

Draft

MINUTES OF ESMBC AGM 7th JUNE 2019

- 1 Apologies for Absence: Borg Lewis, David Gillings, Alan and Stella Goldsmith, David and Mavis Kempson, Peter Adams, Jackie Rubie, Phyl Lister and Ken Mitchell

- 2 Approval of 2018 Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously.

- 3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

- 4 Secretary's Report

It was pointed out that there was a members' attendance sheet and this was signed by all members attending the meeting.

We had 11 new playing members most of whom came from the U3A course run by Nigel Sloman and thanks were given to Nigel and his helpers. Some of the new members have entered competitions and been successful.

It was pointed out that there was a first aid kit in the cupboard in the kitchen and an Accident Book which should be completed in the event of an incident. and the defibrillator in the entrance porch for use should members require to use it. A refresher course was organised earlier in the year and we are hoping to organise a further one when our short mat season starts.

Thanks were given to Ken Dilley for producing the membership cards and updating the membership list.

Thanks to Roger Dobbins for producing the Newsletter and to Brian Allen and his committee for organising the social events throughout the year. To Roger and Jo Newman for maintaining the bar stocks at very reasonable prices. Our visiting teams are very appreciative of our bar facilities. Also to other members who support and maintain the club and help to make it the success it is.

Thanks to Sue Forth for organising the matches and teams for the Magpies. The Magpies had a successful year but we would encourage more of the newer members to join in these friendly matches which is a good way to learn the rules and etiquette for bowls matches and of course enjoying a good afternoon of friendly bowls.

Thanks to Val Sloman for keeping a steady supply of refreshments, Margaret Weedon for organising the cleaning rotas and all the members who did the cleaning during the short mat season. Margaret is now standing down from this role and we will be looking for her replacement.

Also thanks to Tessa Nash, Anna Voisey and Margaret Weedon for organising the short mat sessions during the weeks after the short mat season ends.

Apologies were given to anyone who had been left out but all help and support given by members is much appreciated.

Thanks also to Roger Newman for keeping our website up to date. Finally on behalf of the committee thanks were given to Roger, who is standing down as chairman after 4 years service, for all his hard work and support over those years which has made the club the success it is today.

5 Treasurer's Report

A copy of the accounts was passed to members which showed a profit of £330.26 for the year which is a reduction of £381 on last year's figure. Income from subscriptions was £175 down from last year, we have 114 playing members and 6 social or life members. Bar sales were up giving a profit of £875.27 which was difficult to explain but due in part to the success of our social events. Once again thanks to Roger and Jo Newman for their excellent stewardship. Some prices had to rise due to increased stock costs but all our visitors continue to compliment us on our very fair prices.

We received a donation of £750 from the social committee. Thanks to Brian Allen and his committee for the excellent work they do. Brian has decided to resign from the social committee in order to take on the onerous task of treasurer for the outdoor club. The club therefore is looking for his replacement. The significant amount of money raised means that both clubs and our chosen charity will share £2,250 – a great effort by all concerned.

A simple calculation highlights just how important the bar and social committee's efforts are to keeping the subs competitive and without these contributions the subs would have to increase substantially

One Mat League was cancelled this year as too many local teams had to withdraw, due in part to the reduced membership of local clubs so we lost this important contribution to the accounts.

Total expenditure for the year, ignoring the club lunch and the purchase of shirts, was almost the same as last year at £5,373. Maintenance costs were down, electricity was up, trophies and engraving down but postage (office costs) were up. Everything else stayed fairly constant.

It was decided at our last AGM that we should have an official club shirt and after a protracted consultation a design was decided on that was acceptable to the majority. Without exception all our members who represent the club in Surrey competitions have purchased a shirt. Thanks go to them for supporting the club's decision.

On the income side, the loss of 5 members resulted in the already mentioned reduction of £175 in subscriptions. Total donations were down £50 and the loss of the One Mat League cost £168.45. With the cost of the lunch and shirts removed from the equation this year's income was down £346 and without the increase in bar profits it would have been even higher.

With this year's profit of £330.20 the balance sheet shows an accumulated fund of £4,857.41. The rainy day fund which is deposited with Scottish Widows stands at £3,551.86. This has not been touched for 4 years and whilst we do not have an immediate need for substantial amounts of cash we do need to keep funds in hand for future redecoration of the clubhouse and for replacement mats.

Even with the regular influx of new members from the U3A course our membership continues to fall, as it does for almost all local bowls clubs, and if we are to thrive as a club we need to make every effort to recruit new members. We must ensure we keep our finances as healthy as possible.

With this in mind I have suggested to your committee that subscriptions should be increased to £40 and that still remains fantastic value for money and I commend this increase to the meeting.

Once again my thanks to Ray Young for his work in auditing the accounts. Thanks to all the committee for their continued hard work running the club.

In closing, we must once again thank the Parish Council for their continued financial contribution to the joint clubs. They pay to maintain the fabric of the building and later this year they are covering the cost of replacing all the windows. This work was planned for last year but was delayed for a number of reasons. However, I confirm that the deposit has been paid and the windows are now on order and will be replaced this summer. The council has also contributed to the refurbishment of the bowls' green surrounds this year

There were no questions and the accounts were accepted and proposed by Jo Newman and seconded by Mike Wells.

6 Notification of Annual Subscriptions

It was agreed by the committee that fees should be increased to £40 from the start of next season. This was accepted and proposed by Malcolm Wright and seconded by Jackie Wright.

7 Match Secretary's Report

Starting with the SHAB Leagues, the Eagles had an impressive season coming 3rd against 8 of the top clubs. David Kempson should be congratulated on his organisation of the teams spending many hours on the combination of players and of course the inevitable alterations during that time. The Eagles players were impressively determined in every game and had some great wins home and away.

The Falcons and Kestrels also had some very hard games with strong opposition but unfortunately both have been relegated to the 3rd division. Thanks go to Malcolm Wright and Jackie Wright and all the players for their hard work throughout the season.

In the SHAB Knockout Cup all our teams went out in the first or second rounds.

Lightwater Friendly League, Ewhurst were first against 9 other clubs, a fantastic result. Congratulations to June Ives for organising and the players for some first class bowling.

The Surrey Triples League was devised by Bill Hames who runs the short mat games at Wey Valley and also some of the county games there. Some of his top players were concerned that they were not getting enough competitive opponents at Wey Valley so Bill responded by asking the individual clubs to put forward their best players for this League. Ewhurst responded and ended in 4th place out of 9 clubs. This is a good result and thanks go to Roger Dobbing for all the work he has done in organising this league.

In the Woking Borough League Ewhurst came 6th out of 14 clubs. This was also a good result against strong opposition.

The Thursday Afternoon Charity League, Ewhurst came out in 8th place but as usual this was thoroughly enjoyed by all who played in it and thanks to Tony Richardson who manages the afternoons in good spirit.

In the Magpies Friendly matches Ewhurst won 8 games out of 20 against some very strong opposition teams. Thanks to Sue Forth for organising these matches.

A special mention was given to the captains and vice captains of the Ewhurst teams. Having managed the Woking Borough League for the first time and also acted a vice captain to David

Kempson Steph Taylor appreciated how much time these voluntary jobs take up. ST said It was satisfying to get good results but it is also sometimes a thankless task so hopefully we all appreciate the hard work all these members take on.

Lastly a big thank you was given to all the excellent Ewhurst bowlers who played so well during the season.

8 Competition Secretary's Report

Margaret Weeden said that a year ago she and Jo Reynolds were wondering what they had taken on by volunteering to take over the organising of club competitions. Now they know but it had been a good year.

In December there was the popular Team of Five competition. This was introduced last year by Nigel Sloman and we are delighted that we now have a new trophy – The Sloman Shield.

Another popular competition, the Star Cup, took place in January and was fully subscribed with 8 teams of 3 participating.

Eight members entered the New Bowlers competition in February. This is for bowlers with less than two years experience of playing short mat bowls. Congratulations go to this year's winner Dianna Benoy. It would be good to see more participants next season.

In March there was the Drawn Pairs with 24 people entering. The winners this year were Bill Creelman and Roger Newman.

Later in March 22 people entered the Singles and this year's champion was Dennis McGuinness.

In December, 18 pairs started out in pursuit of the Mixed Pairs trophy with Jo and Roger Newman eventually lifting the cup.

The Friday evening Triples League started at the end of October with 31 entrants. The Fender Benders soon established a good lead and won 9 out of the 10 games played. Positions of the other 5 teams were constantly changing with the Block Dodgers edging in to 2nd place.

Thanks to David Kempson and Tony Hodge for organising the ever popular Wednesday morning League, won this year by Colin Smy.

Information about next year's competitions will appear on the notice boards at the start of the short mat season. The notice boards should be checked regularly so that members do not miss out. It is hoped that more of the less experienced bowlers will be signing up for some of these competitions and if more information is required they should make further enquiries.

9 Chairman's Report

The members' numbers have stood up well this year, being just under 120 playing and social members.

As last year, your financial position is good. We don't need to make a huge profit each year as, unlike the outdoor club who have to put money aside for machinery, our only real outlay would be for new mats for which we have reserves.

We have a thriving club and people enjoy playing here and we play to a good standard. Ewhurst won the Lightwater Monday League which is a good club standard league. It clashes with the Surrey Triples League which attracts the better, county standard players but does show that our

club players are as good, if not better than many. We had over a dozen members represent Surrey, 9 or 10 this coming season. Steph Taylor received an award for the best A team player.

Unfortunately the Tuesday One Mat League had to be discontinued due to other clubs failing to get teams out. Both Dave Kempson and I tried very hard to attract other clubs but they all had other commitments. We may be able to use the Tuesday for other sessions.

We had an exceptional contribution last year from the Social Committee of £750. One third goes to each of our clubs and the remaining third to a charity. This financial year for our club the contribution is £450 which is also very helpful indeed and the charity which benefitted is the Brigitte Trust who provide support to families where there is a mental health problem. Social events are not necessarily run for profit but it certainly helps. It also helps the bar profits when the social event is held in the winter. Our grateful thanks to the social committee for their efforts.

It was reported last year that our trustees were re-negotiating the lease with the Parish Council and this is still being negotiated but should be signed soon. The rent will rise a little. The Parish Council are very good to the club. We should be getting the double glazing installed this summer.

Utility costs inevitably rise as do contents insurance etc. and it has been decided what needs to be done regarding subscriptions for the coming season.

The club does not run itself and thanks were given to all who contributed to the well being of our club. The fact that members were attending for the AGM was an indication that they care about our club. Thanks to all who do the cleaning, stock the kitchen and bar, arrange matches, run the roll ups, particularly those who run the roll ups during the summer. We have 3 roll ups a week in the summer months and we play in the Ripley summer league. It is good that our club facility is being used as much as possible but we do have to bear in mind that the outdoor club is the prime tenant in the summer. We had a particularly good turnout for the handover to the outdoor club this year, so thanks to all who were here on that morning, many hands make light work. Bjorg and David were here at 7.00 am to start the ball rolling. Val Sloman organised the day and our thoughts are with her and Nigel as they are going through a really tough time.

Members were reminded that new club shirts were introduced late last year and there have been very many compliments from members of other clubs about the design and quality. Thanks go to Mike White who handles the ordering process. Indeed the outdoor club has now moved to the same material for their club shirts.

The web site is being kept up to dated as much as possible but if anything needs doing or members have contributions, including selling items, please let Roger Newman know at www.ewhurstbowls.co.uk

SHAB squads have been published and it was reported in the Newsletter that a captain is needed very quickly for the Falcons as we need to give contact details to other clubs in the League. We have had one volunteer, Margaret Weeden, many thanks to her. There were no other candidates and Margaret was elected as Falcons' captain. Margaret will require a vice captain. Steph is now Match Secretary for the SHAB League and Roger Newman is League Secretary. Other clubs do appreciate that Ewhurst is doing their bit. There was a real danger that the league would fold without people to help run it.

Margaret Weeden and Jo Reynolds took over organising our competitions and they all ran very smoothly, so thanks to Margaret and Jo. Photos of the presentations at the recent lunch are now on the web site.

Lastly and not least thanks were given to the committee members for their support and all the work they do, most of which is done outside our monthly committee meetings.

10 Election of Officers

The Secretary, Pauline Shipway, Treasurer, Mike White, Match Secretary, Steph Taylor and committee members, Roger Dobbing and Margaret Weeden are prepared to stand again, there were no other nominations for these positions. Roger Newman is standing down as Chairman and Dennis McGuinness was proposed as the new chairman for the short mat bowls club. A vote for Dennis McGuinness was put to members present and it was unanimously agreed. Proposed by George Shipway and seconded by Adrienne Jarrett.

11 Election of Accounts' Examiner

Ray Young is prepared to continue, proposed by Ann White and seconded by Sue Forth.

12 Any Other Business

Jackie Wright submitted a question suggesting no new member should play in SHAB League until they have had a season playing in the Magpies in order that they have gained sufficient experience and learned the rules and etiquette. It was agreed more training should be given when rules and etiquette could be covered. Jo Newman said that members should not be excluded from entering. It was also suggested by Dennis McGuinness that they should be spoken to politely and quietly to advise them of the correct procedure. June Ives suggested one or two formal training sessions should be arranged. It was agreed that no vote would be taken on this matter but it would be left for the committee to organise.

Elaine Philipson asked if the Tuesday training sessions could be used for SHAB team members and this was agreed and arrangements would be discussed.

It was also suggested that in future the New Bowlers' Competition should be renamed as Novice Bowlers' Competition as it was felt that if a new member with previous experience joined the club they should not be eligible for this competition. Margaret Weeden with arrange for this change to be made for next season.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Pauline Shipway
Hon Secretary

Approved: