



**OUTDOOR SECTION AGM
5.10.23 at 7:00pm**

AGENDA

AGM LED BY PHIL MORRIS

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR THOSE NOT ATTENDING
WELCOME THOSE ATTENDING**
- 2. IN MEMORIAM**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AGM 6.10.22**
- 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES**
- 5. OFFICERS REPORTS**
 - A. MENS CAPTAIN**
 - B. LADIES CAPTAIN**
 - C. MATCH SECRETARY**
 - D. MENS COMPETITION SECRETARY**
 - E. LADIES COMPETITION SECRETARY**

6. MOTIONS

a) RECEIVED FROM C.FLACK 11.9.23

'All Outdoor Club Competitions will be played on the rink chosen by the challenger and booked through rink reservation book provided in the corridor'.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Committee

Unopposed

**Ladies Captain – Christine Johnson.
Men's Vice Captain (1) – Peter Felstead.
Men's Vice Captain (2) – Dennis Miller.
Ladies Vice Captain – Sharon Robertson.
Ladies Competition Secretary – Lizzie Bridge.**

Men's Competition Secretary – Phil Morris.

Green Ranger – Phil Morris.

Ladies Elected Member – Maureen Clark.

Committee

Opposed position

Men's Elected Member

Phil Sams Proposed by Brian Storey-seconded by Kevin Robertson

Rowland King proposed by Steve Martin-seconded by Brian Storey

Vacant positions (Nominations needed)

Men's Captain

Match Secretary

Secretary.

Officer Nominations.

Unopposed positions.

Men's County Delegate – T.C.R.Davies

Ladies County Delegate – Christine Johnson.

Group 6 Delegate – Phil Morris.

London & Southern Counties BA Delegate – Phil Morris

Officer Nominations

Opposed position.

Men's Team Manager

John Stewart Proposed by G.Telling-seconded by Kim Wakeman.

Kevin Watkins Proposed by Craig Ramsey-seconded by D.Paterson

Vacant Position. (Nominations needed).

Bowls England Delegate.

Southend & District Delegate.

8. PRESENTATION OF OUTSTANDING AWARDS.

Captains Report 2023.

The year started with a spell of dry weather, which was welcome for our 'Roaming Jack' comp. Many thanks to our Competition sec Phil Morris for his input and control. It did give a great start to our season and paved the way for much of what came later on.

This year we have cut down on the number of Friendly Matches, because of the lack of support for 'Away' matches. Other teams expect to play us on a Home and Away basis, but this has led us into difficulty of finding people willing to travel. The match against Falcon was lost because of this. Later in the season the game at Home to Brentwood was also lost because it clashed with other fixtures.

However, we did enjoy two excellent games with Thorpe Bay BC and the annual fixture with the VPs went off very well. Later in the season the VPs came back to our venue to play Group 6 and that again was a great success.

This year we fielded 7 teams in the Group 6 leagues. Congratulations are due to our A and B sides who won the Top League and also to the D side who won promotion from Division 3. All our teams responded well and are unanimous in wanting another shot next season.

This was the first full season when all the players wore the new Black Shirts for Group 6 games and, although not popular with everyone, it must now be understood that that is our Dress for the foreseeable future.

The weather turned showery for most of July and August, much to our annoyance, but came through very warm the first week of September and this led to a fixture pile up which caused problems. However, most matches finally took place. At the time of writing this report Finals Day is fast approaching and I would like to wish all the finalists enjoy good luck on the day.

One of the main events of the year, was the arrival of T and K Catering who have dropped into the ECBC routine with considerable aplomb and are now an ongoing part of the team. Many thanks to Tracey and her team for their efforts.

I would also like to thank our President Maureen, for her help in providing a bridge to the Management Committee where necessary and also Ladies Captain Christine Johnson for her help and advice.

The greens held up well through the season, helped by the considerable rainfall, but one improvement was the addition of two more colours on each lane enabling our Greenskeeper to change the Bowling area each day. It was felt that this would stop people choosing their favourite Rink and would in any event even out the wear.

The restaurant League, once again, was a big success and will end with a fine dinner at Thorpe Bay.

Finally, I would like to thank Bob Wheatley and Alan Maginn and their helpers for all their hard work with the two 'Roll ups' each week in the Disc games.

Richard Jones
Men's Captain.

Outdoor Ladies Captain's Report 2023

As we reach the end of my first season as Ladies Captain, I should like to begin by thanking my vice-captain Sharon and all the ladies for their support throughout and by congratulating you all on your successes across the board - whether you are a new bowler this year or an experienced one, you have achieved at some level.

I should also like to congratulate Edward; your performance at Leamington and in Australia thrilled and inspired us all.

The Stats.

This season has seen an increase in the number of games played by the ladies at Club, Affinity, 20/20 and County level as well as the inclusion of ladies to the Cutler Shield.

- Affinity and 20/20 inter Club leagues: A total of 44 teams selected (10 Affinity and 12 20/20 matches), 24 players including several new additions, 6 different skips - 2 of whom were making their debuts in the role. Final results were not available at time of writing, but our results were generally good, putting us mid table or thereabout. Our aim for next season will be to convert our 4-point wins to more 6-point wins where we can.
- County Competitions: This year saw 12 ladies entering the various County competitions, a good number of them entering for the first time. Entries for next year indicate that this upward trend will be maintained. Congratulations to Elaine and Emma for their wins at the County finals; 4 wood singles Champion Elaine Score and Championship Pairs winners Elaine Score and Emma Chapman.
- County Top Club and Albert Crabb Double Rink: This year saw a squad of our ladies progress through to round 4 in both competitions, losing to strong teams from Fairwood and Rochford respectively. A huge achievement though and our best results in these competitions for a number of years.
- County Benevolent Triples: Held at South Benfleet B.C. this year. We entered two teams, again a first for some years. A very enjoyable day was had, and I'm told that there is interest from more ladies for next year.
- Southchurch Friendly: Held away at Southchurch this year. A very sociable fixture, enjoyed by all who played.
- Cutler Shield: This is the first year that ladies have played in the Cutler Shield. A number of our more experienced ladies were included in teams and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Thank you, Dennis, for selecting us and supporting the inclusion of ladies.
- Club Competitions: Our fixed jack competition was played up to and including the semi-final with 14 ladies turning out for the event. It ran like clockwork thanks to Lizzie's organisational skills. Everyone was included in marking when not playing, newer ladies being paired up with experienced markers. Thanks to Phil Morris and Phil Sams for helping to set up the 6 rinks we needed and for marking some of the initial games, to Lizzie, and also to the ladies who contributed cakes for the lunch break. I'll leave it to Lizzie to report fully on the Club comps.
- Ladies afternoons: These continued throughout the season on a Monday afternoon with numbers peaking at 20 on several occasions. A good number of new ladies enjoyed the coaching provided and were gradually integrated into the games. Our 'target practice' afternoon at the beginning of September proved popular as well as being a challenging test of skill and great (v. noisy) fun for participants and observers.

And finally...

There have been numerous other areas where the ladies have participated on the greens; disc games, friendlies and club leagues amongst them, and I don't want to forget all those who have contributed off the field of play; donating raffle prizes, selling tickets, looking after off - green organisation for our home Top Club heats, plus all the ladies who have provided advice and support. You know who you are and there are too many to name here which just goes to show how much depth and energy there is and indicates a strong base to build on in the future. Communication has been key to our progress this year and will continue to be in the future.

Not forgetting...the cakes.

Chris Johnson, ladies captain.

2023 season Match Secretary's Report

To start, from a personal point of view, it has been one to forget, due to injury.

As mentioned in my last report I intend to stand down, with requests for a volunteer to take over. Unfortunately, this has not gone to plan, for reasons unexpected, so a new match secretary is still required. I will assist the new match secretary to ease them into the post, but time is limited as it is planned my wife & I will be moving out of the area in the next 12 -18 months.

On to the matches report.

The disc games which I normally report was passed over to one of the vice captains who is responsible for the leagues, so cannot give any information.

The Ray Benge tournament is consistently popular with 14 team contesting this year, with an excellent buffet lunch from our new caterers. The contest was close, only a few points separating the top 4, with the winner this year being Paul La Plain's team.

Regarding friendly matches, the highlight, early last month was the visit from the Humberside Presidents tour, which was well supported, even on a Friday afternoon, and the welcome was much appreciated from our visitors.

However, the other friendlies have been a headache, to Dick & Chris with getting members to sign up to play. This has been a problem for successive captains during the time I have been in post.

We have tried to amend the schedule to matches on a Thursday, where possible, but had to cancel the 2nd leg of the Centenary Cup with Bournemouth Park, because we could not get 16 players to sign up.

Cancelling friendlies does not reflect well on this club.

This problem needs to be resolved.

I look forward to assisting the new match secretary, easing them into the post.

Mike Vaughan

Essex County Outdoor Men's Competition Secretary 2023 Annual Report

Firstly, I want to congratulate Edward Morris, Steve Gunnell and Simon Kittle for reaching the National Finals (Pairs and Triples) at Leamington, Edward on selection for the World Championships and his bronze medal in the World Champion-of-Champions. In both the National Championships they reached the final but were unfortunately runners-up in both. Bowls England described the Pairs as "*an all-time classic at the Aviva National Finals*".

The competitions this year were very well supported. The number of entries were on a par with last year and the ladies entries continued to grow. Lizzie will expand on that in her report. Terry Davies bought 2 new trophies for the ladies for which we are very grateful. Also, thanks to Aaron Lyons who organised the purchase and engraving and negotiated a good price.

The total number of entries for the Men's and Mixed events are listed below with a comparison to the 3 previous seasons. There is a small upward trend, let's keep that going. The Super Vets being mixed still only had one lady come forward – well done Pat Whiting. I hope to see more next year.

<u>Entries</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2018</u>
Mens' Championship	55	51	51	41
Mens' Intermediate	30	28	24	31
Mabbs	22	26	25	15
Veterans	25	29	23	31
Super Vets	11	10	6	8
4-3-2-1	49	41	47	40
Mens' Handicap	54	58	58	46
Mens' 2 Woods Singles	29	40	33	34
Mens' Club Pairs	50	58(29pairs)	40(20pairs)	48
Smidmore Pairs	76	74(37pairs)	76(38pairs)	55
Mixed Pairs	44	34(17pairs)	36(18pairs)	

Mens' Fixed Jack	38	40	30	26
Late Summer Pairs	52	50(25pairs)	58 (29pairs)	46

Once again, we had some late games but fewer than last year. We had issues relating to the Finals Weekend due to Ed's involvement in National finals and with the World Championships. We also had to contend with the minor County Finals being on the same weekend, resulting in the non-availability of a number of our finalists. Next year some of the "Play-by-Dates will be brought forward.

Now into its third year the Roaming Jack competition kicked off the season and proved very popular. At the tail end of the season the Ray Benge was well attended. This year an excellent buffet was provided by our caterers for the entrants.

I must thank Lizzie Bridge for her support throughout the year as Ladies Competition Secretary. I assisted her where I thought I could be of service and Lizzie likewise for me. She worked very hard on the Finals arrangements.

Thanks must go to Chris Johnson for organising a Marker's course which has resulted in us having many more qualified markers for all our competitions. Once again the markers did an excellent job with many members taking on the role when requested. We can't run the singles without markers.

Thanks to everyone. On to 2024.
Philip Morris, Men's Competition Secretary

Ladies Competition Secretary Report 2023

Being new to the position of Ladies Competition Secretary, and a relatively new bowler as well, my aim for the year, was to find out what I had actually signed up for? I decided just to concentrate on our own Club competitions, as I haven't any experience of competitions beyond those. My first job was to help with the organisation of the yearly trophy engraving. I was surprised at the huge number of lovely trophies we have, as I'd never seen them before, (they were stored away in boxes, out of the way for the majority of the year). Identifying which one went with each competition took a long time, as the titles aren't very clear, there are a large number of different competitions and those with separate bases confused the situation even more. Clearly labelling them, with swing labels – so avoid marking or damaging them, was a time consuming but easy solution. Although I was less than pleased, when the engraver removed all the labels!!! Lesson learnt there, for any future dealings with the engraver!

Putting a bid in for a trophy cabinet became my first major priority, my aims on the bid are listed below.

- To securely display all of the Outdoor Bowls Trophies, which currently spend the majority of the year, packed away in a cardboard boxes, either locked away in an office or cupboard, where no one can see them. They only see the light of day, for 4 days per year. On Finals Weekend and when they go to be engraved, and on their return from being engraved.
- To put the Outdoor Competitions of Essex County Bowls Club, on an equal footing with the Indoor Competitions, who have their trophies on display in cabinets, in the indoor rink.
- To celebrate all of our Outdoor Competitions, by making the trophies visible to both our members and visitors from other clubs.
- To celebrate all of our Outdoor Competition Winners, by having their trophies on display, and perhaps encouraging more members to enter the Outdoor Competitions.

I'm really pleased that my bid was accepted by the Management Committee and our outdoor trophies are now proudly on display and are looking great after a mammoth polishing session! Not only has it met my original aims, but it has also greatly improved our access to the correct trophies, when they've been needed for the finals. Another benefit being that the captain's office is now a useable space! The lighting and slight lean issues, I'm sure will be sorted out soon. If you are wondering what has happened to the 2 plastic trophies, the Mixed Pairs and Ladies Imperial Pairs, we are most grateful to Terry Davies for funding their replacement.

Organising the Ladies Fixed Jack Competition was my second challenge, as I've never organised a sporting knockout before, especially with most people entering on the day. I needn't have worried, as I had huge support from the members of the Outdoor Committee. Phil Morris, Chris Johnson and Phil Sams, all helped with the setting up of rinks, and advising how to organise the draw, and quickly ringing round to the few that had entered but hadn't arrived. Ed's beautiful draw sheet gave a speedy clarity to proceedings, and involving our lovely lady competitors in the draw, started the day off on a high. It was very pleasing to have 6 rinks out for round 1 (11 ends), reducing to 4 rinks round 2 (11 ends), then after lunch and delicious cake, we had the semi finals - Carol Valentine v Janette Slatford, Sue Guy v Teresa Perry (21 ends as in the final), with Janette Slatford and Sue Guy going through to the final. A huge thank you from me, for everyone's help on the day, especially those who not only entered, but also got involved with the fun and helped with the marking.

The Ladies Competitions went very well, the draws being magically sorted on Phil's spreadsheet, once we'd processed all of the forms! Only a few of the Ladies 'round' matches, going over the play by date, and most finals being played over the Competitions Weekend. The Ladies 2 Woods and Fixed Jack, being held the week before, due to entrant clashes and availability issues. The only thing that didn't go to plan, was the Ladies Imperial Pairs Competition, where the handicaps shown next to entrant's name, were not used, as had been agreed at the Outdoor Meeting – due to a rule disparity, appearing on different rule sheets. Making the rules for all outdoor competitions clearer, and easier for entrants to follow, will be one of my projects for the future, if I continue as Ladies Competition Secretary next year.

Ladies Competitions finalists and winners 2023 shown in bold:-

Ladies 2 Wood Singles - Janette Slatford v **Sue Kemp**

Ladies Fixed Jack - **Janette Slatford** v Sue Guy

Ladies Championship - **Sue Kemp** v Elaine Score

Ladies Intermediate Singles - **Lizzie Bridge** v Alison Martin

Ladies Imperial Pairs - Tania Cox/Lizzie Bridge v **Sue Kemp/Elaine Score**

Ladies Club Pairs - Tania Cox/Sharon Robertson v **Alison Martin/Teresa Perry**

Ladies 4321 - Lyn Martin v **Sue Kemp**

Mixed Pairs - L Hardman / D McCathie v **S Kemp / S Gunnell**

To highlight our finalists and winners achievements, I have taken as many photos as I could, over the extended finals fortnight, and put them on the ECBC Facebook page. I also hope to develop a montage of these photos, to create a photographic 'Outdoor Hall of Fame 2023', as I think it's really important to celebrate our summer of outdoor, competition adventures. I'm hoping to get copies of the photos taken by others, for the few finals that I missed.

Lizzie Bridge

Ladies Outdoor Competitions Secretary

