

# VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB

Minutes of the Spring Meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013

## Present

50 Officers and members were in attendance and the meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

## Apologies

Apologies for absence were given for the following members who were unable to attend – G. Farrance, R. Wood, R. Gardner, E. Lock, J. Roberts, B. Tanner, P. Gladwin, N. Baxter, M. Baxter, V. Curtis, E. Emery, M. Rowland.

## In Memoriam

The President then asked for a few moments silence in memory of:

**Isabel Batten** who joined in 2011 as a Social member,  
**Edna Wyatt** who joined as a playing member in 1995 until 2006,  
**Ron Froud**, who joined as a playing member in 1993 until 2006.

## President's Address

President Brian opened the proceedings with the following address:

Good evening and thank you for attending tonight's meeting:

I started preparing tonight's address a couple of weeks ago, but then unforeseen circumstances forced me to concentrate on other matters. That situation is now resolved and I am pleased that once again I am able to give time that the office of President demands.

I would first like to welcome to their first Spring meeting, as Officers of the club, Peter Coleman, who has taken over the role of Hon. Treasurer from Barry Gatley and Michael Gerrard who succeeds John Rodwell as Club Captain.

My address would have included many of the points mentioned in Geoff's excellent newsletter and to this end I would like to echo his thanks, with my own, to every one of you who have, in any way, contributed to the events and work undertaken during the winter season.

The kitchen, thanks to Robert Wood looks splendid and I would like to acknowledge also the input of Mike Allington who undertook the tiling and painting and Ray Haywood who painted the ceiling.

I must also mention Norman Pearce who has generously donated to the club a mower suitable for cutting the green which will of course take some of the pressure off our existing machine.

The season ahead will be a challenging one. We have lost 13 men and 4 ladies which has seriously depleted our playing members. I would therefore urge you all to assist in anyway you can in our efforts to attract new members. Help is needed at the Farmers Markets and the Open Days and there are lists available here in the clubhouse to register your availability.

You will see that Geoff has announced two new innovations relating to bowling on Wednesday evenings and Sunday. We will be building on the success of the Wednesday evenings club nights by making most Wednesday evenings club nights. In addition we are looking at the introduction of organised play on Sundays, possibly in the form of a spoon competition.

Please do support these new events. We have a fantastic green with great facilities and most importantly you have paid your annual subscriptions to use them. Many of you have attended club nights during the season and have seen first hand how popular they are and it is this type of function that is an indicator of how much of a club we really are. We have a history of being a welcoming and social club and your support of these events will help maintain that image.

Finally, I would like to offer you my best wishes for the coming season and hope you have many enjoyable games in the months ahead. We have a full fixture list of club competitions and friendly matches and I look forward to meeting you there.

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of the Spring Meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012 having been displayed on the notice board were taken as read. The adoption of the minutes was then

Proposed by Tom Wilson

Seconded by Mike Allington

and unanimously approved by the meeting.

The minutes were then signed by the President and Secretary

### **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

### **Secretary's Report**

Geoff gave his report which is attached to and forms an integral part of these minutes.

With regard to the land acquisition Geoff was asked if there would be any further legal costs to pay; what the final cost would be and the value of this piece of land. Geoff replied that when the land was first donated to the club on the proviso that the club paid both the costs of our and the donor's solicitors, costs were estimated at £1500. To date the club has paid just over £3000 solicitor's costs and £345 Land Surveyor's fees. We have been advised that the donor's solicitors will require a further £150 + VAT and other charges from our solicitors are likely to be minimal.

The market value given by the land surveyor was £1000 as the land is locked in on four sides.

Mike Gerrard asked if we follow-up on members not renewing their membership to find out the reason. Geoff said that he did not have any specific procedure to do so but generally learnt from other members, is notified by the individuals or in certain cases will contact them direct.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Peter Coleman read out his report which is attached to and forms an integral part of these Minutes.

The Financial Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013 giving comparisons with the final accounts for 2011/2012 had been handed round to those present and is attached to and forms an integral part of these Minutes.

### **Captain's Report**

Mike Gerrard had a brief report to remind the men of the practise sessions arranged for men's league players.

### **Vice Captain's Report**

Peter Simpson reported that at the present time we have only 29 men league players and we need 24 for each game. Bearing in mind that some of these will not play in both the New Forest and Dorset leagues and others will be on holiday it may not be possible to field a full second team for all matches which would be very embarrassing.

Geoff felt we needed to encourage the other men to play in the leagues which is the best way to improve ones game. The alternative is to withdraw one team from the leagues which in itself would cause problems with some men not getting any league games.

Mike Gerrard understood Peter's concerns but felt that this could be an opportunity to re-group as a club and use it for new members to gain match experience.

### **Ladies Section Report**

Alice reported that the ladies held their Spring Meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> March which had a very good attendance of 24 with 5 giving their apologies for absence.

The NFWBA are holding their Coffee Morning on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at Brockenhurst BC when we will have a book stall and Alice thanked all those who donated books.

We also had a 'Guess the weight of the cake stall at the B&DWBA Coffee morning on 14<sup>th</sup> March, Gill Farrance had kindly donated the cake.

### **Ladies Section Report (continued)**

The Dorset Women's Coffee morning will be held on Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> September which is our Finals Day so we will not be having a stall on this occasion.

The Ladies Captain is Gill Thomas and Vice Captain is Betty Emery so if any lady has any queries or problems please speak to either of them otherwise they can't be resolved.

The women's leagues this year are:

B&WBA	Div. C.
NFWBA	Div. B & D.

Dorset Edna Paisley League. This year the number of games has increased from 8 to 20.

The league sheet for the names of those wishing to play is available so please support these leagues.

Eileen Wood is housekeeper again this year so if there are any supplies needed please leave a note on the notice board or let Eileen know. Alice gave thanks to Eileen for taking on this role and complimented her on coming through her bad year with flying colours having completed her treatment yesterday.

Alice thanked Mike Allington for doing a fantastic job on the green last year. Our thanks must also go to the Tuesday work party for all their hard work during the winter and to all the ladies and men who baked cakes and pies for the events during the winter.

The ladies are holding a lunch on 20<sup>th</sup> May at the Crane Valley Golf Club for £12.50. The notice and list is on the board for those wishing to attend.

### **Match Secretary's Report**

Geoff read his report that is attached to and forms an integral part of these minutes.

The 2013 Handbook had been distributed but as usual there were a number of amendments required. A list is on the notice board but the most important one was regarding the venue of the men's New Forest match against Braeside on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July which is shown as 'Home' and should be 'Away'.

It has been decided to have a Club Night every Wednesday other than when something else was on in the afternoon or evening. Mike Allington asked if there would be a steward on duty at these times but Geoff was more inclined to get the players to lay out the green although it is difficult to get them to do so.

### **Competition Secretary's Report**

In Robert's absence the Secretary read his report as follows:

All the Competitions for 2013 season will be put on the notice board in time for the Spring Meeting. It is nice to see we have 10 teams entered in the club Saturday Triples. Total entries are up this year on last year, but individual competitions are down. A reminder to all entrants that all the play-by-dates must be adhered to. The only exception would be if the green was deemed unplayable over a long period, like last year.

I would like to thank those members who had put their names on the substitutes list and then agreed to fill spaces in a couple of competitions. Thank you all again.

Nothing else to report at this time only to wish you all enjoyable bowling for 2013.

Regards To all.

### **Social Committee's Report**

Eileen Wood reported that the Social Committee try to have a Social event once a month during the winter to help keep the club together and generate a bit of income and help new members get to know people. Eileen listed the events coming up which are on the notice board and urged members to attend these which are very enjoyable and a good meal is always provided.

### **Publicity Officer**

#### **Geoff Symonds to give an up-date on the website progress**

Geoff thanked Mike Poulter for his help in setting up the site and Geoff Finn for his input. Firstly he feels that he is not getting much feed-back other than from those he contacts and would like more suggestions from others on content, design and anything that may enhance the site. Geoff explained how to contact him with their ideas through the site as 'web master'.

## **Geoff Symonds website progress (continued)**

Secondly, although good progress has been made the site must have more information for the members on the clubs activities such as friendly matches, social events, league fixtures and results etc. He appreciates that it cannot be an “all singing and all dancing” site immediately but it is our site and it should be what we want.

Geoff explained the reason for the member’s only section and the use of the user access code and password. The old website accessed through [www.bowlsclub.org](http://www.bowlsclub.org) is now superfluous and Geoff has tried to have this link removed as it contains links to the various bowls associations which must come direct from our site, but is having difficulties with the site managers. However he has managed to change the New Forest link on to our site and will in due course have all such links on our site.

The meeting thanked Geoff for his expertise and efforts and for producing a first class website.

## **Publicity officer**

The President reminded the meeting that Mike Poulter had resigned as Publicity Officer and he had therefore put a notice up in the clubhouse notifying the members and asking if anyone was interested in taking on this job. If there were Mike would be willing to explain the requirements of this post.

Unfortunately there has been no response from the members.

The matter will therefore have to be left in abeyance for the time being.

## **Green Keeper’s Report**

Mike had a brief report just to thank the Tuesday work party for their work during the sinter when they turned up in some very cold weather.

There being no further business the meeting closed.

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## **OPEN FORUM**

1. Alice Bulley informed the meeting that the ladies were having a workshop on 19<sup>th</sup> April at 1.30 pm for discussion and instruction on all things bowls.

Geoff Finn agreed that it was a good idea and should be emulated by the men.

2. Lionel Laver had not been able to bowl for some time and asked if he would be able to bowl as a social member but the secretary explained that under the Rules of the club he would not. However if he wanted to try bowling to determine if he were able, then he could have a maximum of 3 two hourly sessions for £3 a session. Alan Hawkins suggested that this be increased to 4 sessions which Geoff explained would need a change of rules agreed in a General Meeting. Eileen asked if it would be possible for current non-playing members to attend the Open Days without charge and Geoff felt this may be acceptable. However, extending the trial period could lead to the belief that to delay joining as a playing member until after 30<sup>th</sup> June the reduced subscription of £45 would be payable. This would not be the case as this concession only applies to new members

Geoff felt that 6 hours of practise should be sufficient for anyone to know whether or not they would be able to bowl. Other suggestions only complicated the matter by introducing various conditions which would be un-workable. Therefore the meeting agreed with the President’s suggestion that this be discussed at the next Management Committee Meeting with the committee’s decision posted on the notice board.

There were no other questions from the floor and the President thanked the members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

## **COROLLARY**

### **OPEN FORUM – ITEM 2**

The Management Committee Meeting was held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April and after considerable discussion on this matter it was decided that as this situation could be resolved under the existing Rules there was no need to change the Club’s Constitution and Rules.

