

WELLINGTON (SOM) BOWLING CLUB

Minutes of General Meeting held on 11th January 2017 at the Clubhouse.

The meeting commenced at 9.30am.

Present	Roland Bath (President) Geoff Stamp (Chair) Brian Wombwell (Secretary) John Hunt (Treasurer) Richard Manning (Development Officer) Chris Williams (Membership Secretary) Bernard Barnes (Asst. Treasurer) Jay Merrell (Fixture Secretary)	Paul Kelly, (Men's Captain) John Lister (Bar Steward) Ian Thompson (Mixed Captain) Gill Groves (Ladies Captain) Bob Clarke (Competitions Secretary) John Cherry Indoor Secretary Vic Horne (Estates Manager)
Absent	Bernard Barnes (Asst. Treasurer)	

1. Apologies for Absence

Bernard Barnes

Brian informed the Chairman that Jay Merrell would be arriving later and would give his report on arrival.

2. Chairman's Opening Remarks

- 1) Geoff welcomed three new members to the committee John Hunt who has taken over as Club Treasurer, Chris Williams who is now the membership Secretary and Bernard Barnes Assistant Secretary.
- 2) Geoff said that he was pleased with the Christmas and New Year events which had been very successful and well supported by members. He also commented that the green was looking to be in good condition and that planning for the new outdoor season is going well.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January were approved as a true record.

4 There was no matters arising.

5. Secretary's Report

- 1) This year we are to ask all members to re register when they pay the Full Membership in April/May. A new form has been devised and copies were passed around the committee. Brian explained that the forms ask for current contact details and specify the costs for the various categories of membership. This will ensure that we have up to date information on all our members. The forms were accepted subject to the addition of payment for Lockers. The forms will go out as part of the Fixture List pack. It was pointed out that members who do not pay their subscriptions by 1st May will not be allowed to represent the club in any League matches until they have paid. This is a League requirement.
- 2) Bowls Stickers - We have had a reply from a supplier but the artwork is not satisfactory. They have promised to redesign and send a copy for approval. (Note- I have since been able to locate a supplier who has our original printing plate and a supply of labels is now in stock behind the bar.)

6. Treasurer's Report

- 1) John presented a short version of the Financial Report which gave details of the current assets and the bank balance. He then asked if it was acceptable to the committee. He explained that a full Financial Report is presented to the Executive Committee each month but it was two full pages of figures that were very detailed. The committee accepted that the short version is acceptable.
- 2) John informed the meeting that the handover from Lew Stanton was complete
- 3) John has arranged with the bank to pay invoices on line using the BACS system. He is investigating methods for members to have the option to pay direct to the club bank account rather than pay by cheque or cash. This will save a considerable amount of work. (This method is now available the details are shown on the Reregistration Form)
- 4) John Lister is to ask bookers if we can have an online account rather than pay by cheque every time.

- 5) John has put some payment cards for Indoor fees on the table in the Indoor Rink and asked the committee to bring these to the attention of all members.
- 6) The auditor has been consulted regarding bar Stocktaking, and has confirmed that he is happy that this should be done by one member of the Bar Committee and one Independent Member.
- 7) The weekly collection of cash from the Black Box, Bar takings and vending machine will be done on Monday mornings and banked the same week.
- 8) A list of people using lockers in the Changing Room and Visitors changing Room has still not been established. Lew has been contacted and promised to supply a list. (Lew has now supplied this list)
- 9) John Hunt's signature has now been added to the list of signatories at the bank which currently includes Brian Wombwell and Lew Stanton. Lew's name will be removed in due course.

7. Ladies Administrator

This position is vacant.

8. Development Officer Report

- a) The new fence has been ordered and the work is due to commence at the end of January. A total of £2,735.00 has been raised from donations and the contract price for the fence is £1,960.00. The costs so far amount to £420 and so there is a small surplus of £355.00 which will be used for planting and tidying up the area in front of the new fence.
- b) Richard informed the committee that he has had an offer from a supplier who has agreed to supply a set of training bowls free of charge but they have asked that the donation is confidential.
- c) Grants - A copy of a list of grants obtained and money raised so far has been passed to Brian for the records. This list totals a staggering £97,610.00 which is a massive investment in the club over the past two years. Two small grants from Bowls England have been submitted and we have other grants in the pipeline.
- d) Richard then produced a drawing showing the proposed layout for modifications to the clubroom and toilets that would be the subject of grant applications. It was agreed that the new layout will allow much better use of the space in the club room. A copy of the drawing to be displayed in the club for members information.

9 Men's Captain

- a. Paul said that the new fixture list indicates that the promotion of the first team will mean that there will be extra travelling to away games. The team members have agreed that it is acceptable and they hope to build on their success of last season. There are two pre season matches that should help the team to get back into outside bowling
- b. Two practice matches have been arranged which will be used to select the league teams.

10 Ladies Captain

The Ladies League does not start until June so there will be plenty of time to practice in May. It is hoped that more ladies will participate in the league.

11 Mixed Captain

Ian says he will encourage all the new players to take part in the Friendly Matches. He hopes this will help them to develop skills and go on to strengthen the league teams especially the Ladies team.

12 Fixture Secretary Report

- 1) Next seasons draft fixture list is complete. Unfortunately, we don't have any touring teams this season but we do have two mixed friendlies against Tiverton Borough BC that resumes fixtures that were played 5 years ago.
- 2) Following all the problems with the Triathlon Organisers changing dates Jay has now made contact with the Events Director Ms Carritt. She claims that she had no idea of the amount of inconvenience to the neighbouring clubs that the changes of date caused and has promised that it will not happen again. She has also promised to liaise with Jay. A formal complaint has been made to TDBC via Wellington Town Mayor Cllr Bob Bowrah.

- 3) Roland has now provided the Presidents introduction to the fixture list. A sentence has also been added promoting the Practice days on Saturday April 22nd and May 4th. Paul and Gill hope that these events will be well supported and the club should make sure that as many members as possible attend.
- 4) Jay asked Richard to let him have a list of sponsors, funders etc. who would like to have their names in the Fixture booklet.
- 5) Jay also asked members to let him have details of anything that they think should be included in the fixture list booklet. It will be compiled in February and printed in early March to be ready for distribution. Entries should be submitted before 31st January.
- 6) Jay asked who would be responsible for the distribution of the membership renewal packs and asked if this should be the Membership Secretary. He was informed that the packs are put in a box ready for members to collect from the club. The packs will be assembled by Chris Williams and Brian Wombwell and Jay if he is available.
- 7) A competition entry form, and tea rota is needed for inclusion in the pack. The tea rota is to be done for the first two months and then extended to cover the remainder of the season when the list of members has been established.

13. Competition Secretary's Report

No Report

14. Indoor Secretary's Report

- 1) The winter indoor bowling matches and competitions are all progressing well and our press officer Martin Speakman has been busy giving weekly reports to the Welly Weekly, Gazette and the Star.
- 2) The roll ups are proving very popular giving both practice and enjoyment to members.
- 3) The men's league matches continue as normal in the absence of Mark Philips due to illness. Mark's duties have been taken over by other members for the time being.
- 4) The winner of the Men's Singles competition is Nick Channon and the Ladies Singles has been won by Leah Waygood.
- 5) Nick and Leah have joined forces for the Mixed Pairs starting on 14th January. They a formidable team and it is hoped that another team will make a determined challenge.
- 6) Invitations for entries to the Open Singles Competition will be posted in Mid January and will be completed by the end of the indoor season.

15. Bar Steward

1. Bar - Everything is going to plan. The bar has been remodelled and this has met with unanimous approval from members.
2. Stock - An extra selection of bottled beers has been introduced which are selling well. The removal of the draught beer has not met with any complaints and the high number of sales of the bottled beers has meant that we there is no reduction in sales. We have had to discard some of the draught lager recently and this has now been removed and replaced with bottles and cans. We now have no draught ales but this will be reviewed in the summer if there is a demand.
3. Staff - We now have three regular bar staff who all work on a rota system and this is working well. Another person has offered to work on a regular basis and another is willing to work during the summer on match days and at events. We also have other offers from members who will cover any gaps in the rota. John says he is quite sure that we are well covered with staff for the time being.
4. Storage - The rear storage area needs to be sorted out but this will done in due course.
5. Profit margin - The overall profit margin is being maintained but Bookers have now issued a new price list that indicates price increases. John is now reviewing prices as members have commented that our prices are much cheaper than other clubs and our prices have not increased very much over last year. It is hoped that this will not cause any complaints as the bar is a major contributor to club funds.

6. Opening - The bar is now open on all weeknights and this together with club nights and socials is helping to keep sales high.

16 Think Tank

The Think Tank met on the 9th January and the following items were raised:

- 1) Name Badges - *Brian volunteered to find a source for name badges and the best type of badge to suit our requirements. The final decision to be made by either the Exec. or the General Committee.*
- 2) Structured training sessions for new members - the General Committee have approved the idea that these should take place but the task to create a syllabus has not yet been determined. The General Committee view is that our qualified coaches should all be involved in this so that it links with the coaching sessions.
Paul agreed that training and developing players ability, especially new players is essential if we want them to go on to strengthen our league teams. Paul offered to devise some classroom type lessons. Brian said he would also approach Martin Speakman as he delivered a very useful lecture on green etiquette last year to the new members. Richard and Fran should also be involved.
- 3) Bowls tours and Holidays - Bernard Barnes has designed and posted a notice asking members to put their names forward if they are interested. If there are sufficient members interested we can make enquiries for tours in 2018. Care would have to be taken to avoid fixtures that would limit a tour taking place during the busy part of the season. The Think will provide an update in due course.
- 4) Defibrillator - *Acquisition has been approved by the Executive Committee but will have to be included in the club 5 year spending plan as the cost is in the region £1,000.00.*
- 5) Storage and Lockers - Use should be made of the space under indoor rink bench for storing club bowls and equipment to free up much needed lockers. *Efforts are being made to establish exactly who each locker is rented to. We understand that Lew Stanton has this information and he will be asked to supply a list. We can then look into this matter further. (Note - Lew has supplied a list and John Hunt is dealing with this matter)*
- 6) Outdoor benches - members of the Think Tank have volunteered to examine the outdoor benches with a view to examine them for necessary repairs and re-staining. The committee that this should go ahead before the season starts.
- 7) New fence and flower beds - *A work party is recommended to create flower beds alongside the new fence when it has been completed. Brian said that Paul Kelly as Green Keeper must be involved in any plans. We do want any planting that may shed seed, berries or spread any means of propagation onto the green. Paul has already expressed an interest in planning for this but will obviously need help in carrying out the work.*

17. Social Team Report

All of the upcoming social events are listed on the notice board.

18. Green Representatives Report

- 1) Paul has instigated a different regime for grass cutting over the winter which involves regular cutting to 8mm. He has also taken advice from our supplier regards chemical treatment. Soil samples have been taken and he is awaiting the analysis report which will reveal which chemical treatments are the best for our green and inform us whether the soil has improved over the past two years.
- 2) One of the mowers has been sent away for servicing and requires a new bottom plate.
- 3) The service company has quoted a price £750.00 for supply and fix of a new blade cassette to the mower. This will have to be done at the end of the next summer season.
- 4) We should also anticipate the cost of fungicide and chemical treatment which will amount to approximately £1,300.00.
- 5) Paul told the meeting that the company that supplied the Sprinkler system has been liquidated and he is trying to find an alternative contractor to carry out the much needed repairs and servicing to the equipment.

- 6) When the fence has been erected the planting will be planned properly.
- 7) Hanging Baskets - Richard to contact Henlade Nursery to find out if they would like to provide the plants again this summer. The price last year was £125.00

19. Building Representatives Report

Vic reported that the light at the front of the Indoor Green was not working and he has arranged for this to be inspected and either repaired or replaced. (Note this has been done).

Vic also commented that the Indoor lights were being left on when games were finished and suggested that a notice should be placed in a prominent position to switch the lights off. It was also queried whether it was necessary in daylight hours to switch all the lights on and it was suggested that we have black dot system to identify the rows of lights to be used during the day.

Richard Manning says that the new Building management Team are carrying out a full survey of the Building and Grounds and will report in due course.

20. Catering Team

Nothing to report.

21. Any Other Business

- 1) Complaints - have been made by members that the Indoor Rink is cold in the afternoons. It is suspected that either the programmer or the thermostat have been tampered with. Vic to check these out.
- 2) Jay has pointed out that cash prizes for the winners of the competitions and the raffle prizes for the friendly matches should be stopped. It is suggested that we buy items through the bar and use donations when available. The committee agreed and this proposal is to be adopted from now on.
- 3) Competitions Committee - Brian pointed out that a Competitions Committee has not been established. Gill pointed out that some of the rules were ambiguous or did not make sense. It was also raised that the Competition Entry Form comprises two pages, one for men and one for ladies, and these could easily be combined onto one page. Complaints had also been raised by members that the method of the draw for the competitions was suspect and should be done either by a committee or preferably in the club with members invited to witness it. At this point Bob Clarke walked out of the meeting in a huff. The committee unanimously agreed that a working group should be formed to review all of the matters raised, make changes as they think necessary and recommend these to the Executive Committee. The working group to comprise Paul Kelly, John Cherry, Ian Thompson, Gill Groves, Geoff Stamp, Bob Clarke, Diane Troake and Brian Wombwell.

22. Membership Secretary

- 1) Chris presented two Membership Forms for approval: Janet Vile and Basil Husbands. Both were approved.
- 2) Chris also reported that we have 199 members in total which includes 117 playing full members

The meeting closed at 12.05pm

Date of next meeting Wednesday 15th March 2017 at 9.30am in the Clubhouse.

Signed:.....Geoff Stamp (Chairman)

Date: