

Yealmpton Bowling Club

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting held at the Clubhouse on 7th July 2022

Committee Members present: Fred Lewis (President & Fixtures Secretary), Andy Lugg (Club Captain), Colin George (Men's Team Captain), Mark Pope (Green Keeper), Bob Smith (Club Secretary).

Volunteer Officers present: Andy Lugg (Estate Manager), Yvonne Willis (Admin Support), Peter Ford (Website Manager), Mandy Holland (Ladies Vice Team Captain)

1. Apologies for Absence

Colin Burgess (Club Coach & Safeguarding), Annette Court-Hampton (Ladies Team Captain), Mike Hexter (Treasurer)

2. Club Captain

Following Roy Holland's recent resignation as Club Captain, Fred proposed that Andy Lugg took on the role until the end of the season in accordance with the Notes following para. 7.3 of the Constitution. The Management Committee unanimously supported the proposal. Fred thanked Roy for his contribution to the Club and for the assistance he had given to him.

3. Member Availability for Matches

All present agreed that there was a problem in getting members to commit to matches/competitions this year and a lengthy discussion took place as to the reasons why.

Some suggestions are identified below and a strategy to achieve this next year will need to be developed:

- members who only play league matches to be encouraged to support the mixed friendlies and vice versa.
- reduce the number of league matches & mixed friendlies next season.
- make arrangements, where possible, to avoid League & Cup matches being played on the same days that mixed friendlies are normally played.
- Change the mixed friendly selection process, as a trial, to emulate the process that had proven successful for men's selection this season; that is, agree a "squad" at the start of the season and allow the Mixed Friendly Selection Committee to assume all members of the squad are available for all mixed friendly matches unless informed otherwise.
- Document the selection process(es) and incorporate into the Club Rules; (using the information leaflet that Yvonne had developed for competitions as a start point).
- Support the development of a revised coaching strategy (as referred to below) to bring new members to a point where they can confidently play in matches.
- Encourage & support the use of the website for that small percentage of members who do not currently use it regularly.
- Commit to making selections of all matches at least a week prior to the match, and not cancelling matches earlier than a week before.
- Make arrangements for travelling to away matches as an integral part of the selection process.

For the current year, Andy informed the meeting that he had drafted an email requesting assistance in fulfilling the remaining mixed friendly fixtures – the content was agreed for immediate issue by Yvonne.

Andy informed the committee that the past Captain, Roy Holland, had issued a questionnaire because of the issues involved in playing fixtures. Andy, as the newly appointed Captain, has not had the time to digest the comments and will bring feedback to the next Management meeting.

The next meeting as shown at the end of these minutes would concentrate on these issues.

4. Trial Management Structure

This is due for review at the AGM. Feedback from all present was that the new structure was working well. Peter commended Yvonne for her work thus far. The Committee agreed that there would be a recommendation to include the new structure in the Constitution at the AGM. Bob reiterated that this will be his last season as Club Secretary.

5. Membership Status

Fred asked if it was possible for the Membership list to include Members' status – Full/Honorary/Associate. It was agreed that Honorary/Associate Members would be identified. Mandy asked the difference between them. Fred explained that Honorary Members are life Members, who no longer pay a membership fee but have full membership rights, and Associate Members are social Members who are not registered with Bowls England and therefore not allowed to bowl; they pay a reduced membership fee. Mandy asked about the process for making a Member an Honorary Member. Bob said that it was historically a proposal by the Secretary at the AGM following agreement by the Management Committee, but it was open for any member to make such a proposal.

6. Officer Reports

Club Secretary – there will be no Bowls Devon diaries next season. Information will be on the Bowls Devon website in a printable format.

Fixtures Secretary – requests will soon start to come in for next season's fixtures.

Mens' Team Captain – one match has had to be rearranged due to not enough players being available.

Ladies Team Captain – the ladies have re-joined the P&D League this season but the playing squad is just 8. So far all fixtures have been played. It has been a pleasure to welcome 2 County competitions to the green. Special thanks Barbara Kidd and the other ladies who have provided the teas. The ladies have been disappointed with the cancellation of Mixed Friendly matches. Annette & Mandy are grateful for the support that they have received from the more experienced lady Members as they get to grips with their new roles.

Club Coach – we have only gained 3 new Members this year which is disappointing. Colin had raised a number of issues regarding coaching new members this year. Bob suggested that he & Colin review the coaching & development strategy for new members to bring them to a point where they could confidently play in matches. This was agreed by the Committee and would eventually be incorporated into the Club Rules.

Green Keeper – maintenance continues throughout the summer and the green has been cut, fed and watered regularly. Mark thanks all Members of the green team for their work and enthusiasm. New volunteers are always welcome.

Treasurer – at 6th July the bank balance was just over £11k. Estimated expenditure to the end of the year is £2,700, giving an estimated year of balance in the region of £8k. New Members joining are charged a pro-rata rate in accordance with para. 4.2 of the Constitution.

7. Volunteers Reports

Estate Manager – Andy informed the meeting that there were a few tasks that required attention but everything was in hand.

Website Manager – Peter informed the meeting that the website requirements following the Spring meeting had been implemented. Peter asked the committee for clarification of certain issues as follows:

- Tuesday Mornings - It was agreed that one rink could be booked on a Tuesday morning for Club or County competitions on a first come, first served basis. All other rinks were reserved and could not be booked. This would be ratified through an email to Club Members as it was a change to the agreement reached at the Spring Meeting.
- Wednesday Mornings – were reserved for Green maintenance and could not be booked for matches unless specifically agreed with the Green Keeper.
- Friday Evenings – were reserved for Club Night and could not be booked for matches unless specifically agreed with the Club Captain.

If any contravention of this arrangement occurs, Peter will refer the matter to the Secretary.

From hearsay, it appears that a few Members do not use the website, and although no one has asked for help, it was of concern to the Committee as the website was now an essential and integrated part of Club practice and was likely to become more so.

Admin Support – Yvonne confirmed that she was coping with everything that was being asked of her and that whilst her role was predominantly to support the Secretary, she was happy to help other Committee Members as and when the need arises.

8. Competition Committee Report

Competitions have not been well subscribed this year. Play-by dates have had to be extended to clear the backlog of matches. The Pairs and Triples competitions have been difficult to organise. Next year they will take place on set days. New Members have entered competitions this year without understanding what is involved. Thanks to Yvonne for producing an information sheet for these Members, which could be developed for addition to Club

Rules. The Committee will be flexible with the play-by dates where possible but the situation needs to be addressed next year and a decision taken on the number of competitions which can be run and enjoyed.

9. AOB

- Bob thanked Peter for his outstanding work with the website, which was now essential to the running of the Club.
- Andy asked Fred to Captain the Masonic match on 14th July.
- Andy informed the meeting that the mixed friendly against Oreston on 27th July clashes with the Yealmpton Show. He is trying to rearrange.
- Yvonne asked why Members paid to play on Club Night. In prior years an eclectic competition took place and payment went towards the end of year trophy. The competition is not being run this year so payment will no longer be required.
- The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 26th July @ 10:30am

YW
8/7/22