

Edgworth Bowling Club Committee Meeting

9th February 2023

The meeting commenced at 2.10 pm

Present: Andrew Spencer (Chairman), Andy Warman (Club Secretary),
Stewart Beswick and Joan Turner

Apologies: Kerry Holt and Robert Downie

Andrew Spencer was in the Chair and Kathy Warman took the Minutes

1. **Approval of Minutes**

RD had asked for an addendum to be made to last month's minutes to include the costings for the repairs to the green edging / gutters, being undertaken by Ian Fenton; and also the purchase of the lawn sand and Blockade and survey by Peter Cotton.

Costs for each element were discussed and an agreed maximum of £5,000 and £2,000 respectively was agreed. This addendum would be retrospectively added to the January 2023 minutes as they had not yet been formally agreed or issued.

The committee were in full agreement.

Action: AS to update the January Minutes with the agreed wording and costings.

2 **Matters Arising**

a) **Core Samples**

These have been taken by Peter Cotton and we are awaiting the results. The cost for this was £35 plus VAT. Core depth was around 2 inches in order to ascertain the chemical makeup of the grass root growing area.

Action: SB

b) **Blockade**

The Green is to be hollow tined tomorrow morning followed by the application of the Blockade in the afternoon weather permitting. (10th Feb.) Ian Price and AS have volunteered to help.

Action: SB

c) **Edging Boards**

Ian Fenton is making good progress with this. Following investigation into different matting types available, it transpires that Chris Edwards has provided the best matting for the cost and practicality, however water is collecting in the gutter which he laid and Ian suggests forking through the gravel and membrane to aid drainage. We could also hand drill through the matting. Jim Geddes is using the old gravel in the woodland so this need not be placed in the skip. The old plastic compost bins are to be skipped.

Action: KH to organise as part of the clean up day

d) **Constitution**

This is outstanding.

Action: RD

e) **Compost Bins**

Paul Allen is putting some plans together and Jim Geddes' grandson will do the work.

Action: AS and AW

f) **Paths**

We have had a response from Mike Fay regarding upkeep of the paths in which he states as we only have a 'peppercorn lease' the paths and area surrounding the green is our responsibility. He further suggests that if we have concerns regarding the safety of any members of the public using the paths then any dangerous areas should be taped off with a notice explaining why.

However, this needs further discussion and the precise extent of our responsibilities need outlining in the terms of the lease.

Our concern relates to insurance as we need to know who has liability should an accident occur as the land forms part of the Barlow Estate.

Action: AS and RD

g) **The purchase of new chairs**

Philip Grundy has been asked to provide details of where the chairs at the Reading Room were purchased but to date has not been able to establish this. Chris Ryan is looking for the archived receipt. We have agreed to purchase 6 subject to AS obtaining the full costs for approval by the Committee.

Action: AS

h) **PAT testing**

Philip Grundy will do this and include the new heater.

i) **DBS certificates**

There has been no action on this as we need to ascertain from the membership whether there are any volunteers to run the School bowling over the summer.

Action: AW to raise at the AGM

j) **Barry Robinson**

Barry R's misunderstanding with the indoor bowling at York has been resolved with him.

k) **Pre-season clear up**

This will be arranged for the 18th of March.

Action: KH

l) **The NL&F Bye-laws**

These have been sent to Linda Spencer and are now on the website.

3. **Secretary's Report**

a) **Sign up Meeting**

The sign-up meeting planned for 10th Feb has been cancelled.

b) **Amendment to Turton League Competition Rules**

The proposals requested by Jim Sheffield for amendment to the Turton League competition rules have been sent to Turton League and have been agreed at their AGM (the Ainsworth Shield is to be handicapped and players must have played at least 2 league games in order to play in the Final).

c) **League AGMs**

The Ramsbottom and Municipal League AGMs were attended by Barry R and Ian Price respectively. For the Municipal league Barrie Howarth has been advised that so far not enough people have signed up for Muni A to make up 2 teams. It was suggested to move the home night back to Fridays to see if more people would be available.

We were given until the end of February to confirm to Barrie how many teams we would be entering into the league this year. The League fees will then be paid by cheque to Denise Goodwin (they do not accept Bank Transfers).

Action: AW to email members re changing the home night back to Friday.

It was noted that the Mills League fees are too expensive at £6 per match (£148 p.a. plus Cup Matches in comparison to £60 p.a. for the Municipal League).

d) **Teams**

Muni A and B. Ian Price will stay on as Captain with Mike Dickinson as Vice-Captain; Sandie Whittaker will continue as the A team Captain.

e) **League AGMs**

There are 2 league AGMs next week: The Bolton & District League and Coleman Milne League. AW & Paul Booth will attend the District AGM and Mike Dickinson and Stuart Duncan will attend CM. The only issue of concern was whether the District League would revert back to a 10 person team this season – our view is that it should remain as 8 people in order to minimise the impact of when there are 2 League matches on a Tuesday.

Action: AW to advise RD of bank details for League fees.

Darwen Vets. AGM to be held in March, fees are £30 per team. Kerry and Andy Tighe to attend.

f) **County Fees**

For Affiliation to: North Lancs and Fylde £45.20
Lancashire, no information yet. It was £35 last year.
BCGBA. £40 (was £35).

g) **Competition Dates**

Andy W is waiting for Jim Sheffield and Mike Cropper to get back to him before he can confirm dates for the Tommy Woods and Mick Williams pairs, also it was suggested that The Tony Ford Competition will be at Turton this year. Andy W suggested balloting the membership on which charities they would like to support for this event.

Ian Harvey has said that he will be happy to run some competitions this year, availability to be confirmed.

Action: AW to discuss with Ian.

h) **Trophies**

The club's trophies have been looked through and it has been decided to drop some of them and keep others as social competitions (to be run as handicapped round robins). We will dispense with prize money and charge £1 entry per competition. Ian Price and Stewart Bailey are prepared to run some. Kerry will run the Susan Holt, AW will run an early season Bowls Drive.

i) **Rivington Picnic**

This has been arranged for 25th June. Rivington are charging £40 to hire the green. There is one possible clash with a singles competition at Longsight. We will see if we can use last year's bus again for those who don't want to drive.

Action: JT to ask Margaret Whittaker to speak to the driver.

j) **Local Competitions**

Bill Stemp's local Open competitions are listed on the inside and outside boards and will also be put on the website.

Harvey Moore has been selected for the North Lancs & Fylde Champion of Champions competition representing the Darwen Vets League. It will be held at Guy's Thatched Hamlet in Garstang and starts at 10 am on Sunday 2nd April. Anyone who wishes to support Harvey will be welcomed.

Action: AW to be raised at the AGM (when discussing Team performance).

k) **MUGA**

The season has gone well and people say they have enjoyed it. Three matches have had to be cancelled due to bad weather. Tomorrow (10th February) is the last match of the Friday league and there will be a presentation to the top three teams in each League. Prizes will be £40, £30 and £20 (x 2).

There will also be a raffle and this will be funded using £150 from the Club and a £30 donation. We have had 28 sessions covering both Wednesday and Friday. Two Captains have said they can enter another team each if required. Thanks to the organisers and key helpers on the days, Margaret T, Eileen Hogarth, Cliff Unsworth, Ian Price and Kathleen Hadji, as well as the team Captains for their organisation and support.

The Committee were in agreement.

Action: AW

4. **Greenkeeper's Report**

The mole traps have been removed but are empty, it is likely that the mole could have been in the drain. It may be necessary to employ a mole catcher.

The floodlights need to be lowered and greased. This will be difficult with one light as there are tree branches in the way. Mike Barnwell to be consulted for advice.

Action: SB

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Robert is absent.

6. **Drinks and Beverage Prices**

We have just restocked with mini bottles of wine at a cost of £1.81. These are priced for sale at £2.50 at the moment. It was agreed to raise tea and coffee prices to £1 and for cordial and oxo to rise to 50p. We will review beer and pop prices when we have costings for them. We will stock St. Etienne and John Smiths and only consider other brands if requested by the members.

Action: AW and AS

7. **Rising Prices**

The club's insurance premiums have risen by 20%. The electricity price has also risen by 20% and we are now being charged VAT.

We are also now incurring bank charges (monthly standing charge and a 'per transaction' charge) after a period of free banking. It was agreed that we should again review our banking arrangements to ensure we have the most favourable terms. Ideally, all transactions should now be done by BACS.

Action: RD

8. **Membership Fees**

These rose from £20 to £30 last year (at the request of members at the AGM) and some feel that there should be a further increase this year to offset some of the rising prices above, which affect all members. This was discussed and it was felt that we could bring in extra income by restarting the 50 Club and that the now established MUGA activity was bringing in monies previously not seen over the winter season. It was also felt that the cost of league match fees should increase slightly to cover increased costs of buying tea, coffee and biscuits.

Andy Warman proposed raising league match fees for home and away games to £1.50 including tea & biscuits and reintroducing the 50 Club. This was agreed unanimously.

A vote was taken amongst those present to keep the fees at £30 per annum: 1 against and 3 for. It should also be noted that of those not present 1 was for and 1 against. Therefore, the Committee's recommendation to the AGM is that the annual membership fee will remain at £30 per annum.

9. **AGM**

This is to be held on 24th February in the Barlow Main Hall at 6 pm.
Andy W to send out an email with the above details, requesting proposals and asking for new committee members.

Action: AW

10. **Ken Heathcote**

There have been some difficulties involving the Barlow and the Just Giving Page, where they removed our ability to manage the page. This has now been resolved.

The Barlow wish to take back the JG page and AS will establish with Ken and Angela Howe if they are aware of any more payments that are imminent. If none then the JG campaign would be closed and the facility returned to the Barlow for their own fundraising activities.

Action: AS

11. **AOB**

a) **Repairs**

Ian Fenton has been asked to replace and fix the downspout, repair the guttering and install the flagged steps down to the Green in various places. He has indicated a cost of £420 for this work. We will ask him if he can fix the lip under the clubhouse door as well. The committee authorised £500 for this work and we will get a written quote from Ian. We also need to decide whether we will need space for a box for the disabled wheelchair when we purchase one.

Terry Whittaker will quote to replace the fans in the toilets which have stopped working. He will also quote for the new water heater and lighting.

Action: AS

b) **Storage box for the cushions**

This could fit under the gazebo outside and it will need to be lockable. There are some that look fairly robust on Amazon priced between £138 to £324. The committee agreed to spend up to £400.

Action: AS to select something suitable.

c) **Old Fridge**

The Fridge in the old Ladies' toilets outside. This is in good condition and should be used for beer storage.

d) **Jobs To Do**

We need a general decluttering and reorganisation in the clubhouse. The sanitiser is taking up a lot of space in the ladies' loo and the stables. It was agreed to put this back outside during the summer and consider whether we still need it in the long term.

Robert wishes for an audit of the bowls we have which are for sale.

Action: JT has volunteered to do this

It was noted that various trophies need polishing.

Also, Harry Riley has said that he may be able to source some funding from The Masons.

12. Next Meeting

It was agreed that we would reconvene next Friday, 17th February at 2pm in the clubhouse to discuss the agenda for the forthcoming AGM.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting finished at 5.05pm.