

ESSEX COUNTY BOWLING ASSOCIATION GROUP 6

A.G.M. MEETING 10th OCTOBER 2024 at 7p.m.

Meeting opened at 19.00

Chairman David Jacobi welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. In Memoriam

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

2. Apologies for Absence

Gt. Wakering; Shoebury Park

Delegates Present

Belfairs; Bournemouth Park; Castle Point; Essex County; Fairwood; Hadleigh; Hockley; Memorial Park; Prittlewell; Rayleigh; Rochford; Runwell; South Benfleet & Canvey; Southchurch Park; Thorpe Bay; Whitehall; Wickford

Delegates Absent

Chalkwell Park; Southend; Alexandra; Carreras

Officers Present

David Jacobi; Chris Flack; Chris Chorley; Kevin Robertson; Ken Griffiths; Jim Bunce; Ray Woollard

Officers Absent

Steve Gunnell

3. Chairman David Jacobi

As you all know this will be my last season of being your Group 6 Chairman. Having completed 12 years in the role, it is time for me to step down and make room for somebody else to take over this position. I would like to think that the affairs of the Group are now run more efficiently, more fairly and more effectively than when I took over the role as your Chairman so many years ago and for this I must thank all the current members of the committee as well as all the past members of this committee. This will also be the last year that we have Chris Chorley as our treasurer who is standing down today. When he first took over the running of the Group's funds there were no previous detailed accounts for Chris to follow other than the bank account so all credit to Chris for stepping in and producing details of our finances over the years.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as your Group 6 Chairman and am pleased to say how well the running of our Group went for the past season and as far as I am aware without any major problems. For this, thanks must go to all members of the committee who give up their free time to make sure that the affairs of the group run as smoothly as possible.

From time-to-time criticism of one or more members of the committee is made and especially the selectors who give up a considerable amount of time in team selection and attending the various games that are played, in particular, the Ashford Cup and the Wally Ball competitions. Since I have been chairman of the group the selectors have involved players from many more clubs than was previously the case and on occasions have included players even though they had not been put forward by their clubs. I would, therefore, ask all delegates here this evening to make sure that when your clubs are asked to nominate players for any of the competitions, to make sure that any worthy nominations are put forward.

For your information in the period that I have been your Group Chairman the Group has won in the same year 2 of the three competitions 4 times and one competition 3 times in other years. Bearing in mind there are 8 groups, we have been very successful. Let's hope that we can be greedy and again be successful next season.

As in past seasons, I have tried whenever 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 and exciting matches.

As in past seasons I continued to carry out the duties of being the 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 had dropped out at the last moment.

I will finish by saying to all current members on the committee a big thank you for all your hard work and dedication and wish you well for the future. I would also like to welcome all the new members who will be elected to serve on the committee this evening.

Finally I would like to thank you, the delegates and all members of Group 6 for your support throughout the season.

4. Approval of Minutes of the 2022 AGM held on 12th October 2023

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

The meeting unanimously agreed

There were no matters arising

5. Officer Reports

Treasurers Report

We started the year off with a bank balance of £1887.33, and thanks to the ECBA, we have increased our balance to a total of £2171.96

We continue to benefit from the ECBA subsidy which has proved a major contributor

to our funds since COVID. We have continued to purchase shirts for members who participate in both Group 6 and County Representative games, as well as maintaining our website. I wish to thank those selectors and committee members who despite many journeys to and from different clubs, do not desire compensation for their travel expenses. This may change with the advent of different personnel involved. This has helped swell our funds by a further £284 this year, which will help if any unforeseen expenses occur.

We have decided to continue the present affiliation fees, but this will be reviewed next year depending on our financial circumstances.

In my personal opinion this balance is in excess of what the group needs for its routine expenses and I would anticipate that the group officers will need to consider how they manage these figures going forward.

Secretary's Report

Firstly, I would like to thank every club for returning your 2024 Affiliation Fees & League subscriptions on time, this has allowed us to present you with some options for next year's League structure at today's meeting rather than later. Thank you

Unfortunately we have lost two clubs from both our affiliation and league structure for next season. Carreras, who have requested that they be moved to Group 9, where they are closer to the clubs they play regularly.

So next year, Group 6 will be reduced to 21 affiliated clubs

And Alexandra, who just don't have enough members to support a league team, but also sadly don't see the benefits of affiliating the Group 6.

On a positive note Chalkwell, although not entering a team in the league will be affiliating to Group 6.

I would like thank those clubs who have returned their nominations for next year's Representative games, I have only received 26 nominations for the Ashford Cup. so far, so if you have forgotten, it is not too late, just email me a copy please.

I would also like to thank the 16 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.

As last year, you will be receiving emails directly from the ECBA regarding your 2025 Affiliations Fees and your club contact details for next seasons County Handbook.

As last year, I will also be asking you to provide me your club contacts for 2025, once received I will forward to complete list to all club secretaries and delegates.

I ALSO NEED TO REMIND YOU OF THE REQUIREMENT FROM BOWLS ENGLAND THAT FROM 2025 YOUR CLUB WILL NEED TO HAVE A NAMED SAFEGUARDING OFFICER(S), FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IF YOUR CLUB NOT BEING AFFILIATED TO BOWLS ENGLAND OR ECBA.

I SENT YOU THE CONTACT DETAILS OF THE ECBC SAFEGUARDING OFFICER OR ALTERNATIVELY SOME SAFEGUARDING COURSES THAT ARE AVAILABLE FROM COACH BOWLS AND I HAVE ALSO SENT YOU DETAILS OF ANOTHER ORGANISATION THAT

HADLEIGH BOWL CLUB USED FOR TRAINING COURSES AND THEY ARE RECOMMENDING CALLED 'HIGH SPEED TRAINING'

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY ADDRESSED SHOULD BE AT THE TOP OF YOUR CLUB'S PRIORITIES.

IS THERE ANY CLUB HERE TODAY THAT HASN'T ADDRESSED THIS ISSUE ?

I have also sent you recently details of coaching courses that are available in Essex, which come highly recommended, and we would encourage all clubs to think seriously about using these resources.

As you know Essex has gone its own way with regard to coaching in the County, not following the national route of 'Coach Bowls' but setting up their own organisation; Essex Bowls Coaching Association, which is proving very successful and has some really good people working for it.

If you have anyone at your club who is interested in coaching, I would encourage them to contact EBCA

Our Group 6 competitions returned this year, with over 20 entries in both Singles and Triples. All the rounds were completed on-time for which I would like to say thank you to all the players.

The SINGLES were won by Barry Stone who beat Steve Martin by 21 shots to 3, both from Essex County.

The TRIPLES were won by Gary Tidd and Graham Parker from Prittlewell with Ben Staines from Essex County who beat Duncan Barton, Lewis and Adam Miller all from Thorpe Bay by 24 shots to 13

I would like to say a big thank you to Rayleigh Bowling Club for hosting the finals this year, they proved excellent hosts and together with a lot of support for the players, everyone had a very good morning, in which the weather also played its part.

Once again, 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, we are putting more and more information on our website

A lot of time goes into ensuring that it contains all the latest information about Group 6 bowls, so please use it.

I would also like to mention the great job Dave Starkey did this year as County President, he certainly represented Group 6 very well, and hopefully this will continue next year when Paul LaPlain from Essex County takes over the presidency

Finally I would like to draw your attention to some of the bowlers from Group 6 we must congratulate for achieving some outstanding results this season.

The highlight of our year must be the winning of the Ashford Cup and Wally Ball in the same year, a fantastic performance by everyone involved of which I am sure we will hear more of later, many thanks to Jim Bunce and Ray Woollard for their hard work in selecting the right teams to win these two competitions.

Group 6 lost their opening game in the Inter Group Knockout to the eventual winners Group 8

Other notable competition results this year for Group 6 Clubs and players are: -

English National Championships

- Ed Morris (ECBC) on reaching Leamington Men's Singles and surprisingly losing in the first round, but it was against his best mate who went all the way the final.
- Ed Morris and Steve Gunnell (ECBC) on reaching Leamington Men's Pairs and losing in the semi-final to the eventual winners
- Ed Morris, Steve Gunnell, Simon Kittle and Gary Telling (ECBC) on reaching Leamington Men's Fours and again losing in the semi-final to the eventual winners
- Steve Gunnell & Richard Spriggs on reaching Leamington Men's Senior Pairs, losing in the final game by one shot, a great effort.
- David Dar from ECBC for reaching Leamington Senior Singles, unfortunately losing in the first round

County Competitions

- Ed Morris winning the Men's Two Wood Singles
- Ed Morris and Steve Gunnell (ECBC) won the Men's Pairs
- Ed Morris, Steve Gunnell, Gary Telling and Simon Kittle winning the Men Fours
- Ryan and Craig Ramsey, Ray Bone and Ed Morris (ECBC) winning the Hood Cup
- Dave Dar (ECBC) losing in the Secretary Singles Final by one shot
- Essex County winning the Double Fours

Not quite as good a season as last season but still great results for Group 6 that should be celebrated

Finally, I would like to appeal to you all here today as to how we improve the communication between ourselves the Group 6 committee and all the Group 6 players.

I personally feel that a lot of communications sent to clubs doesn't go beyond the in-box of the club secretary and delegate, I know that doesn't apply to every club and some of you do a good job of disseminating information down to your members but others don't.

I would like your help to improve those communications and I would like your input into how we achieve that.

One example of how I think those communications are not working is the Group 6 Officer nominations, we haven't received any from clubs again this year, the new officers you will be asked to elect later on this evening have all been 'head-hunted' (for want of a better expression)

Group 6 has hundreds of players of all ages and abilities and experience and I cannot believe there are not some very suitable individuals who could do a good job on this committee, but are we reaching those players currently, I don't think so.

If you look at our committee we are all, like you probably, on the wrong side of 70 and in some cases 80, we will not go on forever, we need to find some new blood.

These days emails seem to be the accepted form of communication between clubs and their members, do all clubs send out 'group' emails to members when they want communicate important information ? or do you rely on a noticeboard ?

I would like to think that if I send the clubs an email requiring player involvement, be that Officer nominations or competitions etc. that the email could be forwarded to your members, is this possible ?

League Secretary's Report

The league ran smoothly this year with the results being reported generally on-time and with the league tables updated within days of the games. Only a couple of games were unplayed during the whole season.

I would like to remind all clubs about the rule that when we have two teams from the same club playing in the same division and they wish to rearrange a fixture between themselves. The rule does state that in these circumstances, the postponed fixture must be played within the following week, it must not be left any longer than this.

At this point I would normally distribute the proposal for next seasons league structure, but as we have a motion on this subject from Hockley B.C., this will be addressed as part of that motion.

For next season, we have lost two teams, Carreras from division 3, who have moved to Group 9 following their move to Gloucester Park and Alexandra BC from division 4 who do not have the membership numbers to support a league team. We have one new team from Hadleigh BC who have entered a second team.

We are continuing to trial Wednesdays for the league in 2025, I would be interested in any feedback from clubs ?

The Officers are presenting one motion later in this meeting to change the league rules to clarify the situation relating to teams playing with one player short and 'who' reduces their score by 25%.

Teams should enter the scores on the Group 6 website as per the scorecards, leaving the League Secretary to perform the calculation to reduce the score where necessary. Finally, congratulations to all divisional winners and I look forward to summer 2025

Match Secretary

The two arranged fixtures fell into the mixed bag category, the first game on 27th July went ahead as scheduled against Essex VP's, the group thanks those clubs who provided the players for the five rinks.

Sadly the second game arranged for 10th September against the Parks Circle was cancelled, Park Circle could not get a team together, hopefully this will not be the case in 2025.

We also had a third game against an Essex County Bowling Association representative team played at South Benfleet B.C., the home green of the County President, Dave Starkey.

This brings me to the subject of communication, my instruction previously received from you the delegates, was to contact the club secretary and club delegate when looking for players to play in our friendlies.

On one occasion this year when reminding a club that I had not received their response, I was told neither the secretary or delegate had received the invite, this in spite of me having no notification that their invite was not delivered.

I then got a phone call from the Group 6 league team manager at the same club saying he only had a small league squad and could not get a rink out. I explained to him that any male club member at his club was eligible to play in these games.

If there is any delegate here today that is not aware of this, can they please take this information back to their club.

Selectors

Ashford Cup - A superb finish to a very good season in the Ashford Cup.

Our first game was a loss to Group 1 [away] by 7-5. A very good effort away from home and a great start to our 2024 campaign.

We then had two games at Rochford B.C. which enabled us to gain 20 points from 24 to win our Group by 1 point from runner-up Group 1.

I would like to thank Rochford Bowls Club for all their help in making our games there successful as well as great hospitality and support.

The final was against our old foes Group 3 at Braintree BC, this time our boys bowled to their real potential and we ran out winners by 4 rinks to 2.

I would not normally single out one rink for praise but the rink of Rob Robins, Ian Whitehead, Taylor Marshall and Paul Johnson won by 27 shots which I am sure had a positive effect on the other Group 6 rinks and a negative effect on Group 3, a great result.

Well done to all the players and all reserves that turned up for games.

Congratulations to Len Pope who now gets his county badge.

I also wish my successor all the best.

I have really enjoyed the last 8 year's even though Chris Flack did all the donkey work.

Thank you to everyone who supported us.

Selector – Jim Bunce

Wally Ball - What a great season we've had.

Having retained a strong Wally Ball squad from last season a small number of additional players, I felt we had a good chance to reach the final again.

Our first game, away at Wivenhoe BC against Group 1 resulted in a good win by 5 points to 3.

Our second game away at Dunmow BC against Group 2 resulted in another good win by the same score.

Our third game at home (Prittlewell BC) against Group 5 resulted in another win by 6 points to 2

This time we reached the final by winning both our away games and now faced the challenge of beating the renowned Group 3, who had lost the Ashford Cup to Group 6 the previous week.

The final lived up to its billing, Group 3 appeared in control until the 15th end, when Group 6 scored 10 shots to their 1 shot. We then played the game out winning 3 rinks to 1

What a great result well done to everyone involved.

My thanks to Essex County BC and Prittlewell BC for the use of their greens and facilities this year.

My thanks also go to the whole Wally Ball squad for giving their time and effort over the weeks involved.

Let's try and win the trophy again next year.

Selector - Ray Woollard

Inter Group Knockout - In the absence of Steve Gunnell, David Jacobi read his report. A tough first round match against a very strong Group 8.

With 5 of our players away on Balcombe Cup duty and several others unavailable, it was always going to be an uphill task.

The overall score fluctuated between the teams early on and every end was keenly contested. Unfortunately, Group 8 finished the better over the final ends and ran out winners by 15 shots 128 to 113

Well done to Lee Chaplin and David Dar's rinks on winning their games.

A special thank you to Ken Smith who came along as reserve and replaced Vince O'Connor (back injury) midway through the game.

Selector - Steve Gunnell

6. Motions/Proposals

Motion 1. Proposal received from Group 6 Officers

Change Group 6 Constitution - Para 5.2 The Committee of Officers

Make County Selector (Para 5.3) a full committee member

Para 5.3

Change text to 'two members' perform the roles of County Delegate(s)

Delete County Selector

- o **A hand vote was taken (delegates only) with the majority approving the motion**

Motion 2. Proposal received from Group 6 Officers

Change Group 6 League Rules 'League Secretary's Responsibilities'

Add rule - Where a team has had to field a rink (or rinks) with only 3 players, the League Secretary will perform the calculation to reduce the rink(s) score(s) by 25%.

Teams are to enter the scores as per their scorecards without the calculation.

- **A hand vote was taken (delegates only) with the majority approving the motion**

Motion 3. Proposal received from League Secretary and Hockley B.C.

Change Group 6 league structure for 2025

- Five leagues of 8 teams
- Two leagues of 9 teams, two leagues of 7 teams, one league of 8 teams
- Four leagues of 10 teams

- **A hand vote was taken (delegates only) with the following results**
 - 8 votes**
 - 3 votes**
 - 5 votes****1 abstention**
- **Option 'a' was approved**

7. Election of Officers

The following Group 6 Officers are prepared to remain in office

<u>Secretary:</u>	Chris Flack
<u>League Secretary:</u>	Kevin Robertson
<u>Match Secretary:</u>	Ken Griffiths

Current Officer standing down (Retiring)

David Jacobi Chris Chorley

The following nominations have been received from the clubs: -

Chairman:	Jim Bunce	Essex County B.C.
Treasurer:	Mike Birch	Rayleigh B.C.
County Selector:	Ray Woollard	Essex County B.C.
Selector:	David Birch	Essex County B.C.
Selector:	David Starkey	South Benfleet & Canvey B.C.
Selector:	Lee Watkins	Essex County B.C.

- **There were no objections from the floor, the officers above were duly elected**

8. Presentation of Group 6 League Trophies

David Starkey (County President) presented the winners Trophies to the club representatives from: -

Division 1 – Essex County 'B'

Division 2 – Prittlewell 'A'

Division 3 – Fairwood 'A'

Division 4 – Essex County 'G'

Division 5 – Prittlewell 'B'

Congratulations to all the above clubs

9. A.O.B.

Paul LaPlain (ECBC) the incoming County President thanked Group 6 for nominating him as the 2025 County President

The chairman wished him well in his year as County President

10. Close to Meeting

There being no other business; the chairman thanked Rochford B.C. for the use of their facilities and opening the bar this evening, he subsequently closed the meeting at 8:15pm