



London and Southern Counties Bowling Association

Minutes of the 129th Annual General Meeting Saturday 1st March 2025, 11 am

1. **Opening remarks.**

The President, Ray Young, opened the meeting at 11:05 and welcomed all present.

2. **Notice to convene.**

Hon. General Secretary read the notice to convene the meeting.

3. **Attendees:**

Name	Title	Club
Ray Young	President	Exec (Bounds Green BC)
Julie Colby	Hon. General Sec	Exec (Chipstead BC)
Steve Colby	Hon. Treasurer	Exec (Chipstead BC)
Andrew Richardson	Hon. Outdoor Comp Sec	Exec (Southey BC)
John Harryiott	Past President	Exec (Wealden BC)
Tony Plater	Life Member	Exec (Felbridge BC)
Carolyn Lythgoe	Club rep	Camberley BC
Trevor Grover	Club rep	West Ealing BC
Steve Palmer	Club rep	Holtwhites BC
Roger Crick	Club rep	Broadway BC
Pat Geddes	Club rep	Leighton Buzzard BC
Tony Strudwick	Club rep	Chesham BC
Philip Morris	Club rep	Essex County IBC

Name	Title	Club
George Kernaghan	Club rep	Orford House BC

Apologies:

Name	Title	Club
Robert Walker	Hon. Indoor Comp Sec	Exec (Falcon IBC)
Pam Andrew	Club rep	Windsor & Eton BC
Dawn Slaughter	Club rep	Cambridge Park IBC
Kevin Keown	Club rep	Cambridge Park IBC
Angela Young	Club rep	Elm Park BC
Mark Kirk	Club rep	Orford House BC

4. Previous minutes.

The minutes of the 128th Annual General Meeting were unanimously approved.

5. Matters arising.

George Kernaghan observed that he was missed off the list of apologies last year.

6. Annual Reports

a. Hon. General Secretary

A canvass was sent out to clubs in April last year to determine the appetite for ladies' competitions in 2025. Twenty-nine outdoor clubs supported the idea of a ladies' equivalent of the champion of champions and a ladies' pairs. The general consensus was that the ladies should be able to play in all the same competitions as the men and that their entry in these competitions should not impact their ability to play in the mixed competitions as well. As a result, the Executive Committee decided to introduce a ladies' singles and pairs competition outdoors in 2025 to meet this demand. Some indoor clubs felt their ladies were already committed to other competitions and did not wish to travel long distances in the dark. Nonetheless, there was agreement amongst the clubs that a ladies' singles indoor competition was an excellent idea, and we will consider this for next season, depending on the success of the new outdoor ladies' matches.

There have been discussions at the Executive meetings throughout the

year to update the website photos, especially on the homepage, to include more diversity and, in particular, photos of the ladies at finals. The homepage will also be kept current, showing the indoor or outdoor finals, depending on which season we are in.

A problem with neutral venues this season has resulted in updating the indoor rinks and venues rule 5 to clarify how soon after the last match teams must make contact. The problem of finding a neutral green in the later rounds is exacerbated by the fact that most clubs are in the middle of their internal club competitions, so rink space is at a premium. Reducing the time allowed for the initial contact should allow more time to arrange matches, easing this issue.

Several minor amendments needed to be made to the constitution. The first is the affiliation date, which should be changed to match the competition entries date. The other is to change rule four about advising AOB to the Hon. Sec by the 1st of November. In this day and age, it could be changed to the 1st of February without impacting the process. This would align with the decisions made at last year's AGM.

West Wickham BC is hosting the outdoor finals this year, and Donyngs IBC will provide the venue for the indoor finals in 2026.

b. Hon. Treasurer

The financial year ended September 30th, 2024, and the association made a small profit of £649.00. This is in line with expectations; broadly speaking, your affiliation dues pay for the day-to-day running of the association, while all the competition entry fees fund the prizes for the competitions, which can be pretty significant for some of our more popular matches.

I am pleased to say that the number of member clubs still paying me by cheque has dwindled to the point where only one outdoor club sent me a cheque this season. Unfortunately, they forgot to date the cheque, so I had to return it! Online payment is the way forward and is a much safer way to send your affiliation and competition fees!

As noted in the accounts, the association sold some of our redundant trophies for scrap. The proceeds will go towards purchasing new trophies for the two ladies' outdoor competitions being held for the first time this summer.

We have lost a few member clubs this season. When I followed up on

their reasons for not reaffiliating in 2025, they cited some depressingly familiar arguments: ageing members unwilling to travel, lack of competitiveness, and dwindling membership numbers. People who have been bowling for a long time tell me stories about going on a waiting list to join a club because there was a limitation on member numbers. Sadly, this isn't the case any more, and clubs that don't take their recruitment duties seriously will face an existential threat. These problems won't fix themselves or go away on their own. They need positive action. Why am I boring you with this, you ask? The main objective of this association is to promote the flat green game of bowls, and having a large number of affiliated clubs allows us to share some commonly reported problems with you to help you avoid them.

That's enough doom and gloom! In 2025, we welcome several new clubs to the association for the summer season. Desborough, Chipstead, and Tilehurst join us for the first time, along with Totton and Eling, our only outdoor club with an artificial playing surface. I am told that when most of us have retreated to the safety and warmth of indoor bowls, their hardy members continue to play outdoors through the winter!

In summary, forty clubs are currently entered in our indoor and seventy-two in the outdoor competitions.

I'm looking forward to a great outdoor season in 2025. West Wickham will host our finals day in September, and I hope to see many of you there!

c. Hon. Outdoor Competition Secretary

The 2024 season went very well with very few problems. The finals were held at Iver Heath for the first time. Some excellent matches, including the National u25 singles champion Kieran Jaycock winning the Lonsdale. Iver Heath did an excellent job in hosting the finals, and we thank them for a great day. This year the finals will be at West Wickham, another new venue.

New to the competitions this year are the Ladies Singles and Ladies Pairs, so the finals programme may well be tinkered with.

The inputting of results has gone well online however, please make sure every club puts in their team contacts for each discipline. We need this to ensure the smooth running of the competitions. Also, please let me know if any club needs new users/ reps added or changed.

The draws for this season will be done this month.

Have a good season everyone.

d. Hon. Indoor Competition Secretary

Indoor competition entries for the season 2024/25 numbered as follows:

Shield - 38

Men's Fours - 56

Men's Singles - 22

Ladies Pairs - 18

Mixed Pairs - 28

Mixed Fours - 24

Unfortunately, I don't have the numbers from 23/24, so I can't comment on the rise or fall in numbers for each competition. It would be good to increase the numbers in all competitions, as one of the comments I have heard a few times is about the amount of travel required. This can be eased, at least for the early rounds, by increasing the number of entries. Draws are made regionally, but some long-distance ties can't always be avoided.

Generally, matches have been played, with a few walkovers, and most matches where a neutral venue has been required, the teams have agreed and arranged this. The rule regarding requesting a neutral venue had now been amended to impose a time limit on the request. Matches have mostly been played to the dates published, but I have allowed some matches to run over as matches should be played where possible. A couple of days, or a week in the case of Shield matches, doesn't significantly impact completing the competitions. Obviously, if numbers increase and extra rounds are required, then play-by-dates will need to be more strict. I will look closely at the dates for the shield once EIBA has released its calendar to avoid clashes with the major team events.

There has been some confusion over the shield dates this season. Unfortunately, the way the website is setup we can only display a play by or play on heading and not a mixture. For future reference, the Shield can be played on the Saturday or Sunday of the date given; the clubs just need to agree which. As with all set dates, there is always the

option to agree on an earlier date for play.

7. Election of officers for 2025-6

Position	Name	Club
President	Ray Young	Bounds Green BC
Vice President	vacant	
Hon. General Secretary	Julie Colby	Chipstead BC
Assistant Hon. Gen. Sec.	vacant	
Hon. Treasurer	Steve Colby	Chipstead BC
Hon. Outdoor Comp. Sec.	Andrew Richardson	Southey BC
Hon. Indoor Comp. Sec.	Robert Walker	Falcon IBC
Hon. Webmaster	Julie Colby	Chipstead BC
Hon. Fixtures Sec.	vacant	
Safeguarding Officer	vacant	
Committee (outdoor)	Steve Griffiths	Bounds Green BC
Committee (indoor)	Gaynor Campbell	Grattons IBC
Committee (outdoor) x 3	vacant	
Committee (indoor) x 1	vacant	

The officers were unanimously elected *en bloc*. Julie appealed to those present at the meeting to stand as Exec members, but there were no takers. In case anyone else is interested, there are only four meetings per year, and they are all held over Zoom, so no travelling is required.

8. Appointment of Hon. Examiner of Accounts.

John Elwood, Chairman of Donyngs IBC and Treasurer of Reigate Priory BC, was unanimously elected.

9. Annual affiliation fee.

The affiliation fee was increased to £30.00

10. AOB

Andrew Richardson made an appeal to any clubs north of the Thames with suitable facilities (good green, bar, catering, adequate parking, and reasonably accessible from the M25) to please contact us if they would like to host an LSCBA Outdoor Finals Day, which is always the first Saturday in September.

11. Close.

The meeting was formally closed by the President at 11:30