

EACF COMMITTEE MEETING – 6 November 2023 – 1930

Secretary's Report

My first full year in office has been very straightforward. Now that we are, to all intents and purposes, free of Covid, none of the complications that followed from that pandemic have affected anything this year.

The membership of the Federation as of now is thirty-seven clubs of which twenty-seven are full members and ten are affiliates. New affiliate clubs are Barnet Bowls & Croquet Club and Gransden Bowls Club. Bodham has upgraded to full membership and Finchley Victoria has downgraded to affiliate.

I am pleased to report that progress at the two clubs which have had to relocate, Northampton and Ipswich, has been very good. At Northampton work on their Roade site continued throughout last autumn and winter with lawns three and four levelled and seeded. After A Grand Opening on 18 June, they are now fully functional on all four lawns. Ipswich's four lawn development at Bucklesham Road is also fully operational. Hopefully, they will resume playing in both the AC and GC leagues next season.

Administratively there is nothing unusual to report. Subscription notices for 2023 were issued at the beginning of the year and the vast majority of clubs paid their subscriptions in good time. The exceptions were principally because the relevant contacts we have for clubs had either changed without letting us know or had similarly changed e-mail addresses so that they failed to receive the notice.

Subscription notices for 2024 were sent out in December 2023 rather than in January 2024 in a bid to get both subscriptions paid and competition entries notified earlier.

The AC and GC leagues have, all gone according to plan with Cambridge managing successfully to complete their AC fixture schedule.

In AC congratulations are due to Wrest Park, Bury St Edmunds and Peterborough for winning their leagues and to Peterborough for again winning the Chairman's Cup, to Watford for winning the Anderson Shield, to Nick Steiner for winning the Club Champions A Level tournament, Jeff Farrington for winning the B Level and Stuart Stafford for winning the handicap. In GC congratulations are due to the Hertfordshire team for winning the Ken Wheeler Shield, Northampton for winning the GC Open Trophy, to Chelmsford for winning the GC B Level Trophy, to Unity (Sudbury), Colchester, Meldreth and Stony Stratford for winning their handicap divisions and to Meldreth for again winning the final.

On the National field, congratulations to Cambridge who were successful in the Varsity match and to Suffolk who were victorious in their division in the Intercounties and have been promoted to division 1. They are also honoured with a fixture against CqE Ladies England. Commiserations are due to Newport who lost narrowly to Chester in the delayed 2022 Secretary's Shield final, and to Hertfordshire for being runners-up in the Intercounties.

Finally, and although it has already been mentioned at the last AGM, many congratulations are due to Peterborough's Debbie Lines who won the womens' AC World Championship in New Zealand early in 2023.

All in all a successful and trouble-free year. I look forward to 2024 being similar.

Fran Lambert
Honorary Secretary

February 2024