

Yealmpton Bowling Club

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting held at the Clubhouse on 20th February 2025 at 10:30am

Committee Members present: Andy Lugg (Chairman), Yvonne Willis (Club Secretary), Ian Pepper (Treasurer), Annette Court-Hampton (Ladies Team Captain & Safeguarding Officer), Colin George (Fixtures Secretary), Mark Pope (Men's Team Captain & Green Keeper/Manager)

Apologies for Absence

Bob Smith (Coach/Trainer & Website Manager)

Minutes from 1st October Meeting

These were circulated prior to the meeting. Mark proposed and Annette seconded that they be accepted as a true record.

Matters arising from 1st October Meeting

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report

Yvonne informed the meeting that up to £100 was available to Clubs holding Open Days before 18th May.

Affiliation fees for 2025 are – BD £4, BE£7.10 and S8 £0.50.

County competition fees for 2026 will be £5 for majors and, subject to approval at the S8 Spring Meeting, £2.50 for minors.

BD have asked all clubs to make payments by BACS due to the recent bank charge levy.

The Men's P&D are still seeking a new Secretary – Yvonne has emailed the male members asking if anyone is interested.

The S8 Spring meeting will be held on 17th March and the Men's P&D Spring meeting on 7th April.

Treasurer's Report

Ian informed the meeting that the current bank balance was £7,971 after paying the outstanding rent which is now paid until 31st March 2026. The grounds contractor is being paid monthly and the mower service has been paid.

Fixture Secretary's Report

Colin confirmed that all men's and ladies league matches had been arranged.

Marldon have not responded to a request for home and away mixed friendly fixtures. Lee Moor will replace the Marldon fixture with a home match on 11th May and an away match on 15th June.

Colin asked who the contact was for changes/cancellation during the season. Andy suggested incoming calls should be via Colin and outgoing calls via the Captain of the Day.

The MF selection committee will need to meet and appoint a chairman who will confirm the arrangements to Colin.

There are a couple of match clashes – 8th May has now been resolved and the ladies league match on 2nd June will need to be rescheduled.

Greenkeeper's Report

Mark informed the meeting that the schedule of winter works prepared by Bob Smith had been very successful during the winter period. Work by the contractor and the green teams continues to improve the quality of the green.

Mark thanked all members of the green team who have worked hard during the winter period. Mark also informed the Committee that the mower has been away for service and is due to be returned later today.

Estate Manager

David Pain informed the Committee that he was standing down in January. There is much work that needs to be scheduled and Yvonne was asked to email the members in the hope that someone would take on the vacant role.

The Committee agreed to engage a painter to paint the Clubhouse ceiling at a cost of £350 including materials.

Members will be asked to assist with painting the internal and external walls of the Clubhouse. Internally the colours will be in keeping with Club colours. External walls will be blue. Andy will obtain some colour charts.

Discussion took place regarding the chemicals being stored in the general equipment shed. It was agreed that this will be an item on the next agenda and Mark suggested that chemicals should be run down and provided by the greens contractor as and when required.

Website Manager's Report

Yvonne reported, on behalf of Bob, that the website is ready for the 2025 season. Bob suggested maintaining only one blog – the Management blog. Committee members agreed to this proposal. Information will be kept on the blog for 1 year, then moved to the archives for a further year prior to permanent deletion. Committee members also asked for the Team Selection sheets and the Competition Draw Sheets to be held in the archives for 1 year.

Yvonne will ask Bob if this is possible.

The members access code will change on 19th April and members will be notified of the new number in the opening season email sent out by Yvonne.

Mark will continue to be the grounds 'security manager'.

Competition Committee Report

Annette informed the meeting that whilst the Committee hadn't met, she had emailed new and old committee members seeking their opinions on the number of competitions. After discussion it was agreed that the Handicaps, Longman and Herbie would not be held in 2025. The Ashcroft would be run as the Club Pairs, without a cash prize. Total competitions would be 7 instead of 12. This is for a trial period. Entry fees will remain £1. Annette will take this proposal to the Spring Meeting.

Team Selection Process

Ladies will be run on the ladies notice board and email and will NOT be on the website.

Men and Mixed Friendlies will continue on the website. The feeling is that whilst the process wasn't perfect last year, it was better than noticeboards and email.

Bob has fixed the rows containing the dates and the columns containing members names.

Hopefully this will make the website process more user friendly.

Updates to Club Rules

Yvonne circulated proposed changes prior to the meeting. These were accepted and Yvonne will update the Rules prior to the start of the season.

The Committee agreed that references to 'Club Captain' and 'Club Coach' should remain for the time being.

Yvonne highlighted areas where changes may be required. Some of these areas have been resolved at today's meeting and a revised document will be distributed by email to the Committee prior to distributing to the membership.

Coaching

Prior to the meeting Yvonne circulated a document which included an extract from a note written by Bill Smith following his attendance at the 2024 Counties Conference. This note indicated that anyone performing any form of coaching must have an up to date DBS and hold a Coach Bowls certificate. Committee members have raised concerns about the content of this note. Yvonne will contact insurers and add Civil Liability cover. Yvonne is awaiting a response from the BE policy department. Until further information is received the committee unanimously agreed to continue 'as is'. However, an Open Day will not be held this year. Yvonne will investigate the number of hours required to complete the Coach Bowls course and relevant information will be taken to the Spring Meeting.

Licencing

Andy informed the meeting that Bob had been in touch with the Athletics Club who have since confirmed that their licence covers a specific area which does not extend to the bowls club. Bob will ask if it is possible for the licence to be extended at the next AC meeting. Andy has carried out some research – a premises licence would allow the Club to sell alcohol to anyone whereas a club premises certificate would allow the sale of alcohol to members and their guests. The year 1 cost for a certificate is circa £470 with ongoing costs of circa £70. The committee asked Andy to pursue this avenue.

Honours Board

A quote of £104 has been received to update the Board. The Committee accepted the quote and Yvonne will arrange a mutually convenient time for this to be done.

Spring Meeting 2025

The Spring Meeting agenda was agreed and Yvonne will distribute to the membership within the next week. Andy asked that the Post Christmas Dinner be discussed under AOB.

2025 Subscriptions

Discussions took place regarding the fees to 2025. There are many unknowns making it difficult to set a budget for the coming year. Committee members unanimously agreed to set the fees at £120 for full membership, £66 for social playing membership, £15 for social membership and £5 for visitors.

It is hoped that there will be no increase in 2026.

New Season Advertising

Yvonne circulated 2 new season adverts and an Open Day advert prior to the meeting. The new season adverts, after agreed amendments, will be placed in the local Parish magazines.

AOB

- Pre-opening clubhouse cleaning will take place week commencing 14th April.
- Ian Pepper will renew the energy when the existing contract expires in April.
- Members will be asked to pay by BACS rather than cash / cheques due to the new bank fees being levied on the account.
- The Ashcroft bench will be purchased and Andy will liaise with Neil Ashcroft regarding the wording on the plaque.
- The new gate code has been agreed and will be issued to the membership at the Spring Meeting and in the new season email.
- Yealmpton Parish Council will be awarding the Club a grant of £450 in April. This money has to be spent on Clubhouse refurbishment with the Club providing circa £900 of expenditure.
- A bid will be made for grant funding from Revelstoke for greens equipment including ditch liners, commercial hosepipe, mower battery and charger.
- Annette has suggested applying for funding through YCE. Yvonne is unsure that we have a relevant project. Annette will make further enquiries.
- Social events – 22nd March the Sunset Swing Band, 27th April Opening Roll Up, 7th September Finals Day. There will also be a mid-season bowls event and a closing day event.
- Green 100 will continue.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 12:45pm.

YW

21/2/25