

WELLINGTON (SOM) BOWLING CLUB

Minutes of General Meeting held on 3rd October 2016 at the Clubhouse. The meeting commenced at 9.30am.

<u>Present</u>	Geoff Stamp (Chair) Sylvia Lane (President) Brian Wombwell (Secretary) Gill Groves (Ladies Admin) Lew Stanton (Treasurer) John Cherry Indoor Secretary Julia Stanton (Asst. Treasurer)	Roland Bath (Bar Steward) Paul Kelly (Club Captain) John Lister (Mixer Captain) Ernie Windsor (Building Rep) Richard Manning (Development Officer)
<u>Absent</u>	Jay Merrell, Ernie Windsor, Sylvia Lane	

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Jay Merrell (Fixture Secretary)

2. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Geoff Commented that the green appeared to be recovering well from what has been a very busy season. He asked Paul Kelly to thank all the club members who had worked on the green over the past season for their efforts. He was also pleased at the success that our league teams had achieved this year.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Previous Meeting

There were no matters arising.

5. Secretary's Report

- a) Dales have recently attended the club to stretch the carpet. They have reported that the carpet cannot be stretched again next year unless the grippers are replaced all round and they also recommend that the carpet is cleaned at the same time. They have provided a quotation which states that the cost would be £450-00 plus VAT.
- b) Brian reminded the committee that the AGM is only three weeks away and if they want to suggest any Proposals then they must be submitted by 8th October.
- c) A poster is to be displayed on the notice board pointing out to members the vacancies for duties that need filling. Brian said that it is important that Ladies are represented on the committees and positions such as Ladies Administrator are very important. If no one accepts the position then there will be no Lady representative on the Exec. Committee. Gill said that she would do her best to get Ladies involved at the forthcoming Ladies Meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report

- a) It is too early for the end of the month account to be presented but the annual accounts will be presented at the AGM by the accountant.
- b) The bar takings are currently £18,970.00 which are up from £11,972.00 in 2014/15 which is an increase of about 50%. The exact figure has not been calculated yet but it should bring us in excess of £6,000.00 profit into the club funds.
- c) Lew also commented that he was aware that the bar committee were considering taking out the draft bear and lager. He said that we make a considerable profit on each barrel and the margin is greater than we make on bottled beers. The committee agreed that the figures should be examined closely and presented to the General committee before any decision is made.
- d) Geoff asked for a vote of thanks for the excellent work done by Lew and Julia over the past few years for the club. This was echoed by all the members present.

7. Ladies Administrator

Gill said she has written to all the Ladies asking them to attend the Ladies Meeting on Wednesday 5th October. At the meeting she will try to persuade them to fill all the vacancies requiring ladies on the nomination form for the AGM.

8. Development Officer Report

Following our success at being awarded "Club of the year West Region" Julia had been contacted by Bowls England who have appointed an assessor David Tucker who will arrange to visit the club to interview some members and inspect the club in regard to the award for "Club of the Year". Julia and Richard will liaise with Mr Tucker. Richard has prepared two reports for the Bowls England assessor giving details not possible in the original BE application. One expands issues relating to Club Development and the other on Funding.

Grants

The disabled access needs further upgrading to install lights on the path from the clubhouse to the gate at the rear of the green. A light is also required for the smoking area. Richard has had a meeting with officials from Taunton Deane BC and it is hoped that they will provide funding for this project.

The Sport England grant for Small Funding to help refurbish the toilets is now being progressed to final stages. This will allow relocation of the ladies toilet, upgrade the men's toilet, and upgrade the clubroom.

Richard said that he had researched a Foundation Grant that had very strict rules that referred to prevention of financial fraud within the clubs. He said that this was very poignant following the recent case of fraud at the Wellington Conservative Club. One of the rules related to the signing of blank cheques and the other required independent bar stocktakes and a till coupled to stock. These are things that we should be implementing in the very near future.

Richard has received a cheque from the BDA for £290 which has to be returned as it is not signed.

Following meetings with Viridor, TDBC, and the case officer assigned by Sport England Richard has concluded that the chances of securing £65,000.00 for the club improvements may be more successful by linking joint bids.

New members

The number of new members recruited and becoming members of the club for the last two years is 53. This is especially important as it has more than kept pace with the number of members who have left the club over recent years. This is having a positive impact on the long term stability and financial growth of the club. Richard raised the question of whether we should continue with recruitment next year. It was unanimously agreed that recruitment should be an ongoing exercise as members are lost every year as a process of natural wastage.

Winter Activity has been increased by encouraging and including new members to join the Indoor Green activities over the coming season.

In 2015 a new men's team joined the the evening league, Two new Saturday afternoon triples teams were formed and there is a new designated new members roll on Wednesday afternoon. This year A new Mon/Tues mixed fours league team has been established, a new Sat afternoon triples has joined the league, the Ladies league has a new team, and a new league for ladies triples consisting of 20 Ladies will run on Friday evening. Where teams have lost members they have been consolidated by the inclusion new members.

The additional activity on the green will add substantially (anticipated to be £3,000.00) to the income of the club.

Fence Fund

The fence fund is rising week by week and currently stands at £2,300.00 which includes donations from members and sponsorship funding raised by Mike Connor and Richard. RW Gale donated a cheque for £500.00 and Richard asked Brian to send a letter of thanks. Richard said there may be more to come. The committee were in agreement that this is a fantastic effort and the decision to allow the money to be raised for the fence by donations was well warranted.

In October Paul Kelly will organise the removal of the trees and we can then arrange for a contractor to quote for grinding out the tree stumps. The quotations for the fence can then be assessed and an order placed for the installation next March.

Membership Secretary

Richard asked the committee to issue a proposal at the AGM to create the position of Membership Secretary. This suggestion was unanimously agreed by the committee and it was also agreed that this position should qualify for membership of the General Committee. Agreement at the AGM means that the Constitution be amended to suit.

The duties for this position to include keeping the membership lists up to date, processing membership forms, liaising with team Captains, arranging recruitment venues and subsequent paperwork and assisting the coaches.

9. Men's Captain Report

Paul said that it had been a very successful season for the club with three teams getting promotion. As far as he had been able to determine this is the first year in the clubs history that we had won promotion to the premier two division of the Somerset League. It would be a challenge to remain in that league but our 'At' team are up for it. He was also pleased that throughout the season it had been very rare for people to drop out of the team and he was able to play a settled squad.

Paul then commented that he was looking for ideas on the best way to educate our new members how to read the "head" as this was very important in both league and friendly matches. If they are to be integrated into the teams as skips or number 3 they must know how to instruct the player on the mat to get the best advantage at each end.

10. Ladies Captain Report

Gill reported that there were some promising new lady members becoming available and hoped that would join the Ladies team next season.

Comments were made that the new Ladies would be playing indoors in the leagues and should feel more confident by the start of next season.

11. Mixed Captain Report

John reported that he was very satisfied that we have had a good and successful season. We have won about 50% of our matches and the ones that we lost were mostly very close. Next season looks very promising as we have been including members who are new to bowling in all of our teams. This bodes well for next season as the new members will have gained more experience and increased confidence. John also reported that throughout the season there has not been a problem with getting people to play, in fact, most of the matches have been over subscribed and we have not had to cancel any matches. Our visitors have commented that they have enjoyed the games and our hospitality. This has resulted in the club making many friends and enhanced our reputation.

12. Fixture Secretary Report (Written report submitted as Jay was absent at work)

Jay reports that most of the friendlies have been arranged for next season. Some of the problems highlighted this past season have been resolved but some unavoidably have not. Many of the clubs have requested triples matches rather than fours. When he conducted the review over the summer many members said that they preferred triples so these requests have been accommodated .

At the moment only one touring team have has been booked and he is liaising with Diane regarding the meal.

An under 25's match between Herefordshire and Cornwall has been booked. They do not require a cooked meal but would like to purchase rolls and the bar to be open.

13. Competition Secretary's Report

The competitions are now over so there is nothing to report.

14. Indoor Secretary's Report

John reported that the 2016/17 winter indoor preparations are complete for leagues and roll ups.

Team dispositions are:

Men's League - 8 teams playing Tue/Wed/Thur evenings first match 27th Sept.

Ladies League - 4 teams playing Thur/Fri first match 6th October

New Ladies Friday Triples League - two teams playing 2 matches each Friday 6pm till 9.00pm

Afternoon League - 7 teams playing Mon/Tues first match 3rd October

Weekend Triples League - 6 teams playing Sat first match 1st October

Roll ups - 9 Roll up groups playing Mon to Friday (mostly am) first match 26th September.

Score cards for league secretaries have been issued and a few spares are kept at the side of the bar. The cards were obtained thanks to Jay. John would like to know if we have any more stored anywhere as many more will be required before the end of the season.

Coin bags for rink free payments and tag labels for the wall rack are all in place - thanks to Lew and Julia.

Fixture Books - John questioned the need for fixture books when the information is readily available from the Roll up and League Secretaries, and the indoor rink notice boards. The committee agreed that fixture books are not necessary and an unnecessary expense. A decision was made not to produce the indoor fixture books.

Indoor competitions - To be arranged as last year and hopefully include a Ladies Singles competition. Notices and invitations to enter will be posted from Mid October.

15. Bar Steward's Report

Roland said he was pleased to report that the bar takings have increased dramatically over the past two years.

during the winter months we would monitor the bar takings and arrange the bar opening times to suit.

Lew asked for a letter to be sent to Roland thanking him for his 36 years of service to the club.

Roland has gone about his duties quietly and without fuss expecting no thanks for his efforts.

16. Social Team report

Richard reported that one of the "Two Dons" has been diagnosed with cancer and they have had to cancel their New Year engagement at our club. A new act is being sought and it is hoped that the event will still take place. The other events are going well and the details are available on the notice board.

17. Green Representatives Report

The green is being left to recover and will be tended as necessary.

18. Building Representatives Report

Nothing to report.

19. Catering Team

Nothing to report.

20. Any Other Business

- a) Membership Fees - The Executive Committee were recommending that a proposal be put forward at the AGM to increase the membership costs and would like to seek endorsement from the General Committee. The proposal is that :
Full outdoor membership be increased to £85 and this should include the cost of our club competitions. This to be effective from May 2017.
and
the cost of the Indoor membership should be increased to £20. This to reflect that the Indoor membership is valid for a whole year. To be effective from September 2017
It was recommended that the cost of social membership should remain the same.
The General Committee voted to endorse this proposal.
- b) The Secretary said that he was going to post a notice asking members to volunteer for the vacant positions and asked Committee Members to try and encourage our members to put their names down.
- c) A member suggested that appointments to the Executive Committee should be on alternate years so that there is always continuity. For example two members should be elected in year one for one year and two members elected for two years. The General Committee suggested that this should be discussed at the Exec. meeting prior to making a proposal at the AGM.

Think Tank report

John Cherry said he would like to update the committee on recommendations that the Think Tank have brought to the committee so far:

Name badges - before taking any further action we would await to hear the outcome of our "Club of the Year" application as name badges are part of the prize.

"Wall Pictures" - Re-arranging the wall pictures and photographs around the club has been approved in principle but has been put on hold until the results of our grant applications for modifying the club house are known.

Toilet hand driers - A drier for the Gents toilet has been approved. A suitable make has been found and will be installed by Alan May. The two driers in the Ladies toilet have been inspected and one operates satisfactorily but the other does not work.

Disabled Access - A sign at the back gate asking motorists to keep clear is to be placed on order.

Club Newsletter - This has been approved in principle but an Editor is required. Brian Wombwell is prepared to do this providing an Assistant Secretary is appointed to share the workload. Bernard Barnes has agreed to Publish the document if all the copy and photos are supplied to him already edited.

Notice boards - Brian to meet with Mike Connor to identify unnecessary clutter on the notice boards.

Trophy Presentation Night on 22nd October - Prize money to be distributed as last year. The Triples Trophy is available and will be presented with appropriate cash prizes along with the other trophies. As Sylvia has now officially resigned Geoff will present the trophies as Chairman. Lew ask John to let him know how much he required for the Prize money.
Food has yet to be arranged.

21- Membership Applications

We had one membership application from Roger Brown who is a very experienced Bowler at outside, indoor and short mat. If we want to develop short mat bowls in the future he is willing to coach and teach members about short mat bowls. He has recently moved into the area from Exmouth and played at Madiera Bowls club. His membership application was accepted.

- The meeting closed at 12.35am

Date of next meeting Monday 3rd October 2016 at 9.30am in the Clubhouse.

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

Date: