

# Wellington Bowling Club

## Minutes of General Meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November at the Clubhouse

The meeting commenced at 9.30am

### Members

Role	Name	Initials	Role	Name	Initials
President	Gill Groves	GG	Fixtures Secretary	Jay Merrell	JM
Chairperson	Geoff Stamp	GS	Competition Secretary	Henry Richbell	HR
Club Secretary	Clive Manning	CM	Indoor Secretary	John Cherry	JC
Club Treasurer	Tony Gibson	AG	Bar Steward	Steve Lovell	SL
Ladies Administrator	Ann Cowling	AC	Green Representative	Paul Kelly	PK
Development Officer	Vacant		Building Manager	Vic Horne	VH
Membership Secretary	Chris Williams	CW	Catering Manager	Liz Bowrah	LB
Men's Captain	Paul Kelly	PK	Assistant Treasurer	Bill Warnett	BWar
Ladies Captain	Eileen Stewart	ES	Assistant Secretary	Brian Wombwell	BW
Mixed Captain	Ian Thomson	IT	Publicity Officer	Di Dagg	DD
			Social Team Rep.	Alan May	AM

### 1) Apologies for Absence

Jay Merrell, Steve Lovell, Vic Horne, Paul Kelly & Di Dagg

### 2) Chairman

Geoff welcomed Gill Groves to the meeting and wished her well for the duties in her new post as Club President. He also welcomed the other new members of the General Committee - Eileen Stewart, Henry Richbell and Alan May.

Geoff also commented that he was very pleased with the outcomes of the EGM and the AGM, both of which were well organised and extremely well attended.

He congratulated the new Social Committee which has got off to a great start with Bingo nights and Quiz nights, which have been great fun and very popular with members. More events are being planned.

The Indoor season had also started well, but Geoff is concerned that many of the extra rink sessions which were created are not being used. There are also vacant spaces in some of the Roll up Sessions.

### 3) Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and approved.

### 4) Matters Arising

It has been mentioned at previous meetings that something should be done to illuminate the path from the disabled entrance at the back of the green to the main clubroom. We do have a floodlight overlooking the green, but we have had complaints from the houses on Corams Lane when this is used. It was decided that options should be sought and action taken and Clive would write to Tony Woollard re the possibility of installing a PIR activated light.

### 5) Secretary Report

In summary, since our last meeting the following has been undertaken.

1. Thelma Helps has confirmed that she and Gill Groves have attended and registered our Ladies League teams at the SW Ladies AGM that was held in October.

2. The two new Jacks are now in use and the new mats have arrived for the Indoor Rink.
3. I have had a meeting with Martin Speakman/Chris Williams & Richard Whiting re the coaching of Juniors. New form designed and agreed. Following further comments re Safeguarding and the new Junior Membership Form, further amendments have been made to it and the provision for "other members" to be present has been removed. I am pleased to confirm that John Troake has agreed to take over the role of Safeguarding & Child Protection. John has considerable experience in this area and I will liaise with him on the matter in due course and ask him to check through our documentation and procedures.
4. The indoor carpet has now been stretched and everything checked. The workmen seemed to know their job and were supervised by Bill Heard throughout. Total cost £375 plus VAT
5. It had been necessary to call Steve Pinder out as a matter of urgency in October, as someone had switched the boiler on and it had started to overflow. Water pressure was well into the red and no one knew what to do. There will be a charge for the emergency call out, but Steve Pinder did make the point that the boilers should not be switched off.

The plumber has also been and serviced the gas boilers. He was asked to look at the leaking "flush press" button in the gents, but he felt that repair was not necessary at this stage and not cost effective to do so. He could find nothing wrong with the kitchen waste pipe either.

Since then he has also had to be called in to repair a leaking radiator in the Indoor Rink and Wadham Fencing have completed the fence.

6. The new alarm control box has now been installed and alarm fobs issued to "Key Holders". There was some initial confusion of how the alarm was to be set, but clear instructions have now been sent out to everyone. In respect of the "Easy Access" front door system, 151 Key Fobs have been issued to Members and the exercise is effectively complete.
7. The County League and Competition forms were submitted earlier in the month after being reviewed by Mike, Jay and Tony. The SBA has confirmed receipt of them and our cheque, but we have had to chase them as there seems to have been a worrying delay in presenting our cheque at the bank. Tony has confirmed that this had now been done.
8. With the assistance of Bill/Chris/Tony & John Cherry, we have now traced as far as we are aware all Indoor Members and everyone has now paid. There was a small number (approx. 15) that paid after the 1<sup>st</sup> of October.
9. We have been in correspondence with Mike Groves/Tony about the "lost" SW1 Winners Trophy. The Executive have agreed a contribution of £40 towards its replacement and the cheque has been sent.
10. We have now received a reply from TDBC re the retaining wall and we are currently waiting for them to come and have a look at it and to let us know their views on it. There is still a question mark over who owns it, but copies of supporting letters from 1972 have been sent to them and I am hopeful that they will accept responsibility for it.
11. The EGM had to be organized. In addition, the minutes of the meeting had to be done urgently prior to preparation and release of the AGM paperwork two weeks later.
12. Finally, the Annual General Meeting was held and all that remains now is to amend the Constitution, write up the Minutes and distribute to all Full Members.

## **6) Treasurers Report**

Tony presented the monthly financial report and it was accepted.

1 The question was asked "what is happening to the money left over from the old Social Committee". The money has been placed in the "Building Fund", as it was agreed that they would have control over how it was to be spent, subject to approval of the Executive Committee. The "Building Fund" is shown in the Club Accounts and will contribute to the costs of the building alterations. All costs to set up and run the new Social Committee will be funded by the club.

2 Utilities - Bill said that we are having ongoing discussions with British Gas regarding the tariff we are currently paying for our gas supply. The contract we have with our electricity provider will be ending soon and we are considering changing to another provider.

## **7) Ladies Administrator's Report**

Nothing to report at this time.

## **8) Development Officer**

This position is vacant at the moment.

Gerry Mangeolles will be the Project Manager for the Building Alterations and Clive will ask him to issue regular reports on progress, that can then be passed on to the Committee.

## **9) Membership Secretary**

The process to register Indoor Members and collect membership fees has worked much better this year and should be even easier in future, now that we have a comprehensive membership list.

Chris suggested that as we have reached the cap on Full Membership numbers, we should plan to have only one Open Day next summer. This was agreed but the option for a second Open Day should be maintained until we know how many members have signed on in May

## **10) Men's Captain**

No report received.

## **11) Lady's Captain**

Eileen explained that she had only very recently been appointed, so has nothing to report but wanted the Committee to know that she was looking forward to taking up her duties. Thelma Helps has agreed to mentor Eileen whilst she settles in to her duties.

## **12) Mixed Captain's Report**

1. The preliminary Fixture List issued by Jay shows that we will have about 75 friendlies next summer, as well as additional matches in the East of Exe League, Men's and Ladies Leagues and our in house competitions. This should enable all our members to play competitively next season. The selectors are fully prepared with lists of who played, when they played, and how many times they have played and these will be available for anyone to view by arrangement.

2. A suggestion was made that we should arrange a meeting for the Men Full Members before the start of the season to enforce the rules, etiquette, etc. and discuss any issues. This has been done by the Ladies and has proved very successful.

Ian Thomson suggested that as from next year, all team squads for the Indoor Mixed League should contain at least two ladies. This would then minimise the number of times that a full team of men play a mixed team. This matter is to be raised and discussed in the Think Tank report.

### **13) Fixture Secretary's Report**

Jay was not in attendance due to work commitments but had submitted a report which was read to the committee. A copy of the report is attached.

### **14) Outdoor Competition Secretary's Report**

Nothing to report.

### **15) Indoor Secretary's Report**

John Cherry issued a report and a copy is attached. There were no questions and all items on the report were endorsed by the Committee.

John told the Committee that he had recently had health problems and had been told to lighten his workload. Ann Cowling has offered to share the role of Welfare Officer and Ian Stewart has agreed to assist with the Indoor Secretaries role.

### **16) Bar Secretary's Report**

No report received.

### **17) Think Tank Report**

A copy of the Think Tank report is attached.

- a) Item 2 of the report - It is very doubtful that the building work will proceed before the summer season and the Committee agreed that the painting of the men's Changing Room should be done in early April unless the position changes.
- b) Item 3 on the report - The committee thanked the Think Tank for arranging the delivery and erection of the metal shelving in the Garage store.
- c) Item 4 in the report - The committee agreed that the weekend mixed triples league rule should be that "every team should contain at least one lady member or one male member." Teams not conforming should be penalised by losing 25% of their score.
- d) Item 5 in the report - It was decided that darts should not be played within the club premises unless all the relevant equipment is supplied. It should also be noted that the club has no intention of forming a Darts team and when it has been set up properly, it will be for member's social use only.
- e) Item 6 in the report - It was explained that a record is kept by the selectors of everyone's participation in the friendly matches. The best and most experienced club players are involved in League matches and do not put their names down for the friendlies except for September when the leagues are finished. The selectors also have to nominate players who have some experience to act as Skip and number 2 or 3 (to measure and agree score). As many of the opposing teams are asking for triples this does not allow a great deal of room for inclusion of new members.

### **18) Social Team Report**

Alan reported the following;

The BBQ went well and raised £327 profit

Two Bingo nights have raised £136

Two quizzes have raised approximately £500 and in future the Quiz prize winners will get better prizes.

The above amounts do not include bar profits.

Henry was thanked for having to work so hard behind the bar at the last Quiz. If possible we should arrange for two people behind the bar at future Quiz Nights.

The next event on the calendar will be the Grand Prize Draw.

It was agreed that Liz will organise hot dogs when we open at lunchtime on Boxing Day. An event for New Year's Eve is being organised.

### **19) Green Representatives Report**

The Green is in winter maintenance, the grass will be mown to 8mm at monthly intervals weather permitting and the first moss treatment was applied 10 days ago. We are following the same pattern of care as last season, as this provided a good playing surface.

Two bags of Tyre Crumb ditch fill has been purchased and delivered. The team will make the change when the winter leaves have stopped falling, so that we avoid having to clean the ditches multiple times. This purchase was approved by the Exec. Committee.

### **20) Building Representatives Report**

Vic is on holiday so there is no report.

It was noted that the new fence panels facing Corams Lane have been installed.

### **21) Catering Officers Report**

Liz said that she was very pleased that she had been re-elected as Catering Officer. She also thanked Club members for their kindness and support over the past few weeks following her accident.

She then reported that things have gone missing or packets of food have been opened in the fridge. She also complained that mugs and cups have been used and are continually being put away dirty. All of the mugs are normally washed weekly by Liz but members making drinks on a daily basis are responsible for washing their own cups thoroughly, drying them and putting them away. If we were subject to an inspection by the Council Health Department and they found dirty pots in the cupboards, then the Club would be in a very difficult position and use of the kitchen would have to be restricted.

### **22) Any other Business**

1. Brian questioned why the heating system did not switch on in the afternoon. The players in the Wednesday afternoon roll-up frequently found that the temperature in the rink dropped to 17deg C and some of the members found this very uncomfortable. Clive agreed that he and Tony would investigate this problem.
2. Liz reported that Taunton Dean BC were implementing new Regulations regarding kitchens. These have not yet been published but Bob Bowrah will let us have details when they become available.
3. Ann suggested that we should make a donation from the profits of our Grand Prize Draw to a local charity. It was suggested and approved that we should present a cheque for £100 to Renaissance Learning and if possible, to arrange for a photo of our President doing the honours, which would be sent to the Wellington Weekly.

The meeting closed at 11.30am

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 16th January 2019**  
**Venue - The clubhouse at 9.30am**

Signed.....

Date.....

Geoff Stamp (Chairman)

## Fixture Secretary's Report 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018

1. The provisional draft 2019 fixture list has been published to the website with a copy on the notice board. This remains' "work in progress" and subject to change.
2. I've had a little more success generating touring teams. Bedwellty Park BC will bring 6 men's rinks here on Fri 13<sup>th</sup> September. Abington BC 6 or 7 mixed rinks on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and the Royal Household BC 7 mixed rinks on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September.
3. At the East of Exe AGM on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October we were successful in our application to join. The 2019 East of Exe league fixtures have been published in the draft fixture list. 11 fixtures in total, 6 home, 5 away. I've entered details on the fixture list where club nights may move to Tuesday. Sods law has dictated that 3 out of 6 home games occur in weeks where early Turnbull/Wedmore Plate matches are due to be played. I'll have a better idea of the impact of this once the draw has been made available, but on the odd occasion we may need to move club night to Wednesday, not ideal I know.
4. Application to men's Bowls England Top Club has been submitted.
5. We will be hosting the Middleton Cup match between Worcestershire and Cornwall on Sat 1<sup>st</sup> June. We had been approached to host the John's Trophy match between Worcestershire Ladies and Devon Ladies, but that offer was withdrawn due to an admin error by the Worcestershire secretary.
6. In addition to the ladies' league matches (9) we have 13 ladies friendlies, this is up from 6 this year. Also, there will be a minimum of three knockout matches.
7. Three of these friendlies are evening starts with one Saturday match. Hopefully this will give an opportunity for our Ladies who work to play.
8. 13 Wednesday evenings have three rinks reserved for a Ladies triples league.
9. The Executive plus Gill, Brian and myself receive copies of emails sent to the club's generic email address [info@wellingtonbowling.club](mailto:info@wellingtonbowling.club) (the problem with @btinternet.com addresses appears to be resolved?).
10. Can I request suggestions or submissions for the 2019 fixture booklet? I have approached Gill for the President's address. Brian has asked for the club code of conduct to be published. Ann the guide for markers. Ian has asked for prominent notes re-iterating the need for passengers to contact their driver and about players who can't play contacting the captain for the day as soon as possible. These are required by February 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 please.
11. Ann has requested that, in future, teas for home mixed friendly matches is either a full "bowlers" tea or tea and biscuits. Light teas arranged before this change was announced will continue to be honoured. Where opposition club's offer "Light teas", we will reciprocate with a full tea.

Jay Merrell  
Fixture Secretary  
Wellington (Somerset) Bowling Club

## INDOOR SECRETARY'S REPORT

### **League Teams and Organised Roll-ups**

1. All is progressing well after some early problems concerning the Afternoon League scorecard provisioning - now resolved. (See also the Think Tank report).

### **Competitions**

2. The Men's Singles and Ladies Singles competitions are underway with both finals scheduled for just before Christmas. In support of the Club tradition our new President, Gill Groves, will act as marker for both finals and preside of the presentations. Spectators are welcome then and at all matches played up to then.

3. Some members entering competitions have not been able to attend their initial match dates due to holidays or other engagements. Trying to swap match dates with other contenders has been possible in some cases but with degrees of difficulty and nuisance.

**For future competitions I propose to require all contenders (or their representatives) to attend the match draws so that provision to avoid awkward dates/times for their opening matches can be made there and then. Once match times are published, any players unable to comply will automatically concede that match to their opponent and will drop out of the competition.**

### **Bowls Tour, Torquay - April 2019**

4. The final total is 40 members going on the tour, deposits having been paid. Mike Connor and I will again arrange a pre-tour briefing in early March, especially for members going for the first time, but open to all others. Details will be issued nearer the time.

### **Indoor Secretary Workload**

5. Owing to a recurring heart condition and medical advice received, the Indoor Secretary needs to reduce Club workload and the stress that goes with it. One member has already agreed to share the Welfare Officer's role, whilst another has offered to act as Assistant Indoor Secretary from next summer, perhaps being indoor competitions organiser.

I hope the GC will endorse this as something I am most grateful to those members for.

John Cherry  
Indoor Secretary

## **THINK TANK REPORT**

Last Think Tank (TT) meeting was held on 14/11/18, attended by Mike Connor, Ed Norris, Phil Brigden, Barry Vile, Bernard Barnes, Ian Stewart and John Cherry.

Apologies were received from Alan & Liz May.

### **ONGOING ISSUES**

1. **Changing Rooms Painting** - Final "freshen up" painting of the Men's changing room is planned for the period between closure of the indoor season and opening of outdoor summer bowling. This is subject to any early progress in the major club house restructuring project.

(Thanks go mainly to Ed Norris and Phil Brigden).

2. **Shelving for Metal Garage Store** - This is now delivered and assembled in place. It is capable of being relocated elsewhere if club restructuring calls for it. (Thanks to several TT members).

### **OTHER ISSUES**

1. **Indoor Weekend Triples League** - This was originally the Indoor Weekend Mixed Triples League, but is thought to have been amended due to a shortage of lady members.

*As this is not now the case, TT recommends that for the next winter indoor season mixed gender teams are made compulsory and if teams are obliged to play single gender teams then they will lose 25% of their match scores.*

2. **Club Room Dart Board** - Supplied by Steve Lovell, this free standing dart board does not provide rear wall protection, a floor protection mat, oche line, chalk score board, spot light or sets of darts. It also fouls one of the existing clubroom wall light fittings.

*TT recommend a decision is made to either make this a permanent club feature and provide all necessary equipment above or remove it from the Club.*

3. **Summer Season Friendly Matches** - TT are aware of strong feelings of unfairness concerning the selection of players for friendly matches with other clubs. A number of top players are selected in almost all such matches with others either treated as reserve players or hardly ever picked to play at all.

TT consider that, unlike league matches, the need to win friendly's is not so acute and that they are about giving new/less experienced members a chance to taste competitive play with less pressure and to develop their game skills.

*To improve fairness, TT suggests setting out a code of practice for the selectors and for future performance to be monitored by the General Committee.*

**Next TT Meeting** - This has been set for **Wednesday 13th February 2019 (10 am)** to give a wider separation from future General Committee meeting.

John Cherry  
Indoor Secretary (TT Liaison)