

# THURROCK & DISTRICT BOWLING ASSOCIATION



FOUNDED 1946

Gen. Secretary: R Brewer; Treasurer: Vacant; League Secretary: R Clark; Competition Secretary: D Haworth;  
Match Secretary: Vacant; Asst. Match Secretary: D Jago; Delegates' Representatives: T Mizen;

## **Thurrock & District Bowling Association Executive Meeting to be held at Tilbury Community Centre on Wednesday 16 October 2024**

### **Minutes**

#### **Opening Address**

Rob Brewer opened the meeting by thanking all those present for attending.

#### **1. Present**

##### Executives

Present: R.Clark; D Haworth; R Brewer and D Jago

##### Delegates

Present: Aveley; Carreras; Corringham/Fobbing; Ford Sports; Orsett; Pitsea(VCA); South Ockendon; Thames Sports; The Springhouse; and Thurrock

#### **2. Apologies for Absence**

##### Executives

T Mizen

##### Delegates

Grays Town

#### **3. Absent**

Gloucester Park and United Services

#### **4. Welfare**

##### Obituaries

As for last year, the roll call for those of our members who sadly pass away during the course of the year will be held at the AGM. Please let Rob Brewer have the details before then.

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the previous Executives and Delegates Meeting held on 24 April 2024(ExDM2024-04) were passed unanimously.

## **6. Matters Arising**

The subject of a Club having a Safeguarding Officer by the end of the Year and that they should take the Course given by Bowls England was causing some Clubs a problem, due to a lack of volunteers. However, it was agreed by all attending that this was not a problem that the T&DBA could help resolve.

## **7. General Secretary's Report**

Rob Brewer extended a warm welcome to Carreras who have joined the Association and will participate in League Division2 for the 2025 Season.

He had also received an Email from Ray Abbott, the Acting Treasurer following the passing of Alan Gray, in which he apologised for his seemingly low profile but since volunteering for the post he had been beset by ongoing health problems. This does, therefore, leave us with the ongoing problem of finding a new permanent Treasurer, without whom the Association cannot function.

Finally, he informed the meeting that we also need a new Match Secretary following the passing of Roger Cornwell. He pointed out that officials had to be drawn from the Association's member Clubs and, frankly, the previous response to this had been far from encouraging. The stark facts are that it is the Club members who benefit from the efforts of those on the Committee and if volunteers are not forthcoming then, in the worst-case scenario, the Association will not be able to function properly and Leagues, Competitions and Friendlies will cease.

## **8. Acting Treasurer's Report**

Dave Haworth in his role as Acting Treasurer reported that the only activity since the delayed AGM Statement, given at the Executive and Delegates Meeting in April, was income of £100 from TALBA and expenditure of £250 both transactions in connection with the T&DBA Finals Weekend. The balance on the Accounts is £8621.94 with £3971.49 in the Mansfield Building Society and the remainder in the Barclays Current A/c.

As far as the permanent Treasurer's position is concerned, he will carry on until the end of the year and prepare the annual Balance Sheet for audit. On the subject of the audit, he does require an Auditor able to carry out a proper audit as he, as the current auditor, cannot mark his own homework. There is a qualified auditor from outside the Association who will audit the books but a volunteer from inside the organisation would be preferable so names of volunteers to him as soon as possible.

In connection with the permanent Treasurer's post, he reiterated the General Secretary's comments above.

## **9. League Secretary's Report**

Robbie Clark gave the following report:

### **League Data 2024**

The 2024 season went very well, all league matches were completed but one, which was the Premier League match between Grays Town A and Thurrock A, both clubs enquired of the League Secretary if it was ok to not play the match the league secretary agreed to the request as any result did not affect the Premier league positions.

### **League Format for 2025**

I am a little concerned regarding the structure of leagues for 2025, this was discussed at the recent executive meeting and I can tell you all four members present could not find an easy solution to the problem. You as members of the association may ask what the problem is as the leagues ran well in 2024, the problem is in 2025 we may not have the same number of teams as we had in 2024, this could result in the leagues being unbalanced in numbers, at present division Two is a stagnant league because of the playing of only 2 rinks per team in this league there is no promotion or relegation, the Premier league and division one are played as a three rink format. So at the moment we have 7 teams in Division Two, We have 7 in the premier league and 5 in Division One, if that situation remains the same in 2025 I will run the leagues as for 2024, but I will not know this until after all clubs in the association have had their spring meetings whereby they will know the number of members they have which will allow them to know which leagues they can enter in 2025. When this is known the executive committee may have to be further meeting to discuss the way Forward.

### **League Fixtures for 2025**

I will not be publishing the 2025 league fixture programme until early April 2025 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 2024**

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

**Premier Division Winners**  
Premier Division Runners Up

**Grays Town A**  
Thurrock A

**Division One Winners**  
Division One Runners Up

**Pitsea**  
Springhouse B

**Division Two Winners**  
Division Two Runners Up

**Ford Sports**  
Thurrock B

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 from the Premier league and Division One will be decided when I know the structure of the leagues for the 2025 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 2025 of teams they wish to enter.** This is normally done at the T&DBA AGM in January 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 2024 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.

There followed a general discussion regarding the theoretical number of teams of three and two rinks each Club might be able to put out just to give Robbie a rough idea of how the composition of Leagues for the 2025 Season might look.

### **10. Competition Secretary's Report**

Dave Haworth reported that all competitions had gone off well with no interventions being required of him. The Finals weekend had gone very well and he thanked Phil, Paul and all the members of Thurrock BC who ensured that everyone was fed and watered and for the general logistical support in laying out rinks etc. The finals themselves went very well with the last one going to an extra end and down to the last wood and then requiring a measure to decide the winners. It was a very fitting end to a very good weekend. In general, the competition results had been forwarded to him digitally which was of great help to him.

He will be sending out entry forms for next year's competitions in January and will need them back by the end of March 2025 but earlier if possible. The resulting draws for each of the competitions will normally be sent out by the second week in April.

He then touched on the subject of next year's final venue. Any Club is welcome to volunteer to hold them but the stipulations are that the Green must be of a suitable quality and the Club must be able to provide catering on both days. He would ask for any propositions at the AGM and take it from there. He finished by mentioning the fact that for the last two years the finals had been held in co-operation with TALBA at the same time and on the same green. However, this was not an official combined weekend and largely depended on competition results being known by both organisations before they could work out if a joint programme was feasible.

### **11. Match Secretary's Report**

Dave Jago, Assistant Match Secretary, told the meeting that he has managed to hang on to all the winter fixtures previously organised by Roger Cornwell. However, he felt the 22 games arranged were a step too far as he was unable to find enough people to fulfil individual fixture requirements and was, therefore, now in a position where some were having to be cancelled. He had already cut down the number of outdoor fixtures for next year and the same was likely to be necessary for the winter ones. The problem stems from the fact that Roger would generally ring around various people in order to achieve the numbers required but, with his demise, the situation had now changed and he (Dave) now relied on people who wanted to play contacting him. Fixtures and forms are available on the Association web site and this should be advertised to Club members interested in playing.

Rob Brewer then re-iterated the need for a Match Secretary, it was obvious that Dave has his finger on the pulse and as he was willing to stay in post as the Assistant Match Secretary, along with the fact that fixtures were to be rationalised, would make the job far easier for a volunteer who fills the position.

## **12. Any Other Business**

Robbie Clark then briefed the meeting on improvements that were being made to the Current web site. Once the new web site is up and running the old site will still be accessible but all future business will then be conducted through the new site when it goes on line.

The decision to hold the AGM at the Tilbury Community Centre was discussed and accepted by meeting.

## **13. Future Meetings**

AGM Wednesday 15 January 2025 at 7.00p.m. in the Banqueting Hall, Tilbury Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.05p.m.

**Minutes:** Rob Brewer