

# Yealmpton Bowling Club

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting held at the Clubhouse on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 2:15pm

Committee Members present: Yvonne Willis (Club Secretary), Mike Hexter (Treasurer), Colin George (Men's Team Captain), Annette Court-Hampton (Ladies Team Captain), Bob Smith (Fixtures Secretary).

Volunteer Officers present: Ian Pepper (Estate Manager), Ray Moorhouse (Club Vice Captain).

The meeting was chaired by Colin George.

## Apologies for Absence

Roy Holland (Chairman), Andy Lugg (Club Captain), Colin Burgess (Club Coach & Safeguarding), Mandy Holland (Ladies Vice Team Captain), Mark Pope (Green Keeper), Peter Ford (Website Manager).

## Minutes from previous meeting (9/2/23)

These were approved as a true record of the meeting.

## Matters Arising from 9/2/23 Meeting

- BD have reimbursed expenses relating to the Open Day
- Advice on greenkeeping has been sought and will be discussed at this meeting.
- Yvonne has started the DBS application process for Colin B & Bob S.
- The fuel note was put onto the jerry cans but has since fallen off. This will need to be reattached.
- Ian Pepper has confirmed his willingness to be co-opted as Treasurer for the remainder of this financial year.
- Andy & Peter F have discussed the Mixed Friendly squad sheets. Recommendations for change will be tabled at the next meeting.

## Greens Sub-Committee Report

Bob thanked those Members who had volunteered to assist with the green. 4 teams of 3 working in rotation were set up, although one Member has subsequently dropped out. A work schedule has been prepared until the end of the season and because the team is bigger, more work can be done. There continues to be a problem with one of the mowers.

Experts have been consulted – John Palfrey of Avoncroft Suppliers and James Collins who is a greens expert, maintaining many greens in Devon, including SFD & Unity Park.

Basic problems have been identified:

- Thatch is too deep (1 ½" when it should be ¼" – ½").
- Ground beneath is too hard.
- Water and nutrients aren't reaching the grass roots allowing moss to grow & dominate.

Recommendations have been received to see the Club through to the end of this season, but Members should note that there will not be a massive improvement this season.

The proposed solution offered by James is:

- End of season work – deep scarify, hollow core, overseed and apply top dressing.
- Monthly work during the closed season – moss & weed control, edging, scarifying, rolling.
- Monthly work during playing season – verticutting, rolling, spiking, fertilise & spray for moss and pest control.

The Club does not have the manpower or equipment required to carry out the necessary work. Bob proposed that the Club entered into an agreement with James for the next 12 months (commencing 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023). Ray noted that it was unlikely that improvements would be seen until later next year and the Club should look at continuing with the arrangement for at least 2 years.

A discussion took place regarding the costs and the impact on the bank balance. Annette will contact Yealm Community Energy to see if any grant funding is available. Mike also suggested exploring the Community 'coin' option. In the longer term it was accepted that membership fees may have to rise to cover the green costs.

The Committee voted unanimously to accept a one-year agreement with James Collins with a review in a year's time.

### **Mixed Friendly Matches**

Yvonne read Andy's email to the Committee which asked the Committee to consider the impact of playing the remaining 4 home Mixed Friendly matches. Bob said that there would be no further damage to the green if the matches went ahead and the Committee members present agreed that the green was playing better now, compared to a couple of weeks ago, even though it doesn't look good. The remaining Men's and Ladies matches will go ahead unless there is an instruction from the greenkeeper to suspend play. The Committee agreed that the Club or Vice Club Captain should contact the 4 Clubs, making them aware that the green is not playing as well as we would like and offering the option to cancel the match, play being aware that the green could be better or play the home game at the opponents rink. Ray will contact Plymstock & Devon Masonics and Andy will be asked to contact Oreston & Yelverton.

### **AOB**

- Annette informed the Committee that when she was cleaning the Men's toilet was in an unpleasant state. This has been caused by a flushing issue. Ian informed the meeting that Andy had the required parts. The flush needs to be fixed as a matter of urgency.
- Bob informed the meeting that the Club had been asked to host a BD Ladies match against Section 8 Ladies on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024. This would involve 6 rinks. The Committee agreed that the match could be hosted by Yealmpton.
- The date of the next scheduled Management meeting is Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm. The AGM will be held on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 2pm.
- Subject to the Club Captain's and Chairman's availability it was proposed that the end of season match be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October to enable the end of season green work to commence on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed.

YW  
20/7/23