

Wellington (Som) Bowling Club

Report of the Executive Committee Meeting held on Friday 8th December 2023 at the Clubhouse.

The meeting opened at 9.30am

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
Assistant Treasurer	Derrick Alford	DA	Asset Co-ordinator	Alan Moore	AM
Functions Co-ordinator	Steve Lovell	SL	Admin. Assistant	Brian Wombwell	BW

2. Apologies: Phil Ellis

3. Minutes of Previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th September were accepted as a true record.

4. Matters arising from previous There were no matters arising.

5. Chairperson's Report Paul Kelly

Paul had nothing to report.

Club President Ann Cowling

Ann had nothing to report.

6 Acting Admin Co-ordinator's Report (Jay Merrell)

- a) Fifty copies of Bowls England's "Guidance for New Bowlers" have been purchased and left with Lynda to distribute.
- b) I have moved our gas account to Valda energy from British Gas. We have a three-year fixed deal which includes a standing charge of 39 p/day and unit rate 8.7 p/kwh. Last year we used 44421kw of gas which cost £5720.56 unit rate @17.39p/kwh standing charge 45 p/day. BG Lite offered a renewal offer standing charge 69.82p/day unit rate 9.13 p/day with similar usage this would cost £4406.24. Using a similar amount of gas will now cost 4006.98. This will save the club £399.26 per year. £1700 less than last year. The Exec. members found this acceptable and thanked Jay for his efforts.
- c) The renewal for the Premises Licence has now been received and paid. As has the music licence.
- d) Clive Manning has updated the constitution following the revisions made at the AGM. The updated version has been uploaded to the website with a copy on display in the clubhouse. Following feedback from a couple of members, it does not include any reference to alternating the gender of the Presidency as per the amendment made on the night to proposal 2 and does not include any reference to proposal 10, which was in respect of genders only voting for their own Captains. I referred this to Bowls England but have received no response. Convention will be applied at future AGMs whereby the chair will state that only men vote for Men's Captain and only ladies vote for the Ladies Captain, similar by convention the Presidency rotates between genders (it's always possible of course that we may not always have a volunteer to be president from the gender whose turn it is). Most of our membership will accept this, but if a man votes in the ladies' captaincy, we will just have to accept it, and vice versa. The committee agreed this.
- e) I have applied to join Bowls England educational webinars in January. Club legal structures on Jan 25th and Big Bowls weekend on Jan 22nd. This led me to investigate our legal status. According to the HMRC register we are not a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC). I do not believe we are a

registered charity. It appears we are an Unincorporated Sports Club. I will find out what the benefits of CASC status are during the online seminar and report back at the February Execs Committee meeting. Most, but by no means all, local bowling clubs are CASCs. The rugby and squash clubs next door are also CASCs.

- f) Quotes are being obtained from our existing insurer as well as a local broker for our building and other assets insurance. The deadline for renewal is the 17th January 2024.
- g) **Webmaster** (myself)- NTR.
- h) **Publicity Officer** – Vacant- I sent an email out to find a volunteer with non-forthcoming.
- i) **Membership Secretary** (Lynda Manning)- NTR
- j) **Welfare Officer** (Steve Lovell)- NTR
- k) **Safeguarding Officer** (Henry Richbell)- NTR
- l) **Publicity Officer (Di Dagg)**- NTR.
- m) **Webmaster (myself)**- NTR.

7. Bowls Coordinator Graham Brown

Subgroup members report the following month's activities.

Men's Captain (Eddie Dilley): No report.

Ladies' Captain (Brenda Wilson): No report.

Friendlies Captain (Ian Hollingsworth): Nothing to report.

Indoor Secretary (Janet Moore)

Competitions

a) Pairs Round 1 completed 1 December. Quarter Finals to be played by 16 December and Semi Finals planned for 17 December. I am having problems with members who progress and then are expecting games to be arranged around them. Whilst this is easier in the Summer it becomes very difficult with our single indoor rink.

I have tried to accommodate requests but moving forward this is not always possible.

b) Men's Round 2. Will be completed next weekend. (10<11 December)

c) Lists for the Open Singles and Ladies Singles have been posted on the Competition Board in the Indoor Rink. The Closing Date is the 15th December and to date we do not have sufficient Ladies signed up for their competition.

d) January Away Mixed Friendly Matches: At the time of writing, we do not have sufficient numbers for 4 triples for each match. I will email members about Competitions and Away Mixed Friendlies next week.

Fixtures Secretary (Jay Merrell)

I have received the Ladies County League fixtures which completes all the league fixtures, the match v Taunton ladies on the 7th Sep clashes with our finals weekend and has been rearranged for Saturday 31st August.

2024 draft outdoor fixture list has been displayed on the club house noticeboard. I have sent a copy to opposition clubs fixture secretaries for checking and a copy to Mike Groves to check the league fixtures. They are already displayed on the website.

Entries for 5 SBA competitions (men's county league, ladies county league, fear cup, Southey trophy and Turnbull cup) submitted to SBA and entry to Men's Top Club submitted to Bowls England.

Competitions Secretary (Vacant): No report

Bowls Co Ordinator (Graham Brown)

a) I would like to thank members for reselection at the recent AGM and look forward to serving the club in the coming year.

b) Also grateful thanks to Trevor Jenkins who has decided to stand down as Outdoor Competitions Secretary. Feedback from the majority of members is that Trevor achieved his objective of re-establishing the competitions and Finals Weekend, post COVID, with the status they deserve. With

a few minor adjustments he created a template which will be replicated for the 2024 season, and I am pleased to advise that Janet Moore has agreed to fill the vacant position.

c) I highlighted at the AGM that the constitution states that selection activity should be reported to the Executive. This will be addressed by introducing a new section to the Bowls Coordinator report. This will cover men's, mixed and open teams with ladies selection remaining with the Ladies Captain and ladies' selectors with any issues being reported via the Ladies Captain's report.

Coaches

d) Two potential new members currently completing their 6 introductory sessions.

Selection (Graham Brown)

a) As mentioned at the AGM, Selector activity will be introduced as a section of the Bowls Coordinator report to provide transparency and create a route for two-way feedback between selectors and membership to highlight any issues being encountered.

b) An initial Selector meeting will be held during January to discuss the 2024 outdoor season.

8 Asset Coordinator Report December 2023

This is my first Executive Committee meeting as Asset Co-ordinator, and I have the following items to report.

- a) Firstly, I would like to thank Steve Lovell for looking after the plumber whilst installing and getting the system up and running.
- b) I have now received a list of volunteers who are willing to help with the decorating when it is taking place. The first thing to be decorated will be the corridor down from the bar to the toilets; this will not take place until February.
- c) I have asked all Bar Staff to make sure that all the Changing Room Doors are open when they close at night as this will warm up the corridor overnight. The Changing Room Doors are not alarmed so they will have no problem leaving them open overnight when they lock up.
- d) Also, I have straightened up the hangers for pushers so now they rest on the wood and all the holes should be filled in by the time you read this report.
- e) It has been noticed that the outside light at the front of the building is flickering on and off. Paul agreed to investigate this and carry out or arrange any repairs necessary.

9 Functions Coordinator Steve Lovell

- a) I would like to remind everyone that Thursday Evening 7th December we will be having another game of Curling at the club start time around 6.30pm. Please do not forget Saturday Evening will be Christmas Party Night with Teresa D from 8pm until 11pm this includes a salad of your choice either Ham or Cheese.
- b) Next event after the Xmas Party will be Thursday Curling at 6.30pm
- c) We then have the Christmas Draw this will be Friday 15th December at 7pm
- d) Saturday 16th is Christmas Bingo this will be starting an hour earlier so doors open at 6pm eyes down at 7pm, Raffle Prizes gratefully received please wrap your raffle prizes in Xmas paper, so no one knows what is in it.
- e) We have a rest then until Boxing Day where there will be fun and games + Hot Dogs on sale from 11am - 3pm. Your hosts will be Pete and Marg Nichols
- f) New Years Eve we are selling tickets at the bar for this event £10pp this includes a buffet supper music by Rod Thomas 8pm until late.

10 Green Keeper Paul Kelly

The Green has been treated with lawn sand to kill any moss and further treatments will be added at the right time. The grass has also been trimmed. I am also trying to get quotations for removing the hedge.

11. Matters requiring attention January/February

On the 1st April 2024 we will hold a Q&A session in the clubhouse, members of the Executive committee, team captains and selectors will be on hand to answer members questions. More about this nearer the time.

12 Any other business

Jay proposed the following items for discussion:-

1. We move the 2024 November Exec. Mtg to Friday 1st November. The AGM will be held on the 2nd Monday as usual i.e. Monday 11th November. Holding an Execs meeting and AGM within three days created, as this year, created problems for Brian and myself. This was Agreed.
2. Club Coloured Trousers- There was a surprising amount of support for this at the AGM. The Executive discussed this at length and agreed on the following strategy. To match the shirt the new trousers will be maroon. We will explore the market to find a supplier who can provide a good product and a reasonable price for a bulk order and then supply orders for single trousers again at a reasonable price. We will consider options of subsidising the original bulk order from either club funds or obtaining sponsorship from a local source. We will report progress in due course.
3. Club Sponsorship- Leah Waygood has set up a Facebook and Instagram account for the club which she is prepared to manage. Members from the Executive will meet early next year to decide what packages we should offer potential sponsors.
4. 2024 fixtures booklet- It was agreed that the number of pages in the Fixture Booklet should be reduced.

Other items discussed :-

- a) **First Aiders** – An email was sent to all members, but we had no replies.
- b) **Bags or trolleys to distribute bowling equipment on the green.** This will be ordered in April.
- c) **Provide Coat Hooks** at the Rugby Club end of the Green. This will be actioned in April.
- d) **Distribution of Club News** – Club news is distributed regularly to all members who have access to e-mail. Notices are also posted on the club notice Board. The cost of regular postage to all members who do not have email would be astronomic on an annual basis and is not affordable.
- e) **Indoor Honours Board:** It was agreed that we would purchase, in due course, an Indoor Honours Board, like the new Outdoor Board, to be installed in the Indoor Rink, and that the existing boards would remain as existing.

13. Applications for Membership – Chris Barrett for Indoor membership Approved

The meeting closed at 11.05 am

Date of Next meeting: Friday 12th of January 2024

Signed:Paul Kelly (Chair) Date:2023

