

ESSEX COUNTY BOWLING ASSOCIATION GROUP 6

A.G.M. MEETING 19th OCTOBER 2019 at 7p.m.

Meeting opened at 19.00

Chairman David Jacobi welcomed everyone to the meeting.

In Memoriam

A minute's silence was observed in memory of fellow bowlers who had passed away during the past 12 months.

Apologies for Absence

Wickford

Delegates Present

Alexandra: Bournemouth Park; Castle Point; Eastwood Park; Essex County; Fairwood; Hadleigh; Hockley; Prittlewell; Rayleigh; Rochford; Runwell; Shoebury Park; South Benfleet & Canvey; Southchurch Park; Southend; Whitehall

Delegates Absent

Carreras; Chalkwell; Memorial Park; Thorpe Bay; Wickford

Officers Present

David Jacobi; Chris Flack; Chris Chorley; John Welton; Ken Griffiths; Jim Bunce; Alan Simpson; Dave Starkey

Chairman David Jacobi

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as Group 6 chairman and again, like last year, am pleased to say how well the running of our Group went during this season without any problems as far as I am aware.

This is down to all the officers of the Group who have all played their part in the efficient organisation and well running of the group. I would like to have recorded my thanks to all the officers for their hard work this year. Although I didn't intend to mention any officer by name as everyone has played their part in the roles they have undertaken, I would however like to mention Richard Shillitto who has for many years been our County Competition Secretary. As I am sure you all well know, Richard has had health problems for a while, yet despite this, he has carried out his duties admirably. Richard wishes to continue and we all wish him well for the future.

I think I can safely say that 2019 was another successful year for Group 6. We reached the final of the Ashford Cup for the third year in a row but despite losing the final it was none the less a superb achievement. With the un-badged players that Group 6 has at its disposal there is no reason why we cannot reach the final again next season.

As in past seasons, I have tried wherever possible to attend the matches and support the players in the Ashford Cup, Wally Ball and Inter Group Knockout and have witnessed some great bowling.

I continue to act as Group 6 selector for the County friendlies and would like to thank all those players who have helped me out by taking the place of players who have dropped out at the last moment.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support throughout the season.

Approval of Minutes of the 2018 AGM held on 11th October 2018

The chairman asked the delegates if the minutes of the AGM were an accurate record of that meeting.

Proposed by: Bournemouth Park

Seconded by: Phil Morris

Matters Arising

Chris Flack raised two items that required responses from that meeting

1. If a player has entered the County Fours competition (his name is on the entry form) and then left the club, could the other three players in the team take over that entry and bring in a fourth player to replace the named player on the entry form, and play the game. The four players who play the first game would constitute the team and they could then be allowed to bring in a substitute for one of the players. This being justified because it is the club that makes the entry, not the players.

Jim Bunce confirmed that the above information is 100% correct

2. The Shoebury Park delegate asked the Competition Secretary if he could raise with the County Competition Secretary why players from more than one club cannot play together as a team in County Competitions. He feels this is discriminating against smaller clubs who haven't got the numbers to support one team but have players who would like to play in these competitions. This rule is forcing competitive players to move to larger clubs to play in County team competitions.

Jim Bunce confirmed that players in the Pairs, Triples & Fours must be from the same club under Bowls England rules. The exceptions to this rule are Mixed County competitions where players from different clubs are allowed to form and play in a team.

Minutes of committee meeting held on 19th September 2019

The chairman asked the delegates if the minutes of the committee meeting were accepted.

Proposed by: Alan Simpson

Seconded by: Belfairs

Matters Arising

- No matters arising

Officer Reports

Treasurers Report

Everyone should have received a copy of the latest accounts for information.

As always, the financial objective of the Group is to break even each year and with the objective of spending no more than we receive in income and as you can see this year we have succeeded in our task.

The cost that does vary and is directly linked to our competitive bowling success is green fees, the more successful our Ashford Cup, Wally Ball and Inter Group Knockout Teams the larger our expenses. I would request that the selectors be less successful.

Chris submitted the accounts to the meeting for approval

Secretary's Report

Firstly, I would like to thank every club for returning your 2020 Affiliation Fees & League subscriptions on time, this will allow John to report next year's League structure at today's meeting rather than later. Thank you all.

On the same theme I would like to thank all those clubs who have returned their nominations for next year's Representative games, on time, very helpful, they will be passed onto the 3 selectors later this evening.

I would also like to thank the 18 clubs who returned their Green Testing Forms back to us at the beginning of the season, so they could be viewed on our website for everyone to see, hopefully next season will see the same response.

I realise that not all clubs have held the AGM's yet, and you don't know who exactly your club officers will be for next season, I will e-mailing all the current delegates early in the New Year asking you to confirm the contact details for your Group 6 delegate and club secretary for the 2020 season. This information will be forwarded to the County Secretary for inclusion in next year's County Handbook. I would request that you reply as soon as you can so we can ensure next year's County handbook has up to date information.

The Group 6 Finals Day took place at Bournemouth Park Bowling Club on 24th September with the following results: -

Singles: 19 competitors – Gary Telling/ECBC 21 – Bob Easter/Hadleigh 17

Triples: 15 competitors -	Chris Flack – ECBC	
	Kevin Robertson - ECBC	20
	John Andrews - ECBC	
	Roy Chinery - BPBC	
	Brian Hennessey - BPBC	11
	Bobby Locke – BPBC	

Group 6 would like to formally thank Bournemouth Park Bowling Club for the use of their facilities and the help of the club members to make it a successful day. I would also like to thank our chairman David Jacobi for marking the singles competition and presenting the trophies, and also (after prompting) a thank you to the marker (Jim Bunce) for measuring on one end.

Finally, I would like to encourage all clubs to use the Group 6 website for all the latest information about Group 6 bowling.

In addition to all the normal information on leagues, representative games, green testing etc, next year we are hoping to publish more details on the friendly games such as names of players in advance of the games as well as the final results.

Jim Bunce expressed the thanks of the Group for the work the Secretary and Chairman have done to restore the credibility and efficiency of Group 6 administration, something that has been noted around the County.

League Secretary's Report

All the leagues ran smoothly this year with results being reported generally on time with the league table updated within days of the games. We had a quite a few games that needed to be rearranged for various reasons and they were all eventually played, although John doesn't understand why everyone waits until the last minute to play them, hopefully they might get played earlier next season.

For next season, Thorpe Bay & Southend have withdrawn one team each from division 6, but Hadleigh are adding a team, so that makes it nice and easy with 8 teams in each division.

Finally, congratulations to the league winners and I look forward to summer 2020.

County Competition Results Secretary's Report

In the absence of Richard Shillitto, the Chairman read his report,

Firstly, the Men's Fours competition reverting back to a Friday went well without any issue.

No information has been received from ECBA regarding the dates of the County Two Wood Competition dates for Group 6 and 9, this will be held at Essex County Bowling Club for the 2020 season.

The Group 6 results of County Competition this year went relatively smoothly, I would like to thank everyone who phoned their results through to me on the evening of the game, it meant I was able to send our results spreadsheet through to the County the same evening and the website was updated without any delay, giving competitors plenty of time to see who their next opponent(s) was and organise the games.

Group 6 would like to congratulate Ed Morris from Essex County Bowling Club for winning the National Men's Singles Title this year, a great achievement following on from his Two Wood success last year, a feat that has not been done many times. He will be representing England in the BIBC International Series in Wales in June 2020.

Group 6 were well represented in the County Finals this year and anyone who came along to watch the finals witnessed some very good games with Essex County Bowling Club almost having a clean sweep of the main competitions.

Pairs – Chris Muir/Ed Morris

Triples – Simon Kittle/ Kevin Watkins and Gary Telling

Fours – Richard Spriggs/ Gary Telling/ Richard Telling and Ed Morris

County Shield – Essex County Bowling Club

Double Fours – Essex County Bowling Club

Benevolent Cup – Chris Muir

A great year for Group 6

Match Secretary

Of the three games arranged for 2019, the first two against the Parks Circle and Essex Vice-Presidents went very well, being well supported. The third game against Southend B.C. was cancelled due to clubs not responding or being late to declare they couldn't supply a rink.

We deliberately scheduled this game for late in the season when leagues and competitions were reducing, thinking it would make it easier for the clubs to provide a rink of four players.

For 2020 the selection committee are going to nominate clubs for the three games, these selections will be made before the end of this year, giving clubs plenty of notice. We are hoping that by giving the clubs plenty of notice that these games can be inserted into each clubs playing programme, again hopefully making it easier for selection.

The club match secretary's and delegates will be supplied with this information. It would be greatly appreciated if the acceptances from each club can be returned promptly, clubs will be reminded of their commitment a least two weeks before each game.

Selectors

Ashford Cup – Another successful group stage, with us again qualifying for the final. It was good to see some of the newer players doing so well at this time in the competition but when it came to the final it again proved a step to far as we were again beaten by Group 3, although we won on two rinks, we lost heavily on two other rinks.

Although it was pleasing to get to our third successive final, we must do much better if we want to win the cup again. Congratulations to Chris Down who was awarded his County Badge this season, who is the only Group 6 player that we will lose from next year's competition.

We have received 70 nominations from the clubs for next year's Ashford Cup so inevitably we will be having another trial game at the beginning of the season.

I would stress that if players want to be considered a serious potential player for this competition, they need to be available for at least 3 out of the 4 games (including the trial game) as well as the final. Dates of the 5 games will be shown on the Group 6 website, so there is no excuse for not being aware of when the games are and confirming your availability.

Jim Bunce

Inter Group Knockout – This year we again lost in the first round, very disappointing. I felt I had more support from the players this year, although there were some selection issues at the last minute with players withdrawing, but on the whole, I felt we had a very strong team.

Overall, we played very well but we lost by one shot on the last end to one of the finalists in the competition.

We can only go again and try and improve on our performance, something I have every confidence that we will do next season.

Alan Simpson

Wally Ball – On behalf of Group 6, I would like to thank Hockley Bowls Club for the use of their green and facilities for the 2019 Wally Ball Competition.

20 players were selected with 10 of these being new players to the squad. All were asked if they were available for all the games and the majority said yes to all games.

When the competition started, I had selection problems in the first game, one selected player pulled out and three reserves pulled out. I added two more names to the squad but unfortunately, we lost on all rinks.

The second game, I had two players pull out because of illness and two reserves pull out because of family commitments. One of the players who had withdrawn from the first game informed that he would be playing in an Open tournament and could not play, he was subsequently withdrawn from the squad. We won on three rinks and this meant we could still get to the final with a four-rink win, plus shots in the last game.

In the last game I bought in three more players to the squad as two selected players and two reserves pulled out. We only managed to win on two rinks.

When players are selected for these games, we need commitment for all the dates, even from the reserves. We can't go into top competitions without commitment, if necessary, this means not playing for your club. I will always give the reserves a game and I will definitely be bringing in some new faces next season as well as keeping some of the 2019 squad.

I would like to thank all players who took part in the Wally Ball competition and also those who came into the squad at the last minute.

Dave Starkey

Jim Bunce added to all three selectors reports by stating that it is the intention of the three selectors to sit down together before the seasons starts and choose the individual squads and they have agreed that where possible they will not be selecting players for both the Ashford Cup and Wally Ball squads, it will be one or the other. This intention is not 'set in stone' but an objective of the selectors.

John Lloyd (ECBC) asked the question if the Wally Ball squad were made slightly larger would it help with selection.

Dave Starkey stressed that he likes to give everyone in the squad a game and by making it larger, it makes this harder to achieve. The group are under no pressure to name a squad of players for the Wally Ball or Inter Group Knockout, it is open to anyone but from a selectors perspective it helps with selection by giving priority to squad players.

Pat Whitbread (Southend) asked for clarification regarding nominating players for both Ashford Cup and Inter Wally Ball, is this allowed ?

The committee confirmed that this was allowed, a club can nominate the same player for all three competitions if they are eligible.

Chris Flack (Secretary) added that Group 6 has a 5-year plan for the venues of the three competitions above, and if you look at the Group 6 website you will see where the home games for these competitions will be held for the next 5 years.

It is the intention that this plan is a 5 year rolling plan so if any club think it has suitable facilities to host these games (car parking, kitchen, bar etc) as well as a good playing surface, they should approach one of the committee members and ask for their club to be considered as a venue.

Motions/Proposals

Proposal 1 from Group 6 Officers

One motion/proposal had been received from Southend Bowling Club

The proposal as received: -

1. Southend BC would like to propose that the Group 6 inter club league be changed to a Wednesday.

It has been a problem for some time that this competition clashes with the County Pairs, Fours and County Friendlies, many clubs lose a lot of players as they progress in that competition and are asked to play for the County in these prestigious matches.

We do understand that in the Southend area there is the Cutler Shield played on a Wednesday, however we feel that the disruption to the Group 6 inter club league and pressure on individuals to give up either a County credit or Group 6 game is more important.

Delegates and attendees were asked to comment on the above proposal.

The majority of the delegates and attendees made a contribution to the discussion, with the following 'main' points being made:-

- Southend have lost good bowlers from their Group 6 team because they are playing in the Club Pairs.
- Group 6 is the only group in the county that plays its league games on a Tuesday, all the other groups play on a Wednesday which makes it difficult for players trying to find free days for competitive games
- A lot of the smaller clubs play friendlies on a Wednesday which would make selection for group 6 league games more difficult
- The Basildon league plays on a Tuesday because Group 9 play their inter club league on a Wednesday which makes selection more difficult for those clubs who play in this league.
- Group 6 inter club league has a two-week break in early June specifically to reflect that certain clubs will lose players to county competitions.
- Southend BC only lost 2 pairs to the County Pairs competition this year (played on a Tuesday) whilst a lot of other Group 6 clubs lost a good deal more than that and still managed to field league teams.
- Clubs have the option of selecting players from their other league teams i.e. B team to A team to overcome player shortages, but only once per player per season.
- Rink availability on a Tuesday night can be a problem because of demands for Group 6 league, Basildon League and Adams League
- Would it be an idea to give the Wednesday night a trial, say for one year in 2021 to see the consequences, this would allow for those clubs that have already arranged games for the 2020 season to make changes to their diaries.
- Some players have split loyalties between entering the County Pairs and playing in the Group 6 league

A hand vote was taken (delegates only) with the majority rejecting the motion.

Election of Officers

All Group 6 Officers are standing un-opposed for next season
The un-opposed positions are: -

<u>Chairman:</u>	David Jacobi
<u>Secretary:</u>	Chris Flack
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Chris Chorley
<u>League Secretary:</u>	John Welton
<u>County Competition Results Secretary:</u>	Richard Shillitto
<u>Match Secretary:</u>	Ken Griffiths
<u>Selector:</u>	Jim Bunce
<u>Selector:</u>	Alan Simpson
<u>Selector:</u>	Dave Starkey

John Lloyd asked the question why he (at Essex County) has never seen a notice displayed at his club advising members of the Group 6 AGM and possible nominations.

The ECBC delegate explained the process at his club and agreed to take this matter back to his club secretary for an explanation

Presentation of Group 6 League Trophies

The Chairman presented the winners Trophies to the delegates from: -

Division 1 – Bournemouth Park ‘A’

Division 2 – Rochford ‘A’

Division 3 – South Benfleet & Canvey ‘B’

Division 4 – Alexandra

Division 5 – ECBC ‘G’

Division 6 – South Benfleet & Canvey ‘C’

Congratulations to all the above clubs

A.O.B.

1.

Jim Bunce (ECBC) attended the last County meeting and advised the meeting of some decisions at County level that will affect Group 6 clubs.

- There is likely to be an increase in the expenses paid by the County to those players who qualify for the National Finals at Leamington next season, the details are still being agreed with the County Treasurer.
- The draw has been made for 2020 Inter Group Knockout competition with Group 6 at home (Thorpe Bay) to Group 4 in the first round.
- The subject of coaching has been raised at National level and the two national coaching bodies (Coach Bowls & ECBS) are currently at odds as to who should provide coaching around the country.

A consultation document has been raised by two senior county members who advocate setting up a steering group in conjunction with Essex County Indoor Bowling Association to examine the consequences for the County of Essex. The latest thought is that Essex may decide to go it alone and create their own coaching set-up, members will be advised as this subject progresses.

2.

Pat Whitbread (Southend) asked the meeting if the start times for Group 6 leagues could be brought forward to avoid finishing games in the dark.

The League Secretary pointed out that a lot of the participating bowlers still work for a living and getting to venues any earlier than 5:30 (beginning and end of season) and 6pm for June and July would make it impossible for some of those players to play.

He also pointed out that in his experience, lack of light has never been a problem with the current start times

John Lloyd (ECBC) pointed out that the league rules allow for the two match captains to agree to shorten the game if bad light or weather threatens to interfere with the game.

There being no other business; the chairman thanked Rochford B.C. for the use of their facilities and member (Pat Brady) for opening the bar this evening, he subsequently closed the meeting at 8:10pm