

WELLINGTON (SOM) BOWLING CLUB

Minutes of General Meeting held on 10th August 2016 at the Clubhouse.

The meeting commenced at 9.30am.

Present	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)
Absent	Jay Merrell	

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

2. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Geoff said he was very pleased that problems with some members have settled down and there was now a very good feeling within the club.

The hanging baskets and tubs around the green were looking splendid and added a great deal to the visual aspect of the green. He added that it was unfortunate that there were some problems with the green and the long spells of dry weather had not helped. He said that he hoped that the problems would be rectified over the winter.

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

Dress Code - BW has modified the notice and displayed it on the notice board.

Grant Application from Nomads - The ramp has been purchased and it is now stored in the new shed.

Lockers - All members hiring lockers have been identified and spare lockers allocated.

Thank You Day - arrangements for the day are all in place.

Triples Competition - The competition had been held on 10th July as planned. It was a very successful day and the new format made the competition very exciting for all those taking part.

Club Promotion Leaflets - The leaflets had been ordered by Jay and passed to Richard for distribution to the developer's Show Homes on the new estates.

5. Secretary's Report

BW read a letter from the Chairman of Minehead Bowling Club, which said that their Captain had witnessed the incident on June 9th and confirmed that the culprits were from Taunton Bowls Club. It was decided to drop this issue, as it was obvious that both clubs had got the message and further action would be a waste of time.

BW reported that most of the new club shirts had been distributed but there had been a major problem with the shirt sizes. The men's shirts were all one size bigger than ordered so many of them had to be swapped for a smaller size. This meant that the smaller size shirts ordered for stock had all been given out and we had a number of the larger shirts left in stock. Brian told the committee that he had agreed with Kaylo that they would supply us with 3 large, 4 medium and 4 small and 1 medium ladies free of charge and we can keep the larger shirts in our stock.

We have had several new ladies join the club and BW had ordered 6 medium and 2 small extra which we will have to pay for. He said that we should not pay Kaylo for the balance of the original order until the replacements are received.

Indoor friendly matches - BW had put up a notice asking if any members would like to take part in Friendly matches this winter. The matches would have to be away as we had only one rink. If sufficient names were entered we would contact clubs to see if they would like to play us.

Open Day - We have received a letter from the Manageress of the Leisure Centre, which is a personal apology for her error in getting the date wrong for their Triathlon. We received the letter following our email to the Director of the company that manages the Leisure Centre on behalf of the Borough Council.

Trees - Paul Kelly has agreed to take down the trees at the back of the green and will arrange a working party in due course. Paul has all the equipment necessary except a chipper that will be

hired from a local company. Richard Manning will get new quotations from the Fencing Contractors to make due allowance for the reduction in work.

Fence Fund - Following requests from some members we have launched a fund to help pay for the fencing work. Emails and letters have gone out to all members asking for donations and notices put up on the notice board.

Safety Barriers - Richard Manning has arranged and supervised additional safety barriers to be installed on the edge of the green.

New Cooker - The new cooker has been successfully installed in the kitchen. Richard Manning was successful in applying for a grant from the Town Council and the balance was paid for out of the Social Team fund. Rod Troake had modified the kitchen cupboards and tiling.

6. Treasurer's Report

- a) LS presented his financial monthly report that was accepted by the meeting without comment.
- b) Lew reported that we took approximately £500 when we hosted the recent County Game.

7. Ladies Administrator

Gill asked if there would be problems supplying the food at the next upcoming County game when Julia would be away. Diane and Yvonne would be doing the food on that day and it was understood that they had everything in hand.

Gill gave a verbal report to the committee of the discussions relating to the problems of raising teams for the Ladies League. A written copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

8. Development Officer Report

Richard gave a very detailed report of the progress of the various projects that are underway at the moment.

His report also shows an analysis of the membership situation since 2014 that underlines the importance of continued recruitment to secure the future of the club. It is clear that 29 male Full Members who were playing at the club in 2014 are not now playing during the summer and the ladies have reduced by 6. If recruitment had not taken place only 31 men and 11 ladies would be available for selection to the league and friendly matches. Full filling fixtures would now be a major problem and the club financial position would be in jeopardy.

A full copy of the report can be supplied on request.

9. Men's Captain Report

Paul said as far as League games were concerned this year must rank as one of the best seasons ever. The A team look like winning their league and getting promotion to Premier Two. We are also enjoying success in the Devon and Exeter league.

He also said it was obvious that all the players are enjoying bowling and there was a great deal of optimism in the club.

10. Ladies Captain Report

The position of fulfilling the Ladies League games has eased a little and one or two ladies have started putting their names down. The league position is that we are equal bottom, which is very disappointing. We do have some new lady members who are looking very promising and we hope that we shall improve next season.

11. Mixed Captain Report

Although we struggled at the start of the season losing the first six games we have acquitted ourselves well and results have been good winning about half of the matches. John was pleased at the number of members wanting to play in the friendlies but on the odd occasion we had been short of ladies. The problem we have had is getting the senior more experienced players to take part in the Friendly matches and to act as skips or number 3.

We have, however, made many new friends over the course of the season and many of our new members have taken advantage of the opportunity offered by the friendly matches to gain valuable competitive experience. We have at the moment some very promising players so all is looking good for next year. There is also a desire to win being shown by most players and not just an acceptance that "it is only a friendly". This is a good attitude and is being reflected throughout the club. Indeed this is also shown by the way the club is standing in the leagues.

On a different note John said that he was disappointed that one or two of our members were ignoring the dress code and that this problem should be addressed now and not later. At a recent game the captain of the opposing club pointed out to John (WBC Captain) that of 36 players on the green one of our players was improperly dressed. This was humiliating and should be stopped immediately. It has happened before and is a blatant disregard of club rules. He

suggested that a notice should be put up saying that anyone not dressed correctly will not be allowed to play in matches and will be disqualified from competitions.

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

- 1) Jay reported that he was asked to Chair a small committee to review the number of fixtures for next year. Due to time constraints and work commitments he had not convened a meeting but he was in email contact and canvassed the views of club members.
- 2) After discussions with Paul Kelly the Green will be open on Saturday 15th April. Subject to the weather and the condition of the green Paul may authorise the green to be used for practice a few days earlier.
- 3) Richard Manning has recruited Carly Press as a sponsor and Jay will be offered the fixture booklet-printing job next spring.
- 4) It was suggested and agreed that the committee record a vote of thanks to Jay for his excellent work as Fixture Secretary.
- 5) The promotional flyers have been purchased and issued to Richard Manning for distribution.

13. Competition Secretary's Report (Written report submitted as Jay was absent at work)

- 1) Member complaints have subsided and the competitions appear to be proceeding reasonably well. It is the members' responsibility to ensure that they will be available to play within the timeframe of the competition and those who spend long periods away during the summer should not enter.
- 2) The review of the rules for the Outdoor Competitions should be carried out by a separate committee and the rules established so that they can be issued with the membership packs towards the end of Feb 2017. Jay is willing to have input to the committee but does not want to be on the committee.
- 3) The club open triples competition was held on 10th July and the event was very successful. Members commented that it was much easier to play the competition in one day rather than asking several teams to arrange all the 18 end matches on different days. This fact is borne out by the fact that the mixed triples had not been completed for several years. Only one member complained that the matches should be 18 ends rather than six.
The committee decided that the one-day formula should be repeated next year.
- 4) Jay suggested that the existing Triples Cup should be presented to the winners (Corkett, Cowling and Stewart) at the Presentation Evening. One member has objected on the grounds that it should be an 18-end competition. *The committee decided that the existing cup should be used.*
- 5) The New members Competition proceeded very smoothly and the final will be played soon.

14. Indoor Secretary's Report

John said that he is busy preparing for the winter season. He is in the process of contacting all the League Team Secretaries, League Secretaries, and Roll Up Secretaries to draw up the team listings.

We need new team Secretaries for men's Wellington 4, Afternoon badgers, and weekend triples Wheelbarrows. Richard has indicated that we should be able to make up any shortages from the new members who are very keen. It may also be possible to create 1 or 2 extra teams. Roll ups should also be able to add additional members where required. John and Richard are working together on this.

John needs all the information by the first week of September so that he can create the Fixture lists that can then be distributed to the various secretaries so that they can then create their player selections.

All players must be verified as members and have paid their £16 indoor membership before they play on the indoor rink.

At present John has no specific information about indoor rink booking for activities beyond last years League matches and roll ups.

15. Bar Steward's Report

Roland reported that bar takings were up again and that everything was going OK.

Roland said he was very grateful to the bar staff for their hard work over the summer.

The only problems occurred when the person looking after the bar was also playing in a match. It was suggested that a rota should be established to overcome this problem.

There was still a problem with high temperatures behind the bar and lager had been thrown away again. The question was asked whether we should stop selling beer and lager on draft and just have bottles and cans. This matter to be looked into more carefully.

16. Social Team report

- 1) Two Friday Flings have taken place since the last meeting one of which was a "Bring and Share" and 36 members attend. A raffle raised £60 for the Social Fund.
- 2) The team also arranged a "Pulled Pork" evening combining the use of the inside and outside spaces so that we were not limited to numbers. Music was provided by Joe and 94 members attended of which 28 were 2016 "newbees". A sum of £266.55 was raised for the Social fund and the bar took over £500. A number of members have expressed their thanks for a great evening and fabulous food.
- 3) The team are continuing the upgrade to the kitchen facilities i.e. the Rangemaster cooker, a fourth slow cooker, and an electric can opener.
- 4) A list of the forthcoming Social Events for the winter have been posted on the notice board. A great deal of time has been spent contacting and viewing acts and to date all the dates have been booked and confirmed.
- 5) The team has been asked by several members to arrange a one off charity event per year. This was discussed and it was generally agreed that it would be a good idea but it was suggested that local charities such as the Children's' Hospice should take precedence. The social team to be asked to look into this a bit further and let the committee have their thoughts.

17. Green Representatives Report

- 1) Paul told the committee that the blade on the mower has only one season left and a new blade would be required at the end of next season. He estimates that the cost will be £1,000 but will make enquiries and advise us of the full cost in due course.
- 2) The sprinkler system is faulty and requires a service and total refurbishment ready for next season. The cost of this also needs to be established.
- 3) There is still a problem with holes on the green. These areas have been seeded but they have not taken. It is hoped that this problem can be overcome before the start of next season.
- 4) Paul has done a risk assessment on all the machinery for the green maintenance team.
- 5) Bill Heard has now retired and Paul has now taken over responsibility for the green

18. Building Representatives Report

Nothing to report.

19. Catering Team

Nothing to report.

20. Any Other Business

- 1) It was recommended that the cost of social membership should remain the same.
- 2) Holiday Tour 2016 - members to be asked at the AGM if they are interested.
- 3) We should adopt a drinks list for the break during Friendly games. The list to detail the drinks for each table which is handed to the bar staff. The bar staff can then get the drinks ready for after the match and price up the list and the costs can then be divided equally between the players of each team.
- 4) BW - the nomination sheets for positions will be posted on the notice board end of August.

Think Tank

John Cherry raised several ideas that the Think Tank had come up with at their meeting.

- 5) **Name badges** to help visitors and new members recognise our members. Several options have been researched and the favoured one is Name Badges direct at £3.58 each (Inc. VAT) for quantities of 100. They could be paid for by uplifting the membership fee to £85 this would cover the initial purchase and on going replacements.
- 6) **Automatic Irrigation System** for hanging baskets. The system should be replaced
- 7) **Heavy-duty concrete fence** on perimeter shared with the Rugby Club. The cost of a heavy-duty concrete fence is prohibitive and it has been decided to install a close-boarded wooden fence. The new fence will be installed over the winter period after the trees have been removed.
- 8) **Electric hand dryer** should be fitted in the Gents and Ladies Toilets. This has been researched and the "WHITE TORNADO" appears to be the best value at £275 each.
- 9) **Photographs** - John passed round some pictures showing the chaotic and random way in which the various photos of club memorabilia that are distributed around the club. There was general agreement that something should be done but the meeting had to be closed

because some members were playing away and had to go. Geoff apologised to John and the issue will be raised at the next meeting.

- 10) **A sign** indicating "Disabled Access Please Keep Clear" should be installed at the back gate.
- 11) Bernard Barnes has volunteered to produce **a newsletter** and articles would be supplied by team captains, Club Committees and members.
- 12) **Notice boards** to be tidied up and obsolete and irrelevant papers removed.
- 13) **Trophy Presentations** on 22nd October on the same basis as last year. Money prizes to be on the same basis as last year with addition of best newcomer.
- 14) **Triples competition** winners should be presented on the same day with £8 each for the winning team.

The chairman apologised to John and the Think Tank Team because the meeting had to be closed because most of the committee had to leave the meeting because they were in a match in the afternoon. The suggestions from the Think Tank would be considered at the next Exec Meeting or referred to the Gen. Committee.

- 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: