

## **Three Mile Cross Bowling Club**

### **Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held May 18<sup>th</sup> 2024**

#### **Present:**

Adrian Salmon (AS) President  
Geoff Malham (GM) Chair  
Bill Bissett (BB) Secretary  
Debbie Bissett (DB) Bar/Entertainments  
Linda Salmon (LS) Ladies Secretary  
David Hearn (DH) Treasurer  
Daf Ashby (DA) Membership Secretary  
Terry Wardle (TW) Captain  
Keith Hall (KH) Fixtures Secretary  
Claire Morrison (CM) Communications  
Andy Friend (AF) Green Maintenance

#### **1. Chair to address committee**

Prior to commencement of the meeting GM apologised for the uncertainty regarding him taking up the post as Chair. His operation has been postponed, so he has rejoined the club and now feels able to take up the post of Chair.

#### **2. Apologies**

Michele Vale (MV) Recruitment

#### **3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting, held February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Minutes accepted as accurate.

#### **4. Matters Arising, not listed on the agenda**

- Change of Trustees: BB reported that he has tried to make direct contract with Deborah Clark of The Head Partnership several times by email and phone with nil success. He reported that he has concerns regarding THP's lack of engagement, which is extending what should be

a simple process. He also has concerns regarding their pricing, which he has ask for clarification on and has to date been ignored, phone calls and emails going unanswered. Current trustees have yet to verify that they will agree to THP's pricing and BB is still waiting for clarification of total pricing, having emailed them four weeks ago. It was discussed on how best to proceed.

**Action BB** will; write to THP to complain, determine progress made, ask for cost incurred to date, state we are considering engagement of an alternative solicitor, determine cost if we extract ourselves from THP and use alternative solicitor. We are mindful of the long relationship TMX has had with THP so will, as necessary work with THP to resolve.

- Honours Boards: KH apologised action is outstanding.

**Action - KH** will cost them out and determine sizing.

- Framed photographs: Action not progressed.

**Action – LS&DB** framed photograph to be displayed of last year's County competition successes and a second photograph displayed of TMX Ladies County players.

- Investigate options for central storage of documents – CM  
CM reported that several options have been considered by herself and Ivor Atkins: Website, Google workspace and Google documents on Google drive.

Google drive is to be investigated further as looks to be most suited to TMX's needs. **Action – CM** to progress.

- Fund raising - AS&DH to approach finance leads at local clubs regarding tax implications associate with sponsorship and fundraising.  
AS reported that he has yet to engage with a treasurer at a local club but hoped to do so on 19<sup>th</sup> May.

AS went on to say that he had revisited the HMRC website to determine which clubs locally were listed as Community Amateur Sports Clubs. He found that Burnham, Didcot, Basingstoke Town, Trentham, Prospect Park, Twyford, Wargrave, Suttons, Maiden Erlegh, Maidenhead Town, Maidenhead Thicket and Shiplake were all listed.

**Action AS** to investigate how these clubs deal with HMRC and corporation tax.

- Cost out internet and fixed phone line options – DH  
DH reported that he had investigated options finding Talk Talk, who we are currently contracted with for fixed line, do a Simply Business

Broadband @ £16.45 per month plus VAT, which is less than our current rate (£21.53 plus VAT). This service supports broadband (Unlimited data @ 13Meg/sec) and voice calls. Calls are extra. Nil calls have been made from the clubhouse in the last several months.

Alternative is Complete Business Broadband at £22.45 per month plus VAT with unlimited calls.

Simply Business Broadband is seen as a good option as it would allow us to connect the SumUp and a limited number of devices to the broadband, improving connectivity. CM would be willing to donate an iPad to the club to facilitate BIAS access.

**Action: DH** to determine if we can keep our current phone number and if the service will support an external bell.

- External bell options for mobiles – BB reported that he could not find a product to support.
- Safeguarding posters, health and safety and disciplinary policy – BB reported that he had not made much progress. AS advised, he had a photo of Marilyn Legg (ML). As we now have the photo's CM will put the Safeguarding information online and BB will progress hard copies for the club house. Health and Safety and disciplinary have yet to be progressed. **Action BB and CM** as above.

**5. Treasurer Report:** DH referred to his report previously circulated, for full details.

Current account stands at £12,129, but we do have outstanding costs; mower service and repair £1,156 and County affiliation fees @ £660. DH went on the say considering the above expenses, our financial position is very close to that of last year.

**6. Boundary Dispute:** BB reminded the committee that he had distributed a summary of the interaction with Wokingham Planning Enforcement team. The headlines being:

1. The conversion of the 2m fence into a gate does not require planning permission.
2. Change of use, for example to residential garden or for storage, does require planning permission.
3. Enforcement team to write to owner of Briony (Bill Rhymes (BR)) to advise he does not have planning permission to change the use of the land and that the land is under Three Miles Cross Bowls club ownership.

AS asked that we approach Wokingham planning to determine, if we made use of the gate to gain pedestrian and vehicle access to our land, would we be in breach of planning.

Until we determine Wokingham planning's position on the above, no further contact will be made with BR.

**Action BB** to email planning enforcement team for clarification.

**7. Data protection** (standing item) CM advised nothing to report.

**8. Safeguarding Officer (SO)** BB advised nothing to report.

**9. Disabled Facilities** – BB updated that he had spoken with the builder who advised he will provide a quote and apologised for the delay. Once received we can apply for grants.

**10. Officers reports.**

**KH** – reported that the competitions have been published and are posted in the club house.

**DB** Bar manager - Requested that the captain of the day for friendly matches reminds all members on the day to help the bar staff as necessary, clear, and clean off tables after matches.

**DB** Entertainment manager – Ask if committee would like a specific summer event to raise funds. Multiple options discussed – settled on Aussie Rules game with food after the game, 14:00 on 27<sup>th</sup> July. If successful a second event will be held on the August bank holiday. More details to follow.

GM mentioned David Jenkins has developed a music quiz application which runs online and he also runs events locally in pubs/clubs. It was felt this was something we could incorporate into an evening event and will be kept in mind. DB to reach out to David.

**CM** – reported that on BIAS rink booking has been updated to incorporate competitions. Issues regarding members rejoining on BIAS has been resolved. Changes to the format of games (number of rinks/players) has been worked through and as long as selection has not been completed, CM is able to accommodate.

Website - updated with open day photos. Safeguarding page will be updated once SO picture received.

Facebook – has been used extensively over last month advertising/promoting the club and the open days. 7,700 people have been reached, we have had 518 visits to the site with 266 comments received.

It was noted that local Facebook groups can only be used on specific days to advertise events.

**LS** - reported that she and DB attended the Ladies Presidents invitation day at Reading.

**AF** – reported that the Green is coming along and that the contractor has advised that when cutting the newly laid grass on the clubhouse edge the mower should be lower 1mm at a time cutting off no more than one third of the length. It is estimated that it will take another four weeks before we can bowl clubhouse to hedge.

**TW** – reported that for Kennet League we have played three games, lost two and one won. Very encouraging to date with twenty-two members applying to play in the matches. Friendly games to 29<sup>th</sup> May – total of twelve to play. First three games we managed to increase numbers putting on an extra triple in each. Basingstoke cancelled due heavy rain. To date we have lost three and won two games. To date, eighteen members have yet to play in a friendly match nine members having only played one match. TW is aware of members with health issues but encourages all other members to play friendly matches where possible to support the club.

**DH** – reported that the Lotto is well supported this year.

**MV** – reported that we were lucky with the weather on our two Open Days and the club and green looked its best. We had 14 visitors on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 20 on May 11<sup>th</sup>, although three had visited the previous week. Eileen has confirmed that she will be able to supervise the coaching and Judith Chree has kindly agreed to assist again. As at Thursday evening 12 people have signed up for coaching. I have had a couple of suggestions from club members who helped on the day which would help improve the visitors' experience and the recruitment team would be happy to hear about any other ideas people may have. We would like to thank all those club members who gave up their time to support.

**DA** – reported that Eileen and David Allen have rejoined. This was deemed to be very positive.

## **11. Any Other Business –**

- Car park mower – KH reported that he had taken the mower back to the engineer who serviced it three weeks ago, as it kept cutting out. Engineer determined that the fuel was contaminated. Carburettor cleaned and problem resolved. Source of contamination identified as being the storage cans.  
**Action complete** - new cans purchased and fuel passed through a filter to remove contaminate.
- Planning application for work to MOT garage – BB reported that we have received a planning application notice. Ian has submitted plans for improvement work to the outside walls and roof of the building. This will increase the width of the structure by 600mm. Work involved will also demolish the rear porta cabin and add insulation to the building.  
**Action BB** to talk with Ian to determine when proposed work is to be undertaken.
- Trees in ditch area – BB reported that a neighbour in one of the houses in Bowling Lane had engaged tree surgeons to cut branches off the northern most tree. Rather than just cut off any branches overhanging into their garden, they were up in the tree cutting back to the trunk. Once we realised what was going on BB stopped them. Turns out neighbour was unclear where the boundary lay. No real harm done to the tree as they tidied it up at their cost.

Whilst on site BB asked the tree surgeon to price up for the removal of the three trees which look diseased/dead. BB shared the price with the committee who agreed to proceed with the removal of all three trees, as cost deemed to be very reasonable. **Action complete BB** to reached out to the company and arrange removal for the 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Tree surgeon also advised we write to the residents' association in Mitford Close, to ask that they remove the tree on their land which overhangs the clubhouse. He believes tree has Dutch Elm disease.  
**Action BB** – to determine who the resident's association coordinator is and to write to them expressing our concerns.

- Changes to Fine Images building - gate security.  
BB reported that Ian has written to Wokingham planning to raise his concerns regarding not having seen the planning applications for the

work now completed to change use to a one-bedroom dwelling. He also asked them to review gate security, as when entering the alley, the resident will not be able to lock the gate behind them, compromising site security, which in turn will impact Ian's insurance and leave the TMX vulnerable. **Action BB** to follow up with Ian.

- Use of Clubhouse and Green by Budgens, for a staff night Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July. Neil Argyle (NA) was approach by Nick at Budgens to ask if they can have a staff night with bowling included. Neil happy to host. DH and Gill Hearn are also happy to support. Committee would like finalised details, the preference being they come and bowl then eat afterwards.  
**Action NA** to get details and report back to committee.
- Ditch area working party – BB asked that we get a working party together as the weeds are overgrown. AF suggested we get a team together on a Thursday. **Action completed** - AF has sent out a note asking for volunteers for 23<sup>rd</sup> to do the ditch. He has also asked for regular support on Thursdays to undertake general maintenance, so that we stay on top of all work.
- CM asked that all captains input scores on BIAS.

## **16. Date of Next Meeting**

This was agreed for Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

There being no further business, GM closed the meeting.