

Three Mile Cross Bowling Club

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held September 3, 2023.

Present :

Geoff Malham [GM] Chairman

Tony Cook [TC] President

Neil Argyle [NA] Secretary

David Hearn [DH] Treasurer

Bill Bissett [BB] Captain

Keith Hall [KH] Fixtures Secretary

Daf Ashby [DA] Membership Secretary

Linda Salmon [LS] Ladies' Secretary

Debbie Bissett [DB] Bar/Entertainments

1. Apologies

Received from Michele Vale [MV], Claire Morrison [CM] and Andy Friend [AF].

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting, held June 22, 2023

These were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising, not listed on the Agenda

Bar Manager : NA reported that he circulated a message to members regarding a volunteer for 2024 but had not received any response.

Raffles : It was confirmed that the prize money raffles were working well. LS made the point that it would look better if the money could be placed in the envelopes provided rather than the winners just being given cash.

Club Shirts : CM had confirmed that an order had been placed with Karuta for 10 shirts, 8 of which for members and two to be added to the lending stock.

Montelle Motors : DB confirmed that she had spoken with Ian Alleyne and his camera only covers his own parking area.

Gap in Hedge : NA reported that John Robertson was happy to advise on what might be a solution but anything grown needed to be planted on the neighbour's side. KH agreed to speak to the neighbour to see if he would be happy with this idea. **ACTION KH**

KH also commented that lifting of the green edges needed doing soon in view of a pending County inspection. LS agreed to ask Adrian Salmon to talk to the contractors during their next visit. **ACTION LS**

Trees : In view of AF's absence there was nothing to report regarding the state of some nearby trees. DB commented that the slabs to be laid in the car park to create a walkway across the lawn would need to be done before the winter.

West Berks Shield and Plate : NA confirmed that he had entered the club in this competition.

Day Trip to Somerset : NA reported that he had spoken to Graham Brown and was waiting to hear from his club about a possible date in 2024.

4. Treasurer Report

DH referred to his report, previously circulated. The funds available at the end of July stood at £10,173, plus the £2,000 reserve, which was a slight improvement on that of last year.

It was noted that reductions in games and player numbers impacted on the income from rink fees, bar sales and raffle.

The issue with Castle Water had still not been resolved but it was apparent that the ball was in their court with regard to querying any historical bills.

5. Boundary Dispute

BB provided an update on the situation and produced a plan of the Taylor Wimpey estate and surrounding properties which had been obtained from Land Registry. He had also obtained land index searches for a number of neighbouring properties, apart from one outstanding.

BB reported that he had physically measured the club's site and compared it with the plan and all dimensions came within a metre. He had also used a Google Maps aerial view of the plot and come to very nearly the same dimensions.

BB informed Committee members that he and NA had recently met informally with an ex Planning Officer [related to David Hearn's family] who had confirmed that all the information provided by BB appeared to be accurate.

BB referred to a small strip of land which sat between the edge of the club's property and the TW estate. The inference was that TW might have purposefully kept this as a " ransom strip " in order for them to reap value from any future sale or development of the site.

BB also reported that the land occupied by Bill Rhymes was overgrown and obviously not in use, nor was the gate locked. BB had recently tidied up that site towards demonstrating that it belonged to the club.

After discussion it was agreed that BB should first obtain the outstanding index search then the subcommittee seek another meeting with Jo Murphy of TW to confirm all our findings. Once all the details are confirmed it would then be appropriate to inform BR that the club's findings were unequivocal and the offer of a peppercorn rent withdrawn.

6. Review of Trustees

BB left the room for this item.

NA reported that since the previous meeting he had received five nominations for the three vacancies which will occur at the AGM.

After discussion it was agreed to appoint BB, CM and Adrian Salmon. This would be formalised at the AGM.

CM had stipulated that she only intended to fill the role for a period of five years, therefore the Committee agreed that a review of all trustees should take place in five years' time. The Constitution would again need to be changed following agreement at the AGM. **ACTION NA**

7. Data Protection [standing item]

Claire Morrison had issued a report which said that the CCTV Policy had been issued in August and Brian Dew had agreed to act as Systems Manager. The policy was available to see on the website. She suggested that members should acknowledge that they accept the policy on renewing their membership. This was agreed. **ACTION DA**

8. AGM

NA reported that the date would need to be set so that he could issue the schedule for Officer Appointments for 2024 prior to the Finals Weekend, i.e. when people were still around. This was agreed for Sunday, November 19 at 10.30am.

9. Presentation Evening

DB described the arrangements, the majority of which were in an email recently circulated. The date had been set for Saturday, November 11.

DB commented that the attendance charge had been maintained even though costs had risen over the year. She would be requesting volunteers to help with shopping for the food and cleaning the kitchen. Brian and Julie Dew had offered to run the bar on the night.

10. Letter from Eileen Allen

This letter referred to a new member who had joined without going through the coaching sessions. It was agreed that this was due to confusion over whether the member had played before and that in future any new member should be thoroughly vetted to ascertain if they needed coaching or could be allowed to play without doing so. **ACTION DA**

11. Officers' Reports

CM had produced a report saying that the Constitution and Job Descriptions of Officers had been published on the website. She had also reported that she had recently issued a questionnaire concerning the value of the BIAS system towards deciding if it should be continued and what additional features might be taken up.

BB reported that a competition had recently been held for new bowlers, which had been well received.

TC thanked everyone for their support throughout the year.

LS thanked everyone who contributed to the party held for Joan Baker. A book of photographs had been compiled. Joan was very appreciative of the event.

LS referred to the Finals Weekend and the need for donations of cakes etc. for offer on the days.

KH reported that the County had asked for clubs to volunteer the hosting of finals etc.. He intended to reply that the club would be open to any dates that could be accommodated.

DB reported that the pipework in the bar was planned to be taken out the next day. This would remove the need for regular cleaning which, together with replenishment of stock, might be a disincentive for anyone thinking about applying to be the Bar Manager for next year. Draft beer would then be replaced with small casks, such as IPA, and bottled beer. She advocated that a further fridge should be acquired in view of the need for extra cold storage space. This was agreed. **ACTION DB**

DB reported that nobody had come forward to take on the Bar Manager role and suggested that one solution would be for her to continue buying stock and Committee members take turns to oversee the actual running of the bar.

KH reported that he had dropped Thatcham from the list of friendlies as they had cancelled for two years running. Fleet and Woodley had also cancelled games this year through lack of playing support.

KH reported that the honours board needed to be updated and he would contact the gentleman who did it last time. It was suggested that some of the new competitions could be added on smaller boards adjacent to the trophy cabinet. KH agreed to investigate. **ACTION KH**

KH reported that the Finals Weekend would need to start on the Friday in view of some players being in a number of finals. He intended to issue the schedule shortly.

KH reported that it might be possible for the club to host a VP's game, particularly in view of the traditional fixture of Oxford v Isle of Wight game not scheduled for 2024. This was unfortunate, apparently the cost of travel to the mainland being the reason.

12. Any Other Business

GM asked if the Webber should continue. This was agreed for the next two weeks and that volunteers should be sought for the barbecue. NA agreed to send out a message to members. **ACTION NA**

13. Date of Next Meeting

This was agreed for Sunday, October 29 at 10am.

There being no further business, GM closed the meeting at 12.05pm.

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