

ESSEX COUNTY BOWLING ASSOCIATION GROUP 6

EMERGENCY MEETING 31st AUGUST 2023 at 12:00pm

Meeting opened at 12.02

Chairman David Jacobi welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Officers Present

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

Apologies

Steve Gunnell

Reason for meeting

Following the committee meeting on 24th August 2023, and the communication of the committee decision to the clubs involved, Shoebury Park made an appeal to have the decision reviewed.

The League Secretary reviewed correspondence between all the parties and reversed the decision to Southend 0 points - Shoebury Park 6 points.

Group 6 Committee members were subsequently concerned that the correct procedures were not followed when making this decision and agreed an Emergency Committee meeting be held to discuss the proceeding events and decision.

Due to a potential conflict of interest (being a Thorpe Bay member) Chairman David Jacobi excused himself from the duty of chairman and appointed Jim Bunce as meeting chairman

The chairman asked the League Secretary to explain the recent events.

The League Secretary agreed that he had not provided all the facts to the committee before they made their original decision, so their decision was potentially flawed. This was not deliberate, just down to the sheer number of emails that were in circulation on this subject, making it difficult to remember every detail.

With the benefit of hind-sight he should have referred the matter back to committee with the correct facts, but in his efforts to secure a solution to the problem had reacted too quickly and for that he is sincerely sorry and apologised unreservedly. Having referred the matter to the committee when making the original decision, he should have sought their advice again.

The League Secretary then explained his reasons for reversing the committee decision, that Shoebury Park had agreed to play the game on the rearranged date of the 16th August, and had written to the League Secretary for a ruling to do so, even though 'they' felt, that playing this game with a weakened team (because of other commitments) would put them at a disadvantage.

The League Secretary unfortunately did not give a ruling, which in his personal opinion made him responsible for the game not being played.

Having discussed the above events the committee decided that again, with the benefit of hind-sight, Shoebury Park did not need to ask the League Secretary for a ruling to play, they should have just accepted the date and played the game.

The league rules clearly state the availability of players should not be a factor when arranging games.

For that reason the committee stand by its original decision, Southend 0 points, Shoebury Park 0 points.

The League table on the website will reflect the above points as the final league table.

The League Secretary then presented a potential solution to this problem that would mean the top 3 teams in division 2 would get promoted, thus removing the main complaint from the clubs involved.

As part of his normal duties the League Secretary has to review the league structure annually following the clubs submitting their fees and league entries. This involves trying to maintain equal numbers of teams in each league maximising the number games for each team.

Last years review led to only four teams in division 6 against 8 teams in other leagues, not very satisfactory.

As the league progressed throughout the summer he felt that this 'unbalanced' situation should be resolved.

He is proposing that for the 2024 season the leagues will be: -

Division 1 - 9 teams

Division 2 - 9 teams

Division 3 - 8 teams

Division 4 - 8 teams

Division 5 - 8 teams

Division 6 - 0 teams

This will mean a minimum of 3 teams being promoted from each division and one team being relegated from all divisions except division 1, which will be 2 teams relegated.

The above structure involves 42 teams as per this season, if this number were to change in the coming 4 weeks these figures would need to be adjusted slightly, this will be reported at the 2023 AGM in the normal way.

The committee were in favour of this proposal both as a solution to the problems described previously but also going forward to next season and would support this at the 2023 AGM.

The League Secretary then outlined his proposals for updating the League Rules, specifically those around paragraph 7. Rearranged Games.

This as a definite reaction to the unplayed games scenario that unfolded during this season.

In his opinion, we must introduce new rules that prevent this happening in the

future.

The committee discussed the potential new rules but accepted more work needed to be done by the League Secretary to ensure they withstood scrutiny.

The new League Rules would be presented as a motion at the forthcoming Group 6 AGM, with the committee's support.

There being no other business; the Chairman closed the meeting at 13:05