

THURROCK & DISTRICT BOWLING ASSOCIATION



FOUNDED 1946

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

Thurrock & District Bowling Association Annual General Meeting
Held at Thurrock Bowls Club on Wednesday 8 December 2021
Minutes

Chairman's Address

Robbie Clark opened the meeting by thanking all those present for attending and then called for a minute's silence to remember those members who had passed since the last AGM.

1. Roll Call

Executives Present: R Clark; D Jago; A Gray; R Cornwell and D Haworth

Delegates Present: Aveley; Corringham & Fobbing; Ford Sports; Grays Town; Pitsea; South Ockendon; The Springhouse; Thames Sports; Thurrock; United Services and VCA Riverview

2. Apologies

Executives: M Coulson and T French

Delegates: United Services

3. Absentees

Executives: Nil

Delegates: Gloucester Park and Orsett

4. Welfare

Obituaries:

Bill Balaam and Albert Harrison - Gloucester Park

Peter McCall; Reg Anderson and Mick Newman – Pitsea

Trevor King – Aveley and Ford Sports (NP)

Terry Chamberlain – Thurrock

David Vincett – Ford Sports

Barry Barclay – The Springhouse and Ford Sports

Derek Mathers – Corringham

Dave Reed – Grays Town

Lenny White – South Ockendon

Ronnie Beard – Orsett

Brian Daley; Ray Daley and Tom Hansen – The Springhouse

5. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the T&DBA AGM2019 and EGM2020 were passed unanimously.

6. Matters arising from previous minutes

Nil

7. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Robbie Clark reflected on the difficult past two years and at times had doubted if we would ever get back to bowling as normal. However, thanks to the efforts of you delegates and with the support of your Clubs, along with Dave Haworth arranging competitions, we managed to have a decent 2021 season. He went on to say how successful the Presentation Dinner/Dance had been with over a hundred members attending. The new format of a buffet and DJ had gone down extremely well and, as a consequence, he saw little point in changing the venue but was still open to suggestions if anyone felt that strongly. In response to a query regarding TALBA attendance at the function in future Dave Haworth said that this was a matter that would require a formal approach from TALBA and would then be brought forward for discussion at a delegates meeting.

8. Treasurers' Report

Alan Gray reported that with a lack of income and all affiliation fees cancelled for 2019/20 season due to Covid, funds in the current account had dropped to the hundreds and, in consequence, a transfer was made to the account from our Building Society. As a result, the current account balance at the start of the 2020/21 was £2188.60. The delay in starting the season Clubs competition entries and fees were late arriving and a shortened playing time. As a result, Dave Haworth was unable to use all the entries and a number of refunds were made to the Clubs concerned for their internal distribution. The accounts were very simple up to November but the bank statement for that month shows some £2000.00 of uncleared cheques. A proper balance sheet is being prepared but it would appear that there will be a shortfall of about £500.00 in income and expenditure. This is probably due to a lack of income from council season tickets and purchases of stickers and pens. The Presentation night appears to have broken even taking account of all related costs. The Association is still comfortably situated with present balances of;

Current Account - £3663.87 as at 30 November 2021 and
Mansfield Building Society - £6267.62

9. Account Examiners' Report.

Dave Haworth stated that no audit was possible until the Treasurer is able to finalise his report, which at the moment he was unable to do due to the non-availability of an up-to-date bank statement for the years end. He suggested that in future the end of the accounting period should put back by a month. This would allow for the presentation of a final account and the examiners report be included at the December AGM.

10. Gen. Secretary and Correspondence

Nil

11. League Secretary's Report

Robbie Clark opened by saying that he was not going to repeat his report from the Delegates meeting in October as this had been widely distributed in the minutes of that meeting but he was keen to clear up misconceptions regarding Division 2 and promotion from it. Any Club only able to field two rinks will play in Division 2 in perpetuity. However, if, the situation changes and they are, at sometime in the future, able to field three rinks they will automatically play in Division 1 the following season. Therefore, a team finishing bottom of Division 1 will not be relegated to Division 2 if they can still field three rinks the next season. Similarly, the team finishing top of Division 2 will not be promoted to Division 1 if they still cannot field three rinks. He finished by saying that the very latest cut-off date for submitting league teams was 21 March 2022 but if a Club was sure of the details, he would like to receive them asap to enable him to publish fixture lists as early as possible.

12. Competition Secretary's Report

Dave Haworth gave the following report. Although the 2020 season did not take place, many of us within the Exec had done the normal pre-season preparation at a time when corona virus was something happening on the other side of the world. From a competition perspective, entries were down 26% on 2019, which did cause me concern. Unfortunately, once I'd collated the information for the 2021 season, the picture was no brighter. In fact, the total entries this year is the lowest I've seen since I've been your competition secretary.

Every year I urge all club delegates to continue to positively promote and encourage their club members to support the competitions to ensure their future viability. I cannot emphasise strongly enough how important this is, and as you can see, it is borne out by the figures I have mentioned. If numbers continue to fall and clubs continue to fold, the implications are obvious to us all.

Would delegates please congratulate all their participants in the competitions from their clubs, although whilst it is nice to win, the taking part is far more important, as it is this which sustains the competitions and makes them viable. Please convey my thanks also to all those entrants who diligently phoned, e-mailed and posted on their results on time, which makes the competition secretary's job that much easier.

Comps ran smoothly throughout the season and there were no major issues that required my intervention, and the planning of finals day was a little easier than in 2019.

I would like to thank on behalf of the Association both Springhouse and Aveley bowls clubs who again hosted the competition finals over the two days. Thanks to all their members who helped in setting up the greens and clearing away afterwards and not forgetting our regular umpire Colin Whitear who officiated on both days.

Entry forms for next season will be ready to send out immediately after Xmas and must be returned to the competition secretary no later than the 28th Feb

I'd like to thank my fellow Executive committee members and delegates for the help and support they have given me during the year and for all the hard work they have put in both during and outside of the outdoor season. Please remember we all may play in competitions, leagues and association matches, but the association can only function with a full complement of officers. I would also like to mention our league secretary Robbie, who not only organises and runs T&DBA leagues and also maintains the web site but he still manages to find time to help me out with

gathering the trophies and getting them to and from the engraver. In addition to that, he and his wife Sue do a considerable amount of work in organising the presentation evening and setting everything up on the night for the benefit of those attending the evening. Thanks Robby.

Finally, as I mentioned at the previous meeting, based on the last couple of years, due to the reducing number of clubs and entries I will be looking to plan the finals over a weekend rather than one days and incorporate the League knockout final as well. Until I actually try and do this, I don't know for sure if this can be done and therefore no formal proposal is forthcoming for this AGM. Should this look to be feasible going forward, I will present proposals at next year's AGM to amend the constitution.

In response to a query from the floor regarding clashes of Association finals and other major competitions he responded that those involved needed to inform him as soon as possible so that he could make any necessary adjustments.

13. Match Secretary's Report

Roger Cornwell stated that the response to those games which took place outside this season had been very good. For the 2022 outdoor season he hopes to have a full list of fixtures and amongst those already arranged are Gravesend and District, East Kent, Isle of Thanet and a fixture at Orsett to celebrate their 70th anniversary. Full details of all fixtures will be issued later but will start in May 2022. The indoor season has gone very well with excellent support enabling him to field full teams at each fixture. The response from those wishing to play has been extremely good showing there is a good appetite for these fixtures and a full list of upcoming fixtures can be found on the T&DBA website.

14. Election of Officers for 2020 Season

Following a vote committee members were confirmed as follows:

POST	POST HOLDER
President	Graham Smith
Senior Deputy President	Robbie Clark
Junior Deputy President	Vacant
General Secretary	Rob Brewer
Hon Treasurer	Alan Gray
Account Examiners	Martyn Bennett Dave Haworth
Match Secretary	Roger Cornwell
Assistant Match Secretary	Terry French
Competition Secretary	Dave Haworth
Assistant Competition Secretary	Vacant
League Secretary	Robbie Clark
Assist. League Secretary	Vacant
Delegate to Executive Committee	Mick Coulson
Selection Committee	Roger Cornwell
	Terry French
	Vacant
Competition Committee	Dave Haworth
	Roger Cornwell
	Mick Coulson
	Robbie Clark
Delegate & Deputy to Thurrock Sports Council	Peter Madgewick
	Peter Bainton

Comments regarding the above include Robbie Clark offering to assist Dave Haworth on an as and when basis and a request from Robbie Clark for an understudy to learn how to use the league system so it can continue to function if needed. **Clubs are asked to pay particular attention to this and to look for a volunteer. It will not involve any ongoing duties other than learning how the system works.**

15. To Consider Motions

To consider a proposal from Robbie Clark (The Springhouse) and seconded by Rob Brewer (Ford Sports) that for the upcoming 2022 Season, Division 2 will be contested by teams comprising 2 rinks of four.

Carried unanimously.

To consider a proposal from Rob Brewer (Ford Sports) and seconded by Malcolm Dowsett (Ford Sports) that for the upcoming 2022 Season, League matches should be reduced from 21 ends plus 2 trial ends to 18 ends plus 2 trial ends.

Carried by 8 votes to 3.

It is stressed that this arrangement applies to **League matches** only. Competitions will continue to be played under their existing rules.

16. Date and Time of Future Meetings.

Executives Committee Meeting to be decided.

Executives and Delegates Meeting on Wednesday 13 April 2022 at 7.00pm in Thurrock.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Minutes: R Brewer