



## **West Somerset Bowls League**

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held at **North Petherton Bowling Club** on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 **at 7.30pm**

The chairman, Don Bridges, opened the meeting at 7.30pm

### **In attendance-**

Don Bridges (DB), Chairman - Burnham on Sea BC  
John Swayne (JS), Vice Chairman - North Petherton BC  
Mark Reeve (MR), Treasurer - Taunton Deane BC  
Jay Merrell (JM), Secretary - Wellington BC

Rod Stoodley (RSt), - Eastover Park BC  
Graham Lewis (GL), - Bridgwater BC  
Callum Harrod (CH), - Williton BC  
Christine Willcocks (CW), - Wellington BC  
Tony Foxwell (TF), - Taunton Deane BC  
Nick Gardner (NG), - Minehead BC  
Royston Ball (RB), - Minehead BC  
Allan Kirk (AK), - Taunton BC  
Rod Sommerfield (RSo), - Watchet BC  
John Hill (JH) – Victoria Park BC  
Chris Mead (CM) – Victoria Park BC

**1. Apologies for Absence-** Mike Beale - Taunton Deane BC.

**2. Minutes of AGM Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022-** 2022 minutes were proposed by JS and seconded by JH and approved unanimously.

**3. Matters arising- Nil**

### **4. Secretary's report-**

Firstly, I would like to thank Bill Warnett for his tenure as treasurer, and in particular his work developing the excel spreadsheet for producing the weekly results and tables. Thank you to Mark for his work as secretary and for agreeing to take on the treasurer role at short notice. Also, I would like to thank John Swayne and North Petherton BC for agreeing to host the AGM this evening.

Congratulations to the league winners, Wellington A in division one and Taunton Deane C in division two and to Eastover A who are promoted to division one with commiserations to Wellington B and Taunton Deane B who are relegated. It is the first time Wellington have won division one since 1983 and Taunton Deane C will be the first C team to play in division one.

In what has been an unsettled summer weather wise I think we've been fortunate in that of the 132 scheduled games we completed 128, of the four that weren't completed 3 (2 Wellington C and one Williton B) were  
enquiries@wsbl.org.uk

because teams were unable to find enough players and one because yours truly messed up the Wellington fixture list, apologies to my club mates and, in particular, to those Minehead members affected. I would also like to apologise on behalf of Wellington BC for the two cancelled games. Steps will be taken to ensure this does not happen next year.

The "open" nature of the league has proven popular, the fact that for the first time ever the league has flourished with twelve teams in both division one and two is testament to that in my opinion. I would also like to acknowledge and thank all clubs for their catering efforts this season, it is great that we can continue to enjoy a snack and drink together after the match, I know several evening leagues throughout the country no longer continue with this tradition.

I would like to thank clubs for returning the results to me so promptly, as you know my preferred method is a photo of the cards emailed to me, but tabulated format is fine. Unfortunately, next season we probably will not have access to the spreadsheet we have been using for the past couple of seasons so I will need to go back to the manual version which requires the league table to be calculated after each result is input. As ever I will endeavour to get the results out as soon as possible. I will remind you all nearer the time, but it will be more important than ever for you to check your entries on the results table each week.

With the above in mind, we have a vacancy for the non-executive role of Assistant Secretary. This will mainly involve helping me compile the weekly results table, so if you or any of your club mates have a little knowledge of excel (or any spreadsheet software) and can perhaps spare an hour on a Friday morning please ask to see if they would be willing to help the league with this.

Jay Merrell  
Acting Secretary

This was our second full season "open," so I asked Christine Willcocks from Wellington to provide a lady's perspective on playing in the league. These are her thoughts-

Firstly, I really must mention what a great summer it has been for women in sport.  
The Roses in the netball.  
The Lionesses in the football.....fantastic !  
Wellington winning this league.

Wow ! What a great summer I have had bowling in the West Somerset Bowls League.  
Great company. Competitive games. Quality matches.

On a personal level I have really enjoyed playing in this league. I have never minded playing with male or female bowlers, as once you are on the rink it is all about a good quality competitive game.  
In the coming years hopefully more clubs will include more women in their teams. So that when choosing on selecting, choices are made on current performance and capability rather than gender.

By  
Chrissie Willcocks

## **5. Treasurer's report-**

The bank mandate for adding my signature has been completed and I now have full access to the online bank account.

I've met with Bill Warnett twice since his resignation. I'd like to thank him for his time as Treasurer. Bill has signed the prize money cheques.

Now I've access to the account, I'll be able to investigate one small discrepancy and possible error by Wellington who may have paid twice. This can be corrected going forward.

The accounts as I can report them are:

2022 AGM Balance Carried Forward £1201-42

Income £660

Expenditure £644-39.

Comprising-

Website cost £14-39

Membership of Bowls England £30.00

2023 Prizes. £600.00

Carried Forward £1217-03

Hopefully all goes well with the nominations and Exec positions at the AGM.

Mark Reeve

Interim Treasurer and outgoing secretary

## 6. Chairman's report-

As you are now probably aware there were some changes to the executive officers during the last year due to the resignation of Bill Warnett our treasurer. I would like to express my thanks to him for looking after the league's accounts for a number of years. Fortunately, Jay agreed to take over as acting secretary and Mark to take over as treasurer – a reversal of roles and I am pleased to say it has worked very well.

I must, and I believe all of us must, give our grateful thanks to Jay but not forgetting Mark for the smooth way in which the league ran during the season. I know Jay worked extremely hard getting the results out quickly each week and we were very fortunate to have such a capable acting secretary who I understand has agreed to take over as secretary.

I would also like to congratulate the winners and runners-up of both leagues. Also, can I ask John to express our sincere thanks to North Petherton for agreeing to host our AGM once again.

Finally, my I thank all of you for your attendance and please take back to your clubs that the "open" nature of the leagues has worked very well.

## 7. Presentation of Trophies

Division 1	WINNER	Wellington A	£300.00
	Runner-up	North Petherton A	£100.00
Division 2	WINNER	Taunton Deane C	£150.00
	Runner-up	Eastover A	£50.00

**8. Election of Executive Officers** – The following officers were proposed by CH and seconded by CW and approved unanimously-

### Executive Officers

Chair	Don Bridges
Vice Chair	John Swayne
Treasurer	Mark Reeve
Secretary	Jay Merrell

### Non-Executive Officers

Assistant Secretary                      There were no volunteers for this position which will remain vacant.

## 9. Any Other Business

### 9.1 **Proposal** from the Executive Committee- That rule 9 changes from-

9. Results- The home side is responsible for emailing the results of the match or matches to the League Secretary (enquiries@wsbl.org.uk) by Friday evening in each case. The results details should include the score on each rink, the total number of shots and match points for each team. Scorecards signed by each skip will be kept by each club for 6 months.

to

9. Results- Each side is responsible for emailing the results of the match or matches to the League Secretary (enquiries@wsbl.org.uk) by midday Friday. The results details should include the score on each rink, the total number of shots and match points for each team. The preferred method is for a photograph of the three scorecards to be sent by email. Scorecards signed by each skip will be kept by each club for 6 months. It is essential club representatives check their teams' results are entered correctly each week.

This proposal was approved unanimously.

### 9.2 Chard BC would like to rejoin the league with one team in 2024.

This was proposed by TF and seconded by RB and was approved unanimously.

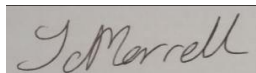
JM reassured the member clubs, Burnham-on-Sea and the three Exmoor clubs in particular, that Chard have a very good reputation for after match catering. Some working age players will need to drive to Chard straight from work and may not have time to grab a bite to eat before leaving home.

## Further discussion and action points under AOB

### 9.3 **Teams for 2024.** All clubs indicated their intention to enter the same number of teams except Bridgwater who wish to enter a C team and Taunton (Vivary) who wish to enter a D team. Taunton Deane will advise by the 30<sup>th</sup> of September if they wish to enter a D team.

With Chard joining that makes 27 or 28 teams for 2024. The meeting agreed that division one will have 14 teams with division two 13 or 14. The league will run from Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May through to Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August. The meeting agreed that in addition to Taunton Deane C and Eastover A being promoted they will be joined by Minehead A who finished third in division two and that Wellington B, who finished second from last in division one, would be reprieved from relegation. Taunton Deane B who finished bottom of division one will be relegated.

### 9.4 A discussion took place regarding how the league might develop moving forward. There was a suggestion that other local clubs should be invited to join with up to 32 teams divided into 4 divisions of 8 with matches home and away over 14 weeks. If we make this change the possibility of the bottom two leagues being played over a regional basis was mentioned. Any changes of this nature will need to be ratified at the 2024 league AGM.



Jay Merrell  
Secretary  
WSBL