

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2018.

Madam President and Ladies

Our year began with President Alison's Day, which was held at Thorpe-le-Soken Bowling Club. Officers and Secretaries were invited to share a very happy afternoon with a bowls drive, followed by an excellent meal.

MEMBERSHIP – is now 2788.

MATCHES. We enjoyed all our inter-county fixtures this year, winning six games and losing five. Our Johns Trophy team played really well, winning 2 matches and losing 1. We were equal on points with Norfolk, but our far superior shot difference earned us a place in the Eastern Region final against Northamptonshire. This match was played at Littleport B.C. in Cambridgeshire. A horrendous journey, due to the closure of the M25, contributed to a slow start and we were unlucky and disappointed to lose by just 9 shots. After playing a highly competitive match in the 1st round of the Walker Cup, we unfortunately lost to Huntingdonshire. Well done to all the players and we look forward to 2019. The annual match against the E.C.B.A. was held at Aveley. Thanks to several ladies, who came into the team at the last minute, we were able to play the match, but again it wasn't our year. Due to a last minute surge, the men were the winners. My thanks go to Thorpe-le-Soken Bowls Club and all the clubs who have offered their greens, facilities and excellent hospitality throughout the year.

COUNTY COMPETITIONS. Winners 2018 - SINGLES winner Jasmine Wilson (Radwinter), r/up Elaine Score (The Springhouse); PAIRS winners June O'Neill, Serena Madgewick (Drums), r/up Natalie Deal, Sara Foster (Chelmsford), TRIPLES winners Debbie Sales, Doreen Butcher, Tina Howard (Dunmow), r/up Jackie Seal, Lyn Whale, Sue Taylor (Fairwood); FOURS winners Sue Wild, Lynn Farrugia, June Linehan, Shirley Bell (Rainham), r/up June O'Neill, Pauline Maxwell, Michelle Squires, Serena Madgewick (Drums); 2 WOOD SINGLES winner Carole Riley (The Springhouse), r/up Jane Holland (Silver End); SENIOR FOURS winners Debbie Sales, Val Hicks, Doreen Butcher, Tina Howard (Dunmow), r/up Sue Wild, Lynn Farrugia, June Linehan, Shirley Bell (Rainham); SENIOR SINGLES winner Tina Howard (Dunmow), r/up Carole Riley (The Springhouse); SENIOR PAIRS winners Sue Wild, Veronica Boylan (Rainham), r/up Jean Druce, Maureen Norgate (Wanstead Central); UNBADGES SINGLES winner Hayley Kenny (Clockhouse), r/up Cynthia Lee (Fairwood); UNBADGED PAIRS winners Jenny Hyland, Val Dalton (Billericay), r/up Joan Gay, Maureen Payne (Kings Chase); CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS winner Brenda Bowyer (Essex County), r/up Judy Bohannon (Tiptree Jobserve); TOP CLUB winners Essex County, r/up Rainham; ALBERT CRABB winners Wanstead Central, r/up Fairwood; ESSEX PATRON Anne Bull (Silverthorn); BENEVOLENT TRIPLES winners Kay Lee, Jenny Foster, Liz Baker (Runwell Hospital), r/up Jenny Meager, Phyllis Bridge, Jean Ashton (Great Baddow); INTERGROUP B Area. Unfortunately we were unable to run the Junior Singles and Junior Pairs because we did not have sufficient entries.

INTERNATIONALS AND NATIONALS. We congratulate all our players who competed in the Nationals at Leamington. We congratulate these quarter-finalists: Jane Holland (Silver End) in the 2 Wood Singles, Hayley Kenny (Clock House) in the Junior Singles and Jasmine Wilson (Radwinter) with Stacey Fryer (Drums) in the Junior Pairs. Elaine Score and Edward Morris reached the semi-finals in the National Mixed Pairs. Wanstead Central also reached the semi-finals in the Tony Allcock Trophy, whilst Sue Kemp, Elaine Score, Mark Nullmeyers and

Edward Morris almost retained their Mixed Fours title, just losing in the final. Well done to all these bowlers on their wonderful achievements.

COUNTY BADGES. Congratulations to Joan Evans (Arclight), Dawn Hood (Burnham Hillside), Cherry Richardson (Danbury), Doreen Hackett (Elsenham), Jean McCloud (Rochford), Dot Pope (Romford), Liz Baker, Jennie Foster, Kay Lee (Runwell Hospital) and Carol Beesley (South Woodford) who were awarded their badges.

ESSEX BENEVOLENT FUND AND BENEVOLENT TRIPLES. Wendy Buckingham has had a busy year. Knowing that they are in our thoughts has brought a smile to the faces of those who have been unwell. Thanks to your donations, your support on Ben. Triples Day and with the raffles, our fund is ticking over and is there to support our Essex Ladies when the need arises. A donation was made to our President's charity, Anthony Nolan Trust. Heartfelt thanks go to everyone. Well done Wendy and thank you on behalf of the County.

PATRONS DAY. Essex Patrons Day – Haynes Park and Danbury hosted this day where the ladies enjoyed a friendly drive and a super meal. Thank you to these clubs for the use of your green, facilities and for your hospitality.

PRESS OFFICER. A huge thank you to Pat Foley for maintaining the site, recording our results and providing important links to information and forms.

FINANCE. Our Treasurer Wendy Coldham has had another busy year keeping the accounts of ECWBA and the EBA in order. It is a big job to balance the books and keep the County on track. It is good to know that our finances are in safe hands. We have continued to do our best to keep our outgoings down as they vary very much from year to year. We continue to do our best to keep the costs down. Thank you Wendy for keeping a firm grip on the County finances. Thanks also to our Auditor Frank Tew, who is retiring after 13 years. We were delighted that Frank was able to attend our Annual Luncheon. We were able to show him our appreciation and thank him formally for his service to the County.

AREA SECRETARIES. We couldn't function without you, so a big thank you to Pat Brown, Brenda Bowyer, Shirley Sucker and Ann Sims for the tremendous job they have done this year and for the time they have given to the County. I sincerely hope that Brenda has enjoyed her first year as B Area Secretary. I must sincerely thank Shirley Sucker for her hard work in C Area, even continuing whilst undergoing cancer treatment. I am delighted that she is well again, but she will be missed as she retires from the post.

SELECTORS. Our Selectors have spent hours with their heads together discussing the selection of our County Teams. Well done and thank you to Pauline Mount, Alison Blake and Rosemary Ludar-Smith. We had a great result in the Johns Trophy and a close result in the Walker Cup. Such close results, but a great base to work on in 2019. Well done and thanks to Wendy Buckingham, who took on the mantle of Team Manager for 2018. I am sure she enjoyed the challenge and is also looking forward to further success next year.

PRESIDENT'S DAY TRIP. Alison's Day Trip to Suffolk was really enjoyable. Two coaches of Ladies from the County joined her for a marvellous day out. After stopping for a morning break at Stonham Barns, we continued our trip on to the 12 Lost Churches at Dunwich for an excellent carvery lunch. The afternoon was spent at Southwold, where some of us paddled in

the sea, walked along the sea front or on the pier, enjoyed some retail therapy and afternoon refreshments, or even tried our luck in the penny arcade! Thank you Alison for a superb day.

LUNCHEON. Alison, accompanied by her friend Alison Roberts, was joined by many ladies and the prize winners from the county as well as her special guests, Hazel Marke Senior-Vice President Bowls England and our Honorary Auditor Frank Tew with his wife Venetia, for an excellent luncheon at Stock Brook Manor. After a superb meal and the speeches Alison presented the trophies to all the winners. Alison then presented the Certificates of Merit to the 8 winners of this award. For me, this was again a special part of the afternoon. Thank you to everyone who brought a wonderful selection of raffle prizes and bought tickets. Thank you to Thorpe-le-Soken for running the raffle for us this year. Alison closed the proceedings with her personal speech.

Thank you to all the delegates who attended the Council meetings and to the Secretaries who carried out sterling work. Thank you for the invitations to your special celebration days. As always, I enjoyed them all. Congratulations to all the clubs who were celebrating special anniversaries this year.

I am so lucky to have such hardworking Officers and my sincere thanks go to Treasurer Wendy and Assistant Secretary/Match Secretary Sheila for their help and support. As always there have been challenges along the way, but through their dedication and hard work, it has been a successful year. I give my sincere thanks to all the County Team who gave their time on behalf of all our lady bowlers.

President Alison has had a very busy year. She must be remembered for her striking red hair, which the photographer at Leamington amusingly changed to blue on his computer, as well as her amusing personal anecdotes and stories. Alison will have many memories to treasure, of the many clubs she has visited and the people she has met, giving her plenty of opportunities to put into practice what she does best, "smiling and shaking hands". Thank you Alison for another wonderful and happy year.

I thank you all sincerely for your friendship and support and wish you all well. I look forward to seeing you all in 2019.

Yours sincerely,

JILL POLLEY Hon. Secretary