

THURROCK & DISTRICT BOWLING ASSOCIATION



FOUNDED 1946

President: R Clark; 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 Executive & Delegates Meeting held at Thurrock Bowls Club on Wednesday 13 October 2021

Minutes

Chair:

Robbie Clark opened the meeting by thanking all those present for their attendance and noted that all member Clubs were represented. Because of the unprecedented nature of the last two years the meeting would not necessarily follow its normal course. This would include not having minutes of the previous meeting, as the contents dating back to 2019 were no longer relevant and dealing with obituaries at the AGM in December.

1. Roll Call

Executives

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

Delegates

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

2. Apologies

Nil.

3. Welfare

Obituaries:

All Delegates were asked to prepare a list of those who had sadly passed away since the last meeting in 2019 and forward these to the General Secretary so that they could be properly remembered at the AGM in December

4. Approval of Minutes

As stated above previous minutes are no longer considered relevant.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Not applicable.

6. General Secretary Report & Correspondence

Dave Jago reported that he had received no reports or correspondence to bring to the attention of the meeting.

7. Treasurers Report

Alan Gray reported that affiliation/competition fees received from Clubs for the 2020 season had either had cheques destroyed or been carried over to the present season. A significant change was the Council's decision not to continue to maintain any Club greens, therefore negating all income/expenditure from season tickets in the future. Some funds had been transferred from the Building Society to top up the Current A/c, which had got quite low. Some refunds were due for competition entries which had not been able to be taken up.

8. League Secretary Report

Robbie Clark circulated the meeting with a copy of his report covering 2021 League Data, Proposals for Restructuring the Leagues for 2022 and League Winners/Runners-up for 2021. This report is reproduced in full here as it contains important information for the Leagues going forward and will ensure all Club Secretaries as well as Delegates are in possession of the information and will, therefore, be in a position to fully brief their members.

League Data 2021

The 2021 season went really well, in the Premier Division all matches were played except the games between Springhouse A v Thurrock A and Orsett A v Pitsea these clubs deciding not playing would not affect the league positions so decided not to play these games, Aveley A fielded 11 players in 2 games, Grays Town B played with 2 rinks once. In Division 1 All matches were completed as per the fixture list, though Aveley B fielded 11 players on four occasions. In Division 2 South Ockendon were forced to withdraw from the league due to the lack of players, Orsett B played with 2 rinks once, VCA played with 2 rinks twice, Thames Sports B played with two rinks once. I only list the defaults above to give an insight to how the leagues are performing, it makes it clear that certain clubs are struggling with fielding teams this is most apparent in Division 2 Therefore, I suggest some restructuring of the league format is require

Restructuring of Leagues for 2022

As league secretary I would like to propose that for the 2022 season we make Division 2 a 2 rink of fours league therefore teams in this division would only have to

field 8 players per match. with the possibility of playing a triple even if they only had 7 players available, the winners of division 2 would be declared as that leagues champions but promotion from division 2 would be optional, as it would be futile exercise to promote a team that could not field 12 players to division 1 which is to remain as a 3 rink of fours league, as would the premier league also any team in division 1 would not be relegated to division 2 if they could field a full quota of 12 players for league matches so could remain in Division 1, this of course would be monitored by the previous seasons performance on the fulfilling of fixtures. You may ask why I have not suggested that we make division 2 three rinks of triples, this is because if a team can only field 8 players, that means only 2 triples rinks can play a total of 12 players in all, by keeping it as fours if one team has only 6 players they can still play against 2 rinks of fours. enabling a total of 14 players to play a match, instead of a total of 12 players if it were a triples format. League Fixtures for 2022 I will not be publishing the 2022 league fixture programme until early April 2022 I know that this is an inconvenience as clubs want to put the fixtures in their fixture books, but please bear in mind that it is a bigger inconvenience for the league secretary who spends many hours compiling the fixtures in January only to find after publishing them in February teams pull out in April after clubs have had their Spring meetings and then find they don't have the personal they assumed they had in the previous Autumn when they had their AGMs.

League Winners & Runners Up 2021

I would like to congratulate all the league winners and runners up which were as follows.

Premier Division

Winners Grays Town A - Premier Division Runners Up Springhouse A

Division One

Winners Springhouse B Division One Runners Up Fobbing & District

Division Two

Winners Thurrock B Division Two Runners Up GP/Murrayfield

As per the current association league rules at least one team must be promoted and relegated from each division per season. The remaining promotion and relegation places in all divisions will be decided when I know the structure of the leagues for the 2022 season, this of course totally relies on how many entries we get in the leagues, all clubs must inform the league secretary no later than the 21st March 2022 of teams they wish to enter. This is normally by the T&DBA AGM but because of my earlier point regarding the compiling of fixtures I will accept league entries no later than the above date. This completes my report for the 2021 season one I have enjoyed immensely; I would like to thank the association committee the delegates and the club team captains for their help in the past year.

9. Competition Secretary Report

Dave Haworth reviewed the season's competitions reflecting on the late start and the need to restrict entries in order to be able to complete the programme within the allotted time frame. However, he was pleased to report that all had gone well. He went on to say that the reduced number of Clubs in has resulted in far fewer different Clubs being represented in finals thus making programming, to accommodate those playing in more than one final, difficult. As this problem was only likely to increase in the future he was going to give the matter more consideration before coming up with a proposed solution later on but in good time for next season's competition entries.

10. Match Secretary Report

Roger Cornwell stated that the response to those games which took place outside this season had been very good.. The indoor season has now started with a defeat at Stone Lodge and a full list of upcoming fixtures can be found on the T&DBA website. The response from those wishing to play has been extremely good showing there is a good appetite for these fixtures. For the coming outdoor season he has a full list of fixtures amongst which is a fixture at Orsett to celebrate their 70th anniversary. Full details of all fixtures will be issued later but will start in May 2022.

11. Any Other Business

An issue raised from the floor concerned the possibility of reducing the number of ends to be played in League Matches in the future. The reason was the continued ageing of team members and the fact that some were starting to find playing 21 ends plus two trial ends somewhat tiring. The reduction would also have a beneficial knock-on effect with regard to the finishing of matches under more normal light conditions. The two main proposals would seem to be either to continue to play 21 ends but have the first two restricted to one shot each or reduce the number of ends to 18 and retain two trial ends. The latter appeared to have the most appeal. Terry Mizen also informed the meeting that Bowls England were also moving in the direction of introducing 18 ends nationally. Robbie Clark said he had no objection to League matches being played over a shorter number of ends. After further discussion Dave Haworth said that it was unlikely that competitions would change their format. It was agreed that a proposal would be put forward at the AGM if it was decided there was general support for a change. With regard to the light issue it was also suggested in future matches be played straight through with tea taken either whilst the match continued or at the end if teams so wished.

Robbie Clark drew attention to the envelope handed out at the meeting which contain the six tickets for the Presentation night on Friday 12 Nov 21. Changes this year will include a buffet rather than the old meat or veggie option. Additional tickets can be ordered through either Alan Gray or himself and he hoped members from all Clubs could be encouraged to attend. The dwindling numbers attending in such a large venue as Tilbury may make an alternative venue in future more appealing and any suggestions from Clubs would be welcome.

Terry Mizen asked if some publicity could be given to the Group 9 Dinner on Saturday 22 Jan 22.

12. Date and Time of Future Meetings

Executive Committee Meeting on Wednesday 24 Nov 21 at 1900hrs

AGM on Wednesday 8 Dec 21 at 1900hrs

Meeting closed at 1945 hours.

Minutes. R Brewer

Approved / / 2021

Chairman