

RBS BOWLS CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Main Club held via Zoom on Thursday 26th November 2020.

The Meeting was convened at 18.05 with Mr J Moore in the chair and 28 members present.

- 1) **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Ladies:** J Mudele, J Sheehan, A-M Green, J King, B Cook.
Men: R Ballaster, J Borrow, S Duncan, S Twigger, B Shaw.
- 2) **CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT** – An addition to paragraph 11 General of the Constitution was proposed by John Moore and seconded by David Branch as follows:
‘Voting at all General meetings can be in writing or email to the Secretary prior to the meeting’
This was approved unanimously.
- 3) **MINUTES of Annual General Meeting held on 16th November 2019** were approved as being a true and accurate record of that meeting.
- 4) **WELCOME AND REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN –**
The report was circulated prior to the meeting as follows:
Last year you may recall we had what we then considered a very unusual Annual General Meeting in so far as it was held at Selhurst Park, the home of Crystal Palace FC. None of us could have foreseen that this year we would not even have to stir from the comfort of our own homes. Welcome to the Land of Zoom!
Early in the New Year a working party under the guidance of Terry Foster installed a new small equipment hut and finished off the external painting. Kevin Turner and a small group refreshed the Club House and all together thanks to their efforts we looked set for the season ahead.
Unfortunately, this turned out to be a very sad time for the world at large with the onset of Coronavirus. We have not been able to play any matches against other Clubs and understandably many of our members did not wish to run the risk of mixing with other players when the infection was at its peak.
However, we did have a number of men and ladies who wanted to play and we are very grateful to Alan Friell assisted by Cecelia Unwin who organised and ran “The Covid Competitions” and congratulations to the winners.
For the record:

	Winner/s	Runner/s Up
Men’s Singles	David Jones	Alan Friell
Ladies Singles	Cecelia Unwin	Barbara Longhurst
Men’s Pairs	David Jones/Graham Jansen	Alan Friell/Stephen Curry
Mixed Pairs	Alan Friell/Cecilia Unwin	David Jones/Jan Mudele

The decision was made quite early on by the Committees to continue with Maintaining the Green and this was well justified by the number of people who played at least some bowls. Even though we reduced the number of weekly cuts to two, we still had a substantial bill and our thanks go to the members for understanding the need to continue with the annual subscription. In addition, there was obviously no bar revenue and so we were most grateful to Mike Thomas for getting a grant of £4696 from Sport England to help defray our ongoing costs. Our thanks again Mike and for all your work as Treasurer over the last few years. Your contribution has been incredibly valuable and much appreciated.

While some of the members enjoyed their bowls, all around the Green seemed a world of chaos. The historic Bank Rugby, Football, Cricket, Hockey and Tennis playing surfaces disappeared as massive earth moving equipment went to work to provide the kind of pitches which today’s footballers seem to require. Not to be outdone Barry with his wheelbarrow continued to give us another wonderful floral display. Thank you Barry.

All this activity underlined the changing circumstances we find ourselves in but communication continues with Crystal Palace on our long - term future. It is pleasing to report that there is light at the end of the tunnel even if it is a very long tunnel and Kevin will be updating you on that later on. We are extremely fortunate to have the expertise of Rufus to look after our interests when it comes to the “legal bit” and our thanks and hopes are with him as he strives to negotiate a good outcome for us.

These are challenging times for the Club and we are looking to move with them. Unification will be discussed today as one of the ways of meeting these challenges and once the question of the lease and incorporation is resolved, we will undoubtedly be talking about renaming the Club, more to reflect its place in the local community which has long been my aspiration.

Finally, this is David Branch's last appearance as Secretary to these Joint occasions and I am sure you will join me in thanking him for all his work and dedication over the last seven years.

Let us hope that 2021 sees all our hopes and plans for the Club come true and that medical science is able to return the world to some sense of normality.

JM added his thanks to Pat Turner and her team for organising a very successful Xmas buffet last year.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Mike Thomas reported:

The social meetings this year were curtailed by Covid 19 and we only held the Xmas buffet and a fish and chip evening, which between them produced a small profit of £50.03.

The Annual Dinner did not take place this year.

On the Income side

The Bar has not produced a profit this year which is a reduction of £2800 on last year.

Total transfers from the Men's Account and Ladies Account were increased by £2100 to £6600.

Coutts Day was not held so no donation was made against £650 last year.

As the Tour was not held this year no fund came from this source against £140 last year.

With regards to the funds due from Mr Corby of £4991.85 it has been decided not to pursue these monies. He is unlikely to pay them plus he could cause problems with the new lease from CPFC because as the freeholder of the property he has to agree to the new lease. The Men's Committee have endorsed this stance.

We are also owed £14671.83 from CPFC for ground maintenance but in negotiations for the new lease they have made it clear they will not be paying this sum.

Social Members Subscriptions totalling £365 were transferred to the Joint Account from the respective Clubs.

We managed to get a grant from Sports England in the sum of £4696 to cover our operating costs due to Covid 19 for the period 1/3/20 to 31/7/20. We will have to produce invoices to them for our expenditure, which we will be able to do. This has helped to plug the gap created by loss of income.

On the Expenditure side

Green Maintenance has again been provided by Mr Clarke and started off costing £757.04 inc. VAT per month.

There was a request from Mr Clarke to increase his fees by 3% at the contract's renewal on 1 April, there had been no increase since 2018. Graham Harper had been in contact with Mr Clarke and as we were not using the green as much as normal it was agreed to reduce the number of weekly cuts and reduce our monthly bill to £611.76 inc. VAT from April to September. It will then revert to the full monthly price of £779.76 inc. VAT. The increase in expenditure this year is down to the inclusion of VAT.

The expenditure on Repairs to Buildings was down this year to £680.76 and was in respect of painting the interior of the Club House. We also replaced the hut behind the buildings and had to undertake small repairs to the Club House roof on two occasions.

We have spent £215.71 on consumables which in the main was for antibacterial goods relating to Covid 19.

Most of the other expenditure is in line with last year or slightly less.

Barry has covered the cost of plants in the surrounds of the Green which has again been a magnificent display and on behalf of all Members would like to thank Barry for his work.

As you will see Income has exceeded expenditure by £1172.16.

Members' Subscription

In view of the uncertainty of how Covid 19 might affect the forth coming bowls season I propose that members' subscriptions are maintained at £100. In view of the possible changes with regards to the Club and possible added expenditure, I think it would be wise to review subscriptions when negotiations and the new lease have been concluded.

Tour Account

As there was no tour this year the only movement is the modest amount of interest earned on the account.

A copy of the Accounts is attached to the paper copy of the Minutes.

JM thanked Mike Thomas for his work as Treasurer and Bill Derham as the accounts examiner.

6) OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS AS NOMINATED BY CLUB COMMITTEES.

The following nominations were made: Chairman - J M Moore, with Captain, Secretary and Treasurer from both Men's and Ladies' Clubs (a substitute may attend Meetings in case of absence). This was taken as a block

adoption and approved unanimously.

- 7) **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNT EXAMINER** - On a proposal from the Chair, David Wrench was nominated as Account Examiner and his appointment was carried unanimously.
- 8) **GROUND NEGOTIATIONS** – The Heads of Terms of the 10 year lease offered by Crystal Palace FC and agreed by both Committees was circulated prior to the meeting.
K Turner thanked M Noble and R Ballaster for their efforts and patience. MN said that the relocation term had been a surprise but he had had further conversations with Guy Wickett who said this was not sinister and there was no plan particularly as it would be a large expense to CPFC. MN's view is that this is not a serious threat. KT pointed out that we would be liable for all Utility expenses and we are still discussing access and parking. The rent has been set at £10 pa and the lease would be signed by the incorporated company that we are forming. Martyn Johnson had suggested we should approach CPFC about merging our buildings insurance with theirs.
- 9) **INCORPORATION** – KT said this should be completed in a week or so. We are forming a company limited by guarantee which protects against anyone having personal liabilities. The Directors put up £1 or £10 as a guarantee and this is the limit of the liability. The company can have any name and can trade with a different name. The following proposal was put to the meeting:
'The Club resolves to conduct its business in future through an incorporated body.'
This was proposed by J Moore, seconded by D Branch and passed unanimously.
- 10) **UNIFICATION** – K Turner had circulated a paper with the reasons for this prior to the meeting. He said that he Sue Stacey and Stephen Curry had been working on a new draft Constitution. M Saunders commented that we should progress this as rapidly as possible. The following proposal was put to the meeting:
'The Club agrees in principal to Unification of the Men's and Ladies Clubs and that a working party be formed to present a new Constitution to General Meetings of the Men's and Ladies Clubs for approval by the Active Members.'
This was proposed by K Turner and seconded by S Stacey and passed unanimously.
- 11) **ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**
 - a) **Name Change** – JM pointed out that a name change for the Club would involve some expenses for new logos, names, badges and shirts. He had written to Alison Rose (CEO of Natwest) to ask for some monetary assistance. He has received some sporting memorabilia from the Head of marketing that has been valued by a specialist company at £500. In addition if the new logo included some reference to Natwest symbols they would send us a cheque for £2000.
 - b) **Retirement** – JM said that this would be his last year serving as Chairman of the Club and he recommended that Kevin Turner should replace him.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 19.05 with thanks to the Chairman.