

THURROCK & DISTRICT BOWLING ASSOCIATION



FOUNDED 1946

President: R Clark; Gen. Secretary: A Gray; Acting Treasurer: R Brewer;
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 Executive & Delegates Meeting held at Thurrock Bowls Club on Wednesday 30 October 2019

Minutes

Chair: R Clark

1. Roll Call

Executives

Present: A.Gray; R.Cornwell; M.Coulson; D.Haworth and R.Brewer

Delegates

Present: Aveley; Corringham; Drums; Fobbing and District; Ford Sports; Grays Town; Orsett; Pitsea; South Ockendon; Thames Sport; Thurrock; United Services and VCA Riverview

2. Apologies

Executives

T French; G.Chegwidden and M.Maxwell

3. Welfare

Obituaries:

Bill Hubbard (Aveley); Mick Bonson (New Phoenix); 'Red' Ken Osbourne (Orsett); Tony Cass (Thames Sports); Bill Springham and Les Fox (Grays).

4. Approval of Minutes

The meeting unanimously approved the minutes of the Executives and Delegates Meeting held on Wednesday 10 April 2019 (ExDM2019-04).

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Nil

6. General Secretary Report & Correspondence

Alan Gray reported that Emails to the Council regarding Clubs with Council maintained greens and their maintenance had garnered little response from the council. There have been a couple of meetings with representatives of the clubs and the council and also between Corringham/Fobbing and the council.

With regard to the current state of the T&DBA accounts; Rob Brewer is now the recognised holder of the Barclay's Current Account on behalf of the Association. As far as the Mansfield Building Society Account is concerned, all relevant paperwork required by the Society has now been acquired and sent to them on 2 October 2019. A response is still awaited.

Emails have been sent to Clubs asking for the number of tickets and meals they require for the Presentation Night and reminding them to send any extra ticket money to Rob Brewer as the acting treasurer. At the same time Clubs were asked for names of members willing to stand for vacant posts on the Association Committee, which has, so far, been met with a deafening silence. Rob Brewer then reinforced the point by saying that he would not, under any circumstances, continue as Treasurer beyond the AGM. He went on to say that the response from Clubs regarding providing new members for the Committee in the last few years had been derisory and if the Association was to survive new blood must be found. This was reiterated by Robbie Clark. A query was then raised with regard to whether or not a person filling a post on the Committee had to be an active bowler. The Committee was of the opinion that it was only necessary for the individual to be a member of an affiliated Club and delegates were told they could recruit any volunteers on that basis.

He finished by saying that he has received a formal notification from Drums that they will only function as a social club next season and will not field a bowls team.

7. Treasurers Report

Rob Brewer confirmed that he was now the recognised holder of the Barclays Bank Current Account on behalf of the Association and was able to access the account on-line. The current balance is £17027.74. The confusion regarding Season Tickets has now been resolved and our liability is £18288. This means that with the £8084.78 in the Building Society we are solvent to the extent of around £6824.02. I will have the exact figures ready for the AGM which will allow for last minute income from the presentation night and any other unforeseen transactions before then.

There is also an issue of a number of items held in stock. These consist, in the main, of Ties, Blazer badges and miniature metal T&DBA badges. There are also a small number of other assorted paraphernalia. At some point these will have been taken on as assets and have appeared in the annual balance sheets with annual depreciation being shown in subsequent years. In my opinion and given the

dwindling nature of TDBA membership these items no longer have any real intrinsic value as assets and I propose that the stock is written off and any subsequent sales are listed as sundry income. This was agreed by the Committee.

8. League Secretary's Report

Robbie Clark said he would delay his report until the AGM as the situation regarding number of teams likely to play in the leagues next year, which affects how many teams are promoted/relegated is, to say the least, very fluid at the moment.

9. Competition Secretary's Report

Dave Haworth stated that overall entries for last year's competitions were only two down on the previous year. This was a very favourable situation when compared to the Group 9, County and National trends. He asked delegates to carry on encouraging their members to enter competitions in order that our current, relatively healthy, state could be continued. Finals day had finally gone ahead despite countless complications caused by County Finals and potential County Finals involving our own Clubs and individuals, one of whom was scheduled to take part in five different events. He went on to say Finals Day had been very successful and offered his thanks to Aveley and their staff who had made it possible. An issue has arisen where a Club could have been involved in a County final and he only found out by accident and this could have impacted negatively on his planning for our own Finals. Consideration is being given as to the best way this can be legislated for and is likely to be brought up at future meetings. In the meantime, he asked Clubs to please ensure that they and their members involved in external competitions, likely to impact on Association planning, is communicated to him at each stage.

10. Match Secretary Report

Roger Cornwell stated that the outdoor season had gone well with the Association winning about 50% of its matches. Two matches had been cancelled by the opposition, one of whom was Group 9. Next year's outdoor list was about half completed. He urged Clubs to let their members know that they are eligible to play for the District team and encourage them to put their names forward so that the present fairly healthy state of being able to field full rinks could be continued. He announced that he had negotiated a deal with a new coach company that would be cheaper in the future.

11. Greens Working Party

Alan Gray stated that he was finding it difficult to get information out of the council with regard to future plans for maintenance of greens for the maintained clubs. The situation as far as he is concerned is that:

- Blackshots are going to self-maintenance through Roots2Shoots and this has now been confirmed. Action is now in hand to re-lay the South green.

- Corringham/Fobbing have accepted that Elm Horticulture will be retained by the Council for another twelve months to maintain the Green and a review of the situation will be taken by both Clubs in March 2020.
- Orsett are going to self-management.
- USBC and South Ockendon are continuing as council maintained.
- Gloucester Park & Murrayfield are currently being re-laid.

A copy of the latest inspection report is at **Appendix 1** to these minutes.

12. Any Other Business

Composition of Leagues

A proposal has been made by Thurrock and seconded by Grays with regard to the possibility of running a mixed league in view of the shortage of ladies in Clubs able to field all ladies teams in their league. Robbie Clark, as League Secretary, said that whilst he is not against the proposal, he would not run a mixed league alongside the current set-up and this would require a sub-committee to run it. A lengthy discussion then took place on the merits of this and the Wednesday league including a triples division. The end result was that these issues, if they were to be progressed, should be put forward as formal proposals at the AGM and debated then.

Mick Coulson reported that Corringham would be unable to enter a league team next season due to insufficient number of members.

Grays Town and Thurrock asked for their thanks to be recorded to Clubs hosting them during the season due to their green closure.

Further discussions took place regarding positions to be filled on the committee at the upcoming AGM. Key points were:

- President – Robbie Clark would not be standing
- Treasurer- Rob Brewer would not be standing
- Competition Secretary – Dave Howarth would only stand if the post of Asst Competition Secretary was filled
- General Secretary/Minutes Secretary- Both Alan Gray and Rob Brewer wished to stand down and would review their position at the AGM

13. Date and Time of Future Meetings

AGM to be held on Wednesday 11 December 2019 at 1900 hours.

Meeting closed at 2000 hours.

Minutes. R Brewer

Approved

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Chairman

GWP 2019-08 Wednesday 7th August 2019

T&DBA Greens Inspection with

Ali Jahur from Thurrock Council, Darren Tubby (Elm Horticulture)

Liaison team - A Beesley, P Bainton, M Coulson, A Gray

Corringham, Fobbing & District, 9.00 J Francis Mick Coulson

Large areas of bare large patches with dead moss from last visit. Drainage problems remain.

Elm Horticulture to treat and scarify but are unsure if they will have the contract in October as all going out to tender.

Meeting on Monday to discuss how Corringham and Fobbing wish to proceed, Council or on own?

United Services 9.30 - (9.35)

North end middle has a large bare patch much better than previously.

Council to look at taking more of the leylandii hedge off.

Orsett 10.00-(10.00)

Moss patches, small amount of worm cast - less than has been. Dry patch under trees sprinkler head 4 needs attention. Ali to look into chasing company.

Ali to check on loose glass on the Ladies Changing room.

? re access to tennis courts and numbers of hospital visitors who park in their area if the gate is open.

Blackshots 10.30 - (10.35) Mrs J Hurley

Small areas of hard dead moss, moderate condition.

South green hoped to be re-turfed.

Reminded Ali that James was to try to get a second tank. This would help obviate the problem last season when the South green dried out

As Blackshots group have made arrangements with Roots2Shoots invoices going to Council - no payments for the usual Season Tickets.

Sth Ockendon 11.10 - (11.15) R Brewer, R. Cornwell

Some fox damage, some moss, needing treating small bare areas. Generally very good. Always has been a little spongy underfoot.

Car parking is still a problem with nearby businesses using it, it is only for recreation ground users, and sports. Ali to discuss with council what can be done without penalising the rightful users.

Council will put out for tender for companies to maintain the greens. (Not the cheapest to win)