

# WELLINGTON (SOM) BOWLING CLUB

## Minutes of General Meeting held on 9th November 2016 at the Clubhouse.

### The meeting commenced at 9.30am.

<b><u>Present</u></b>	Roland Bath President Geoff Stamp (Chair) Brian Wombwell (Secretary) Gill Groves Ladies Captain John Cherry Indoor Secretary	John Lister( Mixed Vice Captain) Richard Manning (Development Officer) Ian Thompson (Mixed Captain)
<b><u>Absent</u></b>	Jay Merrell, Paul Kelly, Bob Clarke Vic Horne, Diane Troake	

**1. Apologies for Absence** were received from Jay Merrell, Paul Kelly, and Vic Horne

### **2. Chairman's Opening Remarks - Geoff Stamp**

Geoff commented that he was very pleased with the attendance at the AGM and said that the meeting went very well. He commented that the scheduled Open Meeting after the AGM had been closed did not happen and said that he would ensure that it would be organised properly in future. He would carry this forward to the EGM on the 14th November 2016.

### **3 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of 9th November were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **4. Matters arising from the Previous Meeting**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. Secretary's Report - Brian Wombwell**

- a) Two quotations for Bowls Stickers have been requested. A sample of our design has been sent to each manufacturer and we have asked for a quotation for 200 stickers which will make 100 sets for four bowls. The estimated cost is for £40 to £60 and it was agreed that they should be ordered as soon as the quotations are received.
- b) Roland has agreed to present the wreath at the Remembrance Service on Sunday. The wreath was later handed to Roland. This year we have had our club logo and name pictured on the inside of the wreath.
- c) The members of the committee were asked to give a short written report, when appropriate, to Brian at each meeting to ensure that the minutes were accurate.
- d) Brian then proceeded to explain that it was very important for the Club to have a detailed Financial Plan for at least five years. The plan should anticipate all upcoming anticipated costs and maintain have a continuous overview of membership and income. We should also look at ways of maximising our income so that the future of the Club is ensured. The Plan would be reviewed each year and amended as necessary. The Executive Committee would formulate the Plan and would have input from members of the General Committee. When it has been finished it will be presented to a meeting of the General Committee for consideration.

### **6. Treasurer's Report**

At this moment in time we do not have a treasurer and there was no report. A full report on the club finances will be will be given by the Auditor at the EGM on 14th November.

### **7. Ladies Administrator - Gill Groves**

This position is vacant. Brian said that it was disappointing that there would be no Lady involved in the Management of the club whilst this position is vacant.

### **8. Development Officer Report - Richard Manning**

- Bowls England Club of the Year Award - Bowls England stated all four of the finalists were of a very high standard. The Judging Panel were impressed with our club's achievements and thanked us for the detailed supporting documentation we supplied. The award is given to the club that is judged to have shown the greatest effort to promote the club, increase membership, and work with the

community. This year there was a record number of entries and we have done extremely well to win our region. Tony Allcock, the BE representative, said that the 2016 winners were runners up in 2014 and their website shows several events encompassing the local community.

- Richard reported that we have to decide how we will apportion the prize which comprises new sets of bowls. The options are either a raffle, Prize Draw, or a silent auction. (A decision on this matter was not made.)

and

We have been offered a £20,000 loan from Bowls England which has to be repaid over 5 years to towards the cost of re-siting the toilets and we have to decide whether we want to accept it. This matter will be considered when we have received the auditors Accounts and formulated the 5 year Plan which will reveal whether we can afford it.

- Grants - TDBC Grants Section has awarded the club £5,520 towards the re-siting of the toilets.
- Coaching - We currently have 4 new members having coaching sessions.
- New Fence - Paul Kelly and Nick Channon have cut down the trees at the end of the green. They have either been chipped or cut up, bagged and removed to the tip. This work has taken a considerable effort and our thanks go to Paul, Nick, Ernie, Barry Vile, Derek Vile, Mike Lockyer, Richard and Brian. Richard has obtained two quotes for the stump grinding and the Committee agreed that the work should be ordered as soon as possible.  
Cost to date - hire of chipper £180.00, Stump Grinder £240. Total £420.00 saving £380 over the cost quoted by the Fencing Contractor. The fencing quotes are now being re tendered to reflect the reduction in work.
- Gas Boilers - The gas boilers are being serviced on 9th November 2016. There have been complaints about the lack of heating in the club which need to be addressed

**9 Men's Captain - Paul Kelly** was absent so no report.

**10 Ladies Captain - Gill Groves**

Nothing to report

**11 Mixed Captain Ian Thomson**

Ian said he was optimistic that we would have a good season next summer. We have a lot more members to choose from and some of the new players are showing a great deal of promise.

**12 Fixture Secretarys Report - Jay Merrell** (sent a written report)

a) Fixture List - Waiting for the County Cup fixtures in order to complete the fixture list for next season. A draft copy is displayed on the notice board and also on the website.

b) Fixtures - At present we have the same number of ladies friendlies, 2 extra men's friendlies including an A,B and C team pre season friendly on the 29th April against Taunton Vivary BC, and one fewer mixed friendly. We haven't lost any fixtures but we have only one provisional touring team booking. (we had three last year). Next year we play Culme Valley BC home and away next season (previously it has been a single annual fixture).

We have a men's C team entering the West Somerset League which will involve 10 extra matches across three Triples.

Jay is confident that members will not feel short of matches next season.

c) We have agreed to host the Worcestershire v Cornwall Ladies match (similar to previous seasons) on Monday 17th July 2017. (Diane is aware.)

d) Jay is not seeking any further Friendly Fixtures but we do have a number of free dates which have been offered to Tiverton BC and Ottery St Mary BC. He is not optimistic that either club will take up the offer.

e) Mike Connor has offered to audit the fixture list for next season prior to having it printed. This should reduce the risk of errors that happened last year.

f) In January 2017 Roland will be asked to submit a Presidents Introduction for inclusion in the Fixture Booklet. Richard will be asked to supply an up to date list of sponsors, grant funders, benefactors etc. which will also be included in the booklet.

g) Jay asked members for any suggestions for items that could be included in the Fixture Booklet and these would be required before 28th Feb 2017.

h) Carley press will be offered the job of printing the Fixture Booklet as they are now a sponsor.

### **13. Competition Secretary's Report - Bob Clarke**

No report.

### **14. Indoor Secretary's Report - John Cherry**

- a) The 2016/17 Indoor bowling activities are underway with all league teams and rollup groups fully allocated with players.
- b) A Wednesday Morning roll up (11.30am - 1.30pm) has been reserved particularly for new members who have not found a place in the leagues or a rollup group. This session is under the supervision of Richard Manning.
- c) There are 24 competitors in the Men's Singles competition and 12 competitors in the Ladies Singles. Both competitions are now up and running. John commented that it is very pleasing that the Ladies Singles has been revived after several years absence.
- d) Matches have been arranged so that the Men's and Ladies Singles finals will take place on the 18th December 2016 at 11.30 am Men and 2.00pm Ladies
- e) c) The invitations will be posted on 6th December for the Mixed Pairs Competition that will run through January 2017, then for the Open Singles on 11th January to run through March.
- f) John said he was pleased that the Trophy Presentation Night on 22nd October was successful. He thanked Martin Speakman for the great coverage we had in the Welly Weekly.

### **15. Bar Steward - John Lister**

- a) John thanked Roland for making the transition so easy. The Bar Committee are working well together.
- b) A rolling rota for the bar has been established and agreed with Eddie and Richard Whiting and this will be repeated every month. Martin and Roland have offered to stand in on an ad hoc basis so we are well covered with bar staff. The bar will not be open on Sundays during the winter as there is no requirement.
- c) The new rota for unlocking and locking the club has now been amended and posted on the notice board.
- d) The Bar Committee are to review what we are selling and will try out new products. We have currently taken the Bitter pump off as we have arranged to send half a barrel back to the supplier as it was undrinkable.
- e) John said that the bar will be open on Boxing day lunch time.
- f) Richard raised the issue of the pricing structure and was told that when we have all the figures available the profit ratio on all the products would be reassessed but there would be no large in price increases.

### **16 Think Tank - John Cherry**

The Think Tank met on 7th November 2016. The only outstanding item was Name Badges. The decision on this issue was delayed until we heard the result of the BE National Club of the Year Award as name badges were part of the prize. It was decided that embroidered names on shirts was logistically too difficult. Brian to source names of suppliers for badges and let John have them.

### **New suggestions**

- a) Training sessions to cover all aspects of Club membership would be beneficial for new members in order to get them initiated into the club. Club History, membership numbers, subs & fees, Constitution, Committees, equipment, dress code clothing, conduct, etiquette, league & friendly and roll up games, Health and Safety and social activities could all be included in sit down sessions. A detailed syllabus could be drawn up to aid presenters and our qualified coaches would be involved.
- b) It has been suggested that we should enquire from members if there is support for participation in a bowling tour either in the UK or abroad. These tours are organised by various operators. John is to prepare a poster.

- c) John mentioned the BE prize of bowls sets and asked if these could be raffled off in the New Year but this had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.
- d) The Think Tank has suggested that we should purchase a defibrillator. Brian informed John that this has been discussed at length recently by the Executive Committee and it was agreed that we should acquire one but the cost is around £1,000. When we get the audited accounts the Business Plan mentioned earlier will be formulated and a set of priorities for spending will be established. The purchase of a defibrillator can then be considered.

**17. Social Team Report**

There was no report but Richard Manning informed the meeting that a replacement act for New Year has been booked and the program of social events was displayed on the notice board.

The attendance at the recent social event was good and approximately £400 was made for the club.

**18. Green Representatives Report Paul Kelly** (Paul sent a written report.)

- a) The rejected topsoil is awaiting collection by the supplier but we do not yet have a date.
- b) The replacement supply of topsoil has been spread on the green and this should level out some of the defects in the green. Whilst the topdressing and seeding is regenerating the grass the mowers have been sent away for servicing.
- c) Next year the cutting pack on the mower will need replacement and Paul is seeking a quotation so that this can be included in the spending budget for 2017. He suggests that we could possibly have a fund raising event to contribute towards the cost as he expects this to be in the region of £1,000.
- d) Paul has consulted with the Avon Crop Amenity Advisor and has made some changes to the winter maintenance program for the Green. We will maintain a trimmed cut height of 8mm which should improve the new grass rooting. Additional feed and fungicidal spraying will improve the colour and appearance of the Green next season. Time will tell if the extra effort shows positive results.
- e) Paul comments that before we can get the irrigation repairs underway we have to identify the water stop cock feed. (Richard has since investigated this and has located the stopcock which is labelled with same number as on the account details.)

**19. Building Representatives Report - Vic Horne**

Richard Manning says that the new Building management Team are carrying out a full survey of the Building and Grounds and will report in due course.

**20. Catering Team - Diane Troake**

Nothing to report.

**21. Any Other Business**

- Rules for Outdoor Competitions - a copy of the existing rules to be distributed to members of the committee and these will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- The Christmas Draw is 26th November. The food has not yet been arranged and it was suggested that it should be a "Bring and Share".

**22. Membership Applications**

There were no membership applications

**The meeting closed at 12.05pm**

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 11th January 2017 at 9.30am in the Clubhouse.**

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

Date: .....