

WELLINGTON (SOMERSET) BOWLING CLUB

**Executive Committee Meeting to be held at 9.30am on Friday 12th April 2024
in the clubhouse.**

REPORT

1 MEMBERS:

Role	Name	Initials	Role	Name	Initials
President	Ann Cowling	AC	Admin Co-ordinator	Jay Merrell	JCM
Chair	Paul Kelly	PK	Bowls Co-ordinator	Graham Brown	GB
Treasurer	Phil Ellis	PE	Asset Co-ordinator	Alan Moore	AM
Asst. Treasurer	Derek Alford	DA			
Functions Co-ordinator	Steve Lovell	SL	Admin. Assistant	Vacant	

2 Apologies. Phil Ellis.

3 Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th March 2024

4 Matters arising from the minutes (not included elsewhere on the agenda)- Nil

5 a) Chair's Report-

The question-and-answer meeting held on Monday 8th April was well attended and feedback from members suggests it was useful. The next Q&A session will be on Tuesday June 25th at 7pm.

b) Club President's Report

Torquay Tour

It was a most enjoyable week, socially and the bowling (no rubber ducks this time!!). To be able speak to fellow members at length and not just "hello" when meeting up at the club was a definite bonus. The organising of this tour takes up a lot of time for this I thank Steve and Janet Lovell and Nick Channon for ensuring everything ran smoothly. Wish them all success in the outdoor tour in September.

Afternoon Tea Wednesday 3rd April 2024

This was held to raise donations for my charity Guide Dogs for the Blind. The amount of support we received from our members with their family and friends was amazing, I applaud them all. Also, thank you to all those who baked cakes, donated raffle prizes and purchased GDB merchandise which was a bonus for them.

Without the help of Steve and Janet Lovell, Angie Moore, Alan and Janet Moore we would not have been able to have such a fun afternoon. I cannot praise them enough, thank you.

To my amazement we raised £400.00+ hopefully we can raise more during the summer months of my final year as President.

Outdoor

I wish all the various men's and ladies' leagues, cup/plate, trophy matches a successful season. Those members who only want to play in mixed friendlies there are plenty to sign up for – enjoy the game. Support your captains, vice captains and selectors, they do their best to ensure you get a game. Because of the very wet weather we have experienced over the last few months we must respect the instructions/wishes of our Greenkeeper and team when we are on the green.

Fingers crossed the rain will eventually stop and the sun decides to shine on us.

6 Admin Coordinator's Report.

a) Admin Assistant - Following Brian's resignation a club wide advert for a replacement will be issued.

The Executive would like to record its thanks to Brian for many years' service. Brian will continue to look after club kit and merchandise until we can find another volunteer.

b) Club Sponsorship- We have joined [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) so far around 15 members have signed up.

Paul Kelsall has produced a PowerPoint brief to present to potential sponsors.

We are actively participating in two grassroots media campaigns.

c) 2024 fixtures booklet- Copies have been handed out to members, so far feedback is positive. The Executive wish to pass on our thanks to Henry and Lynda for their help with this.

- d) **Bowlr** has rolled out an availability and team selection module. Graham has discussed this with the selectors, and we will not be taking this up at the moment, however it will be kept under review. It is important to stress that any innovative moves towards electronic delivery of availability or team sheets would run in parallel to current tried and trusted methods. The aim is to save some members making unnecessary journeys into the club.
- e) **Club Trustees**- Janet Moore and Geoff Stamp have kindly offered to replace Derek Vile and Martin Speakman as club trustees. I have drawn up the paperwork. This document will then need signing, including by a witness, and delivering to Porter Dobson solicitors for safe keeping. The signed original needs to be on appropriate quality paper.
- f) **Club coloured trousers**- This issue is in abeyance. I cannot find a supplier of tailored bowls trousers but will keep looking. A possible solution would be tailored golf trousers. These tend to be expensive and, in my opinion, should only be considered if we are successful in our bid for the grant from Persimmon Homes, which is still pending.
- g) **Club Open Day**- Somerset Sign and Print company have produced the promotional banner.
- h) **May Execs meeting**- Due to four members of the Executive being unable to attend a meeting on the 10th May the next meeting will be moved to the 3rd May.
- i) **Webmaster** (Jay Merrell)- All members who have declared email addresses have been issued with passwords to the members website. A bulk email will be issued explaining this is not spam. Graham is discussing with the team captains whether team sheets can be posted here (this would be in addition to posting in the club house). We agreed that monthly Executive Committee report as well as the monthly treasurer's report should be published here.
- j) **Publicity Officer** (Martin Speakman)- NTR
- k) **Membership Secretary** (Lynda Manning)- Membership re-registration envelopes have been issued. The Affiliation Fee this year is now £12.00 per member. Lynda and Phil will arrange payment before the deadline of 7th May.
- l) **Welfare Officer** (Steve Lovell)- NTR
- m) **Safeguarding Officer** (Henry Richbell)- NTR

7 Bowls Coordinator's Report

Subgroup members report the following month's activities.

- a) **Men's Captain (Eddie Dilly)**
No report.
- b) **Ladies' Captain (Brenda Wilson)**
Initial availability could be better. Would ladies please make themselves available for selection for both league and friendly matches by signing the availability sheets.
An invitation has been received from the Somerset Lady President to attend President's Day at Ilminster on Monday 17th June. Anyone wishing to represent the club should make themselves known, in lieu of which it is customary to send apologies with a donation to this year's charity, which is Brain Tumour Research. The committee agreed we should send a donation of £25.00
- c) **Friendlies Captain (Ian Hollingsworth)**
An encouraging 65 members have already made themselves available for one of the first 9 friendly matches. Selection will be as fair as possible, whilst mindful of the need to field balanced teams, and will be evened out as the season progresses. Subject to continued support at this level the possibility of extra "internal matches" will be considered.
- d) **East of Exe.**
Richard Whiting, Lynda Manning, and Ian Hollingsworth will continue to select and manage this league team, where commitment has again been good with close to 40 members making themselves available. Teams have not yet been selected, but it is likely that 6 rinks will be selected with consistency at lead, 3 and skip, to maintain a competitive approach. Where a player making themselves available is not selected an attempt will be made to compensate with additional friendly matches.
- e) **Indoor Secretary (Janet Moore)**
The season has concluded and resulted in some excellent bowling, regularly reported in the Welly Weekly by Martin, our Publicity Officer giving additional profile to the club.
- f) **Fixtures Secretary (Jay Merrell)**

Bowls England Men's Top Club. Drawn away to Ilminster. Play Sunday 19th May at 10:00am
Men's Somerset League SW1 A team match v Crewkerne on July 6th will commence at 1.00pm due to the Wellstock Music event being held at the rugby club that day.

Due to a delayed opening of the Uffculme green the fixtures have been reversed and the friendly on Sunday April 21st will now be a home fixture.

Victoria Park have advised that they are delaying the opening of their green as a consequence of which the friendly on Friday 19th has been cancelled, they will look to rearrange, if possible, later in the season.

g) Competitions Secretary (Janet Moore)

Entries are steadily coming in as members renew their membership. Please note that the closing date is 1st May to enable the draws to take place.

h) Bowls Co Ordinator (Graham Brown)

Initial commitment to leagues and friendly matches has been encouraging; please continue as this makes the task of selection so much easier which enables teams to be posted well in advance of matches.

Whilst the usual manual system of posting team sheets on noticeboards will continue this season, additional digital alternatives will run alongside, which we hope members will appreciate, although the need to manually tick your name for availability will remain.

We hope to have another bumper entry for club competitions this year so please get your entries completed and posted in the "competition box" at the clubhouse. If any of our newer bowlers have any questions, please ask one of the experienced members and remember you have your own "New Bowler" competition. The preseason Q&A session was held on Monday 8th April and was attended by around 50 members. Thanks to Paul Kelly and Gill and Mike Groves for forming the panel.

I would like to thank Janet Moore for managing the indoor season smoothly this year and Janet and Angie Moore who have successfully coached a constant number of new bowlers throughout the winter.

Dress code for the men's practice on Saturday 20th April is greys and club shirt.

i) Coaches

Martin Speakman continues to be unable to coach at present. After speaking to Janet Moore, she considers that group sessions could cope with a similar influx from the Big Bowls Weekend should last year's success be repeated.

Coaching sessions will be offered for last years' new bowlers and anyone else wishing to partake. These are aimed as a refresher, as well as introducing those who have joined over the winter to the outdoor scene. The sessions are due to start Wednesday 17th April at 10.30am, weather permitting.

j) Selection (Graham Brown)

Selectors have continued to meet in preparation for the forthcoming season. Initial availability for most leagues is encouraging, but more players are needed for the Saturday Somerset League when we need to field A and B teams, each with 3 rinks.

8 Asset Coordinator's Report

I have not got a lot to report just to say that the Abel Alarm are coming on the 23rd of April to check the alarm and look at the emergency light outside the far end of the Indoor Rink.

Painting of the outside of the Indoor Rink (Greenside only) has finished. Four volunteers kindly helped with this.

I have also got the quotation for taking up the indoor carpet and coming back to lay it when we have looked at the floor and make any repairs as necessary. I require the approval of the Executive to go ahead with the works and book Greengage to conduct the said works.

9 Functions Coordinator's Report

Beginning of March, we had a quiz brought to us by the Pétanque Group this turned out to be a fun evening with a small buffet after.

We held the Wake for Dai Helps this was a very busy day for all our volunteers especially in the Kitchen I would like to thank Janet Lovell, Angie Moore, Alan Moore for all their hard work in making this a memorable day for Thelma.

Unfortunately, this event highlighted the dreaded dish washer again. Myself and Derek have had a look at it and bought some non-return valves to renew this is to stop the tubes which should be letting soap through brining water back into the containers, having pulled out the machine we have now found that we need to refix the work tops which were being held up with some small bits of wood. I have had someone come in to give us a quote for a new machine, but it is not as easy as it sounds anyway, I await the quote but according to him could be up to £5500. Having looked at it all we may be able to get away with a 16 setting domestic but this is something to look at later depends how things work out.

Torquay Tour was a great success everyone enjoyed themselves and we have already looked at going again next March.

The Ladies have been very busy in the kitchen with its annual deep clean.

Angie and Marg are looking for Tombola Prizes for the Mayday at the park if anyone has anything please ring either of the 2 and they will sort it out with you.

I have managed to fix the floor in the smoking hut just needed the boards screwing down.

Also put coat hangers at the far end of the green on the pergolas.

We held a cream tea event for Guide Dogs for the blind last Wednesday this was held from 2pm – 5pm there was a Raffle , guess the dog's name and Prize bingo, another thanks to Janet Lovell for making 100 Scones for this event and all the rest of the members that made cakes, the club made £430.00 for the guide dogs and also Lynda a volunteer brought some merchandise and sold £67.00. Again, this was all for the Presidents Charity for the year over 50 people attended this event.

10 Greenkeeper's Report

Paul confirmed the green is ready. However, not surprisingly it is on the soft side so great care must be taken, especially during April, to avoid stressing the green. Damage to the green in April is likely to last all summer. Members are reminded to move the mat each end and NEVER to throw bowls onto the green. During April members are asked NOT to play in rain, or shortly after heavy rain. Correct footwear is to be worn at all times.

11 Matters requiring attention February/March

- a) Nil

12 Any Other Business

- a) Dishwasher- Repairs have taken place, if these do not work, we will have to consider a replacement, which will cost several thousand pounds.
- b) Indoor Honours Board is in hand.
- c) Grants- A decision on the Persimmon Homes grant application for £1000 is still pending.
- d) Ann has approached Uffculme to see if they could provide some lady players to take part in the Thursday afternoon ladies league. They are unable to help. Graham said he and Janet would review the rules to see if some flexibility regarding unplayed matches can be introduced.

14 Membership applications.

One received.

15 Reserved Business

- a) Treasurer's Report
- b) Safeguarding – Safeguarding Officer
- c) Confidential matters-

16 Date of Next Executive Meeting Friday 3rd May 2024