

Yealmpton Bowling Club

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting held at the Clubhouse on 29th September 2022 at 10:30am

Committee Members present: Fred Lewis (President & Chairman), Andy Lugg (Club Captain), Colin George (Men's Team Captain), Mike Hexter (Treasurer), Mark Pope (Green Keeper), Bob Smith (Club Secretary), Annette Court-Hampton (Ladies Team Captain).

Volunteer Officers present: Andy Lugg (Estate Manager), Yvonne Willis (Admin Support), Peter Ford (Website Manager),

1. Apologies for Absence

Colin Burgess (Club Coach & Safeguarding), Mandy Holland (Ladies Vice Team Captain),

2. Minutes from previous meeting

These were approved as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

- Men's League Matches – after lengthy discussions it was agreed that a decision on the leagues played would be deferred until after 10th October, the date of the Men's executive P&D meeting, when the format of the men's league for 2023 should be known. If clubs amalgamate, this could increase the number of matches played, not decrease them. Bob to inform the P&D Fixture Secretary of Yealmpton's delayed decision.
- Coaching strategy – Colin B and Bob are working on a new strategy. A paper has been circulated to Committee members, who have been asked to respond with their comments.
- Fixtures for 2023 – this will be discussed later in this meeting.

4. Officer Reports

Club Secretary – Bob suggested that member email address and status should be added to the membership list. The committee supported and it will be put to the members at the AGM.

The renewal of the lease is now in the hands of the solicitors and there is a firm commitment from the landlord for a new one to be put in place.

The Athletics Club are aware of problems with youths and will meet to discuss how best to deal with the issue.

The Athletics Club have received an application from Devon Air Ambulance for use of the site at night. This will be considered by the Athletics Club Committee.

Treasurer

Mike informed the meeting that the bank balance at 29th September was £9,892, an increase of £1,404 compared to 2021. Rent is once again being paid after a 2 year moratorium. Insurance premiums have increased by £111. Mike thanked Don & Roseann BurrIDGE for their contribution of £226 from the bar profits. Fred asked Mike about the increased energy costs. Mike informed the meeting that whilst the Club was out of its fixed price contract little impact had been seen so far. Seeding and fertiliser were expected to increase in price in 2023 due to world shortages.

Club Captain

Andy reported that it had been a difficult year following the change of Captain in June coupled with the difficulties encountered in raising teams to play mixed friendlies. 25 matches were due to be played of which 14 were cancelled due to bad weather, heat, or lack of players. Andy was pleased to be able to report that of the 11 matches played, Yealmpton won 3. He was also pleased to report that some of the newer and previously reticent players took part and enjoyed the afternoon. Andy asked if email addresses and telephone numbers of Officers could be put on the "open" part of the website. This suggestion was supported by the Committee and will be put to the members at the AGM.

Ladies Team Captain

Annette reported that the Ladies had had a mixed season, ending on a good note with wins late in the season.

She informed the meeting that league players had been plagued by injury and illness making it difficult to raise teams. She noted that this was also a problem at other Clubs. She was pleased to note that entry to County Competitions in 2023 was double that in 2022. There was special mention of Roseann, Judy & Viv's Ben Trips success, when they were beaten by Plymstock in the final. During the closed season recruitment of new lady members for 2023 will be high on her priority list.

Men's Team Captain

Colin informed the meeting that he was happy with the way the season had gone. After a reasonably successful year the men had finished the season half way up the league. He was also happy with the men's selection process, which is likely to be emulated by the mixed friendly committee next season.

Fixtures Secretary

Fred informed the meeting that he had encountered no problems during the year and everything had gone smoothly. He has had a meeting with Bob who has now assumed the role of Fixtures Secretary following officer nomination. Bob informed the meeting that home and away fixtures had been arranged with Plymstock and Plympton. Further matches will be arranged, although due to the problems encountered this year, the number of matches will be reduced for the 2023 season. It was agreed that within the limit of 14 matches imposed for 2023, priority would be given to Home & Away fixtures with the same Club.

Club Coach

Colin thanked Bob for his input in the coaching and induction strategy. This will be finalised in the winter, ready for the new season.

Green Keeper

Mark informed the meeting that the summer maintenance is coming to an end. He was happy with the way the green had stood up to the extreme weather. Preparations are being made for the winter closure. During October, the green will be put to bed and volunteers will be called on to assist.

Volunteers Reports

Estate

Andy is aware that there are maintenance requirements and these will be addressed during the winter months – cisterns in the ladies and gents toilets need to be replaced, the clubhouse needs painting, the leak in the greenkeepers shed needs to be fixed, the hole in the fence needs to be fixed although no damage is being done to the green at the moment. Bob will discuss the fencing with the Athletics Club who own the section where there is a hole.

Website

Despite some significant challenges during the year, Peter reported that for the most part, the website has met its task. Peter once again thanked Bob for his support. Preparation of the website for the 2023 season will commence after the AGM. This will include the transfer of Committee Google accounts to the newly appointed Committee member. Peter welcomes the revision of the new member coaching period to include a website briefing. He would also be interested to know how many members do not have access to either a computer or an email address. Further website improvements will be circulated for consideration at the next Management meeting.

Competition Committee Report

Annette informed the meeting that the Competitions Committee had met on 26th September. After some initial issues with getting members to partake, all competitions went ahead and the finals day/bbq was a great success. Some new ideas were raised, - the Ladies 2 Wood to become a Club 2 Wood, all members to enter the Men's and Ladies handicap and Championship unless they ask not to be, Club Pairs to be reduced to 3 woods, 18 ends, restricting entry to the Longman Trophy to those in their first 4 years of outdoor bowling and using this criteria to enter a new player into each team in the Herbie Chilcott. These suggestions were supported by the Committee and will be put to the members at the AGM. The Committee will also address the issue of the cup shortage. Yvonne has calculated the handicaps for the 2023 season and these will be shared with the relevant members.

5. AGM

A couple of vacancies remain on selection committees, most of which the Committee believes will be filled at the AGM. No one has come forward to take on the Admin Support Role, although Carrie Dixon has offered to act as minutes secretary, handwriting the minutes of meetings. The cleaning rota is part of the Admin Support role and will transfer to the Estate Manager. However, due to the issues encountered this season, coupled with an ageing membership the current cleaning system needs to be reviewed. Proposals will be put to the members at the AGM.

Bob raised the question of the role of President and suggests removing this role. This would bring the Club into line with the Athletics Club. A proposal to this effect will be put to the membership at the AGM.

An email from Colin B queried the terminology surrounding the Chair. The committee felt that there was no need for the Club to be politically correct and will continue to refer to this position as 'Chairman'. Should a female become the chairman she can be addressed 'madam Chairman'

No questions were raised regarding the proposed changes to the Constitution. These will be put to the membership for approval at the AGM.

6. Changes to the Rules

Bob suggested that because the Rules encompass other items including general guidance, issues may arise from the AGM. It was agreed that, following the AGM, a working party would be set up to continue with the redrafting already started by Yvonne and Bob. The working party would be Bob, Colin B and Yvonne. A revised document would be brought back to the next meeting.

7. AOB

- Mike Hexter proposed that Pat Blake be made an honorary member of the Club in recognition of her service to the Club. Andy Lugg seconded the motion.
- Bob thanked Derek Andrews for his kind donation of £25 to provide new shelving in the greenkeepers shed.
- Colin G thanked Andy for his note to the band and also for the fee payment which helped the band pay its royalties for playing at the finals day BBQ.
- There will be food and a bar at the closing day President v Captains match on 9th October
- Yvonne queried cheque signatories following the installation of the new Management Committee at the AGM. The committee agreed to put a motion to the members that cheques are signed by 2 authorised committee members rather than any 2 from the Treasurer, Chairman and Secretary.
- New member recruitment for next year needs to be considered and will be incorporated into the new coaching strategy.
- A quiz has been organised for 12th November.
- Further social events will include the Mince Pie morning and a Christmas meal. Further details to be provided.

YW
29/9/22