

Draft Minutes

MINUTES OF ESMBC AGM THURSDAY 1ST JUNE 2023

HELD AT EBC CLUBHOUSE, EWHURST, SURREY

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Val Sloman, Colin Smy, Jackie Wright, Joan Greenwood, Jackie Rubie, George Shipway, Richard Tabor, Mike Crowther, Hazel Lipman.
2. APPROVAL OF 2022 MINUTES - Minutes were approved and signed by Chairman (DMcG)
Proposed by Ann White and seconded by David Kempson.
3. MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.
4. CHAIRMANS REPORT: A welcome was given to all members present and it was pointed out that such meetings were essential steps demanded by our Club Constitution to ensure the good governance of the club. It is amazing how often that constitution is referred to in the course of the year. It also provides for the replacement, by election, of committee members on an annual basis.

This year it is with sadness that Pauline, our secretary, after many years keeping us right has resigned and Mike, our treasurer, has tendered his resignation, but has volunteered to remain in post until a replacement is nominated or otherwise volunteers.

Each member of the committee will report on their particular area of involvement. Those reports do not reflect the amount of work it takes by each of those members to ensure the club runs smoothly for the benefit of all members.

The Chairman said he was truly in awe of just how much is achieved by these five people, sometimes in the face of adversity, and finding solutions when the inevitable problems arise.

Thanks were also given to the members who run the league teams and club competitions so efficiently, including Anne, Elaine, Jackie, Roger, David, Margaret and Pauline. We also recall the massive efforts made by Steph to try to maintain our presence in the SHAB competition.

Thanks also to David and Mavis whose efforts in running the bar efficiently produced a healthy contribution to our funds.

Mike Crowther stepped temporarily into the breach when the then centre manager, Mike White, unfortunately, felt that he had been placed in such a position that he had to resign the post.

We communicate with our membership by way of spoken word, the newsletters, by membership emails, notices on the board and by word of mouth BUT we still get accused of not telling members things.

We are about the largest club in Surrey, but we do not punch our weight in competitive bowls. For some reason the advent of the pandemic signalled our competitive demise. There is a marked reluctance of many to get involved. However, as I recently remarked, each time we step onto the mat each of us is being competitive. We need more players to get involved. No one would be placed in a team or competition for which they are not suited. In any sport players improve by playing with/against players of perhaps greater experience or ability.

Please consider just how you can further assist the club, either in a playing capacity or in its administration.

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT: It was pointed out that there was an attendance list for the meeting which all attending members should sign.

Thanks were given to all member who have helped. Val Sloman has indicated that she will carry on providing the tea, coffee biscuits etc. unless somebody else would like to take over. Also Roger Dobbing for editing the newsletter, ably assisted by Sheena Hall, and not least Mavis and David for keeping the bar well stocked. Also thanks to Jackie Mackenzie for running the friendly matches, Steph for running the SHAB matches and Roger, Margaret and Elaine for the Wey Valley matches. Also to those involved in the very successful Practice Evenings with the following fish and chip supper – an event not to be missed. Thanks too to all those organising the summer roll-up sessions. **More members are needed** to come forward and get involved as it relieves the pressure on the same people giving so much of their time.

It was also pointed out that should it be needed we do have a first aid box in the cupboard in the kitchen and an accident book should there be an incident in the clubhouse which requires recording. We also have a new defibrillator which is sited at the front outside of

the club building and **training will be arranged in due course** so that members can familiarise themselves with the operation of the machine.

Lastly it is with sadness that this will be my last meeting and report as after many years of service to the club I am resigning. I wish my successor the very best and will give all the help I can when and if needed.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT AND ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS: A welcome was given and confirmation given that all members present had a copy of the audited accounts for the year ending April 2023.

Membership for the year was 71 which included 8 new members via the U3A course and 2 social members. The subs last year were increased to £50, in part to finance the provision of a cleaner. This was by way of an experiment to see if members thought it worthwhile and it seems to have been generally welcomed. This will continue in the future.

Thanks to the hard work of David and Mavis Kempson the bar contributed a healthy profit of £820.06.

Unfortunately due to the Covid pandemic the Social Committee was unable to run many events so we did not receive a contribution from them. The Social Committee is now actively working on a number of events and we would ask members to support their efforts so that a contribution might be forthcoming next year. The Social Committee this year will be supporting the Marie Curie charity, a very worthwhile cause, and as in previous years the profits will be split 3 ways, between the two bowls clubs and the charity.

With the help of all members we have been able to keep the cost of electricity down to below last year's figure which has also been helped by the fact we have a fixed contract until next year. We do realise that any new contract will be much more expensive so we do need to continue to be as careful as possible.

Last year we received the government grant which has strengthened our finances. However, the accounts this year show a deficit of £1,266.81. This figure reflects the costs of running the club so we need to cover these ongoing costs for the future.

Next year's subscription will be £60 for the year. Even with this increase things will be tight so we are asking members to support the social events and the bar. Also, sell the club and the sport to all our friends since the more members we have the easier it will be to pay the bills.

We can now look forward to a new season, with the pandemic behind us, but we must continue to take care and respect each other.

A request for any questions on the accounts was made but none forthcoming. The accounts were approved – Proposed by Mavis Kempson and seconded by Jackie Mackenzie.

7. NOTIFICATION OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: Agreed £60 per annum for 2023/4

8. MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT: In the leagues at Wey Valley the Surrey Triples, run by Roger Dobbing, came in sixth place having very close results in nearly all the games played.

In the Woking Borough League, run by Elain Philipson, we also had close results, ending in the bottom half.

We did very well in the Thursday Afternoon Charity League, run by Margaret Weeden, where we came fourth out of eleven clubs.

Congratulations to all players who participated in these hard fought games at Wey Valley and also many thanks to the organisers who spend many hours of their spare time getting these teams together and playing so well.

Our friendly Magpies' matches, run by Jacki Mackenzie, also had some very competitive games up against really good teams. Their final results sometimes did not reflect the close scores. Many thanks to Jacki for all the hours she spent organising this.

Unfortunately, four clubs failed to participate in the SHAB League this time. Ewhurst being one of them. After consultation with our Chairman and the SHAB chairman it was decided we would not be able to produce enough players, reserves or drivers this time. We are hoping for a different situation next year as we have some very promising and enthusiastic new players in the club.

We also participate in the Surrey Open and National competitions. This season we have had success in the National Fours where two Ewhurst players were runners up at Melton Mowbray. Also at Solihull as part of the winning team in the National Mixed Fours. We also had runners up in the over 55's competition. Bjorg Lewis received her presentation for her 100th Surrey game.

Every year we have signing up sheets at the club for trials for the County and also for the Surrey Open competitions. If you love playing short mat bowls these are a great opportunity for you to improve your game and also participate in playing for your county. Any member can put their name down for these so please give it some consideration for our next season.

9. COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT: Margaret Weeden reported another successful year for our club competitions. About the same number of members took part as in the previous year. This year we introduced a new competition – the Open Pairs, which proved very popular.

It was good to see a few new faces in some of the competitions and particularly pleasing that some of our most recently joined members took part. BUT we would love to see more!

All results have been displayed on the notice boards and reported in the newsletters.

David Kempson and Margaret thanked everyone who entered and all those who provided help and support with setting up and clearing away.

As always information about next season's competitions will be displayed at the beginning of the season so do check the notice boards regularly.

We really hope that those who have not yet taken part will join in the fun next season. The competitions are for all club members

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: All officers except the current secretary Pauline Shipway are prepared to stand again. A nomination for secretary was received from Elaine Philipson, proposed by Steph Taylor and seconded by Margaret Weeden. All officers were accepted by a unanimous vote .

11. ELECTION OF ACCOUNTS EXAMINER: As our current auditor is unavailable this was unable to be confirmed but will be decided in future.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: A question was submitted to the secretary from Jackie Wright, also raised and discussed last AGM, that there should be a member co-opted on the committee to represent the members. This was discussed fully and it was felt that all current committee members work extremely hard to make sure the club is run efficiently and each one does represent **all the members of the club**. It is very difficult, nigh impossible, to get more members to apply for positions either on the committee or running various leagues and matches. We are always asking for more support but none is forthcoming. If any member feels able to take up any of the positions their support would be very gladly accepted. It was agreed by all present that the committee is representative of all our members and any member who wanted to contribute would be welcome.

There being no other questions the meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Pauline Shipway

Hon Sec ESMBC

June 2023