

DRAFT

MINUTES OF ESMBC AGM 15th JUNE 2017

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Jo Reynolds, Jackie Wright, David and Mavis Kempson, Ken and Hilary Mitchell, Adrienne Jarrett, David and Hazel Lipman, Di Richardson, John Greenwood, Jack Low, Derrick Liddicott, Anne Lock, Malcolm Wright, Jackie Rubie, Richard Tabor, Jan and Steve Self, Darroll Nash and Phyl Lister.

2 Approval of 2016 Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously Proposed by Nigel Sloman and Seconded by Margaret Weedon.

3 Matters Arising

There was a change in the Lightwater Friendly League Rules in which no Surrey Squad Premier player could be skip unless agreed with the other team and a 2 point penalty will be given to the opposition for each Surrey squad player in the team.

There were no other matters arising.

4 Secretary's Report

We had 13 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 extra tuition was organised for those members during the season.

It was pointed out that there is a members' contact list in the clubhouse, a first aid kit in the cupboard in the kitchen and the defibrillator in the entrance porch.

Thanks were given to Ken Dillely for producing the membership cards and updating the membership list. Also to Brian Allen and his team for organising the social events.

Thanks to Jackie Wright for organising the matches and teams for the Magpies. Unfortunately due to health problems Jackie is no longer able to continue and Sue Forth has agreed to take this over with help from myself and advice from Jackie if required. Jackie has asked that the following message is conveyed to the meeting. "Thanks to all the players who have supported the Magpies. We were able to give the opposition some good games. In particular I would like to thank Pauline Shipway for the support she gave me when I sometimes struggled with a bad winter healthwise"

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. Also 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.

5 Treasurer's Report

A copy of the accounts was passed to members which showed a loss of £351.05 for the year. This was because we had contributed to the purchase of new curtains and purchased some name badges for all members, this amounted to £1069.01

Income from subscriptions was slightly up. We now have 116 playing members and 8 social or life members. Bar sales increased giving a profit of £833.65. Thanks to Jo and Roger Newman for excellent stewardship of the bar. All our visitors compliment us on our very fair prices.

We received £550 from the Social Committee. Thanks to Roger Dobbing for all his efforts on the committee. This year Brian Allen has taken over the running of the social events and our thanks were given to him.

One Mat League income was up from last year as we had 6 teams again. Thanks to David Kempson for organising these matches.

Expenditure for the year was marginally up, catering costs were down mainly due to the Centre Committee taking over the purchase of cleaning and wash room products.

Players' registration fees remained almost static. Any player representing the club in matches and competitions has to be registered.

With this year's loss of £351.05 the balance sheet shows an accumulated fund of £3815.24 and without the income of the social events and the bar profits we would be in a much less healthy position. The rainy day fund which is deposited with Scottish Widows has progressively reduced over the years and whilst there is not an immediate need for substantial amounts of cash we do need to keep funds in hand for future redecoration of the clubhouse and replacement mats etc.

Last year it was suggested that the annual subscription should be raised to £35 and it was proposed that fees should be increased this year. Nigel Sloman asked why we needed this increase. David Gillings said he agreed with the increase. Other clubs not only pay a fee but they also pay extra for matches etc. Alan Goldsmith said we should not wait until we need the money a buffer should be kept. It was pointed out that the lease is due later this year and there could be an increase in this respect.

Thanks were given to the Parish Council which has agreed to replace the windows over the next 2 years. They pay to maintain the fabric of the building.

Thanks were given to Ray Young for his work in auditing the accounts and the committee for all their hard work running the club on members' behalf.

Accounts were approved, proposed by Maurice Bowles and seconded by Colin Smy

6 Notification of Annual Subscriptions

It was agreed that the fees should increase to £35 with no joining fee at present. Proposer was Maurice Bowles and seconded by Tony Hodge.

7 Match Secretary's Report

This year all three teams played in division two of the SHAB League. Eagles did very well finished in second place and will go up to division one next season. Falcons finished in sixth place and Kestrels came last. The Kestrels did extremely well in getting into the semi finals in the SHAB knock out. Falcons will stay in division two and Kestrels will go down to division three. Thanks to the captains of the teams for their hard work and support.

At Wey Valley Ewhurst came 9th in the Working Borough League out of 14 teams and in the Thursday afternoon Charity League ninth out of ten teams. In the Monday night League sixth out of nine teams. Thanks to the organisers .

Congratulations to all the players in the One Mat League who were the 'run-away' winners this year.

Thanks also to Jackie Wright and Pauline Shipway who have organised and run the Magpies' matches. There have been some very good results this year despite having to play against some very strong teams.

8 Competition Secretary's Report

This year has seen several changes to the internal competitions as well as the addition of a new one.

The number of games in each round of the Singles, New Bowler, Drawn Pairs and Mixed Pairs competitions was set at 15 to bring them in to line with County Standards. The rules for each were also adjusted in some cases to standardise the competitions.

The Star Cup was added for teams of three people to play a triples competition where players changed position in their team every 5 ends. It seemed to go well and all who took part enjoyed the new format.

The number of entrants for each of the competitions was slightly up over previous year – there is always room for more. It would be good to have more entrants for the competitions especially the New Bowlers group.

Ewhurst won the One Mat League. Margaret Weedon ended up top of the Wednesday League and Phyl Lister's TOC team won the Friday Triples League.

Congratulations go to:

Delia Stimpson – New Bowlers' Champion
David Kempson & Brian Kelsall – Drawn pairs Champions
Jo Reynolds & Roger Dobbing – Mixed Pairs Champions
Ann White, Roger Dobbing & Malcolm Wright – Star Cup Champions
David Gillings - Singles Champion

The meeting was advised that Alan Goldsmith would be standing down next year and it has been agreed that Jo Reynolds would be the organiser and Margaret Weedon would be assisting.

9 Chairman's Report

The club has over 120 members including life and social members. We have 3 teams in different divisions of SHAB. 10 members playing for Surrey. Members can play a dozen times a week if they have a mind to and eat as many biscuits as they like!

Eagles have gained promotion, Kestrels although relegated got into the semi final of the SHAB knockout and achieved some good wins on the way including against the Eagles.

Our financial position is strong with three income streams – subs, bar profit and a contribution from the social committee. Our club reserves are adequate. We have a very successful and thriving club. Bar profits are good, we normally sell drinks at more than double the purchase price and visitors say we are the best value bar around.

The contribution from the Social Committee is good although events are not necessarily run for profit but their contribution is very useful. Brian Allen has taken over as Chairman of the Social Committee.

The lease on our clubhouse has to be negotiated this year so the Parish Council may increase as they are meant to get the market rate which is sometimes difficult to calculate. Unofficial word is that the lease will not increase by much if at all. The lease is a repair and maintenance one so we are responsible for decorating and upkeep. Utility charges and insurance costs rise and we may need new mats in a few years. All of this is a warning that subscriptions may need to increase by a modest amount or reintroduce a joining fee.

The club does not run itself and thanks were given to all who contribute to the wellbeing of the club. The fact the members were attending the AGM was an indication that they care about our club. Thanks to all who do the cleaning, stock the kitchen and the bar, arrange the matches, run the roll ups and particularly to those members who run the roll ups during the summer. We now have 3 roll ups a week in the summer and it is good that this facility is being used more and should be used as much as possible. We do need to bear in mind that the outdoor club is the prime tenant in the Summer.

Thanks were given to Jackie Wright and Pauline Shipway who have arranged Magpie matches, sometimes a depressing job when we play clubs who are stronger than us and of course often have only one team to put out which means we are playing against their first teams. Magpies had better results this year. Sue Forth is taking over from Jackie Wright next season and we wish her good luck.

It is sometimes taken for granted the effort to keep the building and its surrounds up to scratch. You will recall that last winter the heating played up and centre management and the Parish Council electrician fixed it. Recently the vegetation along the entrance drive has been cut back. It takes time and effort to do these things and Mike White (who of course is our treasurer) and his committee do a great job for us in the winter and summer.

Our website is being kept up to date as much as possible. If anything needs doing or members have a contribution please let me know. The website address is www.ewhurstbowls.co.uk

Lastly and not least thanks to the committee members for their support and all the work they do , most of which they do outside committee meetings.

10 Election of Officers

Roger Dobbing has been proposed by Darroll Nash and seconded by Jackie Wright to stand as a committee member. A ballot was taken between the current committee members Derrick Liddicott and Alan Goldsmith and Roger Dobbing. The result was that Alan Goldsmith and Roger Dobbing are now committee members.

All other officers are prepared to continue in their positions on the committee.

Proposer Doug Lock and Seconder Val Sloman

11 Election of Accounts' Examiner

Ray Young is prepared to stand for re-election.

Proposed by Colin Smy and seconded by Nigel Sloman

12 Any Other Business

Nigel Sloman proposed that we should have a club shirt for the short mat teams. He said that other clubs have them and it helps the club stand out and also looks smart. This was discussed and it was felt that the white shirt with a badge was more economical for members. It was decided that information would be obtained by a working committee and the matter would be decided once all the information was received. Maurice Bowles asked if a member did not have a club shirt could they still play in SHAB matches etc. Borg Lewis asked why other clubs can decide to have club shirts and we cannot. Mike White said our club should have a uniform. Sponsorship was suggested but Roger Newman was against this. The matter was undecided and left for a later time when more information and details had been acquired.

The matter was put to the vote there were 10 members against and 19 for a group to be set up to obtain more information.

Proposed by Doug Lock and seconded by Mike White

The meeting closed at 915 pm

Informal Discussion following the AGM

June Ives raised the question of allowing teams to include County players in the One Mat League. The League was set up principally to encourage and give greater experience to new bowlers and for existing players who did not play at County level but who would benefit and enjoy more competitive play. In the early days of the One Mat League County players were excluded.

Through the years these rules have been watered down and consequently this has changed the spirit of the league leaving teams, including Ewhurst, consistently fielding strong experienced County Players.

If clubs wish to field County players could the Committee consider having some sort of handicap system. Also it was felt that players should be prepared to produce their ESMBA registration numbers as happens in the SHAB and Wey Valley Leagues.

Roger Newman has agreed to discuss these points with David Kempson.

Val Sloman raised the matter of the poor support of members at the hand over at the end of the short mat season. All those who did turn up worked very hard. One outdoor bowler turned up and cleaned all the windows. A notice should be put in the diary for 14th April 2018. The question was asked if it had to be on a Saturday as members often have family visits or holidays. Sue Forth suggested that a list of cleaners should be made and also send emails out to remind members to help with the hand over cleaning. This matter will be discussed at committee.

Pauline Shipway
Hon Secretary

June 2017