

Nuthall Bowls Club

Minutes of the pre-season meeting held on 9th April 2024

Welcome back from the chairman

The chairman, Brian Watson, welcomed everyone back and looked forward to the outdoor season ahead.

Observation of a moment's silence for absent friends

The chairman asked all those present to observe a short silence. In particular, he remembered Peter Jordan who passed away in October. Peter was very active in promoting the club through his journalistic ties and as an accomplished photographer.

Members present and apologies for absence

The following members were present (22): B. Watson (chair), N. Dodd (secretary), S. Birkin (treasurer), H. Liley, G. Wigfield, A. Wilson, L. Birkin, D. Doyle, M. Lillicrapp, G. Upton, G. Allen, D. Leithead, J. Leithead, G. Lee, P. Sidebottom, M. Watson, J. Bradbury, G. Dickins, Q. Badriya, G. DeMartino, D. French, K. Broadley.

Apologies for absence were received from the following (11): J. Griffiths, W. Mills, S. Judson, R. Ellison, G. Lambert, K. Doyle, J. Repetto, D. Heard, S. Brant, G. Lillicrapp, J. Terry.

At this point the chairman asked members to think if they had any items for Any Other Business.

Update on the formal Agreement with the parish council

The secretary read out a prepared statement a copy of which is attached to these minutes. The upshot is that we are still not prepared to sign the Agreement in its present form and have written to the council with our reasoning. Our main concern is the impractical procedure, still in the revised Agreement, for evenings we need to overrun the stated park closing time.

Also, in our response we pointed out the disparity in park closing time of 8.15 in early May compared to 8.45 in mid-August when they are seven weeks either side of the summer solstice.

Green Team Report

Pete Sidebottom had prepared a report which he posted on the club's website, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. We hope to erect both marquees this coming Saturday (13th April) for which we are grateful to have sufficient volunteers. The green will receive a closer cut, also on Saturday, and should therefore be ready for use next week. The grand opening of the green will be Saturday 13th April when everyone (including any potential new members) is invited to come along for a roll up.

League and cup fixtures for 2024

The fixtures for the new season have been circulated where it can be seen that, from the second week in May, the matches will come at us thick and fast so there will be plenty of opportunities for all members to get their fair share of games. Unfortunately, so as not to

offend the council's park closing time, all evening league matches before 13th May have had to be arranged as away fixtures. Before then we have four friendly games and a 4 x 2 cup match for which availability sheets were brought to the meeting, everyone was invited to add their names afterwards.

Captains and vice-captains for 2024

The meeting agreed that the following members should serve as captains and vice-captains

Ashfield 4 x 2 league - captain, Graham Allen, vice captain, Brian Watson

Federation 4 x 2 league, captain, Pete Sidebottom, vice captain, Nigel Dodd

Federation 3 x 3 league, captain, Mark Lillicrapp, vice captain Diane Doyle

Federation 2 x 3 afternoon league, captain, Kevin Doyle, vice captain, Lawrence Birkin

Federation Saturday 4 x 3 league, captain, Kevin Broadley, vice captain, Kevin Doyle

In addition, Pete Sidebottom will captain the team for all cup matches

Membership and match fees for 2024

The treasurer, Sue Birkin, gave a summary of the expenses over the last year and our current financial position. The purchase of a new marquee and a mower reduced our bank balance to nil although the current balance stands at £287. It will be necessary to impose a small increase for 2024, particularly as we may not be receiving a grant from the parish council, so it was proposed that we increase the membership fee from £45 to £50, and raise the match fees from £2 to £2.50 or £3. Sue estimated that our income from fees would be £1,600 at £2.50 per match and £1,900 at £3 per match. The consensus amongst the meeting that we should only raise the match fee by just 50p so, to confirm, the membership fee will be £50 and the match fee is set at £2.50.

The meeting also decided that for the Saturday tea and raffle we should increase the charge from £1.50 to £2. All members are asked to please provide prizes for the raffle if they are able.

Team Selection procedure

It was proposed that we continue with the procedure employed last year. Availability sheets for all matches will be posted in the pavilion up to one month in advance and removed up to two weeks beforehand. Members are then urged to add their names for the games for which they are available as soon as they can. The team captains will then make their selections and refer them to Pete Sidebottom who will check that our policy of being, as far as practical, fair to all members is being upheld before announcing the teams for the week beginning on the Monday at least eight days ahead.

Any other business

Brian brought up the matter of health and safety but was reminded that Wayne had already produced a comprehensive document following a meeting of the management committee. To fully comply with our responsibilities, Brian, Wayne and Kevin Broadley, our health and safety representatives, will perform a full risk assessment at the green in the near future.

Pete announced that this year's club competitions will take place over the course of the season with a finals day in September. Anyone not involved in the later stages of the competitions will be able to play in a separate tournament on the day.

Geoff Lee mentioned that there is a defibrillator by the main pavilion and the access code is C0147X

The Federation requires each club to submit an anti-smoking and anti-vaping policy so the secretary asked those present for their opinions on how restrictive ours should be. Brian, Wayne and Kevin Broadley, will decide on an appropriate policy.

Brian raised the question of appointing someone in charge of publicity and brought along a copy of NG16 magazine which contained articles by both Eastwood/Greasley and Kimberley Bowls Clubs advertising open days and recruitment events. The secretary advised that we did regularly submit articles to the Nuthall parish magazine, which is now defunct, but an entry in NG16 could be considered. It was pointed out that we have our own website and regularly approach players at the indoor club with a view to joining us.

Sue asked for volunteers amongst our lady members to clean and prepare the pavilion on Tuesday (16th April) from 1.30. The building should, by then, be clear of all equipment that has been stored there for the Winter.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.