



Biddenden Bowls Club

The Green, Gordon Jones Playing Fields, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Kent TN27 8BB

www.biddendenbowlsclub.org

Annual General Meeting Minutes

25th November 2020 7pm Via ZOOM

1. **Committee Members Present** – Jeannette, Paul B, Brian, Denise, Kim, Laurie, Sue J, Norman, Barbara, Linda W, David. (11)
2. **Members Present** – Jim, Malcolm, Ashley, Maggie, Ray, Ann, Hugh, Veronica, Ralph, Shirley, Joy, Roger, Kate (13)
3. **Apologies** – Elaine, Jon S, Linda S, Paul S, Sue R, John W (6)
4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting on 27th November 2019** – the minutes which were circulated ahead of the meeting by email were voted upon and unanimously agreed to be a true record.

5. Chair's Report – Jeannette

Jeannette thanked everyone for attending. Also thanked John Sargent from High Halden for making available the ZOOM facility for this meeting. She advised that due to the unusual nature of having the club's AGM via ZOOM, due to the COVID restrictions, the main reports which were all circulated ahead of the meeting/displayed on the website will not be read out. Jeannette thanked Brian, Denise and Laurie who are standing down from the committee for all they have done

6. Treasurer's Report – Brian

Comment made that the £10,000 grant was from the Government's Small Business Rates COVID fund rather than from Ashford Borough Council. Paul B expressed the view that the bulk of the £10,000 will have been used by the end of the 2021 season due to the loss of this year's main fund-raising events on top of the loss of income over the 2020 season. The accounts were accepted. Jeannette thanked Brian for all his work as treasurer over recent years with his great attention to detail.

7. Green Report – Paul

Paul added thanks to Ralph, Joy and Shirley for all their work on the bank and also Jim, Brian, Ralph and Norman for the work done over the past weeks in repairing the leaks on the pavilion roof and men's changing room roof.

8. Captain's Report – Paul -- no comments raised



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9. Inclusion and Accessibility Report– Kim (for subcommittee)

Jeannette stressed how proud she is of the work done to improve inclusion and accessibility. She advised that an application has been submitted to Biddenden Parish Council's Community Fund requesting support in buying some 0000-size bowls as a mid-way bowl between the junior sizes and the 00s. Kim added that a lot has been done and thanked Ashley for the green access steps. She stressed there is more to be done.

10. Proposals regarding amendments to Constitution and Club Rules

Proposal 1 – Club Constitution - this amends the date that any approved changes under S3.3.1 shall become operative to 1st January as opposed to the 1st April.

3.3 The Subscription Fee

3.3.1 *The Subscription Fee for each category of Membership shall be proposed by the Committee to the members at the Annual General Meeting in each year. Any proposed changes shall be approved by a majority of those present and entitled to vote and shall become operative from 1st January. The current rate of Subscription Fee shall be prominently displayed in the Club premises.*

Proposal 2 – Club Constitution - this adds a Membership Secretary to the list of officers

2.1 *The Officers of the Club shall be Full Members of the Club and shall consist of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Fixtures Secretary, Competitions Secretary, **Membership Secretary**, Captain, Vice-Captain, Mixed League Captain, Mens League Captain and Welfare Officer.*

Proposal 3 – Club Rules – Amends the list of policies to reflect the change from the previous Data Protection Policy to 2 updated policies: Privacy Policy and Electronic Communication and Social Media Policy

The Club has adopted the following policies and all members must comply with them:

- *Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.*
- *Adults at Risk Safeguarding Policy*
- *Privacy Notice*
- *Electronic Communication and Social Media Policy*
- *Equity Policy and Code of Ethics and Behaviour*
- *Health & Safety Policy*
- *Anti-Bullying Policy*



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Proposal 4 – Club Rules – Amends the date for payment of annual subscriptions from 30th April to the 1st April which is in line with the constitution.

Club Year runs from 1st April to 31st March. Annual Subscriptions are payable by 1st April or within 1 month of being accepted as a member of the club.

All 4 proposals were unanimously supported and passed.

11. Proposals regarding Subscriptions and Competition Fees

- Increase **FULL MEMBERS subscription to £85** (previously £65) per annum, payable by 1st April each year
- Maintain a **"Free" first season membership** for those new to Bowls (see joining fee)
- **Add a Joining fee of £10** payable by those enjoying a "free season" to cover the affiliation fees payable to Bowls England and Kent Bowls
- Apply a **"credit"** towards Full Members subscriptions for 2021 for those who paid the full subscription (£65) in 2020, as follows:
 - Played NO BOWLS due to isolating **£60 credit (£25 to pay)**
 - Played Bowls within Covid Secure arrangements **£30 credit (£55 to pay)**
- Introduce a **"Junior Membership"** as follows
 - Free "first season" for those new to bowls with a **£5 Joining fee**
 - Full **Junior Membership £20** per annum
- **Social Members £5**
- Apply a **"credit"** for those club competition entry fees paid by members in 2020, towards their entry fees for 2021 competition events.

Discussion took place about the proposed increase of £20 to the full members subscription with views expressed including: big increase in one go, may put us out of line with other local clubs, may be too high for some members, a small increase to pay over the 5 months of the season, we need to increase income from subscriptions to offset loss of big fund raisers, a relative pays £109 subscription to her bowls club, could reduce the increase, could seek new sponsors or other ways to raise income, need to plan long term, most members will not pay this full amount for 2021 due to the subsidy for those who paid in full in 2020, can vote again in 12 months.



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A vote followed (plus one proxy vote) on the totality of the proposals for subscriptions and competition fees. 16 voted in favour, 7 against and 1 abstention. Proposal was passed.

12. Election of Officers – Jeannette

Jeannette read out the nominations: Chair – Jeannette, Vice Chair – Hugh, Treasurer – Kim, Secretary – NO NOMINATION, Fixture Secretary – David, Membership Secretary – Linda W, Captain – Paul B, Vice Captain – Norman, Competition Secretary – Sue J, Welfare Officer – Barbara Ellison, General committee – Veronica

As the number of candidates was less than the number of vacancies to be filled a vote was taken to deem them all elected and this was supported by the majority. [clause 4.1.4 of constitution] Jeannette emphasised the need for a secretary to be appointed as soon as possible.

13.Appointment of Auditor

Brian advised that he asked the current auditor, Mr M Clixby, if he would be willing to continue to check the accounts and he confirmed that he would. Jeannette suggested that this is discussed at the next committee meeting.

14. Any Other Business

- Kim advised that she has been investigating Gift Aid for qualifying donations under the club's CASC registration to ensure we can maximise income when donations are received.
- Sue J is going to make a Christmas Cake, fully iced, to raffle to raise funds for the club. Tickets will be £2 and an email with details will be sent out.
- Query raised about Kent Air Ambulance collection. Nothing planned as no presentation dinner/Xmas drinks to do collection.
- Confirmed that Ladies Tournament is being organised by Barbara. Ann will be co-ordinating raffle prizes which will include a hamper. Members will be asked to donate hamper contents and other prizes. BB has a bottle of Baileys donated by Ron King on behalf of the Ukulele Group which can be used.

Meeting closed at 19.53.



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