

Three Mile Cross Bowling Club

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting, held Saturday October 8, 2022.

Present :

Tony Cook [TC] President

Neil Argyle [NA] Chairman and Secretary

David Hearn [DH] Treasurer

Keith Hall [KH] Fixtures Secretary

Andy Friend [AF] Green/Maintenance Chair

Daf Ashby [DA] Membership Secretary

Bill Bissett [BB] Captain

Claire Morrison [CM] Head of Communications

Michele Vale [MV] Head of Recruitment

In attendance - Geoff Malham, Ivor Atkins

1. Apologies

Debbie Bissett [DB], Linda Salmon [LS].

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting, held August 20, 2022

These were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

Electrical report : NA reported that he had received the electrical report from Mark Holder which had already been circulated. As there were six issues marked as unsatisfactory he had asked Mark for details of what needed to be done, with estimated costs, but had not yet received a reply.

Mark had also promised to replace the lighting in the garage and repair the outside phone bell. BB commented that the fuse box in the bar might need to be updated. NA agreed to follow up everything with Mark. **ACTION NA**

Garage roof : KH reported that his son in law was in the process of repairing the shed roof that morning, plus he planned to replace the roof of the outside shelter.

Boundary issue : NA reported that arranging a meeting with Bill Rhymes was proving difficult owing to both sides' issues with availability.

4. Website Development

CM reported on a meeting she and Ivor Atkins recently had with Keith van Gelder, the designer of the BIAS system. She described the main elements of that system and described those which might benefit the club over and above the processes currently in operation. These included rink booking via the website, membership management, members' availability for games, management of club competitions, team selection and a cashless match fee system. The annual charge for the BIAS system was £5 per playing member, paid in arrears.

CM referred to details of two other packages currently available, namely Bowlr and Bowls Club Rink Diary. She said that the Bowlr system offered comparable processes but at a significantly higher cost. The Bowls Club Rink Diary only offered an online rink booking system and team selection module without all the additional benefits offered by the BIAS system. Therefore the preferred option was to run with BIAS if the club were to agree to its use.

The prospect of any software developer, especially run by an individual, going out of business was raised but it was felt that the risk was minimal and if that happened the club would just need to revert to the current processes or find an alternative provider.

A comprehensive discussion took part on each element of the proposed system and whether all members might find them acceptable. One in particular was the prospect of cashless match fees being a problem if a playing member was not conversant with, or happy to use, electronic banking.

CM asked colleagues to decide upon whether the club should proceed with BIAS, establish the priorities and the preferred course of action to take it forward. NA suggested that rather than going for all of its elements at the one time it might be prudent to run with some of them at first and introduce others, for example cashless match fees, at a later date. It was agreed that the two priorities should be the online rink booking and the team selection processes. Once these were established then others might be adopted in order to gain maximum benefit from the system.

It was agreed that the subject should be discussed at the AGM so that members would have the chance to understand what was on offer and raise questions. CM agreed to produce a background paper with recommendations. This to go out with the agenda so that members would be aware prior to it being raised on the day. **ACTION CM**

NA thanked CM and Ivor Atkins for their work on the project.

5. Treasurer Report

5a. DH referred to his report, previously circulated. The current funds available stood at £11, 240, not counting the £2k in reserve, so the situation looked relatively healthy. However, it was noted that during the winter months there would be items of expenditure when there would be little income. DB was thanked for her efforts in producing a good result from bar sales. DH also thanked Pamela Prior, Kaz Clarke and Roger Gotobed for arranging the various social events.

DH agreed to provide details of the income from the games where the green was on loan, towards planning for next season.

DH reported that he had received replies to his proposal with regard to membership and match fees in 2023. He had suggested that the annual membership should remain the same but match fees where there was no food provided should be reduced from £4 to £3 - if the financial situation in April was still healthy after anticipated increases in such as energy prices.

It was noted that at a previous AGM it had been agreed to increase the membership fee each year by a small amount rather than a large amount in future years.

After discussion it was agreed that DH should propose to the AGM that the membership fee for playing members should be increased by £5 and match fees as per the above suggestion. The subscription for social membership should not be changed.

ACTION DH

It was also agreed that where snacks are provided at friendly games the standard on offer should be crisps and biscuits, with the proviso that where

the opposing team provided something more substantial when playing at their green something comparable should be provided.

6. AGM Agenda

NA referred to his draft already circulated. This was agreed but it was also agreed that Bowling Section reports should also be included.

It was noted that each Officer post for 2023 had a name proposed for it.

7. Officers' Reports, incorporating Any Other Business

KH reported that it was too early to confirm fixtures for 2023 but he had dropped Burnham from the schedule owing to them not fulfilling fixtures.

KH reported on the work being carried out on the bowls shed, plus the car park needed to have dust added to the surface and rolled in.

KH reported that a new trophy for the men's triples competition would need to be obtained as the winners' inscriptions were almost full.

KH reported that the honours board needed to be populated and also a new one required to accommodate further competitions. TC offered to fund the replacement board, which was much appreciated.

BB suggested that the club should organise an official opening day in 2023 with members wearing the new shirt. This was agreed.

CM reported on the number of members who had not ordered a new shirt and the reasons for not doing so. All regular bowlers appeared to have ordered at least one in the bulk order of 90 in total. CM had ordered 10 as an initial order to test their acceptability, if all goes well then the balance to be ordered later. She added that it might be an idea for the future to consider other items of clothing in club colours.

BB reported that the club had not won many friendly games towards the end of the season but this was understandable as he had given an opportunity to a number of the newer bowlers to get involved in formal matches.

BB reported on behalf of DB that she had reviewed the current prices of bar items and concluded that only 0% beers and ciders should be priced higher than at present. She warned that draft beer prices might need to be increased next season in view of the increase in running costs of the chiller etc..

BB reported on behalf of DB the schedule of social events in the pipeline and confirmed the numbers currently signed up for the Presentation Evening. Also that Colin Jennings had asked to use the club for his 80th birthday party, which was agreed. DH agreed to emphasise the need to support social events in his report to the AGM. **ACTION DH**

AF thanked the green team for their support over the season, and especially to KH for trimming the hedges. The Finals Weekend went ahead as planned even though parts of the green were wet after heavy rain during the previous week. He also thanked Adrian Salmon for standing in for him during the season.

Af reported on the jobs needed doing in order for the green to be ready for the winter months. He also reported that the contractors were planning to lift the edge of the green adjacent to the clubhouse in order to compensate for the current dip towards the green's edge. This would cost at least £200. KH agreed to establish when the next green inspection by the County was likely to take place.

ACTION KH

AF reported that some of the trees adjacent to the boundary needed to be monitored as they did not appear to be in the best of health.

8. Date of Next Meeting

This was agreed for 10am on Saturday, November 26, 2022.

There being no further business, NA closed the meeting at 12.30pm.

