

Edgworth Bowling Club Committee Meeting 14/5/21

Meeting Minutes.

1) Those Present

Andrew Spencer (AS), Stewart Beswick (SBes), Robert Downie (RD), Kerry Holt (KH), Andrew Warman (AW), Maureen Hall (MH), Margaret Turlington (MT), Stewart Bailey (SBai), Joan Turner (JT)

The meeting was chaired by Andrew Spencer. Notes and actions were recorded by Kathy Warman. The meeting commenced at 10.35 am and finished at 1.35pm.

2) Apologies

Apologies were received from Andy Tighe (AT), along with a comprehensive email covering various issues (see Appendix 1 below).

3) Minutes of last meeting (Accuracy)

A revised copy of last month's minutes has been sent to all committee members. The minutes were accepted with MH's name added (inadvertently missed from 'those present').

4) Actions and Matters Arising from last Minutes.

i) Drainage. Ongoing problems continue. A ditch has been dug around the new playground which should eventually drain into the woods and not towards the bowling green.

ii) Website and Facebook Page. New tabs have been created including a coaching tab (which gives the phone numbers of our coaches. There are now sets of bowls in the clubhouse to be used for this and an email has been sent out explaining this); green maintenance; BCGBA; league fixtures (a hard copy of which will also be placed on the new notice board); a club finder including addresses and maps.

It was suggested that a tab for rules and etiquette should also be created for new members and a tab for registration rules and numbers of teams. The minutes of meetings tab will be viewable by members only. Those involved with the Facebook issues have been spoken to.

iii) professional cleaning: AW has spoken to Kate Wheatcroft and a cleaner (Janet) has been appointed for Wednesday mornings. She will obtain the clubhouse keys from the Barlow office if no one is mowing.

iv) floodlights: AW was unable to find the information that Mike Barnwell had sent. AW has spoken to Margaret Whittaker as her son Mark has considerable experience with lighting. She will ask Terry, Mark and Mike Barnwell to have a chat and give us an idea of costs (initial installation plus projected running costs) of switching to LED lights. The only concern was with the brightness of LED lights and whether they would be suitable for us.

v) CCTV: Mike Fay has possibly forgotten that he had been asked to consider including the bowling club in the Barlow's system and needs reminding.

Action: KH to remind Mike via the Barlow Trustees committee.

vi) The Barlow has been booked for the New Year's Bash by Margaret Whittaker.

Other actions were discussed under their appropriate headings.

5) Secretary's Report

a) PAT testing: This has been completed by Philip Grundy and one heater was condemned and disposed of by SB.

b) Correspondence: Keith Andrews has sent a letter confirming the Step 2 guidance from the BCBGA is that only 6 people are to be on the green at one time for social bowling, until this is superseded by Step 3 guidance.

c) Membership: We now have 109 paid members with one or two league bowlers still to pay.

d) 50 Club: As we have been in receipt of grant money it was decided not to run the 50 club this year.

e) Match fees: to remain at £1 for home and away. Envelopes have been purchased and put in the clubhouse. The new Captains will need to know what needs to be put on the front of the envelopes and where to put them.

Action: AW to inform all Captains.

f) Club booklet: It was discussed if it is still necessary to produce this as the information will be on line and on the new notice board. Listed sponsors and past winners could be added to the website which will have a bigger reach. It was decided not to go ahead with the booklet for this year and then review it later for next year.

g) Parking: The car park is closed at the moment due to Barlow's building work.

Action: AW to email league secretaries informing them of the parking difficulties and other Covid related procedures.

6) Treasurer's Report

We have had grants from Blackburn with Darwen which have been used for extra costs incurred by the pandemic. Expenditure has been raised over the last month due the purchase of treatments for the green, however club resources remain adequate for the time being.

7) Green Maintenance Report. A diagnosis of black layer (black thatch) has been obtained, which also occurred in 2011. Lawn sand has been applied which will treat the moss. It has been hollow tined and the cores removed, it was then spiked a further 3 times to open it up. New 5-inch solid tines have been bought. Five bags of Mascot Blockade 2000 have been bought and applied; the surface material has been swept into the holes with the drag brush. This seems to have helped the drainage problem but needs repeating. The more severely affected areas have been dug up and John Innes no. 2 compost and grass seed applied. However, during the recent dry period, it required watering!

The mowing teams continue to do sterling service but don't always cut the edges, Stewart has therefore strimmed them.

Sue Beswick has replanted the empty planters and is about to do the base of the flagpole. The gutters to the clubhouse have been cleared and the downspouts sealed. The metal box to the awning has been padded as this tore the gazebo during a storm last year and there is a new door to the outside tap box.

There is also the question of what to do about the old benches in front of the clubhouse. It was decided that they should be replaced with something which is low maintenance and possibly relocated under the gazebo. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

AS has extended the steps to the green to give safer access; concrete flags will be fitted in the areas that have been dug out. Geoff Ogden is to fill in the holes where the birds are nesting although this needs to wait until they have fledged.

Thankyou Stewart for all your hard work.

8) Advertising Report (see detail in Appendix below)

At the moment only John Wilkins and Whiteheads have paid for advertising boards. AT wants to get in touch with those with boards once more to see if they are still interested in sponsoring us, this was agreed by everyone. Ogilvy's funeral directors were only sponsoring us for a year and so this requires removing. Tony's plaque which is on the back of the board will need taking down. It was decided to reposition the boards of those that had already paid, so that they are more visible. Any company not renewing will be informed that we are under no obligation to return their sign should they wish to keep it.

Action: AT to contact Sponsors.

Bill Stemp has also been in touch to say that Steve Presnail printers are running an offer until the end of June for 5,000 double sided bowling cards to be printed for £75 + VAT. Sponsorship for the cards was discussed but it was felt that this would take too long to sort out. After discussion it was decided to offer advertisement to the Reading Room at no cost.

Action: AW to liaise with Sara L for content and format.

9) Breach of Committee Decision on 22/4/21

AS stated that if something has been agreed and passed by the committee, this is what stands. Any decision does not need to have passed unanimously and any member who feels strongly that they do not agree and is unable to uphold an agreed decision is welcome to stand down from the committee. This was agreed by all present.

10) BCBGA Step 3 Guidance.

The guidance to come into force on 17th May has been sent round to all bowling clubs. This was discussed and the following to be applied to EBC, agreed by all present:

a) There are to be up to 4 jacks on the green with no more than 16 people at any one time. This includes both league matches and social bowling. Any format of play could take place, preferably singles or doubles as it would be easier to maintain social distancing, but triples were permitted.

b) Sharing equipment should be avoided as much as possible and it must be sanitised after use.

c) The booking system is to remain in place for test and trace.

d) Refreshments are not being provided after consultation with Philip Grundy who advises leaving this until Step 4. It was decided to ask people to bring their own drinks.

Action: AW to email members informing them of the above changes

11) Club Competitions.

As pre booking for club matches is both time consuming and complicated, AW stated he did not have the time to organise all the Competition entries via email / telephone as per 2020 season. It was therefore decided by all to leave them until after Step 4 (when hopefully people could just turn up on the day) and then review. This includes both club and inter club matches. It was noted that others would be available to run competitions on the day.

Action: AW to inform members of this in the above email.

12) AOB:

- a) The club Jacks expire at the end of this year and will need re-certifying before 2022 league matches start. The yellow match jacks will need re-certifying in 2025.
- b) The Captains are to wheel out the sanitizing units for matches and place them under the gazebo; there are bike locks to secure them and the keys are in the club house.
- c) Sylvia Culley has been in touch asking for coaching on a Thursday night from Barry Robinson. As Barry is not an official coach this doesn't need to go through the committee and can go ahead as long as it is pre-booked on the Green Booking spreadsheet. It was pointed out that we do have 2 trained certified coaches and that Sylvia could contact them, their phone numbers are on the notice board.

Action: AS to contact Barry R

It was decided to leave the Saturday morning coaching sessions for now as there was very little interest in 2019 / 2020.

d) Sue Beswick has asked if someone else would volunteer to wash the tea towels and cloths from the clubhouse. Kathy Warman will take over.

e) The gas bottle storage and the PAT testing have been carried out. There are no known outstanding actions.

f) Scarecrow Festival (19 – 20 June)

After discussion it was felt that it would be too problematic to provide hot dogs and burgers on this day, due to lack of access / egress to operate a Covid safe service and the difficulty of finding volunteers to man it for the whole day, plus we would still be in Step 3.

Action: AW to inform Sara L so that the Reading Room could provide any food.

g) Storage in the old toilets / stables.

Mike Fay now wants to use the stables for other purposes. It was stated that he proposes that we move our equipment to an old shipping container which the Cricket Club no longer want. He suggests that it can be sited in the wooded area behind the bowling green. He is setting up a sub committee to look into the practicalities of this which would include Barlow trustees and Club committee members. Difficulties would include the storage of petrol which must be stored separately from the equipment, space, location, objection from neighbours etc. There may also be Planning issues as it is proposed to place it in a 'landscape' area.

Action: SBai to investigate potential Planning dept concerns.

Committee members proposed for the sub-committee: KH, AS, AW, RD. SBes will advise.

h) Suggestion by AT regarding Minutes of Meetings (see Appendix below) – This was discussed and all present agreed that whilst an ideal scenario for major businesses or charities, the existing arrangements were all that was required for a small village bowling club.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 1.35pm.

Appendix 1 - Emailed input to the meeting from AT

I am unable to attend on Friday as I'm playing golf at Disley with the golf society so please accept my apologies.

RE: minutes of meetings - the objective should be to produce & publish to the full membership a fair & accurate record within a reasonable period of time and definitely before the next meeting, thereby giving all the members the opportunity to raise any queries, make comments etc that can be dealt with at the subsequent meeting. To achieve a fair & accurate record the draft should be issued to all attendees for comment (swift responses required!) & their agreement obtained on the version to be published. This isn't meant as a criticism of anyone, just an acknowledgement that we human beings can easily mis-hear, misinterpret or just miss something when making notes (as I have done numerous times throughout my working life & as secretary to The Barlow trustees).

Re: greenside advertising - only a few of the existing advertisers have responded to my correspondences - a few have agreed to continue to support us & have paid the agreed charge, a few have said they'll continue to support us but to my knowledge haven't paid the agreed charge, 1 has asked for their sign to be removed (which I've done), but most have not yet responded. Robbie has the accurate info on those who have paid so far.

I propose that I try one more time with each whom hasn't paid the agreed charge then, if they decline or still don't respond I take down their boards & return them. **Please vote on this proposal.** Thank you to our secretary for issuing the email to those who do the gardening of the flower beds asking that no adverts are obstructed (the borders etc are looking very nice so well done to all who've worked on them).

AOB items: -

Re: club member competitions - Those that were held last year were quite well supported & the participants seemed to enjoy them. **I propose** that we hold some more this year with similar formats. Unfortunately Barry Robinson has said he's unable to help with organising any this year but Ken Hulmes & Ian Price have offered to help, plus last year Margaret Turlington & Kerry Holt organised at least 1 of the comps.

Re: open competitions - I have no opinion.

Re: Health & Safety matters - I believe we still have an incomplete action re: the gas bottle storage area but I may be wrong? If there is still an incomplete action, can I please have an update so that I can inform Philip Grundy. Thanks.

RE: portable appliance testing - I know we've paid Philip Grundy to do this so presumably he either has done so or it's arranged to be done asap & before the clubhouse food & drinks equipment starts to be used again? Thanks.

Re: covid rules - My view about the interpretation of the government's rules remains as before i.e. it makes absolutely no sense that competitive matches can have up to 16 players on the green yet social bowling is limited (supposedly) to 6 (or 2 households if this is greater). The actual behaviours & views expressed by of some of our members on & around the green is evidence that I'm not alone with this opinion.

Edgworth Scarecrow Festival - it is scheduled to take place over the weekend of June 19th & 20th. After consulting with Andy Spencer & Andy Warman I have previously tentatively told The Barlow Events Team that we will take the opportunity to raise some funds for the club by selling hot dogs & burgers + the usual accompaniments. **Please confirm** (hopefully) so that either Kerry or I can confirm back to the Events Team (I think that if we don't do it they will as they see it as a potentially big earner if the weather is cooperative!). I can be available to help with this on at least 1 of the days.

Hope the meeting goes well. Regards, Andy Tighe