

CHELTENHAM WHADDON BOWLING CLUB

MINUTES OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON THURSDAY 08 JUNE 2023 AT 2.00PM

Present: Mike Newman, Dave Simmons, Andy Todd, Dave Hooper, Yvonne Anderson-Foss, Don Bailey, Peter McGiffie, Jill Whistler, David Hearle, Derek Fry, Ray Hawkins

APOLOGIES

Alan Adams, Jan Bowd

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and were approved and signed as true record by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING

2. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

USE OF CAR PARK ON FOOTBALL MATCH DAYS

3. Mike and Andy had held 2 meetings with the owner of Iglu Bars, at which we learned that Rapid Retail, with whom we had previously been negotiating, had lost the catering contract at Cheltenham Town FC in favour of his company. He would still like to come to an arrangement with the club to use our car park to provide catering facilities for away fans at matches. However, the proposal he put forward differed significantly from that set out by Rapid Retail:

- a. Rather than permanent structures Iglu would set up a temporary tent/gazebo on match days across the front of the club, thus blocking access to the clubhouse for those using the facility. He estimated that for a 3.00pm kick-off, he would need access to the car park from about 10.00am on match days in order to set up, or from about mid-afternoon for evening games.
- b. They would probably not set up the facility for every game; if away attendance expected to be very low (e.g. less than 200), it would not be worthwhile.
- c. The Safety officer from CTFC will look at the space available to set a maximum capacity and check that the proposed arrangements are secure. Club stewards will be stationed at the gate to monitor numbers entering and crowd control. Police are always present on Whaddon Road on match days and have no objection to the proposed arrangement.
- d. The facility will close after the halftime break and all equipment will be removed and rubbish cleared, so the car park will be left exactly as found, by about 2 hours after the game.
- e. As compensation for the inconvenience and for the use of the car park, they are offering 10% of takings (i.e. if they take £3000, we would get £300). As an additional incentive, they offered to provide bar or catering for major club events at no cost.
- f. They would like to test the arrangement at CTFC pre-season friendlies on 20, 22 & 25 July (no matches or events at the club planned for these days).

4. Andy noted that there may be some problems if evening football fixtures clash with skittles matches during the winter season for evening games, or with club games in August/September, after the football season starts. The former is far less a problem, now we have only 4 skittles teams playing at the club, only one on Tuesday. In part the income from this arrangement would make up for the loss of bar income from skittles. However, football fixtures come out on 22 June, which gives us time to plan to avoid difficulties.

5. Mike and Andy then answered follow-up questions. Regarding licencing arrangements, Iglu would

have its own licence (though we also have a full licence for our premises, so are covered anyway). Overall, the Committee was much happier with this proposal, as it did not involve any permanent structure but insisted that we have a written agreement with Iglu, renewable annually and preferably with a 'get out' clause, if we felt the arrangement was not working out for us. Mike and Andy would arrange a further meeting to conclude an agreement.

CLUB COMMUNICATIONS

6. Dave Simmons had had a long conversation with a new member, who felt that the Committee did not do enough to communicate how it worked. We could do more to help members understand the roles and responsibilities Committee members, so that they knew who to talk to and how they could bring any issues to the Committee for discussion. It would also help to know when Committee meetings were taking place.

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7. While much of this information is available on the club's website, we considered how we could make this more accessible to members and help them to find what they needed to know. To help identify committee members and their responsibilities we would put photographs, together with position and a short description of their duties on the noticeboard. Much topical information was now exchanged on WhatsApp groups and we should be pointing new members towards these for team news and social events.

8. We have made progress in making Committee minutes openly available, but we could do more to make our processes more transparent to members. Sub-committees are described in the appendixes to the Constitution, but we should also try to publicise what they do.

OPEN DAY OUTCOME

9. David Hearle provided the following report on the Open Day on 8 May 2023:

- a. My understanding is that the Open day was successful. The weather held up and turned out to be sunny in the afternoon and we kept 3 rinks busy all afternoon with visitors rolling up. We had 26 visitors of which 20 rolled up.
- b. The organisation of the event was made easy for me by all the members assigned to jobs doing them willingly for which I was grateful. It was very useful that documentation about last year's Open day was retained. A good bit of foresight. I am happy to organise next year's event if required. I will keep my Open Day rota safe for use next year.
- c. We had no problems with car parking for visitors so members must have complied with the request to park next door whereby avoiding some poor member standing at the gate all day. The registration system in the reception area went well as did the rink assignment table. The registration table was manned by Peter and Karen, Maggie and Debs and Roger and Sharon through the day. This is a difficult job to do mainly because you are hidden away from the action. The rink assignment table (which was new this year) was the hub which made the day work, and it was smoothly run by Alan Adams.
- d. The kitchen sold 80 hot dog sausages and while a vegetarian option was available, it was not taken up. The sausages were cooked on the BBQ manned by Gerry Warburton which should be a repeat format next year. Tea and coffee were available but little used. Maybe cakes should return next year. The kitchen staff did a great job.
- e. The rinks were manned by willing members as was the show rink. Thank you all.
- f. The bar ran smoothly. I would like to mention Mark and Julie Beaven and Allan Pearce who were bar novices at the time.
- g. The raffle format was just one big generous prize. Maybe next year we should increase the number of prizes to say three.
- h. I believe we gained several new members though at the time of typing I am not aware of the exact figure. [Secretary's Note: Total of 4 full member and 1 Social member]
- i. Colin as always was the club photographer and we await his album of photographs of the day.
- j. Maybe this year our after service has not been so good in terms of roll ups for new members and this might need more organising on my part.

- k. What struck me overall was how helpful the last two year's intake were on the day and that is not to diminish the work done by the "old lags". It showed that the Club must be doing something right and touch wood it is spilling over onto the green.

10. The Committee thanked David for his work in organizing a successful Open Day, despite the uncertain weather, and all the members who contributed to the running of the day.

AOB

11. Though unable to be present Alan Adams drew our attention to a message he had received following our **fixture with Victory Park** on 28 May 2023. They had very much enjoyed the day and had complimented our members on their friendliness and attitude to the game. They wanted to turn this into a home/away fixture for next year and offered some additional dates, which the Fixture Secretary will consider, depending on our availability. They concluded with the following:

"Just as a by note and please don't take this the wrong way. When we played at yours in 2022, we didn't get any food or hot drinks provided after the game and we did discuss reciprocating but that wouldn't be 'us' so we provided an afternoon tea to all players and visitors. Can you chat with your committee to see if your club would put on some 'afters', it kinda finishes the day off on a high note."

12. We had a short and inconclusive discussion on whether we should indeed reciprocate hospitality, though this would be against the policy we adopted last year of offering tea and biscuits only.

13. Dave Hooper raised the issue of **catering at Men's league matches**, following the resignation of Gail Gilbert from all club activity. We only have 3 more matches to provide for, so hope that the ladies who were helping Gail could step in for the remaining games.

14. There followed a long exchange of views over the sequence of events that led to the resignation and who had authority or not to take action over members' concerns. In this context greater understanding of roles of Committee members, as proposed in paras 6 – 8, might have produced more clarity. We did all agree, however, that we valued Gail's contribution to the club and much regretted her departure.

15. David Hearle informed the Committee that he and Ray were planning **work on the green** between 29 June and 8 July, when no home games were scheduled. He asked whether it would be possible to close it for a day, if necessary. Andy said it would be possible to block out the required time on the rink booking system, if they let him know the precise date in advance.

16. Following a review of bar prices Dave Simmons noted that our margin on **wine sales** was considerably below the target of 40% and prices would have to go up.

17. Mike noted that work on replacing guttering had been completed and the House & Grounds team was about to begin on **redcoration of the Ladies changing room**. The tarmac path around the green next to the car park was in poor condition and the team would look to repair this during the winter months.

18. Mike reported that **2 accidents had occurred**: Roy Kirby had injured his hand while installing the new security camera and a Tewkesbury player had hurt his knee, trying to step up off the green. We could not make a second gap in the bank, as water pipes ran through it, but a set of steps was being made to help players get off the green at the far side.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

19. We would normally meet again on Thursday 06 July, but this clashes with scheduled matches, so we agreed that the next meeting would take place on Friday 07 July at 2.00pm.

Andy Todd
Secretary

Signed as a true
record:

Mike Newman (Chair)