

## **Notes of the Members Meeting held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

28 members attended the meeting. Apologies were received from Jeff Bevins, Jim Lange, Trevor Bromelow, Michael Ankers, Ketan Bavalia, Janice Fleuty and Carol Spicer.

Lou welcomed everybody and commented that the purpose of the meeting was to review the last season and also make plans for the coming season.

### **Green and Maintenance.- Bill**

Bill noted that Mike had done tremendous job on the green. Next year he will have a small team of Steve Pape, Jameson and Trevor who are going to oversee the green and its surrounds. Steve Larby continues to be the contractor, he mows on Fridays with any special treatments on the 1st Monday of each month. Mike has a team of 15 mowers who mow on Mondays and Wednesdays and on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month the team get together to help maintain the surrounds. Anymore mower helpers please let Mike know. Bill was pleased with all the support at the pre and post season working days. Pre-season next year will be 8/9 April. We do have a fox problem at the moment. Members were asked that if passing could they swish or brush the green.

Mike also asked that when the new season starts, members could make use of the protector mats to protect the green particularly if they are playing with, or see any bowler damaging the green. It was suggested that for a couple of weeks at the beginning of the season the green be used sideways to protect the ends.

Judy and Peter have done a great job on looking after the borders this year but will be unable to do them next year so volunteers will be needed to help Ben.

REMINDER - Swish green before play for any wormcasts. Equipment cared for and put away. Correct footwear at all times.

REMINDER - Please help remove the cuttings as often as possible. It was agreed that these be bagged up so that it is easier for members to collect a bag.

### **Competitive Bowls – Bill**

We have 14 friendly fixtures next season, dress code for these will be greys unless we are playing away and they request whites. Normally a maximum of 12 players will be needed for friendlies. The Captains of the Day arrangement to continue.

**Stan Hardman** This is for 3 triples (at least 3 ladies must be in the team) held on Thursday afternoons starting at 2 p.m. Peter Sunderland and Peter Hudson will run this next year.

**A&D** League teams on Tuesday evenings 6-6.30 start time. Normally 14 matches. Bill, Ben Dave Gale and Dave Bacon will make the selections using different captains. (Note: at the recent A&D AGM, one team asked if ladies could play if a team is short of players. The A&D

Committee will advise). The movement of players from B team to A team was queried. A preference is not to move players but to use reserves/extras wherever the gaps occur.

**Blackwater Valley League** This is for ladies on Friday evening; 6 players, 3 play home and 3 play away. We were unable to enter last year but hope to field a team this year.

### **County and District Competitions**

Members are encouraged to enter these competitions, lists will be out shortly and entries will have to be in early January.

### **Club Competitions**

These went well last year, next year the finals will be on the 16/17 September 2023. Entering the competitions does require you to be available that weekend. The pairs next year will be 18 ends (not 21).

Men's pairs - you choose your partner.

Garoka Pairs - your partner will be drawn trying to balance out abilities.

2- Wood Singles - The semi final for this will be completed by the end of June.

Club League - This will start earlier, with the option to play the final on finals weekend but not compulsory so you can still enter if you are on holiday in September. Open Day is going to be at the beginning of the season so any new members will still be able to enter the competitions.

### **Centenary**

This year is the 100 birthday of the Club. Several celebrations will take place over the year and on June 14<sup>th</sup> Bowls England will bring a team to play us. They expect a fun, enjoyable, different day for all and suggest it should be the highlight of the Clubs year. Therefore we will go all out to do this. It is hoped that we can put together a small team to plan and prepare for this. Along with this the Social Club will also have a special weekend having a day of celebration on July 8<sup>th</sup>. We will have a bowls day on the July 9<sup>th</sup> where 6 local Clubs will send 4 players to play a team from us. We have also been invited to send a team of 4 players to Hurstpierpoint on 29<sup>th</sup> July who are also celebrating 100 years.

We are ordering a new supply of shirts which we also display the badge and show 100 year Centenary, along with bowls stickers.

### **Social Events.**

Ben organised 3 main social events last year; skittles outside, the BBQ and the end of season dinner. Plans are for a skittles in Feb and the social breakfasts which start this Saturday.

Peter Hudson, Dave Bacon and Kathy offered to help Ben with the organisation of future events.

### **Recruitment and Retention**

The Big Bowls Weekend (BBW) proved a big success, with 19 new members joining. Next year we will do our BBW on 22/23 April. Volunteers will be needed for the leaflet drop. Steve Clarke asked if we need to consider capping the number? We lost 9/10 last year, Steve asked if members know somebody not renewing and suggested asking why for our feedback. It is felt we are not suitable for children or disabilities at the moment. There is still the opportunity for the pay and play scheme and if somebody is not ready to join fully they can join the pay and play scheme for the odd occasion to see if they wish to join.

### **Coaching**

Ketan had tried to set up some coaching sessions but it never quite took off, and Michael Ankers has offered to assist him next year. Plan is start early next season. Margaret and Kathy will run etiquette sessions and Tony, Bob and Lou will run some bowls coaching. but it was agreed that this may take place during the roll up times; new members will be expected to attend some sessions, so that bad bowls habits do not get embedded.

### **Sponsorship**

Jeff Bevins, Mike Gilbert and Michael Ankers approached companies with the result that 7 advertising board will be put up around the green. One company has also sponsored the website. Only a couple of people at the meeting had actually looked at the website recently, however it was agreed that it needs updating. It will also have a link to the facebook page which Steve will have access to and be able to post information on. Any benefits from the sponsorship will be used to support the whole club with the expenditure for the centenary year.

### **Finances**

Profit from last year is approx £1200. The reserves are £5500. Water rates have not been paid since 2018 but estimated at £1500. The sponsorship money will be put to one side for the centenary celebrations. Match fees will stay at £2 but green fees for visitors will be £4

### **BIAS**

Bill introduced the BIAS system which we hope will be set up for members next year. It is an online system to help manage games, competitions and rink bookings. Currently Bill, Jeff and Dave are playing with it and will issue more detail to the Club members early next year. Some discussion did take place, and it was thought that we would NOT use it for rink

booking. There will be help and guidance for everybody. This is a trial if it doesn't work we could abandon it.

### **Club Charity**

Our charity is Phyllis Tuckwell. Bill suggested a box for wrong bias (50p) be placed in the changing rooms and Kathy asked if it could be shared with the Local Teenage mental trust which was agreed

To end the meeting Bill reminded Members that we need to use the Social Club as much as possible. No Social Club, No Bowls!!