

Minutes of the Abingdon Bowling Club Playing Committee held on 26th August 2020 in the clubhouse

1. Welcome

Marion Booth, President welcomed the following:- Maurice Booth (Vice-President & Preston Cup Manager, Peter Rogers (Competitions Secretary & Greenkeeper), Brian Lacey (Mens captain), Ann Jennaway (Ladies Captain), Martin Heath (Wednesday League Manager), Christine Belcher (Recruitment Manager)

2. Apologies

Christine Norton, Lorette Burton and Richard Sambell

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by Marion Booth.

4. Matters Arising

Maurice agreed to contact Richard by email to seek clarification on the proposals from Witney Town BC regarding morning starts for friendlies. He will also advise him of some key dates for inclusion in the 2021 Fixtures List including the Club Tour, which has been rebooked in Torquay for 20th-23rd August, the Mayor's Match being away on 1st August and the same dates as 2020 for the Preston Cup and Gala Day.

Bowls England have issued a further relaxation of their COVID-19 guidelines re acceptable forms of play and green usage allowing the use of adjacent rinks for singles and pairs, and the playing of triples and rinks matches on alternate rinks. At present the ABC rules remain that only singles and pairs may be played on alternate rinks but the Exec intend to allow the use of adjacent rinks from 1st September for certain sessions, such as Wednesday evenings, where rinks appear to be in greatest demand. John Faint is to communicate this to the membership.

The use of electronic media for communication within and outside the club was further discussed and it was considered worth exploring further the use of Facebook for external communications, (re recruitment and Open Days for example), and the feasibility of using an old TV and recording device to communicate messages and requests to members within the clubhouse if this was feasible without requiring a TV licence. Neither was desperately urgent and required more knowledge to be accumulated before progressing.

5. Correspondence

The Ladies RCBBA Council Meeting scheduled for October has been cancelled but it is hoped a meeting may be possible in March.

It was noted that the club were intending to participate in the Bowls England "Lets Roll" initiative to attract new members to bowls clubs nationally. Peter Rogers has agreed to be the nominated club contact, and will deal with the welcoming of any new bowlers to try out the game within the COVID-19 restrictions, and will communicate with Bowls England as required.

Bowls England have also invited clubs to offer their greens to host “Training Camps” for teams participating in the 2022 Commonwealth Games bowls events. It was agreed that Maurice would register our interest in doing so, in order to find out more about what is required in terms of green availability and whether we have adequate facilities to be accepted.

6. Officers Reports

- a. **Ladies Captain** – Nothing to report
- b. **Mens Captain** – Nothing to report
- c. **Wednesday Evening League** – Nothing to report
- d. **Recruitment Manager** – Nothing to report
- e. **Competitions Secretary** – Peter outlined his proposals for a fun day to be held on the club Finals Day (Sat 5th September). This would be a pairs competition for the first 24 bowlers to register an interest playing various formats of pairs bowls on 6 rinks. The meeting was generally in favour of these proposals and Peter was to request John Faint to communicate the event to the membership and would then accept entries and organise the day. It was agreed that it would start at 1pm and that there would be an outside restricted bar available (as on Wednesday evenings) but that if participants required food they would need to bring their own. There would be a £2 entry fee which would fund the prize monies and a small contribution to club funds. Anyone wishing to bring a spectator should pre arrange this with Peter to ensure the number of people in the club didn't exceed the current restriction of 30.
- f. **Fixtures Secretary** – Nothing to report
- g. **Catering Manager** – Lorette not at meeting but had confirmed by email that the external catering for Gala Day had been cancelled.
- h. **Short Mat** - Nothing to report

7. Report from Executive – No meeting

8. Any Other Business

It was decided that it was not possible to hold the Autumn General Meeting whilst COVID-19 restrictions were in place so John Faint was to be requested to issue a note to this effect, and communicating that in the absence of an effective process to receive nominations and vote on new committee members that it was intended that the current Playing Committee be retained for another year. All office holders other than Ann Jennaway (Ladies Captain) are happy to serve for another year.

Brian was concerned that all 2019 members were issued with the membership renewal pack for 2021 as several hadn't paid subscriptions for 2020 when it became clear that little or no bowling would occur this year and the club had decided to carry forward membership payments for 2020 to 2021. Peter was happy that this was in hand but clearly these members would have to pay their subscriptions as normal.

It would appear that the RCBBA has repaid all entry fees to 2020 County Competitions top the club but these have not as yet been repaid to members. Peter has the 2021 mens entry forms, and it is proposed to ask members to complete these as normal, but to then only take payments or repay previous payments where these entries differed from those paid for in 2020. Marion was to check with Christine Norton if ladies entry forms had been received and suggest a similar approach.

The meeting gave it's thanks top Martin and John Highsmith for their work in converting the old scoreboard building into the new store cupboard, and in subsequently getting the new electronic scoreboard connected and up and running for use in 2021. Thanks were also given to Peter Rogers and Colin Turner for funding the scoreboard.

Peter confirmed that since the green had received limited use this year it would be kept open as long as the weather and seasonal maintenance allowed, possibly until the end of October.

Next meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 7th October at 10am in the clubhouse.

Minutes read and approved as a true record

Signed.....

Date.....

President