

# WELLINGTON (SOM) BOWLING CLUB

## Minutes of General Meeting held on 17th May 2017 at the Clubhouse.

The meeting commenced at 9.30am.

<b>Present</b>	Roland Bath (President) Geoff Stamp (Chair) Brian Wombwell (Secretary) John Hunt (Treasurer) Jay Merrell (Fixture Secretary) Bernard Barnes (Asst. Treasurer) Richard Manning (Dev. Officer) David Dagg (Asst Treasurer)	Paul Kelly, (Men's Captain) Gill Groves Ladies Captain John Cherry Indoor Secretary Vic Horne ( Estates Manager) Chris Williams (Membership Sec.) Bernard Barnes (Asst. Sec.) John Lister (Bar Steward)
<b>Absent</b>	Ian Thompson (Mixed Captain)	

## **MINUTES NOT YET APPROVED**

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

### **2. Chairman's Opening Remarks**

- 1) Geoff said that he was pleased to see Paul attending the meeting following the terrible accident at the weekend despite obvious signs of cuts and bruising. The other members involved Mark Philips, Ken Brown and Mike Connors had also suffered severe cuts and bruising and Ken was suffering from a broken rib. Paul told the meeting that they had all been taken to hospital but had been allowed home in the early hours of the morning. The accident happened as they returned home from a match at Knowle.
- 2) The area around the Green is now taking shape and the appearance is really looking good. Although there is an excellent air of optimism about the club it is worrying that in September the club is losing the Secretary, the Chairman and we still have no Press Officer.

**3 Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January** were approved as a true record but a mistake was pointed out in that the Membership Secretary's report should say that the current number of social members is 29 not 209. Brian said that this was a typing error on his part.

### **4 Matters arising.**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. Secretary's Report**

- 1) The vending machine in the Indoor Green has been switched off and drained. It is not functioning correctly and only two cups have been sold in the past two weeks. The machine is not financially viable as it is continually switched on reheating the same water over and over again and some of the cups have gone out of date. It was agreed that the machine should be scrapped.
- 2) The Tea Rota was proving to be a real headache as there has been little co-operation from most members and others were swapping and changing dates.
- 3) Honour boards - the name tapes will be ordered from our supplier now that the competitions have finished and Nick Channon has agreed to bring the boards up to date when they arrive.
- 4) Name Badges - they have arrived and are being distributed.
- 5) It was agreed that, in future, the Minutes of the General Meetings should be emailed out to members.
- 6) The competition draw took place on 5th May and the full details of all the competitions are now displayed on the notice board.

### **6. Treasurer's Report**

- 1) John presented the monthly financial report and it was accepted.
- 2) Although there has been considerable interest in the proposed April 2017 tour to Torquay not many members have paid their deposit yet.

- 3) The Club has an account with National Savings valued at £5,000 and John asked that the committee consider whether it should be transferred to the club General Accounts. This money was put aside to pay the loans taken out several years ago to buy machinery so that we could take over maintenance of the outside green. It was decided to leave the money in the account until the final loan of £3,000 is paid next year.
- 4) John said he would like to thank David Dagg for his hard work and time taken to sort out the locker situation. This is now almost under control with just one or two lockers still not identified with users. There was also agreement that more lockers are required as many of the new members are putting in requests for lockers.
- 5) John also thanked Chris Williams for his work in preparing the new list of members' details.
- 6) John suggested that in future all fees should be paid annually on or before May 1st. Comments were made that we have older members who only play Inside who do not want to commit to paying membership until September. It was decided to leave this issue for now but to keep it under review.
- 7) Regarding bookings by outside Organisations or individuals for our Club Room. The booking form to be amended so that a charge of £40 for catering staff should be added and £20 for bar staff. This money to be paid to the members who carry out the work.
- 8) Our gas and electric supplier is Total Gas and we have had considerable problems sorting out the account details and in getting a statement of the accounts. These problems have now been resolved but if we have any problems in the future we should consider changing to another supplier.
- 9) A query had been raised over whether it is worth opening the bar during the midweek evenings. A day by day survey of the winter bar takings has been done and it has been found that although there are distortions in the figures the takings for midweek are the lowest being an average of £30. Over the period this would make about £300 profit for the club. It was decided that this matter should be assessed and decided by the Bar Steward and the Bar Committee as it is their responsibility.

#### **7. Ladies Administrator**

It was decided that if no one applies for this position at the AGM a motion will be put to the meeting that it is deleted. Another position will be created so that the Executive Committee has five members.

#### **8. Development Officer Report**

##### **Kitchen**

- a) An electric Hot Water Heater has now been installed under the kitchen sink and the hot water supply from the boiler in the Indoor Rink disconnected. This will considerably reduce the amount of water wasted and also reduce the amount of gas used. The Dish Washer has been repositioned to make it easier to load and unload. These alterations have been paid for from the Social Committee account.
- b) The heating controls in the indoor rink have now been made tamperproof and a steady temperature should now be maintained.

##### **Grants**

- c) We are still awaiting a decision regarding the grants we have applied for.
- d) We have been promised £5,000 should our grant application from Sport England be successful.
- e) Richard has also had discussions with Viridor who have been very supportive and there may be an opportunity to get a small grant from them.
- f) We have also applied for a building materials grant from a local supplier.
- g) Wadham Fencing have agreed to sponsor the club for £500.00

##### **Recruiting**

- h) The recruiting team turned out for the May Day event on the Park but it poured with rain and the turnout was very disappointing.
- i) We will be attending the Wellington Street Fair and hope to create some interest there.
- j) We have been invited to attend other local events but a decision has not been taken yet.

k) Open Day - Brian to make arrangements.

### **Other**

- l) The new bowls for coaching have all been marked up and we have carriers for them.
- m) Plants for the new pergolas have all been sponsored by members and have now been planted up.
- n) A defibrillator has been purchased for £450.00 and this has been paid for out of the Social Committee Fund.

### **9 Men's Captain**

- 1) Paul says that there has been a very positive response to the start of the new season.
- 2) The turnout for the Men's Practice has been the best for a very long time.
- 3) We have had mixed but very promising results so far.
- 4) The B team lost by only 1 shot in their first game and the A side won 10 shots to 2 at Knowle
- 5) Paul reported that some people had been complaining that they had not been picked for matches but had not approached him personally. There is no reason why everyone should not get a share of the matches and the concern at the moment is that we will not be able to fulfil all the fixtures.

### **10 Ladies Captain**

Gill said that she is very pleased that for their first game tomorrow it is the first time for a while that they have got reserves.

### **11 Mixed Captain**

Ian Thomson is ill at the moment and John Lister is fulfilling that role until he returns. John said that there is a problem that not enough ladies are putting their names down for the Mixed friendlies

There is also a problem of people dropping out of matches at short notice.

### **12 Fixture Secretary Report**

Jay asked the committee if he should sound out members to find out if there is enough interest in us entering a team in the East of Ex League. The committee agreed that he should put up a notice to see if there is a positive response.

### **13. Competition Secretary's Report**

The Competition Committee now comprises John Cherry, Jay Merrell, Diane Troake and Brian Wombwell.

The Indoor Leagues and Competitions are now all finished and a notice has been put on the board listing the winners and runners up.

John asked if we had resolved the situation regarding press reports as there had been no mention of our club in the local press for several weeks. Brian said that no one has volunteered for this position.

### **14. Indoor Secretary's Report**

There is not much interest in playing in the indoor rink over the summer but John will write to those members who showed some interest to see if they want an organised roll up.

### **15. Bar Steward**

John reported that the bar is operating really well at the moment but there are problems because most of the bar staff are busy with holidays, working or ill.

Opening the bar before home matches and the half time ordering has been well received. This helps the bar staff as there is no queue at the bar at the end of a match.

The average takings for a rink of 8 players is about £15.

Members are also pleased that we are now purchasing raffle prizes from Bookers.

The new glass washer and ice machine are working well.

We have experienced no problems since the draft beers were removed. The bottles are easier to manage, we don't get any wasted stock and this should help the profit margin.

The biggest problem is running around Wellington getting cheques signed so that stocks can be replenished.

The Committee approved John's suggestion that we should open a Direct Debit account at Bookers and John Hunt to investigate.

## **16 Think Tank**

The Think Tank met with seven members present including new member Ian Stewart on 8th May

Name badges are now being distributed and when only a few are left they will be put behind the bar for collection.

Bowls Tour 2018 Over 40 members have booked a place. £25 deposit has to be paid to the treasurer by 31st July.

## **New suggestions**

- 1) The suggestion that A team members should not be allowed to play in friendly matches was rejected. The meeting agreed that each team needs an experienced player to skip and at least one more player to give advice to the less experienced players.
- 2) The outside ditch adjacent to the Indoor Green has a concrete ridge that damages bowls when they drop in. It was agreed that we should purchase some artificial turf and fix it to the side of the ditch for protection.
- 3) The members of the think tank have offered to paint the changing rooms ahead of the re design project. The club to pay for paint. It was decided that because the verdict on our grant application is imminent we should wait to see if we are successful. before making a decision.
- 4) The Think Tank have been asked to consider options for increasing the playing time available on the Indoor Rink. This will be the main topic to be discussed at the next meeting on 8th June.

## **17. Social Team Report**

The final event of the social season starred the Cleverly Everlys who as usual gave a brilliant concert. Over 100 guests including our MP Rebecca Pow attended and everyone had a great time. The evening raised just over £800 for the club. After the event Rebecca sent a card from Parliament thanking everyone for inviting her and her husband and confirming that she had a wonderful time.

## **18. Green Representatives Report**

- 1) Paul told the meeting that the advice taken during the winter is working and the Green is playing very well.
- 2) There have been complaints about the wetting agent but this is applied to stop the grass burning in the hot weather.
- 3) The green is playing well and will be cut shorter if the weather turns wet but at the moment the regime is working well.

## **19. Building Representatives Report**

- 1) A builder has been contacted and is preparing prices for the proposed building modifications.
- 2) Following the suggestion that we change the current front door locking system the team is looking into the feasibility and costs to install a swipe card system to enable entry to the club. This will give a very simple but secure entry to the club. A report will be presented in due course.

## **20. Catering Team**

- 1) Diane has arranged the catering for the Open Day
- 2) The arrangements for the Funeral booking are well in hand.

## **21. Any Other Business**

1. It has been suggested by several members that the second hand clothes rail at the end of the corridor is taken away. It looks unsightly and most of the clothes on it have been there for some considerable time. It was agreed that it be removed immediately.

2. Last winter we had many complaints from members at the lack of opportunity to play on the Indoor Rink. It was agreed that Jay Merrell, Brian Wombwell, John Cherry and Diane Troake should form a working Group to come up with ideas by which matters can be improved. John Cherry confirmed that the Think Tank would

also look into this problem. A report will be issued to the next Exec. and General meetings for consideration.

Complaints took the form of:

- a) Sessions sometimes booked for many consecutive weeks.
- b) Some rinks booked and only used by two or four players.
- c) Not enough free sessions available due to league games and roll ups.
- d) No space for new members in the established league teams.

3. Jay suggested that we should open a "trust bar" in the Club Room to be used when the bar is closed. This would be a fridge stocked with items from the bar and a secure money box where members could put money for their purchases. This was not met with any enthusiasm and it was pointed out some members do not pay for tea and coffee so a "trust bar" would probably be abused.

## **22. Membership Secretary**

**The meeting closed at 12.15pm**

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 19th July 2017 at 9.30am in the Clubhouse.**

Signed:.....Geoff Stamp (Chairman)

Date: .....