

Wellington Bowling Club

Minutes of General Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 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

Liz Bowrah, Alan May, Steve Lovell, Ian Thomson, Vic Horne & Di Dagg.

2) Chairman

Geoff commented that we had reached the end of the season and it had been a very good season with various teams having achieved promotion.

The nomination sheets for the coming AGM were now on display on the notice board and he asked members to ensure that any names that were put forward were also proposed by someone at the same time.

At this point Geoff announced that both he and Clive would be standing down and would not be standing for re-election.

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 in July the following significant actions have been undertaken. In no particular order;

- a) Arrangements have been made with Dales for them to visit and stretch the indoor carpet on the 11th September and all members advised that the Indoor Rink will be closed. They will normally check the level of the floor using a straight edge. It can be checked using a laser, but that would have cost £375 plus VAT, so is not being done at this stage.
- b) New "no dog signs" have been purchased and fitted and as agreed at the last General Committee Meeting we have removed the "Welcome" board in the lobby.
- c) With Chris Williams's assistance, we have submitted the 6 monthly SBA Gen 4 Return and a total of 147 members who are entitled to play on the green have been declared.

- d) The “Friends of English Bowls” have published a report on their website in respect of their match against us on the 25th July and have given us much praise and thanks for the day. The general feedback was that they had a wonderful time and would like to come back again sometime!
- e) A vote has been carried out to choose the Selectors for the “Winter Away Indoor” games this year. The successful applicants are Di Troake, Henry Richbell & Ed Dilley and I would like to thank them and all the applicants for putting their names forward.
- f) The Indoor Registration process has started with 97 emails and 43 letters going out to all those members who pay in September. Chris will no doubt supply further details later.
- g) A very successful Open Triples Competition was held on the 26th August and Henry Richbell should be congratulated for organizing an event that was enjoyed by all who attended.
- h) The Abingdon Tour has been hosted and seems to have gone off with no hitches. Despite specifically requesting help for the event, we only received 3 offers of help from the poster that we put up. Specific thanks must go to Gill Stamp, Lynda Manning, Chris Williams, Sally Williams, Pat Harvey, Roland Bath, Win Courtney, Monica Carter & Arthur Carter, who all volunteered to assist on the day. It is not clear what would have happened if these members had not come forward.
- i) A phone call has been received from Robert Raine of Ilton Bowling Club (Kent). He had just become their Club Secretary and was asking for some advice. He was keen to point out that the reason he was phoning us from Kent was that having looked at various websites, he was most impressed by our Website and its content and that we appeared to be a very efficient Club!

An accolade indeed, so I would like to thank Jay for all the hard work that he puts into maintaining the website.

- j) The SBA County Competition Forms and Team registration forms have been received and hopefully will be sent out to Members in the next few days.
- k) An EGM has been held in July and 58 Full Members attended. The evening appeared to be a success with unanimous support to proceed with the build.
- l) All the necessary paperwork has been prepared for the AGM on the 11th November and the Nomination Forms have been posted on the noticeboard.

Can I ask that those wishing to continue in their current position should put their names up as soon as possible, which will encourage other members to put their names down for other positions. Also anyone who intends to resign should let me know as soon as possible.

Clive then read the following statement

I would like to say at this point that over the last two years, in addition to the day to day workload of dealing with the Club’s administration, I have endeavoured to ensure that the Club’s administration, systems and various other requirements with which we are obliged to comply are up to date. E.g. Safeguarding, Data Protection, Alarm systems, Insurance etc. etc. and feel moderately confident that this work is now complete.

With this in mind and wishing to pursue other interests, it is only right that I inform you all now that I will not be standing for re-election at this year’s AGM.

6) Treasurers Report

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

7) Ladies Administrator's Report

Mixed Friendly Games – Captain of the Day

Ann commented that from personal experience, she was put down for this role without being notified beforehand. She had already ticked her name and noted her driver. The day before the game, she was doing a tea duty and noticed that the sheet had been changed and that she was now Captain of the Day. That evening, she had a call from Joan Thomson advising her that a lady from North Petherton had called to cancel the game and asked her to contact the lady again to confirm. Ann was also asked to inform everyone else. This she couldn't do as she was about to go out, so Win Courtney kindly did this for her.

Ann stressed that Members should be made aware that they are the Captain of the Day as soon as they are put in that position.

Presentation Evening – Ladies' Indoor Triples League Thursday/Friday

Ann pointed out that this year the Doves won this league and at the presentation she would like all the members of this team to receive the presentation not just the Team Secretary – it is a team game and everyone should be acknowledged.

At the end of last year's presentation, Mike Connor stood up and made the comment that the evening should have been better supported. If the members of all the winning teams had been there you would have had more people in the club.

8) Membership Secretary Report

The current position for Indoor Membership for 2019/20 is as follows.

Fees should have been paid by September 1st, but there are still some outstanding. An up-to-date Membership Record will be kept on the table in the Indoor Rink, should you need to contact a player at relatively short notice.

As at 11th September;

	Gentlemen		Ladies	
	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19
Paid	91	110	48	58
Yet to pay	25		11	
Totals	116	110	59	58

These numbers do not include Members who paid their Indoor Subs on the 1st May 2019.

9) Men's Captain Report

It had been a very successful season for all the Men's teams with four promotions, two Champions and two in second place positions.

Geoff congratulated Paul and all the members who played in matches this year on a very successful season.

10) Lady's Captain Report

"Played 20, Won 4, Drawn 1" - not exactly the Summer Season we might have hoped for.

Our Wellington ladies have unfortunately ended up on the wrong end of the score-line more often than not this summer but as we all know; the scores do not always tell the full story. Wellington finished bottom of the table in the South and West Somerset League although it was not for the want of trying on our part. Three of our fixtures were re-arranged at the request of other clubs due to their shortages of players. This is something which I am pleased to say was never a problem for us in either the League or the Friendly matches although the 'more names please' sticker did have to make an appearance a few times.

The Friendlies were beset with similar problems; of the 12 scheduled fixtures, 5 were cancelled, 4 by the opposing clubs due to their inability to raise a team and the Isle of Wedmore club cancelled their match as their ladies didn't want to travel all the way to Wellington. The potential cancellation of our away match with Williton was thankfully avoided when we arranged to lend them two of our ladies and play triples instead of rinks.

The cancellation of almost half of the Friendlies was very disappointing and particularly frustrating for our bowlers who had been selected to play only to then miss out on a game.

On a brighter note, although we eventually lost, our ladies did us proud in both the Southey Trophy and the Fear Cup/Plate competitions; our narrow defeat in the Southey Trophy could so easily have turned to victory and our Fear Plate quarter- and semi-final matches were played in the true spirit of the game and were a credit to Wellington Bowling Club.

Of the 13 fixtures of the Wellington Ladies' Wednesday evening Triples League, 11 were played with 2 cancelled due to weather. Congratulations to the top-of-the table Sweet Peas (Thelma Helps, Christine Willcocks, Monica Spalding, Angie Moore and Kathy Alford).

Having been thrown in at the deep end with just a box of old league tables and completed 'names please' sheets for guidance, I would like to thank our President Gill Groves, our Ladies' Administrator Ann Cowling, Vice-Captain Thelma Helps and Fixture Secretary Jay Merrell for their assistance during my 2019 Captaincy.

My intention for 2020 is to stand down from my role as Ladies' Captain but I will be most willing to render any assistance, guidance and/or the benefit of my experience to my successor.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to all the Wellington Bowling Club ladies (and gentlemen) for your support and encouragement during 2019. I look forward to playing indoor bowls this winter and outdoors again with everyone next year.

In view of the number of cancelled fixtures, it was agreed that Jay will not approach these teams for games next year, but wait until they contact us.

Geoff then thanked Eileen for everything that she had done for the last 12 months.

11) Mixed Friendly Captain's Report

August was a busy month for friendly matches with as many wins as losses and September will be another busy month with 14 matches to be played between the 1st and the 20th. Overall it has been a successful year with more wins than losses, this considering the many new players who have participated in our matches. I am sure that with the correct leadership and Selection Committee we will follow this year with an even better one next year.

I would like to thank all of you who supported me over the last four years.

12) Fixture Secretary's Report

1. Just one touring team booked in for next season so far. Plymstock BC on the 25th May Bank Holiday.
2. Though we are hosting two Middleton Cup matches. Cornwall v Worcestershire on Sat 30th May and Cornwall v Herefordshire on Sat 20th June. Catering will simply be some rolls on sale when the teams arrive.
3. Feedback from the Executive regarding catering provision has been noted. No requests for hot meals will be agreed without express permission from the Executive, nor will we agree to provide food before **and** after a match.
4. Mike Groves has kindly agreed to represent the club at the Exeter and district league AGM on Wednesday 9th October.
5. I deputised for Paul and represented the club at the West Somerset Bowls League AGM last Thursday 5th September. At this meeting it was agreed to allow Ilminster to enter next season, but only if this doesn't take the number of teams above 24, last season there were 22.
6. The East of Exe mixed bowls league AGM will take place on Sunday 19th October at Honiton BC. Once we receive an invitation I will seek volunteers to attend, starting with members of this year's selection committee.
7. The Standing Chair and Events Director of the Taunton Deane Triathlon has confirmed a decision has not been made on whether to hold the event next year. It was cancelled this year due to lack of interest.
8. Should we programme an Open Day into next year's fixture list? *It was agreed that an Open Day should be planned for next year, but might be used for another event if not needed.*
9. I presume we will be entering the Bowls England Men's Top Club competition next season? *It was agreed that we would do so.*
10. Should I continue to programme the Ladies Triples League for Wednesday evenings in 2020? *It was agreed that this was no longer necessary.*
11. Jay asked if there had been much interest shown in the "Blue Circles" Competition at Westbury next year. *It was agreed that we would enter one rink.*

13) Outdoor Competition Secretary's Report

We are now at the end of the season and with the exception of the Ladies Championship, which is now "null and void", and the Men's Championship between Paul Kelly and Rod Troake, all the other competitions have finished and the winners and runners up are listed below:

Open Championship:	Winner - Rod Troake	Runner Up – Rob Higgs
Men's Handicap:	Winner – Rob Higgs	Runner Up – Ian Hollingsworth
Men's Two Wood:	Winner – Mike Groves	Runner Up – Jay Merrell
New Bowlers:	Winner – Rob Higgs	Runner Up – Chris Bullock
Ladies Two Wood:	Winner – Christine Willcocks	Runner Up – Janet Vile
Ladies Handicap:	Winner – Christine Willcocks	Runner Up – Angie Moore

Amy Stanton Mixed Pairs: Winners – John and Debbie Lane
Runners Up – Martin Speakman and Christine Willcocks

Congratulations to all those who were successful.

The club triples held on August Bank Holiday Monday was a great success with 54 bowlers playing and the weather was superb. A large number stayed right through to the final which was greeted with tumultuous applause on every shot. Congratulations to the winning team of Bill Warnett, Pauline Wadham and Pete Nichols.

The attention now turns to 2020 and firstly a close look at what we did well and what we did not so well. Also to look at all the rules to see which of those need amending.

Finally, I have spoken to Jay about holding both a men's and ladies' pairs competition on one day and Jay has kindly put aside Friday 8th May for this to take place. Full details of how it will work need to be sorted but I hope that the Committee are in agreement that we should give it a go. *This was agreed and that it would be a "Two Woods" competition.*

A discussion took place regarding the possible holding next year of a "Finals Day" or possibly a weekend. *This was rejected by the Committee.*

Geoff congratulated Henry and thanked him for all his hard work and success with organising this year's outdoor competitions.

14) Indoor Secretary's Report

Winter Indoor Bowling for 2019-2020

- a) Apart from a few indoor Secretaries still to confirm their players, the indoor bowls programme is complete and soon to be displayed on the indoor rink notice boards to replace last year's.
- b) Most difficult has been conforming to the wish to not start league play before 1st October and to finish by 31st March 2020. This plus adding a 10th team to the Men's League. The nearest achievable for this provides some fixture lists with a first few matches from 23/09/19, after closure of the outdoor green on 21/09/19, and six final matches up to 14/04/20, just before the outside green should reopen.
- c) The organised rollups can start after 21/09/19 for the weekdays concerned, or left until after 01/10/19.
- d) Indoor rink notice boards will be updated shortly to set everything out. This will include the rule change for the Weekend Mixed Triples League where all teams must comprise of both genders or have 25% deducted from their total score.
- e) A big thanks to Ian Stewart who helped by producing the fixture lists after avoiding insanity by the narrowest of margins.

Trophy Presentation Night

- a) This is set for Saturday 19/10/19 at 7 for 7.30pm. Preparations are in hand with the indoor shields already engraved for the 2018 season. Engraving of trophies for the 2019 outdoor season will go ahead once all competition results are known.
- b) Indoor competition winners & runners-up will see improved cash prizes, as previously agreed, to be more in line with outdoor awards.

TLH Resorts Tour – Torquay

The £25pp deposits paid by all members going have now been passed to TLH for the tour in April 2020. Payment to the Club of the balance amounts are required by February 2020.

15) Bar Secretary's Report

No report received.

16) Think Tank Report

Last Think Tank (TT) meetings were held on 22/07/19 & 29/08/19, with 8 & 6 members.

1. Club Framed Past Presidents Pictures & Officer's Photo (L May)

Should efforts not be made to apply names & dates of office to the presidents' pictures in the clubroom whilst records/memories still permit this? 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 David Dagg and the latter has been asked if he could take this on and his response is awaited.

It was agreed to proceed with adding names/dates to the President's photos, but not with the senior club officers, as these will be changing at the AGM.

2. Outdoor Benches (PB)

These are approaching the need for re-staining, ideally in early spring 2020. PB is willing to do this using an oil based product which is better than water based. A gallon of either Sandolin or Sikens is recommended at about £80 (labour voluntary) if the GCM agree? At some point in the future the benches will need replacing and PB recommends that modern heavy duty plastic ones, styled like wood, be selected for longer service and no maintenance.

It was agreed to proceed with the re-staining as recommended by Phil Brigden, but would consider their replacement when the need arises.

3. Life Member Dick Northam (LM)

Dick is looking for help getting from home (Wellington) to the Club and back from time to time. Can the Club start, say, a volunteers' rota he could call on?

It was suggested that before this could be considered it would be necessary to establish who needs this help. In the meantime, if Dick did wish to come to the Club at any time then Paul was happy to help.

4. Voting Rights for Indoor Members (EN)

Given the important contribution made to the Club by indoor members it is recommended that they should have equal voting rights as our outdoor season members (for AGMs, etc.). Decisions made that effect indoor bowling should surely involve those who play indoors.

This recommendation was rejected and there would be no change to the existing arrangements.

5. Club Hot Drinks Vending Machine (AM)

Research by Alan May & Steve Lovell shows a suitable "Broderica" vending machine can be bought for £2,800 or leased for 5 years @ £13.65 per week (3years @ £20.89) with maintenance at £250 per annum. Does the GC wish to advance this?

It was agreed by the Committee not to proceed with this.

6. Audio Quality in the Club (PB)

Tony Woollard is now planning to install wired speakers in the Club within the next 2 or 3 weeks to fully resolve the poor sound levels in certain places in the clubroom.

The Executive nor the General Committee had any previous knowledge of this and asked that costings etc. should be submitted, so that an informed decision could be made on the matter.

7. Defibrillator Training

It had been suggested to the Think Tank that with so many new members that another training session in the use of the Defibrillator would be beneficial. *This was agreed, but before doing so it would be necessary to establish how many members would be prepared take part. Clive will put a poster up for names.*

Next TT meeting is set for 23rd September 2019.

17) Social Team Report

In Alan May's absence (on holiday), Chris Williams reported that following the last Social Committee meeting, Sally Williams was now taking the minutes of each meeting.

All dates now confirmed up to New Year's Eve and advance planning was being done for a Race Night in January, Valentines Night in February and a Disco in March.

A music quiz (organised by Pete & Marguerite Nichols) was planned for the 9th November.

18) Green Representatives Report

Paul advised that the winter maintenance programme would commence after the "Closing of the Green" on the 21st September. The winter treatment worked well last year and the green was looking fine at the moment, so the intention was to keep to the same programme as last year.

Geoff commented that there had been many compliments made about the condition of the green by visiting clubs and on behalf of everybody, he would like to thank Paul and all his team for their hard work during the year.

19) Building Representatives Report.

No Report had been received.

20) Catering Officers Report

No Report had been received..

21) Any other Business

Clubhouse Extension Update.

Tony advised that work was due to start on the extension on the 24th September and that a draft contract had been sent to the builders and we were awaiting their response.

Geoff confirmed that he had discussed the possibility of an extra lavatory pan in the Ladies with Gerry, but that Gerry had advised that having looked into the matter this would not be possible. Gill & Ann both expressed how unhappy they were about this.

Clive pointed out that there was no reason why the disabled toilet could not be designated as "Ladies & Disabled Toilet", especially if it was signed as such on the door, thereby providing an additional facility for the Ladies.

It was also pointed out that for a very short time, there would be no Men's toilets available and that for this short period it would necessary for the existing Ladies toilets to be "Mixed" and a notice will be displayed the time.

It was also confirmed that the shed will soon be moved and at that time the arbour will also be moved to a new position.

The meeting closed at 11.20am

Date of next meeting Wednesday 13th November 2019
Venue - The Clubhouse at 9.30am

Signed
Geoff Stamp (Chairman

Date.....