

THURROCK & DISTRICT BOWLING ASSOCIATION



FOUNDED 1946

President: G Chegwidden; Gen. Secretary: A Gray; Treasurer: M Bonson;
Match Secretary: R Cornwell; Competition Secretary: D Haworth; League Secretary: R Clark;
Minute Secretary: R Brewer; Asst. Match Secretary: T French; Delegates' Representatives: M Coulson & M Maxwell.

Minutes of Thurrock & District Bowling Association Annual General Meeting
held at
Thurrock Bowls Club on Wednesday 7 December 2016
T&DBA AGM2016

Chair: Gordon Chegwidden

1. Roll Call

Executives Present:

G.Chegwidden; A.Gray; D.Haworth; R.Cornwell; M. Bonson; T.French and R.Brewer

Delegates Present:

Aveley; Corringham; Drums; Ford Sports; New Phoenix; Orsett; Pegasus; Pitsea;
South Ockendon; Thames Sport; Thurrock; United Services and VCA Riverview

2. Apologies

Executives

M.Coulson; R.Clark

Delegates

Chadwell St Mary and Gloucester Park & Murrayfield

3. Absentees

Grays Town

4. Welfare

Obituaries:

Frank O'Kane (Past President); Tom Butcher (VCA Riverview); John Fagg (Orsett);
Brian Nash (New Phoenix; Fire Brigade); Alex Graham (North Greenwich; Aveley);
Ivor Haworth (Fondu; Aveley); Denis Gummer (GP Murrayfield); John Dennis
(Thurrock); Don Skillbeck (GP Murrayfield); R. Berkmark (GP Murrayfield); Jack Key
(South Ockenden) and Jim Morrison (Chadwell St Mary)

5. Approval of Minutes

Wednesday 9 December 2015 (T&DBA-AGM15)

Prop T Chamberlin Seconded B Barclay

6. Matters arising from previous minutes

None

7. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Gordon Chegwidden greeted the Delegates, thanking them for their attendance and their participation during the past season. He informed them that there were no issues he wished to raise at this time other than to wish them the best of luck for the coming season.

8. Treasurers' Report

Mick Bonson reported that the balance sheet at the end of November 2016 shows £1095.82 in the current account, £145.34 less than last year and £7571.92 in the Building Society account, an increase of £315.97 being the interest earned. A summary of the accounts is as follows:

	<u>2016</u>		<u>2015</u>
Competition & League Fees profit	£130.13		£252.95
Representative matches profit	£62.00		£120.00
Presentation Dance loss	£33.16	profit	£40.71

Although the finances continue to be in a healthy state, it should be borne in mind that most costs continue to rise whilst our income remains approximately the same.

The main disappointment was the lack of support for the Presentation Dance with some clubs who had trophies to collect not purchasing any tickets. One club did have the courtesy to let me know that they had their presentation on the same evening. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to inform all Clubs that next year's Presentation Dance will be on **FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2017** and if this date clashes with anything a Club has already arranged then please inform the Committee as soon as possible. Because of the disappointing ticket sales for this year's Presentation Dance, it will be proposed that each club be required to purchase 6 tickets for the 2017 Presentation Dance. See paragraph 15. below.

9. Account Examiners' Report.

Dave Haworth stated the accounts were well maintained and that there were no apparent discrepancies.

10. Correspondence

Alan Gray reported that since the Delegates Meeting he has e-mailed Club Secretaries in order to update the T&DBA Officers list and in order to notify BE of the Secretaries details for the BE Handbook. Four Clubs still have to respond and as Essex and BE Handbooks will have to be ready soon for printing, with all corrections made, urgent action by those Clubs is needed. It is also very difficult for a Secretary to know if the correct Officers are being contacted, also the Competition and League Secretaries will need an up to date list shortly. The latest list is currently being circulated, please check as a matter of urgency and advise any changes.

He went on to say that his email regarding motions for this AGM had apparently caused some confusion and gave the following clarification:

Motion 1 is in regard to the proposal to change to Triples from Fours for the league. If passed **Motion 1a** would be necessary, if rejected then **Motion 2** will be invoked.

Motion 3 is to clarify the position of players in competitions that change their Club during the season. As noted in the email only the Club Delegate has a vote, i.e. one vote per club.

I acknowledge that, in the absence of their Delegates, Chris Newman and Peter Jackson will vote on behalf of Pitsea and Springhouse Clubs respectively.

11. League Secretary's Report

Robbie Clark reported that the 2016 season went really well, with all matches in the Premier and Division 1 being played. However Division 2 was less successful with Grays Town B giving away 7 matches and eventually being withdrawn from the league; Pegasus B gave away 4 matches and Thurrock B and Orsett B gave away 1 match each.

He went on to say that, as League Secretary, he was not happy with the setup of the Division 2 with regard to the rules which allow teams to play with 8 or 9 players in this league. In his opinion this has encouraged clubs to enter teams knowing that they do not have enough players to field 3 full rinks throughout the season, the rules allowing teams to field 8 or 9 players were introduced for use in an emergency situation, maybe once or twice during the season, and not to become the norm. As a result it is felt that steps must be taken to resolve this situation particularly as there have been complaints from teams turning up to play a fixture with 3 rinks then having to send one team home without playing. Whilst they do receive 2 points for that rink the point is that they went out to play and didn't. Therefore, it is suggested that there is a rule change limiting the amount of matches that can be conceded, and the amount of matches that a team are able to play without the full quota of players. To this end a rule change has been drafted which will be read out at this meeting.

He also offered a big thank you to all the league captains who phoned in the results on time and sent the cards off as requested, they were a pleasure to work with and although it may not seem that important it really helps to keep the web site up to date which of great benefit to us all. He also thanked the Pegasus A and Drums Clubs for re-arranging a mid-season cancelled fixture even though there was nothing on the result, the two clubs still played the match and to me this shows respect for the league.

He congratulated all the league winners and runners up which were as follows:

Premier Division Winners	Springhouse "A"
Premier Division Runners Up	Pegasus "A"
Division One Winners	Chadwell St Mary
Division One Runners Up	Ford Sports
Division Two Winners	Gloucester Park Murrayfield "B"

Division Two Runners Up

Springhouse "B" B.C

As a result and in accordance with the association league rules the following Clubs will be promoted:

Division 1 to Premier

Chadwell St Mary
Ford Sports

Division 2 to Division 1

Gloucester Park Murrayfield
Springhouse "B"

Owing to the closure of the Pegasus bowls club only one team will be relegated from the Premier Division and only one team will be relegated from Division 1 these will be the teams that finished at the bottom of their respective leagues in the 2016 season:

Premier Division
Division One

Aveley "A"
Aveley "B"

For the 2017 season 2 teams will be promoted from divisions 1 and 2 and one team will be relegated from the Premier Division and Division 1

It is imperative that Clubs make known how many teams they intend to enter in the 2017 Leagues by the AGM in December. Clubs who intend entering 2 teams are urged to give **serious** thought as to whether they will be able to fulfil their fixtures particularly in view of the proposed a rule change regarding teams not fielding a full complement of players and teams not playing fixtures.

This completes my report for the 2016 season one I have enjoyed immensely, working with the current Association Committee and Association members.

12. Competition Secretary's Report

Dave Haworth reported that competition entries in 2016 had remained steady and were up by 2.5% on average (279 entries versus 272) over 2015. Competitions had run smoothly throughout the season and there were no issues that required his input to achieve a solution. The only issue causing some confusion was over what should happen if an individual makes competition entries and then changes clubs after the entries are submitted. This situation is not covered by T&DBA competition rules and the county guidelines are vague. A proposal to clarify the competition rules in respect of this will be put forward at this AGM.

He went on to offer congratulations to all participants in the competitions and gave his thanks and that of the Association to Thurrock and Aveley bowls clubs for hosting the finals again this year and providing refreshments and food on the day. He also thanked Colin Whitear of Murrayfield for officiating and Alan Gray for assisting. Although the attendance at the Presentation Evening was disappointingly low the presentation evening was enjoyed by all who did attend.

He reiterated that entry forms for next season will be ready to be sent out immediately after Xmas and must be returned to him by no later than the 28 February 2017. As a result of the positive feedback received on a two wood singles competition it has been included in next season's competitions. If it gets adequate support and is successful it can then be incorporated into the normal competition programme. He also reminded all competition entrants that a result must be communicated to him on the night and must be followed up with the result card within three days. This is not an option but a requirement.

He offered his thanks to fellow Executive Committee members for the help and support they have given during the year and for the hard work they have put in both during and outside of the outdoor season, which is for the benefit of the members of the clubs that make up the association. He also gave a special thank you to the League Secretary for maintaining the web site who probably spends as much time if not more on updating competition entries and results than he does doing his own job. Finally he thanked all those who took part in competitions, particularly those who communicated results on time, provided the result cards and were fully conversant with the rules, which in turn made his job a little easier.

13. Match Secretary's Report

Roger Cornwell reported that last outdoor season 11 matches had been played, winning two and losing nine. Two matches were cancelled one by Croydon and one by us at North West Essex as we had only four players. The top skips were Roger Cornwell with three wins, Mick Bonson with two and for other skips one each.

The indoor season is going well having played eight matches so far with one win and seven losses but a couple of those were near misses. Support for this indoor season has improved and Clubs are encouraged to keep this up. Nine matches have been booked for next year's outdoor season, you will note the number of matches has been reduced by two and there are now only two coach trips due to the high cost of hire and our desire to make the games self-supporting and not using Association funds.

14. Working Party Report

Alan Gray reported that no greens inspections were carried out last year as Peter Butler would not agree to any times. Correspondence from him, as mentioned at the Delegates meeting, has been very poor.

I hope to use his final comments "I have a question for ever one now, when was the last time anyone has spoken to a groundsman about anything, not only about the green but things in general" against him as this is obviously why we have inspections during the year. It being my impression that, if they had managed to speak to the Greenkeeper he had not given a satisfactory reply.

Peter Butler has emailed me following the loss of Pegasus BC asking if any other clubs were interested in taking over to which I replied in the negative. Members of the Executive Committee pointed out that 'Chadwell St Mary BC' was meant to be a temporary arrangement at 'Corringham BC' . Alan Gray noted that work would need to be done to the Club house to make any move a viable proposition,

In answer to the question regarding the state of the Pitsea green their delegate stated that it should be ready for next season. Gloucester Park reported problems with their greens, notably heave, possibly caused by the failure to remove old foundations when the green was laid and also subsidence possibly caused by an underground water leak from Sporting Village. There are also parking problems and it would now appear the Club is actually built on private land. Basildon Council does not appear over enthusiastic regarding the estimated cost of repairs. The situation currently remains under investigation and the Committee will be kept informed of the issue, which could affect the use of the greens next season,

15. To Discuss Motions

Motion 1

Proposed by G Smith, Aveley Bowling Club and Seconded by T Mizen, Grays Town Bowling Club:

That the format of Wednesday league matches is changed from three rinks of four to three rinks of triples.

Not carried

Motion 2

Proposed by R Clark, Springhouse Bowls Club and Seconded by R Ray, Springhouse Bowls Club:

That any team in any division conceding more than 2 games throughout the season will be withdrawn from the league for that season and any team fielding only 2 rinks more than 3 times will be withdrawn from the league for that season.

Carried Unanimously

As a result Rule 12a will be changed to read as follows:

*(a). Where a club enters more than one team into the league, all registered bowlers shall be available for any team on the proviso, that the club nominates 8 bowlers to play in their 'A' team and those nominated shall be ineligible to play in their 'B' team. All other bowlers may play in either team as and when required. If a registered 'A' team player plays in a rink for their club's B team in a league match, the B team will forfeit that rink with the loss of 2 points and 5 shots. **Any team in any division conceding more than 2 games throughout the season will be withdrawn from the league for that season and any team fielding only 2 rinks more than 3 times will be withdrawn from the league for that season.***

Motion 3

Proposed by D. Haworth as Competition Secretary and Seconded by the Executive Committee:

That to remove confusion when players change Clubs after having entered competitions that an addition to Competition Rule 2 is changed to read as follows:

Competition Rule 2. PLAYERS

- (a) All players in the competitions must be bone fide members of a club affiliated to the Thurrock & District Bowling Association.
- (b) No player can be entered or play for more than one club in any one season.
- (c) *Should a member enter one or more competitions whilst belonging to a club, and that club is disbanded after the competition entries are submitted, the entries they have made can be transferred to their new club upon notification to the Competition Secretary*
- (d) *Should any member submit competition entries and then decide to go to another club, only the singles and Secretary's singles entries will be transferable. All other entries will be null and void.*

Carried Unanimously

Addendum

A copy of a letter regarding the poor attendance at this year's Presentation Dance, was read out and then distributed to Club Delegates at the meeting (see Attachment 2). This resulted in the following motion being put to the meeting:

Motion 4

Proposed by R. Clark as League Secretary and Seconded by the Executive Committee:

That to avoid future losses and ensure that the presentation evening remains very much a part of the Association's annual programme, to acknowledge not only clubs' achievements but those of their members, each Member Club will, from next season, be charged in advance for 6 tickets for the evening, at a cost of £8 each. This will be collected at the same time as the affiliation, league and competition fees. The tickets will then be issued to clubs at the end of the season with any additional ticket requirements.

Carried Unanimously

16. Election of Officers for 2017 Season

President	:	Gordon Chegwiddden (Corringham)
Senior Deputy President	:	Robbie Clark (The Springhouse)
Junior Deputy President	:	Vacant
General Secretary	:	Alan Gray (Aveley)
Minutes Secretary	:	Rob Brewer (Sth Ockendon)
Hon Treasurer	:	Mick Bonson (New Phoenix)
Account Examiners	:	Martyn Bennett and Dave Haworth
League Secretary	:	Robbie Clark (The Springhouse)
Competition Secretary	:	Dave Haworth (Aveley)

Match Secretary	:	Roger Cornwell (Sth Ockendon)
Assist Match Secretary	:	Terry French (Sth Ockendon)
2 Delegates to Executive Committee	:	Mick Coulson and Mick Maxwell
Selection Committee	:	Roger Cornwell Terry French Gordon Chegwidde
Competition Committee	:	Dave Haworth, Mick Bonson Roger Cornwell and Allan Williams
Joint working party Greens	:	Alf Beesley and Alan Bradley
2 Delegates to Thurrock Sports Council	:	Mick Maxwell and Peter Madgewick

All officers were duly elected

17. Thurrock Sports Council Report

Mick Maxwell reported that there was all round dissatisfaction by various sporting bodies with regard to the way in which Thurrock Sports Council were maintaining the various playing surfaces for which they are responsible. To this end a petition had been got up complaining of the council's standards and once a total of 1500 signatures had been collected a debate over the matter would have to be held. He urged all Clubs to support this petition which was open to signature from any person who played sport or lived or worked in Thurrock. He went on to say that the main source of external additional funding Veolia was no longer available but that additional funds were available from other sources, which needed to be researched.

18. Date and Time of Future Meetings.

Venue Thurrock Bowls Club

ExM : Wednesday 15th February 2017 – 7pm,
 ExDM : Wednesday 8th March 2017 – 7pm
 AGM : Wednesday 6th December 2017 – 7pm.

Minutes: R Brewer

Approved: / / Chairman

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Minutes Secretary: R Brewer; Asst. Match Secretary: T French; Delegates' Representatives: M Coulson & M Maxwell.

Letter Regarding the T&DBA Annual Presentation Dance

It is with great regret that I, on behalf of the T&DBA Association committee feel the need to pen this letter.

It concerns the lack of support shown by the Association members at the recent presentation evening held on Friday 11th of November at the Tilbury Community Centre, which was the date set well in advance at the previous year's AGM in December 2015.

We had a total of 70 people attend this function, with the majority of individuals coming from only a handful of clubs, which included The Springhouse, Drums, GP Murrayfield, Aveley and Thurrock. The Committee of the Association feel that the lack of support from the remaining clubs was nothing short of deplorable.

Your Association lost over £100 on the night. This figure would have been significantly higher if it were not for the support of those who attended and their generosity in supporting the raffle, along with the quick thinking of the treasurer, who offset the hire cost of the hall by meeting the required numbers on paper. Whilst we do not seek to make a profit on the evening we certainly should not run at a loss.

We have 10 members on the Committee who cumulatively spend many hours, not just in the bowls season, but all year round, working to ensure that your Club and its members are able to compete in Leagues, Competitions and in friendly games, if they so wish. In return all the Committee ask, is that all Clubs of the Association show their support and appreciation, and encourage a handful of members to give up just 3 hours of their time to attend the presentation evening. It is appreciated that you may not have won anything in that season, but you all compete in the leagues, and most of the members enter the competitions. By attending the evening you are not only acknowledging the achievements of your fellow bowlers, but you are showing your support for the work of the Association, and your appreciation to those of us that give up our time freely for the benefit of your Club and its members.

To avoid future losses and ensure that the presentation evening remains very much a part of the Association's annual programme to acknowledge not only clubs' achievements, but those of their members, the committee are in agreement that each member club will, from next season, be charged in advance for 6 tickets for the evening, at a cost of £8 each. This will be collected at the same time as the affiliation, league and competition fees. The tickets will then be issued to clubs at the end of the season with any additional ticket requirements.

This letter is not meant as a personal attack on individual clubs. It is simply a wake-up call to all in the hope of ensuring that the Association traditions continue as in many years past. This very much includes **your** presentation evening. This is meant to be an evening to meet old friends and adversaries, have a drink and a chat, mull over what was or what could have been, what went right as well what went wrong, and maybe have a dance or two in a pleasant environment, with a good friendly atmosphere, which is very difficult to achieve when a hall is half empty.

In preparation for next year the Presentation Evening will be on **Friday 3rd November 2017 at the Tilbury Community Centre.**

On behalf of the committee thank you.

Signed *R F Clark*