BOWLS SURREY

MINUTES of the 5th Annual General Meeting of Bowls Surrey held at Woking Football Club, Kingfield Rd, Woking, GU22 9AA on 26th November 2022.

Present: The Bowls Surrey Board supported by Officers of Surrey County Bowling Association and the Surrey County Women's Bowling Association. Attending were 65 Voting Delegates and 34 club members. 45 clubs were represented.

The Bowls Surrey Administrator, Colin Homes, read the notice convening the meeting. **Notice** is hereby given that the 5th Annual General Meeting of Bowls Surrey will be held at Woking Football Club, Kingfield Rd, Woking, GU22 9AA on 26th November 2022 commencing at 10 am. The meeting is to receive the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, to appoint an Accounts Verifier and transact the ordinary business of Bowls Surrey. For and on behalf of the Board

Colin Homes
Bowls Surrey Administrator
Dated 26th November 2022

Remembering Departed Members

Penny Bruno read out the list of departed members. She paid special tribute to Trevor Prentice who had recently passed away expressing our thoughts for his family. (See Appendix A)

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**

Lawrie Harris (Ripley), Diane Cooke (Surbiton), Judy Morris (Newdigate), Miki Aynsley (Purley), Joyce Clay & Liz Harman (Merton Park Ladies), Carolyn Lythgoe (Camberley), Jenny Baird (Ember), Mary Green (Epsom), Sylvia Collingwood (Redhill), David Regan (Auriol), Carolyn Lowry (Ewell Village) Lorna Hunter (Maldon Manor), Tim Davis (Horsell), Shirley West (Castle Green), Brian Wilson (Horley), Dave Richards (New Addington) and Steve Parnham (Purley).

2. **Minutes of the Bowls Surrey AGM of 20th November 2021**

The minutes were circulated to clubs prior to the meeting. Jeremy Dearmer (Carshalton) proposed Acceptance of the minutes and this was seconded by Kevin Crane (Chessington) The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

4. **To receive and adopt the reports of Bowls Surrey Chairperson, Bowls Surrey Administrator, Surrey County Bowling Association (Secretary's Report) and Surrey County Women's Bowling Association (Secretary's Report):**

The Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. Trevor Pocock (Bletchingley) proposed acceptance of the reports and this was seconded by Robin Fudge (West Byfleet) The reports were accepted unanimously.

5. **To receive and approve the financial reports of Bowls Surrey, Surrey County Bowling Association and Surrey County Women's Bowling Association for 2022**

The Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. John Badley (West Wimbledon) proposed acceptance of the report and this was seconded by Sally Wilson (Chipstead) . The reports were accepted unanimously. .

6. **To receive and approve the Benevolent Fund Statements of accounts of Surrey County Bowling Association and Surrey County Women's Bowling Association**

The Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. Derek Harvey (Epsom) proposed acceptance of the report and this was seconded by David Candeland (Purley Bury). The reports were accepted unanimously.

7. **Vote of thanks to the Executives** Received from Jan Pedersen.

I am sure we are all delighted to have been back on the bowling green, to a level as before "The Covid" hit us.

On behalf of all the Bowlers in Surrey I would like to thank all the hard-working members of the Bowls Surrey Board, the Executives of Surrey County Women's Bowling Association and Surrey County Bowling Association, for the time and effort they spend on keeping us all on the straight and narrow, updating us with all the information pertaining to our game, which at times, must seem never ending.

Having been part of the original Unification committee it is so pleasing to now see how far we have come. Our Presidents, Linda and Martin have travelled throughout the County, and beyond, visiting our clubs and supporting our members in their various competitions and matches.

May I just mention Sheron Mitchell, Penny Bruno, Zoe Hollins Dorothy Roberts, Colin Homes and Derek Harvey, who are all stepping down from their current rolls. They have been stalwarts of the County for many years. Some are continuing in a new roll, and we wish them well. Those who are retiring we hope you enjoy a well-earned rest

Thank you again to you all for your much appreciated time and hard work

Jan Pedersen – Mytchett Bowling Club – 26th November 2022

8. **Motions**

8.1. **To seek approval for amendments to Bowls Surrey Constitution**

The Proposed changes to the Constitution had been circulated prior to the meeting. The proposition to accept the changes was made on behalf of the Bowls Surrey Board, endorsed by the SCBA and SCWBA .

In reply to questions from Sylvia Russell (Cheam Fields) and David Humphreys (Caterham) John Tucker explained that the affiliation fees requested by Bowls England are under review. He is on the review working party and they are aware that the current rules need changing, but it's difficult to predict what the outcome would be. He added that in the meantime the onus is on clubs to ensure they affiliate all playing members.

The new constitution was carried unanimously.

8.2.

The women's 200 club draw to be open to all members in Surrey.
Zoe Hollins explained the purpose of the draw and proposed that it should now be extended to include the gentlemen. This was carried unanimously

8.3.

That the combined juniors will come under Bowls Surrey and the junior managers will be appointed by and report to the Bowls Surrey Board. Moved by John Tucker. This was carried unanimously

8.4. Motion to be moved on behalf of the Bowls Surrey Board.

That there be one organisation known as Bowls Surrey. That all administration for the playing of lawn green bowls comes under their control, including all finances, no later than the AGM 2024. That all history pertaining to Surrey County Bowling Association (SCBA) & Surrey County Women's Bowling Association (SCWBA), be retained and made available to all current & future bowlers, for as long as lawn green bowls is played in Surrey.

A statement clarifying what would remain unaffected if the Associations merge was made by Sheron Mitchell on behalf of both associations (See Appendix B).

Colin Homes moved the motion recommending acceptance (See Appendix C).

Derek Harvey paid tribute to all those responsible for getting the County to a point where we can accept the proposed changes.

The motion was carried unanimously

9. **Ratification of President and Senior Vice-President of SCBA and President and Vice-President of SCWBA In accordance with clauses 9.1.2 AND 9.2.4:**

9.1. SCBA President	Brian Shellard (Malden Manor)
9.2. SCWBA President	Sheron Mitchell (Purley Bury)
9.3. SCBA Senior Vice-President	Robin Fudge (West Byfleet)
9.4. SCWBA Vice-President	Pam Lawrence (Horsell)
9.5. SCBA Junior Vice-President	David Aburn (Chipstead)
9.6. SCBA Immediate Past President	Martin Harbottle (Epsom)

The new Presidential Teams were installed. The appropriate badges and gifts were presented to the relevant recipients.

10. **Presentation of Awards**

The newly elected President of the SCBA Brian Shellard presented Martin Harbottle with a plaque commemorating his year in office. He went on to give a Life Membership award to Graham Dawber.

Sheron Mitchell made a presentation, of a plaque, to Linda Pilman commemorating her year in office.

Sheron continued to make a statement of thanks and to announce her charity for 2023. (See Appendix D).

Outgoing President, Linda Pilman, made a statement reflecting on her year in office. (See Appendix E)

11. **Notification of the names of SCBA and SCWBA officers duly appointed by the SCBA or SCWBA who are members of the BS Executive Board in accordance with clause 8.2 of the Constitution**

11.1. SCBA Secretary - John Tucker (Purley Bury) (Appointed by SCBA Council)
11.2. SCWBA Secretary Vacancy
11.3. SCBA President – Brian Shellard (Malden Manor) (Appointed by SCBA Council)
11.4. SCWBA President – Sheron Mitchell (Purley Bury) (Appointed by SCWBA Council)
11.5. SCBA Treasurer – Howard Quinnell (Knaphill) (Appointed by SCBA Council)
11.6. SCWBA Treasurer – Linda Pilman (Ember) (Appointed by SCWBA Council)

12. **Election of other Members of BS Executive Board**

Administrator – (Vacancy)
Men's Members Representative – (Vacancy)
Women's Members Representative – Veronica Pickering (Newdigate)
Chairperson – (Vacancy)

Appointed by and Reporting to the Board
Safeguarding Officer – Diane Double (Sutton)
Development Officer – (Vacancy)
Chandler – John Tucker (Purley Bury)
Competitions Co-ordinator (Vacancy)
Disciplinary Officer – Colin Mitchell (Purley Bury)

Penny Bruno gave thanks to the outgoing Bowls Surrey Administrator Colin Homes for his service to the County.

Appointed by and a member of the Board
Communications Officer – Charlotte Emanuel (Milford)

13. **Notification of members duly elected to Surrey County Bowling Association Council**

Boarer	Andrew	Mayford Hall
Bradford	John	Old Coulsdon
Candeland	David	Purley Bury
Clarke	Colin	Hook & Southborough
Jones	Chris	Epsom Park
Jones	Mark	Knaphill
Morton	John	Carshalton
O'Flynn	Eamon	Cranleigh
Parnham	Steve	Purley
Plater	Tony	Felbridge
Pocock	Trevor	Bletchingley
Richardson	Andrew	Southey
Rivers	Malcolm	Chertsey
Taylor	Chris	Horsell
Tucker	David	West Byfleet

Competition Secretaries: Colin Clarke; and Peter Staples

14. **Notification of other members duly appointed to SCBA Council.**

14.1. Middleton Cup Manager - Barrie Emanuel (Milford) Appointed until 2025

15. **Notification of other officers duly appointed to SCBA Executive**

15.1. Treasurer – Howard Quinnell (Knaphill)

15.2. Assistant Secretary – Vacancy

15.3. Match Secretary – Tony Bourne (Purley Bury)

16. **Notification of other officers duly appointed to SCWBA Executive**

16.1. Treasurer - Linda Pilman (Ember)

16.2. Assistant Secretary – Penny Bruno (Knaphill)

16.3. Match Secretary – Pam Garden (Egham)

16.4. Competition Secretary – Ann Rapley (Windlesham) Shan Maylin (Southey)

16.5. Other Officers appointed by Council not serving on the Executive:

16.5.1. Area 1 Secretary - M. Ann Brown (Purley Bury)

16.5.2. Area 2 Secretary - Amanda Thomas (Oxshott)

16.5.3. Area 3 Secretary - Linda Aburn (Sutton)

16.5.4. Area 4 Secretary - Carolyne Stevens (Cranleigh)

16.5.5. Benevolent Secretary & Treasurer - Caroline Duarte (Southey)

16.5.6. Johns & Walker Cup Manager - Caroline Duarte (Southey)

Zoe Hollins and Dorothy Roberts were thanked for the work they carried out in their respective roles as Treasurer and Match Secretary.

17. **Notification of other members duly appointed**

17.1. SCBA Webmaster – Bob Daintree (Purley Bury)

17.2. SCWBA Webmaster – Marianne Ward (Ember)

18. **Election Accounts Verifier for Bowls Surrey, SCBA and SCWBA**

Malcolm Wood (Knaphill) (BS & SCBA Accounts)

Peter Moug (SCWBA Accounts)

Both were confirmed

19. **Election Accounts Verifier for SCWBA Benevolent Fund**

Sylvia Russell (Cheam Fields)

This was confirmed

20. **Election Accounts Verifier for SCBA Benevolent Fund**

Jeff O'Leary (Epsom Park)

This was confirmed

21. **Any Other Business**

Colin Homes gave thanks to the outgoing Bowls Surrey Chair Penny Bruno for her service to the County.

John Tucker stated that a majority of clubs responding to the survey indicated that they were interested in the online match system. John added that this was now live and he was happy to give demonstrations.

22. **Close of Meeting.**

11:25

Appendix A

OBITUARIES

Ann Roll	Sutton
Maggie O'Sullivan	Cheam Fields, North Cheam, Epsom and Sutton
Blanche Overend	Cheam Fields and Carshalton Beeches
Jean Taylor	Caterham
Mary Jones	Cheam Fields
Pat Teasdale	Purley
Pearl Selwyn	Magdalen Park and Ember
Jean Wood	Caterham and Sutton
Hilda Balmer	Sutton
Dave Greatortex	Ashburton Park
Alan Weeks	Bletchingley
Norman Smith	Bolingbroke
Trevor Prentice	Camberley
Charles Smith	Cheam
Norman Winford	Croydon
Norman Crawley	Knaphill
Robert Clark	Knaphill
Peter Sarratt	Old Coulsdon
Robert Campbell	Oxshott
Eddie Mcilroy	Purley Bury
Phillip Froude	Purley Bury
Brian Haeger	Purley Bury
Dave Popejoy	Purley Bury
Reg Norris	Purley Bury
Bill Harris	Shirley Park
Barry Davies	South London
Derek Hayter	Stoke Park
George Norris	West Wimbledon
Dave Pogson	West Wimbledon

Appendix B

Statement form Sheron Mitchell & John Tucker

The Bowls Surrey Board are aware that there are major concerns concerning "the Badge" and the identity of both Associations. This was discussed at length at the October Board meeting.

Both County Secretaries are very aware of these concerns and wish to reassure those doubters that this move is for administrative reasons only. Both John and I are equally as passionate about our Associations and their history as are many of you.

All National Championships are single gender. We wish to emphasise that men and women both have single gender county competitions and mixed competitions where the County Badge is earned. This is non-negotiable. Equally both men and women have county matches and as long as they remain in the current format there can and there will be no change. This is sacrosanct to Bowls Surrey. Both men and women have Presidential teams, this too will not change. Similarly the Leopard Award, the Loyal Service Award and the two Benevolent Funds will remain.

We are aware there are inequalities between the two associations. We believe that by having one administration it will enable us to resolve these inequalities more easily and ensure Surrey does not fall foul of Bowls England Regulations and equalities legislation.

As many of you know it is increasingly difficult to get people to take on roles within the clubs. Equally we are finding the same thing at County level. It is therefore necessary to streamline the administration to bring it into the 21st century.

Sheron Mitchell and John Tucker

Appendix C

BS Motion moved by Bowls Surrey Administrator Colin Homes

You will all be aware of the motion that I'm about to move on behalf of the Bowls Surrey Board but for the record I will read it out.

That there be one organisation known as Bowls Surrey. That all administration for the playing of lawn green bowls comes under their control, including all finances, no later than the AGM 2024.

That all history pertaining to Surrey County Bowling Association (SCBA) & Surrey County Women's Bowling Association (SCWBA), be retained and made available to all current & future bowlers, for as long as lawn green bowls is played in Surrey.

So why are bringing this motion now?

The main driver is our response to what you the clubs told us when you replied to the Bowls Surrey questionnaire and 78% of clubs told us that they preferred the County to come under one organisation.

Both the SCBA & SCWBA have considered the survey result and setup working parties to assess the impact and what their responses should be. They both concluded that there is no reason why we should not to move to one organisation.

As the motion states the history of both Associations will be protected, in fact they will be more widely available than ever before with the introduction of a new Bowls Surrey website that John will show you later, for those who wish to stay on after this meeting. I don't want to steal John's thunder, but both the SCBA & SCWBA will have tabs on the website that take you to pages where you will find not only what is on the current websites, but additional history that has been stored by Secretaries. It is hoped that we can add to the histories of the clubs at some stage.

Why are we aiming for 2024 as the completion date?

It is felt that there is a huge amount of work to be done in order to achieve our aims but it may be that the work could be done before 2024.

In December 2019 there was a one-year moratorium imposed on the implementation of any move towards integration of the Associations. It was felt, at the time, that we were moving too quickly together and some were uneasy with the speed of change.

Three years have now passed, including one year lost to Covid, and work continued to identify areas that both Associations could agree and be passed to Bowls Surrey and come under common control, if you want to see the list, they can be found in appendix 1 of the B.S. constitution.

Considering today's motion the Board were still mindful that the next stage, if it is agreed, to full integration should be done at a pace that the majority are comfortable with and it was felt that a two-year window would allow plenty of time to consult, identify and agree a new structure before considering any move to the implementation stage.

It is intended that consultation forums will take place throughout the county so that everyone will have an opportunity to share their thoughts on how the structure of the County should be going forward.

There is some background that you should be aware of.

Back in 2010 Bowls England announced that they would only deal with one body in each county. Some counties became amalgamated whilst others, ours included, decided to keep their separate Associations. Following that decision Surrey Bowls was formed to become the formal channel of communication between Bowls England and the County. Surrey Bowls was later changed to Bowls Surrey and remains the conduit of communications between Bowls England and the SCBA & SCWBA.

What happens if we merge?

If we now move to one organisation there would only be the one link between Bowls Surrey and the Surrey clubs this would simplify communications.

Another bonus will be to bring the administration of the county under one roof including finance thereby ensuring both men and women are treated equally.

Under a merged structure decisions could be made much easier and quicker, by having a joint mixed committee which would include representatives from each area.

Are there other reasons why we should become one?

There is a logical step to form as one organisation. Bowls England is an incorporated organisation representing both men and women and according to the survey 95% of our clubs in Surrey are mixed. I need to clarify the definition of a mixed club. If you have one constitution you are deemed to be a mixed club, by Bowls England, therefore we have to adopt the same view. It would therefore be a logical step to move in line with both our parent body and reflect our club's structures and represent men and women under one organisation at County level.

In closing, you have heard the background to the current setup, about improved communications and decision making if we merge, the County's history will be preserved, we are allowing two years to do the work, but most importantly we are responding to what you the clubs told us, that you wanted the County to come under one organisation.

And on behalf of the Bowls Surrey Board I recommend you vote in favour of the motion.

Appendix D

Statement by Sheron Mitchell

I feel very honoured to become the SCWBA's President. As everyone knows I love the County and for one of our size not to have a women's President was unacceptable in my eyes. However, having made the decision, it now leaves our women without a County Secretary but I know that the team will continue to work well together and because of the progress both the SCBA and SCWBA have made with technology the workload has been much reduced. I cannot thank the Executive enough for their support over the years which I hope will continue as I take up my new role. I would also like to thank all the clubs for their support over the years but most importantly special thanks must go to my own Club, Purley Bury, who are so experienced at having County Presidents. I hope I will emulate my predecessors in the role and make them proud to have an SCWBA President. I would like to particularly thank David Candeland, Sheila and Joe Cable, MA Brown and of course Geraldine and John Tucker all of whom supported me through some very difficult times.

My charity for this year will be "Action for ME" Myalgic Encephalo/myelitis/CFS (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome). It attacks everyone but more particularly for those aged between 40 and 60 and statistics show more women are liable to be affected than men. My daughter (aged 52) suffers from this disease having picked up an unknown virus in 2017. Since then she has not been able to work and there are days she struggles to get out of bed. She is now managing the disease and was hoping to return to work for two days a week in September. As a marathon runner and deep-sea diver she has had to come to terms that she will never be able to do these things again. Sadly she contracted COVID in August which has set her back 18 months and the chronic fatigue has returned with a vengeance. Treatment of ME has always been a Cinderella service with little attention and few resources given to it. However. It has received more attention recently due to the publicity about Long Covid but the main focus remains on Long Covid rather than ME.

I do hope you will support this worthwhile charity in their support of people who are suffering with ME/CFS in their quest to find out what causes viruses to attack our muscular, nervous and organ systems.

Thank you.

Appendix E

Statement by Linda Pilman

I have had such a monumental year being President of Surrey County Women's Bowling Association.

I have tried to perform to the best of my ability and to represent the `county on numerous occasions throughout this year. I have to say that I never thought it would be so rewarding, no matter what capacity I was in – handing out badges and certificates for those who managed to obtain their County badge in the past two years, surprising members that they were being given a Loyal Service Award, the latter being humbling when you realise the service some of our members have given to their club and the sport in general, or just a fun afternoon at one of our smaller clubs, Castle Green in Guilford, with a few ends of fun bowls but mostly to catch up with old friends and enjoy a glass of bubbly and a magnificent tea, the cakes were divine.

I would like to thank you all for the support and encouragement you have given me over the past four years. I would also like to thank both Associations for their support and assistance, especially Martin Harbottle, we had quite. Bit of fun over the course of the year, what with both pf us being a bit competitive – who won the most winning rinks? (Martin, you did). Thank you Martin. I would also like to thank all of the SCWBA Executive for their help and co-operation, especially Penny and Ann without who's assistance on making my cards, President's Day and the paperwork for the dinner, I don't know if I could have coped, thank you ladies. I would like to wish Sheron all the best for her year and offer my assistance whenever it may be needed. Good Luck

The charity for my year was the Princess Alice Hospice at Esher, a charity that is close to my heart for several reasons. Thanks to all for all your contributions, we managed to handover just under £1800, with another £200 to the British Hedgehog Society. Many thanks.

Finally, I would like to thank my club Ember for allowing me to fulfil my County obligations and for being such great hosts on President's Day and when we played the English Bowling Association – Thank you.

Good luck everyone and hope to see on the green next year.