

Wellington Bowling Club

Minutes of General Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 2019 at the Clubhouse The meeting commenced at 9.30am

Members

Role	Name	Initials	Role	Name	Initials
President	Gill Groves	GG	Fixtures Secretary	Jay Merrell	JM
Chairperson	Geoff Stamp	GS	Competition Secretary	Henry Richbell	HR
Club Secretary	Clive Manning	CM	Indoor Secretary	John Cherry	JC
Club Treasurer	Tony Gibson	AG	Bar Steward	Steve Lovell	SL
Ladies Administrator	Ann Cowling	AC	Green Representative	Paul Kelly	PK
Development Officer	Vacant		Building Manager	Vic Horne	VH
Membership Secretary	Chris Williams	CW	Catering Manager	Liz Bowrah	LB
Men's Captain	Paul Kelly	PK	Assistant Treasurer	Bill Warnett	BWar
Ladies Captain	Eileen Stewart	ES	Assistant Secretary	Brian Wombwell	BW
Mixed Captain	Ian Thomson	IT	Publicity Officer	Di Dagg	DD
			Social Team Rep.	Alan May	AM

1) Apologies for Absence

Jay Merrell, Steve Lovell, Bill Warnett, Di Dagg, Liz Bowrah, Vic Horne, Alan May

2) Chairman Geoff Stamp

Geoff reminded us that we are only 4 weeks away from the start of the summer season. He thanked Paul and his team, on behalf of all the Club members, for all the good work they have put into preparing the Green over the winter. The green is looking in excellent condition and everyone has been admiring it.

He pointed out that the fixture sheet for all the League games has been posted on the Men's changing room notice board and asked members of the Committee to bring this to the attention of all members and encourage them to put their names down as soon as possible.

The East of Ex League information is also on the Notice Board.

Geoff also thanked Phil Brigden and Ed Norris, who are going to re decorate the Men's Changing Room starting on Monday and this will take about 3 days. Access to this Changing Room will be restricted during this time.

3) Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and approved.

4) Matters Arising

There were no Matters arising.

5) Secretary Report Clive Manning

In summary, since our last meeting the following significant actions have been undertaken.

- a) I am pleased to confirm that our insurances have been renewed for another year, but our insurers have requested a survey of the premises by their Risk Adviser and this should be done in the next couple of months. I have also clarified the Public Liability cover provided by

our policy and who is covered when & where and advised all our playing members who are on email.

- b) The result of the East of Exe vote has been announced with Richard, Ian and Joan having been elected as Selectors for this league. An “availability poster” for members to state when they will be able to play has/will soon be posted on the notice board and it would appear that they have everything under control.
- c) The members of the General Committee have now had the opportunity to comment on their photos and David Dagg has now produced the poster and this I will circulate at the end of my report. We do need to decide where it should be displayed? Many thanks to David Dagg for doing this for us.
- d) Following agreement by the Exec, I have confirmed and advised everyone that Ian Hollingsworth has taken on the role to oversee the Over 70s league. Ian has reported that there is not much happening at the moment and stresses that the concept is at a very early stage. Five clubs were represented at the meeting he attended and their views have been taken away to be considered and Ian is awaiting feedback
- e) Members have been advised of John Troake’s new title and the creation of a Safeguard Liaison Contact (Gill Groves). I am pleased to confirm that all our Safeguarding policies would now appear to be up to date and are based on the policies of the Bowls Development Alliance. These are now available on our notice board and on our website. I would like to thank John for his assistance with this exercise.
- f) There has been various correspondence received from the SBA re the County Competitions, the 2019 Match Fixtures etc. and where necessary this has been sent to the appropriate Officers.

The SBA Returns for the Somerset Junior Girls Under 31 and the County Boys Under 25 have been completed and also sent to the appropriate SBA Secretaries.

- g) I am pleased to confirm that in order to comply with GDPR regulations our “Child Friendly Privacy Policy” has now been completed and this is also available for inspection by Members both in the premises and on our Website. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Chris Williams for his assistance in this matter.
- h) Brian, Jay (and me?) have completed the 2019 Fixture Booklet and this along with the 2019 Registration Form, Competition Form, Tea Rota & a “Teas Guide” is currently in the process of being printed by Carly Press. It is hoped that this will be available for distribution early next week. Many thanks to Brian, Jay, Henry & Ann for putting it altogether in such a tight timescale.
- i) Since our last meeting, Tony Woollard has kindly done an electrical inspection of the premises, which has identified some aspects that need attention and he will be completing this in due course. However, it might mean the closure of the Club for one morning, but I will let everyone know more when I do?

Last week we had the alarm systems serviced and as a result of that a problem with the emergency lighting batteries has been identified and Tony is currently discussing this with the Abel Alarms.

Finally, it appears that 3 posts of the new fence and the post of the back gate have blown over

in the recent strong winds. As the fence was only erected before Xmas, Vic Horne is contacting Wadham Fencing regarding the matter as this is clearly unsatisfactory.

6) Treasurers Report by Tony Gibson

The Treasurer's Report was presented to the Committee and was accepted without question.

7) Ladies Administrator's Report by Ann Cowling

Ann advised the Committee that Win Courtney was helping her to produce the Tea Rota, as Brenda's husband has been taken ill and is currently in hospital. They have produced the Tea Rota from April until June, together with a guide for preparing the Teas, and these will be printed and distributed to members with the Fixture List Pack. Brian agreed to laminate a copy of the guide and put it up in the kitchen.

Win, Ann and Di Troake are arranging to "Deep Clean" the kitchen throughout and dispose of any mugs, pots etc. that are surplus or damaged. Whilst this is being done, the kitchen will be closed for 3 days. Liz has been informed. The committee welcomed this news and thanked Ann, Win and Di for coming to this decision.

8) Development Officer

This position is vacant at the moment. This item will be deleted on future reports.

9) Membership Secretary report by Chris Williams

Chris advised that until the Registration Forms have been returned, it is not possible to confirm the number of members holding Full Membership for the coming summer season. So far only one person has informed us that they will not be joining. We estimate that if all the people on the waiting list join then we should be close to the maximum number of 140 but we have to wait and see.

He suggested that we should put up a notice to say that it will be assumed that those members who have not paid by May 1st will not be playing this summer and their place will be filled by people on the waiting list. Clive advised that he will also stress this point when sending out the Registration Notification to members.

10) Men's Captain Report by Paul Kelly

Paul said that the Selection Committee are looking forward to the coming season.

The League has relaxed the rules regarding registration of players and this will make it easier to swap players between the leagues.

A Match Sheet has been put up in the Men's Changing Room showing all the leagues and dates of matches and players can list their names and indicate their availability.

Paul confirmed that the members assisting him with selection are Mark Philips, and Mike Groves.

11) Lady's Captain Report by Eileen Stewart

Eileen was pleased to inform the meeting that the Ladies have 13 new dates on the fixture list this season between May and August, which should provide the Ladies with plenty of opportunities to play.

These include a Wednesday evening Ladies' Triples League that she hopes to have up and running in time for the first fixture on the 8th of May. A notice has been put up in the Ladies' locker room

asking for the names of anyone who would like to participate. The response so far is very encouraging. Eileen also asked the Club Secretary if he would circulate an email on her behalf for the benefit of any ladies who may not have seen the locker room notice.

The Triples League will function in similar fashion to our current Winter Indoor Leagues. There will be either 4 or 6 teams depending on numbers, with each team consisting of about five bowlers; five in a team will give scope for mutual exchanges to cover holidays etc.

For newer ladies, this League will be an opportunity to learn the ropes of outdoor league play, in a relaxed yet competitive atmosphere.

Finally, Eileen thanked all those members who encouraged her to put herself forward for the post of Ladies' Captain. She is both excited and "ever-so-slightly-trembling-in-my-boots" as she has never done anything like this job before. She was offered re assurance by the Committee that help will always be at hand if required.

12) Mixed Friendly Captain's Report Ian Thomson

Ian said that everyone is looking forward to the Opening of The Green on 14th April and the Sheets for the first five matches have been put up on the Notice Board and will be considered by the selectors at the end of the month.

He thanked Brian for the Notice instructing members on the procedure to be followed once the team sheets have been posted. It is hoped that the chaos of last year, when members withdrew from matches will be avoided. This Notice is also published in the Fixture Booklet, so there should be no excuse for not complying. Members who do not comply will have an automatic 3 match ban.

He finished by saying that the selectors and all the arrangements are ready for the summer season.

13) Fixture Secretary's Report by Jay Merrell

- a) Jay's report stated that the 2019 outdoor fixture list had been completed and Brian has submitted it to the printers. A late change saw our away match with Chard moved from Easter Sunday to the Thursday of the same week at their request.
- b) The first fixture for 2020 came in last week- Plymstock BC tourists on Bank Holiday Monday 25th May.
- c) Mike Groves has volunteered to attend the Exeter and District Spring Meeting on Thursday 21st March. Mike will pay the £10 per team entry fee (£30).
- d) Given the popularity of the away indoor matches played this winter, he is in the process of compiling a small fixture list for next winter, all games are mixed rinks over 21 ends with light refreshments included. Thus far he has 11 fixtures confirmed (Honiton, Yeovil, Exonia and Puriton) with promises from Ilminster, Mid-Devon and North Petherton. He is waiting to hear from Minehead, Taunton Vivary, Taunton Deane and the Isca Bowling Centre.
- e) Pursuant on John Cherry and the Committee agreeing, he recommends that the club considers creating a selection committee for winter indoor matches. It will be needed before the November AGM because the first matches will be in October. *This was agreed.*

14) Outdoor Competition Secretary's Report by Henry Richbell

- a) Henry told the meeting that the Competitions Forms are going out with the Registration Forms and Fixture Book. It is stated clearly on the form that the last date for receiving this form is May 1st and any received after that date will be excluded. The Draw for the various competitions will be held as soon as possible in May so it is crucial that members' cooperate by returning the Forms as soon as possible.

- b) Henry also made it clear that the rules will be strictly applied especially in regard to the "**play by dates**".
- c) Henry then asked if members could let him have any old golf balls that could be used for the Draw.
- d) He suggested that we could have a draw after each round rather than one draw at the start of the season. This was discussed but it was considered that it would be too complicated and could cause clashes with member's holiday arrangements. *It was agreed that an experiment could be done with one of the smaller competitions.*

15) Indoor Secretary's Report by John Cherry.

1. Winter Bowls Programme

Indoor league play continues with some close finishes anticipated from current weekly league table positions. Matches will continue into April, as per fixtures lists, to ensure equality in total matches played by each team. This should not compromise the planned opening of the outdoor summer season.

2. Competitions

Congratulations to Lucy Troake and Nick Channon who are the champion Mixed Pairs winners for 2018/19.

The Open Singles competition is in progress and continues to pull numerous member spectators to enjoy the matches. Lucy Troake, mentioned above, has seen off her dad, John, with a large score difference and is showing great potential in our game.

Competition final is on Sunday 7th April at 11am, the day before members set off to Torquay for TOUR 2019.

3. Summer Indoor Roll Ups

An invitation to members for another organised indoor summer roll up programme is to be made. 14 members enjoyed this last summer, finding it less physically demanding than bowling on grass. An invitation sheet for names interested will be posted on the indoor notice board in mid-March.

4. TOUR 2019 - Torquay

Full payment of all dues to TLH Resort has been made (receipt awaited) and a pre-tour briefing at the Club is arranged for Thursday 21st March at 7pm for those going.

A match play format and player team selections have been sent to TLH for implementation. Team selection this year was by a combination of assessed player skills and random draws - to improve performance against the opposing club teams whilst keeping the fun element in. This will be issued to members in Torquay at a meeting after hotel check-ins.

5. OTHER CLUB INDOOR BOWLS

a) Members will be aware that invitations to play indoors at other clubs has taken place and more may be forthcoming. Jay Merrell (Fixtures Secretary) has kindly agreed to act as our coordinator for these.

16) Bar Secretary's Report

No report received.

17) Think Tank Report by John Cherry

John reported that the Last Think Tank (TT) meeting was held on 13/02/19, attended by 8 of our 9 members.

Ongoing Issues

TT will proceed with the paint makeover of the men's changing room, given the status of the major clubroom project. This will be in the period between closure of the indoor season and opening of outdoor summer bowling, for the minimum disruption. Ed Norris and Phil Brigden (the TT volunteers) will do the work again, as they did previously for the other changing rooms.

New Issues

Club Entry for Social Members

Club door entry fobs have not been issued to Social Members. This makes it harder for them to attend social events and learn what is going on in Club affairs. Having to ring the bell or hope a full member comes by to let them in is off-putting, especially in the rain. Such members are likely to drop away, losing us the benefits they bring. Numerous full members started out as social members.

TT recommend our social members be asked if they would like a fob, given that they must pay the £5 each for them. *This was agreed by the Committee.*

It was also agreed that the doorbell would be moved into the Clubroom, so that it could be heard easier.

Kitchen Cash Box Accounting

Now a locked cash box is in place in the kitchen, what system is there for accounting for payments made and spending on coffee/tea/other provisions? Does it/can it be identified in our club's financial accounts? *Tony informed the meeting that the Tea Money was included in the accounts under "Catering" and the meeting agreed that itemising every single miscellaneous item would create extra work that is totally unnecessary. No further action required.*

Next TT meeting is set for Wednesday 27th February 2019 at 10am.

18) Social Team Report

No Report had been received.

It was agreed that the food for the "Opening of the Green" will be the same as last year e.g. gateaux, tea and coffee. The bar will be open as usual. Clive to discuss with Ann Cowling

19) Green Representatives Report by Paul Kelly

Paul reported to the meeting as follows:-

The Autumn/Winter maintenance has worked well with the grass thicker and more consistent across the green. Moss has been treated four times and is at a very low level.

We experienced multiple attacks of Fusarium during the period, two applications of fungicide have recovered and reduced the impact. Weather conditions are the reason for Fusarium to establish on the surface thatch, it results in small thin grass circles and it stops new grass growing as normal. Applying the treatment at the first signs, reduces the impact but for the treatment to be effective you want a dry grass surface to apply it and a dry 24 hours post application?

The annual soil sample taken in late December has shown we are making steady and progressive improvements to the four key measures, PH has improved from 4.8 to 5.0 from a low of 4.0 four years ago, the target is 5.5 - 6.0. Potassium levels have increased by 20% and are now in the target

range, good Potassium levels deter Fungal disease. Calcium is needed in large quantities for healthy grass growth and the level has improved by 50 points in the year and our use of seaweed based liquid feeds in season is having the desired effect.

The Green feed and treatment programme reflects progress to date and products reflect the plan to increase natural disease resistance, as the Fungicides we use today will be withdrawn from sale. It remains to be seen if replacements are as effective.

The Green Team supported by Mike Groves, John Mullen, Eddie Hawkins and Ernie Windsor have replaced the gravel ditch infill with the modern material of Tyre Crumb designed specifically for Bowling Green ditches. This will stop bowl damage and should reduce weed ingress in the ditch surface reducing the time spent on ditch maintenance.

Today the Green is looking better than at this time last year. We have started to cut regularly and reduce the mowing height, when weather permits the first scarification will be carried out.

The main mower is away for servicing after having difficulty in getting companies to respond to the request for collection and service. I am awaiting a detailed price breakdown of parts required to replace a worn drive pulley shaft and replace noisy bearings. The initial quote was in the region of £600.

20) Building Representatives Report.

No Report had been received.

21) Catering Officers Report

No Report had been received.

22) Any other Business

Extension –

Geoff advised everyone that a meeting was held 3 weeks ago with Gerry Mangeolles and Richard Manning. When we get the planning decision from the Council, another meeting will be arranged and a decision on the way forward will be agreed. The tenders, when they become available, will be examined by Bill and a recommendation put forward at an Extra General Meeting for approval by the membership.

Paul raised several issues that needed to be addressed and **resolved urgently** before any work can proceed:-

- a) The unused and unwanted items in the Garage and the Shed must be disposed of.
- b) The new location of the garage has to be agreed, so that the contractor can construct a new base and move the garage before proceeding with any building work. We also have to decide on a new position for the shed.
- c) It also has to be decided what we do with all the equipment while this is being done.

Emergency Lighting

As mentioned earlier, the installation has failed its six monthly test and Tony advised that the cost of the replacement batteries was £180. *It was agreed that this had to be done and Tony will contact Abel Alarms.*

Indoor Rink - Ian Thomson told the meeting that he had concerns that the indoor rink floor was not running true and this was affecting the bowling. *It was agreed that Clive would ask Dales Ltd to investigate this when they come to stretch the carpet in the summer.*

Lobby Door - The Lobby door does not always close properly and often slams. As it has an alarm sensor on it and in order to prevent problems when setting the alarm, it was suggested that we should install a door closer on it as soon as possible. *This was agreed and Clive will ask Vic to organise it.*

Gents Toilet door – Geoff advised that we also need to get a door closer fitted to this door, as the toilets can be viewed from the corridor. *This was agreed and Clive will ask Vic to organise it.*

The meeting closed at 11.50am

Date of next meeting Wednesday 8th May 2019

Venue - The Clubhouse at 9.30am

Signed
Geoff Stamp (Chairman)

Date.....