

MINUTES OF THE RUSHMOOR INDOOR BOWLING CLUB AGM HELD THURSDAY 3rd APRIL 2014 IN THE RECREATION CENTRE.

24 Members attended of which;
8 Committee members.
1 Centre Management.
15 Members.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the required number present for a quorum had not been met. He put to the meeting that although the club rules state that a second meeting date be arranged, he felt it unlikely that any improvement in numbers would be made and asked if those present were happy the meeting go ahead. **All were in favour.**

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS. (Dennis Sherwood.)

First of all I would like to thank the Centre for their support. More so this year for their support for the coaching. also the 'Bowlathon' I would like to thank the Captain, Michael for seeing that all went well, so well the 'Bowlathon' raised £350. Now this is to become a National event. All good publicity for the Club and the Centre.

Other items. Our thanks to the Centre for painting the walls by the seating, also for the decoration and carpeting of the changing rooms. This has been noticed by the visitors to the club. Thank you.

A big thank you to the Committee for all the help and support over the year
The Green Stewards who keep the club running.

I could go on thanking people but time will not permit, but thank you the members, those of you that are here and those that are not, for without you we would not have a club.
Thank you for all your support and long may it continue to do so.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Received from Michael and Sheila Pearse. Keith Dunstone. Geoff Ringrose.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS A.G.M. (4th April 2013.)

Agreed as correct and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

A.O.B. (More friendlies.)

The Secretary sent invites to 14 Clubs within reasonable distance from here. Of that 14 only one replied (FLEET UNITED.)

ODIHAM enquired rather too late to be entered in the fixture card and although offered the cancelled FAIRFORD B.C. game, they felt more time was needed to get a team together. The Match Secretary will contact them to arrange a fixture for the coming

season.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT. (Colin Alcock.)

Full report appended. Main points.

Colin thanked all Committee members, especially the Secretary and the League Secretary, for all their support over the year.

Whilst not having the final figures in hand, initial figures indicate a broadly neutral account with perhaps a small increase of Expenditure over Income of a couple of hundred pounds.

Two price increases recommended this year.

1. Rink fees from £1.80 to £2.00.

2. Locker fee from £7.00 to £8.00.

Membership fee to remain the same at £23.00.

The meeting voted to accept these changes.

Colin then stressed the need for members to fill the gaps on the Committee rather than stand back and let others do it. He gave an example of a local outdoor club which folded due to the unwillingness of any one to run it. He offered a voucher worth £5.00 to be spent within the club to anyone who introduced a person to the club who eventually became a member.

6. CENTRE MANAGEMENT REPORT. (Carol Dudley.)

Carol introduced herself as Operations Manager.

She stated that although the Chairman had covered some of the points of her report, she would go over her own notes.

Carol hoped all would agree that when the club started back this season, the green and bowls facilities had a renewed and fresh look.

With the new carpet including underlay and ditch matting.

Repaint of both locker rooms, new ceiling grid and tiles. New carpet tiles and vanity area in the ladies.

Additional painting in the bowls hall behind spectator seating.

New flooring to toilets and foyer area.

New carpet in bowlers lounge.

Bowls hall walkways were also sealed.

Carol thanked the club for the continued communication regarding booking, getting the bookings in early and the ongoing communication with Jackie Carey ensure this is a smooth process.

The Centre is happy to support the Turn-up and Roll-up session that the club suggested. With not a massive take up, this is something we think is worthwhile continuing with.

The Centre will continue to support the funding regards to Centre advertising.

Centre Sports and Leisure Programme advertising.

Roller banner advertising.

Bowls club flyers within the leaflet rack.

We support the club by providing free rink hire again this year for the 'Bowlathon' session the club runs, and the continued support for the 'Bowlathon'

At present we are looking into new seating at the far end of the green in the form of flip down seats.

To a question as to why such a delay in having the carpet stretched, Carol explained that it is a three way thing between the Centre, the Council and Greenguage. A request had gone in and somehow not been acted on from Greenguage who had not replied.

7. LEAGUE SECRETARY REPORT. (Keith Dunstone.)

Keith forwarded his report to the Secretary to be read out and apologised for his non attendance. Full report appended.

The report ended in wishing all well, with hopes to be bowling with all in the near future.

8. COMPETITION SECRETARY REPORT. (Carl Taylor.)

Full report appended.

9. CAPTAIN'S REPORT. (Michael Pearse.) Read out by the Secretary.

Michael apologised for his absence.

We managed to play all our Friendly Games, unfortunately the Fairford B.C. was cancelled for their own reasons.

We also managed to win more than half of our Friendlies. Thank you to everyone who played in these games but, we must remember, less than 20% of RIBC members participated in these games.

It was good to have two new clubs play us, Hawley B.C. and Fleet United B.C. I hope they carry on with these fixtures.

Next season we might be visiting Chawton Park I.B.C. I am sure members will enjoy visiting another club and it is only at Alton, not far to go.

The Wednesday am Roll-ups have been a great success. Thank you to everyone who attends.

10. AMENDMENTS TO RULES.

There were three propositions for discussion. (Number 3, two part).

1. Proposed by A. Sharman. Seconded by D. Newman.

Triples game when one player short.

Alec explained the reasoning behind the proposal being that for five players to turn up for a game and not be able to play was unfair to the full team and the two that had turned up ready for a game. The thing really is to play a game of bowls. Alec had enquired of other clubs what they do and the majority play as the proposal. Therefore;

Where a Triples team has only two players, the lead and the skip shall play with four bowls each. The team with three players shall play as a normal triple (i.e. each player

shall use three bowls each.)

The team that wins an end will place the mat and deliver the jack, however the team with three players shall play the first bowl regardless of who won the previous end. This will ensure alternate bowls are played throughout the game.

The team with two players will have to manage the changeover positions accordingly.

The team (or teams) with two players will forfeit 25% of their total score.

If a team plays with two players on more than two occasions the forfeit will be 50% of the total score for all depleted games that they play thereafter.

These adjustments to be calculated by the League Secretary.

W. Graves raised a query as to whether 25% was fair considering one side had an extra wood. This was deemed fair on the grounds that having the extra wood gave an advantage.

To a question of whether a team of three could refuse to play, the reply was no if the other team had chosen to play, because they had turned up as a Triple.

Rink fees for the team short to be made in full. As with Rinks.

A suggestion to try it for a year then it could be reviewed was made.

Put to a vote the result was;

For. 15. Against. 4. Abstained. 1. CARRIED.

2. Proposed by A. Sharman. Seconded by D. Newman.

Re-spotting the jack.

Once again explained by Alec. This is for internal leagues only.

Most have seen the process on the television so hardly needs explaining.

As previous, most clubs now do this. Some clubs have other penalties when the jack leaves the rink. This is considered the better.

This keeps the game continuing rather than collect all the bowls and start again. The added advantage is that players now have to think more tactically. Once again, try for the coming year. We need to go with the times and try to improve the game.

Put to a vote the result was;

For. 16. Against. 2. Abstained 0. CARRIED.

3. Proposed by D. Newman. Seconded by C. Alcock.

DRESS CODE. (Handbook. Page 19. Para. 2.)

RIBC Leagues, Club Competitions and Roll-ups. RIBC SHIRTS or predominately white above the waist, grey below. **Proposal.**

Remove the word 'predominately' from the paragraph.

Now to read “ **RIBC Leagues, Club Competitions and Roll-ups. RIBC shirts** or white above the waist, grey below.

The Secretary explained that the reason for this proposal was that some players had interpreted the word PREDOMINATELY to mean they could wear their OUTDOOR Club shirts. This has led to mixed dress during games and was not deemed suitable by

some members who preferred not to see a “mish-mash” on the carpet. To add to that, in trying to add a bit of colour in the club, members are hardly likely to buy a registered club shirt if they can wear their own outdoor shirt.

A Sharman commented that agreed last year, it would be a backward step to revert.

A comment was made that that players would be very unlikely to reverse the situation and wear a Rushmoor shirt at their outdoor club.

Put to a vote the result was;

For. 11. Against. 4. Abstained. 4. CARRIED.

4. Part two. (Para. 5.)

Proposal. **Add the words “ In mixed games, EIBA Rules apply.”**

As the Ladies now have a Club shirt registered to them and we started mixed National Games this season (Egham Trophy), uncertainty may arise as to the correct dress. EIBA Rules permit registry of different pattern shirts for both sexes. As long as **all Ladies** and **all Men** wear their same respective colour, or white, this is acceptable.

The proposal in essence is to have a positive reference on paper to go by.

Put to a vote, the proposition was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Once again there were shortages on the nomination sheet. With the exception of the League Secretary position, still vacant, volunteers came from the floor. The Chairman thanked them. The Chairman voiced his concern at the absence of a League Secretary saying that there was a big possibility that leagues will not run next season.

The Treasurer said he would not take the job on in full, but would prepare what was required initially to to start things going. The Chairman thanked him.

The Chairman read out the list of nominations. These were elected en-bloc.

CHAIRMAN.

SECRETARY.

TREASURER.

LEAGUE SECRETARY.

MATCH SECRETARY.

COMPETITION SECRETARY.

CAPTAIN.

VICE CAPTAIN.

MENS COUNTY REP.

LADIES COUNTY REP.

PATRONS REP.

SENIOR GREEN STEWARD.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

DENNIS SHERWOOD.

DAVE NEWMAN.

COLIN ALCOCK.

DENNIS SHERWOOD.

CARL TAYLOR.

MICHAEL PEARSE.

SHEILA PEARSE.

DAVE NEWMAN.

PAT WELCH.

DAVE NEWMAN.

BOB TURNER.

PAT WELCH.

BRIAN WELCH.

KEVIN TAPLEY.

The Chairman thanked all for putting their names down.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Carol informed that the Centre will no longer be known as D.C.Leisure from 1st April 2014. It is now rebranded as 'Places for People.'

It will not affect matters with the club.

They were acquired by Places for People some 18 months ago but have still been trading as D.C.Leisure. From 1st April this is no more and we are now Places for People.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting saying he would like to thank all for attending. Congratulations to all Competition and League winners. Those of you who play out doors I hope that you have a good season and that it is not too wet. I look forward to seeing you all indoors again next season. Thank you.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Signed.

Chairman.

AGM Treasurers report 3rd April 2014

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Secretary, other committee members, representatives from the Centre and Council, Ladies & Gentlemen. I would like to start by thanking all the members of the committee for their help & support this year, and in particular the Secretary and the League Secretary.

Whilst not all items are yet in my hands for this financial year, initial figures would indicate a broadly neutral account with perhaps a small excess of Expenditure over Income of a couple of hundred pounds. Bearing in mind that we paid over £6k towards the cost of the new carpet and that we continue to put money aside for refurbishment, I find this relatively satisfactory. Provided we continue to keep a tight check on costs and ensure we charge sufficient to pay for our expenses, I do not envisage any significant strain put on our resources in the near future. With regard to the refurbishment fund, as I mentioned last year, it is quite clear that we stand a much better chance of getting funds from the Council if we can show that we are prepared to commit funds to development projects.

I am grateful to the Centre for their work last year in painting the back wall, etc. but would still like to add to the number of decent maroon chairs, both in the hall and in the Bowlers Lounge, which, quite frankly, is pretty unappealing! The only other suggestion that has been put to me this year is in regard to the rest of the bare brickwork at the top of the walls, which doesn't look that great. I think that the suggestion for a mural of a sunny Caribbean island might be a step too far, but would ask them to consider a quick coat of paint!

All handbook information is now available online, which gives us an opportunity to further reduce costs by offering the handbook online ONLY (it currently costs about £800 to print the handbook, or about £2.50 per head) but we have decided that for this season anyway we will continue to issue a copy to every member or couple when they renew.

I next have a very sad duty to report that Wendy Rockett, who has audited our accounts for the last 20 odd years, has unfortunately been diagnosed with terminal cancer of the liver and bowel and, whilst they hope that they can satisfactorily prolong her quality of life for a couple of years, it is incurable. Our thoughts go out to her husband and young children. However, we need to look for a new Auditor. Unless anyone is aware of someone within the club who would take on the responsibility, I have a couple of independent people in mind.

As regards price changes, despite an above inflation rise of 4.1% on rinks fees from the centre, I am only recommending two this year, with the membership fee remaining at £23 (still £2 lower than 5 years ago in 2009/10). The first, as I indicated last year is to increase the rinks fee from £1.80 per person to £2 (£8 per team), the second is to increase the locker room fee from £7 to £8. With the possible exception of the Triples and Competition fees, I and the committee now hope to be able to hold these prices for the next 2 seasons at least.

Mr Chairman, I would like to pause to allow a vote to be taken on that proposal before continuing.

AGM Treasurers report 3rd April 2014

I would now like to turn to membership. In 1996/7 our membership was 648, this year it is 336, or just over half. At that rate of attrition, in ten years time (yes, I know most of you won't be here to care) it will be around 200. Last year we lost the Wednesday Morning League because we couldn't raise 6 teams. This year there are 3 leagues with ONLY 6 teams, or to spell it out, if one of those teams from any of those leagues drops out we lose another league. Applications for next season's leagues were due in by 7/3/14, at that time we had 4 viable leagues and 9 leagues under threat of being cancelled. We have recently had to amend our rules on quorum numbers by reducing them because not enough people come along to [a] the AGM, [b] are prepared to stand as members of the committee and/or [c] sheer apathy. This season we are still looking for a League Secretary and others to take positions on the committee. If you don't know what happened to Watchett's Bowls club and why, you should, because it carries a warning to everyone. They folded because no-one was prepared to take on the jobs needed to get/keep a club running. We are quick to criticise, but a lot slower to volunteer to help! Just like many other clubs, we need to attract new members. We are not alone, Hampshire BDA are hoping to appoint a specific officer to think "outside the box" (whatever that means) to figure out ways to attract more people to the sport. Bowls, apparently, appeals to those over 55, the number of those people [a] as a proportion of the overall population and [b] as a definitive number, are increasing exponentially, and yet our numbers KEEP going down. In a recent review of funding to sport from the government, 11 major sports were shown to have reduced participants over the last 2 years. Similarly, in a survey across all countries of the world that play lawn bowls, the numbers of participants is going down.

Despite these very worrying facts, we have to find ways to reverse our decline, if that means change or whatever, it has to happen. I know that as a rule, we older people are adverse to change, BUT..... We have to find ways to persuade people to help with the committee functions, Green Steward jobs etc. I am well aware that when I sit down, everyone will probably say, totally agree, well said and do absolutely nothing, as usual. Well, DON'T, do something, get off your high horse and do something, it is down to each and everyone one of us, not just 2/3. If this sounds like me sounding off and having a rant, it is, I am not going to apologise, I am trying, probably fruitlessly, to get through to people. We have to try and buck the trend. If you want to make a start, DCL are having an open day on Saturday, we need volunteers to man a table downstairs to talk to people and get them interested (which may just mean looking at your navel all day) and to be upstairs on the green to help the coaching staff and show what fun the game is. Diane and I will be on the table, please let us know if you can help, even an hour would do.

Finally, (stop cheering!), here is my contribution:- We will offer a £5 Voucher, which can be used to pay for any RIBC fees, to existing members who introduce anyone to our Bowls for fun beginner's coaching courses and who subsequently go on to become full members". Now, what are you going to do?

RUSHMOOR INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

A.G.M. 3rd April 2014

LEAGUE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Please accept my apologies for not being with you this evening.

As some may be aware, I have taken over the fixture secretary role at Farnborough Outdoor Bowling Club last year, but stepped in last minute to help with the RIBC role when Brian Probyn moved away at the end of last summer.

Due to additional commitments, I gave my notice of my decision to step down from the League Secretary role in January 2014 to enable the club time to find a replacement for the coming season. Although I officially stand down as of the AGM, I am happy to continue updating the league results until mid-April 2014 (end of this season).

For continuity, it will probably be best that the future decisions and actions for the forthcoming season are decided by the committee and my replacement after the AGM. So please support your committee as they continuously endeavour to make your bowling enjoyable.

2013/2014 League Season

My hopes are that the participation in the league by new bowlers, experienced bowlers & seasoned bowlers (political correctness going bonkers? 😊) has been an enjoyable one.

The majority of leagues have now been completed with the remainder running for another 2 weeks. A summary of league winners and runners-up so far is displayed on the RIBC website and a final summary will be posted in the bowls hall when the matches are concluded.

Congratulations to the winners & runner-ups and it is also worth reflecting at the same time that without the new teams and the old faithful's, the leagues would not run.

Next Season's Team Entries

To save postage for members & the club and therefore minimalizing membership costs, the league entry and return of forms have been available at RIBC since late February along with notices on the boards advertising this. So thank you to all who that have replied by the cut-off date.

Additionally reminders have been sent via by email and with phone messages (to those who don't have email) have been left. With the exception of 7 team captains, all the expected entries for next season's leagues have now been received, of those 5 have verbally committed to join again and will send their outstanding cheques. The remaining 2 teams haven't committed, but we have 3 new team entries for the league.

In theory, all leagues have sufficient teams to run next season, pending the 5 outstanding entries.

General

Considering the usage over the last 6 months, the leagues have run smoothly during the season, bar the very occasional disruption listed below:

- Fire alarms which your committee has been in discussion with DC Leisure to address short comings.
- As far as I am aware, first aid was required for only one incident (summoned via green button in the hall – members please note where this is). Thankfully all was resolved and the outcome was as best it could have been, even to the point of the opposition who were unwilling to claim the game and settling for a draw. To me, this epitomizes the beauty of the game of bowls. On a similar point, players should not feel obliged to continue playing if they feel unwell, as one couple informed me, a month after a game they played in. If players do feel unwell, stop bowling & inform your team and opposition, cancellation of a game is the least of our worries.
- Grid power failures, which sometimes resulted in the occasional delay or cancellation of games. I am aware of at least one occasion when power was restored prior to an evening session, so did not affect that planned session. Generally these are an external factor beyond the Centre or RIBC control, so your understanding is appreciated.
- The lighting switching off was resolved after your committee spoke to DC Leisure and the wall timer switch was replaced.

Carpet

At the end of the previous season, the unavailability of Rink 6 resulted in the re-allocation of matches onto other available rinks by Brian Probyn, the League Secretary at the time.

For the incoming League Secretary, it is recommended that for next season's games that rink 6 is re-introduced into the schedule. Unless there is any reason known why this shouldn't be the case, it is also recommended that the Friday afternoon league be amended so that all 8 teams play (subject to entries) on the same day as opposed to just 6.

The carpet was replaced this summer and after many requests and efforts made by your committee, was stretched with additional distance markers added in February 2014.

Provisional Key Dates Example of last year's dates are shown below:

Rink Bookings to Leisure Centre - Mid June 2013

Inputs for the Handbook to the Treasurer - End June 2013

Green Steward Sheets to Senior G.S. - mid Aug. 2013

Team Fixture Lists to Captains - mid Aug.2013

Printed Score Cards to designated Green Stewards - End Aug.2013

Start of Season - TBC upon final team entries received.

End of Season - TBC upon final team entries received.

Christmas Break

Easter Break

I wish you well and hope to be bowling with you all in the months & years to come.

Best Regards,

Keith Dunstone

League Secretary

2nd April 2014

Good Evening,

This year's Competitions have almost been concluded with the exception of the final of the Men's Pairs and Fours which should take place later this month. Can I thank those members that did enter and congratulations to the Finalists and Winners who will once again be listed in the next season's Club Handbook.

As usual I published the entry forms in mid January with a deadline of last week and I am disappointed again to have to report that we have seen a big reduction in entries with only 13 members submitting a form. At the moment we only have enough interest to run just the Men's Singles, Pairs and Triples although just one more entry would be enough to be able to run the Fours. We will also be able to run a Mixed Pairs competition.

However just 2 Ladies entered and we therefore do not have enough entries for any competitions which is very disappointing. This year I decided to run a competition when we just had two entries as at least we could have a final but I have had feedback that this was not totally popular. So unless we get more entries for all four competitions – or there is a change of heart over running just finals – then I am afraid there will be no Ladies' competitions at all next season.

On the County side there is some very good news with our Trisham League team finishing strongly and sneaking second place in the league by just half a point and therefore securing promotion to the Bramley. In the Competitions we have one team through to the final of the Triples so congratulations and good luck to Grahame Trimmer, Daniel Taylor and Carl Taylor. They will play in the final at 10.00 am on Sunday week at Loddon Vale IBC

Thank you.

Carl Taylor
Competition Secretary

AGM. 2014