

ESSEX COUNTY BOWLING ASSOCIATION GROUP 6

REPRESENTATIVE GAME MEETING 25th JULY 2025 at

7:00pm

Meeting opened at 19.00

Chairman Jim Bunce welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Officers Present

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

Apologies

Kevin Robertson

Ashford Cup squad selection status

The committee agreed that the selection criteria for the Ashford Cup will remain the same, with all clubs invited to make player nominations for potential selection plus the selector able to head hunt players who may have not have been nominated by their clubs.

The secretary raised a concern where some clubs allow players to select themselves for nomination, by posting a notice in their clubhouse inviting players to nominate themselves.

This in the secretary's opinion, is not the objective. We want the clubs to nominate their best players (who want to be considered for selection).

The secretary believe this situation could be caused by the officers at some clubs not understanding the process (they are maybe ladies, unfamiliar with Group 6 activities)

The secretary proposed a clear set of guidelines is sent out with the nomination forms later this season, explaining the process, in the hope we get some players from clubs previously not considered.

Wally Ball squad selection status

The committee discussed a number of potential changes to the selection process, this with the objective of improving the performances of the Group 6 team: -

- Nomination from Clubs for Wally Ball and Inter Group Knockout selection to be stopped.
- Players in the latest Ashford Cup squad NOT to be considered for selection for the Wally Ball, unless they are in the last year of the four-year cycle.
- Unbadged players should NOT be considered for Wally Ball selection

After considerable discussion, the committee agreed that asking for nominations from the clubs will be stopped, leaving the selector to head hunt suitable players.

The committee agreed it would not be practical to NOT select existing Ashford Cup players, due to availability issues with the first-choice selections, however they did think this should be an objective, believing that Group 6 should have enough badged players to select a strong team, but the first-choice players were not always available.

The Wally Ball selector believes there a number of very good 'unbadged' players around the group who for whatever reason do not get selected for the Ashford Cup squad, they should not be denied the opportunity to play, just because they are unbadged. The committee agreed that first and foremost we should get our best unbadged players into the Ashford Cup squad but failing that the best unbadged players should play in the Wally Ball, if available.

The Wally Ball selector did highlight the difficulties of selecting our best players when selected players withdrew from games with only a few days' notice, leaving the selector struggling to find a replacement of the same standard.

Inter Group Knockout selection status

The committee agreed that the selector should have complete discretion when selecting players for this team.

Representative Games - 5-year venue plan review

Results in the representative games over the last couple of years have led the committee to question the previous strategy of selecting group 6 venues.

After much discussion the committee agreed that for the immediate future we should restrict the venues to the three clubs with the best greens (currently, in our opinion): -

Essex County B.C.

South Benfleet & Canvey B.C.

Rayleigh B.C.

This decision will be reviewed every 12 months, to ensure the greens at the above clubs are still suitable plus greens at other clubs may improve over time, meaning they would be included on the list of suitable greens.

The previous selection criteria which included, suitable car parking, kitchen and bar facilities remains unchanged.

Based on the above, the venues for the three competitions over the next 6 years will be: -

Year	Inter Group	Wally Ball	Ashford Cup
2026	ECBC	SB&CBC	Rayleigh
2027	ECBC	SB&CBC	Rayleigh
2028	ECBC	ECBC	SB&CBC
2029	ECBC	ECBC	SB&CBC
2030	ECBC	Rayleigh	ECBC
2031	ECBC	Rayleigh	ECBC

A.O.B.

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

Group 6 have agreed to send a team of 6 rinks to Rayleigh on: -

Sunday 24th August at 2pm

for a charity friendly in aid of our shirt sponsors: -

MCA Trust (Michael Charles Adams MBE)

The Ashford Cup and Wally Ball selectors have been asked to select the team, with as many as possible already owning a new shirt.

Those players without a new shirt will be loaned a shirt for the game

The objective being that all Group 6 players will be wearing our new shirt.

They're being no other business; the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:25pm