

WELLINGTON (SOM) BOWLING CLUB

Minutes of General Meeting held on Wednesday 16th December 2015 at the Clubhouse.

The meeting commenced at 9.30am.

<u>Present</u>	Geoff Stamp (Chair) Sylvia Lane (President) Brian Wombwell (Secretary) Gill Groves (Ladies Administrator} John Cherry Richard Manning	Roland Bath Lew Stanton Julia Stanton Jay Merrell John Lister Roland Bath
<u>Absent</u>	Bill Heard Ernie Windsor	

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Lew Stanton, Julia Stanton, and Paul Kelly
2. **Chairman's Opening Remarks**
The Chairman said that he had heard rumours that some of the older, long term members were under the impression that they were not welcome at the club and that some members would like them to leave. He made it quite clear that this is absolutely not true and there was no basis in this rumour at all. No one in the club had made a complaint to him or anyone else on the committee and no one knew who had started this rumour.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairperson.
4. **Matters arising from the previous Minutes**
There were no matters arising.
5. **Secretary's Report**
 - a) Grant Applications are the remit of the Development Officer and Richard Manning will report on this matter later at this meeting and in the future.
 - b) The Disabled Toilet installation will be started in the New Year. The work should not inconvenience members while the work goes on.
 - c) The Grand Prize Draw was a great success and has raised £800. A letter to be sent to Mike Connor thanking him and his team for a tremendous effort.
 - d) We need to get a small team together to carry out a Health and Safety Audit so that we can prepare a Risk Analysis for all parts of the club and for club activities. When this is done we need someone to periodically check that everything is in place and no additional hazards occur. Volunteers were requested and John Lister and John Cherry immediately volunteered as they both have relevant experience. They will meet together in the New Year to start a detailed audit of all matters relating to Health and Safety.
 - e) We now have a Bowling Arm. I would ask the committee to encourage members who have difficulty bowling to try the Bowling arm. This device may extend the playing career of some of the older members and keep them in the club. These members have knowledge and experience that are extremely valuable to the club and some have actually been involved in making the buildings what they are today. We must try to keep them involved.
 - f) An opportunity arose to purchase a short mat complete with fenders and jacks for £325 and the Executive Committee decided we should go ahead. It is hoped that when the work is done to the Indoor Rink that we can encourage use of the rink during the Outside Season. The rink stands empty and unused for 6 months

- of the year when it could be earning us money. The General Committee should start thinking of ideas to increase income from the rink early in the New Year.
- g) At the Executive Meeting the vote taken regarding Tea provision at matches during the outside season at the AGM was made clear. Catering at League matches will be arranged by the League Captains. **All** members who participate in Friendly Matches will be put on a rota to prepare teas, serve and clear up at home games. This should mean that members will only have to carry out this duty once during the season. If anyone has problems fulfilling this duty they must find someone else to do it for them.
 - h) Due to the success of our new Social Committee the number of social members has grown substantially.
 - i) The membership now includes 83 male full members, 32 lady full members and 54 social members.
 - j) The membership is now in a very healthy state and I ask all of the long term members to re double their efforts to look after the new members and make them welcome in the club. We need to ensure that they sign on again next May.
 - k) Our long serving cleaner has resigned on health grounds and will finish on 3rd January. The current rate is £7 per hour and the committee felt that the lack of hours together with the relatively low wage would not attract any response to advertising. The committee recommended that the rate should be increased to ensure that we could find a replacement urgently. The Secretary urged that the Treasurer should be consulted before any decision is made and said that he would email him the later in the day.

6. Treasurer's Report

- a) The Treasurer had a hospital appointment and was not in attendance but he had left copies of his monthly report and it was distributed at the meeting.
- b) The report was accepted by the meeting without comment.
- c) Members were very impressed with the new format for presenting the figures and voted to thank Lew and congratulate him on a job well done.
- d) Brian reported that the Executive Committee had agreed to purchase a new safe. Lew and Brian would visit the supplier in Taunton to determine the dimensions for the base and any requirements that they will need when they come to install.

7. Ladies Administrators' Report

- a) Gill confirmed that Ann Cowling had resigned from the club
- b) A meeting of the Ladies section will be held to select a new Captain who will be recommended to the Executive to consider the appointment for approval.

8. Development Officer Report

- a) Richard outlined the importance of recruitment and although the number of club members was the highest it had been for many years the need to continue recruiting in the New Year was important to sustain the membership at a viable level. The members of the recruitment team had done an incredible job and he paid tribute to them.
- b) In order to ensure the future of the club it is essential that we do some detailed financial planning and to build up some reserves.
- c) Richard reported that he had obtained a grant in the last few days from Taunton Deane B.C. for building a ramp for the disabled access. The value of the grant is £1,600.
- d) Richard also announced that he had successfully bid for a grant from Persimmon Homes who had selected us as their South West Community Champion.
- e) The Smoke Free Somerset Alliance are giving £500 to all Sports Clubs which adopt a Smoke Policy. The requirements are that a registered coach must attend an Intervention Training Course organised by Somerset County Council/SASP, the club must adopt a "No Smoking Policy" and to display signs to

ensure that all members and visitors are aware of the policy. Richard has enrolled on the course and will report back in due course.

- f) A further application is being prepared for a capital Planning Grant from the Sports Council to carry out modifications to the toilets and Club Room.
- g) Members congratulated and thanked Richard for the excellent work he is doing for the Club.

9. Men's Captain Report

- Paul Kelly had sent apologies. As there is very little happening at the moment there was no report.

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10. Ladies Captain Report

There is no report.

11. Mixed Captain Report

- a) John and Laurie have completed the paperwork and are both looking forward to the new season.

12. Fixture Secretary Report

- The fixtures for 2016 are complete and displayed on the club notice board and on the web site.
- The fixtures book is almost complete and will be printed before the start of the season. It was agreed that we should include a list of donors and sponsors which would require an extra page. Jay asked for this information to be supplied before 28th February.
- Jay proposed that the date for payment of Outside Membership fees should be 1st May not 31st May as in previous years. For two reasons (a) The captains need to know who the members are so that they can select the league teams and (b) No one should represent the club unless they are a fully paid up member. A vote was taken and the motion approved unanimously.
- Jay also suggested that a Notice should be displayed in the club at the end of March that the fees are due by the 1st of May and all full members should be notified by email or post of that date. This too was agreed.
- We now have 310 followers on twitter and 156 friends on facebook.

13. Competition Secretary's Report

- a) Bob Clarke has decided that he will not be playing outside next season and will not therefore qualify for a seat on this committee. He has resigned as Competitions Secretary and the Executive Committee has appointed Jay Merrell to this position with Bob as Assistant Competitions Secretary. Jay will take over as Competition Secretary and Bob will be his assistant. Bob will continue to do the paperwork and Jay will run the competition.
- b) Jay has discussed the competitions with Bob Clarke who raised concerns that some players do not complete games in the prescribed time scale. The committee agreed to support Jay in taking a firm line with players who do not complete their games on time. Cases will be dealt with on a case by case basis but players will be expected to at least have a slot booked on the booking sheet by the due date.

14. Indoor Secretary's Report

- 1) The program for the four Indoor leagues and the rollups is progressing satisfactorily. Use of the rink has increased which is boosting club funds.
- 2) The final of the Men's Pairs competition takes place on Sunday 19th December at 9.30am between John Lister and Chris Thorne. The latter stages have been of a high standard with some very tight finishes.

- 3) Entries for the Mixed Pairs will close on 18th December after which the draw will be made and the play schedule posted. The opening matches will commence on 9th January.
- 4) The Open Singles Competition entry sheet will be posted soon with the entries running from February to March. There is a concern at the availability of the rink during this period given that the roof work may be planned to start in March. Whilst this work is being done the rink will have to be closed.
- 5) Ann Cowling has left the club and members are trying to cover her place in the indoor teams she was a member of.

15. Bar Steward's Report

- a) Roland reported that the pump on the new glass washer had been repaired but broke again almost immediately. The engineer had returned and recommended that a power pump should be fitted which would solve the problem. The meeting agreed that we should send a letter as soon as possible to the supplier telling them that the machine was unreliable and not fit for purpose.
- b) John Lister has now been trained up behind the bar and is opening the bar on Wednesday evenings and helping out at events when required. Roland commented that there are three members, including himself, volunteering to do bar duty and they could manage for now but we must get more people before the summer as we have a very busy season coming up.

16. Social Team report

The committee expressed their approval of the various events that the Social Team had organised so far this term. All the events had been enjoyed by the members and a profit has been made each time that would be used to purchase equipment for the kitchen.

The next event "Jason Toft" a solo singer is on 23rd January. Brenda is away on holiday and Sally Cole is taking over for that event and there will be a fish and chip supper. Cost will be £6.

17. Green Representatives Report

Bill Heard absent.

Brian reported that the green has been slit by the contractor, and when the weather improves some pellets will be spread on the green to get rid of the moss.

18. Building Representatives Report

Ernie was not in attendance.

The sliding door has been installed, by Rod Troake, at the entrance to the clubroom.

19. Any Other Business

Club Shirts - Brian reported that he had received the forms to register the shirts with SBA and returned them. We had not heard for two weeks so he tried to contact the Secretary Richard Pearce and found that he had gone to Australia for a long holiday and would not return until after Christmas. Until we get SBA approval we cannot apply to BE.

Brian suggested that in order to save time we contact all the Full Members and ask them the size and quantity of shirts that they require. If we get the shirts approved we will contact them again to confirm the order and ask for payment so that we can place the order quickly with the supplier. The meeting approved this suggestion.

Jay also proposed that rather than subsidise the new club shirts that we should order a few spares of popular sizes that could be borrowed by new members who

want to play for the club while shirts are obtained for them. The meeting agreed that this was a sensible idea, a vote was taken and it was approved

Constitution - Brian explained that at the AGM in 2014 a motion was passed to adopt the BE Model Constitution without further recourse to an AGM or SGM. He expressed his concern that although the basic principles in our current Constitution had been incorporated into the new document the size of the document had grown from 6 to 14 pages. The new constitution had been approved by the Executive Committee and sent to Bowls England for comment. Bowls England had suggested several minor modifications and the document will be changed to suit. The question is "do we call an SGM to consult all the members or do we comply with the 2014 motion and adopt it?" After some discussion it was decided to send out a copy of the revised Constitution to the members of the General Committee. This would then be discussed at the next meeting in February and if there is agreement that there are no contentious issues the document should be adopted. Should any issues arise during the year the new Constitution could be amended at the AGM in October 2016. The committee all agreed that this was the best way forward.

Smoking Policy - Brian explained the Smoke Free Sports Club Project and that Richard had enrolled the course. The committee decided to support a No Smoking Policy in principle but would discuss this again following a report by Richard after he has attended the course. It was suggested that members of the club who smoke should be consulted for their views.

Membership Lists- It was confirmed that the Committee would like to see the membership lists removed from the display cabinet and enclosed in a file that should be easily accessible to members.

Ann Cowling - Sylvia Lane read the contents of a personal email sent to Ann Cowling by Brian Wombwell. She said that she had met with some of the Lady members and they were very unhappy at the tone of the email and they were very disappointed that as a result Ann had left the club. The Chair responded saying that he agreed that the email should not have been sent but that it was a personal response to a letter sent to the club by Ann. He continued that there is an obvious clash of personalities and it was a shame that the two of them did not get together to resolve their differences before it got to this stage. He also said that Brian had already been reprimanded by the Executive Committee, had apologised to them and had promised to ensure that a situation like this never occurred again.

Members of the Committee then asked for Sylvia's help, as President, in trying to build bridges with the long term members who felt disenfranchised with the changes currently taking place at the club. The older members have a wealth of experience at bowling and of the history and traditions of the club. They are a valuable asset and will always be welcome.

The meeting closed at 12.05am

Date of next meeting Wednesday 10th February 2016 9.30am at the clubhouse.

Signed:.....Geoff Stamp (Chairman) Date: