



London and Southern Counties Bowling Association

Minutes of the 128th Annual General Meeting Saturday 2nd March 2024, 11 am

1. **Opening remarks.**

The President, John Harriyott, opened the meeting at 11:05 and welcomed all present. He remarked that it had been a tremendously good year for the LSCBA, especially for the Executive, with several new members stepping forward to take up the reins.

2. **Notice to convene.**

In the absence of the outgoing Hon. General Secretary, the President read the notice to convene the meeting.

3. **Attendees:**

Name	Title	Club
John Harriyott	President	Exec (Wealden IBC)
Ray Young	President-elect	Exec (Bounds Green BC)
Julie Colby	Hon. General Sec.	Exec (Bletchingley BC)
Steve Colby	Hon. Treasurer	Exec (Bletchingley BC)
Andrew Richardson	Hon. Outdoor Comp Sec.	Exec (Southey BC)
Tony Plater	Life member	Exec (Felbridge BC)
Frank Doherty	Life member	Exec
M Allmond	Life member	Exec
Darren Willis	Club rep	Old Coulsdon BC
Keith Bishop	Club rep	Old Coulsdon BC
Ray Greenall	Club rep	Woburn Sands BC

Name	Title	Club
Pam Garden	Club rep	Egham BC
Pat Geddes	Club rep	Leighton Buzzard BC
Dean French	Club rep	Colchester BC
Philip Morris	Club rep	Essex County IBC

Apologies:

Name	Title	Club
Roger Purssord	Outgoing Hon. General Sec.	Exec (Huntingdon IBC)
Mark Peachey	Hon. Indoor Comp Sec	Exec (Desborough IBC)
	Club rep	Woolston BC
	Club rep	Luton Town BC
	Club rep	Croydon IBC
	Club rep	Bromley BC
	Club rep	Loughton BC
	Club rep	Alton Social BC
	Club rep	Tye Green IBC
	Club rep	Winchmore Hill BC
	Club rep	Tilbury IBC

4. Previous minutes.

The minutes of the 127th Annual General Meeting were unanimously approved.

5. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising from the previous year's minutes.

6. Annual Reports

- a. **Hon. General Secretary** see appendix A (read by the President). Andrew Richardson thanked Roger Purssord for his long service and valuable contributions to the LSCBA over the last eight years, which was echoed by all those present.

- b. **Hon. Treasurer** see appendix B (read by the President).
The incoming Treasurer commented on the difficulties encountered when the old bank account was unilaterally closed by Barclays. He also noted that the Exec had recently abolished the archaic £5 joining fee, as this was now done electronically.
- c. **Hon. Outdoor Competition Secretary** see appendix C.
- d. **Hon. Indoor Competition Secretary** see appendix C.

7. **Election of officers for 2024-5**

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

Tony Plater asked if anyone at the meeting would be prepared to step into any of these vacant roles. Andrew Richardson stated that he may have someone interested and will bring the name to the next Exec Committee meeting.

The officers were unanimously elected *en bloc*.

Steve Colby asked which fixtures the Hon. Fixtures Secretary would be

responsible for. John Harriyott provided some background for the role, saying that the LSCBA used to play against the Home Counties, Wales, and clubs in their anniversary years. In recent years, clubs have struggled to support the matches. The meeting felt that a new Hon. Fixtures Secretary could reignite interest in these types of fixtures and reinstate some of them. Ray Young observed that historically, these matches were held too early in the season when clubs were heavily involved in county and national competitions, which should be considered by the new fixtures secretary. Steve Colby noted that these prestige matches can be a good source of income for the host clubs. Tony Plater said that many clubs were approaching their centenary years, and a new fixtures secretary could exploit this when arranging matches.

The incoming President Ray Young expressed his delight at working with so many new Exec Committee members with new ideas to carry the LSCBA forward into the future. Ray will be officially taking office at the Indoor Finals at Grattons IBC on the 16th March, after John Harriyott presents the trophies in his last act as President.

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 remains at £27.50

10. Amendment to Rule 11 of the Constitution.

Now that competition entries are done online, it is possible to give clubs more time to put their entries forward. It was unanimously agreed that:

Outdoor competition closing date will be 31st January

Indoor competition closing date will be 30th June

11. AOB

- a. Tony Plater wished to acknowledge the passing of two past Presidents in the last year, John Lynch and Ian Harvey.

12. Close.

The meeting was formally closed by the President

Appendix A - Hon. Gen. Secretary's report

We had a successful Outdoor season in 2023. Having agreed to rotate the venue north and south of the Thames in alternate years, the finals were held at Southey BC. The Indoor season for 2023/2024 is drawing to a close with two new competitions being played – Ladies pairs and Men's singles.

The on-line system for entering competitions and playing games continues to work very well, with the vast majority of clubs understanding what to do. Help was given to a few clubs who needed advice. The great advantage of the on-line system to the Association is that now only one person is needed to run the Outdoor competitions. From personal knowledge, the many hours spent composing emails to advise each club for each game for every round who they were playing, who the contact person was with their email and phone number, has now been eliminated, as clubs can find the information they require from the on-line system. The Indoor competitions have the same advantage.

The number of Outdoor clubs who have affiliated for 2024 is 84. Unfortunately 7 Outdoor clubs did not rejoin; namely Woolwich & Plumpstead, Eastleigh Railway, Paddington, Putney Town, Sandy Conservatives, Hollingbury Park and Wandilea.

This loss was partly offset by 5 Outdoor clubs that did join us; namely Alton Social, Heathfield, St Neots, Woodbridge Hill and Liphook.

There are 460 competitions entered for 2024 compared to 487 on 2023

Challenge Shield less five at 84; Gold Badge less one at 65; Lonsdale less two at 60; Men's Fours less two at 43; Men's Triples less one at 58; Men's Pairs less fifteen at 66; Mixed Fours plus 36 at 35; Mixed Pairs less four at 49. At the time of writing this report Liphook have yet to enter any competitions

With 38 Indoor Clubs playing the current season with two new competitions we are hoping that some increase in clubs will happen

The Association will continue to hold both future AGM's and our quarterly Executive meetings by Zoom.

At our Executive meeting held on the 1st of August 2023 it was agreed that action was needed to find new bowlers to join the Executive as the writer wished to retire at the next AGM. An email campaign was launched with many responses, from which four bowlers have become involved and are here today - Julie Colby and Steve Colby from Bletchingley BC, Mark Peachey from Desborough IBC, taking on General Secretary, Treasurer and Indoor Competition Secretary respectively and Robert Walker as a Representative from Falcon IBC.

A huge personal thanks to them all.

In conclusion I thank you all for attending the AGM and my colleagues on the Executive for working with me over the past eight years on your behalf in order that the Association continues to flourish.

Sorry that I can't be here today but in all honesty at this particular time in my life, a replacement left hip is more important than bowls.

Appendix B - Hon. Treasurer's report

Our combined opening balance for the Community and Base Rate Reward accounts was £23,039.18. The combined closing balance is £18,149.80 – a decrease of £ 4,889.38 ; mostly due to an investment of £ 7,876.80 in a new web site. Without that investment there would have been a surplus of £ 2,987.42.

The total income from 83 Outdoor and 38 Indoor clubs came to £16,617.71, whilst total expenditure came to £ 21,507.09.

The audit was carried out by Terry Rowell and signed off on the 20th November 2023.

In October Barclays bank closed our accounts for a very pathetic reason that my signature on the revised mandate when John Harriyott become a signee, did not compare with my signature eight years previously. A very anxious five weeks passed before a cheque arrived with our funds.

Appendix C - Hon. Competition Secretary's report

The competition's continued to work well online with more users being added from each club so the results could be entered by the bowlers after a result. Most clubs are very good at entering all the bowlers playing each discipline or at least the team contacts. One person should not be the contact for all the competitions.

The competitions went well with a few walkovers as usual but most of the matches did get played, After feedback there will be an extra week to play the semi finals as this clashes with the National Finals.

The finals day for the first time in many years moved to a new venue, as it started to go on a rota of clubs. For 2023 we went to Southey, near Wimbledon. The finals day was very well attended by a few of the clubs. In the morning we had 3 matches, The Challenge Shield was a tight match between Blackheath & Greenwich and Bletchley Town. Blackheath included a Former international Andy Thomson MBE, together with other Kent Middleton Cup bowlers edged out Bletchley Town 35-33 in a tight battle. The Mixed Pairs saw the young pair of Charlie Crook and Jake Palmer from Banister Park take on Harpenden's Jennie Redford & Nick Muir, this wasn't as close as the young pair won 20-7, The mixed Fours was also not so close as West Ealing, backed up by a lot of support ran out 18-8 winners over Banister Park. In the afternoon we had 5 matches in the glorious sunshine, The Men's Fours Blackheath & Greenwich raced ahead of West Ealing but the West Ealing fought back to win 17-11, again backed up by great support. The Men's Triples saw Bromley never get going against Bounds Green who ran out 24-8 winners. The Men's Pairs was a very close match all the way between Romford and Bletchley Town, the changing hands all the way until Bletchley Town edged it 13-11. In the two singles matches we had the Lonsdale , in this it was between last years Gold Badge winner Jamie Holmes of Kings Chase and Tony Wood of Old Coulsdon, Again this was a close match all the way through but Jamie had the edge, to win 21-17.

The Gold Badge was even more thrilling match between Paul Buck of Bellingham and Matt Hyde of Gerrards Cross, fresh from winning the national triples. Matt was always ahead in this match and got to 20-11 ahead but Paul came racing back with 2 4s which helped him edge Matt 21-20. On behalf of the Association I'd like to thank Southey, the Umpire and markers. It was a great day, roll on Iver Heath for 2024.