



SURREY COUNTY BOWLING ASSOCIATION
[Founded 1911]

12 Hindhead Way, Wallington, Surrey SM6 8PD
Tel: 020 8680 2546 email: harvey953@btinternet.com

To all Club Hon. Secretaries

January 2011

Ladies and Gentlemen

I take the opportunity of wishing you and your clubmates a most enjoyable season in this the County's Centenary year.

I hope that your Club will take the opportunity to take part in the celebration matches that have been arranged and although I realise that some clubs feel they have no interest in the County and what it does, I can assure you that the County has an interest in EVERY club affiliated to it.

The County began its celebrations on the 22nd at the Gala at the Savill Court Hotel. Nearly 300 guests came together to toast the County and exchange memories about their bowling experiences. It is to be regretted that only 26 of the 147 clubs were be represented.

The present financial crises that everyone faces are a major problem to several clubs, particularly those based at Council Greens. Local Councils are required to rein in spending and make substantial savings resulting in swinging increases in rents. It is evident that this situation will be with us for some time and not wishing to 'teach anyone to suck eggs': I would recommend that clubs look seriously at their own funding from the point of view of membership fees; to ensure that these keep pace with both inflation and the likelihood of increasing rents with a possible falling membership. The County cannot guarantee to have solutions but is here to assist you in this matter if at all possible.

The County operates, on your behalf by the good offices of volunteers. One of the most important and prestigious is that of President. Rumours abound about the length of service and the cost implications of holding such office. Changes were made to the Presidential Ladder term of office at the last AGM, when the term was reduced to 3 years. (i.e. JVP, SVP, President). Personal expense has been and is being looked at and the rumours of cost are wildly exaggerated. If a member of your Club is interested in taking such a step, please advise them to contact me for further details.

For the information of Clubs who had fixtures with Sutton Unison, I should point out that the club is no longer affiliated to either Surrey or BE. The club I understand proposes to continue playing from its base at Cheam Village BC. I must point out that neither the County nor BE recommends affiliated clubs playing unaffiliated clubs. Questions of liability both when playing home or away are at issue and should any instances occur where claims need to be made, your own insurance company may not honour your insurance due to non-affiliation of Sutton Unison. It is of course up to every club to make their own decisions but I would urge you to ensure your club understands its legal position.

In closing, I repeat my earlier statement the Surrey County Bowling Association has an interest in all clubs and is here to help. Your Area Councillors and Councillors will be only too pleased to assist in any way they can.

The President and Council wish you well and hope your season progresses as you would want it to.

Sincerely

Derek Harvey
County Secretary