

Three Mile Cross Bowling Club

Minutes of the Club AGM held November 19,2023

1. Introduction

Neil Argyle [NA] welcomed the 26 members in attendance. He passed on a message from the Management Committee Chairman, Geoff Malham, who was unable to attend following a recent operation.

Geoff wished to thank the Committee for their support over the last year, and especially to Tony Cook as President and Neil Argyle as Secretary.

2. Apologies

Received from Geoff Malham, Dee Broughton, Dean Broughton, Ian Clarke, Marilyn Wardle, Linda Dibley, Colin Dibley, Lesley Darbourn, Keith Darbourn, Andy Friend, Nesta Friend, Allen Lock, Yvonne Lock, Ivor Atkins, Mike Fry, Ellie Woods, Kaz Clarke, Bob Leach, Roger Gotobed, Paul Fruen, Richard Clark, Eileen Allen, Marilyn Legg, Derek Fagg, Diane Fagg.

3. The President

Tony Cook thanked all the members of the club - including the green and maintenance team, the entertainments team, team captains and managers - plus everyone else who had given up their time over the year to help the club maintain its success on and off the green. Tony emphasised that members need to support the various social events in order to ensure the club's continued viability. He also commended the Management Committee for its work and support during his time as President.

Tony was thanked for his standing as President over the last three years. This was much appreciated.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting, held October 30, 2022.

These were agreed as a correct record.

5a. Treasurer Report

David Heard [DH] referred to his report, previously circulated. Apart from there being a recent bill from Castle Water there was little to add to the information already circulated. Funds available at the year-end [September 30] stood at £13,990. This included a reserve of £2,000.

The club had broken even over the year. However, the coming winter months were likely to have a greater drain on resources than in the current year owing to general increases in prices of goods and costs of energy. It was also noted that games played and resulting playing numbers were down on the previous year, thus reducing income via rink fees and bar sales.

DH thanked Keith Darbourn and Roger Bryant for inspecting the accounts, plus Adrian Salmon and Gill Hearn for their help over the year. He also echoed Tony Cook's words by thanking members of the Management Committee for their support.

The report was accepted following a vote. DH was thanked for a comprehensive report.

5b. Proposed fees 2024/5

DH proposed an increase in annual playing subscriptions from £125 to £140 and rink fees for all games to be £4 - social membership and junior membership to remain unchanged. This was due to a] the previous discussion about rising costs, b] the increase in next season's affiliation fees and c] accounting for payment of £5 per player to maintain the BIAS system [see item 11].

DH stressed that the proposed increase in fees would only partly offset the anticipated increase in costs. It was therefore vital that the club maximised its other income streams such as social events, short mat evenings and the Lotto competition.

After discussion and a vote the proposal was agreed.

6. Appointment of Auditors [Accounts Inspection] 2024

DH reported that Keith Darbourn and Roger Bryant were prepared to continue in the role. Following a vote this was agreed.

7. Captain Report

Bill Bissett [BB] reported that 43 friendly games had been played over the season – 7 had been cancelled, 24 won and 12 lost. The cancellations were due to a mixture of excessive temperatures, the opposition not being able to raise a team and one clashing with a TMX league game.

BB thanked Eileen Allen for her support as Vice-Captain, a number of others who had stepped in when required plus all playing members for their support throughout the season.

BB reported that the one day competitions had been well supported, with a good standard of play. He congratulated all the winners and wished good luck to the incoming Captain.

8. Fixtures Secretary Report

Keith Hall [KH] reported on prospective dates for 2024 - i.e. Open Evening April 26, first game at Tilehurst April 27, Gloucestershire v Sussex May 12, President v Captain June 30, County quarter and semi-finals July 21 [tbc], Berkshire v Wiltshire Ladies August 2, Finals Weekend September 7 and 8.

KH also reported on the annual game versus Thatcham being removed from the calendar owing to Thatcham not fulfilling the fixture on more than one occasion.

KH thanked Dee Broughton for polishing the trophies, which now looked much improved. He described the ongoing situation with updating the honours boards, this item to be pursued via the Management Committee as there is likely to be a considerable cost involved.

9. Green/Maintenance Report

NA read out a message from Andy Friend [AF], who could not attend. Andy wished to thank the green team for their support through the season, especially Adrian Salmon for deputising whilst he was not around. He also wished to thank KH, BB and Alan Prior for carrying out essential maintenance work during the year.

AF commended Bicester Turf Care for their work over the season and reported that they are due to raise the green edge [closest to the clubhouse] very soon. Once again, the green had bowled well in the face of challenging weather.

AF also reported that he would be prepared to carry on in the role for one more season then would appreciate someone else taking it on thereafter.

10. Bowling Section Reports

Linda Salmon [LS] reported on a reasonably successful season in the Thames Valley Ladies' League, the team finishing mid-table in Division 2.

LS thanked the green team for putting out the equipment for matches and for the players who supported the team throughout the season, plus a special thanks to Nesta Friend for buying the raffle prizes for home games.

Kaz Clarke [KC] reported on the Ladies' friendlies. She thanked all players for their support, Linda Fruen for standing in for her at the Berkshire Past Presidents event, Chris Clayton and Marilyn Legg for their help with teas and the green team for their help with putting out the equipment.

KC reported that the games were a mixture in terms of results and that it had been a struggle on occasion to field nine players. She was disappointed that friendly games appeared not be attractive to all players who might be available. She also commented that she had not been proposed but would have been very happy to continue in the role for the coming season.

Terry Wardle [TW] reported on a major success on behalf of the men's Kennet League team in their being crowned as champions of their division. He revealed the trophy, a cheque for £100 and winners' badges for each team player. Promotion to the higher division will bring in more income as there will be more games played. He thanked all the players for their support, including Derek Fagg and David French who had enjoyed their first season.

TW thanked LS and Debbie Bissett for providing teas after home games, this was much appreciated by both home players and visiting teams. He also thanked the green team for maintaining a high quality bowling surface.

Malcolm Foster [MF] had prepared a report, read by NA, which stated that the KLVA team had played 13 games and had one cancelled owing to our not being able to raise team. Of the 13, 7 had been won and 6 lost, resulting in a creditable finish of third in the division. MF thanked all players for their support.

Cleve Wicks [CW] had prepared a report, read by NA, which said that he had enjoyed the experience of his first year as team manager. The team had only won 4 out of the 14 games but he had been well supported and tried to share out games to give everyone a chance to play. CW said that he was happy to continue in the role for the 2024 season.

11. BIAS Update

Claire Morrison [CM] reported on the trial of BIAS over the past season, concentrating on online rink booking, team selection/availability and membership management modules. The trial was free for the first season.

In order for the club to decide on its continuing, CM surveyed the playing members. She received 43 responses from the 66 members registered, including 7 who joined after going through coaching. She thanked those who had responded. The results of the survey revealed that 73% found the online rink booking easy to use, 86% found applying for games easy and 91% found confirming availability for selection easy.

CM described the main benefits as time saving, instant access to rink booking, easy access to information on games and receipt of email reminders for those players selected for games. A total of 35 playing members were happy to continue with BIAS. In addition, Captains and League Managers were also very happy with BIAS. This information was presented to the Management Committee, who had agreed to continue for 2024 at a cost of £5 per player.

The Management Committee also discussed enhancements which are available - i.e. cashless fees collection and club competition management. It was decided that the former should not be adopted in 2024 but the latter should be trialled for the 3 one day events planned to take place.

CM was thanked for the considerable work she had put into the process.

12. Review of Trustees

NA reported that he had been asked by the Management Committee to review the number of trustees, in view of a variety of reasons. He stated that he had contacted each of the existing four trustees - Ian Clark, Graham Brown, Allen Lock and Malcolm Pearce - to ask if they wished to continue. Only Ian Clark confirmed that he was willing to do so.

The Management Committee then approached Bill Bissett, Adrian Salmon and Claire Morrison to fill the three potential vacancies, to which they had each agreed. The Committee also proposed that any trustee from now on should serve a maximum of 10 years, with a review after 5 years to ascertain whether both sides wished to continue the arrangement.

NA reported that the changes would cost in the region of £600 for legal fees and registrations, for which DH was already aware. The proposals were agreed following a vote.

13. Review of Constitution

NA reported that he and CM had reviewed the entire document and made a number of changes which needed to be signed off at the AGM. The majority were minor updates. The significant items concerned safeguarding, data protection, trustees and smoking policy. The changes were agreed following a vote.

14. Ratification of Club Officers

NA read out the list of Officers for the following year, all of whom had been proposed and seconded -

President : Adrian Salmon

Deputy President : Bill Bissett

Chairman : Geoff Malham

Vice Chairman : selected within the Management Committee

Secretary : Bill Bissett

Membership Secretary : Daf Ashby

Treasurer : David Hearn [with informal assistance from Adrian Salmon]

Captain : Terry Wardle

Vice Captain : Eileen Allen

Green/Maintenance Chair : Andy Friend

Fixtures Sec : Keith Hall

County Rep. : Rod Fenner

Entertainments Manager : Debbie Bissett, Pamela Prior

Bar Manager ; Debbie Bissett*

Head of Communications : Claire Morrison

Recruitment Chair : Michele Vale

Health and Safety Competent Person : Mark Holder

Safeguarding Officer : Marilyn Legg

All were agreed following a vote.

* BB read out a statement from DB which said that she would be happy to take on most of the role in terms of stock replenishment, bar maintenance, drawing up the bar service roster etc. but 1. the barbecue on a Friday evening would not be her responsibility 2. other members of the Committee should take responsibility to ensure that after home games the bar area is left clean and secure and all gates are locked on exit. This was supported.

15. Ratification of Ladies' and Men's Officers.

LS reported that the Ladies' Chair will be CM, Ladies' Captain DB and Ladies' Secretary/TVLL Manager LS.

NA reported that the Men's KL Manager would be TW, KLVA Manager Adrian Salmon and KLVB Manager CW.

All were agreed following a vote.

16. Member's Item - David Brown

David described the difficulties for disabled members and visitors in accessing the green, clubhouse and toilet facilities. He offered some possible solutions, such as replacing the existing speed humps with a ramp and provision of grab rails.

BB reported that this was on the agenda for the Management Committee and he had already sourced a builder to survey the premises and come up with a costed solution. It would then be for the club to seek any grants available as the cost is expected to be considerable. BB agreed to involve David as appropriate.

17. Member's item/s - David Allen

David had proposed five items, three of which had already been acted upon. One suggestion was that, instead of each player paying for his/her opposite number's drink, the total bill for the away rink should be divided equally between the home players. This was agreed following a vote but after further discussion on whether the system should be extended to away games a further vote decided against the whole idea.

The second suggestion was that the men's triples competition might be drawn in order for everyone to have an equal chance and it might encourage more

people to play. After discussion and a vote it was agreed to maintain the existing arrangement.

18. Handover of President's Badge

TC wished Adrian Salmon all the best in the role.

BB thanked NA for his contribution as Secretary for the last nine years.

There being no further business, NA closed the meeting at 12.33pm.