

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2016 AT 1900Hrs IN THE CLUBHOUSE, CORAMS LANE, WELLINGTON

Before the meeting opened all members present observed one minutes silence in memory of Glenda Kelly, Sylvia Brett, Bryan Chaplin, Robina Gamlin and Ralph Fry who have all passed away since the last meeting.

The Chairman also asked everyone to remember Don Wilson who is still very ill but hopefully making progress.

1 The Chair declared the meeting open at 19.02 pm

The Chair explained that the Auditor had not been able to complete the accounts and had informed the Treasurer only yesterday that he would not be attending the meeting. The hold up was due to extra work being necessary due to the grants and contractual work that had been done over the past year. The accounts will be presented at an Extra General Meeting which will be arranged as soon as we hear from the auditor.

2 Apologies - Brenda Wilson, Derek and Jenny Vile, Simon and Monica Spalding, Ian Kingsley, Reg Deem, Sally Williams, Bernard Barnes, Arthur and Monica Carter, and Ron Greenway.

3 Presidents Address - Sylvia Lane said that there were many new members in the club and although she had been President for one year she had not met all of them. She said a big hello and welcome. Sylvia then went on to relate the history of the club since its inception in 1907. She explained that the club had developed from a wooden shed to the fine building we have today and it had all been through the efforts of the members. The ladies had a separate club that was a separate entity but then amalgamated with the men's club and joined us at this site. Sylvia said that she was pleased at the progress we were making and that the club had some very good bowlers. She hoped that our members had been watching young Amy Stanton on the television as she represented England in the recent Indoor Bowls Test match against Scotland. Amy's started her playing career at our club here in Wellington. Sylvia has resigned as President and said that the club has moved on and that she hopes that the future continues to be good and wished everyone "**Good Bowling**".

4 The minutes of the last AGM meeting were approved as a true record.

5 Matters arising Dai Helps reported that according to the minutes of the last AGM copies of the new Constitution should have been sent out to members and it should have been approved at an EGM. The Secretary explained that it had taken some time to merge the old Constitution with the Bowls England Model and that when complete copies had been distributed to the members of the Executive and General Committees and after some changes had been sent to Bowls England for their comments. Bowls England recommended some changes and these were made. The Executive Committee then decided to adopt the Constitution in April 2016 and if any problems arose these could be amended at the following AGM October. This decision was based on the decision taken at the 2014 AGM that said that the Constitution should be re written to comply with the Bowls England Model Constitution for Bowling Clubs and "that the changes are made (and published) by the Executive Committee without recourse either to an AGM or EGM". A copy was put up on the notice board in April and the Constitution is on our website. This decision was taken as it followed the correct procedures and distribution to all members would be expensive. There followed some discussion and Dai Helps insisted that as the statement had been made in the 2015

AGM minutes then the Constitution must be distributed to all members and an EGM called to ratify the new Constitution. The Chairman decided that the Constitution is an extremely important document and in order to clear up any issues it would be distributed to members and would be the subject of a Proposal at the EGM which will be convened during the next few weeks when we receive the Auditors Report.

6 Chairman's Comments - Geoff welcomed all of the new members who would be attending their first AGM at the club and thanked all members for attending the meeting. Over the last 12 months we have seen considerable changes with improvements to the club premises that have made it easier to attract more members. We are now reaping the rewards of the new roof and especially the lighting in the indoor green. The pre Christmas Draw was a great success with over 1200 tickets sold and he thanked everyone who helped make it a success.

The improvements to the Indoor Rink were completed just in time for the Opening of the Green Ceremony. Other work done include the upgrading of the Disabled Toilets, the new back gate was built and a ramp added, a new shed built, and equipment purchased. A great deal of work was put in to making the green presentable and over the summer we have had many compliments from visiting clubs. The social team have been fantastic organising many social events which have all been well attended and enjoyed by club members. Geoff thanked everyone who helped for their efforts. The increase in members has seen a great many more people representing the club in leagues and friendly matches. Our mixed games program saw us winning about 50% of our games and we hope to improve on that next year.

Our A team were successful in all three of the leagues they competed in and were top of the Over 60's league, top in the Thursday Triples League, and top in the Saturday league. The Saturday side have won promotion to the Premier 2 division which is the first time in the club's history.

He mentioned that he was also very pleased to see that Leah Waygood one of our junior members had won the pairs trophy with the help of her grandfather Nick Channon. He also said that he hoped that the new lady members will add some strength to our ladies team.

Geoff then paid tribute to some very special people.

Lew and Julia Stanton - Lew and Julia are both retiring from their positions on the Executive Committee. Lew has been the Treasurer for some years and together with Julia they have not only looked after the finance of the club but have carried out many other tasks on behalf of the club. They have done a tremendous job and we owe them a lot. The good news is that they not are leaving the club but will just be enjoying their retirement.

Roland Bath - who has worked behind the bar for 36 years and in more recent years has been the Bar Steward. Not many people realise the just how much work in time and effort it takes to run the bar. It is not just a case of serving but there are many other duties such as ordering stock, stock taking, cleaning the pipes, washing up and sometimes serving awkward customers.

Finally we turn to Bill Heard - Bill has been our Green Keeper since we took over the maintenance of the green a few years ago. His knowledge and skill has resulted in the first class playing surface that we have today. Not only has he been a good Green keeper but he is also an excellent bowler and has represented the club for many years.

Geoff then posed a question to the meeting - At present we are looking at our most successful year ever. We have more members than for a very long time, the indoor rink has been upgraded and now looks a very professional facility, we have enjoyed success in all the men's leagues we have entered, our bank balance is looking very healthy, and we have been awarded the Top club of 2016 in the West of England. Yet some of our members are still not happy and want to change the way the club is managed. The question is WHY? My opinion is "If it's not broke, why try to fix it".

7 Secretary's Report - Brian told the meeting that he had detailed all the major events which had occurred in the past year in his written report and would not be repeating them.. The speech is as follows:

As you will see from the first part of my report we have had an extremely busy time this year. I am not going to go through all that again as it is self explanatory but if anyone has any questions I will do my best to answer them.

I do, however, want to underline the second part of my report that features the people who have worked so hard and shown considerable commitment over the past couple of years.

Before I do this I want to pay tribute to the past and present members who have built and improved this club over the past 108 years and established a tradition of self reliance and volunteering to get things done. Without them we would not be here tonight.

Now first I want to mention Richard Manning who has made a considerable difference to this club over the past two years. Richard has worked tirelessly for the club and has been the driving force behind the recruitment campaign and obtaining grant funding for the building alterations. Richards effort is ongoing and there is still more to come.

We have Jay Merrell who despite working full time has organised a summer program of Friendly and League games that keeps everyone busy. He has also re designed and maintains our website which is a great asset to our club.

Our Club Captains Paul Kelly, Gill Groves and John Lister who work very hard over the summer selecting teams, organising matches and solving member's problems.

John Cherry organises most of the activities and competitions for the Indoor Green, is a member of the Think Tank, and also the Welfare Officer.

Mike Connor organises the Presentation Night and the Christmas Draw both significant features in our calendar of events.

Ernie Windsor now not many people know how much Ernie does for the club. He clips hedges, paints fences, repairs gutters all manner of things which crop up virtually on a weekly basis. He just gets on and gets things done. Ernie now has a young apprentice who has also done a lot work for the club this year his name is Rod Troake.

Brenda Manning, Theresa Hawkins and the Social team. They have not only arranged some great nights out with good food but they have raised a considerable amount of money which has been spent on improvements and equipment for the kitchen.

Julia Stanton and Diane Troake helped by members have provided food at special events in the summer and do all the shopping for the afternoon teas.

Martin Speakman is our Press Officer who has managed to raise the profile of our club over the past couple of years through his association with the local press.

I would also like to thank my fellow members of the Executive Committee and the General Committee who have worked so well together over the past 12 months.

Many other members have pitched in on working parties, tea duties, preparing meals etc. etc. and their help too is greatly appreciated. We cannot function if members do not volunteer to help and I hope everyone will continue to do so.

Now before I finish I would like to give out a few reminders of club rules.

a) Indoor Green

No drinks and that includes water are allowed on the green. It is a very expensive carpet and easily damaged. If anyone sees a member taking drinks onto the green please give them a gentle reminder.

Some people are using the rear area of the Indoor Green as a changing room. Please leave all bags and clothes in the changing rooms. The chairs are for spectators not for storing bags and clothes. Not only does the clutter look untidy but it is a Health and Safety Hazard

b) Drinks

If you are using the Indoor Rink drinks should be obtained from the dispenser not from the kitchen.

If you make a drink in the kitchen for consumption in the clubroom the cost is 40p and should be put in one of the money boxes in the fridge.

If you make a drink please wash up, dry and put the cup back in the cupboard. If you take a water beaker from the cupboard please wash and return that to the cupboard.

If you don't clear up someone else will have to do it.

c) Finally Club Shirts

I just want to remind members who play outdoors that from April next year and for the summer season that wearing of the new club shirts is compulsory for all matches and that includes Men's Leagues, Ladies Leagues, and Friendly matches. Anyone not wearing the club shirt and whites will not be picked to play.

8 - Treasurer's Report - As the auditor was not at the meeting a copy of the September accounts had been distributed as people arrived earlier and the Treasurer offered to answer any questions. Bill Heard enquired about an item on the accounts and was told that it was for the new Pushers and Steps for the outside Green. There were no other questions.

There followed a short break whilst the ballot forms were collected and counted.

9 Proposals

1) Proposed by the Executive Committee and endorsed by the General Committee.

*a) The full membership subscription should be increased by £5.00 to £85.00 but this cost to include all club competition fees. The increase will be applicable from May 1st 2017. **This motion was carried.***

*b) The Indoor membership should be raised by £4.00 to £20.00 to reflect that the subscription is now for 12 months. The increase will be applicable with effect from 1st October 2017. **This motion was rejected***

*c) The Social membership should be raised from £5.00 to £10.00. The increase will be applicable with effect from 1st October 2017. **This motion is referred to the EGM.***

2) Proposed by the Executive Committee

*The Constitution should be amended to allow the Assistant Secretary to attend the Executive and General Committee meetings but not allowed to vote unless deputising. The reason for attendance is that the Assistant Secretary needs to be fully aware of what is happening at the club so that they can participate in the meetings if they are called upon to deputise. If deputising they are allowed one vote but not a casting vote. **This motion was carried.***

3) Proposed by Richard Manning and endorsed by the General Committee and Executive Committee.

*A post of Membership Secretary should be created. This position should have a place on the General Committee. If approved the Constitution to be amended accordingly. Duties - to help recruit new members, and to assist and liaise with the coaches. **This motion was carried.***

4) Proposed by Richard Manning

- a)** The post of Building Representative should be upgraded to Building Officer with added responsibility. This post would organise internal building repairs and regular maintenance to equipment and building fabric. For example boiler maintenance, stretching the carpet on the inside green, annual PAT testing, fire extinguishers, electrical wiring, joinery etc. When elected this officer is to select a small team of members with appropriate experience to form a small committee which reports to the Executive Committee and General Committee via the Building Officer. The committee to oversee the design and implementation of all future new works to the building and grounds. **This motion was carried.**

- b) If it is agreed that this post be accepted then the Building Officer to be appointed to the General Committee. **This motion was carried and it was approved that Vic Horne would fill this position.**

5) Proposed by Bob Clarke and Bill Heard

We do not need an Executive Committee. This motion was rejected.

6) Proposed by Dai Helps

It is proposed that the Club Constitution accepted by Bowls England is formally adopted by the Wellington (Somerset) Bowls Club.

This item had been raised under Matters Arising.

10 Elected Officers and Post Holders for 2016/17

President	Roland Bath
Vice President Male	VACANT
Vice President Female	VACANT

Trustees	Francis Hughes Win Courtney Bill Heard Richard Fox
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Executive Committee

Chairperson	Geoff Stamp
Secretary	Brian Wombwell
Treasurer	John Hunt
Ladies Administrator	VACANT

General Committee

Development Officer	Richard Manning
Men's Captain	Paul Kelly
Lady's Captain	Gill Groves
Mixed Games Captain	Ian Thomson
Fixture Secretary	Jay Merrell
Bar Steward	John Lister
Competitions Secretary	Bob Clarke
Indoor Secretary	John Cherry
Building Manager	Vic Horne
Membership Secretary	Vacant

Post Holders who report to the General Committee and can attend General Committee meetings but cannot vote except on issues concerning their portfolio.

Green Representative	Paul Kelly.
Building Representative	Ernie Windsor
Catering Officer	Diane Troake
Social Team	This team reports to the General Committee

Other Posts Held by Members

Men's Vice Captain	Mike Groves
Selection Committee Men's	Courtney Bowden
Ladies Vice Captain	Win Courtney
Selection Committee Ladies	Thelma Helps
Mixed Games Vice Captain	John Lister
Selection Committee Mixed	Vacant

Bar Committee	Eddie Dilley and Richard Whiting
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant
Assistant Secretary	Bernard Barnes
Men's Welfare Officer	John Cherry
Ladies Welfare Officer	John Cherry
Publicity Officer	Martin Speakman
Child Protection Officer	Martin Speakman
County Representative	Mike Groves
Assist Catering Officer	Yvonne Abbott, Liz Bowrah, Brenda Manning, Theresa Hawkins, Jenny Vile

11 President Roland Bath was presented to the members as the new Club President. Roland made a short speech and said that he was honoured to represent the club and was looking forward to doing his duties.

12 Election of Trustees The Trustees have been elected previously but we have still to arrange for them to sign the legal documents. This will now be done in the near future.

13 Election of Auditor This item was postponed until the EGM

14 The Chairman closed to meeting at 21.00pm