

Yealmpton Bowling Club

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting held at the Clubhouse on 5th October 2023 at 2:15pm

Committee Members present: Roy Holland (Chairman) Yvonne Willis (Club Secretary), Ian Pepper (Co-opted 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), Peter Ford (Website Manager).

Apologies for Absence

Andy Lugg (Club Captain), Mike Hexter (Treasurer), Colin Burgess (Club Coach & Safeguarding), Mark Pope (Green Keeper), Mandy Holland (Ladies Vice Team Captain).

Minutes from previous meeting (20/7/23)

These were approved as a true record of the meeting.

Matters Arising from 20/7/23 Meeting

- Andy & Peter F have discussed the Mixed Friendly squad sheets. The proposal to add an introductory sentence to the MF selection instructions was accepted by those present.
- Of the remaining 4 mixed friendly matches, Plymstock, Oreston and Yelverton all agreed to host the Yealmpton 'home' games on their greens. Devon Masonics cancelled their match and are willing to return next year to bowl on an improved green.
- The flush in the men's toilet has been fixed.

Secretary's Report

Membership during the year has increased by 8 (5 male and 3 female).

BD & BE affiliation fees are expected to increase in 2024 and this cost forms part of the membership fee. Recent correspondence received from BE states that members must be informed of the cost of affiliation. Yvonne will ensure that this happens.

Yvonne asked for an update on the lease – Bob confirmed that the draft of the new Lease was being considered by Solicitors and he was confident agreement would be reached well before the end of the current Lease.

Treasurer's Report

Ian reported that the Clubs bank balance at 30th September was £12,413.77, up by £2,481.43 from the same time last year. After adjusting for unpaid rent and Green 100 prize money the amount available is around £11,745. The accounts are due to be examined prior to the AGM.

Club Captain's Report

The number of mixed friendly matches for 2024 to remain the same as 2023.

Men's Team Captain Report

Colin G informed the meeting that the squad sheets had worked well but it would be helpful if members could amend their own availability in 2024. Bob and Peter will ensure that this facility is made available. Despite a playing squad of approx. 20 male members there were times when it was difficult to put out teams. The men did not have a terribly good season. Colin proposed that in 2024 the men did not enter the Devon County knockout cups – Foxland, County Trophy and Top Club but continued with the P&D cups – Farley and Buck/Littleton. Additionally, it was agreed that for a trial period of 1 year, the men would not participate in the P&D evening league. Participation in the Saturday and Triples leagues will continue.

Ladies Team Captain Report

Annette was happy to report that the ladies finished 3rd in the 2nd division of the league. There were no mixed friendly matches this year. Annette feels that with the ladies are offered sufficient competitive matches, with many playing in County matches, league and club competitions.

The ladies P&D executive meeting will be held on 21st October.

Fixture Secretary's Report

Apart from disruptions caused by the weather and the green issues, the fixtures were completed reasonably successfully. Dates have already been set for some of the 2024 matches – Patrons, Marlton (home and away), Totnes (home and away) and the Devon Ladies V Section 8.

Bob proposed officially opening the green on Sunday 14th April and closing on 5th October. The green would be available for play from Monday 8th April.

Coach's Report

The Open Day for new members seemed to have worked this year. Without Bob's help coaching would not be easy because members join at different times and are therefore at different stages. Currently, most of the new bowlers are only interested roll-up but over time it is hoped that they become more competitive. Colin is confident that some of the new bowlers will become good league players and others good Club members.

Greenkeeper's Report

Bob thanked all members who volunteered to join the green team and for their considerable efforts in keeping the green playable over the last half of the season by regularly sweeping, cutting and watering. Rinks have been regularly changed to even out the wear.

A workday to close down the site was carried out on 3rd October and Bob thanked the 8 members who turned out. The green is now ready for the contractor to 'move in', the date being dependant on a delivery of topsoil. The contractor will be working on the green on the first Monday of each month from November.

Bob informed the Committee that he has agreed to cover Mark in 2024 if necessary.

Safeguarding Officers Report

Nothing to report.

Website Manager's Report

Peter was pleased to report that he'd received no complaints about the website and that despite numerous changes to Fixture and Competition arrangements, he felt the website had fulfilled it's function again this year.

Two website briefing sessions were held and he was pleased with these sessions. They will be repeated next season if required.

Estate Manager's Report

During the closed season work is required in the tool shed and the roof leak needs investigating.

Competitions Committee Report

Annette reported that after some difficulties all finals were played by the finals weekend. Some of the difficulties were caused by earlier rounds not being played on time. In 2024 play by dates will be strictly enforced. All competitions will be run in 2024 so long as there are a minimum of 8 entries/teams. The Longman Trophy did not take place due to insufficient members putting their names down. Annette suggested that in 2024 all eligible members will be automatically entered and the initial rounds played on a Friday evening allowing working members to compete.

In 2024 the finals will be played over one weeks – 1st to 8th September. The Herbie Chilcott will be played over a weekend – 12th-14th July. The Ashcroft and Men's Championship finals will be played on 1st September, subject to the availability of the Ashcroft family.

Colin G suggested running a 2 wood pairs round robin competition to encourage newer members to play competitively in a less pressurised environment. This was well received and Colin will work on a suitable format.

Risk Assessment

Annette and Ray have undertaken a Risk Assessment, assessing the activities of Playing Bowls, Use of Clubhouse and Changing Areas and Ground Maintenance. Risks have been identified, the controls currently in place noted and recommendations made where necessary. Risks have also been rated and assigned an 'action by date' where necessary. The Committee accept that this is a work in progress document and will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

AGM

Yvonne confirmed that the AGM Notice had been issued by email to all members and by hand to those who do not have access to email. Copies have also been placed on the 3 Club noticeboards.

The Agenda was confirmed.

Since the nomination sheets came down, Anne Purr has offered to fill the Competition Committee vacancy, Ray Moorhouse the male member of the Mixed Friendly Selection Committee and Mandy Holland the Ladies Selection Committee vacancy. This leaves 2 vacant positions - Admin Support and the lady member of the Mixed Friendly Selection Committee.

Topics so far raised by the membership surround Clubhouse Cleaning. A proposal to operate this by utilising only those members who are not on other committees/working parties will be discussed at the next Management meeting and taken to the Spring Meeting.

Prior to the meeting Yvonne circulated 3 proposed Constitution changes. These were supported by the Committee and will be presented to the Members at the AGM. A proposed amendment to include a volunteer role of Men's Team Vice Captain was rejected. For the 2025 playing season it was proposed that the Ladies Team Vice Captain role was dispensed with, bringing the Men's and Ladies into line. The Vice Captain role would be undertaken by members of the respective selection committees. This would be subject to the current Ladies Team Captains agreement.

Rule Changes

4 minor changes to the Rules were circulated prior to the meeting. These related to club competitions, dress code and health and safety reporting. All changes were accepted by the Committee. A further suggestion by Peter regarding the removal of a couple of words in the mixed friendly selection procedures was also accepted. The Rules will be updated with changes being highlighted to the membership.

Sponsorship

Andy, Annette and Yvonne met with Wildanet in the summer to discuss a possible sponsorship deal. Wildanet are prepared to pay £100 to erect a banner on our fence and donate a £20 Amazon voucher for each sign-up via a link on the Club's website. Concerns have been raised about possible damage to the fence and fence supports should the banner become detached during high winds; breach of website contract if a 3rd party link is put on our website. Yvonne informed the meeting that she had recently received correspondence indicating that the banner was ready for erection despite Wildanet being told that everything was subject to Committee approval! After discussion, the Committee rejected the current deal, wishing instead to see the sponsorship of new club shirts. Yvonne will inform Wildanet accordingly.

Club Shirts

The Club shirts through the existing supplier, Shotbowl, are costly. Kitworld in Plymouth have been approached and they are able to offer the Club shirt for £20 whether an order is placed for 1 or 100. A design change is also being investigated, retaining the current colours. Bob to contact the Chair of BD to determine a) whether, during a transition period, members can wear either shirt when playing representative matches and b) whether the new design is acceptable.

AOB

- The committee were informed of the costs associated with having a defibrillator on site (£775 - £1,195 + VAT after grant funding). Bob raised the issue of access with the locked gates. It was generally felt that the Athletics Club would be a better place to sight a defibrillator. Bob will raise at the next Athletics Club meeting.
- Yvonne reported that Ian had received all necessary information to allow him access to the bank accounts, whilst she is waiting for her authentication card. The next steps will be to make Bob & Colin B full power signatories, change the mailing address and remove Mike Hexter from the mandate.
- Yvonne reported that the insurance had been renewed. Bob raised a question regarding cricket balls coming over the fence and hitting someone on the bowls green. Contact will be made with the insurers to determine who would be liable in such an instance.
- Social events have been organised for the winter months – quiz night 18th November, Christmas Social 9th December, Post Christmas Meal 11th January, Lifecentre indoor bowls challenge 4th February. Emails have been sent to all members.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed.