



West Somerset Bowls League

The 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at **North Petherton Bowls Club** on **Friday 7th September 2018**

The Chairman, Roland Bath, opened the meeting at 7.30pm. Welcoming everyone and thanking North Petherton for allowing us, once again, to use their facilities.

We stood for one-minute silence to remember friends and fellow bowlers who had passed away during the previous 12 months. Sadly, this included the League treasurer, Bob Toller.

In attendance-

Roland Bath, Chairman – Wellington BC
Don Bridges, Vice-Chairman- Burnham on Sea BC
Bill Warnett, Treasurer- Wellington BC
Jay Merrell, Acting Secretary- Wellington BC

Paul Kelly, Wellington BC.
Tony West, Taunton BC
Ken Powls, Minehead BC
Dawn Richards, Minehead BC
Mike Beale, Taunton Deane BC
Mike Kennedy, Taunton Deane BC
Barrie Thomas, Eastover BC
Rod Stoodley, Eastover BC
John Swayne, North Petherton BC
Les Snow, Victoria Park BC
John Hill, Victoria Park BC

1. Apologies for Absence

Derek Sully- Williton BC
Duncan Stevens- Minehead BC

2. Minutes of AGM Friday 08 September 2017

Copies had been emailed and are available on the website.

3. Matters arising- None

The minutes were approved as a correct record and duly signed by Roland Bath, Chairman.

4. Secretary's report

- As we have just acknowledged we were saddened to hear last December about the passing of our treasurer, Bob Toller, following a short illness. Bob had been the league treasurer since 2003 and, while I hadn't had the pleasure of meeting him, I know he was highly regarded by Alan and other league officials.
- This left a vacancy for the important treasurer position. The Executive was delighted when Wellington BC assistant treasurer, Bill Warnett, agreed to take on the role. Bill's first task, with help from Roland and Alan was to resolve a long-standing issue regarding cheque counter-signatures with Lloyds bank. I'm pleased to report this issue is now resolved- more on this in the treasurer's report.
- Last May Alan approached me and asked if I would help him with collating the weekly league tables as he was waiting to be admitted to hospital for an operation and wasn't well enough to do it himself. I agreed immediately as I had done this for two weeks in 2017 when he was on holiday. Alan had already developed a spreadsheet for this task and I converted it to Excel, added some simple formulae which made collating the results a relatively straight forward task. My thanks to club representatives for emailing results to me so promptly.
- During a Somerset County League match in May between Eastover and Wellington the Eastover captain mentioned to Roland and I that he did not think Eastover's B team would be able to complete their fixtures this season due to player illnesses and shortages. The difficult decision was made there and then to withdraw Eastover B from division 2 before the season started, rather than having to remove them halfway through the season. This created an extra round of byes each week for division 2 teams.
- Despite the summer of 2018 being one of the hottest and driest on record there was a disappointing start to the league season with Eastover v Watchet during week 1 and three matches the following week (Bridgwater A v Victoria Park, North Petherton B v Williton and North Petherton C v Bridgwater C) all being postponed due to waterlogged greens. These matches were all subsequently replayed. I know one or two other games were curtailed early (after 10 ends had been played on each rink) due to bad weather. Thankfully the weather was fine for the remaining weeks of the season. Indeed, for some of this period the evening was the best time to play- it was too hot during the afternoon.
- Our league continues to be very competitive, witness the results during the last full week in division one when the then bottom club, Eastover, beat top club Taunton Vivary A. Second placed Bridgwater A was unable to take advantage losing away to North Petherton A, who replaced them in second place. Taunton were top for virtually the whole season, but were never out of sight, had Bridgwater won at North Petherton they would have been crowned champions. None the less congratulations to Taunton recording their first league win since 2014.
- Division 2 did develop into a bit of a procession with both Minehead A and Burnham on Sea A unbeaten until the final week, when Minehead beat Burnham in what was effectively a championship play-off. Both teams are promoted to division one replacing Victoria Park and Watchet who are relegated to division two.
- Looking ahead to 2019 Taunton (Vivary) have applied for a D team to join the league and I have been advised by representatives of Eastover and Taunton Deane that they hope to enter B (Eastover) and C (Taunton Deane) teams next season. We await confirmation of this. That would make 24 teams in total.
- Every effort will be made to produce next season's fixtures in a timely manner. With fixtures reversed from this season and A and B teams' home or away at the same time where possible. There will be examples where this is not the case.

Jay Merrell
Acting Secretary, West Somerset Bowls League

4.1 Retiring Secretary's Notes.

Please accept my apologies but I regret I am unable to be with you tonight, in person anyway.

My long-awaited operation for my mitral valve repair /replacement in my heart after three fraught cancelations took place two weeks ago and I have now been home exactly 1 week. Those of you who I know have had similar operations have some idea how I am feeling.

Thank you all for your good wishes. I am progressing well and "walking the walk" by performing the mandatory daily drill and exceeding the previous day's distance. My 7th walk today will cover no less than 10 ends so things are going well. After six weeks I gather my sternum should be fully repaired and after 10/12 weeks I hope to be bowling again albeit indoors having completely missed the outdoor season.

I am sorry to be standing down as Secretary and sincerely hope someone will take on the role which I stress is not too strenuous and like most jobs is as interesting and rewarding as you want to make it.

There must be a number of WSBL Bowlers more than capable of taking on the post. Apathy and WSBL don't go hand in hand so please someone give it a go.

Many thanks to Jay Merrell for stepping in and doing such a grand job in my absence but I know he wants someone to take over from him. Many thanks too to Jay in maintaining our web site. We are indeed fortunate to have such a first-class facility instigated by Roland Bath our Chairman last year and set up by Jay.

Adequately expressed at the end of last year's minutes

Many thanks too to Bill Warnett in becoming our Treasurer following the sad death of Bob Toller who served us well for 15 years or so. Thrown into the deep end I'm afraid due to the intransigence and unhelpful attitude of local Lloyds bank officials. Much of which you couldn't make up. Anyway, all sorted now by Bill so many thanks with much relief all round.

Not forgetting Vice Chairman Don Bridges whose help, experience and advice is always available and indeed very welcome.

Last the WSBL bowlers. What a happy band of true sportsmen. Bowlers in general have maintained that air of niceness and sporting gentility sadly lost in many popular sports by today's so-called sportsmen. In addition, the West Somerset Bowls League for me and for most has always had a certain "je ne sais quoi".

I feel sure you agree that we must count ourselves fortunate indeed to have many excellent greens to play on providing us with evenings of keen and skilful bowling played in a true sporting spirit to be followed by a couple of beers a nice supper in enjoyable company.

Alan Wood
Retiring Secretary

5. Treasurer's report

It is with obvious sadness that I had to step in as Treasurer of the league after the death of the previous treasurer Bob Toller and our thanks should be minuted for all the work Bob did on behalf of the league. Having only recently started in this position there is little for me to report. Following the death of the previous treasurer it proved difficult to alter the arrangements at the Lloyds Bank and several attempts were required to get the necessary changes made to the signatories. This has now been sorted out and things are running smoothly.

In terms of the accounts themselves:

- 1) The opening balance at the start of this year was £1,266.17
- 2) 22 teams entered the two leagues resulting in an income of £660.00
- 3) The only operating expenses at this time was for the website and this totalled £11.99
- 4) Prizes for the two leagues winners and runner ups totalled £600.00
- 5) The closing balance as seen below is £1,314.18

WSBL 2018 Accounts

Opening Balance £1,266.17

Income £660.00

Expenses Inc. prizes £611.99

Closing Balance £1,314.18

W R Warnett

Treasurer WSBL

6. Chairman's report

Bob Toller made a huge contribution to the league filling the role of treasurer for 15 years. Following his sad passing last December we found that the handover of treasurer tasks proved difficult with Lloyds Bank particularly unhelpful. It took considerable efforts from the new treasurer, Bill Warnett, with help from Alan Wood. We also had to call upon former secretary Leon Bass to help out. Eventually this was resolved and the counter-signatories are now the chairman and treasurer.

The weather this summer proved challenging with one of the hottest, driest spells for many years. Particular thanks must go to member clubs' green keepers who worked hard to keep the greens playable.

The chairman thanked the new treasurer, acting secretary and vice-chairman for their help during a challenging year for the executive committee.

7. Presentation of Trophies

Division 1 WINNER Taunton (Vivary) A Trophy & £300

Runner-up North Petherton A Trophy & £100

Division 2 WINNER Minehead A Trophy & £150

Runner-up Burnham on Sea A Trophy & £50

8. Election of Officers Holder

Chairman Roland Bath- Re-elected.
Vice Chairman Don Bridges- Re-elected
Treasurer Bill Warnett- Elected
Secretary Alan Wood- Retiring.

8.1 Election of a secretary

The Executive Committee would like to place on record the league's enormous gratitude to Alan Wood for his efforts as league secretary since 2012. However, Alan is now retiring so we need a replacement. At the last minute we heard from Alan Wood that Mark Reeve from Taunton Deane BC had offered to stand as league secretary. This was unanimously approved by the meeting.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 The WSBL Executive Committee proposed the following additions or changes to the constitution. These were approved by the meeting.

9.1.1 AGM votes

At the league AGM each member club is entitled to one vote. In the event that a member club's official league representative is unavailable then another member of the same club may cast that club's vote.

9.1.2 Administration and Election of Officers

Administration of the WSBL will be undertaken by an Executive Committee (EC) of four individuals: A Chairman, Vice- Chairman, Secretary and a Treasurer.

Elections to these posts will take place annually at the AGM.

In the event of an executive position becoming vacant during the term of office the remaining members of the EC may co-opt a replacement to serve the remainder of the term.

9.1.3 Treasurer and Accounts

The Treasurer will have the responsibility of managing the financial activities of the WSBL. The League shall have one bank account residing with, for the time being, Lloyds Bank plc. At least two members of the EC will be signatories to the account and all withdrawals from the account must be authorised by two signatories.

9.1.4 Results

Remove reference to texting results in rule 9. All results last season were successfully emailed. Rule 9 to read- 9. Results. The home side is responsible for emailing the results of the match or matches to the League Secretary (enquiries@wsbl.org.uk) by Friday evening in each case. The results details should include the score on each rink, the total number of shots and match points for each team.

Scorecards signed by each skip will be kept by each club for 6 months.

The use of the league's generic email address would allow others to easily take on the role of collating results in the event that the secretary is unable to for any reason.

9.2 The following were submitted by the EC for AGM consideration

9.2.1 Assistant Secretary

A post of league assistant secretary is created. The assistant secretary will not sit on the Executive Committee unless the Secretary is unavailable. The assistant secretary will assist the League Secretary in all matters pertaining to league administration. This proposal was approved by the meeting.

Following the election of Mark Reeve to the secretary position Jay Merrell (acting secretary) offered to stand as Assistant Secretary. This was approved by the meeting.

9.2.2 Additional teams

Rule 3 states that the maximum number of teams in the league is 24. Where the league is below that number if an existing member club wishes to add a team then this can be agreed without the need for an AGM vote. In the event that a new club wishes to join, or a team wishes to join to take the number of teams above 24, then this will be referred to an AGM or Special General Meeting. This was approved by the meeting.

9.2.3 New teams joining in 2019

Taunton has formally applied to enter a D team, Eastover a B team and Taunton Deane a C team. All new teams will enter division 2. Watchet will be reprieved from relegation and stay in division one in order that both divisions have 12 teams. Approved by the meeting.

9.2.4 Election of Non-Executive Honorary Vice Presidents

To recognise the contribution that past secretaries have made to the success of the WSBL the Executive would like to propose that the previous two secretaries, Alan Wood (2011-2018 seven years) and Leon Bass (1995-2011 sixteen years) are offered the post of Non-Executive Honorary Vice President. Vice Presidents will be invited to attend AGMs, but officially would not vote. This was approved by the meeting.

Alan and Leon were contacted by the Chairman and have both graciously accepted the offer.

9.2.5 Rule Change submitted by John Hill (Victoria Park) seconded by Ken Powls (Minehead).

John proposed that rule 12-

12. Cancellation. Cancellation will only be permitted if the green is unfit for play. Cancelled matches must be rearranged as soon as possible but in any event, all matches must be played by the end of August. Clubs to inform the Secretary of the re-arranged date which does not have to be tied to a Thursday evening.

Be amended to read 12. Cancellation. Cancellation will only be permitted if the green is unfit for play. Cancelled matches

must be rearranged as soon as possible but in any event, all matches must be played before the scheduled last match of the season. Matches cancelled on the last Thursday must be replayed as soon as possible. Clubs to inform the Secretary of the re-arranged date which does not have to be tied to a Thursday evening.

An amendment to this proposal submitted by Don Bridges did not find a seconder and was not submitted to the meeting for a vote.

The proposed rule change was approved by the meeting and the changes to the rules and constitution will be made by the Assistant Secretary as soon as possible.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.30pm.

Jay Merrell
Acting Secretary
WSBL