Singles Championships which is no mean feat. Our juniors played very well in the Amy Rose losing to a very strong Devon team by just two shots. Well done to them all.

JOHNS TROPHY AND WALKER CUP

Once again we used observers to assist the selectors. Jan Pedersen sadly was unable to assist this year and did not act as a selector although she was at the other end of a telephone to give any guidance when the selectors felt it necessary. President Penny, Jean Hewett (Zone 2), Caroline Duarte (Zone 1), Ann Rapley (Zone 4) and myself were the selectors.

Selection is always a problem and leaves some people disappointed. This is extremely hard when they are friends and colleagues but at the end of the day selectors have to decide what is best for the team. They have to make some tough decisions and I would like to thank them all.



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In the Johns Trophy we won all three of our qualifying games against Middlesex, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. We then played Hampshire in the regional final. It was lovely to meet up with our old adversaries and the game was played in excellent spirit with Surrey winning by 134 - 87 to qualify for Leamington.

I would like to thank Charlotte for arranging a coach to come and support the Johns team at Leamington. The enthusiastic support you gave to us helped and encouraged the team enormously. I believe a very good time was had by all.

Our first game against Lincolnshire was no easy win. Although we won by 15 shots in the end we only managed to win on two rinks and halve one other. But a good all-round team performance saw us through. The win in the final against Wiltshire was a little more comfortable than we expected. Wiltshire kept it tight at the beginning but eventually Surrey pulled away and we won on all six rinks and by 142 shots to 91. Very well done to all.

This brings me to the Walker Cup. It is clear that Surrey has great strength in depth and are able to put out six strong rinks but we do not seem to be able to get it quite right for the Walker Cup. I do believe the selectors made the right choices for the Walker Cup this year and having spoken to the players I further believe there were extenuating circumstances for the defeat Surrey suffered against Oxfordshire in the first round.

Having played a Johns Trophy game on the Saturday and then travelling to Banbury Chestnuts to play the Walker took its toll. All players had a heavy bowling week beforehand and the trip to Banbury was a very long journey for some of them. Hindsight is a wonderful thing but I promised that I would leave the Friday and Monday free from competition either side of any Johns/Walker Cup double. In 2020 we have a similar scenario in that we have a Walker Cup/Johns weekend prior to the Walker Cup/Johns Regional Final weekends. I have kept the Friday and Monday clear.

AMY ROSE

The team ably managed by Debbie Souter with assistance from Pam Garden and Liz Anderson did extremely well only losing by two shots to a Devon team led by Natalie Chestney and Sophie Tolchard. I must thank Pam for her work in coaching members of the Amy Rose team at Egham on a number of evenings to give them some practice at playing together.

THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL TOP CLUB

This year's draw in the Top Club was more equitable in that Sussex was put in Area 6 with Kent and Surrey remained in Area 7 Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The numbers in each area were much more even. Area 7 was won by Sutton who went on to the National Finals at Leamington.

I travelled to Leamington on the Saturday to watch Sutton in the quarter finals. The draw was made that morning and unfortunately Sutton drew last year's winners Kings BC of Devon again with Sophie Tolchard and Natalie Chestney.



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It was a really hard-fought game and the bowling was excellent. Sadly, Sutton lost by 2 shots. I am never too sure whether it is good to be beaten by a raft of shots or whether just one or two! I must commend the whole team on an excellent and very exciting performance.

BENEVOLENT TRIPLES

The Surrey winners of the Benevolent Triples were Jenny Baird, Lorna Kilpatrick and Linda Pillman. I am afraid this was another competition where a number of teams pulled out at the last minute. As I have said before when this happens this leaves other teams hanging about when their time could probably be better served elsewhere. Not only that but it causes problems when trying to book clubs as venues. It is very difficult to expect a club to give up their green to find that it is hardly used and they have had to turn away their own members!

At the time of writing this report I have not heard who the National winners are.

COUNTY, EXECUTIVE AND INTER-ZONE MATCHES.

Once again, twelve friendly matches against other Counties were arranged.

We won 9 matches, lost two and the match against Middlesex at Windlesham was abandoned due to heavy rain. However, those ladies who were good enough to remain enjoyed a very lively and fun quiz.

Everyone wonders why Britain's first topic of conversation is the weather! Our climate is extremely variable. Two years ago we had games that were rained off, last year they were cut short due to the extreme, hot weather and this year we had one match cut short due to heat and one match abandoned due to rain. I wonder what our wonderful weather will hold in store for us next year.

Once again, I must emphasise that when the match choice papers come out please choose more than one game. It is very difficult trying to fit everyone in when only one game is chosen. This will hopefully avoid disappointment. I will try to get another County fixture but so far it has been to no avail. The Midland counties all play in a particular league and I am not sure that we would want to go down that road although it is something that could be investigated further. I am not sure how this would work out with the timetable but I am always willing to speak to my colleagues to see if we could arrange something.

Five Executive games were arranged this year. The first one was played against SCBA which we won 137 to 108. We played then played Wimbledon Park, Malden Manor and the Civil Service. I am pleased to say we won all three. The match against the Banks Association was cancelled.



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INTERZONE GAMES (PHYLL HILL TROPHY)

The Inter-Zone matches again proved very competitive and the winners were Zone 3.

| Zone | POINTS 10th August | POINTS 17 th August | POINTS 24 th August | TOTAL POINTS |
|------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 2 | 11 | 5 | 2 | 18 |
| 3 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 22 |
| 4 | 2 | 11 | 9 | 22 |

Once again, a big thank you to all those members who played and supported the Zone Secretaries in these games. Thanks also go to Sutton BC for allowing us to use their greens.

The Executive have discussed the Zone games at length. We feel that the purpose of the games has been lost and have been giving some thought to the way forward. These games are supposed to have a competitive edge to them and give Selectors and their "spies" an opportunity to look at players with a view to trials for the Johns.

Clearly Zone 1 has a problem in getting players, particularly in view of its small membership and occasionally Zone 4 has also had a problem as some women do not like travelling continually out of their own zone and going to one venue.

After much consideration we have decided that we will reduce the size to three rinks per zone and they will be played at different venues towards the centre of the County but just off the A3. For example clubs that have adequate parking for 48 women and have the facilities and are prepared to provide tea and biscuits. We will be playing 21 ends.

It was quite clear to me that most of the women enjoyed the games and everyone seemed to be having fun which is something I would hate to see the games lose. To find the right balance is extremely difficult.

COUNTY TOUR.

This is a subject which I think is best described by President Penny. I will simply say that I believe it was a great success.

LOYAL SERVICE AWARD

This year we made four awards. Firstly to Janet Hutchison from Sutton BC, then Janet Exall from Old Coulsdon BC. Members of the Executive then went to Cheam Fields to see Jean Taylor and finally they travelled to Croydon BC for Marion Branch. It is wonderful to see the pleasure and



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surprise on the recipients' faces and I would urge all clubs to think whether they have a member in their own club who is deserving of such recognition.

SURREY BOWLS GROUP

Sponsorship:

"Co-operative Funeralcare" contract has now expired and we will no longer be sponsored by them

"Leightons Opticians" have agreed a five year contract at £2000 per year between the four Associations. This started last year.

"St James' Place" we have recently heard that St James's Place have suggested that we might pull out of the contract. They have had difficulties with 6 other counties and feel they would be better served going to the clubs direct. The final decision will be made by all four associations. However, your Executive recommend that we pull out of the contract. We feel that the disadvantages, not least the inconvenience and cost to our members in complying with their wishes for shirt advertising and the costs involved in all the events they want to promote their services, outweigh the benefit of the sponsorship (£1,000 pa) we would receive.

YEAR BOOK and WEBSITE

Marianne Ward has continued doing a wonderful job with both the website and Year Books and I would like to express my personal thanks to her for all her support and hard work over the years. Marianne advised me in May that she no longer wanted to continue with the Year Book but was happy to continue with the website until such time as the website became unified and I know that you will all be delighted to hear this.

In view of this news and with the difficulty in getting volunteers to fulfil the roles, I sent out a brief survey regarding Yearbooks. This proved very interesting and I received replies from 64 clubs, just over 50%. With the exception of two clubs, all confirmed they were happy for the history, advertisements, photographs, notifications from Coach Bowls, Umpires and/or anything else relating to general items be put on the website.

This will leave the Club information, County draws, Executive information, calendar, competitors' contact numbers and the competition rules to be put into an Information Booklet half the size. This booklet would have a plain white cover with the County badge on the front. The paper would be non-glossy making it easier for re-cycling. This will also halve the cost to £2.

As far as the website is concerned, there have been no changes so far. I will refer to the Bowls Surrey website shortly.



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BOWLS SURREY

Bowl Surrey has hit a few snags in its first year. As you now know, the new joint Constitution was adopted at both SCBA's and SCWBA's Annual General Meetings in November 2017 and the first Bowls Surrey AGM was held at Reigate Manor in November 2018.

At that meeting we saw the inauguration of Peter and Penny as our respective Presidents. Robin Fudge (Administrator) and Roger Lanham (Chairperson) were elected to the BS Board for three years. David Lokkerbol and I were appointed as Secretaries of the two Associations. It has become clear to us that some people had not understood that there was a joint constitution and what its effect was.

In June there were some issues within SCBA culminating in the resignation of David Lokkerbol as SCBA Secretary and thus from the BS Board. Roger Lanham felt that he had to resign as Bowls Surrey Chairperson.

Robin Fudge, the Administrator, soldiered on for some time but sadly felt that he could no longer continue. His departure was a great loss.

Following these resignations I went through the Constitution in great depth and it was quite clear there were some holes in it. The Board was unable to appoint anyone to take the place of either Administrator or Chairperson. County Secretaries were members of the Board but only after they had been appointed by their respective Councils. This, therefore, proved there were huge holes in the Constitution with no provisions for the replacement of officers through death, illness, resignation etc. Attached to the papers for this meeting is a copy of the Constitution together with a list of the proposed changes and the reasons for such changes. All these changes will be voted on at the AGM in November.

So, at the end of the day what has Bowls Surrey actually achieved?

- We are still looking for a Development Officer which is absolutely crucial to our organisation. It doesn't matter what gender but we need someone who is keen and dynamic to take this huge task on.
- We have a Bowls Surrey website and we have identified what items should be on that website and what should remain on the SCBA and SCWBA websites. We have been investigating the cost of running three websites which is prohibitive. Equally there is also the problem that to build a website now there are all sorts of different parameters. It is important that we get this right.
- We have worked on a joint affiliation online system which will become operational this year. We have been testing this and we are currently working on a guide for clubs so they know what to do. There will be three or four people who will be able to assist clubs on how to do things.
- Those clubs that do not have access to a computer can still fill their forms in and either Howard Quinnell, (the SCBA and Bowls Surrey Treasurer) or I will complete the information for them.
- This online system will automatically work out precisely how much money a club needs to send to Bowls Surrey for affiliation, the cost of the information booklets, competition fees and any



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other ancillary matters.

I would just like to thank the whole of the Executive for their support and help this year, and to congratulate Penny on a successful Presidency and a job well done. We all wish Charlotte a very happy and successful 2020 season.

As you know I did say this would be my last year as County Secretary but due to the circumstances we find ourselves in with integration, I feel this is not the right time for me to leave. This does not mean I am happy to continue indefinitely and I desperately do need some help even if it is a minute-taker for all meetings.

Date of next Council meeting will be Tuesday 7 April 2020.

Sheron Mitchell
County Secretary

1 October 2019"

6 Financial Report

Following the statement by the Secretary. Zoë felt there was not very much she could say at this time. The accounts will be ready for the AGM. She reiterated that SCWBA did have funds and were operational and that all debts had been paid. Zoë also confirmed that SCWBA was owed £1k from the Surrey Bowls Group. She also asked members to be very careful when speaking to people on the telephone as these fraudsters are so very sophisticated.

7 President's Addendum

Secretary Sheron, ladies of the Executive, club Delegates and lady members of Surrey County Women's Bowling Association.

I have to begin by telling you that I've had the best of times over the past three years and in particular, thoroughly enjoyed my year as President.

You have all helped to contribute to this great year & for that, I'd like to thank everyone here today. Thank you all for your friendship, encouragement, guidance & holding my hand when necessary, I couldn't have managed without you all.....and whilst I'm giving my thanks, I must mention those of you who were able to attend my Presidents Day at Knaphill in July.....one of the hottest days of the year. A few of us managed to play a couple of fun games between lunch & supper, but for the main, the ladies were quite happy to keep out of the sun & catch up with friends they hadn't seen for a while.

We were joined by the main fund raiser for my charity GUTS (Guildford Undetected Tumour Screening) and I am so pleased to inform you that up till now we have collected over £1,500 for the charity. My thanks go to all those who have contributed so generously to the charity and I am so grateful for all the cards & special gifts that you gave me & raffle prizes that were donated. My very special thanks go to my club, Knaphill, for all their hard work & commitment on my Presidents Day and their support and kindness throughout the year. You have helped me throughout these three years and for that I am extremely grateful.



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As you know, my motif for the year was the bee & my sketches and larger than life size bees have appeared on most things this year on all sorts of occasions. I chose this motif as bees are known to be busy & I knew that was how the year would be for me. I didn't realise how busy, but it's all been so enjoyable and within a few weeks I will wonder what to do with my time.

Between attending the quarter finals, semi's and finals, county friendly matches, loyal service awards, & Executive games, I have visited so many clubs within & outside of Surrey - even to Jersey, to cheer on our 2018 Triples champions, Sharmishta, Maureen & Margaret & the England international squad, including Debbie Seward & Margaret Smith. Everywhere I've been, the welcomes have been warm and I've made so many new friends with both players & supporters within the county & from other counties too.

At this point, I must congratulate all the ladies who played for their badges this year & also those who will be collecting their trophies on Presentation evening.

Most of August was taken up with being up at Leamington which was another exciting event, especially as we did so well again. I must congratulate the whole of the John's team on winning yet again this year.....it is a marvellous record that we are setting in the John's & I was so proud to be your President on that day. Also to watch Margaret, Maureen & Sharmishta as finalists in the Triples again. Debbie Souter, the Sutton Top Club team, the team from Camberley for winning the Tony Allcock Trophy and the young members of the Amy Rose team who have now had the pleasure of playing at Leamington. They did so well against more experienced teams & will have learnt from that experience and will be prepared to return again & again.

And then to Lake Garda in Italy and my tour which strayed from the usual bowling tour, but turned out so well & as far as I know was enjoyed by all. The weather, our trips, the group of 47 who all got on so well together - everything was perfect.

I'm going to end with a few more thanks & that's to the members of the executive, present & past, who have been so generous with their friendship, their guidance & advice. They've helped me to approach my year with confidence and I have personally gained so much from them & from my time in this position. It has been an honour to be your President and I will always be proud that I was considered for the job.

On that note, I really hope that Charlotte enjoys her year as much as I have. I thank her for her support this year and I wish her a happy & successful time.

8 Competition Secretaries' Report

There was no report except to say that everything ran smoothly and thank you to all the competitors.

9 Benevolent Secretary's Report

"President Penny, Executive and Delegates

I would like to thank all clubs for their donations throughout the year; the account has a balance of £9,813.15

I am very pleased to report that the number of donations have increased by 100% , where as they had dropped by 59% for the previous year. A total of 36 clubs donated to the fund this year against 18 from the previous year. I can only think that more clubs have become aware of the fund due,



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perhaps, to the Roadshows which have become popular for those club officers who see the benefit of having the county officers present to answer questions as well as bringing their attention to their responsibilities.

May I add that we have had an increase in the collection at semi-finals day as well as an anonymous donation. Thank you to one and all.

Both the Surrey County Women's Bowling Association and the Surrey County Bowling Association have their own Benevolent Funds. The men's operate slightly different as they do not send cards, flowers or gifts but support members who they have identified in needing support due to personal hardship. Can I remind delegates that the women also have this as part of their benevolent fund remit. Can I also remind delegates that the fund is not the first port of call when one of your members falls ill, has an operation or generally needs cheering up? I would hope that the individual clubs would also send their own cards or gifts in the first place.

Please note that the financial year starts on 1st October and ends on 30th September to fall in line with the main SCWBA accounts

Please continue to contact me if members are ill, injured or had an operation, all details of the Benevolent Fund are listed in the year book and the county web site. I might add that there seems to be number of our members who are reaching their 90th birthdays we are not adverse to sending a card to mark this wonderful achievement.

Special note I need to have all requests for Christmas Gifts by the 31st October 2019 these are then collected at the AGM in November.

Thank you ladies for your kind attention."

10 Zone Secretaries' Report

- **Zone 1:** Firstly I wish to congratulate Zone 3 on winning the Phil Hill trophy. Secondly, I would like to thank all those ladies, badged and unbadged who played this year. Well done! And thirdly I am retiring next year so I would like to go out with a win! Please would all delegates from Zone 1 encourage all their ladies to play.
- **Zone 2:** President Penny and Good afternoon Ladies: What a difference a game makes!! Zone 2's first game left us with a good lead as we won on all rinks, well done all. Next game was very tight but we came out just in front, and I mean just in front! On the last game – well the wheels came off and we struggled; we eventually came joint second. Congratulations to Zone 3 for their win. Well done and thank you to all the ladies who played for me in these games. Again looking to do better in 2020!!!
My thanks go to Sutton for their hospitality for providing refreshments before the game and at the end. My thanks also to Marianne who made sending the results very easy.
- **Zone 3:** Well done to Zone 3 on winning the Phil Hill trophy. It was a tight finish. My thanks go to all those ladies who played for Zone 3.



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- **Zone 4:** I have now retired as the Zone 4 Secretary and I would like to thank all the ladies who have supported me, in particular Jackie Dickens who was able to get several ladies to play.

The last two years have been a little difficult in getting ladies from some clubs to play in the games but I have enjoyed my time as Secretary. This year we tied with Zone 3 on 22 points each but we lost on a shots countback of 211 to 204 and came second which is very good after a poor start. Well done to Zone 3 and I would like to thank Sutton for their hospitality. I would also like to thank President Penny and the Committee for the gifts on my retirement.

The President advised thatCarolyn Stevens had agreed to take over Zone 4 games. Everyone agreed with this appointment. She further advised that the Executive felt the role of Assistant Treasurer was really not necessary and therefore Carolyn would be giving that role up.

At this point the President presented Jean Capell with a gift on her retirement as an Umpire and thanked her on behalf of the County.

11 Bowls England Delegate's Report

- Warwick District Council is continuing its investment in the bowling greens at Victoria Park, Royal Leamington Spa, ahead of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- Work will be undertaken on two greens during each of the next two close seasons – C and D Green (commencing mid-September 2019) followed by A and B Green (commencing mid-September 2020).
- The work will involve the removal of the turf, removal of excessive thatch and organic material, and the levelling of the playing surface. The new greens will then be created by reseeding. Work will also be carried out to improve the banks and ditches on all four greens.
- Play on the new greens should be able to be gradually increased during June and July 2020 and 2021, and the greens will be fully back in use in order that the Bowls England National Championships may continue to be held in their entirety at Victoria Park as planned in 2020 and 2021.
- It is with regret that I have to report two retirements early next year:
Chairman – David Mitchell-Gears MBE
Chief Executive – Tony Allcock OBE

12 Safeguarding Officer's Report

Chelsea Brady advised that she had nothing to report.

13 Constitutional and Rule Changes

The Secretary gave some background information regarding the Constitutional changes relating to Bowls Surrey ("BS"). She advised that David Lokkerbol resigned as Secretary as did the SCBA Assistant Secretary following an SCBA Council meeting held on 27 June 2019. David was Board member in his capacity as SCBA Secretary. Therefore, he ceased to be a member of the BS Board. Following the same meeting Roger Lanham who was Chairperson of the BS Board, resigned

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because he felt the views he had expressed in Council were incompatible with his position as BS Chairperson. These resignations revealed a number of gaps in the BS Constitution – not least that there were no means of replacing Board members who resigned etc.

At the same time, it had been discussed at SCBA Council that BS had no powers at present and would only have them at some time in the future when SCBA and SCWBA could be said to “function as an integrated body.”

- The BS Board rejected this interpretation. The Constitution sets out the powers of BS when acting as an integrated body and the powers of SCBA and SCWBA when acting independently.

At the same time, an SCBA representative on the Board argued that the BS Constitution did not apply to SCBA which had its own constitution.

The Board disagreed. The joint BS Constitution had been adopted at the SCBA and SCWBA AGMs in 2017 and replaced previous SCBA and SCWBA constitutions

A statement on the status on the effect of the BS Constitution has since been agreed by BS Board, the SCBA Council and the SCWBA Executive. We recommend that Council now adopts this statement and that it is presented to BS AGM as an agreed document. Council requested that the statement was read out. This statement was approved unanimously.

It was explained that SCWBA Executive recognised that some members of the SCBA Council feared that BS represented a threat to their own powers.

The Secretary explained to Council how the SCBA Council differs from the SCWBA Council. SCBA Council comprises the Officers, 20 elected Councillors, 35 Honorary Vice Presidents (HVPs) and 7 Life Members. (Some HVPs and Life Members may have more than one role.) All of them are allowed to speak and vote at Council.

Your Executive did not share SCBA Council's fears but believed that BS and SCWBA had identical interests in promoting the sport within the County and saw no conflict.

However, we believe that we should try to find a compromise to address SCBA's fears. Sheron Mitchell and Derek Harvey, SCBA temporary administrator, then agreed “The Way Forward”. This short document has been agreed by BS Board and SCWBA Executive. We believe it has been agreed by the SCBA Council but we invited Council to adopt it also.

It provides

- That all abide by BS Constitution
- Should seek agreement on amendments to constitution to be put to AGM. In absence of agreement competing amendments might be put to AGM
- The joint statement be presented to AGM
- A moratorium on unification for a year while we consult members about what they want.

At this time the Secretary asked if Council agreed to the “Way Forward” statement. It was agreed unanimously.

SCWBA Secretary and Derek Harvey agreed amendments to the Constitution and these were agreed by your Executive.

These allowed:

- For replacement of BS Board members
- Set out procedure for electing BS Board
- Set out procedure for appointment of SCWBA Officers by Council



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- Power of SCWBA Executive to make or amend rules subject to ratification by Council
- Allows BS Board and SCBA and SCWBA Councils to propose motions to AGM and sets out procedure for such notices to be given
- Allows for further information to be sought about members where reasonable, to allow for possible changes in information required by BE.

The BS amendments were agreed unanimously.

However, the SCBA Finance and General Purposes Committee (equivalent of our Executive) insisted on further amendments which were discussed at BS Board meeting. These amendments were rejected but the Board agreed further amendments to allay SCBA's fears, making it clear that BS would consult with SCBA and SCWBA. The SCBA representatives believed they would be acceptable to SCBA Council. These agreed amendments and an accompanying explanatory note were distributed last week.

Question from the floor: How long is this unification likely to take? SVP said this has been going on for years. The men received permission for an extension in 2011 so they could celebrate their 100 years and since then nothing happened until two years ago.

However, SCBA Council insisted on its own amendments and refused to accept any amendments whatsoever if its own amendments were not accepted. The suggestion was made that if these amendments were not accepted then no amendments should be made to the Constitution this year. SCWBA and the Board considered this to be totally impractical.

The SCBA Council's amendments had been sent to clubs two days earlier. Sunday Having looked at the amendments, your Executive consider that they are unacceptable and are undemocratic. Our reasons were set out in the note also sent to you on Sunday. We therefore invite you to reject the SCBA amendments but ask you to agree that the previously agreed amendments be put before BS AGM.

The SCBA amendments were rejected unanimously.

Pat Chappell advised that most clubs have no idea what the County are doing. Nothing is told to the men at all. She asked why the same people are in office year after year and when finished they join some other organisation to enable them to retain power. She is sorry but it needs to change.

Jan Pedersen says the men in her club know nothing. We need to progress our sport. Anybody in the club can come to the AGM. Anyone can speak but only two people from the club can vote. Two ladies, two men or one of each can vote but they must have the mandate of who they represent. One person cannot vote for the men and the women thereby putting both hands up. There were numerous questions about voting and Sheron advised she would investigate things and put it in an email with the minutes. From the questions being asked there are clearly communication problems in the clubs. It is necessary to talk to other club members. Last year voting cards were handed to people who should not have been voting. Sheron suggested that if they think someone shouldn't be voting then they must stand up. Board members were not given voting slips unless mandated by their club.



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Question from the floor: who will be running the AGM as last year it was a shambles. We advised President Penny will be in the Chair.

14 Vacancies both in SCWBA and Bowls Surrey

We need a Junior Vice President and an Assistant Secretary post. The job specifications are all the website. For Bowls Surrey we need an Administrator and Chairperson. Nomination papers are on the website and have to be with either Derek Harvey or Sheron Mitchell by Saturday 10 October.

15 Appointment of Officers

Secretary will continue.

Treasurer would like to move on but feels she should to stay on to see things through.

Match Secretary is prepared to stand for a further year.

Proposer to nominate these appointments for the coming year:

Proposer: Jan Pedersen (Mytchett)

Seconder: Jill Platt (Milford)

Unanimously agreed.

The two Competition Secretaries were proposed by: Jan Pedersen (Mytchett) and seconded by Maureen Vandrau (Sutton)

16 Dinner

This will be held at Tyrells Wood and we have three tickets left.

17 200 Club

The winners were £100. Pauline Biddlecombe; £50. Gill Platt and £25. Carlyne Stevens.

18 Date of next meeting: Tuesday 7 April 2020 at Mansel Road, Wimbledon.

19 AGM Reminder – 9 November 2019 at Imber Court at 10am (9.30 for coffee/tea).

20 Any other business

20.1 Year Books will cease and they will become Information Booklets. These will then be able to re-cycled. Adverts, history and photographs will be removed. Club details will be in the booklet. Constitution is to go on the website. Competition Rules will be in the booklet.

20.2 The tours consultation proved interesting. Some don't want tours; if we have tours they should be in the UK. The majority seem to want to go on bowling tours. Cost seemed to be an issue. The majority without any doubt is for mixed tours. The Executive will do some work on this.

20.3 One amendment to the Benevolent Triples Rules. The rule should read COUNTY members not CLUB.

20.4 Bowls Surrey was asked to run a mixed pairs competition and Howard Quinnell approached clubs in Area 4 and then had comments from West Surrey that they wanted to join in and



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- the finals were held on Finals Day for West Surrey. He is looking to run this again. There is a possibility that there will be a mixed pairs County competition.
- 20.5 Sponsorship. The Co-op sponsorship has finished now. Shirts with the Co-op may still be worn; Leightons will continue until 2021; St James's Place have given the County an opportunity to pull out of the contract with them. Secretary showed the quality of the shirt from a new supplier which will be cheaper. The design and colours will remain the same as present. Shan Maylin (Southey) asked that if we have any new sponsors it was essential shirts did not have the logos printed on the shirts. She stated that she felt very strongly about this and the Secretary on behalf of the SCWBA Exec agreed.
- 20.6 Coaching. Denise and Quentin Smith are moving to Sussex. The County Coach Coordinator is David Lokkerbol (Leatherhead); Lead Tutor will be Alan Bradshaw with help from Elaine Applebee; Lead Assessors will be Tessa Davis and Elaine Applebee.
- 20.7 Sponsorship for juniors. Because the County is lacking in umpires whether the Benevolent Fund would consider funding a lady to become an umpire. Normal Powell is now a regional umpire.
- 20.8 Sylvia Russell (Cheam Fields) enquired whether we will be asking for date of birth for age related competitions. She asked what would happen when the competition is entered very often the full team is not known. So how can you enter dates of birth if the players are not known. She was advised that once the entries had been put on the system and it had been closed, it would be re-opened again once everything had gone to Bowls England so the dates of birth could be entered then. This was going to be trial and error and there will be teething problems.
- 20.9 Secretary mentioned Charlie Kielty has introduced 45 new members to Caterham, about 40 new interests into Bletchingley with 16 into Chipstead and Warlingham Park. He is very interested in bowls development. He is an ex salesman and has a special pass to enable him to knock at doors.
- 20.10 Linda Pillman (Ember) advised that members from her club were asked to pay £2 green fees on top of their entrance fees. Sutton players did not have to pay. Secretary said Burpham charged £3. SVP advised that all players who were not members of Sutton were charged £2 green fees to the County. Secretary said clubs are struggling and the better greens are used more for competitions and games. Oxshott are not playing at Sutton anymore for friendly games as they are too expensive.

Meeting closed at 15.04