

BRIMFIELD & LITTLE HEREFORD SPORTS CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 18 November 2022

MINUTES

PRESENT: John Stone, Jennie Cole, Craig Webb, Sue Webb, Susan Northwood, Bill Wheatley, Barbara Griffiths, Brian Draper, Mark Benbow, Mark North, Kath Morgan, Lynne Allen, Adrian Allen, Alec Tandler, Karen Tandler, Andrew Allsop

APOLOGIES: Clive Sheridan, Rosie Sheridan, Geoff King, Phil Williams, Jan Williams, Karen Yates, Philip Watts, Eileen Powell, George Giles, Richard Griffiths.

John Stone, President, introduced the meeting and thanked the Committee. He welcomed Tenbury Football Club, congratulated the Bowling Club on their successful season, Archery for their increased membership, and thanked Adrian Allen for organising the Skittles.

Jennie Cole, Chairman, thanked John Stone and introduced Kath Morgan from the Parish Council and thanked her for coming.

1. To approve the Minutes of the 2021 Extraordinary General Meeting held on 21 June 2021:

Jennie Cole read out the Minutes as there was only one paper copy.

Approved: Barbara Griffiths Seconded: Bill Wheatley

2. To receive and note the Chairman's Annual Report for the year:

- *Enormous thanks firstly to the Committee, who stepped in last year at the Extraordinary General Meeting [21st June 2021] to help revitalise and support the future of the Sports Club for the foreseeable future. Thankfully many of them have confirmed that they will be happy to continue for another year [but please don't hesitate to volunteer if you would like to join the Committee!]*
- *One of the main concerns at that time was the significant increase in Insurance, our biggest annual expense. Our thanks go to Tony Hobbis, the previous Treasurer, who went out of his way to ensure a smooth handover of the finances and to highlight his concerns regarding the increased annual insurance charge from £2,100 to £4,000 following the flooding claim after he stepped down as Treasurer. Tony was offered and has accepted honorary life membership for his services to the Club over the year along with Phil Desborough.*
- *Thankfully, one of our social members, Lynne Thorn, stepped in to investigate the price March Insurance Company were charging and managed to reduce the final agreement to £2,670 for three years, saving us £1,330 each year. Once the new bars go on the Shed and we have sorted electrical problems [£5k estimate] we will be fully insured with a reduced access. We are grateful to Lynne for the time and energy she has continued to put in to challenge the Insurance Company again this year. Lynne is not a Committee Member but a very welcome volunteer, saving the club much money. [Thank you, Lynne].*
- *An issue raised last year was the government funding for Covid relief. I can confirm that the Covid money has been accounted for and this has been confirmed with the Council. The*

funding covered maintenance throughout the year of the pandemic and the losses from not having functions and the bar being shut etc. Based on the accounts between 2019-2021 the costs incurred during Covid were £17,130 and loss of income during Covid, 19,534. This left a balance of £336.

- *The last year has continued to be troublesome and events and activities, following the Covid pandemic, have proved difficult to get restarted. Certainly, with the current financial situation for many and the continued fight against Covid there is no quick fix or any light at the end of the tunnel yet. Fortunately, we do have a small safety net from the grant funding but it won't last.*

- *Although we do have 'cash in the bank' we can't be complacent. Many of our regular bookings, as with many other places, have been cancelled due to lack of numbers, what is becoming known as the 'health and wealth' epidemic. At this moment in time expenditure exceeds our income by £4k. This is a 41% shortfall on income we need, based on current costs, so we have a long way to go before we get back on an even keel. I'm sure Craig will have more to say on the subject when he reports on the finances later.*

- *Our Social Secretary, Sue Webb, has instigated some new initiatives which we hope will see an increase in our income over the coming months. Dates have been arranged for more Car Boots, Carpet Bowls evenings and a Christmas Craft Fair. Thank you, Sue, for all the work undertaken behind the scenes. I know both you and Craig have been instrumental in ensuring the Club keeps going, particularly with covering Richard on the bar and regular trips to the Cash and Carry. We are indebted to you both. Hopefully we will see you all at many of the events coming up including the Christmas Craft Fair next weekend.*

- *Unfortunately, Richard Griffiths has had a really rough year with several trips to hospital. [Its lovely to see you here this evening, both of you.] This year Richard has become the Life President of the Bowls Section and Barbara is the Chairman. They are both very active members in the sports club and hopefully next year it will be a healthier one for you both.*

- *This is a private members club run by volunteers. It is made up of four sections, archery, bowls, football and skittles. These four sections are who I am talking about when I use the 'Royal We'. There isn't some overarching body of people that make things happen. We are dependent on a handful of people who put in their time and energy to keep this place going to enable sport to be played here. Everyone that visits compliments us on the facilities and the quality of the playing areas. If you have any skills or abilities or time that could help with the running of this facility, then please help. Attending any of the events or handing out flyers or simply forwarding an advert on a social network site helps promote the Club. We now have a website, and we have a Facebook page. Without the support of the members, the Club cannot survive. We really do need the members to use the club and support the events.*

- *Thanks to Adrian Allen, the Skittles League has returned this winter and uses the Club on a Tuesday and Wednesday evening. Don't forget the skittles alley can also be used for private functions if any of our members are interested. [I don't know the number of current members]*

- *The Archers of Teme have continued to do well and grow, doubling their numbers to 42. Sadly, we don't see much of them in the winter months but its great to know that they are surviving and growing in strength. Thank you to Mark North and Geoff King for your input at the Committee, it is always useful and relevant.*

- *The Bowling Club have also increased their membership registering 80 members this year. They have had several special events at the Club including being shortlisted for the National Bowls Club of the Year and the honour of hosting the Regional Final of the Mixed Pairs and the Mixed Fours on behalf of Bowls England. Players travelled from Cornwall to Leicestershire, Dorset to Herefordshire and were very impressed with the facilities. Players continue to represent Herefordshire at the National Championships. Next year they will be hosting the*

Herefordshire County Finals. All of this supports and brings in much needed funds into the Club. Bill Wheatley has represented the Bowling Club on our Committee for many years. Thank you, Bill, for your support over the last year.

- The Shooting section has not been so successful and didn't survive the pandemic, which reduced their numbers to 4. They decided to close last winter as the Section Fee proved costly with such a small group. The Shooting shed has become a storage facility.*
- Sadly, this year also saw the closure of the Football section when Woofferton FC closed down in March, mid-season and Tenbury Town FC folded in the summer. Thankfully Tenbury United have stepped in this season. Through their Youth Academy and Colts team, they are using the facilities on a regular basis. The Clubhouse is open Saturday and Sunday mornings when there are football fixtures and the bar on Saturday afternoons when the Colts are playing at home. Members of Tenbury United are maintaining the pitches to a high standard and have plans for how the facilities could be used in the future as a winter training venue. Having run a couple of the Café sessions I am very impressed with the standard and organisation of the Junior teams and I'm sure they will be very beneficial to the future of the club. We welcome your continued support and increased use of the Club and on the Committee.*
- At this point I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Committee and all the members, to thank George Giles for everything that he has done over the years. Sadly, George has decided that it is time to step down as a member of the committee. George has been involved with the Club from its initiation, playing for Woofferton Football Club and building the Clubhouse in the 80's to organising events, to decorating and maintaining the premises. For many years George was the Secretary of the Club. In the words of our President, John Stone 'his contribution to the success of the Club has been immense. We would like to thank George for his devoted and dedicated service' and ask George to please accept Honorary Life Membership of the Club.*
- I have a few more thank you's to make on behalf of everyone.*

Firstly, to those partners we are indebted to:

- ❖ Mrs Giles who has spent hours supporting George cleaning and painting the clubhouse.*
- ❖ My husband, David Cole, who along with volunteers from archery and bowls, sorted the broken path, jet washed the building and making good the outside areas.*
- ❖ I'm sure you have all noted the new car parking bays. Our thanks to Brian Draper. Brian ably supported by Cyril Wait have offered to take over maintenance at the premises. If you can be of any help please contact Brian and he will arrange a job for you [especially if you are an electrician!]*
- ❖ Our own Vice-Chair, Andrew Allsop, who keeps the tennis courts swept and hedges trimmed!*
- ❖ Our thanks to John Stirling for all his advice and guidance on the car boots and the provision of carpet bowls*
- ❖ Sandra Allen – Our emergency key holder, our sandbag placer, alarm resitter and cleaner. Sandra comes in during the week but will change her days to come in after an event when needed.*
- ❖ Barbara Griffiths, our Membership Secretary, who also organises our annual spring clean of the kitchen*
- ❖ And finally, Susan Northwood, our competent Club Secretary, who keeps me on track!*

Jennie Cole concluded by asking everyone to encourage their members to get involved with the Club and also asked for any help with Maintenance as issues arise.

3. 3a. Receive the Annual Financial Report:

Craig Webb expressed concern regarding the loss for the year. Cleaning is a lot of money but great value to the Club as Sandra comes outside of her cleaning time to reset the alarm, put the sandbags in place during heavy rain etc. The bar figures includes cleaning materials so has done better than the figures show. Membership and subscriptions are such a small figure that they don't cover the costs and we are not getting the volume of cash in. If we could get the subscriptions to cover the insurance it would help. We have a cushion but that will not last long.

2021/2022	Year End IN	Year End OUT
Auditor	£0.00	£0.00
Bar	£10,351.20	£7,125.73
Cleaning	£0.00	£1,800.00
Electric	£0.00	£1,110.00
Functions	£1,301.00	£316.40
Heating Oil	£0.00	£0.00
Flood Prevention	£0.00	£0.00
Gas	£0.00	£242.49
Insurance	£0.00	£2,670.25
Licences	£0.00	£180.00
Maintenance	£0.00	£1,549.00
Membership	£75.00	£0.00
Restart Grant	£0.00	£0.00
Stationary	£0.00	£10.20
Subscriptions	£1,730.00	£125.00
Sundries	£0.00	£1,304.58
Waste	£0.00	£1,164.73
Water	£0.00	£327.61
Treasurer Float		£0.00
Total	£13,457.20	£17,925.99

Balance	-£4,468.79	
Float/Petty Cash		£1,560.00
Current Account		£35,148.12
Bar Stock	£1,850.93	

3b. Endorse the Annual Accounts:

Sue Webb pointed out that in order to rent the hall out more money needs to be spent for grills around the bar, WiFi etc

Andrew Allsop said that prior to Covid the accounts were always on a knife edge.

Adrian Allen pointed out that the insurance does not cover flood damage and Jennie Cole said that few insurances did and although some work had been done to include the areas round the back of the hall there was still work to be done.

Lynne Allen asked how much the subscriptions would have to go up to cover things. She thought the subscriptions were small and asked if people should also pay small fee for use of

the hall. Jennie Cole advised that we were considering increasing the Membership from £5 to £10 but the Committee were reluctant to put it up too much to deter members.

Mark Benbow thought we should put the Affiliation Fee up and Craig Webb suggested that we could “cherry pick”. The Bowls Club doesn’t pay for their functions and perhaps all Affiliated Sections should pay for functions, either per head or room hire. Jennie Cole said she was running Craft Days every Wednesday at a cost of £5 per day to cover lunch, drinks and use of the hall. She didn’t think people minded paying something. Barbara Griffiths said that the Bowls Club could pay an increased Affiliation Fee as they use the hall more than anyone else, or they could pay a fee for a function. Mark Benbow said that the Football Club would be happy to pay more if they use the hall for committee meetings etc. Considering having coaches’ meetings and committee meetings here and make sure of the bar which would be manned by volunteers.

Jennie Cole put to the Meeting that the Affiliation Fee stays the same but we have a £50 charge for use of the hall for meetings for the Bowls and Football Sections, this would not include Archery as they only have a couple of meetings each year. Craig Webb suggested that this charge was for sections using the hall regularly for meetings eg 12 meetings in a year. If a section has a Public Meeting then a separate £50 booked fee could be charged.

The following was agreed unanimously by the meeting:

- **Affiliation fee to remain at £250 per year**
- **Membership Fee to increase from £5 to £10 per head**
- **Sections who use the hall regularly for meetings to pay £50 per year**
- **Sections including Public events to pay £50 booking fee**

Proposed: Barbara Griffiths Seconded: Sue Webb

Jennie Cole pointed out that a lot of Clubs are going to close this year and we have to do all we can to ensure our future.

Adrian Allen asked if the electricity costs had increased and Craig Webb said that, after the current increase, we were paying £103 per month.

4. **4a. Approve that the Annual Full Membership Subscription increase to £10:**
- 4b. Approve that the Annual Affiliation Fee remain at £250**

Both these items were covered above.

5. **5a. To elect the following Officers, to serve until the next Annual General Meeting:**

President	<i>John Stone</i>
Chairman	<i>Jennie Cole</i>
Vice Chairman	<i>Andrew Allsop</i>
Treasurer	<i>Craig Webb</i>
Secretary	<i>Susan Northwood</i>
Social Secretary	<i>Sue Webb</i>
Membership Secretary	<i>Barbara Griffiths</i>

Jennie Cole advised that she was happy to continue for another 12 months but would be standing down next year, as would Craig Webb.

5b. To elect a maximum of 6 Committee Members, to serve until the next Annual General Meeting, to represent the membership of the Affiliated Clubs:

Archery	Mark North, Geoff King
Football	Mark Benbow (and one other)
Bowls	Susan Northwood, Bill Wheatley

5c. The following members agreed to take on the responsibility for the following:

Bar	Richard Griffiths and Craig Webb
Maintenance	Brian Drapper and Cyril Wait
Skittles	Adrian Allen

6. To consider any propositions from the Committee:

a. Approve the Constitution:

Jennie Cole advised that the reason for reviewing the Constitution is for funding purposes. There was is only one major amendment and that is to update the objectives which is a critical statement in order to apply for funding. This is:-

3. OBJECTIVES

3a. The objectives of Brimfield & Little Hereford Sports Club are to provide adequate facilities for, and to promote participation in, amateur sports for anyone interested in sport regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, relation, or other beliefs.

3b. Brimfield & Little Herford Sports Club will be a not-for-profit voluntary organisation run by a committee, as described in 4 below, for the benefit of sport in the community and to provide recreation in the Parishes of Brimfield & Little Hereford in the Counties of Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

3c. Any money obtained by Brimfield & Little Hereford Sports Club shall be used only for the Club. Any bank accounts opened for the Cub shall be in the name of Brimfield & Little Hereford Sports Club. Any cheques issued shall be signed by the Treasurer and one other nominated official.

Jennie Cole asked if there were any questions and it was agreed unanimously to adopt.

7. To consider any propositions from the Club Membership:

None received.

John Stone thanked Jennie Cole for chairing the meeting. He also added his thanks for George Giles, who is standing down this year, for all his help over the year. He is still at the end of the phone if we need him!

He thanked everyone for coming and said that he hoped we would have a successful year. The Club is an important addition to the area.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.