

## **Minutes of the RBA AGM Held at Romford BC on the 07<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

1. The President, Richard Strauss, opened the meeting at 8.00pm and thanked the representatives from 9 member clubs for attending. He went on to thank the committee and the Presidents own club Liberty of Havering for their support throughout the year.

The presentation lunch was well attended this year with member and guest numbers being around those of 2019 despite the lack of a 2020 season and 2021's lockdowns and restrictions. Thanks to all those that attended. Thanks were also expressed to R. Watson, C. Fleming, A. (Tony) Allen and D. Farquhar for their work throughout the year. Thanks also to everyone for their support of the leagues and competitions, it has been a good year with a few minor hiccoughs. Delegates were then invited to join him in congratulating Dave King on his appointment as ECBA President 2022. "Thank you everyone".

2. Nine apologies were received which were duly noted in the attendance register.
3. Minutes of the previous AGM having been previously circulated were accepted and signed.
4. Matters Arising.

### Insurance

Whilst the Association has been paying "Greens Insurance" (*company name*) for a number of years to insure the Associations Trophies whilst stored at our headquarters (RBC). It has been found that as we do not own the premises and our sparse mandated use of such would preclude any claim on the policy.

Therefore our policy with Greens will not be renewed.

Romford Bowling Club have recently had all trophies stored on the premises valued as a necessity of their insurance and have had to take on the liability for the Association's trophies that are displayed there. Accordingly the Association has made a one off payment to RBC towards a display cabinet for the trophies totalling £100 (roughly the cost of our insurance annually).

### Constitution and Rules.

There has been some discord over the competition rules and their application over the last season. One of our member clubs discussed changes to the competition rules with various officers but failed to enter a notice of motion for this AGM. The strength of feeling did however need to be acknowledged here.

*After much discussion it was agreed that three (3) dates would now be offered by the Challenger in RBA Competitions. The Competitions Secretary will hold final say on any disputes.*

League Rules also came under discussion with a clarification of minimum numbers for Shield and Triples matches along with distribution of points when facing a team that are not at full strength.

*The upshot here is that in a triples match – 2 rinks permissible with 2 points and 5 shots awarded to the team at full strength for the rink not played, the full strength team WILL receive the bonus points regardless of result.*

*Shield matches will consist of a minimum of 11 against a full team. i.e. 2 rinks and a triples (Triples losing 25% of their score) bonus points awarded on overall result.*

It is noted that not all permutations are included above. Therefore a Constitution and Rules subcommittee (Comp' Sec, Pres, Imm Past Pres and Gen Sec) were co-opted to examine the Constitution and Rules with the aim of bringing them fully up to date for members to ratify at the next AGM.

5. Although the Secretary reported that it had been a good year with input from member clubs. (Once again thank you to everyone for your participation). There are still ongoing problems for the LBH clubs regarding leases, notably Clockhouse BC being served with a section 25 notice all be it deferred until 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022.

Mike Long explained to those present the situation that Clockhouse BC have been put in and the measures undertaken with the assistance of other member clubs. This will have bearing on most of us.

Havering Sports Council seem supportive but interdepartmental communications seem to be somewhat lacking.

Our Brentwood incorporating Central Essex delegate pointed out that Brentwood and District Council were also in the process of reviewing charges and that the future does not look good. Possibly Hutton Poplars being incorporated at the King Georges facilities too.

We do need to carry on the communication regarding the above for all our sakes. Also it would be appreciate if all member clubs could inform me of their Secretaries and delegates contact information for 2022. Notification of any changes throughout the year would be appreciated too.

In Ricky Watson's absence I would like to appeal to each member club to forward him nominees for RBA representative matches.

6. The Treasurers report (prepared by Sandy Dron) was circulated on the night prior to the meeting. It all balanced.

**Sandy Dron** explained that the problems the association experienced with bank accounts this season were due to an incorrect address being held by the bank for communications. With no response the bank accounts were closed causing no end of problems and unnecessary charges.

Sandy has worked hard, with many trips to the bank, to resolve these issues and prepare accounts for the AGM. Even calling on the assistance of Alan Blatchford whom was still named on the bank accounts.

The Executive unanimously voted that a note of thanks be minuted to Sandy and Alan. (Here so noted). Thank you!

**Alan Warner** expanded on Sandy's explanation pointing out that problems were due to our 2019 treasurer not handing over properly to the new treasurer when he moved out of the area. Our new treasurer caused a stir at the Executive Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> October with comments about acceptance of his development plan.

This sparked an informal meeting with the President, Dep. President and Gen Sec which was reported on at an Emergency Management meeting on 19th October. Extract from those minutes reproduced here...

*There was a meeting with the Treasurer, Derek Robinson, on Friday 15th October (with permission of the management committee) attended by The President, Deputy President and Secretary. This was prompted by the Treasurer's statement at the executive meeting (05<sup>th</sup> October) that he saw no point in carrying on in the position of Treasurer if his development plan was not adopted by the executive in toto. It was pointed out that his ideas would require a change to the constitution and given that they would call for a rise in affiliation fees of over 400% for some clubs, would be unlikely to pass. Fundamental errors pointed out in the accounts 2020 to 2021, return of cheques issued and the apparent lack of commitment to the post of treasurer unless his ideas were adopted all contributed to and reinforced a feeling of "No confidence" from the management committee and member clubs to his suitability as RBA Treasurer.*

*Derek was offered the position of Press Officer where he could pursue his development ideas but he indicated his disinterest in a non-executive position. It was agreed that Derek would step down from his position immediately and pass all accounts and records to the Secretary to be passed to Sandy Dron, a former Treasurer and Honorary Life Member of the Association, for examination.*

**Dave Farquhar** went on to explain that Phil Hensher has been helping with the accounts from 1<sup>st</sup> October and is proposed as Treasurer for later in this meeting. A new bank account has been set up at Metro Bank and Sandy is in the process of transferring out of and closing our old accounts. All payments to the Association will go into the new account (details on the forms) preferably by transfer. All outstanding and future payments will be from this account as soon as it is fully operational.

7. Examiners report. Not examined yet (bank problems delayed accounts).
8. The Shield/Triples Secretary thanked everyone for their efforts last season. Despite some heavy weather causing games to be postponed, everyone pulled together and managed to play all the outstanding Shield and pivotal Triples matches.  
Congratulations to Romford BC, winners of both the Triples and Shield leagues and to Brentwood Inc. Central Essex, runners up in the Triples league along with Elm Park, runners up in the Shield league.  
Next season, Rainham BC have withdrawn from the Triples league and Kings Chase BC have withdrawn from the Shield league whilst applying for the Triples league.  
This was put to the Executive whom voted to welcome Kings Chase BC to the Triples league.

9. The Competition Secretary's report has been previously circulated and reads thus...

The competitions went ahead as planned and thanks go out to all the competitors for their endeavors.

We had,

34	Entries in the Singles won by	Mick Rigby	Haynes Park
33	Entries in the Pairs won by	Mick Rigby	Haynes Park
17	Entries in the Triples won by	Terry Brown	Kings Chase
9	Entries in the Rink won by	Terry Brown	Kings Chase
7	Entries in the Jubilee Singles won by	Tony Allen	Upminster
12	Entries in the Officers Cup won by	Colin Morton	Romford

Thanks to all that marked and assisted on Finals Day and to the host club Liberty for providing their Green and hospitality.

Can all Clubs encourage entrants into the competitions so as we can provide good competitive Bowling in our area?

Lastly, Thanks to the committee and Ron Fishlock for their support throughout my first season in this position.

10. Match Secretary reported, in absentia, that the friendly fixtures have gone very well. The fixture with Falcon IBC had been cancelled again and would be moved to March in 2022 with the hope that there would be more support at this time of year. Thanks to everyone that supported us this year.  
*Alan Warner* proposed a vote of thanks to Ricky Watson for all his hard work. This was seconded and passed unanimously. Thank you Ricky!

11. Proposals.

Proposed: Alan Warner      Seconded: Harold Hill BC

RBA Deputy President provision.

Should the RBA adopt the BDBA model where a Deputy President is supplied by member clubs in an alphabetical rotation, DP rising to President of the Association the following year?

Alan explained the rota which has been designed to avoid clashes with the BDBA schedule.

**Passed by majority.**

RBA Clubs and their Presidential year (11)

Brentwood incorporating Central Essex 2026

Clockhouse 2027

Elm Park 2028

Gidea Park 2029

**Harold Hill [President] 2022 and 2030**

Haynes Park 2031

Kings Chase 2032

Liberty of Havering 2033

**RAINHAM [Provides president for 2023]**

Romford 2024

Upminster 2025

**NB:** The person selected by the above clubs for their presidential year WILL be expected to commence their duties in the preceding year as the Association's Deputy President.

Secretary to contact Rainham BC whom have been informed of the Motion.

12. There was a vote of thanks to retiring officers.

13. Election of Officers. Philip Hensher proposed as Treasurer

President – Alan Warner  
Deputy President – TBA  
Secretary – Dave Farquhar  
Treasurer – Phil Hensher  
Shield /Triples Secretary – Conway Fleming  
Competition Secretary – Tony Allen  
Match Secretary – Ricky Watson  
Examiners – Richard Rose + Martin Cuthbert  
Selection Committee – President / Deputy President / Match  
Secretary (Principle) + two delegates  
Dinner Committee – President / Secretary and Treasurer  
Press Officers – Richard Strauss / Dave King

14. Annual Dinner:-

Following the recent Presentation Lunch it was agreed by the dinner committee to hold the 2022 presentation at the same venue on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022 (provisionally booked).

The Secretary pointed out that usually, by this point, we have voted an award to Ron Fishlock to recognise his efforts maintaining the website. The Secretary proposed an award of £50. Sandy Dron seconded and suggested that £75 would be a more realistic amount.

**Passed unanimously at £75**

The meeting was closed at 9:40pm