

Wellington Bowling Club

Minutes of General Meeting held on Wednesday 16th January 2019 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, John Cherry, Steve Lovell, Paul Kelly Bill Warnett, Di Dagg, Liz Bowrah

2) Chairman

Geoff commented that it would be a good idea to further consider Jay Merrell's idea that the General Committee would be better split to become a General Committee and a Bowls Committee to reduce the amount of business that the present committee has to deal with. There was some discussion and the following points made:

- Both Committees would receive minutes of both meetings so that they were fully aware of decisions taken and issues under consideration.
- The Chairs of both committees would have the opportunity to attend the other meeting when they considered it necessary.

No decision was taken on this matter.

3) Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and approved subject to the following amendment:

- Raffle prizes should reflect the amount of money taken for tickets.
- Prizes should be varied as not everyone drinks alcohol.

4) Matters Arising

Ian Thomson expressed his concern over comments made at the previous meeting by the Think Tank regarding the Mixed Friendlies selection process. The matter was fully discussed by the Committee and Ian highlighted all the various factors that had to be taken into account when selecting players.

The Committee assured Ian that they were very happy with the current arrangements and the excellent work done by him, Dai Helps and Wyn Courtney, in what was accepted to be a very difficult role.

Geoff advised everyone that if any member has a complaint of any nature, that the member should refer it directly to the Club Chairman, who will investigate the matter.

5) Secretary Report

In summary, since our last meeting the following significant actions have been undertaken.

1. As a result of the SBA requesting signed GDPR consent forms in respect of those Officers whose details are shown on the SBA website, Jay suggested that we should do the same. So, GDPR consent forms have been obtained and I would like to thank everyone for their support on this matter. Jay has amended the website accordingly.

2. Following the AGM, the Constitution has been amended accordingly and a copy of the revised Constitution has been sent to all Full Members either by email or post.

3. Tony & I attended the funeral of John Hunt. Approximately 15 Members attended in total.

4. This year's Affiliation Fees have been paid. The total number of Members declared was 138 and a cheque has been issued for £1167.00.

5. A meeting has been held with John Troake to discuss his role as Child Protection Officer & Vulnerable Adult Protection Officer. As a result, we have agreed that our own and Bowls England Safeguarding Policies should be displayed on the Secretary's notice board and he has agreed to review all of the policies including Welfare.

He has also reviewed our current "Code of Conduct" and feels that no alterations are necessary. It is the intention this year to include our Code of Conduct in this year's Fixture Booklet.

The Executive have also agreed to rename his position as "Safeguarding Officer"

6. Following complaints from Members, Tony and I have adjusted the Indoor Rink heating. The temperature has been increased by 1 degree, but the system remains on throughout the day from 8.15am. This seems to have worked, but we're now getting complaints that it is too hot!

7. We have had a reply from TDBC confirming that they have agreed to repair the external retaining wall and have suggested that they will be looking to replace the header bricks and repoint where necessary. I would like to thank Vic Horne, Derek Vile, Bill Warnett and Brian Wombwell for all their help and assistance in achieving this outcome.

8. We have received the 2019 Insurance renewal documentation. I have corrected a few items on the policy and would confirm that the policy has been renewed for a further year at a premium of £1,521.00.

9. Following an accidental activation of the intruder alarm some Members said they could not hear the siren, so we have had the alarm engineer out to check the system and the external bell. As a result of the activation, the alarm could not be reset and Tony Gibson has had to come down to the Club first thing one morning to contact the alarm company and reset the alarm, so that it could be turned on that night.

10. Tony Woollard has kindly agreed to arrange for the installation of some solar lighting for the path leading to the rear access, fitting a new double socket for the telephone and is also in the process of completing an electrical check of the building for us. I have also asked Vic to arrange for a Carbon

Monoxide alarm to be fitted in the Ladies changing room and a “door closer” to be fitted to the internal lobby door.

11. We have started to put together the paperwork for the 2019 Membership renewal. The process worked well last year, so the intention is to use the same system, albeit with a few amendments.

6) Treasurers Report

A copy of the “Summary of Accounts” supplied by the Treasurer is attached.

Other:

It is apparent that money has been removed from the Pig collection box used to collect Tea money. This is very disappointing and arrangements are being made to replace this with a lockable cashbox.

7) Ladies Administrator's Report

1. It had been proposed that we should consider entering a Ladies Indoor League, as the Friendly matches this season had proved very popular. On investigation it proved very difficult to find space in the Indoor Rink to satisfy the 4 hour requirement and so no further action will be taken.

2. The date for the ladies meeting is to be Wednesday evening of the 27th February 2019, as discussed with Eileen Stewart.

8) Development Officer

This position is vacant at the moment.

Clive reported that the Plans for the extension had been submitted to the TDBC Planning Department. Some members were disappointed that we had not seen the new plans before they were submitted. It was explained that the internal dimensions and arrangement could be amended without compromising the Planning Application so this matter was allowed to rest.

9) Membership Secretary

As from the start of the next Outdoor season there will be a limit to the Full Outdoor membership of 140, but Junior Members or Life Members who still play will NOT be included when working to this total.

At the end of last season we were only just below this maximum figure. Therefore, it seems possible that I might have to operate a **WAITING LIST**, at all times liaising with the Club Coaches, from early in the season. I already know of two former outdoor members likely to re-join and there are at least four recently joined Indoor members who have indicated that they are likely to apply for full membership.

As long as fees are paid by the due date (April 30th) existing Outdoor members have a guarantee of re-registration. After that date, Outdoor membership will be on a first come, first served basis via approval by the Executive Committee.

I am asking approval to post Notices on the Membership Board and in the Indoor Rink to get some idea of demand.

This will cover –

Members who currently ONLY play indoors who wish to become Full Members, and

Current Full Members who are NOT intending to renew their Outdoor Membership.

This was discussed and approved.

10) Men's Captain

No report received

11) Lady's Captain

Eileen had nothing to report at this time but she would like the Committee to know that she would be away on holiday from March to April 6th.

12) Mixed Friendly 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 E of E League, the other 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 reinforce the rules, etiquette, etc. and discuss any issues. This has been done by the Ladies and has proved very successful.

3. Ian Thomson suggested that as from next year, whenever possible, all team squads for the Indoor Mixed League should contain at least one lady and one man. This would then minimise the 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

1. Following feedback from the last General Committee Meeting I have managed to reverse some of the fixtures in April to create a better balance of home and away matches. Feedback from members, and committee members in particular, is always welcome. The perfect fixture list doesn't exist, but there is occasionally a reason why I have taken a certain course of action which I will happily discuss with anyone who is interested.
2. I'm still waiting for Watchet to confirm mixed friendlies and for the Somerset Bowls Association to complete the draw for the county club competitions before finalising the fixture list. The county draw is to be held on the 16th Jan. Once these are confirmed I'll update the fixture list on display. The latest version is on the website.
3. I've received a couple of suggestions for items for inclusion in the fixture booklet. Please let me have any more before the end of this month (January) to give Brian and I plenty of time to arrange printing.
4. Ian Hollingsworth kindly agreed to represent the club at a meeting held at Taunton Deane Bowls Club to discuss the possibility of us entering an over 70s triples league. A copy of his report was forwarded to the Executive committee. A summary is as follows- The concept of a triples bowls league for over 70s is being led by members from Taunton Deane BC. Several other clubs locally have expressed an interest. Under consideration are both indoor and outdoor leagues. Plans are very much in the development phase. I've asked to be kept abreast of developments without making any commitment. There appears to be a good deal of interest from our members in investigating the possibility of an indoor league (the three indoor matches organised this winter have been well over subscribed). Taunton Deane has said we could probably play home

games there and, in my opinion, this is well worth pursuing? Regarding outdoors clearly we already have a very busy outdoor programme. We can't make an informed decision on this until we've received more information from the organising committee and I recommend we wait until this is available before further discussion. I forwarded Ian's report to Paul, clearly pressure on the green will be one aspect to consider before committing to more competitive matches.

5. Ian Hollingsworth has offered to lead the club's interest in proposed over 70s leagues. This offer is to be considered by the Executive.
6. In view of point 4 (above) and the indoor games the club are playing this winter at Yeovil (2) and Taunton Deane do we need to consider re-joining the Somerset County Indoor Bowls Association? We left this organisation about 5 years ago as a cost saving measure but I don't imagine these costs are huge? Are there insurance implications for Wellington members playing at other indoor clubs when we are not affiliated to SCIBA? Clive told the meeting that the cost of joining the SCIBA is about £700 and for what the club would get for this amount of money is minimal. It was decided that we would not join.

14) Outdoor Competition Secretary's Report

We, that is Eddie and I, have been looking at the coming year and feel that we can accommodate a number of changes to the schedule.

1. The Amy Stanton should become a MIXED pair's competition with matches being played either first to 21 or as a three wood competition. This would speed up the matches.
It was agreed that the Amy Stanton Trophy should be a Mixed Competition and three wood.
2. The introduction of a Ladies 2 wood competition.
It was agreed that a Ladies 2 wood competition (21 Shots) should be included providing there are at least 8 entrants.
3. Ladies Pairs.
It was agreed that the Ladies Pairs should be 21 ends and must have at least 8 entrants.
4. The removal of the complicated system when one player cannot compete. All competitions should be on the basis that if one player/pair cannot play for whatever reason then the match is awarded to their opponents and they progress to the next round. The current practice of going back one tie is to be scrapped.
It was agreed that the rule for not playing by the specified "Play by Date" will be that those members in contravention are eliminated from the competition and their opponents go through to the next round. This rule will be rigorously enforced.

I have only today received an email for Anne concerning a ladies' pairs and as I have not had a chance to discuss this with either Eddie or Jay, I propose to put this on hold until later.

15) Indoor Secretary's Report

1. League Teams and Organised Roll Ups

a) All winter programs are progressing satisfactorily. The weekly league table updates are being displayed on the indoor green notice boards.

2. Competitions

a) Congratulations to Ian Thomson, the Men's Singles Indoor Champion for 2018/19.

b) Also congratulations to Sue Channon, the Ladies Singles Indoor Champion for 2018/19.

Both finals matches were close fought and drew a goodly number of pre-Christmas spectators.

c) The Mixed Pairs Competition is currently in progress, the final match being scheduled for 10/02/19

at 11am. Some match date/time changes are being made for good reasons and that situation is now better.

d) Entry invites to the Open Singles Competition, the last competition this winter, will go up on the Indoor Green notice board on **18/01/19** with a closing date of **01/02/19** (two weeks later). The draws for the opening matches will be held in the clubroom on Monday **04/02/19 (7pm)** with the first matches on Saturday **16/02/19**.

3. TOUR 2019 - Torquay

a) Balance of payments outstanding for those going ((£163pp) are due for payment to the Club by **no later than 18/02/19**.

b) Payment of the combined balances to TLH, Torquay, by WBC is due on **28/02/19**.

c) A pre-tour briefing for those going is planned for **Monday 11/03/19** in the clubroom at **7pm**. Both those from last year and newcomers to the tour are welcome to attend. More details will be issued nearer the time.

16) Bar Secretary's Report

No report received.

17) Think Tank Report

1. Last Think Tank (TT) meeting was held on 14/11/18, as reported to the last General Committee Meeting. The next TT meeting is set for 13/02/19 to give a wider separation of reports to future GCMs.

2. Minutes of the GCM of 21/11/18 should have included a complete copy of the submitted TT report, however, a section under "**Other Issues**" was missed. The section concerned should read:-

"4. 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 a team are obliged to play single gender teams then they will lose 25% of their match scores.**

Note: Since making this recommendation it has been suggested that for triples mixed matches this penalty should be to drop 1/3 of their match scores. Will the CGM wish to adopt this revision?

It was discussed and agreed that the Indoor Weekend Triples League was originally a "Mixed" Triples League and now that we have more Lady members it is suggested that this re-instated. The Committee agreed and that each team in every match should contain at least at least one male or one female. Any team failing to comply should have their overall score reduce by 25%. This was agreed.

There are no other suggestions to table.

Next TT Meeting - Wednesday 13th February 2019 at 10am.

18) Social Team Report

The New Year event was enjoyed by all who attended and the raffles have also been successful raising funds for the club. The next event is Burns night and all arrangements have been made and quizzes have now been arranged for February 9th and March 9th.

The group meetings have been very well attended and discussions are taking place about arrangements for future events.

19) Green Representatives Report

There was no Green Report other than to record all is well at this point in the annual cycle.

20) Building Representatives Report

No Report available

21) Catering Officers Report

No Report was available.

22) Any other Business

David Dagg has produced the poster showing photographs of all the members of the Executive and General Committees and the positions they hold within the Club. Permission is being sought from the relevant members to confirm that they are happy with their individual photograph before David prepares the final copy for display in the clubroom.

A friendly match with Taunton Deane has been arranged for 20th February 2019.

The meeting closed at 11.30am

Date of next meeting Wednesday 13th March 2019

Venue - The Clubhouse at 9.30am

Signed

Date.....

Geoff Stamp (Chairman