

SOUTHEAST DIVISION USLBA

ANNUAL MEETING DECEMBER 3rd 2009

President John Garbett (Lakeland) called the meeting to order and welcomed Board Members, Delegates and others. He thanked Mount Dora LBC and its members for the use of the facilities especially at a very busy time when they were preparing for the Holiday Bowl. He explained that the meeting was at 10.00 am for the benefit of Mount Dora. He thanked the Board Members and Delegates for attending the meeting and the Board Members in particular for their support during the past year.

A Roll Call of Club Delegates was taken and attendance noted from the following:

Asheville, Clearwater, Lakeland, Maple Leaf, Mount Dora, Pebble Beach, Pinehurst, Suncoasters. Apologies received from Ron Buck, Sarasota. A Quorum was determined and the meeting proceeded.

President John asked that comments and questions be made through the chair and not across the room in order to keep things moving in a timely fashion. President John spoke about the continued drive for membership to the Southeast Division Clubs and urged those present to do what they could to generate interest and new members to try and halt further decline in the sport. He stated that he was impressed with the efforts being made by clubs with Open Houses and other methods being used to attract members and numbers had risen slightly but at a slow pace. He spoke about the Marketing Program being rolled out by the USLBA and the Southeast Division had supported this move after initial concern from the Board regarding the Agency being based on the West Coast. The Board had received assurances that the East Coast would be accommodated, supporting the SED Open and the East Coast Challenge. The position would be judged later on the positive results or lack of them in the first year. He stated that we had to look at the bigger picture and the increase in membership overall and give the agency a chance. The situation would be monitored and we would see what happened. He spoke about the new SED website which had links to the SED clubs and recommended that everyone should visit the site at [www.sedlawnbowls.org](http://www.sedlawnbowls.org). It was proving to be a useful tool, many enquiries had been received asking where people could bowl. Unfortunately, some wanted to bowl in places where no clubs existed at present, but it was felt to have been a worthwhile venture setting up the website for the Division. He urged Delegates to check to see if the information on the website for their particular clubs was up to date.

President John went on to thank Earl Shaner (Mount Dora) for his efforts in undertaking the role of Webmaster for the Southeast Division website. Earl would speak about the website later in the meeting. John stated that he had deliberately not convened a nominating committee this year. He wanted delegates to play a more active role in the Division, although commending them for the work they already do, he wanted to see more clubs represented on the Board. There are vacancies on the Board and every club should have a voice.

He congratulated the SED members on their successes in the National Championships held in California. Jackie Tucker (Pinehurst) was the Runner Up in the Womens Singles. Jean Adams and Angela Carkhuff (both Mount Dora) had taken fourth place in the Womens Pairs. In the National Open held in Arizona, the rink skipped by Abe Kaplan along with Earl Shaner, Bud Riccucci and Gary Williamson (all Mount Dora) had achieved second place. Barb Roller (Clearwater) and Jean Roney (Canada) had won the Womens Pairs.

He then went on to say that the USLBA is the umbrella organization for Lawn Bowls in the USA and each country had its Association and Divisions. The Southeast Division is our channel through which we can influence the decisions and policy of the USLBA and we should increase efforts to have total membership of the USLBA in every club. He accepted that there were difficulties with resorts but asked that clubs continue to support the organization and thanked them for their continued support.

The Minutes of the Spring 2009 Meeting were taken as read, approved by Jack Phillips (Pebble Beach) and seconded by Rae Ney (Lakeland). There were no matters arising.

There had been no correspondence received, President John had written to Governor Crist asking for him to endorse a Southeast Division Open Day along the same lines as Governor Schwarzenegger had done for California. No response had been forthcoming and further attempts would be made to try and achieve this Open Day. President John had also written to Clearwater City Council in support of Clearwater LBC and had spoken with Daytona City Council in support of Daytona LBC. Clearwater City had withdrawn their funding from the club and Daytona City had taken all but two of the club's rinks leaving them with no ditches and unfinished rinks.

Treasurer Jan Kline (Mount Dora) presented a comprehensive report, giving explanations of the income and expenses, the amounts in the checking account, the CD and the MacWilliams Tournament expenses. All dues and monies had been sent out where appropriate. She invited questions from the floor. The report was approved by Jack Phillips and seconded by Hans Momkes (Asheville). President John thanked Jan for her efforts as Treasurer in her first year and stated that she had done an outstanding job. He commented on the auditing of the accounts every two years as stated in the Policy & Procedure Manual. This stated that the accounts should be audited by three members of the Southeast Division. Ideally from Mount Dora as the Treasurer was in Mount Dora. Beth Forbes (Mount Dora) agreed to find two others and would have the accounts audited for the March meeting. President John thanked Beth.

The Councilors, Linda McDougall (Suncoasters) and alternate George Tucker (Pinehurst) then gave their reports. George stated firstly that he wanted to commend Mount Dora on the outstanding job the membership did for the Holiday Bowl and how much everyone enjoyed this event. He had attended the USLBA meeting in Arizona and commented as follows: The 2010 Championships would be held in the South Central Division, Arizona and 2011 in North West Division, Seattle. He stated that the hard copy of the Bowls Magazine was being discontinued after the Autumn issue but it appeared likely that the magazine would be available online. Barb Roller (Clearwater) asked if it would be published three times a year and apparently it would be three separate issues. Linda McDougall stated that the magazine could be printed by someone in each club and copies distributed for members. The cost of publishing the magazine was around \$21,000 annually. Membership had dropped drastically and the marketing firm had been hired to see if they could help increase membership figures. The firm had some very good ideas and would concentrate on the National Championships, the US Open and other tournaments held out west. This program would not cost the Southeast Division anything and the extra monies held by the USLBA would be used. The Council as a whole voted to do something or bowls in the USA would die. George Tucker stated that especially on the east coast, membership was declining. He gave the example of Pinehurst dropping membership. He thought the firm had some good ideas. Membership overall in the USA was down by twenty seven percent in nine years and could not continue in this direction. The cost of marketing was around \$24,000 plus \$4,000 annually. It was to be hoped that we would get our money's worth out of it. Jackie Tucker stated that the USLBA President, Isabella Forbes had appointed Athol Foden (Webmaster of [www.uslba.org](http://www.uslba.org)) to oversee this marketing, so that money was not being paid out for research. We already know what is wrong. The firm would be promoting lawn bowling and getting onto sports channels so that people in the USA know what lawn bowling is. He would be setting up contacts throughout the country and Jackie would be the contact for the east coast. If there is something special going on that would be good to videotape and that we could promote, the firm wants to know about it. If your club is holding a novice tournament with new bowlers, it could be put onto video as a piece to show, so that people could see that you don't have to be experienced or know the sport from another country but that it is a sport being taught here. Linda McDougall stated that after much discussion the USLBA dues had doubled. For twenty seven years the dues had remained at \$10 and it was felt to be ridiculous that there had not been an increase. Therefore the dues would now be \$20 per person. It had been thought that even if one thousand members were lost over this increase, the USLBA would still be "ahead of the game" moneywise. She commented that it was the cost of a couple of coffees at Starbucks. Jackie Tucker (Pinehurst) commented that in any sport, golf, ten pin bowling etc there had to be a governing body to set the rules and standards of play and that is what the USLBA does. She posed the question – What do you get for the money? and cited the online magazine. Other things were available. Frank Ransome has training materials and if you required these, to write to him and he would send them out. She commented that our job is to sell the USLBA to our club members.

President John stated that the biggest thing heard in clubs is that it is nothing to do with us, roll a few bowls and go home. This attitude is why we are in the doldrums we presently find ourselves in. He stated that in any sport, you don't have the option not to belong to the governing body. In other countries, the club is affiliated to the association and the members pay the fee to the club. The fee includes the association membership dues. The "dual" membership in Florida is causing a problem and therefore we need the marketing firm to give a kick start to lawn bowling.

Barb Roller asked if perhaps contact could be made with Oprah Winfrey because whatever Oprah support, sells. President John suggested that suggestion be remitted to the Marketing Company – a “name” on board always helps. George Tucker remarked that Oprah has a magazine and perhaps we could find out if it would be possible to get something in the magazine and suggesting we should write to the Editor.

Beth Forbes asked questions about the Olympics as curling and archery had seen increased membership numbers. Linda McDougall stated that some years ago they had been told that not enough countries participated in lawn bowling but that was not now the case and was an excuse that didn't fly any more. It was always being pushed to try and get the sport into the Olympics. President John asked if World Bowls should be trying to get it included and Jackie Tucker stated that she had talked with Margaret Fettes, Assistant Director of World Bowls. India were hosting the Commonwealth Games and lawn bowling in Malaysia was very big. They were working to get third world countries into bowling and required fifty two countries – they were only one or two short of that number. China was being approached and the efforts were ongoing. Malaysia wanted to host World Bowls but would not allow Israel into the country so a lot of politics were involved.

A question was asked by Rae Ney, the Lakeland delegate, as to why they paid an extra \$3 dues and it was explained that the \$3 went to the Southeast Division. This fee would not be increased as the funds were healthy. Jackie Tucker again stressed that the Delegates and Board Members must do a better job of explaining the USLBA to the members. She has a list of all available information which she could send to Delegates. George Tucker stated that Donna West and Dora Stewart had been elected to the USLBA Hall of Fame. The Hammer Rule would be discontinued but a vote had to be taken in 2010 for 2011. Ninety percent of clubs want to go back to a no hammer rule. Conrad Melton, the Chief Umpire had asked all Divisional Head Umpires to give opinions on various rules for 2011 revision. George Tucker stated that proposals were to be made for 2011 Championships, the length of games was too long, the number of rinks per green would be adjusted from eight to seven, singles would be two rinks per green and games would commence on conclusion of singles games, so there would not be so long between games starting and finishing. Pairs games taking four hours to play was ridiculous and the games should be kept moving.

Jackie Tucker commented that no-one should play on an end rink at Championship level and if games were broken down, more clubs could host the Championships, using seven rinks and staggering the games. President John commented on the length of time taken to play games at the US Open was far too long, club members were at the greens from seven am to dark. They had left it open for unlimited visits to the head and no time limits. George Tucker stated that in the Championships, the pairs would now be eighteen ends instead of twenty one ends. This should speed things up. Jackie Tucker thought that this change should be addressed in the Policy and Procedure Manual. Linda McDougall stated that there should have been an addendum in the Open about visiting the head, the women finished timeously around 4.30 pm, it had been the men who had the problems.

President John thanked George Tucker for deputising as male Councilor at the USLBA Council Meeting.

Jackie Tucker reported on the US Championships which had taken place at Long Beach, California. The Womens Singles Champion was Rosa Gandara, now Rosa Baer and Jackie Tucker was second. The Mens Champion was Steve Nelson of Central Division with Patrick Duffy (Northeast) and Michael Siddall (Southwest) tied for second place. In the Womens Pairs, a play off took place between the pair of Patricia Cronshaw and Carrie Fossati and the pair of Dora Stewart and Marcia Masterton, which resulted in a win 21-19 for Cronshaw and Fossati. Jackie stated that the game was an execution of really fine lawn bowling. The Mens Pairs was won by Bob Schneider and Joe Zinna (Central) and second was Len Hitchcock and Frank Souza (South Central). She commended all the players at the Championship and thanked the SED for the monies given to her.

Burl Roller (Pinehurst) gave his report on the East Coast Challenge which had been won in 2009 by the Southeast Division, 40-20 after five rounds, 37 points was needed to reclaim the Motta Trophy and it had not been necessary to play the sixth round. The pairs 12-6, triples 14-4, fours were tied, singles 8-4.

The green at Pinehurst had been very good and Tom Kees had done a wonderful job as Treasurer with \$209 remaining in the account. The party night had been changed to a restaurant and was much approved of. It was an easier venue for the organizers. This had been the tenth year of the Challenge and the Southeast were ahead 7 wins to 3. The tournament bowlers chosen to represent the SED had been a good crowd.

He commented that we would have to keep the Northeast interested in playing and we would have to do whatever was necessary to do that. Burl had tendered his resignation as Tournament Manager at the end of the 2009 Challenge. He had been the Manager for five years and hoped it would continue and improve. He thanked Pinehurst Club for the great scoreboards, the bowls stickers were good and it was a colorful tournament with contrasting team colors. There had been a compulsory practice on the Friday and play on Saturday and Sunday. The team members for the SED had been: Abe Kaplan, Earl Shaner, Michael Maneilly, Bobbi Elwell, Charles Roach, George Tucker, Marita Nierth, Christine Garbett, Lenore Roach, Dick Ellis, Jackie Tucker, Barbara Roller, Burl Roller, Bud Riccucci, John Garbett and Tom Kees. Tom Kees was to hand over the checking account to Dick Ellis.

The Northeast team was: Robin Goldman, Dave Smith, Wick Hall, Maurice Lafond, Patrick Duffy, Eileen Luba, Duncan Farrell, Lorraine Urquhart, Bob Urquhart, Skip Arculli, Michelle Arculli, Colin Smith and Dan Berg. President John thanked Burl for his efforts and hard work over the past five years and agreed that it had been a tremendous tournament played in excellent conditions and lovely surroundings.

The Umpires Report was given by Bud Riccucci (Mount Dora) who thanked Linda McDougall for her position as Assistant Head Umpire for the Southeast Womens Open. There were at present twenty five umpires, seventeen men and eight women. Two were to be recertified after five years. He asked that efforts be made to recruit an umpire from every club.

As Staff Correspondent for the magazine, Bud thanked Trevor Colby (Clearwater) for his efforts as Editor, he had done a great job editing the magazine. There would be a hard copy Autumn issue but after that more information would be forthcoming as to the position with the magazine. Jackie Tucker stated that we should make sure to get photos and short articles to Bud which could perhaps go on the SED website. We could keep clubs alive by taking photos and submitting them.

George Tucker commented that Jackie had many plans to get younger people into bowling and she stated that she was connecting with Pinehurst Resort golf and tennis programs. President John stated that with play during the daytime hours, change was needed. Linda McDougall commented that in the Over 55 resorts it was very difficult to have younger members. George commented that in Pinehurst the youth golfers came from worldwide locations. President John remarked on the Scottish Youth Bowling Association and Richard Corsie School of Excellence. It had not been unusual to see 150-200 young people on the greens, dressed in whites with Saturday and Sunday tournaments – a shop window for bowling which was needed here. Heather Comba (Maple Leaf) talked about the schools program, kids love the game and they need the parents on board or the kids didn't come back. If you can get the parents to come along with the kids it was a way to keep the kids interested. An organization called Big Brothers, Big Sisters was always looking for something different to do. President John remarked that the introduction to bowling for young people in Scotland generally came from their parents and grandparents and if it could be done in the reverse that would be a good thing. Jan Kline asked Heather if she had organized a tournament and invited parents to come and watch their kids, this might get the parents interested in bowling. Beth Forbes stated she had seen a tournament in Scotland of fours teams with three kids and one adult, this had been very successful.

President John then spoke about the Southeast Division website, explaining that a company had been used to set up the site. The site had been working quite well with a few difficulties. He introduced Earl Shaner as the webmaster and asked Earl to give his report. Earl explained that the site, [www.sedlawnbowl.org](http://www.sedlawnbowl.org) had gone live in the middle of the year. It contained a calendar, tournament dates, news, photos and links to other sites. Linda Ricker whose mother bowled at St Petersburg was the designer. He asked that clubs send him tournament entry forms to include on the website and these could be emailed to Earl. Jackie Tucker asked Earl if we could access the site from the USLBA website by clicking on a link and Earl replied that we could. He stated that there were some issues with the SED website when trying to input information onto it, he was having to mould our information to the site and felt it should be the other way round. Entry forms for SED tournaments were no longer on the USLBA site. There had also been some issues with terminology. Jackie Tucker offered to give Earl the email address for Len Hitchcock to liaise with as he had had similar problems with the USLBA site. Earl was not sure this would work as Linda Ricker had looked at South Central's site and SED site could be better than theirs, but it would perhaps be worth a try. President John stated that the website was in its infancy and nothing was perfect the first time around. Barb Roller asked if Earl had had a face to face with Linda Ricker, he said he had not, only phone to phone. President John suggesting that a meeting with when she came to visit her mother at St Petersburg might help to resolve matters.

Earl stated that the site continued to evolve and it would be easier to use Microsoft Word for uploading and at present he was unable to do so which was making formatting difficult. It had not been the easiest thing but he was working on it. Terminology had indeed been a problem. Jackie Tucker commented that Tom Kees (Pinehurst) put the website address onto messages that he sends so that people could click on it and that seems to be working favourably.

Under Old Business, the topic of entry forms was raised regarding residency and dress code issues. President John wished everyone to reinforce that anyone participating in club tournaments under USLBA rules resident in the Southeast Division for thirty days or more must have joined a club and paid their dues. Barb Roller asked what tournaments were under USLBA rules other than the Playdowns, Season Opener and Closer and the Southeast Open. Much discussion ensued about residency and Clearwater's tournaments. Inhouse tournaments were not a problem. Secretary Christine Garbett (Lakeland) intervened and looked up the Minutes from the March Meeting, stating that she thought we had already agreed on these points at that meeting, especially regarding residency. That should have been put onto all tournament entry forms as a requirement. Jackie Tucker commented that ninety days residency in Arizona required payment of SC Division dues. Barb Roller asking if it should be up to the club for example for the Ede MacWilliams Tournament. President John remarked that when it had been discussed at the Board meeting in March, the idea was to get the clubs supported by membership. Jack Phillips commented that the Ede MacWilliams was already a USLBA tournament, club tournaments were not a problem. Secretary read from the previous minutes that all starting times for tournaments be 9.30 with the exception of Lakeland which would be 9am, all entrants must be members of USLBA SED, the SED Open exempt from this as there were short term resident entries for this. Discussion had followed in that meeting about entry forms and Ron Buck had proposed that if resident for more than 30 days the entrant must be a member of USLBA/SED and this must be put on all entry forms. Michael Maneilly (Delegate Mount Dora) stated that Clearwater had many "Open" tournaments and was that anything to do with the SED. He wanted to know if he could get tournaments sanctioned by the Division. Linda McDougall stated that certain tournaments are already Division tournaments and Michael Maneilly wanted clarification as to whether or not there was an advantage to having Division tournaments. President John suggested that the clubs should be supported by people living here for the winter and joining a club. Michael Maneilly asked where the line should be drawn as to what tournament is under USLBA/SED rules, he understood the requirements. Barb Roller commented that it had just been stated that any tournament that invites people from another club or any open tournament. Michael Maneilly stated that was a request only and no-one could tell a club that they could not hold an open tournament, he insisted further that he wanted to know how tournaments were sanctioned, if you were on the website with an entry form was it sanctioned. Were there tournaments on the website that were not sanctioned. Secretary pointed out that all tournaments on the SED website Calendar should follow the same rules that were passed by the Board at the March meeting, that they were open to people in or outside this Division. Michael Maneilly stated that he agreed with that idea but that clubs could not be dictated to. He said he had summer tournaments at Mount Dora and did not want to go with those requirements. Secretary asked him if he had tournaments that he opened up to people outside of Mount Dora other than during the summer. President John stated that summer tournaments were not part of the season calendar and were not affected. Michael Maneilly continued to question how one should know if a tournament be sanctioned or not and what was the advantage. President John stated that the calendar had been agreed so that there were no conflicting dates for the winter season and had been in existence for many years. The Board had already agreed that there should be a calendar of events on the website. After the end of March, any tournaments were unimportant to the calendar. Bev Phillips (Suncoasters) mentioned that the Del Webb tournament was a Sun City Center tournament and Sun City was not affiliated. She asked if President John could force that issue. Jan Kline stated that the advantage to the calendar was that it gave clubs an idea of what dates are available. Barb Roller asked if residents of thirty days or less have the right to bowl in tournaments. Linda McDougall commented that the reason the Board came up with that proposal was because people had been rumored to have been talking about not joining a club at all while resident for the winter and bowling in the tournaments. Barb Roller asked if we could word the forms differently and it was something that had to be on each entry form. President John asked Barb if she would draft something appropriate. Michael Maneilly continued to persist on the issue of the Southeast Division's responsibility in taking on a certified tournament – would it dictate the percentage of prize money for example, the rules of running the tournament, must a club apply to hold a tournament and then questioned the Del Webb tournament being on the calendar at all. Jack Phillips commented that the tournaments are on the calendar simply to show the dates that they are being held on and not whether or not they are USLBA/SED. Jackie Tucker asked if Earl would be able to asterisk any tournament on the calendar that are not SED so there would be no conflicts. Michael Maneilly then asked how you got an asterisk. President John stated that the Board and Delegates present should decide on whether or not they wanted tournaments sanctioned. Secretary stated that what had been decided and passed at the last meeting regarding dress and residency had nothing at all to do with whether or not a tournament was on the calendar.

Barb Roller commented that the Del Webb should not be on the calendar because it was not a USLBA/SED tournament. President John stated that if that was the case then the converse was true, the other tournaments were USLBA/SED tournaments. Burl Roller put forward the suggestion that if the club is USLBA/SED then it followed that its tournaments were also. Bobbie Elwell (Mount Dora) asking if the tournament followed USLBA rules then a member could bowl in it? Michael Maneilly asked if it meant he could not hold a tournament and invite whomsoever he pleased to it. Further discussion ensued about tournaments and Michael Maneilly still persisting with the point about sanction and SED responsibilities. President John stated that the issue would be remitted to the March Board meeting for further discussion. Barb Roller proposed that tournaments should be submitted to the Board for sanction and then they could be put on the calendar. Jackie Tucker seconded. Barb Roller suggesting that clubs will send forms to the Board and the Board can approve the wording and then sanction the tournament as a USLBA/SED tournament. Many entry forms already contain the appropriate wording.

Heather Comba (Maple Leaf) enquired about whether she should only collect dues from tournament players. Secretary stated that the members of Maple Leaf already pay dues to the USLBA/SED and if they are resident for more than 30 days then they must pay dues. President John stated that the option to either pay or not pay the dues is still there in some clubs and he would like to see all members pay, not just some of them.

The election of Officers and Board Members then took place. President John proposed Sue Bellerose of Suncoasters to be the female Vice President and this was seconded by Barb Roller. There were no other nominations. He explained that Jackie Tucker had stayed on as Vice President in the absence of a VP and thanked her for her efforts

Three Board Members were needed and the following clubs now had no representation on the Board. Sarasota, Maple Leaf, Sun n Fun, Pinehurst, Delray, Daytona, Kings Point West, and OTOW. President John stated that he would like to see members from these clubs take up a position on the Board. Linda McDougall commented that Maple Leaf and Sun n Fun were doubtful because they contained mostly Canadian and winter residents. President John reiterated that the Board was short of three members and everyone was asked to consider finding Board members from their own clubs, pointing out that there were only two meetings to attend. It was not an onerous task.

President John proposed Abe Kaplan (Mount Dora) as the new male Councilor. He spoke about Abe's abilities and experience in the world of lawn bowling. Seconded by Jackie Tucker. There were no other nominations. He then proposed Jack Phillips as the Mens Southeast Tournament Director, Jack was prepared to run the Mens Tournament in March. Seconded by Jackie Tucker. There were no other nominations.

The position of Male Playdowns Director for the Championship Playdowns in Sarasota was discussed. Barb Roller (Co-Director) stated that this position was a joint one, each being Co-Director. In previous years, the men had taken over the running of the Playdowns and it should be a male Co-Director for the mens Playdowns and a female Co-Director for the womens Playdowns. Jack Phillips stated that he would be up north at the time of the Playdowns and he was happy to find someone to assist with running the Playdowns. Jackie Tucker commented that the Policy and Procedure manual should be updated to show male and female Co-Directors and proposed that Barb Roller should run the womens Playdowns.

For the East Coast Challenge, Jackie Tucker was happy to take on the position of Co-ordinator as she was at Pinehurst, Tom Kees would help for one more year and Dick Ellis would take over signing checks.

An increase in the stipend for clubs hosting the SED Open had been asked for, raising the amount to \$400 each club. Barb Roller stated that at present the amount was \$300 for the club and \$100 for the grounds for mens and womens open. They were asking for \$100 increase and Jan Kline queried the amounts to be paid. The amount should be increased to \$500 for each club and the amounts to be on one check, not split between club and grounds. President John stated that the Division should support the host clubs for the Open and Barb Roller proposed that both host clubs should receive \$500. This was seconded by Audrey Ney (Lakeland). Jack Phillips queried the amounts of \$2 and \$4 per player from the entry money and Jackie Tucker stated that it was only \$2 that came back to the SED and the amount for the entry remained at \$25. Beth Forbes asked whether the \$500 included \$100 for the grounds and the answer was yes it did. Jackie Tucker said the instructions were on Page 14 of the Policy and Procedure Manual. Beth commented that there were in fact no page numbers in the manual. This would be taken care of when the manual was updated.

Jan Kline confirmed that one check for \$500 would be issued to each host club. This to be added to the manual and the Secretary would do that. Vote taken on the increase and all in favour, carried unanimously.

Discussion took place on the format of the Mens SED Open. President John stated that the item on the agenda was a proposal that the men play to Format 2 in the Policy and Procedure Manual. He explained the reasoning that there were large costs involved in participating in the Open and if a player was unsuccessful on the first day then there was no play on the second day. The women successfully used Format 2 whereby whatever their result on the first day, they returned on the second day for at least one game and this seemed to be a much fairer option. Jack Phillips stated that there used to be a consolation game on the second day so that all players should play in that, with three games on the first day and eligible to play on the second day. He said he did not understand why there should have been a blank day. The Format 2 option would not be a problem, he was familiar with it. Burl Roller commented that this format eliminated byes – no-one wanted to play in a consolation game, better to be the runner up in the seventh flight than be in a consolation. Even numbers would have to stand and must be limited to thirty two. Heather Comba remarked that the men at Maple Leaf had complained about the previous format and that the womens tournament worked perfectly. President John proposed that the Mens Open should adopt Format 2. Jackie Tucker praised Format 2 which had now been adopted in Southwest Division after many years and was deemed successful. The proposal was seconded by Heather Comba. The majority were in favour of the change and it was passed.

The next item on the Agenda was the proposal by Michael Maneilly (Delegate) that the mens triples should be changed to mens fours in the SED Open. He explained that it would bring it into line with the US Open and Internationally where fours not triples were played. There were problems finding a third player in triples and fours made up from pairs was simpler. Barb Roller commented that it made it easier for the drawmaster. Jack Phillips stated that this had been tried before and the men had been polled previously and preferred triples. It had not been a close vote as fours were not popular. He felt that the switch should not be made this year. President John recalled the 2008 Open where the poll was against fours and to stay as triples. Jack Phillips commented that it was of no significance that the US Open and Internationals used fours format. President John agreed that fours was a strategic game as Michael Maneilly had pointed out and all should be involved in the game, every player had a contribution to make. Barb Roller commented that a good committee ran the Womens Open and the applications had soared. Fours were good because two pairs could matchup. There were more women in the Southeast Open than in any other Divisional open in the country. Jackie Tuckie commented that the Open was always full with a waiting list. Burl Roller agreed with Michael Maneilly and also with Jack Phillips. He stated however, that if you keep doing it and pair up to get teams the men would find it works. Abe Kaplan stated that fours was played worldwide and it should follow here. Jan Kline suggested that perhaps triples and fours could be played but Jack Phillips said that there was already a Mixed Fours after the Open and that Friday was traditionally a rain day, therefore not sufficient time for both triples and fours.

Michael Maneilly proposed the new format of mens fours and this was seconded by Abe Kaplan. It was put to the floor and majority in favour, therefore the proposal was carried. Format 2 would be used in 2010. Jack Phillips then stated that he had made up the entry forms for either triples or fours and much laughter and clapping ensued.

Bobbie Elwell stated that she had taken over from Muriel Radcliffe (Suncoasters), the task of running Golden Bias for the Southeast Division. She asked that people would consider joining Golden Bias which supported the International teams. Linda McDougall explained that the USLBA had stopped supporting the US Team and Golden Bias raises money for that. They had 123 members and the cost was \$50 for which you received a pin and bowls stickers. Jackie Tucker stated that at present the USLBA were sending out teams of bowlers who although were good, could afford to go and pay their own way.

Barb Roller asked if the Southeast Division had a policy for helping clubs in trouble or financial difficulties. President John stated that they did not have such a policy at this time.

Barb Roller spoke about the rules and format for the Playdowns. The Policy and Procedure Manual should be the “bible” for the Southeast Division and the rules contained therein should be adhered to. She asked if the Playdowns were just another tournament. People should be prepared to and willing to represent this Division if they win the Playdowns and should enter the Playdowns the following year to defend their title. They should value the Playdowns as an important event. In the Policy and Procedure Manual Playdowns Section, the number of teams shown in the Format should increase from 10 to 12.

This year, players were allowed to enter after the deadlines set and therefore we must stick to the deadline date. If amendments were made it would simplify how the Playdowns were played. The top person in each section to play off. This was discussed and should be amended in the Policy and Procedure Manual. The entry form should be changed at the bottom of the page to include a signature line and "my signature attests etc". The form must include the signature to qualify. Entrant must agree to represent the Division. She therefore made the following proposals:

1. Increase the number of teams to 12 – Seconded by Jackie Tucker
2. Include a line for signature - Seconded by Linda McDougall

Discussion then followed on the line up of 12 teams and how to manage that play off. Jackie Tucker proposed that it should remain as the top two playing off. Michael Maneilly asked about change in the number of ends and Barb proposed that it would be 21 points for singles and 18 ends for pairs. This was seconded by Jan Kline.

It was also not at the discretion of the club whether or not there should be a day between pairs and singles; play should be continuous. That was in the Policy and Procedure Manual. Bobbi Elwell queried the format used last year. Jackie Tucker stated that there were three games of singles in a day and a tie for top spot. After some discussion about the proposals put forward, the matter was then simplified and the proposals by Barb Roller were as follows:

1. No entries would be accepted after the deadline
2. Increase in the number of teams to 12 before breaking into two groups
3. Pairs would be 18 ends
4. Signature line to go on entry form and stating that the entrant agrees to play in the Championships
5. Add new rules for singles markers to the Policy and Procedure Manual
6. Continuous play to be carried out.

Seconded by Jackie Tucker. The proposals were carried unanimously.

Barb Roller spoke about the rotation of the Playdowns.

2010 Sarasota, 2011 Sun City Center, 2012 Clearwater, 2013 Mount Dora, 2014 Sun City Center, 2015 Pinehurst. Jackie Tucker asked that the original 2013 date for Pinehurst be changed to 2015 as they were hosting the Open and the greens will have been completely redone. It was noted that there would now be two rubico greens consecutively.

Ron Buck had put an item on the agenda to speak about attracting Northern bowlers to Florida and it was decided to move this item to the March meeting. Short discussions followed about getting publicity for bowling.

Lee Kline (Mount Dora) spoke about his idea of a District Novice Tournament, he was the Membership Chairman for Mount Dora. He would like to see a district wide competition. Novices don't compete because of a higher level of bowling in tournaments and he would like to see something for new bowlers to compete equally. He thought that novices could be classed as four years or less experience to be eligible and it could be a mixed triples. Jackie Tucker enquired whether we could get novice tournaments onto the back of existing SED tournaments so that they would get involved in the whole tournament circuit. Lee thought it possible to get novice tournaments along with some tournaments that had declined in entry numbers. Barb Roller commented that it might be possible to get novice tournaments on the back of the SED Open Mixed Fours because that tournament rotates among clubs. It could be started in the 2011 season and President John remitted the idea to the March meeting.

Jack Phillips asked about the points system for the SED Open and the amended form in the Policy and Procedure Manual. Barb Roller stated that the form in the Manual had not been amended for the men and Jack stated he had something in mind for that. He spoke about the points for the Bowler of the Tournament and the points awarded to the singles player.

Barb Roller proposed adjournment of the meeting at 12.50 and this was seconded by Jan Kline.