

ESSEX COUNTY BOWLING ASSOCIATION GROUP 6

OFFICER'S MEETING 24th SEPTEMBER 2026 at

7:00pm

Meeting opened at 19.00

Chairman Kevin Crowley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Officers Present

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

Apologies

None

Summary of recent ECBA Special Executive meeting

The chairman and Secretary gave a brief summary based on their observations, which were:-

- The chairman of Bowls England gave a presentation to representatives of clubs and executives of the ECBA on the proposed merger between Bowls England and the English Indoor Bowling Association.
- The merger is proposed to take advantage of funds managed by Sport England that are provided by the National Lottery.
- Sport England will only support organisations which have one governing body.
- The new merged body is provisionally called England Bowls.
- The presentation provided very few 'facts' about how the merged organisation would work i.e. Competitions, Affiliations Fees, Structure, Coaching, basically they don't know.
- The ECBA Coaching body the Essex Bowls Coaches Association has major reservations about these changes, with their organisation under threat of extinction.
- The working group set up to manage the merger are proposing a vote in February/March 2027. How would the voting process work, they don't know.
- The only fact stated was, they are proposing 'regional hubs' to administer bowls both indoors and outdoors. Would this mean that outdoor 'Counties would cease to exist, they don't 'think' so
- Conclusion: they are asking us to vote on something without knowing what we are voting for, why would we vote in favour of a merger if we don't know what we are voting for.

AGM date & Location

8th October @ Rochford B.C. starting at 7pm

AGM Agenda

The secretary presented the proposed AGM agenda, which is the same as previous years but currently no officer voting is planned.

AGM Officer Reports

The Secretary reminded all the officers that they must each have a report for the AGM, a copy of which will be included in the AGM minutes

5 reports have already been completed.

Affiliations and League entries 2026

Affiliation and League entry fees have been received from 21 clubs, the same as last year.

We will have one additional league team in 2027, with Castle Point joining the league again, which is good to see.

2026 Officer Nominations

No officer nominations have been received from Group 6 clubs, which is a worry and something the secretary will raise at the AGM

Motions

Currently no motions have been received from the clubs

Discussion Items

1. Finances - The treasurer reports no issues with Group 6 finances
2. League structure - With one additional team entering the league next season the League secretary will be trying to even up the number of teams in each league to try and achieve some parity. His proposals will be presented at the AGM, but will almost certainly mean that the two up, two down rule will be adjusted.
3. Group 6 Shirts - do we need to order ?
Currently we have 66 shirts of varying sizes, the selectors agreed this should be enough for next season but some sizes may need topping up next season.
4. Ashford Cup nominations from clubs - so far have received 10 nominations from four clubs. Delegates will be reminded at the AGM to add to this list.
5. Group 6 Scorecards, Stickers - do we need to order more ?
The selectors agreed that we should order some more stickers. Dave Starkey presented two quotations from potential suppliers, after discussion it was agreed that 1000 should be ordered. The treasurer to organise.
Our scorecard stock looks sufficient for next season.
Dave Birch suggested we also look to purchase some more scorecard holders to bring the total to 10, to allow all Inter Group and Wally Ball rinks to have a holder on the same day.
6. League Rule changes - The League Secretary is proposing one rule change to those listed under 'Rearranged Games'. Rule 7.c should be changed to match that of rule 6.a regarding dates for rearranged games. This will be raised as a 'motion' at the AGM.

A.O.B.

- Ken Griffiths, raised the subject of Friendly fixtures and the potential to add a fixture to against the Essex Vice presidents to our calendar.
This would be the resurrection of the fixture we used to play against the Essex VP's
The majority of the committee agreed that this game should go ahead on May 20th 2027 at Essex County Bowling Club.
- The chairman informed the meeting, it was his intention to run a charity Quiz Night at Rochford BC in aid of the MCA Trust, the children's charity that is a Group 6 shirt sponsor.
Posters have been prepared and will be handed to delegates at the AGM with a request they inform their members of this very worthy cause.
A proceeds from the evening will go to the charity.
Dave Starkey asked the County Selector how were his relations with the County Match Secretary (Dave King) following his first year in office.
Relations are OK was his reply.

They're being no other business; the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:15pm