

SUFFOLK COUNTY WOMEN'S BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 5th November 2022, held at Dennington Village Hall at 10.00 a.m.

Present: President Jenny Ronchetti, National President Paula Gooch, Acting President Elect and County Luncheon Co-ordinator Ann Craigie, Immediate Past President and Life Member Barbara Rushbrook, Chairman Linda Nunn, Secretary and Area 'C' Secretary Ann Simpson, Treasurer Beverly Dibbens, Match Secretary and National Delegate Margaret Thorpe, Minutes Secretary Helen Swift, Life Member and Past President Joan Carter, Past President and Indoor Competitions Co-ordinator Veronica Southey, Past Presidents Lesley Alexander and Shirley Plummer, Selectors Vivien Nunn and June Laws, County Finals Co-ordinator Jane Pitcher, Publicity Co-ordinator Sally Smith plus attendees shown on register representing 20 clubs.

1. Silent Tribute: Prior to the start of the meeting, Chairman Linda called for a minute's silence to remember those who had passed away during the past year, particularly Mel Dyer who would have become our County President today.

2. Welcome: President Jenny welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Apologies for absence: Junior President Pauline Black, Area 'A' Secretary Tracey Knights, Area 'D' Secretary and Life Member Josie Whatling, Handbook Editor Sally Batten (Saxmundham Sports BC), Edna Harness (Ipswich BC), Melvyn Powell (East Bergholt BC), Joyce Fisher (Kesgrave BC), Bungay BC, Hales BC, Gt Barton BC, Brampton BC, Viv Aspinall (Sutton BC), Steve Karlsson-Waller (Tunstall BC), Melton BC, Warren Albers (Fressingfield BC), Mary Drake (Martlesham BC), Margaret Hutchison (Stradbroke White Horse BC), Graham Webber (West Row BC), Gillian Lamprey (Lowestoft Railway BC), Ann Lyas (Ipswich & District BC), Past President Stella Utteridge, Donna Mills (Stone Lodge BC), Past President Jean Childs (Yoxford BC), Maggie Page (Woodbridge BC) and Beryl Gilder (Framlingham BC)

4. Appointment of tellers: Immediate Past President Barbara Rushbrook and Publicity Co-ordinator Sally Smith

5. Minutes of 2021 AGM (as circulated): The minutes were declared to be a true record and signed. Proposer Past President Veronica Southey (Sweffling), seconder Andrea Dickinson (Brantham), all in favour.

6. Matters Arising:

With regard to coloured bowling shoes, these are now acceptable for all games except when playing for Suffolk in the County teams when white shoes will be required.

The proposal from Area 'A' regarding ladies being able to represent Suffolk in both Federation and BE county teams has been relaxed enabling ladies to play for both codes. The change of trial date to 13th May, due to the coronation on 6th May, will be re-considered as the BE trials are on 13th May. (Point (c) refers on page 58.)

In paragraph 8 – Election of Officers – sadly President Elect Mel Dyer passed away last December. Past President Ann Craigie agreed to be Acting President Elect in 2022 to support both President Jenny, who has agreed to continue for a second year, and Junior President Pauline Black.

Tracey Knights, ably assisted by Amy Finch, has taken on the role of Area 'A' Secretary.

Publicity Co-ordinator Sally Smith (Ixworth) enquired if the closing date for entries for the indoor competitions could be the same as the men's as we are now combining the finals. This will be an item for consideration at the December meeting.

7. Officers' Reports:

(a) **Secretary:** Secretary Ann had been pleased to see that bowls was back to normal this year. She thanked members of the executive committee and bowlers for making this possible. She congratulated President Jenny on a fantastic year.

Secretary Ann read out a report from County Finals Co-ordinator Jane. The successful county semi-finals and finals were hosted by Stanton BC, the spectators enjoying excellent bowling throughout the weekend. Jane congratulated all the ladies who represented their areas. Thanks go to the greenkeeper for providing an excellent surface on both days and to members of Stanton BC for providing refreshments throughout the weekend. It is good to have a few different names on the trophies and, hopefully, all players enjoyed their games at the National finals. It was very pleasing for Suffolk to gain two National titles: Rachelle Barber and Julie Witham (Bramford) winning the ladies Pairs and Kim Dyer and Peter Hurren winning the Senior Men's Pairs. Finally Jane thanked Chairman Linda and the executive committee for their support, and the umpires and markers, without whom the competitions would be difficult to run. Jane also thanked County Luncheon Co-ordinator Ann Craigie for her assistance.

County Secretary Ann also read out a report from County Luncheon Co-ordinator Ann as follows:
SCWBA President Jenny and her husband Mike, SCBA President Keith Crabbe and partner Maureen, EWBF President Paula Gooch and her sister, Past President Lesley, attended the luncheon on 22nd October. Ninety attendees enjoyed the day. Thanks go to County Finals Co-ordinator Jane for organising the prizes and trophies, and also to Sarah, Roy and staff at the Bramford Golf Centre.

County Secretary Ann thanked Past President Veronica for organising the indoor competitions once again. The finals will be held at Ipswich & District IBC in March 2023, together with the men's finals.

The Novices competition was held at Stanton BC. Well done to President Jenny and her husband Mike, together with club members, for marking and providing lovely refreshments. There were nineteen entries and the winner was Margaret Elson (Wrentham BC) and the runner-up was Cherie Hyett (Norbridge BC).

With regard to the Ellen Matthews competition, it was voted to play six matches, each area playing each other at home and away. Sadly Area 'D' had to withdraw after their first match as they could not field a team but other areas continued to play their matches. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all those playing, the eventual winners being Area 'C'.

County Secretary Ann concluded by saying that she is resigning as County Secretary as she has taken on another challenge within Area 'C'. She has thoroughly enjoyed her "second term" as County Secretary and is sure whoever takes on the role will also enjoy it.

(b) **Treasurer:** The Income and Expenditure Account sheets for the year ended 31st August 2022 had been distributed. Treasurer Beverly reported that the current account balance stood at £4,141.19 and the premium account balance was £2,008.16.

Financially it had been a better year as income was held back due to Covid last year. Expected losses were experienced in connection with coaches and handbooks. Income and Expenditure for the year showed a loss of £339.10.

Beverly admitted that, through the year, she learned just how much more goes on behind the scenes than is generally realised but she enjoyed every minute. She thanked all the ladies on the executive committee, the finance committee and past presidents for their hard work, commitment and dedication to making the SCWBA so successful. She also thanked all those who donated raffle prizes and purchased raffle tickets, sponsors of County competitions and businesses who advertised in the handbook. The profit from these events makes a huge contribution to the county's funds and makes life a little easier. Eight companies placed advertisements in the handbook. Every effort should be made to secure advertisers. Please let Beverly know of any businesses interested in advertising in the handbook.

The year-end figures were audited by Stephen Atwell was confirmed, Chairman of Woodbridge BC and an auditor for a management accountancy business. These will be presented to the executive committee at the December meeting for approval and will be published in the handbook next year. Stephen Atwell was confirmed as the auditor for 2023.

Treasurer Beverly ended by inviting anyone to peruse the books, should they so wish. No questions were received from the floor.

(c) **Match Secretary:** The inter-county matches were played after an enforced break due to Covid. Match Secretary Margaret reported that for Suffolk it was a year to rebuild as a number of established players chose not to continue. Although neither team reached Skegness, it was quite a successful year, the Donald Steward losing just one match to Norfolk (accumulating 62 points and finishing in third position) and the Silver Jubilee Vase team finishing second (accumulating 64 points and losing one match to Norfolk).

The friendly game against Norfolk was played on 8th August and resulted in a comfortable win for Suffolk by 31 shots.

The dates for the trials and practice game have been changed due to the coronation of King Charles III on 6th May, so the dates for those and the inter-county matches are as follows:

Saturday, 13 th May 2023	Trial games	Halesworth BC
Saturday, 20 th May	Practice game	Kessingland BC
Tuesday, 23 rd May	Away	North Essex (Donald Steward only)
Wednesday, 31 st May	Away	Norfolk
Wednesday, 21 st June	Home	Northants
Thursday, 6 th July	Away	Hunts
Wednesday, 19 th July	Home	North Cambs (DS only but hopefully a Friendly can be arranged for the SJV)
Tuesday, 8 th August	Friendly	Norfolk at Halesworth BC

Donald Steward matches will be played at Kessingland BC. Silver Jubilee Vase matches and the friendly game will be played at Halesworth BC.

The National finals will be held at Skegness from 19th to 26th August 2023. All team games will be played on the first Saturday, 19th August, with the Silver Jubilee Vase, Durham Centenary and Reg Wright being played at 11.45 a.m. and the Adams, Newton and Donald Steward following at 3.00 p.m. This change is due to the duplication in individual competitions. The individual competitions will now commence on Monday afternoon rather than Tuesday morning.

Bearing in mind the decision taken to give the opportunity to ladies to represent Suffolk in both codes, further consideration will be given to the date for trials as this now clashes with the Bowls England trials.

(d) National Delegate's Report: National Delegate Margaret attended the National Delegates' meeting in March which was held at Clipstone in Nottinghamshire. It was confirmed that ladies are now permitted to wear shorts. The preferred supplier is Aceit Sportswear and the shorts can be either fitted or comfort style, with or without the EBF logo. At Skegness some ladies were wearing men's shorts and this will be an item for discussion at the National AGM this year. A full update of the National dress rules for ladies was carried out prior to the AGM last year and can be found in the 2022 National Year Book.

The National Safeguarding Officer, Jeanette Murphy, has been very proactive in producing leaflets and information with regard to safeguarding this year. One incident has affected Suffolk and information has been circulated to all clubs.

As mentioned in the Match Secretary's report, the times for the team games at Skegness have been brought forward so that they can all be played on the Saturday to enable the individual competitions to start on Monday afternoon.

National will be awarding all teams who qualify for the championship finals a total of seventeen salvers, for each county to distribute amongst the players and officials.

One more point: National is planning to increase all fees.

Chairman Linda thanked the officers for their reports. Linda also thanked National President Paula for representing Suffolk at the October national delegates' meeting as National Delegate Margaret was unable to attend.

At this point India Bell was introduced to the meeting as she has agreed to be the Suffolk Safeguarding Officer. India is qualified and has been active in this field. If anyone has concerns regarding safeguarding, they should contact India. Chairman Linda also emphasised that the information sheets received from Jeanette Murphy should be displayed in clubhouses.

8(a) Proposals from Area AGM's: Chairman Linda thanked the areas for the proposals submitted.

A proposal to allow areas to have playing selectors came from Area 'A', seconded by Area 'C', as non-playing selectors are becoming difficult to find. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that playing selectors could not fulfil the whole of the role. It was resolved that selectors need not attend executive committee meetings. Hopefully this might encourage more ladies to come forward. An amendment on page 54 of the handbook, point 6.1, is required to remove "non-playing area selectors" from this paragraph. This will apply for 2023 onwards. 29 or 30 ladies voted in favour of this amendment, none voted against but there was one abstention; therefore the motion was carried.

From Area 'A', a proposal to enable members of a pairs or rinks team to come from different clubs was put forward. After an in-depth discussion the committee had decided not to support this proposal. It was felt that this might lead to undesirable changes and fewer entries.

With regard to the Ellen Matthews' format, Areas 'A' and 'C' wish to retain the 2022 format of six rinks, having many new bowlers taking part, with home and away matches. Area 'D' had to pull out during the season as they could not raise a team and wished the format to return to a knock-out competition. Area 'B' proposed that each area should play three games as that area had struggled to field six rinks. Past President Shirley reminded the meeting that the original aim of the Ellen Matthews competition was an opportunity for newer players to enjoy playing in intra-county matches as a step towards playing in the county squads. Also, ladies are more conscious than ever of the cost of travelling to matches. Area 'C' Secretary Ann stated that Area 'C' were definitely in favour of keeping the six match format as it is very important to encourage new bowlers. It was noted that these matches raise a considerable amount of money. Sue Hender (Norbridge) suggested that three rinks at home and three rinks away might solve the problem with regard to the cost of travelling. Elaine Felgate (Dennington) queried if the games had to be on set evenings. Perhaps the team managers could arrange dates? This might help if clubs have league games

on the same evening. A show of hands indicated that three games might be the most popular but there was a considerable number of abstentions. This matter will be discussed at the December meeting.

8(b) Proposals from EWBF: The following will be raised at the upcoming National AGM:

Proposal from North Essex with regard to shorts to amend the wording on page 44 of the 2022 National Year Book, clause 7.22 / 1 / h, to read: "White bowling shorts in either tailored or comfort fit style as supplied by an EWBF/EBF approved bowlsweat supplier, with or without EWBF/EBF logo".

A proposal from Nottinghamshire concerning indoor competitions (see rule 9.8). Currently the ruling only allows counties to play indoor matches outside the county boundary if no indoor facilities exist within the county. The proposed revision would allow matches to be played outside the county boundary where an adjacent indoor green is over the county border but residential proximity necessitates.

A proposal from the National Executive Committee for a new competition to be played, similar to the Bowls England Top Club competition. Clubs would play off within a county and the winners would progress to an inter-county competition the following year, the final being played at the National finals. (National President Paula informed the meeting that Federation would not support this.)

9. Election of Officers:

President	Jenny Ronchetti has agreed to continue for another year. Thanks to Jenny for all she has done throughout the year. A gift was presented to Jenny to show the County's appreciation. Chairman Linda thanked Acting President Elect Ann for all she had done this year and for her support to Jenny. Ann will be Acting Immediate Past President in 2023.
President Elect	Pauline Black Pauline will receive her collar at the December meeting.
Junior President	No-one has come forward to take on the role of Junior President. A lady from any Area would be very welcome.
Other officers were then elected:	
Chairman	Linda Nunn, proposed by Ann Lilley (Ixworth), seconded by Life Member Pam Kemp, all in favour. Linda accepted but stated that this would be her last year.
Secretary	No nominations. Jane Pitcher, Ann Craigie and Veronica Southey have taken on parts of this role. Veronica Southey notified the meeting that this would be her last year.
Treasurer	Beverly Dibbens, proposed by Ann Simpson, seconded by Veronica Southey, all in favour.
Match Secretary	Margaret Thorpe, proposed by Andrea Dickinson (Brantham), seconded by Past President Lesley Alexander (Halesworth), all in favour
Minutes Secretary	Helen Swift, proposed by Past President Shirley Plummer (Rookery), seconded by Sue Hender (Norbridge), all in favour.

Chairman Linda then explained that the positions of Publicity Officer and Handbook Editor are Executive Committee appointments. Sally Smith and Sally Batten have agreed to continue in these roles. Linda thanked Sally Smith and her husband for continuing to update the website and encouraged everyone to use the website to keep up-to-date. With regard to the handbook, Sally Batten is willing to continue with help this year but someone – or a group of people – will be needed to take over for 2024. Linda expressed thanks to Sally for all her hard work.

10. Elected Area Officials – Secretaries and Selectors:

Area 'A'	Secretary:	Mrs Tracey Knights	Selector:	Position vacant
Area 'B'	Acting Sec'y:	Miss Jane Pitcher	Selector:	Mrs Veronica Southey
Area 'C'	Secretary:	Mrs Ann Simpson	Selector:	Position vacant
Area 'D'	Secretary:	Mrs Josie Whatling	Selector:	Mrs Vivien Nunn

It was noted that Amy Finch had assisted Area 'A' Secretary Tracey with regard to the Ellen Matthews competition. Perhaps non-playing selectors will be found in view of the decision not to expect selectors to attend executive meetings.

All area committees are complete with six members.

11. Nominations for Donald Steward and Silver Jubilee Vase team captains:

With regard to team captains, Past President Barbara Rushbrook has been nominated as Donald Steward captain but no nominations have been received for the Silver Jubilee Vase. Any names should be notified to the committee.

12. Any Other Business:

Past President Lesley suggested that the Novices competition awards should follow the same pattern as all the other competitions, i.e. both the winner and runner-up should be presented with their prizes at the County luncheon. This will be considered at the December meeting.

Before closing the meeting, President Jenny told the meeting that she had been honoured to be president for 2022 and looked forward to continuing in the role in 2023 in memory of Mel. She thanked National President Paula and confirmed how lovely it had been to work with her during 2022 and how well Paula had represented Suffolk in her position. Jenny thanked Linda who was always on hand to help. She thanked Jane and Ann Craigie for all their hard work, and Pauline for all her assistance at Skegness. Jenny thanked Joan Carter and everyone for making things as easy as possible for her. To all those present, Jenny requested that they consider taking on the role of president to keep Suffolk strong: Suffolk is a wonderful county. She urged ladies to put names forward for the Ellen Matthews and persuade new bowlers to enter the Novices competition. Jenny is looking forward to supporting everyone again next year and thanked everyone for their support during 2022.

Jenny thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished them a safe journey home. She is looking forward to seeing everyone on the greens next year.

The meeting closed at 11.38 a.m.

Signed:

Dated: