



## SURREY COUNTY SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION.

**FOUNDED: 1992.      PRESIDENT: DENNIS McGUINNES**

### **Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Surrey County Short Mat Bowling Association**

**Held at:** Wey Valley Indoor Bowls Club, Guildford  
**On:** 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
**Time:** Meeting opened at 19:30

**Present:**

All members of the existing Committee plus:

Albury	Terry Osgood	Rob Edwards
Blackheath		
Bracknell		
Chobham Heath		
Cobham		
Ewhurst	Steph Taylor	David Gillings
Hersham		
Jacobs Well		
Knaphill	Barry Kett	Malcolm Wood
Lightwater		
Lions	Rita Newington	Steve Tuttle
Merrow	Bill Hames	Ruth Newbury
Milford	John Everest	
Normandy	Graham Newbury	
Old Windsor		
Ripley	John Hill	Tony Manton
Sandhurst	David Hurst	Brian Garland
Tringham	Brian Barefield	David Browning
West End Rosewood	Marek Wazydrag	
Woking Park	Brian Winter	Peter Chapman
Wokingham		
Woodham Saints	Brian Winter	

Also attending – with no voting rights: Sue Chitty and Janet McEntee, Albury

**1. Apologies for Absence -** Dennis McGuinnes, Nigel Goss

**2. Appointment of Tellers**

Jo Reynolds  
Sue Butterfield

## **2. Presidents Report – Dennis McGuinnes**

The President was unable to be present.

## **4. Minutes of the Virtual 29th AGM held on 13th April 2021**

As the AGM was held virtually with no attendees, the Minutes were accepted unanimously with no matters arising.

## **5. Secretary's report – Jo Reynolds**

It is good to be back to a real AGM after 2 years of virtual AGMs. Whilst these have been a far from ideal process, they have enabled us to have an elected committee to deal with the inevitable business issues that arose from safeguarding regulations demanded of us by the ESMBA in order to play. In addition, we needed to facilitate the implementation of the revised ICC format for this season devised for safety reasons, again imposed by the ESMBA.

In order to make this happen, your committee has met 9 times mostly in a school classroom.

The predominate issue that has faced us all during this time has been the acquisition of Safe Bowls Certificate as required by the ESMBA. Huge congratulations are undoubtedly deserved to the 16 club safeguarding officers who ground their way through the various iterations of the process. Frustrating, time consuming and tedious only partly describes it. Carolyn conducted her club's application but also obtained one for Wey Valley. Thank you Carolyn.

In my first proper year as County Secretary, I have enjoyed trying to keep up with Mark – mostly – and welcome his enthusiasm for making Surrey even more successful. I would also like to thank Steve Tuttle our webmaster for his wise guidance and advice. He has stopped me putting my foot right in it on more than one occasion. Thanks Steve.

Looking forward, we now have a full Summer Games programme with Hampshire, W Sussex and Kent Invicta to which many of you have already signed up. Not too late if you would still like to play.

I am awaiting final confirmation from Wey Valley on its opening hours during the summer for practice. Unlike in previous years, this is likely to be just one day a week due to cost considerations at Wey Valley. As soon as I receive the detail, I will forward it to the Club Secretaries.

Have a great summer, wherever you are playing bowls

## **6. Treasurers Report - Carolyn Kempson**

This year's figures are much improved over last, and we were fortunate to receive another 2 Grants during the year, totalling just short of £11,000. Without these Grants we would have made a loss of £5,400.

Most leagues did not start until late September and were reduced to Triples following Safe Bowling practice.

[www.surreyshortmatbowls.com](http://www.surreyshortmatbowls.com)

Match fees are less than 2 years ago, with only 7 matches against 27. The 27 included 8 summer games.

Competition fees are also reduced from 2019/2020, and we hope more bowlers will enter this October.

Costs remain fairly constant over the last 3 years, with the Wey Valley hire charge being the largest amount at just under £9000 per year.

The higher insurance cost does not represent a jump in premiums, as the Civil Liability cover will run for 18 months to 31 August 2023, to bring it in line with the ESMBA date for registrations. Thereafter it will revert to an annual policy.

With regard to Registrations –

2019/20	562
2020/21	259
2021/22	463

This year we have registered 463 bowlers. We lost Bisley (11 members) but gained Leatherhead (23). Bracknell did not re-register for the second year. There is a Club breakdown sheet on the table. (distributed)

Surrey forfeited their £2 fee this year for those who registered in Covid year 2020/21, effectively reducing our income from £2 to £1 per member.

There is a healthy bank balance of £37,377, thanks in main to the £28,000-worth of Grants received over the last 2 years.

Finally, I can confirm the 2020, 2021 and 2022 Accounts have now been audited.

## **7. Match Secretary Report – Sue Butterfield**

I would firstly like to thank the Committee for their support during my first full season as Match Secretary.

All our Matches went ahead smoothly this season, with only a couple having to be rearranged. We still have one outstanding game to play which is a new competition that Kent have asked us to play consisting of 36 players each. It will be played one year at Kent and the next year home, and a Shield will be presented to the winning County.

The Premier Team & A Team played all their games using the new format of 16 players each, 8 home and 8 away which meant they had much fewer games to play this season. The Premier team only had two games before going on to play the ICC knockout rounds and the A team had 3 games. The B team was able to play their games using the existing format of 20 players playing each team at both home and away venues so were much luckier and played a total of 6 games.

Next season all teams will be reverting to the 20-team format, playing each county both home and away.

The new provisional County Diary (2022/23) is now available to view on the Website.

The County Caps Analysis is up-to-date and available to view on the Website, and I would like to congratulate Dave Harris, John Phillips and Rob Stalley who received their Premier Flashes at the beginning of the season and Brian Powell, Ron Belcher and Sue Gorman who all received their County Badges this season.

## **8. Surrey Squad Reports**

### **8a Surrey Squad manager report – Mark Jones**

As team manager this year I have been very proud to introduce squad days for all squads so that they have time to practice skills and talk about bowls. The feedback and improvement in bowling standards are all positive and I wish to keep these going forward. Even though next season will have a more normal number of matches, I am hoping to fit in 2 or 3 squad days during the year, probably from just before the beginning of the season.

Trials started yesterday and we are enjoying seeing new bowlers and experienced bowlers' trial for a squad place. I am proud of all teams this year and have had great support from the team captains who will fill you in on results and performance.

### **8b. Premier Team Captain – Ruth Newbury**

It has been another year badly affected by covid. The premier team only played two games en route to the knockout stages of the ICC Competition.

We played Norfolk first and only lost by two points over the home and away legs of the tie, which was a great result for us. Our second game against Kent was not as good with Kent running out the winners both home and away.

Kent went through to the main knockout competition and both Surrey and Norfolk went into the plate competition. Our opponents in the plate semi final were Gloucestershire.

The tie was played at Bristol IBC with Surrey running out the comfortable winners, without the need to play the final session. We played Norfolk in the final of the plate competition at Solihull IBC, with Norfolk winning the tie.

I am very proud of the premier team and of the results we have achieved this year against very tough opposition. I believe the addition of squad days has been good for the unity of the squad as a whole.

I would like to thank the team for the support that they have given me over the last year.

Finally I would like to award the captains trophy to John Phillips. He has played very consistently in all of the ICC matches.

### **8c. A Team Captain's Report – Nigel Goss**

As Nigel could not be present, Mark Jones read a summary of his report.

"2021/22 was a disappointing season. We could never get a settled team. I must say thanks to David Hurst for helping me out at times.

Lastly thanks to all the players who played and gave 100%."

#### **8d. B Team Captain's Report – David Hurst**

The season this last year was marred by Covid restrictions, however the 'B' team were able to compete against Kent, London and West Sussex.

We were successful both away and home against London but lost home and away to both Kent and West Sussex.

Due to the above, I was only able to field a complete 'B' team on the first match of the season against West Sussex at Wey Valley.

As a result of team shortages, I would like to thank Peter Howitt, Carolyn Kempson, Brian Finn, David Bailey, Margaret Ryder and David Woolgar, for stepping up, in some cases at short notice, enabling me to field full complement of players.

On a personal note, I would like thank Ruth and Nigel and all the individuals who played for the 'B' team this season, for making my job as team captain, despite all the problems, so enjoyable

Hopefully we will all have a better season next year.

#### **9. Competition Secretary Report – Chris Hames**

As with everything else, this has been a difficult couple of years for the competitions. No county competitions were held last year as we were still playing catch-up from the year before, so when we officially started again in September, we all kept our fingers crossed that things would return to normal.

The forms were all sent out, but as the entries started to come in, it became clear that things were still not back to normal. The number of entries for this year, in many of the competitions, was only about half of what we have had in previous years. But as the saying goes, the show must go on, so we carried on and played with the numbers we had. We had more drop out of some at the last minute as Covid is still around, but we have managed to get them all played in the end and the winners will receive their prizes this evening.

Last weekend saw our Surrey champions go on to compete against the rest of the country at the National Finals at Melton Mowbray, but because of the low number of entries, we didn't get as many places as we usually do.

Well done to all who did go to play, unfortunately Covid struck again at the wrong time and left both our Triples and Fours short of players. We were allowed to put 2 substitutes in the Fours but not in the Triples. After a lot of persuasion, the ESMBA did allow our 3<sup>rd</sup> placed team to take part in the Triples, so although some were unable to play, others did get the chance.

It is always a big challenge at the finals, not only are you up against the best short mat bowlers in the country, you are playing 'mat on mat' which means you have to change the way you normally bowl. Although they probably didn't get the results they were hoping for, I'm sure those that did go enjoyed the weekend. I know I enjoyed watching them.

Most didn't make it past the round-robin stage, but our congratulations go to Rob Edwards for getting through to the last 32 in the Singles and to Marek Wazydrag, Steve Tuttle and Mark Jones for reaching the last 16 in the Triples, before losing to the eventual winners of the competition.

The finals of the National Mixed Fours and Over 55's Pairs were held in Solihull a month ago at the beginning of March where our teams again didn't make it past the round-robin stage, but well done for taking part.

Thank you to everyone that entered any of the competitions, even if you don't feel you are good enough to win the nationals, just by entering and taking part, you are helping us get more places at the finals. So maybe next year.....

Finally I would like to thank Sue Butterfield my Assistant Competitions Secretary for all her help in running the competitions on the day.

#### **10. Safeguarding – Mark Jones**

I would like to thank Steph Taylor for continuing as our safeguarding officer again this year. Steph has had no incidents to report. However if anyone has any questions relating to safeguarding, please get in touch with Steph.

#### **11. Umpires report – Mark Jones**

We do not have an Umpire Coordinator at the moment, given that we only have one umpire who is qualified and DBS checked. This is disappointing and does need addressing. There is a financial cost to us when we have to hire umpires from other counties. If you would like to think about umpiring, or know anyone in your club who might be interested, please get in touch with Jo or me and we can give more information.

#### **12. Vote of thanks to Retiring Officers – Mark Jones**

Can I now ask for a vote of thanks to the retiring committee members but I don't have presents as I want them back working in a moment when you have elected them back in! Seriously however they have worked hard during this difficult time and I thank them all for helping me run the county business now and going forward.

A vote of thanks was agreed.

#### **13. Election of Officers**

In the absence of the President, Steve Tuttle conducted the election process. There were no nominations for election to the committee other than the current incumbents,

who have all expressed a willingness to stand for the coming year. It is proposed that these should all be ratified en bloc.

Vote: unanimous

Chairman	-	Mark Jones
Secretary	-	Jo Reynolds
Treasurer	-	Carolyn Kempson

#### 14. Election of Committee

Vote: unanimous

<b>Match Secretary</b>	-	Sue Butterfield
<b>Competition Sec.</b>	-	Chris Hames
<b>Assistant Competition Sec</b>	-	Sue Butterfield
<b>Committee Member</b>	-	Vacant
<b>Committee Member</b>	-	Vacant
<b>Committee Member</b>	-	Vacant
<b>Committee Member</b>	-	Vacant
<b>Committee Member</b>	-	Vacant

#### 15. Election of President

In the absence of the President, this item was put on hold pending further discussion by the Management Committee.

#### 16. Changes to Constitution

Following discussion and voting, all suggested changes were accepted by a majority vote. The changes are stated below

3.2. To ensure the SCSMBA fulfils its duty of care to all its members and leagues operating with Surrey.

6.3 At AGM and EGMs, the County Committee members, excluding the Chair should have a vote long with the 2 votes from each member club. If votes are then tied, the Chair has a casting vote.

9.3 Having checked the correct definition of the term auditor and its relevance to this organization, it is proposed that no change is necessary.

#### 17. Election of Auditors

The Auditor for the new season will be Howard Quinnell. Are there any objections? Being none, this was ratified unanimously.

**18. Motions to be considered by meeting**

None received.

**Official part of the Meeting closed at 8.45pm.**

**Presentation of Trophies then took place.**

**16. Open Forum / Any Other Business**

a. New Mats and new Jacks

Bill Hames and Brian Garland proposed that the mats and jacks now need replacing as the existing ones are no longer in good enough condition.

**To Do:** It was agreed that this action is required and it will be on the Management team agenda for its next meeting.

b. Practice on mat-on-mat surfaces

Marek Wazydrag commented that as all National Finals are played on mat-on-mat puts Surrey at a significant disadvantage as it is a surface when playing against counties who are used to it.

He suggested we should seek opportunities, through a course or similar, to gain that experience. Mark agreed that we could approach other counties who might allow us to practice with them, particularly as some of them ask us if they can practice at Wey Valley as it is mat on floor.

**To do:** It was agreed that this will be considered by the Management Committee and seek opportunities.

The second part of the meeting closed at 21:15.

**Approved..... Date 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Mark Jones**