



## MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING SOUTHEAST DIVISION

The Executive Board Meeting was held on March 13th 2009 at Sun City LBC.

Present: PRESIDENT - John Garbett (Lakeland), SECRETARY - Christine Garbett (Lakeland), COUNCILLORS - Linda McDougall (Suncoasters) and Al Peliccio (Sarasota/Pinehurst). Barb Roller (Clearwater), Bobbie Elwell (Mount Dora), Jack Phillips (Pebble Beach), Bud Riccuci (Mount Dora), Ron Buck (Sarasota). Apologies for absence from Treasurer Jan Kline (Mount Dora) and Acting Vice President/ Past President Jackie Tucker (Pinehurst). (Two Clearwater delegates - Trevor Colby and Joy Sinclair sat in at the meeting).

President John Garbett called the meeting to order at 10.30am, determining that there was a quorum and welcoming those present. He began his opening remarks and as a reminder to the Board he gave a brief summary of the purpose of the Southeast Division taken from the Policy and Procedure Manual. He stated that it was a privilege to become the President of the Southeast Division and that Jackie Tucker would be a hard act to follow.

He said that there much work to do in Florida, club membership was in decline and the Division especially needed more American residents to become members in order to halt the downward trend. There was imbalance between year round residents and non-residents. Florida and North Carolina were the only States in the Southeast with active bowling clubs.

He was amazed that there seemed to be two categories of membership in Florida and he stated his opinion that club membership fees should automatically include the dues payable to USLBA/SED. In other countries, club membership included the dues to the national association, but here it was different. The sense of bonding to a club in Florida often seemed to be lacking as snowbirds and vacationers belonged to other clubs in their home countries. Meaning no disrespect, he got the impression that here it was a nice way to spend the winter for some people, they bowled and went home again and really did not have any bond with the club.

The same problem arose with the Board. President John was grateful to Ron Buck from Sarasota who was standing in for Sarasota as he had been trying to get a member from Sarasota to go on the Board but so far was unsuccessful. John thanked Jack Phillips for coming on to the Board from Pebble Beach. However, the Board still required two more members and a female Vice President. The same people were coming forward again and again and it was not an onerous task to be on the Board. There were only two meetings in a year. Past President Jackie Tucker was standing in as an acting Vice President and while this was not strictly correct, we needed her expertise until a new Vice President could be found. He ended by saying that we should try and put a positive spin on the Southeast Division and move forward.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held in December 2008 had been circulated and President John stated that he would prefer to dispense with the read of Minutes at every meeting as it was time-consuming. Copies of the Minutes are sent out prior to each meeting. Barb Roller moved that the Minutes should be approved as read and this was seconded by Linda McDougall.

MATTERS ARISING: At the December meeting, Jackie gave out DVD's to all the delegates present and each club has now received two DVD's each. DVD's had been given to Delray Beach in December by President John when he called in at the club to make contact and meet some of the members. They had nine members at present. There is also a booklet to go with the DVD's and this will be sent out when it has been received by the Division. Daytona Beach LBC had sent a check and membership list for fifteen members. John intended to contact Daytona and arrange to go and visit them to ascertain the position. He would like to visit every club over the next two years. Two members of Delray Beach LBC had played in this year's Mens Pairs in the Southeast Open at Sarasota.

Barb Roller had been asked about the MacWilliams Tournament and the amount of money left. She stated that she had forwarded the information to Jan Kline and was not exactly sure how much was left.

There had been an error in the previous Minutes which had mentioned Mr Athol. This should have read Athol Foden.

Mention had been made of Indian River/Vero Beach - this club appeared to be defunct. Extensive enquiries had been made with the City asked if the club was still in existence in the Fairgrounds and they said that it had not been there for some years. Barb Roller stated that it was her understanding the woman who had promoted it had either died, was ill or had moved away and she was not sure which.

Following this, discussion then arose about the Villages - Ron Buck and Bobbie Elwell stated that the green in the Villages was not legal - the measurements were incorrect and it was too short or wide and had no ditches. However, it seemed that residents were bowling on it and Ron Buck asked about the membership there.

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Bobbie Elwell stated that she knew of one member at Mount Dora who also played at The Villages. Ron Buck suggested that a "pitch could perhaps be made to the Management of the Villages to improve the green. President John suggested an approach to the member there to see what they would like and then approach the Villages to see it was possible to get something done to help. Barb Rolle suggesting that it could be a club within a club.

Bobbie Elwell remarked that there were also three rinks of Rubico within Watermen Village in Mount Dora and Bud Ricucci stated he had been to see it and it was good. Barb Roller asked if it would be suitable to use as a venue for an event and President John asked if the members there were interested in USLBA. Bud Ricucci thought that the membership was aged seventy and older.

ALTERNATES: Linda McDougall spoke about the alternates for USLBA Council Meetings, should she or Al Peliccio be unable to attend and mentioned that Al's term ends this year, 2009. The alternate could be someone who was present at the US Open. She stated that Muriel Rackliff who had been the previous Councillor and Vice President of USLBA had decided not to take the Presidency and not to go out to the Open at all. If she had told someone, then Linda could have attended the meeting. Linda stated that this should never happen and that there should always be two voices for this Division in the Council Meetings. There are always bodies at the Open from this Division so it will never happen again.

BYELAWS: President John asked if the copy of the Byelaws/Constitution currently in his possession was indeed the correct one. Barb Roller inspected the copy and stated that this was not the correct version and that Jackie Tucker was working on the final version to go into the Policy and Procedures Manual. One of the things done away with was the number of Standing Committees. Barb suggesting that we wait until Jackie gets back from vacation and then see what the position is. All Board Members would get a copy of the final version when it was completed.

John enquired who kept the Bowls Magazine updated and then read from the Policy and Procedures Manual part of a section on the Secretary's duties which included sending the list of members of the SED to the Bowls Magazine. Secretary explained that the roster spreadsheet was sent to Brian Studwell and he forwarded a copy to Bob Lane, the Circulation Manager of the Bowls Magazine.

AUDITORS: President John enquired whether the Southeast Division has auditors. Jan Kline used to perform the audit but as she is now the Treasurer a committee should be appointed to audit and report to the Annual Meeting. Barb stated that it was something done in house and John agreed that it was something that should be looked at.

MACWILLIAMS TOURNAMENT: Bobbi Elwell stated that Michael Maneilly would continue to run this. The tournament would continue to rotate between clubs.

CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence had been received so far this year by the Secretary, other than membership lists and check from Clubs.

OLD BUSINESS: WEBSITE FOR SOUTHEAST DIVISION.

President John proceeded to inform the meeting of his discussions with Jackie and the information he had obtained in relation to the setting up of a website for the SED. Athol Foden who runs the USLBA website had stated his charges but was not too interested in working or setting up another site for the SED because he had enough to do with his own work.

The St Petersburg website had been looked at and John had emailed and spoken to the designer of their site. Her mother bowled at that club and the design was good. The South Central Division's website had been drawn to her attention and she had looked at that and could do something for the Southeast Division along the same lines. John then spoke about the costs and how we could go about the funding of the site.

Barb Roller asked if the site could be linked to the USLBA's website and John replied that it could. Barb asked if Earl could do it and had thought that he was indeed willing to do it. John replied that Earl could not set the site up, but once it was set up Earl had the ability to input the information and data for the Division. John explained about the setting up of a website and what was involved regarding admin and input of information. Barb stated that her son was involved in computers and could set up a webpage.

Ron Buck asked what the costs would be. John told the meeting that the costs were approximately \$1100 to set up and design a website including \$750 to put the pages on the server, the domain name would be \$18 per annum. Server itself is \$180 per annum and maintenance fee for running the site would be around \$30 monthly. Linda McDougall stated the figure per annum would be around \$555. The information input would be the responsibility of the Southeast Division. John said that the funding could be done with the interest from the CD without too much additional cost, perhaps no more than \$50 or \$100 a year.

Barb Roller said that the monies were not doing anything and had not done anything for years. We were at a critical time for lawn bowling. John stated that the Division needed the publicity which a website would bring. Barb asked if John was happy with the woman who would do the website and he read excerpts from the emails he had received from her (Linda Ricker). He thought that it should be professionally done and explained that she worked for a company called Chambers Systems who set up websites professionally. John then read out an email forwarded by Jackie Tucker. She had been in touch with Linda Ricker and had forwarded what Linda had written to John. Linda

McDougall asked for confirmation of the costs involved, John explained about the setting up costs and expense. Linda McDougall made a motion that Chambers Systems should be approached and that the Board should approve the set up of a professional website. Seconded by Barb Roller. Discussion ensued about an English website that Earl could have set up, and Ron Buck commented about the Sarasota website. The English website was not deemed suitable for the SED.

Discussion then followed about the name of the website, which has been suggested as SED.ORG and the possibilities of linking all the Division's club websites to the main one. Al Pelicchio asked about the club sites that were operating at present and stated that Pinehurst could not afford a website. He wanted to know if clubs could use the SED website and it was explained that any club with its own website would have a link on the main one and visitors to the SED website could then click on the relevant link to access a club's website. Trevor Colby was asked about Clearwater's website and he stated that it was free. Barb suggested that Pinehurst could follow Clearwater's example and have a free site. Board approved the set up of the website for the SED and John would contact Linda Ricker to get the details and expenses sorted out.

#### TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Jan Kline had prepared comprehensive sets of Reports which were handed out to the meeting. Linda McDougall commented that the return on investment would pay for the website.

MacWilliams Tournament: Barb Roller queried \$500 and \$640 entries in the report and discussion and explanations followed.

Ron Buck queried expenses, entry fees and to query with Jan Kline the entry for \$660 in 2008. He thought that there was a mix up here and the figure was incorrect.

The general feeling of the meeting was that Jan Kline had done an excellent job in the preparation of the Treasurer's Report.

Barb Roller moved that the Report be accepted with the exception of the corrections and this was seconded by Linda McDougall. President John to contact Jan Kline re the queries. John agreed that Jan had done a marvellous job.

#### UMPIRES REPORT

Bud Ricucci spoke about the number of umpires in the SED. There were at present six women and nineteen men. New umpires, Tom Cole, J Gingrich, Brian Smith and Russ Tees.

Doug Marshall (Lakeland) had indicated to Bud that Arlene Marshall would like to be a US Umpire. Conrad Melton was preparing a new test of ten questions for recertification purposes.

#### UMPIRE RECRUITMENT

Bud had emailed all the umpires introducing himself and asked that each umpire make it a priority and a goal to try and recruit another. A couple of umpires had decided not to recertify, but people were responding favorably when asked to consider becoming an umpire.

Bud spoke about the USLBA Championship playdowns being held this year at Mount Dora. There were no non-playing umpires available to umpire there. Barb Roller spoke about the success at the Ladies Open with people on adjacent rinks being asked to measure and Linda McDougall stated that the only reason for calling an umpire should be for an explanation of a rule or perhaps a caliper measure. John asked if members knew that they should call the skip first before an umpire.

Bud spoke about the restriction on movement of players at the Mens Open and Barb replied that the ladies had decided to use this rule only if there was slow play involved. Discussion followed on restriction on movement.

Al Pelicchio commented on speeding up play and the ten minute rule. Explained that if game was still going on ten minutes before the next game was due to start, then the end being played was the last one they could play.

President John remarked that there had been the difference of an hour between the first game finishing and the last. Triples were good, bell rung. Discussion followed on the length of time it took to play some games. It appeared that it was the same people all the time who were slow players.

Barb Roller stated that there should be as few restrictions as possible and asked whether there would be restrictions in the playdowns. It was hoped not.

John congratulated Bud Ricucci on his handling of the umpiring at the Southeast.

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## COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Al Peliccio commenced his report stated that there was nothing really that had occurred since the last meeting. The National Open is now to be known as the US OPEN.

President John enquired whether USLBA dues were to be raised and Al stated that they may go up. Colin Smith (President of USLBA) had wanted to double the fees. Bobbi Elwell talked about the increase in her own club fees already and the possibility of having to add more with an increase in USLBA dues. Discussion then followed about the present costs of \$10 to USLBA and \$3 to the SED.

Linda McDougall stated that the fees would have to be increased to at least \$15 as they had remained the same for many years and she would support an increase to \$15. John said that the Division would have to support any increase. Ron Buck said that the USLBA should do something to benefit its clubs - for example - giving something from the USLBA to each club. The clubs should use the DVD's that had been provided and Al stated that the USLBA could give towels bearing the USLBA logo to every member. John said that the club delegates could disburse these to each member. John commented that he had spoken to people this week at the Open and they had not heard of the DVDs. Were they being put away without anyone in the club knowing of their existence? Al wanted to ask for towels at the Council Meeting.

Discussion then followed about fees in general and what clubs pay. Whether or not it was mandatory for people to be members and that some clubs do make it mandatory to pay USLBA dues. After more discussion about the level of the raise of the USLBA dues, the Board agreed that Linda and Al should ask that the raise be no more than \$5 and that they should ask the USLBA to provide towels with USLBA logo to the members paying the USLBA dues.

Barb Roller wanted a proposal put to the USLBA Council meeting that their dress code policy be amended so that teams are allowed to wear colored and matching shorts, singles also being considered a team. Further discussion followed between Barb Roller and Al Peliccio about the US Open in California last year and the dress code. Barb also wanting to do the same thing for the dress code for the Southeast, this was on the Agenda for later. Discussion on whether or not the dress code was in the Rules book and agreed that there was a dress code stated in there for the National Championships and the US Open.

Linda confirmed that the proposal should be matching colored shirts and shorts. Barb confirmed that singles should be a team.

## SOUTHEAST OPEN REPORT

**LADIES:** Barb Roller commented that the Ladies Open with thirty two singles, thirty two pairs and fourteen fours had been fantastic and it was wonderful to see Mary Meldrum become bowler of the tournament, winning the singles and pairs and placing in the fours championship flight. The award this year had been a white ceramic pineapple on a base. If the Mens Open wanted to consider how the women ran their tournament, they would be happy to assist.

**MENS:** Al Peliccio stated that it had been a great Open tournament; they had thirty two singles, thirty two pairs and twenty two triples. A great group of men this year. He was of the opinion that he would favor the format that the ladies used, giving the entrants more games. Discussion followed about the numbers in the mens tournament and that there was a problem with working the numbers.

Al stated that Earl Shaner and Michael Maneilly would be willing to be on a committee for the mens open. However Ron Buck stated that he was dead against the womens format as he thought a winner should be a winner without defeat. In the womens format, an entrant could lose a game, but still win the championship. There was much discussion on the merits of winning and losing one game. Round robin format was used in the playdowns for the US Championships. Al stated that it comes down to whether you want more people to enter tournaments or less and if the way the women ran their tournament created more interest in the sport, why not try something different.

Barb stated that the "cream rises to the top" in their format, explained about the championship flight and that everyone has a chance. She learned of this format in the South Central and said that the Southwest Division, having resisted this format for so long, had tried this same format in their Open and they loved it. They are now keeping the format. It encourages more people to travel a distance because they don't have to sit out the second day.

President John remarked that in the current Mens format, if you did not succeed on the first day, you were out and had a blank day on the second day. Asked how it should move forward for the next year.

Jack Phillips stated that the men should not do what the women want as it had nothing to do with them. Al Peliccio wanted to try it for one year and if it did not work or it was not liked then they could go back to the original format. A committee could be formed for the men with Al Peliccio, Brian Smith, Earl Shaner, Ron Buck. Al thanking Ron and Bettylou for their help in running the mens tournament.

SED Executive Board should appoint the tournament chairperson and that person to decide the running of the tournament and its format. John confirmed that the ladies have a committee and chairperson and that is endorsed by the Board. He also commented that something has to be done with the mens tournament and something new should perhaps be tried. Barb asked whether the Southeast determines the tournament or whether the individuals running the tournament determine it. John stated that there was no question in his mind that the Southeast determines how the tournament should be run. Barb questioning this and stated that the women have a committee to run the ladies open. John stated that the Board should delegate to a committee of men for the mens tournament. Secretary queried the wording which should be that the Board select the chairperson and they then select their committee. Al Peliccio was to be the Chair for Mens Tournament and he should appoint his committee including Ron Buck, Michael Maneilly and Earl Shaner. Al accepted this decision. Discussion about the number of people on a committee. John stated that it should not be more than four or five. Al asked Barb if they could have her assistance if they decided to go along the same route as the women. She agreed.

## TOURNAMENTS

1. Barb Roller asked that all tournament starting times be standardised at 9.30 am with the exception of Lakeland which remain at 9am. This due to the speed of Lakeland's surface and the fact that the park closes early. This to go on the website.

2. Barb Roller stated that entrants must be members of the USLBA/SED. SED Open would be exempt from this restriction as people travelled from abroad simply to play in the Opens. Much discussion followed regarding residency and what should be on the entry forms and Ron Buck proposed as follows:

If in residence for more than thirty (30) days the entrant must be a member of USLBA and SED and this to be put on all Southeast Open Tournament Entry forms.

Seconded by Al Peliccio.

3. Barb Roller proposed that entry forms must state dress code, proposing that the dress code should read: Matching shirts must have collars and sleeves. Skirts, skorts or shorts can be colored but must be no shorter than three (3) inches above the knee. Skip or person sending in the entry form to be responsible for informing the team of the dress code. Seconded by Bobbi Elwell.

4. Bud Ricucci talked about acknowledgement of entry forms. He remarked that on one occasion, a team had gone to play in a tournament at another club and on arrival found that they had not been registered. There was nothing in place to check whether or not entry monies had been received. Discussion on checks and depositing monies into the bank followed. Because there is a cancellation date on the forms, the checks are not processed straight away. Bud proposed that entry forms should include a space for an email address and that the Manager of the tournament should contact each entrant by email (or phone if no email address could be provided) to confirm that the Manager had indeed received their form and entry money and whether or not you are in the tournament. Seconded by Al Peliccio.

## NEW BUSINESS

Ron Buck spoke about the need for support from other clubs for tournaments and the need to keep schedules clear of overlapping and conflicting tournaments. He wanted the Minutes to be checked, for March 2006, where he believed that there was discussion on clearing schedules for tournaments. Secretary to check.

He asked for support for tournaments and stated that only two people had come from Clearwater to tournaments at Sarasota. Bowls could be loaned for use on Rubico if going to a club with that surface.

Al Peliccio stated that one team had come from Clearwater to Sarasota for the Open.

Barb Roller commented that schedules are full and it was perhaps a generational thing. Al stated that we should encourage our members to go to tournaments at each club.

Ron Buck stated that a change in attitude was needed as Sarasota members were commented that they would not go to tournaments elsewhere if people did not come to theirs. He wanted members to go back to your own clubs and get support for entering other club's tournaments.

President John commented that people can't be forced to participate, but could be encouraged to participate in tournaments elsewhere. We can't survive with the "jitney brigade" alone.

Barb Roller produced a brochure from the Northeast Division prepared by Eileen Luba which was coloured and glossy and depicted young people bowling. This is something that might be looked at for this Division and its clubs. It can be used for any club as the wording is generic.

Linda McDougall then proposed adjournment. President John thanked board for attending the meeting and there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12.53pm.

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