

ESSEX COUNTY BOWLING ASSOCIATION GROUP 6

COMMITTEE MEETING 2nd SEPTEMBER 2021 at 7pm

Meeting opened at 19.00

Secretary Chris Flack welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Officers Present

Chris Flack; Kevin Robertson; Ken Griffiths; Chris Chorley; Jim Bunce; Dave Starkey

Apologies for Absence

David Jacobi; Kevin Watkins

Officer Reports

Officers were reminded, they should prepare a brief report for presentation at the upcoming AGM.

The Secretary updated the selectors on the 2022 Wally Ball and Ashford Cup fixture dates: -

Wally Ball

Sunday 12th June away to Group 9
Sunday 19th June away to Group 1
Sunday 26th June home to Group 2
Sunday 10th July – Final

Ashford Cup

Sunday 22nd May home to Group 1
Sunday 29th May home to Group 8
Sunday 5th June away to Group 4
Sunday 31st July – Final

The committee discussed the current 5-year venue plan and expressed some concerns around its suitability, especially the Inter Group Knockout. Jim Bunce will raise this matter at the AGM

Officers Nominations

All the current officers are prepared to remain in their current positions.

Group 6 clubs have been asked to nominate members for any of the Officer positions prior to the AGM. The closing date for nomination is 30th September. The response from clubs will dictate if a vote for any of the Officer positions will be required.

Affiliation & League Team Applications Forms

A significant number of Affiliation and League Team forms and payments have not at the time of writing this report, with 3 weeks to go to the deadline it is too early speculate if there will be a significant change to the league structure. The league Secretary will update everyone at the AGM.

AGM Motions/Proposals

All Group 6 clubs have been asked to submit motions/proposals for discussion at the AGM by 30th September

Representative Games – Nomination Forms

Nomination forms will be sent to all clubs in the next few days with a closing date for receipt of 21st October.

AGM Agenda

The proposed AGM agenda was agreed for distribution. A provisional AGM date of Thursday 21st October was agreed by the committee. The Secretary is waiting for Rochford B.C. to confirm the availability of their clubhouse on this date as the venue.

Items for discussion

1. Group 6 League – Division 1

Email received from Rochford BC expressing concern at the strength of the Division One ECBC teams, which in their view is leading to a one-sided competition. They have suggested limiting the number of badged players allowed to play on each rink could even up the playing strengths.

Group 6 Officers are aware of the increasing strength of ECBC Division One league teams but feel that limiting the number of badged players on each rink would negatively affect all teams not just ECBC, as most clubs in Division One have badged players.

The Group 6 Officers are investigating how other groups in the county manage their leagues and do they have an eligibility criterion for similar circumstances. Group 6 Officers are reluctant to introduce rules that stop people bowling, that goes against everything we work for; however the Officers are acutely aware of the possible negative affect this could have on the league structure.

The officers agreed to review the situation one year from now, to see if this situation is still a problem after another season. This will also give the Officers time to discuss the matter with the clubs and look at possible solutions.

2. Food at Group 6 League games

Group 6 Officers have received feedback during last season that some clubs were experiencing difficulty in maintaining this tradition, possibly this situation has been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic.

One problem with leaving to the discretion of the clubs is that some clubs could provide food but when playing the reciprocal game against the same club, food may not be provided, some members might object to paying for food of their opponent without their opponent doing the same in the return game.

It is also possible that clubs may lose out on the sale of alcohol if food was not provided.

The Officers discussed the options available and agreed that the League Secretary would raise the matter in his report at the AGM and suggest it was up to each club to make their own decision, but in the knowledge it may not be reciprocated.

3. Inter Group Knockout team selection

Chris Flack asked the question 'why does our Inter Group Knockout team consistently under perform in this competition ?

With the majority of the player coming from ECBC, is this the right policy, should we select players from other clubs, maybe complete rinks coming from one club. Also ECBC have repeatedly picked a IGK game date for one of their own games which then provides selection problems.

The Officers agreed that the venue for this competition should be at ECBC every year, given that the final is played there.

4. Ashford Cup possible change to the eligibility rules

The Officers discussed the implications of the possible rule change being discussed by ECBA. Group 8 have suggested that the same groups are reaching the final every year and his group are struggling to field a team of 24 good players that can compete with these other groups, they are suggesting that badged players are included, maybe only in certain positions.

There was a concern raised that if the eligibility rules are not changed then the competition could fold.

Jim Bunce suggested the if the rule was changed, badged players should be allowed to play in any position, and it shouldn't be mandatory that badged players must play, this should be left to the individual groups.

This will be discussed again at the next County Executive meeting in early September.

5. Late Reporting of league results

Although not responsible for the collating of the league results, Jim Bunce expressed his concern at the number of times clubs have not reported the result of the league game until in some cases nearly two weeks after the game has been played. The League Secretary agreed that some clubs were very lax in this regard but also maybe as serious. some clubs do not follow the rules when reporting results i.e. the away club report the result before the home team.

The Officers did not have a magic solution but agreed that the League Secretary would raise the matter during his report at the AGM.

6. Moving Group 6 league games to a Wednesday

Following the very close vote at the 2019 Group 6 AGM to move the Group 6 league games to a Wednesday the Officers felt we should look at this question again.

Rather than voting on this matter, the Officers discussed an alternative proposal that the League Secretary should state that the League will be changed to a Wednesday from the 2023 season for a trial period of two years.

The League Secretary would raise this at the AGM as part of his report.

A.O.B.

County Formal Complaint

Jim Bunce raised the matter of the formal complaint made to the County Competition Secretary regarding a Group 6 player being given an extension to play his Singles and Pairs game earlier this summer. Whilst Group 6 respected the decision made by the County Competition Secretary they made a recommendation that the rules be changed to 'no extensions be given in the Pairs, Triples and Fours', because substitutes are allowed. This matter is due to be discussed again at the next County Executive meeting in early September.

Jim Bunce would like to recommend to the County Executive that any player seeking an extension to a game in the early rounds should contact the GROUP County Competition Results Secretary for a decision. In the later rounds it should be the County Competition Secretary.

League Rules

Kevin Robertson would like to amend the league rules to stop clubs possibly engineering a result to benefit their club

Where clubs have more than one team in the same division these fixtures are always organised at the beginning of each half of the season to avoid Engineered results.

The League Secretary has noticed on at least one occasion a club postponed one of these games and played it at the end of the season, this allowed for a possible engineered result.

After some discussion the Officers agreed that the rules should be changed. When any of these 'same' club games are postponed the rearranged date must be within the next 6 days (before the next fixture).

The League Secretary will include this item in his AGM report.

County Handbook

Ken Griffiths asked if it was possible to replace the club Treasurers details in the County Handbook with the club Captain, this in his view would be far more useful to the clubs.

The officers agreed to raise this matter at the next County Executive meeting in early September.

Group 6 Representative Game Venues

Dave Starkey asked if the above document could be reviewed in light of our experiences this year. Both he and Jim Bunce expressed concern that the current venue plan should be reviewed and possibly amended; this should be done before Christmas to allow the affected clubs to plan their respective handbooks for next season. Jim Bunce will raise the matter as part of his report at the AGM.

They're being no other business; the Secretary closed the meeting at 8:58pm