



BOWLS SURREY UPDATE

In 2010 Bowls England (BE) informed Counties that they would only recognise one County organisation. The thirty-five counties affiliated to BE each made their own arrangements to enable them to comply with this directive. Surrey decided to put a bridge in place with the women and men's Associations staying independent with an overarching body called Surrey Bowling Association to form the link between SCBA, SCWBA and BE. The first AGM of the Association was held on 1 December 2012. However, because all three Associations were holding their own AGM's, the Surrey Bowls Association did not have quorum and a Special meeting was held at Croydon BC on 25 May 2014 to agree the Minutes of the AGM held on 7 December 2013.

Following that May meeting working parties were set up to work on a new Constitution for the formation of Bowls Surrey whereby only one AGM would be held and there would no longer the necessity for SCBA and SCWBA to hold their own AGMs. On 10th November 2018 the first AGM for Bowls Surrey (BS) was held and the new Constitution was agreed.

Over recent years SCBA, SCWBA and BS have worked to identify common areas that could move from Association control to BS control with affiliations as an example. This work was seen as a potential path to an eventual unified County. Some in the County were uncomfortable with the speed of change and at last year's AGM it was accepted that there would be a one year moratorium to enable consultation between the two Associations. Both Associations and the BS board have continued to work on unification issues in preparation for the future.

In April this year we had three dates set aside to hold Open Forums where clubs would be consulted on unification plans and proposal for the County. Sadly, we were all forced to stay at home in lock down. This document is a replacement for those meetings and contains information and updates on key issues.

Under each heading below is the current situation and any changes agreed or in the pipeline.

Bowls Surrey Board This is the current BS board.

Colin Homes BS Administrator - Penny Bruno BS Chairperson - Sharon Mitchell SCWBA Secretary - John Tucker SCBA Secretary - Joe Cable SCBA President - Charlotte Emanuel SCWBA President & Communications Officer - Ronnie Pickering & Arthur Robins – BS Members Representatives – Tony Bourne & Pauline Biddlecombe Bowls England Delegates – Howard Quinnell BS Treasurer – Zoe Hollins BS Assistant Treasurer – Chelsea Brady Safeguarding Officer – Development Officer – Vacancy - *If anyone is interested in this post please let us know.*

County Database

The database is made up of three elements, Affiliation, Match and Competition systems.

There has been some interest shown by other counties in our system and they will have the option to purchase all or single elements of our database.

Affiliation System

This part of the system is now an accepted way for clubs to affiliate. The online forms have been modified to improve and make it easier for club officers, it saves time and the records are up-to-date.

Match System

SCBA have been using this system for two years. This has become a very popular way to manage entering, amending and tracking match applications. It is envisaged that the Women will use the system, as they had planned to undertake a trial alongside their paper system this season 2020.

Competition System

It is our intention to introduce an online Competition system for the 2021 season. This will enable players to enter their results online, and to see who their next opponents are, with contact numbers. Please note, if you do not wish to use the online facility, you will still be able to ring your normal contacts in the usual way.

We are introducing a more flexible approach, to enable us to balance the number of rounds in each Division / Area.

Areas and Zones

Anyone not familiar with the County setup should know that the Women play their matches in four Zones, whereas the Men play theirs in four Areas with each Area having two sub divisions, required to accommodate larger numbers of men entering County competitions. The Areas and Zones don't align on the map.

Over the years the numbers entering Mens' competitions in each Area became unbalanced and a team was setup to look at the problem. They recommended changes that are awaiting Council approval. The Women also have similar problems and their Executive are aware of these proposals. SCWBA are looking at what the changes would involve, and how it would affect their own competition entries.

The recommendation is that Clubs will in the future be in Areas & Divisions.

To achieve the above, means that some clubs will have to be moved from one Area to another or from on Division to another.

Badge Qualification

Similar to Areas & Zones the Men and Women currently operate different badge qualification systems, SCBA aiming to reach a pre-determined round or number of games played to win their badge and SCWBA qualifying on a points based system.

Both systems are currently under review, recommendations will be put to both Executives. whatever the outcome the Badge Qualification Policy will apply to all competitors.

Bowls Surrey Website

The new website is under construction and was planned to be completed in time for a launch at this year's AGM 2020. The work will still go on. The website will hold the history of both SCBA & SCWBA and anything which relates to both Associations.

It will contain pages for the General Public to view. More importantly, it will have members pages, that only members can access through a sign-in / password system. This will allow you to enter competition results, apply for County / Presidents matches etc. As you will appreciate this will take a lot of work, so please do not expect everything on day one, when it is launched.

Yearbook

The decision has been taken to produce a joint year book for 2021. Work has already started to prepare this. You may or may not know that SCBA year books were produced for this season 2020, SCWBA managed to stop their books being printed. SCBA have decided that the books will be issued together with the Joint year book for 2021, so that members have a record of what took place in 2019.

The aim is to do away with the Year Book completely, it has therefore been decided that a Joint year book will be produced for 2021 & 2022, and will only stop, when we can guarantee that all members whether online or not, can obtain the information they require through their Clubs. Information will be in a printable format; from any section they require.

Finally

Had we run the forums we would have been able to provide a comprehensive presentation with more information and of course interaction with guests, but under the circumstances we have given you an insight into future County life.

We would like to thank Officers and Committee members who run and organise clubs, particularly Club Secretaries, many of whom have been doing the job for a number of years. If you are a new Club Secretary and somewhat daunted by the task, please give us a call, we are here to help.

Colin Homes (Administrator)

Sharon Mitchell (SCWBA Secretary)

John Tucker (SCBA Secretary)