

GOSPORT BOWLING CLUB

Management Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: SAT 22nd AUG 2022

Attendees Barry Sykes - Chair

Christine Hall (CH)	Malc Weston (MCW)	Simon Batcheler (SB)
Graham Pistorius (GP)	Tom Start (TS)	Chris Goodchild (CG)
Mandy Wilde (MW)	Paul Tansley (PT)	Andrew Sherwen (AS)
Jim Oswell (JO)	Janet Cowan (JC)	Ros Baxter (RB)

Apologies Received CH, SB.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Acceptance of the minutes of the Mancom meeting held on 25TH June 2022 was proposed by GP, seconded by TS and unanimously agreed by all present.

1a. Matters arising from Minutes of 25th June 2022 – Agenda Item b.

GP proposed that the membership should be given the opportunity to choose between the new shirt proposed by the committee or staying with the current design at the AGM.

It was generally felt that as this subject was likely to attract a lot of interest and discussion and that time wise it would not be possible at the AGM but would be more suited to the arrangement of a dedicated SGM.

The committee voted on the proposal for an SGM (date TBC) to present the proposed new shirt to the membership and the vote was carried 6 - 2 in favour of the proposal.

2. President's Report (CH)

I regret that over the past few months we have had to cancel several events again due to lack of numbers either in our own club or those visiting.

Having said this Founders/Memorial Day was a success this year and I believe was enjoyed by all who attended. Our Ladies had a friendly against Bournemouth Ladies and a great afternoon was had by all and I would like to thank Ros and her helpers for providing such an excellent meal after the match. It was great that The Ladies Open took place again this year and a big thanks has to go to Mandy for her organisation of this event.

I thank all the men that came along to help with the day, especially Simon and Deral who manned the tent. Finals Day on Saturday was enjoyed by all who attended, we were entertained by some excellent bowling and I would like to congratulate all this year's winners. As the end of the summer season approaches, I look forward to the remaining events still to take place.

3. Secretary's Report (MCW)

1. Ryde BC have unfortunately now cancelled the friendly on the 17th Sept due to a lack of bowlers wishing to play, however this now means we could close the summer season and open for the winter season a week earlier than programmed.

This would actually be the original season closing date which we had asked the council if we could extend by a week to accommodate Rydes date request.

This would enable the green keeper to start the proposed remedial works a week earlier which obviously wouldn't be a bad thing with next season in mind.

MCW proposed that we bring forward the summer closing date to Sunday Sept 11th and the winter opening date to Monday 12th Sept.

The committee voted on the proposal and all present were unanimously in favour of the proposal.

2. The defibrillator has received the software update as advised due to a recall notification; the battery has been renewed as it had come to the end of its recommended service life so all is good for its next 4 year cycle.

3. I intend to post the AGM and officer notice sheets this week as there are a large number of vacancies which require filling and I suggest the earlier we start the process hopefully the better the success.

4. Treasurer's Report (SB)

Money

Bank 55329

Ladies 2322

Bar 5764

Social 2119

Total £65535

Ringfenced £33062

Balance in current account £32473

The constitution states we need an accountant to confirm accounts. If we have to wait for the AGM it will cost us another c£300. Can we make that decision now?

According to KM's figures which were inherited, we had an opening stock of £1100 of shirts/badges etc., less sales this year leaves us with £721.50. I would like to do a stock take on this.

The card reader sent was faulty, another is being sent but there is a possibility it may not be here by Saturday.

Can MW communicate to members Cheque/ Cash/ on line/ MAYBE CARD

5. Club Captain's Report (GP)

The summer season is now sadly drawing to a close. The active "hurley burley" of leagues, friendlies, competitions and roll ups is now all but done with varying results of successes as well as disappointments.

The men's league teams by and large have battled valiantly and overall have managed to secure their positions in their various divisions for next season. Both the first team and the Combination team ended in mid table. Well done to the players who have fought hard to keep the club's name up with the best. The Mid Week Triples teams have had varying results and our Red Team playing in that competition's 1st division are well placed to end in the top half of that log. Well done guys. The Green team have unfortunately not had a happy season due in the main to a lack of willing players. They have however game fully carried on and despite the problems will still finish above the bottom placed teams. Well done and thank you for your efforts. A serious look at the position is needed for next year as to whether the club can field a second team in this competition next year due to decreased numbers of active bowlers.

The club had it's greatest successes this year in the G & F leagues. All 4 of our teams performed well in their respective divisions. Three teams, Amber, White and Silver finished the season in solid mid table positions, but the laurels go to the Blue team, who won their league outright and will be promoted next year to the 1st Division. My congratulations go to the entire team for their efforts and enthusiasm to gain this result not only for themselves, but for our club at large. Well done Tony Horne for a sterling job as Captain, and to everyone who represented the team.

Disappointingly, despite some hard work by our Match Secretary to get together a number of friendly fixtures against other clubs, most of these became non starters by reason of the fact that, not only our club, but many other clubs too are struggling with playing members to make up adequate numbers to fulfil commitments. Higher authorities within our sport I know are looking at this problem closely and I am sure will emerge with a plan for the future in an endeavour to increase numbers in our sport.

I should like to thank all members who entered the Club's championship competitions. My congratulations to those who reached the finals in the different categories and the ultimate winners in each section. Well done to you all.

I have deliberately not touched on any Ladies team competitions within the club as I am sure these will be adequately covered by the Lady Captain.

In closing, I should like to extend the Club's congratulations to the Ladies for not only putting on a great day for their Open competition, but also that a Gosport team won the day. A fantastic result for the organisers and the players. The day was remarked upon by many as a most enjoyable and successful outing and went a long way to cementing the Club's reputation in this arena. Well done Ladies!

6. Ladies Captain's Report (CG)

It's been wonderful getting back to some form of normality and to return to so many of our bowling events. I wish to thank all the members who have been so supportive this year. It's been a season of some trials and tribulation and a huge learning curve for me personally, with that said, I have thoroughly enjoyed the season. It's true to say our ladies P&D league's have had a torrid time this year due to lack of numbers. That didn't dampen our enthusiasm; we played every league game in high spirits, even in the knowledge that we would lose 25% of our score on so many occasions, my sincere thanks to all the ladies who participated. On that same note, I do hope that as many ladies as possible support these P&D leagues next summer.

Our ladies represented Gosport in the P&D singles, pairs, triples, 4 wood singles, fours, the Inter Club Triples and the Challenge Cup. We owe a big thank you to our ladies secretary Mandy, who submitted all of these entries and liaised with the P&D organisers on our behalf, many thank to you Mandy. Well done and Congratulations to all who participated and well done to those of you who reached the semi/finals week, hosted by Denmead. Denmead also hosted a very successful Presidents' Day and luncheon, to which some of our ladies were fortunate enough to received personal invites, it was such a superb Day, full of fun and laughter on and off the rinks, especially when fuelled with ample wine at the table during lunch. 2022 has been a very poignant year for the Ladies P&D Bowls Association. It's that of their 70th Anniversary. In celebration of this wonderful milestone the P&D committee held a very special event, hosted by Fareham. I'm sure all who attended would agree, it was another fun filled day, on and off the rinks, with a well received meal after the fun and frolic's. Gill May rounded off the event with a very nostalgic slide show of photos from way back, to the most recent photos of ladies who have supported the P&D over the years.

The Bowls Hampshire Mixed Top Club Challenge was represented by a Gosport Mixed team, who progressed much further than in recent years, from the Preliminary round, to the 1st and on to the 2nd round. Well done to the eleven top players and to the reserves who step in where needed. Two teams of four ladies entered the Bowls Hampshire Thornberry Trophy Challenge, although we were knocked out in the first round, it was a great match and a wonderful experience. It's not always about the winning but about the participation, so we'll done ladies for supporting this event. The Tony Alcock Trophy was also represented by two Mixed Gosport Teams of four, this is a competition open to the over 60's. The results were much the same as the Thornberry Challenge, but what a great morning and how well you represented our club, well done to all eight of you. Some of the Bowls Hampshire Ladies Friendlies were also attended by representatives from

Gosport, they are such a brilliant experience. Watch out for these events in 2023, they are a great day out. Once again, thank you Mandy for your support with the admin. for these.

How amazing! For the first time since 2018, we were able to host one of the ladies favourite events. We welcomed the Bowlers from Bournemouth and District with whom we have a very special relationship (championed by Doreen). Bournemouth hosted our last meeting in 2019, we were due to host the return match in 2020 then COVID hit. At last the return match has taken place. A brilliant, friendly game was had, followed by Pims, plus other tipples and a fabulous two course meal. The Bournemouth ladies were thrilled and full of compliments, the meal was a massive hit, with comments such as "the best meal ever". What high praise for Ros and her team of helpers. Thank you to the male members who supported in the kitchen, which allowed the Gosport ladies to relax, enjoy and concentrate on entertaining our guests. An absolute massive thank you to Ros for the most splendid luncheon to date and as always a big thank you to Andy and Bob for supporting this event at the bar. The Bournemouth ladies are looking forward to hosting the return match in 2023.

Another resounding success was our Ladies Open Day, The Ladies committee were determined to reinstate this event which had also been postponed since COVID. Thanks to the hard work, all the networking and tenacity of Mandy, it was a massive hit and a superb Day. All credit to you Mandy for making pulling this off. Thank you to the male members who helped and supported this event.

The Ladies v Men internal friendly, was such fun. I think all those who participated would agree, we had an extremely enjoyable day. Once again thank you to the Bar Staff.

I cannot close without a special mention to our wonderful supporters, who not only supported throughout the season as spectators but also helped on so many occasions with teas, coffees, bacon baps and with the raffles. A big thank you to you all.

Presidents Day is next on the calendar, let's give our Presidents as much support as possible in order to make it an extremely memorable Day!

Well! Not a bad start to some form of normality within the bowling community since COVID. May 2023 be even bigger and better.

7. Social Committee Chairman's Report (TS)

We have a number of functions due in the coming months starting with a singer on the 3rd September and various events to follow including a race night and two more cabaret nights and a Sunday lunchtime and hopefully nearer Christmas The St Mary's Singers

We are always looking for more volunteers to help on the social Committee especially as the pandemic is now over we want to get the club back to full capacity,

We need all the members to support the club to make it a success

8. Ladies Secretary's Report (MW)

I wanted to say a huge well done to all who participated and supported in the 15th annual Gosport Ladies Open.

In a year where too many competitions are being cancelled due to lack of interest to successfully run an Open with 45 competitors is something our club should be proud of. With the support of our volunteers

- We were able to ensure our guests were shaded from the sun (4 gazebos were erected for the event, a massive thanks to Bob).
- Our guests had ample refreshments available to them throughout the day, with help from the Bar Staff and a kitchen rota with many volunteers on the day. so many helpers and I thank you all.
- Our players were so excited to receive complimentary ice lollies and even now, we are the talk of the clubs with our considered approach to hospitality and welfare !!! well done Ros
- It was an early start to the day with Rink setting up, thank you, David Coombs, Graham Varley and Ian Homeyard
- A special thanks to Simon and Deral who manned the tent and kept the event running like clockwork, without Simon taking ownership of the draw and the rink planning, things may not have run so smoothly, if left to myself!!!
- Thanks to Paul for being our umpire for the day.
- Thank you for the raffle donations and to all who support, but a special thanks to Shirley Dugan and Chris Hall's Grandsons for extra help on the day. - with the Raffle and the spider £161 was raised for the presidents charity "Harbour Cancer Support Gosport"
- It was hugely appreciated to see volunteers from friends, family of our social members (shirl, Elizabeth Pistorious and Pauline Olden)
- It was a huge honour to see the founder of the Open Jocelyn Weston on the day

Excellent bowling was played throughout the day on both Greens and a great final between Gosport and Denmead

Congratulations to Jenny Putt, Sue Hilary and Chris Hall who secured Gosport's name on the trophy for another year.

All in all a great day was had and I thank everyone who helped make this happen and I look forward to an even bigger Gosport Ladies Open for 2023.

9. Maintenance Manager's Report (PT) - NTR

10. Safeguarding Officers' Report (AS) - NTR

AGENDA ITEMS

A. New Members – The Process (RB for SB)

RB stated that the current application forms were not fit for purpose and required updating and that new members were feeling that they joined the club paid their money and were then just left without any back up, help or instruction.

PROPOSALS

Therefore RB proposed that a team of three should be formed to review the application forms and propose the changes required. Seconded by GP.

The committee voted on the proposal and all present were unanimously in favour.

Also that a new position of MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY be formed with the remit of forming a group of senior members who will help and nurture new members along the lines of the previous “Buddy Scheme” providing them with the help and back up required to successfully integrate into the club. RB volunteered herself for the position; the proposal was seconded by GP.

The committee voted on the proposal and all present were unanimously in favour of the proposal, with the caveat that the position would not hold committee status.

B. Proposals for Men's P&D 2nd div leagues for next year (GP)

GP proposed that the club should enter a proposal at the next Men’s P&D AGM to reduce the number of ends per league match to 18 rather than the current 21. The proposal was seconded by CG.

The committee voted on the proposal and all present were unanimously in favour.

C. Men's P & D Teams for next year's competitions and leagues. (GP)

a. GP proposed that due to the problems encountered this season with trying to field two MWT teams that we should drop the Green team out of the league in 2023. The proposal was seconded by MW.

The committee voted on the proposal and all present were unanimously in favour.

b. GP proposed that the club should due to the number of commitments our bowlers currently face should refrain from entering the Rowland Cup & County Club competitions in 2023. The proposal was seconded by TS.

The committee voted on the proposal and all present were unanimously in favour.

D. Winter Bowling dress wear for roll ups (GP)

GP proposed that the winter dress code for general roll ups (not including official club days, competition rounds and finals) be relaxed to Mufti Wear.

The committee voted on the proposal and the vote was carried 7 - 1 in favour of the proposal.

E. Bowling team communication mandates for team captains (GP)

GP suggested that all team captains should be issued with the full contact details of their squad members but was under the impression that this was not possible due to the data protection laws.

MCW confirmed that this was not in breach of the data protection as members had signed the application forms allowing the use of their details for league and cup competitions and currently all captains who had requested email addresses of their registered players had been furnished with them.

F. Gosport Open comps 2023 (MW)

MW proposed that we should form a committee which she was prepared to chair to reinstate the clubs Ron Selwood Mixed Open for 2023. The proposal was seconded by GP.

The committee voted on the proposal and all present were unanimously in favour.

G. Direction of Play (MCW for CH)

There appears to be some confusion over the rules for the direction of play during the afternoon and evening sessions.

To alleviate any further confusion and have a written rule it was proposed by AS that the rule is "Play will be ACROSS during the day and AWAY for the evening sessions". The proposal was seconded by TS.

The committee voted on the proposal and all present were unanimously in favour.

H. Club Internal Competitions (AS)

Suggested Improvements.

1. Flexibility - with play by dates and final dates - this will enable / encourage more individuals to enter competitions. Finals should be permitted outside of the allocated finals weekend. Most people with work and family commitments genuinely cannot predict if they will be available on a particular day in 5 months time.
2. Inclusivity - internal competitions should be something that is available to every single club member regardless of work and family commitments. This will encourage a much larger and more representative competition.
3. Substitutions - must be available for a single match or multiple games particularly to accommodate our ageing membership. This already happens in P&D, County and National matches. Making your way through rounds on a bye is spoiling the competition, it's not why people enter the games.
4. Format of games - many members clearly struggle with our current length of game particularly in the heat. Review current rules to align with Bowls England / Bowls Hampshire who already have 18 end and 18 shot matches in many disciplines. ie bowls england senior pairs is 18 ends and 3 wood, national two fours is 18 ends etc.
5. Review rules for 'New Faces' and bring back the club handicap with some meaningful handicaps.
6. Exercise 'duty of care' - limit the number of finals that can be played in one day and make anything more than one game optional.
7. Spread the workload - appoint a Competition Secretary as a chair and assign a representative of three other people to work together as a small committee to manage these competitions.
8. Use the winter competitions to trial some ideas - particularly the shorter game (18 or 15 ends and 18 or 15 shot singles) since games take much longer on the carpet anyway.
9. Challenger must contact their opponent within 5 days, if not contacted then the opponent must contact the challenger making it a more shared responsibility for arranging the game.

Date of next meeting: 15 / 10 / 2022 Time: 0930 hrs

M C Weston
Honorary Secretary