

West Somerset Bowls League  
Minutes of AGM Friday 09 September 2016

**Present**

Roland Bath (RB) Chairman (Wellington)  
Bob Toller (BT) Treasurer (Taunton)  
Alan Wood (AW) Secretary (Taunton)  
Don Bridges (DB) (Burnham)  
Paul Kelly (PK) (Wellington)  
John Hill (JH) (Victoria)  
Mike Dunne (MD) (Taunton)  
Mike Beale (MB) (Taunton Deane)  
Les Snow (LS) (Victoria)  
Norman Allen (NA) (Bridgwater)  
Ian Green  
Peter Botting (PB) (Eastover)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm welcoming every one present and thanked North Petherton for kindly letting us use of their club again.

Before proceeding with the Agenda, he then asked the meeting to stand for a moment in silence to pay our respects to fellow bowlers who have passed away over the past year.

**AGENDA**

1. **Apologies** Alan Blackmore; Jean Murrell; John Swayne; Tony Whitehead; Ian Trunks
2. **Minutes AGM Friday 11 September 2015** Everyone had been issued with a copy.
3. **Matters arising:** None  
The minutes were approved as a correct record. Proposed by BT and seconded JH, duly signed by Roland Bath, Chairman.
4. **Secretary's report**  
Apart from a couple of chilly evenings the weather was mostly sunny and everyone who participated or supported had a very enjoyable time either bowling or watching.

In all 90 league matches were played and apart from an unexplained hiccup in the scheduling affecting two games at Minehead when Victoria and Williton turned up and found the hosts had gone to Wellington; the rest of the matches went according to plan.

The relevant matches were played later so with no real harm done.

A few statistics give a measure of the keen competition experienced by all those who participate in the WSL:

Of the 90 matches 4 were drawn on shots: 4 won by 1 shot: 3 by 2 shots : 2 by 3 shots. Several being decided by the last wood of the evening.

9 matches were won 8 pts to 4, only 13 were clean sweeps of 12 pts with the majority of 61 matches being wins of 10pts to 2.

Exciting stuff and epitomised by feedback extolling the pleasure of playing in the WSL with regret that it is all over too soon.

**So to the honours:**

**In Division 1** our congratulations to Bridgwater A on their title win. Bridesmaid for the last two years. They reigned supreme at the top of the league from week one and only relinquished it briefly on week 8 to North Petherton A. However, they secured the title with an 84 – 27 12 pts win on the last week over Watchet. The highest score of the season.

Commiserations to both of the Champions and the Runners -up B teams, Bridgwater B and North Petherton B, both of whom are relegated !

Bridgwater B unbeaten in Div. 2 had rude introduction to Div. 1 losing their first match 80 – 32 to their A team (second highest season's score as it turned out so no quarter given there then) the B's seemingly never recovered as after that they only managed 2 wins.

**In Division 2** our congratulations to Wellington A for a superb unbeaten run notching up two HOT SHOTS for good measure and to Victoria Park as Runners up albeit 23 points adrift of Wellington. A warm welcome awaits them in Div1.

Speaking of warm welcome Bridgwater B on promotion last year scored 21 more shots than Wellington this year and got a century of points to Wellington's 96 and yet crashed out of Div. 1 after just one season. Just thought Wellington might be interested in this statistic!

To sum up a rewarding season once again.

I feel and I am sure you will agree that we must count ourselves fortunate to have such excellent greens to play on, providing us with evenings of keen and skilful bowling played in true a sporting spirit, followed by a couple of beers and a nice supper in enjoyable company.

What better night out could you wish for than playing triples in the WSL.

Many thanks for your emailed results enabling me to provide you with weekly progressive league tables each weekend. Any anecdotal or interesting detail much appreciated for my weekly summaries.

Thank you gentlemen.

Alan Wood

WSL Secretary.

**09 September 2016**

## 5. Treasurer's Report and Statement of accounts:

### WEST SOMERSET BOWLS LEAGUE

#### Annual General Meeting Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016 Treasurers Report & Statement of Accounts

Well the 2016 summer weather wasn't too bad it could have been a bit warmer but we did not have a lot of rain as far as I can remember, and with 10 teams in each division it was a very good season and made for good bowling. An entry fee of £30 per team made a total income of £600.00. and the expenditure consists of paying the prize winners and the secretary's expenses,, I am pleased to report that our total funds in the bank is £1240.52 and will go forward to the 2017 season. Congratulations to all the winners and I would like to thank all clubs once again for their good response to my reminders I sent out at the end of February, and wish you all a very good bowling and a successful 2017 season.

#### Statement of Accounts for the Outdoor Season at September 2016

<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
Opening balance from 2015 season	1265.52	Div 1 Winners Bridgwater A	300.00
Subscriptions from 11 Clubs entering total of 20 teams @ £30	600.00	Div 1 R.Up. North Petherton A	100.00
<u>Total Income 2016</u>	<u>£1865.52</u>	Div 2 Winners Wellington A	150.00
		Div 2 R.Up Victoria Park	50.00
		Secretary's expenses	25.00
		<u>Total Expenditure 2016</u>	<u>625.00</u>
		Total Income 2016	£1865.52
		Total Expenditure 2016	£ 625.00
		<u>Total carried forward to 2017</u>	<u>£ 1240.52</u>

T. A. R. Toller  
Treasurer  
West Somerset Bowls League

31<sup>st</sup> August 2016

## 6. Chairman's Report.

Concurred with much of the Secretary's report on the way the season had gone.

Hearty congratulations to Bridgwater A on finally managing to clinch the title after finishing close runners up in the last two seasons.

Congratulations too to runners up in Div. 1 North Petherton A also to Wellington A and Victoria in being promoted to Div. 1 as successful Winners and Runners up in Div. 2.

Congratulations also to my club, Wellington who were invited this year to enter the over 60's Devon League and won it at their first attempt. Well done.

I think it fair to say that Thursday evenings playing in the WSBL is very much looked forward to by all who take part.

Long may it continue to be so.

Roland Bath

Chairman

## 7. Proposed Amendments to league Rules.

Proposals by AW for amendments to Constitution and Rules Nos 3, 9 & 15 c last agreed in 2012.

### 7a. Amendment rule 3 Constitution

3. Constitution The league will consist of two divisions.

**Each division may have a maximum of ten teams.**

**Two teams will be promoted and relegated each season.**

*I have no idea of the reason behind the highlighted bit and past minutes shed no light on it.*

*It seems to change each year that the number of teams in the leagues change.*

***Propose that it is set to a practical maximum of 12 teams as the limited daylight hours towards end of July does not allow for more than 11 matches starting last Thursday in MAY***

**Proposal accepted. The rule will now read**

3. Constitution The league will consist of two divisions.

**Each division may have a maximum of 12 teams.**

**Two teams will be promoted and relegated each season.**

### 7. Addition of a rule for player turning up late.

*There is nothing in the rules to cater for the situation when a player is late. This situation occurred this season at the Burnham v Taunton Deane match this season. In the event the absent player did arrive just as the trial ends were played.*

***15 minutes was suggested before he arrived so if this is acceptable then include in our rules?***

*Trial ends being played during the waiting time.*

**Discussion on this resolved nothing other than trial ends should be played giving sufficient time to ensure that the match proper starts at 6.30pm.**

**No additional rule to be added.**

### 7c. Amendment to rule 9. Results

9 Results The home side is responsible for emailing the result of the match or matches to the League Secretary by Friday evening.

**The results details should include the score on each rink, the total shots and match points.**

**Scorecards signed by each skip will be kept by each club for 6 months.**

*Whilst the rules state that the home side is responsible it is helpful that the away side sends them in as well and this is generally the case. There have been occasional discrepancies which have been*

*resolved because both teams submitted the results. So please continue to do so but not imperative. It is also possible to text the results if you have a mobile phone and some of you have started doing so and if this method suits then it is fine by me. So, add above **emailing or texting the result***

**Discussion to leave wording as it stands but add texting by mobile as additional means of reporting results. Rule will now read**

- 9. Results** The home side is responsible for emailing the results of the match or matches to the League Secretary (alan.w00d@hotmail.co.uk ) or mobile texting to 07771930772 by Friday evening in each case.

The results details should include the score on each rink, the total shots and match points. Scorecards signed by each skip will be kept by each club for 6 months.

*7d. Amendment to rule 15. Play c*

- c. If a player has to leave the green due to illness a substitute can be used. Where no substitute is available or where a full team is not fielded a team may play with one player short on up to 2 rinks. However with only 2 players present in one team each side will play 6 bowls per end. The team of 2 players will incur a penalty of one third of their shots**

*This arrangement and mode of play is in my view frustrating and unsatisfactory.*

*This is a triples game and should be kept as such or as near possible.*

*My suggestion is that the 2 players of "offending team" have 4 woods each and the "non-offenders" have their 3 woods maintaining triples format.*

*The mode of play is as follows and provides a far more enjoyable format to that above.*

*1. Whoever wins the toss or wins the end during the game delivers the jack as normal.*

*2. However the lead of the team of 3 players will always deliver the 1<sup>st</sup> wood at the start of each end.*

*3 When the first player of the team of 2 has delivered his 4<sup>th</sup> wood he will change places with his team mate who will proceed to deliver his 4 woods.*

*In this format the team of 3 will always deliver the 1<sup>st</sup> and last wood. Penalty stays the same.*

**In the discussion that ensued the proposal by AW did not find favour with anyone and the rule was not amended.**

**8. Wellington to enter 3<sup>rd</sup> team**

**9. Eastover to enter 2<sup>nd</sup> team**

It was proposed and seconded with unanimous agreement to accept two further teams; a second team for Eastover and a third team for Wellington.

Concomitant to this there were two further proposals both of them seconded:

Proposal 1. That both of the new teams would enter Division 2 and to balance the number of teams in each division, so as to have an equal number in each, only one team would be relegated this season from Div. 1. So, with the 2 promoted teams from Div. 2 there would be 11 teams in each division.

Proposal 2. Both teams would be entered in Div. 2. This will mean there will be 12 teams in Div. 2 and only 10 teams in Div. 1.

On the vote a matter of procedure arose.

Was everyone present entitled to vote?

Could only official league representatives vote?

In the event the Chairman allowed one vote per club from those present, namely 7, which included Ian Green who whilst not an appointed League Rep was taken to represent Bridgwater by standing in for Tony Whitehead.

3 voted for Proposal 1 viz Don Bridges, Les Snow and Mike Beale.

4 voted for Proposal 2 viz Paul Kelly, Ian Green, Mike Dunne and Peter Botting,

Whilst proposal 2 was carried at the meeting both the Secretary and Chairman expressed reservations later that in view of the implications that either proposal would have on the running of the league and having regard to the absence of 4 member clubs that the matter should be referred back to each club for their consideration before making a decision.

**See letter 14 September 2016 from Chairman and Secretary requesting each league rep to put the matter and implications of the two separate proposals to club members. Addendum to these minutes**

**The majority decision after submitting the matter for consideration by club members of each member club is to adopt proposal 1 and this proposal was duly adopted and 2017 fixtures compiled accordingly.**

Proposal 1 Watchet Williton Taunton Deane N Petherton Bridgwater Burnham Victoria

Proposal 2 Taunton Minehead Eastover & Wellington

#### **10. Presentation of Prizes and Trophies.**

Division 1	WINNER	Bridgwater A	Trophy & £300
Runner-up	North Petherton A	Trophy & £100	

Division 2	WINNER	Wellington A	Trophy & £150
Runner -up	Victoria Park	Trophy & £50	

#### **11. Election of Officers**

	<b>Holder</b>
Chairman	Roland Bath
Vice Chairman	Don Bridges
Treasurer	Bob Toller
Secretary	Alan Wood

The in-post officers expressed a wish to remain in post and it was proposed (MB) and seconded (MD) that they were elected en-bloc to serve another year.

#### **12. AOB.**

With nothing else to discuss the Chairman again thanked all for attending in particular his fellow officers for their efforts over the past year and for offering to serve another year and not least our hosts North Petherton.

**He wished everyone a safe journey home and closed the meeting.**

**MEETING CLOSED 9pm**

Alan Wood League Secretary  
09 September 2016

**Addendum Letter dated 14 September 2016 for consideration re league structure.  
Minutes and notes on AGM WSL 09 Sept 2016 for consideration by WSL clubs.**

Proposals put forward and formerly adopted at the recent AGM are detailed below;

It was proposed and seconded with unanimous agreement to accept two further teams; a second team for Eastover and a third team for Wellington.

Concomitant to this there were two further proposals both of them seconded:

Proposal 1. That both of the new teams would enter Division 2 and to balance the number of teams in each division, so as to have an equal number in each, only one team would be relegated this season from Div. 1. So, with the 2 promoted teams from Div. 2 there would be 11 teams in each division.

Proposal 2. Both teams would be entered in Div. 2. This will mean there will be 12 teams in Div. 2 and only 10 teams in Div. 1.

Present at the meeting were 12 members;

Roland Bath Chairman (Wellington); Alan Wood Sec (Taunton Deane); Bob Toller Treasurer (Taunton); Don Bridges Vice Chairman (Burnham); John Hill (Victoria) Les Snow (Victoria); Peter Botting(Eastover) Ian Green (Bridgwater) Norman Allen (Bridgwater) Mike Dunne (Taunton) Mike Beale (Taunton Deane); Paul Kelly (Wellington)

There were no representatives from Minehead, North Petherton, Williton or Watchet

On the vote a matter of procedure arose.

Was everyone present entitled to vote?

Could only official league representatives vote?

In the event the Chairman allowed one vote per club from those present, namely 7, which included Ian Green who whilst not an appointed League Rep was taken to represent Bridgwater by standing in for Tony Whitehead.

3 voted for Proposal 1 viz Don Bridges, Les Snow and Mike Beale.

4 voted for Proposal 2 viz Paul Kelly, Ian Green, Mike Dunne and Peter Botting,

On reflection, there is doubt that the vote was proper and perhaps should have been confined to official League representatives. **However, notwithstanding the voting aspect implementing either of the above proposals will have important and lasting implications in the running of the league.**

In the circumstances and having discussed the matter between us it seems prudent in the best interests of the running of the league that the matter is referred back to EACH club for further consideration and for each to have a say in which proposal to adopt.

Since the AGM an examination was made of the minutes and WSL records that the Secretary holds to see if there was a precedent but there are none. The only record of a hands up vote did not record the attendees or indicate any restriction.

To avoid such an occurrence in the future it is necessary to agree a procedure acceptable to our members at or before the next AGM.

Information for your members' consideration in deciding which of the 2 proposals to adopt.

Our records, minutes etc, go back to 2005 and historically the WSL since 2006 when the triples format was introduced there has been no more than a difference of 1 in the number of teams in each division. Up to 2011 there were 9 in Div. 1 and 8 in Div. 2, then to 2014 there were 9 in Div1 and 10 in Div2 and then 10 in each Division to the present.

If we have a difference of 2 i.e. 12 in Div. 2 and only 10 in Div. 1 then teams in Div. 1 will each play 9 matches and teams in Div. 2 will each play 11 matches.

The programme of matches for each Division will be out of sync.

**Adopting proposal 2;**

**Div. 2 matches will start one week earlier and finish one week later than the Div. 1 matches.**

**Div. 2 matches will start on the last Thursday in May then continuous for the following 11 weeks.**

**Div. 1 matches will start on the first Thursday in June then continuous for the following 9 weeks.**

**Adopting proposal 1:**

**Matches in both Divisions will start on the last Thursday in May and continue for the next 10 weeks. Each week one of the teams in each division will have a bye.**

The option of playing teams from the same clubs in different divisions both away or at home at the same time will be lost in some instances if Proposal 2 is adopted.

No big deal perhaps but this arrangement was requested if at all possible as it was considered helpful with catering and transport arrangements.

11 in each division will mean 10 matches each which can possibly be arranged as 5 home and 5 away whereas an even number of teams throws up an odd number of matches with an imbalance of home and away that has in the main been evened out on alternate years whenever possible.

We are concerned that Minehead, Williton, North Petherton and Watchet have had no input and to be fair they need to be put in the picture rather than either arrangement being sprung upon them at the start of next season. Hence the above request to have these important changes deliberated by all clubs in the WSL. Alan goes on holiday for 2 weeks on the 30 September so please do your best to discuss the matter with your members and make your decision. If you wish an EGM could possibly be set up but presumably a majority decision after a vote from each club sent by email will be acceptable.

Be mindful that the schedule of matches has to be prepared by Alan by second week in November in good time for delivery to Fixture secretaries so an early reply will be appreciated.

Kind Regards  
Roland Bath Chairman  
Alan Wood Secretary  
14 September 2016

Following the above submission to all 11 clubs;

4 clubs ; Taunton. Minehead, Eastover and Wellington voted to adopt proposal 2

7 clubs ; Watchet; Taunton Deane; Williton; Bridgwater; Burnham; North Petherton and Victoria voted to adopt proposal 1

In the light of the majority 7 : 4 decision the fixture list for 2017 will be compiled having regard to Proposal 1.

That is 11 teams in each division each playing 10 matches and every team having a bye on 1 week during the season.

The fixture schedule to be prepared and issued by the Secretary to each club early in November.

Alan Wood  
Secretary  
20 October 2016 (notification of last vote)