

ESSEX COUNTY BOWLING ASSOCIATION GROUP 6

SPRING MEETING 21ST MARCH 2024 at 7:00pm

Meeting opened at 19.00

Chairman Jim Bunce welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Officers Present

Chris Flack; Kevin Robertson; Ray Woollard; Jim Bunce; Ken Griffiths; David Starkey, David Birch, Mike Birch, Lee Watkins

Apologies

None

Finance Update (MB)

Mike Birch provided the latest bank account balance which is: - £1980

This is slightly down on the figure in October 2024, as a result of purchasing 120 new shirts, albeit with the help of sponsors money, but this will be recouped as we receive money from the players for their new shirts

The Officers would like to once again express their thanks to the four sponsors for their generous donations, that enabled us to change our shirts this year, the sponsors being: -

MCA Trust - A local children's charity

Aaron Lyons - Local trader and ECBC and Group 6 player

TJC - Local trader and relative of Ken Griffiths

NJB Banners - Local trader owned by Tony Warwick, Rayleigh and Group 6 bowler

The Officers would also like to thank David Birch for his time and effort in securing the above sponsorship and help with the shirt design.

New Shirts status (DB)

David Birch informed the meeting that all the new shirts had now been received and plans were being made for the distribution to the players involved in the Inter Group Knockout, Ashford Cup, and Wally Ball teams.

The shirts will cost the selected players £12 for the first shirt and £25 for each subsequent one.

The selectors of those teams will be liaising with the selected players over the next few weeks to organise this.

Ashford Cup squad selection status (DB)

We have received the nominations from various Group 6 clubs and have organised a trial game at Rochford BC on 11th May, where all the nominated players will have the opportunity to play and push themselves forward for selection to the final squad of 30 players who will represent Group 6 this year.

Currently we have 47 nominations from the clubs.

All nominated players will be contacted in the next few days to confirm their availability for all the Ashford Cup games.

It is unlikely that any player who IS NOT available for at least two out of the three games will get selected.

As holders of the Ashford Cup the selector has a responsibility to only select the best 30 unbadged bowlers to represent Group 6

With only one game at home (Rochford BC) this year, the task of defending the trophy is that little bit harder but still achievable.

Ashford Cup trial, rink observers

As has been the case at all previous Group 6 Ashford Cup trials, the selector will be assisted by some observers who will look at each rink, in depth.

The observers will consist of Group 6 Officers who will provide feedback to David at the end of the trial, he will also be observing the rinks as they play, he will then select the squad at the end of this trial game.

Group 6 are very fortunate to have so many players who want to play in this competition and represent the group, other groups are not so fortunate, however, this does mean that selection will be tough and only the best players (in David's opinion) will make it to the squad.

We have a very good record in this competition and it is only by having a rigorous squad selection process that we will continue this success.

Wally Ball squad selection status (DS)

David Starkey outlined his plans for Wally Ball squad selection. He has a list of a small number of players who have been nominated by various clubs. He is also liaising with both the Ashford Cup and Intergroup selectors to establish the players who could be available.

He will be contacting players directly to establish their availability over the next few weeks with the aim of naming a squad by mid-May.

Like the Ashford Cup we are the current holders of this trophy, so we have our reputation to maintain, so again selection will be tough.

Inter Group Knockout selection status (LW)

Lee shared with the officers his thoughts on team selection and as in previous years it revolves around trying to persuade the very best Group 6 players to play in the first game.

Unlike the other two competitions, the Inter Group is a knockout competition so you can only select on a game-by-game basis.

With a maximum of three games to win the trophy and two of those games being played away, it is a tough ask, but if the best players are available, we are in with a shout.

Group 6 stickers and scorecards stock (DB, DS, LW)

After a general discussion it appears we have enough stickers and cards to last the entire season.

We will discuss again on October for next season.

Representative Game rink fees (All)

After a general discussion it was agreed that with the majority of games being away this year, we would charge the players whatever the away club rink fee is, and just pass that on to the away club.

As a minimum we would charge the players £2, and any surplus will go back to Group 6

Representative Games - 5-year venue plan review CF)

Our current plan only has one more year to run, we need to think about extending the current list of venues up to 2030.

The meeting agreed that the Group 6 officers will, during the course of the upcoming season, consider the various options available in terms of suitable clubs and greens and make firm commitments at our Autumn meeting.

League Status (KR)

All the fixture lists have been distributed to the competing clubs and uploaded to our website.

Kevin highlighted the recent problem of Southend BC withdrawing their 'B' team from league 5, this resulted in the fixture list for this league being redrawn, meaning each of the remaining teams will have two games less during the season and one team will have a void game every week.

Unfortunate but inevitable given the circumstances

We would have preferred that Southend could have made their decision before Christmas, meaning less upheaval for the remaining clubs in that division.

We would hope that all clubs take this on board for the future.

Note:

Subsequent to the above meeting, Bournemouth Park BC have also withdrawn their 'B' team from division 4

This will have the same effect as division 5 with all teams losing 2 games and one team standing down every week.

Group 6 Officers apologise for the inconvenience that this will cause to all division 4 teams.

Group 6 Friendly status (KG)

Ken identified the one friendly that is certain to take place this coming season against Chelmsford & District BA on 28th August at ECBC

He is still working with the Parks Circle to arrange a game, but no date has been fixed yet.

There is one other game penciled in as part of Group 6 being the home of this years County President (Paul LaPlain) from ECBC, who traditionally play against 'The Rest' of the County at the home of the County President, this is currently scheduled for 21st September at ECBC.

Group 6 are also discussing a game against Rayleigh BC later in the season in aid of our sponsors MCA Trust, this would take place at Rayleigh BC, date potentially 9th August (TBC)

Group 6 County Friendly selection status (RW)

Ray has been in touch with the County Match Secretary (Pat Finney) to understand the Group 6 player allocation for the first few County games.

Ray will be contacting players directly for their availability for the games early in May.

They're being no other business; the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:55pm