

SUFFOLK COUNTY WOMEN'S BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 3rd November 2018, held at Ipswich & District Indoor B.C. at 11.00 a.m.

Present: President Rosemary Gyford (also Area 'B' Secretary), Immediate Past President Ann Craigie, Chairman Yvonne Harper, Treasurer Sue Boorman, Secretary Paula Gooch, Match Secretary Mary Davis, Area 'A' Secretary Mel Cole, Area 'C' Secretary Ann Simpson, Life Member and Area 'D' Secretary Josie Whatling, Minutes Secretary Helen Swift, Life Members Barbara Rushbrook, Margaret Thorpe, Pam Kemp, Past Presidents Vivien Nunn (also Selector), Linda Nunn (also Press Officer), Lesley Alexander and Joan Carter, Selector June Laws plus attendees shown on register.

1. Chairman Yvonne called for a minute's silent tribute before President Rosemary welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence: Past Presidents Shirley Plummer and Veronica Southey, Tracey Knights (Hales), Brenda Crew (Mettingham), Ian Gosling (Bungay), A. Shearing (Chedgrave), A. Elliott, S. Callis, Maggie Page (Melton), Carol Warrington (Capel), Joyce Fisher (Kesgrave), Ann Lyas (Ipswich & District), Audrey Hart (Debenham), Maureen Fox (Leiston) and the following clubs: Capel St Mary, Hopton, Hadleigh, Beccles Institute, Tuddenham St Mary, Bentley, St Johns URC, Bildeston, Bredfield, East Bergholt, Waveney and Brampton.
3. Appointment of tellers: Jean Childs (Yoxford) and Sally Smith (Ixworth)
4. Minutes of 2016 AGM (as circulated): After correcting the spelling of Brenda Crew's name under "apologies for absence", and Elizabeth Aldred's club as Framlingham Castle (not Otley), the minutes were declared to be a true record and signed. Proposer Area 'A' Secretary Mel Cole, seconder Life Member Margaret Thorpe, all agreed.
5. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

6. Officers' Reports

(a) **County Secretary:** In her fifth annual report Secretary Paula thanked all those who had helped and supported her, particularly her sister, Past President Lesley, and Chairman Yvonne. On behalf of the county she also thanked members of the executive committee for their support throughout the year.

The indoor competitions took place with a slightly increased number of entries. Thanks go to Sole Bay B.C. for hosting the finals and to Past President Veronica Southey for organising the competitions. This year Suffolk won the Harry Carver competition for the first time in 25 years: congratulations to the ladies who played in this.

Thanks go to members of Fressingfield B.C. for hosting the county semi-finals and finals. Thanks also to Chairman Yvonne and Past President Lesley for their help preparing for and during the weekend, also Life Member Margaret, and to the umpires and markers. Thanks to those who contributed raffle prizes and those who sold tickets and lucky squares. The bowling was excellent and congratulations go to all county winners who then represented Suffolk at the national finals at Skegness. Special congratulations go to Sandy Sargeant and Suzanne Deeves for becoming national champions, whose success contributed points and helped Suffolk win the Victrix Ludorum trophy.

Eight ladies enjoyed competing in the Novices competition at Sweffling B.C. Thanks go to all who supported this competition in any capacity. Secretary Paula commented that this competition is an enjoyable way for new bowlers to commence competitive bowling.

Again, the county luncheon was a success. Secretary Paula thanked everyone for the raffle prizes provided and Life Member Pam, Past President Linda and Anne Gladwell for selling the tickets.

Secretary Paula congratulated President Rosemary on her term in office and hoped she had enjoyed it. She concluded by thanking her sister Past President Lesley, Chairman Yvonne and her family for their support without which she would have been unable to undertake the role of Secretary. Finally Secretary Paula thanked everyone who had helped her during the year.

(b) **Treasurer:** Treasurer Sue circulated a copy of the audited accounts prior to the meeting. The current account balance at the end of the financial year stands at £6,017.22, with £2,000 in the savings account. The surplus of £1,105.76 includes stock in hand. This amount covers the previous deficit.

Next year there will be more expenditure on coaches for county teams travelling to away matches. Thanks must go to those who kindly donated raffle prizes and bought raffle tickets throughout the year.

Referring to the accounts sheet, under "Miscellaneous" a payment of £100 was received from Lloyds bank to recompense the county for the bank making a mess of cheques paid in. Also the unusually large amount shown in connection with county matches is because Norfolk requested cheques in lieu of cash for the meal, etc.

(c) **Match Secretary:** Match Secretary Mary reported on the progress of the Donald Steward and Silver Jubilee Vase squads throughout the season, both teams celebrating their success by reaching the national finals at Skegness. She offered her congratulations to the teams and felt that both had excelled despite the Donald Steward team losing to Lincolnshire in the final and the Silver Jubilee Vase team losing to Nottinghamshire. This season the Silver Jubilee Vase squad had included a new captain (Life Member Margaret Thorpe) and three new players.

Two ladies earned their 100 county badge: congratulations to Joy Squires, a member of the Donald Steward squad, and Jean Batley who plays in the Silver Jubilee Vase squad.

Next season the Donald Steward home games will be played at Borough of Eye B.C. and the Silver Jubilee Vase at St Botolphs. Dates are as follows, with 1.00 p.m. start time: Wednesday, 29th May, against Hunts away, Wednesday, 5th June, against N. Cambs at home, Wednesday, 12th June, against Norfolk away, Wednesday, 3rd July, against Northants at home and Tuesday, 9th July, against N. Essex away. N. Cambs only have a Donald Steward team. Trials and practice game on 11th and 18th May respectively.

Match Secretary Mary ended by congratulating all the ladies who bowled at Skegness, particularly national champions Sandy Sargeant and Suzanne Deeves, and also President Rosemary for collecting the Victrix Ludorum Trophy.

The Ellen Matthews competition was won by Area 'C'.

7. **Proposals:** A proposal from Area 'A' regarding an amendment to point 8 on page 61 of the handbook in connection with county winners being able to wear club shirts for the handbook photograph, supported by Areas 'B' and 'C' and the executive committee, was passed.

The proposal from Area 'A' regarding a 50-year badge was abandoned as the proposer was not present.

It was resolved to keep the format of the Ellen Matthews the same (as in 2018) after discussion following a motion from Area 'B' proposing that the competition be returned to the previous format in order that a greater number of players could participate, the other three areas feeling that it could prove difficult to raise a team.

8. **President's Retiring Report:** President Rosemary began her report by emphasizing that "thank you" would feature heavily. She thanked Chairman Yvonne and the executive committee for their support and encouragement during the past three years. She thanked her club, Fressingfield, and members for all their hard work. Also she thanked Area 'B' committee, clubs and members for their friendship and support.

After a quiet start to the year, the finals of the indoor competitions took place at Sole Bay B.C. in March. Thanks to Past President Veronica Southey for organising these competitions again and others who took part and supported them. President Rosemary wished Veronica a speedy recovery from her recent, nasty fall. Congratulations to those who represented Suffolk at Newark, and to the successful Harry Carver team which exceeded all expectations and came home as winners for the first time in 25 years.

President Rosemary thanked the Borough of Eye and St Botolphs bowls clubs for hosting the county matches and congratulated both county squads on reaching the finals at Skegness. Both teams bowled well but, sadly, were losing finalists. Well done to Captains Josie and Margaret, and to Match Secretary Mary and selectors for their hard work.

The county finals weekend went well and thanks go again to Fressingfield for providing an excellent green, despite the challenging weather during the summer, and to all members for enabling the club to host the event. Thanks also go to all other clubs which hosted area finals and the Ellen Matthews competitions. Also thanks to umpires, markers, caterers, raffle prize providers, ticket sellers, etc.

President Rosemary congratulated everyone who had entered county competitions, and was pleased to have been kept so busy at Skegness supporting Suffolk bowlers throughout a magnificent week. Out of the six semi-finalists, two ladies – Sandie Sargeant and Suzanne Deeves – became national champions in the 2-wood Singles and Secretaries Singles competitions respectively. It was indeed an honour and pleasure to collect the Victrix Ludorum. The SCBA also enjoyed success, leaving Skegness with four national champions and the Victor Ludorum.

President Rosemary acknowledged and thanked Past Presidents Ann Craigie and Linda Nunn, and Secretary Paula, Past President Lesley and Life Member Margaret for helping her at both Skegness and Newark.

President's Day was very enjoyable and, thanks to the generosity of those taking part, £290 was donated to both the East Anglian Children's Hospice and the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

A successful Novices Day held in September, with eight entrants and hosted by Sweffling, saw some good bowling – talent for the future.

The county luncheon was very enjoyable and President Rosemary was pleased to welcome SCBA President Trevor Lord and his partner Pat, together with her own partner Martin.

President Rosemary then thanked Jane Pitcher (Waldringfield) who has become a good friend and who provides great support to individual presidents and the county, whether taking photographs, etc. or organizing area finals. Her help is much appreciated.

Finally President Rosemary thanked everyone for all the gifts and flowers she had received and she wished SCWBA every success in the future.

8. Election of Officers:

There being no current Present Elect, after discussion and a proposal put forward by Match Secretary Mary Davis, seconded by Jenny Ronchetti (Stanton) and agreed, President Rosemary will continue for another year. Area 'A' Secretary Mel Cole, seconded by Shirley Lilley (Leiston) and agreed by all, that Sadie Church (Halesworth) should be elected President Elect. President Rosemary welcomed President Elect Sadie, presenting her with the chain of office. President Elect Sadie promised to do her best. A Junior President Elect is still required.

Officers elected for 2019 as follows:

- President: Mrs Rosemary Gyford
- President Elect: Mrs Sadie Church
- Junior President Elect: Position vacant
- Chairperson: Mrs Linda Nunn - proposer Jane Pitcher (Waldringfield), seconder Elaine Felgate (Dennington). Majority decision after a paper ballot as Yvonne Harper was willing to continue.
- Secretary: Position vacant
- Treasurer: Mrs Sue Boorman – proposer Ann Lilley (Ixworth), seconder Area 'C' Secretary Ann Simpson, agreed
- Match Secretary: Mrs Mary Davis – proposer Past President Vivien Nunn, seconder Jenny Ronchetti (Stanton), agreed
- Minutes Secretary: Mrs Helen Swift – proposer Selector June Laws (Sproughton), seconder Andrea Dickinson, (Brantham), agreed
- Handbook Editor: Mrs Lesley Alexander – proposer Past President Ann Craigie, seconder Sue Hender (Norbridge), agreed. However, Lesley will step down after completion of the 2019 handbook.
- Press Officer: Mrs Sally Smith – proposer Jenny Ronchetti (Stanton), seconder Ann Lilley (Ixworth), all agreed.

Chairman Linda thanked Past Presidents Yvonne Harper and Paula Gooch for all their hard work and support over the years. Past President Paula also thanked Past President Yvonne for all her help throughout her years as County Secretary.

9. Election of Area:

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| Area 'A' | Secretary: | Mrs M. Cole | Selector: | Position vacant |
| Area 'B' | Secretary: | Mrs R. Gyford | Selector: | Mrs V. Pryke |
| Area 'C' | Secretary: | Mrs A. Simpson | Selector: | Mrs J. Laws |
| Area 'D' | Secretary: | Mrs J. Whatling | Selector: | Mrs V. Nunn |

Chairman Linda thanked these officers for agreeing to continue.

10. Any Other Business:

Selector June Laws questioned whether prize winners should receive vouchers rather than gifts. This was supported by Past President Vivien Nunn and Ann Lilley. The executive committee will consider this suggestion.

Regarding a website, investigation had been unsuccessful to date. However, it would appear that Chris Love (California) and John Chambers (SCBA website co-ordinator) would/might be willing to help with creation of a website but a website manager would be required to run the site. This to be discussed further at the next meeting.

There being no other business, President Rosemary thanked everyone for attending the meeting, expressing appreciation for their participation. She looks forward to seeing everyone next year. After wishing everyone a safe journey home, she closed the meeting at 12.30 p.m.

Signed:

Dated: