

THURROCK & DISTRICT BOWLING ASSOCIATION



FOUNDED 1946

Minutes of Thurrock & District Bowling Association Executive & Delegates Meeting held at Thurrock Bowls Club on Sunday 10th March 2013 at 10.00am

Executive members present: M Coulson, R Cornwall, R Clark, D Haworth, J Goodwin, G Jewell

1. Roll Call: Aveley, Billet, Chadwell, Corringham, Drums, Ford Sports, Grays Town, New Pheonix, Pitsea RBL, South Ockendon, Springhouse, Thurrock, United Services
- 1a. Absent: Gloucester Park/Murrayfield. Orsett, Pegasus, Thames Sport, VCA Riverview
2. Apologies for absence : Dave Pegler (General Secretary), Brian Vanson (Gloucester Park/Murrayfield BC), Jerry Gay (Orsett BC), Gerald Gentry (VCA Riverview BC), Alan Bradley (South Ockendon BC).
3. Obituaries : Eddie Blows (Past President T&DBA & Secretary Drums BC), Cliff Holdaway (Past President T&DBA & Treasurer T&DBA for 35 years formerly of Corringham & Orsett BCs), Colin Read (Thames Sports BC), Mick Repeti (Thurrock BC) & Ron Norrington (Thurrock BC).
A minutes silence was held in respect
4. Approval of minutes of last meeting held on Saturday 23rd September 2012: Proposed T Chamberlain, Seconded Alf Beasley
5. Matters arising : None
6. General Secretary Report & Correspondence : John Goodwin advised that he was assisting D Pegler with his role as the new general secretary. He read out a letter from TALBA regarding our talks with them on a possible amalgamation which they now wish to discontinue.
7. Treasurers Report
The end of February balance sheet shows that we had £41,523.36 in the Barclays' account and £7,344.42 in the Scottish Widows' account. I am awaiting an Invoice from Thurrock Council for £41,196.00 owing for Season Tickets which left us with a net Balance at the end of February of £7,671.78. Our main income during the year has been £3,049.00 from Match Fees and £516.00 from Affiliation and Competition Fees. Our main Expenditure during the year has been £2,265.78 for Match Fees, £820.00 for Coach Hire, £303.81 for Purchase of Stock, £200.00 for Officer Honoraria and £75.00 for hire of hall. I have received a quote from Phillips Coaches and averaged out, the cost will be £420.00 per trip. This includes our match at Norwich.
Overall our Finances continue to be in a healthy state. I have contacted the Council to try to find out what the Season Ticket Fees for 2013 would be but so far I have not had a firm reply, only a suggestion that they will be increased by the rate of inflation which at the moment is 2.7%. but will keep the under 18s and Concession Rate for those on Means Tested Benefits at £60.00. This would mean that under 60s would pay £136.00 and over 60s would pay £110.00.
I will not be available to issue Season Tickets until after 5th. May 2013. Roger Cornwell has agreed to issue them on my behalf on receipt of payment, details will be sent to Club Secretaries of all Clubs on Thurrock Council owned greens.
8. League Secretary Report : All the league fixtures for the 2013 season have been sent out to the competing clubs. The 2013 league structure will consist of 3 divisions: Premier Division - containing 8 teams :1st Division – containing 8 teams: 2nd Division - containing 10 teams It was a very difficult task attempting to arrange the dates of play for all fixtures, as these also have to be compatible with the T.A.L.B.A. league fixtures. I could not follow the framework of previous year's fixtures as the whole structure of both the ladies and men's leagues has changed.
I am in favour of keeping the league result card system, which involves a result card being completed on the evening of the match by the home team captain which must be signed by both team captains. The card must be posted or scanned by the home captain to the league secretary as soon as possible. The cards will be posted to all club secretary's prior to the start of the 2013 season with instructions explaining the procedure for informing the league secretary of the results for league matches.
All league fixtures have been posted on our website ttabowls and can be read or printed as required. Regarding the web site I have also added an email link on the men's home page and also the men's

league page clicking on this link will enable any league captains to send their results straight to me. I had a request from Barry Barclay of Ford Sports on behalf of Gloucester Park/Murrayfield asking if their home fixture in May could be played at Ford Sports due to the possibility that their new ground may not be ready until early June, this was granted but with a warning to all delegates to be very careful when attempting to reverse fixtures as there may not be space on some greens to allow the return fixture to be played. Also permission must be obtained from the league secretary before any fixture can be changed. Barry Barclay asked if any postponed fixtures could be played at weekends he was informed that the rules regarding the playing of postponed games are explained in paragraph E of the league rules.

9. Competition Secretary Report : Dave said that most entries had now been received from all clubs with some stragglers having been received after the 1st of March. Overall the response is similar to last year but I suspect that there is a marginal decrease in total entries. I will give further details once I've had chance to review all the info. Still a couple of cheques outstanding from clubs, which should arrive during the next week. All individual late entries notified to the Competition Secretary had been accommodated with the money having already been paid. Lack of entries for the League Knock Out from Billet, Ford Sports and Thames Sports were clarified, with the latter two clubs wishing to be entered. Billet did not wish to enter for the 2013 season due to greatly reduced numbers and possibly not being able to fulfil the requirement.
Take up for the new Mixed Fours competition was encouraging, with a total of twenty entries in its first year. Hopefully this will increase next year.
Reminder to all clubs to emphasise to their members that it is the responsibility of each competition entrant to check their contact details to ensure they are correct. Any discrepancies should be notified to the Competition Secretary immediately. No responsibility will be accepted by the Association for disputes arising from contact issues. Any such dispute will be dealt with as per the appropriate competition rule(s), clarified at the 2012 AGM.
Entrants will not receive individual notification of next round opponents. Notice of next round draws will be given in the form of an e-mail to the appropriate officers of each club for display after the closing date of each round. These will also be available on the TADBA web site, with regular updates throughout each round. Alternatively, the Competition Secretary should be contacted directly.
Clubs were reminded that match results must be telephoned no later than 10:30pm or e-mailed on the day of the match itself. Scorecards must either be forwarded for each round by post or scanned and e-mailed to the Competition Secretary.
The competition draws will be made by the Competition Committee and are expected to take place before the end of March with the draw sheets being circulated to clubs well in advance of the 30th April deadline for members to check their contact details and advise of any discrepancies.
10. Match Secretary Report : Having had a very good indoor season, we have lost all our matches except the last one which we had a draw, but winning on five rinks out of eight. There has been no outstanding skips many winning one or two games. We have three games left to play, but have found it very difficult to get players through lack of support but we have fulfilled full rinks on all our games. The 2013 outdoor season fixtures are now on the T.D.B.A website which can be printed off by all members. There is a copy for your notice board today.
11. Greens Liaison Party Report : Meeting held with Council on the 6th March 2013.
Representing Thurrock Council: Steve Starr and Peter Butler
Representing T&DBA: Mick Coulson, Alf Beesley, Dave Pegler (joined us at Orsett) and Alan Bradley (joined us at United Services)
The meetings started at Corringham/Chadwell at 9.00am. Present for Chadwell:-Jim Welch. Present for Corringham:- Mick Coulson and Alf Beesley. The green looked in very good condition apart from some blemishes caused by Dollar Spot and Fusarium which are being treated. The fox problem has abated for the time being but both clubs still think that a fox fence is required and will be installed with the guidance of Peter Butler and Glenn this spring. The winter weather/rains have caused some problems in diluting the feeds and fertilisers being applied (this applies to all greens). The height of the hedge is to be reduced by 1 – 2 feet.
9.30 am at the Billet. Present for the Billet were John Rackham and Ken Chesworth. The green is looking O.K. The collapsed banks of the ditches are being repaired by Thurrock Council when the weather permits. The electrical fault on the watering system is to be sorted out by April. The hedge is to be reduced by a Side-arm Flail to a manageable height – Peter Butler to arrange. The Billet is concerned at the shortage of members – 14 men and 6 ladies.
9.50am at United Services. Present for USBC was Peter Gray. The green is looking O.K. The water supply pipe to the storage tank is still being looked at to try to improve the flow.
10.30 at Orsett. Present for Orsett were John Burgess and Derek Johns. The green looked very good. The representatives said that if it plays as good as last year they will be very happy. To counter the slope from the green to the ditch the green keeper will leave a high cut around the edge to compensate for the slope. Membership is good having taken on 7 new members this year.

11.00am at Blackshots. Present were Terry Chamberlain and Peter Bainton for Thurrock, Peter Madgewick and Andy O'Neill for Drums and Bill Springham for Grays. Looking at the north green first there were vociferous complaints about the state of the edges of the green where the wood that was supporting the edge of the green has rotted and parts of the green are falling into the ditch. Peter Butler stated that previous attempts of repair haven't worked so this year he will leave a 2 – 3 foot high cut all round the green in an attempt to save the edges. It should be noted that apart from edges the green bowled very well last year with compliments coming from visitors that played on it. Moving on to the south green the edges that have collapsed on the bank of the ditches are being repaired by Thurrock Council when weather permits. The concrete slabs that surrounded the green are being replaced with turfs. The fox fence post is also to be repaired.

12.05 at South Ockendon. Present for South Ockendon were Alan Bradley, Colin Wardley and Peter White. The green and its surrounds looked in very good condition. Recently the water system was vandalised with the mould of the tank and associate pipe work broken. Peter Butler is looking to see if a repair will be effective or not. There is also an issue with Anglia Water as to whether the tank is fed correctly with its own water supply from the stop cock.

NOTE. This has been the 4th year of the greens maintenance programme formulated by Peter Butler. From the first year all the greens have improved, some quicker than others, but everybody seems generally happy with the ongoing improvements so thanks must go to Peter and his team of green keepers for all their hard work.

12. Any other business –

Thurrock Sports Council Meeting 4th.March 2013.

JMG attended the meeting in the place of Eddie Blows and has taken over as the T&DBA Delegate to the Sports Council until the next AGM. Details were given regarding a grant of £2,000.00 to Stanford le Hope Rugby Club for coaching. It was emphasised that if any of the Bowls Clubs had any expenses for Coaching or Health & Safety that they should put in a request for funding from the Sports Council through the T&DBA Delegate to the Sports Council.

A question was raised with the Leader of the Council, John Kent, regarding the development on the Pegasus and former London Fire Brigade grounds and he emphasised that as these were on Green Belt Land that it would need a very special case for development to be approved. Councillor Liddiard said that under the law, where a development involved the loss of sporting facilities, the developer must make provision for these facilities on an alternate site. The Councillors present said that they would keep a close watch on what happens to these two grounds.

The question of leases was raised at the meeting with Thurrock Harriers complaining about their lease with Thurrock Council for their Stadium. This was set at £5,000.00 per annum. The Harriers said that when the Stadium was built (about 10-12 years ago) with a grant from Sport England that they had been promised a 'peppercorn rent'. JMG told the Sports Council how unfair the leases were for the bowls clubs bowling on Council owned greens.

Thames Sports BC share a lease of £4,500.00 per annum with the Fondu Sports & Social Club (Fondu BC were also partners in the lease)

The clubs at Blackshots (Drums, Grays Town & Thurrock) pay approximately £4,000.00 for leases.

United Services pay a lease of £750.00 per annum. All the members of these four clubs have to purchase Season Ticket from the council on top of the cost of their lease

Other bowls clubs bowling on Council owned greens are not paying for a lease.

Next meeting Sunday 9th June 2013 @ 10.0 am at Thurrock Bowls Club