

LEVANTE LAWN BOWLS (LLB)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21st October 2025 AT SANTARA RESORT RESTAURANT GRAN ALICANT

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Gail Willshire, Keith Longshaw and Anthony James

President (Delegado): Bob Donnelly	Benitachell	Y	Monte Mar	Y
Vice President (Chair): Keith Longshaw	Bonalba	Y	Quesada	Y
Secretary: Kevin Storey	Calpe Paseo	N	San Luis	Y
Treasurer: Lisa Bonsor	Calpe BC	Y	San Miguel	Y
Membership secretary: Gail Willshire	Country Bowls	Y	Vistabella	Y
Membership treasurer: Lynn Greenland	El CID	Y		
Winter League Co-ordinator: Peter Bonsor	El Rancho	Y		
Northern League Co-ordinator: Peter Matthews	Emerald Isle	Y		
Southern League co-ordinator Temp: Mel Ward	Greenlands	Y		
SA Co-ordinator Winter: John O'Brian	La Marina	Y		
SA Co-ordinator Summer: Mel Ward	Phoenix	Y		
Associate Co-ordinator: VACANCY Temp Peter Matthews				
Tour Co-ordinator: Steve Hibberd				

Total Number of Clubs: 16 Number of Clubs Represented: 15

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting & EGM held on 19TH August 2025 were accepted.

Proposer: Mel Ward Quesada, Seconder: Steve Wailes Country Bowls

3. Matters Arising.

None

4. President – Delegado Bob Donnelly.

Bob had nothing to report but did explain he had been ill and was unable to attend the Valencians so asked for a summary of the results if Possible. Since the meeting it has been confirmed that the results are already displayed on the LLB website. The winners are listed below:

Mens Singles. Dave Morrison Greenlands

Ladies Singles. Maria Morawiec BBC

Mens Pairs. Peter Morgan, Scott Malden

Ladies Pairs. Yvonne Briden, Jean McLaughlin El Cid.

Mixed Pairs. Linda Richards, Jeff Richards. BBC

Mixed Triples. Philip Gavigan, Maggie Furness, Alan Bannister

Mixed Rinks. T Grimes. Philip Gavigan, Maggie Furness, Alan Bannister.

5. Secretary Kevin Storey.

Southern League Fixture. Following the situation which arose mid September regarding displeasure over the Friday leagues fixtures Kevin read a statement highlighting his concerns regarding what has gone on. The statement is attached below.

On the 14th of September at 14.44 I received an E-mail from June Jones from San Luis on behalf of her club and Emerald Isles, San Miguel and Vistabella. The E-mail referenced an E-mail which was attached and had been sent on 10th September from Carl Wilson the President of Emerald Isles bowling club. June stated that for whatever reason the Secretary of the LLB had neither acknowledged the E-mail or distributed it to its intended audience.

The reason the E-mail was not forwarded by me was that I never received it

I would like to ask any person present in this room today if I have ever intentionally not forwarded any messages or content on their behalf when asked to do so?

The original E-mail and the follow up message from June were sent in relation to the fixture lists which had been created and distributed by our then League co-ordinator Dave Morrison. The general consensus between the four clubs being that the fixture lists were unfair and needed to be changed. The original fixtures contained runs of 2,3,4 or even 5 continuous home or away fixtures which was deemed as being far from ideal.

When my club Country Bowls received the fixtures our committee debated the suitability of the lists and we agreed they were not good, however we felt that even though we had continuous runs of home and away fixtures we still played all of the clubs home and away within the season so we felt the right thing to do was to accept the fixtures. Our fixtures were worse than some clubs but we did not think they were unfair.

The Definition from the Oxford English Language in a sporting context is not following the rules of a game or sport. There is nothing within our Constitution or conditions of play that states fixtures must follow a particular pattern or be home – away – home – away. The only thing stated is that games will be played on a Friday at 10am or 2pm which ever is applicable. The sentiment being expressed was that the fixtures favoured Greenland's as they had smaller continuous runs of home and away fixtures. Call me Nieve if you wish but I do not believe this was done deliberately or maliciously by Dave. I would trust all of the officials of the LLB to act with integrity and impartiality, if you do not share this view then you need to let us know and at the next AGM I would be happy to stand aside for your more trusted candidate.

Every person in this room serves their clubs in one capacity or another. You will all invest hours of your time in the service of your members with little or no thanks expressed from anyone. Well this is exactly the same for the people who volunteer their time in the service of the LLB so I would if I may like to ask you to consider a scenario.

You have travelled to a foreign Country representing your adopted Nation in an International Tournament. You have surpassed expectations, defeated the reigning Champions qualified from the group stages and just lost to one of the top mixed pairs in World bowls by the last bowl of a tie braker. Imagine how deflated and disappointed you would be feeling. Then imagine opening your E-mails to be hit with these critical emails criticising a fixture list you provided in your own time in good faith and for the benefit of everyone who plays in that league. You don't have to Like Dave Morrison to be able to recognise that the timing of this approach was abysmal.

I am not surprised a very frustrated League co-ordinator resigned with immediate effect. Im going to read Daves resignation letter to you and I want you to forget about which side of this fixtures debacle you are on just listen to the frustration of a man who for three years has voluntarily given his time so we can all enjoy our bowls.

Hi Kevin,

I have just received this email and just to inform you and the complaining clubs that I will resign from my position with immediate effect.

Having done this now for 3 years it's the same clubs that complained initially about afternoon games. Then it was the divisional byes. Now about home and away games.

Just to comment there isn't any advantage over the season when you play your home or away games. You end up playing the same amount of games home and away each.

When you have two teams on the same division it's easy to plan them being home and away. When you have teams from the same club in different division then it becomes a lot harder. My focus when I did the schedule was to try and reduce afternoon games. Not thinking people now would then complain about home and away games.

I have more important things to do in life without this nonsense so good luck on whoever takes this job on.

I asked Dave to reconsider and to stay in his position but unfortunately the frustration was too strong and he has walked away. I get some clubs were frustrated, and some clubs wanted to change the fixtures but was has really angered me and got me so frustrated is what went on following this point.

I wrote to the committee for some guidance as this was something I was unsure what we should do to rectify the issue. I felt we should call an EGM to sort it out.

At this point I received an E-mail from Bob Donnelly President of the LLB.

Thanks Kevin,

Unfortunately it is *not yours* are my *decision* and *the clubs have the right to vote if they are not content with any decision including scheduling.*

If 5 clubs have already shown their discontent it would be undemocratic to go against their wishes so I feel strongly as President that an urgent vote be taken and in my position I am legally responsible for the democratic running of the LLB.

Regards.

Bob.

So five out of 10 Southern clubs wanted a change, this is obviously not a majority a point which I pointed out.

I was now seriously considering my position as Secretary, you will all be aware in the last couple of years when changes have been proposed and some delegates from some clubs have felt they are moving too fast they have objected to votes being held as they felt there was not enough time for clubs to debate the issues within their clubs. This came to a head and June Jones proposed that for a vote to take place on any proposal introduced to the LLB a minimum of 5 weeks' notice must be given to allow all clubs the opportunity to debate it with their members. This was voted on at the next EGM and was written into Law. So Bob who has put in writing that he is legally responsible for the democratic running of the LLB was actively forcing through a proposal without a debate at an EGM and without the required 5 weeks' notice and consultation period. This is in Direct contradiction to what it states in the Constitution.

Section 8 Extraordinary general meeting:

An EGM can be called:

- A) At the direction of the committee
- B) By any 3 member clubs giving notice to the LLB Secretary in writing setting forth clearly the specific business for such a meeting
- C) Where proposals are to be submitted thereby requiring a vote, these must be sent to the LLB Secretary to issue them to all Clubs for them to discuss with their members, at least five weeks in advance of the EGM.

So even though internally I was conflicted I followed the written instructions of Bob and I asked the Southern Clubs to vote on keeping the old fixtures or adopting a revised fixture list. The vote chose by a majority decision to change the fixtures, I would like to place on record thanks to John O'Brien and Mel Ward who stepped up and produced a revised set of fixtures that we are now all working our way through. And I will say Country Bowls Club

now has a much worse fixture list than the original one, but we accept it as we accepted the original list.

But I cannot accept being forced to break the rules of our constitution because at the time it suited some clubs to do so. If 5 weeks is the notice period for a vote how can we legally have a vote on a proposal to change the fixtures in less than 1 week?

I honestly don't care about the fixtures everyone plays everyone home and away across the season.

I now face a personal dilemma. I mostly enjoy the role of Secretary of the LLB and I like to think I do a reasonable job and try to help the clubs and the members as well as I can.

However unless the clubs can give me an assurance that the constitution will be followed at all times then I will offer my resignation to the President and like Dave will go back to enjoying my bowls and let others deal with all of the issues.

So please delegates please forget about the fixtures and whether you liked them or not, whether you wanted them changed or not and this vote includes the Northern Clubs as they have a vested interest as well.

Are you committed to following the LLB Constitution at all times, yes or no.

The clubs were asked to Vote on the question and were in the process of doing so when June Jones asked if she could speak in relation to what had been said. June pointed out when Dave issued the fixtures at August's meeting he invited feedback if clubs had issues with the fixtures. June said she wrote to Dave pointing out some of the issues raised in the statement above. Dave was not at the meeting but it was fed back that he did not receive the e-mail and also that he was travelling abroad in preparation for the tournament mentioned above. Because of this contact June felt Dave should have agreed to look at the fixtures and make changes where required. For this reason she challenged the position held by Kevin as she felt changing the fixtures did not require a vote. June also reminded the delegates of her previous involvement in running many LLB leagues and stated the grouping of fixtures in Dave's list was not something they had in the past.

The alternative position to June's was that as her correspondence to Dave in August was between them and the LLB Secretary was unaware of it and knew nothing of the clubs complaint until 14th of August. By this time some clubs had issued the fixtures to their players and owners etc. and some clubs had not expressed a desire to change the fixtures. This was the justification for the vote and as stated above 5 weeks notice should have been given.

John O'Brien felt that some clubs were carrying out a witch hunt this was not really discussed and cannot be confirmed. Steve Hibberd felt that trying to change the fixtures as proposed was a recipe for disaster and was always going to cause grief and confirmed

Quesada had been against the issuing of the new fixtures as they agreed as long as all teams played all teams home and away that was all that was required.

The vote took place as requested by Kevin and all 15 clubs confirmed it was their desire that the Constitution (including the lead time for an EGM and vote) was respected at all times going forward.

Dave Morrisons had Proposed change to Friday league structure at the last meeting: Daves ideas had been shared with all the clubs and the clubs had discussed the ideas at committee level. A show of hands took place by the clubs to decide if Mel Ward should take Daves ideas and form a proposal to change the number of leagues on a Friday. The vote took place and 8 of the 11 clubs expressed a preference for the structure to remain the same. Mel will not formulate a Proposal as it is not required.

Prize Money Distribution for Valencians 2026 onwards. Pete Bonsor detailed some ideas at the last meeting to re-distribute the entry fees collected from the entries into the Valencians. This would better reflect the number of entries in each discipline being played. The higher the number of entries the larger the prize pot for that competition. Once again the details of Peters ideas had been shared with the clubs to debate at committee level and we asked for a show of hands from the clubs to decide if he should convert his ideas into a formal proposal. Bob pointed out that as we are an amateur organisation we should not be offering cash prizes under Spanish law, that is why we pay out in vouchers. Some alternative payment methods were discussed but the payment issue was not seen as a reason for not pursuing the initial ideas from Peter. All clubs were in favour of Pete to continue exploring his ideas and for him to formulate a proposal to be voted on.

6. Treasurer Lisa Bonsor

Lisa pointed out we have 14,300 Euros in the bank account. Some money which has been paid in has ended up in the wrong accounts and both Lisa and Lynn will work together to sort this out. Lisa has asked that we remind clubs that payments relating to her role are paid into the number 1 account.

Lynn controls number 2 for the federation fees etc.

An expected payment from Linea Director in respect of the Valencians has not yet appeared in the account, Lisa is talking with Gail in an attempt to bring this issue to a conclusion.

7 Membership Secretary Gail Willshire.

Gail confirmed 1001 federated members at this moment in time.
This time last year we had 1078 Federated members

8 Membership Treasurer Lynn Greenland.

Lynn asked that all clubs be reminded that 2026 Federation fees need to be paid in good time to allow her to pay the fees by 10th January. Clubs paying by bank transfer must pay it into the number 2 account (ends in 21). Lynn also confirmed that the fees remain unchanged as she has not been informed of any changes from Valencia. There was a very brief discussion re leaving the subsidy for all players in place, there were no strong views expressed against this happening so the subsidy will remain.

9 Correspondence Kevin Storey.

None

10 Winter league Peter Bonsor.

Confirmed the season was up and running, he also confirmed that some Prem 20 games had been completed.

In terms of the 2026 Valencians Pete confirmed that the conditions of play will need to be adjusted to ensure when offering dates all rinks should be offered to the away player to draw from. A reduced selection of rinks can be used but only if agreed by the away players.

11 Northern League Peter Matthews.

Fixtures are underway, structure of teams has been adjusted to teams of three triples. This has resulted in 12 entries from the clubs into the leagues. Which means all teams play from October to March in a full fixture list.

12. Southern League Co-ordinator Mel Ward.

Mel Ward from Quesada has taken over from Dave Morrison as Temporary Southern League Co-ordinator. Hopefully all will go well and he can be endorsed in the role permanently at the AGM next year. Kevin thanked Mel for taking over when required and Mel in turn thanked John O'Brien for doing the required alterations to the fixture lists. Some issues had cropped up in the first week with names on the Result sheets not being clear and correct which caused some confusion. It was quickly rectified but it is important that clubs ensure the forms are completed correctly. As the review of the Structure that Dave had looked into was rejected by the clubs Mel does not need to do any work towards re-structuring.

13. SA Co-Ordinator Winter John O'Brien.

There was a delay in receiving some afternoon result sheets, John pointed out this was due to the sheets being sent to the wrong contact details. He reminded clubs

the correct contact details are on the result sheets and they are the Contact Details that must be used.

14 SA Co-Ordinator Summer Mel Ward .

Nothing to report

15 Associate Co-Ordinator Peter Matthews.

Nothing to report

16 Tours co-ordinator Steve Hibberd.

Steve confirmed the two tours went off very well and the teams (Jersey and Roker Marine) have had a great time. One of the players from Jersey enjoyed the hospitality of Emerald Isle a little too much and fell broke a few ribs and missed his flight home.

17 AOB.

It was asked for confirmation that subs could move up to the next division. It was confirmed this is ok a max of 3 players in any week. June questioned why no vote had been carried out in relation to this issue which she picked up from the previous minutes. She was shown the LLB document proving this vote had taken place previously and the LLB control Documents have been updated to reflect this. The use of subs was once again discussed briefly no issues arose.

Ed Lambert from Phoenix asked if the Secretary had shared the address of their new green with all of the clubs as requested. This had not yet been done but was shared immediately following the meeting.

Pete Bonsor pointed out that the dates for the Nationals on the LLB calander must be listed as provisional, as they now come under the control of Madrid. The governing bodies have stated no player can be penalised and miss the Championships if there is a clash with an International tournament. This situation may potentially arise this year and therefore the Nationals may need to be moved within the Calendar.

It was asked what would take priority a re-arranged league game or a Valencians fixture. Leage games will always take priority.

Kevin pointed out that due to the terrible weather last week some urbanisations in Murcia remain without usable water due to contamination caused by the resulting floods Some Country Bowls members are without water in their homes still and may struggle with Laundry. Kevin asked that should a player need to wear different coloured shorts in the short term that clubs take a sympathetic view. Hopefully it will not arise and if it does the situation will be rectified quickly.

18. Date and Venue of the next meeting.

Next meeting will be on 9th December 2025

The meeting closed at 11.30am

An EGM then took place to vote on 1 item the LLB Dress Code.