

Wellington Bowling Club

Minutes of General Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 10th July 2019 at the Clubhouse The meeting commenced at 9.30am

Members

Role	Name	Initials	Role	Name	Initials
President	Gill Groves	GG	Fixtures Secretary	Jay Merrell	JM
Chairperson	Geoff Stamp	GS	Competition Secretary	Henry Richbell	HR
Club Secretary	Clive Manning	CM	Indoor Secretary	John Cherry	JC
Club Treasurer	Tony Gibson	AG	Bar Steward	Steve Lovell	SL
Ladies Administrator	Ann Cowling	AC	Green Representative	Paul Kelly	PK
Development Officer	Vacant		Building Manager	Vic Horne	VH
Membership Secretary	Chris Williams	CW	Catering Manager	Liz Bowrah	LB
Men's Captain	Paul Kelly	PK	Assistant Treasurer	Bill Warnett	BWar
Ladies Captain	Eileen Stewart	ES	Assistant Secretary	Brian Wombwell	BW
Mixed Captain	Ian Thomson	IT	Publicity Officer	Di Dagg	DD
			Social Team Rep.	Alan May	AM

1) Apologies for Absence

Clive Manning , Ann Cowling, Di Dagg, Liz Bowrah, Vic Horne, Jay Merrell, Henry Richbell, Tony Gibson, Steve Lovell.

In the absence of Clive, Brian Wombwell took the minutes.

2) Chairman

Geoff commented that it is refreshing to see so many members out on the Green enjoying their bowling.

He has also seen a report that shows that only one club in Somerset and Devon have more outdoor members than us. This is due to the hard work and time spent by our recruiting team over the last three years. It also gratifying that some of the new members are now showing a great deal of promise and already competing in the leagues.

3) Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and approved.

4) Matters Arising None

5) Secretary Report

In summary, since our last meeting the following significant actions have been undertaken and some will be discussed later as separate items on the Agenda.

- a) The Deeds for the Appointment of the Trustees have now been signed by the appropriate persons and this exercise is now complete. Also, I have now received a copy of the DBS Certificate for John Troake and so all the outstanding issues on Safeguarding are now complete.
- b) The insurance surveyor has been and spent over 90mins at the premises. Generally satisfied with everything, but we are required to have a new Fire Risk Assessment completed by a competent person. However, in view of the pending building work the insurers have agreed that this can wait until after the work has been completed, although in the meantime they would like us to review the current assessment to ensure there has been no significant changes.

A poster regarding Allergens has been purchased and is now on display. Members are advised to tell anyone who asks "We cannot guarantee that any of our food is allergen free".

- c) The Outdoor Renewal Registration is now complete and as you will all know, we are at our maximum of 140 “playing members”. However, the Executive has reconsidered the membership cap of 140 and this will be discussed further during the Membership Secretary’s report.
- d) On Thursday the 20th of June an “unconfirmed” alarm activation occurred at 8.20pm, which we find rather strange for this time of day. Walford Security attended, but there was no one on the premises. An invoice will follow.
- e) There have been two meetings with regard to the extension and as a result of the first meeting the necessary paperwork has been distributed to all Members advising them of an EGM on the 16th July, thereby giving the mandatory 14 days notice. It has been agreed by the Executive that voting on the night will be by a “show of hands” and all the preparations are almost complete for the event.
- f) Preparations are in hand for the “Friends of English Bowls” match on the 25th of July with a buffet being provided for lunchtime for the visitors and a meal afterwards for both teams. On the day a raffle will be held with quality prizes and the money raised donated to their charity.
- g) The Executive has recently agreed the purchase of a new dishwasher and toaster for the kitchen and consideration is being given to replacing the existing fridge freezer with a larger larder fridge, as the current one is inadequate for the number of teas that we currently have to do for the various matches and leagues
- h) We have had this year two incidents where visitors arrived with dogs, which as you will know is against our rules. We are in the process of obtaining some signs to display at the entrances stating that dogs are not allowed and this should make the situation perfectly clear to any visitors.
- i) In next few days, we will start preparations for the Indoor Membership renewal on the 1st September.

A comment was made that the new washing machine should have a good capacity and a quick wash cycle. It was also pointed out that replacement is very urgent as we have a large commitment for meals on 25th July with Friends of English Bowling, which is only 2 weeks away.

6) Treasurers Report

The Treasurer’s Report was presented to the Committee and was accepted without question.

A copy of the 9 month Summary of the Accounts was also provided and a copy is attached to the end of these Minutes.

7) Ladies Administrator's Report

Ann was absent and has not supplied a report.

8) Membership Secretary Report

At their last meeting the Executive Committee increased the limit on Outdoor Membership from 140 to 150.

We currently have 139 Outdoor Members with another new recruit about to pay their reduced subscription. This makes us the second largest Club in Devon or Somerset for Outdoor Members.

Ian Thomson commented that he would again like to make the point that he has considerable problems satisfying the need for people wishing to play in the friendly matches.

Other comments were made that members who play regularly in the Leagues should be restricted (not excluded) from playing in Friendlies. Ian countered this by arguing that he has to have some experienced players in each team or we would be thrashed every game and players would become despondent and may stop bowling.

The Annual Return to the Somerset Bowling Association covering the period July 1st 2018 to June 30th 2019 shows that we have lost 7 members and gained 32.

This reflects a very successful recruitment/coaching programme placed against a considerable overestimate last autumn of potential 'retirements'.

No comment is possible yet on 2019/20 Indoor Membership. Last year we had 168 members registered to play indoors.

9) Men's Captain Report

We are going through a hectic period of League matches and although we got off to a slow start, we have won the last 5 games in the past two weeks. We lost in the Turnbull Cup. The "B" side is doing well and we have involved some of the newer members.

In the Wednesday League our "A" team are currently top, "B" team are 2nd, and "C" are second.

In the Thursday League our 'A' team are currently third and have lost only one game.

Paul said he is feeling very positive at the moment.

10) Lady's Captain Report

Ladies' Wednesday Evening Triples:

Six of these easy-going 12-end matches have now been played with six more to come. The first match was cancelled due to rain.

Friendlies:

Of the eight scheduled Friendlies so far, three have been cancelled. One was due to a wake at N. Petherton and the other two because our opponents were unable to raise a team.

Our home match with Isle of Wedmore on 11th July has also been cancelled, their players being reluctant to travel the distance to Wellington.

Southey Trophy:

This was an exciting match versus Street, played at Wellington on four rinks in the format of Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours, which went as follows. We lost the Singles by a hair's breadth when Street trailed the jack to score two shots for the win. We lost the Pairs to two County-standard players. In the Triples we were neck-and-neck until 5 shots on the 13th end led to an excellent win for us; The Fours lost by just 2 shots despite being 13 - 0 down after 6 ends. Losing 1-3 to the strong Street Bowling Club was no disgrace at all.

South & West Somerset League:

With three of our first five fixtures having been postponed, we hope to have caught up with the backlog by the 8th August. Here again, two of these postponements were due to other clubs being unable to field a team. To date: we have drawn 1 and lost 3 in the League; won 2 and lost 3 Friendlies and we are out of the Southey Trophy. At two-and-a-half out of ten so far, we hope for better results to come.

Cancelled matches

In conclusion, perhaps a review of our fixture policy with certain clubs might be in order for next year. It doesn't make sense for clubs to over-commit themselves when they do not have enough players to cover for illness, accident or holidays.

Even stranger is why a club (Isle of Wedmore) would agree to a fixture at Wellington when they don't want to travel that far. Having said all that, none of us can see into the future and sometimes these things do happen to even the best laid plans.

Breaking News: Cullompton have cancelled their match with us of 17th July, as they don't have enough players.

11) Mixed Friendly Captain's Report

Ian informed the meeting that although our results in the friendlies were poor to start with, we have won the last 9 out of 12 matches.

12) Fixture Secretary's Report

a) A fixture list of Indoor Friendlies has been completed and is available on the Website and on the notice board next to the Indoor Rink.

b) The "Expression of Interest" forms on the Indoor Notice board have received a fair amount of interest. The deadline for nominations for the Indoor Selection Committee is the 15th July. Clive will then conduct an email ballot to those members who have expressed an interest in playing to elect the selection committee. Jay will conduct the ballot if Clive prefers.

c) Jay believes we have enough interest to proceed with the booking at Taunton Deane next February to hold an indoor club competition. He is sure that more members will put their names down nearer the time.

d) Jay has received feedback from Ian Thomson and will endeavour to move some of the September fixtures into July for next season.

13) Outdoor Competition Secretary's Report

Henry was absent but submitted a written report.

All of the competitions are progressing well and on target. There is a high number of entries for the Triples one day competition and he will be meeting with Eddy soon to sort out the details.

14) Indoor Secretary's Report

Winter Bowls Program

a) Trophy Engraving - 2018/19 Indoors & 2019 Outdoor Competitions

Mike Connor and I will arrange the engraving of both indoor trophy shields and outdoor competition trophies once the outdoor results are known. **I need to be advised asap of these results please.** (Trophy presentation night is set for Saturday 19/10/19 at 7.30pm.)

b) Indoor Competitions Prize Money

Income from last winter's indoor competitions (entry fees and rink fees) totalled £693.00 and prize money £59.00. There is a view that prize money should be increased to a total of £105 - winners £15 each from £8, runners to £6 each from £5.

The Committee agreed to increase the prize money as suggested.

c) Winter Indoor Bowling for 2019-2020

Preparations and planning for the next winter season, which starts on 1st October 2019, begins now (July). Establishing League Secretaries, League Team Secretaries, League Team Players, player selection rotas (and for Rollup groups), plus Fixture Lists and Competitions is now underway. This involves much communication with many members, with early responses needed.

Thankfully, Ian Stewart has agreed to help me and we have already had our first meeting on this.

d) Weekend Mixed Triples League

Rules for this league will be modified to emphasise the requirement for the three person teams to be of **mixed gender for all matches**. If circumstances force a single gender team to play then that team will be docked 25% of their final match score.

e) Disabilities

Where a member suffers a disability which causes discomfort or concern to other members, the Club's Welfare Officer (currently myself) must be contacted. A solution that helps both the person and the welfare of Club members will then be found.

Questions from members of the committee.

John was asked to look into the possibility of returning to the 2 hour slot for all Indoor Sessions, delaying the start time to 9.30am and the closing time to 9.30pm as in previous years. He replied that he may have more league teams and Roll-ups this year and thus more matches to arrange. He was also asked to complete all the fixtures and competitions before the Opening of the Green.

John thought this to be a very tall order, but he agreed to plan it out and see what the repercussions are but he is dubious because this will mean arranging more games in less time. Included in the program are Men's and Ladies' Leagues, Competitions, Roll Ups, Coaching and rink free times available for members to book and practice.

Brian informed the meeting that the labels for updating the Honour Boards have arrived and Henry and Eddy have agreed to fix them.

15) Bar Secretary's Report

No report received.

16) Think Tank Report

Last Think Tank (TT) meeting was held on 03/06/19, attended by 8 members.

New Issues

1. Club Framed Past Presidents Pictures & Officer's Photos

Should efforts not be made to apply names & dates of office to the president's pictures in the clubroom, whilst records/memories still permit this?

The committee had no objections but someone had to be found to research the names and insert them inside the glass on the picture frames.

Also, the small photos displayed of current senior club officers (Exec. & GC Members) would benefit from adding names. Ian Stewart has these photos on 2 x A4 sheets supplied by Dave Dagg.

The Committee agreed that this is a good idea. John to ask David if he can add the names.

2. Outdoors Scoreboards/Pathway

Recommend these be repositioned on the Rugby Club side and side of the indoor green - to be visible from the main clubhouse.

This is always done for matches but there is no protocol for competitions or roll ups.

Recommend a second pathway be created near to the Corams Lane fence line to provide a second route to the clubhouse to benefit wheelchairs/mobility scooters. It will need angling in then out again but will keep users well clear of the edge of the green.

This is not possible as the garage will be in the way when it is relocated.

Club's Extension & Internal Alterations Project

Notwithstanding the planned EGM on 16/07/19, we recommend the progress of the Club extension

and interior redesign project should be a standing item on General Committee minutes.

The committee agreed that it should be added to Any Other Business at the end of the Agenda.

Inner Door to/from Porch

Now the inner door from the Club entry porch has an auto-closer, can it be adjusted because it slams more loudly now than before?

This has already been done.

Welcome Board

The Welcome Board in the Club entrance porch for visiting clubs seems not to be in use now! Should it not be restored using chalk as before or, maybe a new magnetic board installed?

The committee agreed that the sign serves no purpose as it is not used and should be taken down.

Ventilation in the Toilets (Post Meeting)

With the windows in both the ladies and men's toilets having to be kept locked (insurance requirement) normal ventilation to counter smells is compromised. TT recommends that air extraction fans be installed for this purpose.

These should already be included in the specification for the new toilets and Clive is asked to check this out with Gerry Mangeolles.

Next TT meeting is set for Monday 22nd July 2019 at 10am.

17) Social Team Report

There was no report from Alan, but members are aware that the Quiz organised by Chris Williams held last Saturday was a great success, Further Quizzes and Bingo sessions will be held over the next few months.

18) Green Representatives Report

The Green Maintenance Plan is being adhered to and achieving good results. Unfortunately, Nick has been in hospital having an operation and will need some time to recover. No need to find a replacement for him at the moment, as he will continue as soon as he is fit.

19) Building Representatives Report.

No Report had been received.

20) Catering Officers Report

No Report had been received There was a meeting earlier this week to discuss preparations for The Friends of English Bowls match on the 25th July, but it is not known what was discussed.

21) Any other Business

Lockers – Brian was asked by David Dagg to raise the question of lockers, as he has numerous people on his list waiting requesting a locker. When the new extension is built, there will be more space available for lockers and the changing rooms will be re arranged so this problem will have to wait until Phase 1 is finished.

First Aider - We only have one First Aider at the moment and we should really try to find another member who has had appropriate training.

Membership Cap

Brian explained that the Exec. Committee had discussed this issue in great detail and would read a statement of what had been agreed as follows -:

Figures from the SBA website show that we have more Outdoor members than any other Somerset Club and, in Devon, only Madeira have more Outdoor members. Some clubs have many more members than us, but their numbers are swelled by a large number of members who only play Indoors. The additional Indoor Members are facilitated because their club has several Indoor Rinks.

Any increase in our current Outdoor membership would have a detrimental impact on the availability of the Indoor Rink. This is the reason why we decided on a cap in the first place. However, it has transpired that applying the rigid rule that "140 is the maximum Outdoor Membership" has complications when it has to be applied.

The figure of 140 was originally chosen because at this level the Club is financially viable and the total number of Indoor and Outdoor members is manageable, whilst maintaining a friendly atmosphere within the club.

The Exec. Committee discussed this issue and decided that we should have a less rigid system, but that we must maintain control of our membership numbers. *The following proposal was discussed and agreed.*

- a) The cap is to be scrapped and instead an annual target set to maintain an Outdoor membership of around 140. When this target is achieved we stop all direct activities to recruit.
- b) Should anyone turn up and want to join the club, we allow this to happen in the usual manner. Experience tells us that we gain very few members in this way, but we also get the occasional past member return and people may return after recovery from illness. We also pick up the occasional experienced player who moves into the area or wants to swap clubs.
- c) The effect would be that during the season our membership may increase to around 150, but at the start of the following season we always lose a few members and, thus, this will reduce numbers back to around 140.
- d) If the figure is in fact close to 140, we continue to cease **direct recruitment** in anticipation of people joining during that season but still allow people to join.
- e) If the numbers drop to 130, then direct recruiting should start as soon as possible to push the membership back up to the target 140. This to be facilitated by arranging for an Open Day to be reserved in the fixture list for early June each year. The Open Day to be cancelled if not required.
- f) In the unlikely event that membership numbers rise significantly, then the whole issue will be reviewed again by the Exec. Committee and appropriate action taken.

I have been asked to bring this matter to the attention of the General Committee and ask if you have any questions or comments.

There were no questions and the Committee agreed enthusiastically that this solution was reasonable, much fairer and would be easier to implement.

The meeting closed at 11.30am

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 11th September 2019
Venue - The Clubhouse at 9.30am**

Signed
Geoff Stamp (Chairman)

Date.....