



*Buckfastleigh Bowling Club
Duckspond Road
Buckfastleigh
TQ11 0NL*

Executive Meeting

Meeting held on 24 June 2020 at 7pm.

Present: Bob Dowdell – Chairman; Tom Bowden – Secretary & Treasurer; Jeanne Pinney – Vice Chairman; Ham Sampford - Green Manager; Paul Hoff - Club Captain; Terry Humphries & Jenny Goss - Committee Members.

Apologies:

None.

Chairman's Welcome:

Bob welcomed everyone to the meeting. Bob reported the sad news that a former member, Tim Steemson, had passed away.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 5 March 2020 were signed by the Chairman as correct.

Matters Arising:

1. Fixture Book

As all of the fixtures have been cancelled for 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the fixture book will not be printed this year.

2. Fund Raising Sub Committee

The sub committee will be called in due course.

Action: TB

3. Works to the Changing Rooms and Clubhouse

Neil Edmunds has provided a quote which has been accepted, in the sum of £2,620. The external works will be carried out in September and the internal works during the winter months

Action: TB

4. Notice Boards

The notice boards have been measured and new ones will be in place for the start of next season.

Action: TB

5. Honour Boards

These require updating for the last 2 years. Jeanne will find someone to carry out the work.

Action: JP

6. Press Officer

Although Mike Anderson had agreed to do some press adverts with regard to recruitment, this wasn't done because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

7. Members not re-joining

Paul reported that he contacted a few of the members who haven't re-joined but said that 'they didn't want to know'.

8. Date for Men's Meeting

As all of the fixtures have been cancelled for 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there was no need to call a Men's Meeting.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Keith Stow asking him to return the any Club keys that he holds.

Action: TB

Secretary's Report:

Tom presented the Secretary's Report which had previously been circulated.

Tom outlined the issue regarding members who may want to re-join in the 2021 season, but who haven't paid their 2020 annual membership fee. It had been agreed by email, whilst the Club was in total lockdown, that there would be 'no free ride' for members.

The Committee unanimously agreed that members in that category should pay a joining fee equivalent to this year's membership fee (£75) plus the 2021 annual membership fee.

Action: TB

Treasurer's Report:

Tom presented the Treasurer's Report which had previously been circulated.

Regarding the works to the changing rooms and the clubhouse, the roof of the changing rooms will be painted grey; the changing rooms green, the machine shed and the outside of the clubhouse a 'magnolia type' and the inside white. Additionally, some eaves of the clubhouse and the gables of the changing rooms will be replaced. The plastic chairs outside the machine shed will be replaced with a wooden bench.

Green Manager's Report:

Ham presented the Green Report which had previously been circulated.

Any Other Business:

1. Clubhouse carpet

Jeanne proposed that we get the clubhouse carpet cleaned. Pat Friendship has a machine for cleaning carpets and it was agreed that we get the carpet cleaned prior to the start of the 2021 season.

Action: TB

2. Centenary

Bob reported that Bowls England were unaware that we had a fixture arranged against them for next year. Apparently, it transpired that the lady dealing with it had forgotten to diarise it and has subsequently been sacked. However, the fixture has now been reinstated and is scheduled for 10 June 2021, although we are yet to receive written confirmation. Additionally, we have a match against Bowls Devon on 13 August 2021. Tom has also been in contact with David Mercer to arrange a match against a section 5 representative side.

Action: BD/TB

A centenary sub committee has been formed comprising Ham Samford, John Fox and Kelvin Clark. They are hoping to report back to Committee by mid-July.

Jeanne also mentioned that there is a 1921 year book in the attic that has the exact opening date of the Club.

3. Friendlies

Paul enquired if we have any friendlies lined up. Tom said that none had been arranged so far, but if the downward trend of Covid-19 infections continues to fall, then we should be in a position to arrange some friendlies in a few weeks' time.

4. External Fence at the entrance

It is becoming top look quite unsightly at the entrance to the club and it was agreed to obtain a quote to replace the hedge/bushes/trees with a new fence. This would make the club more attractive from the outside and also give more room in that corner of the surround.

Action: TB

5. Display Cabinet

Bob proposed that we replace the current tennis club cabinet with a proper display cabinet whereby we could have extra storage in the bottom section and a glass display for our trophies in the top half.

Jeanne gave details of the contact of the tennis club, Dennis Wheary, who should be contacted regarding the contents of the cabinet.

Action: BD

6. Blower/Sucker

Ham requested that we purchase a new blower/sucker to clear the leaves and debris around the green. Ham said he would bring costings to the next meeting.

Action: HS

Date of next meeting: TBC

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed as correct:

Chairman



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Secretary's Report for Executive Meeting 24 June 2020

The government announced the Covid-19 lockdown on 23 March 2020, which has put everything on hold. Very quickly we were notified that the MDL, Over 55's, PDL & SDLBL leagues were all suspended. All friendlies and representative matches were also cancelled.

Several key decisions were taken by the committee (by email/messages/ phone) during this time:

To close the green and all buildings.

In line with advice from Bowls England and Bowls Devon, we decided to collect the annual membership from members. This was communicated by 2 emails and messages to all members and in addition, the Chairman wrote a letter to all members. The following members have not re-joined:

Matt Bowen - won't pay if he can't bowl

Richard Cooper - intends to give bowls a miss this year, for financial and time reasons.

Gill Davies - left part way through 2019.

Terry Deemer - moved to Paignton.

Colin Hayman - didn't reply to 3 emails and 1 letter.

Barbara Haywood - too busy with business.

Tim Haywood - too busy with business.

Stuart Hodsoll - didn't reply to 3 emails and 1 letter.

Roger Joint - left for personal reasons.

Shirley Joint - left for personal reasons.

Darren Lee - didn't reply to 3 emails and 1 letter.

Malcolm Lee - didn't reply to 3 emails and 1 letter.

David Palk - didn't reply to 3 emails and 1 letter.

Colin Raggett - joined Newton Abbot.

Keith Stow - didn't reply to 3 emails and 1 letter.

In addition, 2 members became social members – Mike Raggett because of his disability and David Burningham because of his shoulder injury. Further, I have not chased Mike Easterbrook for his membership fee as he is still unable to return from Australia.

Regarding those who have not joined this year, but may wish to join next year, the committee took the unanimous decision that they would have to pay their 2020 membership fee as well. Otherwise it would leave an untenable position regarding those members who have paid their 2020 membership fee. It is worth noting that most other clubs have adopted a similar policy.

It is worth noting that both life members have paid a donation equivalent to the membership fee. Indeed, Richard Nicholls was the very first member to pay, by bank transfer, on the Saturday morning following the email I sent out. Not bad for a 91 year old!!

Following the 1st stage of lockdown relaxation and clarification from Bowls England, Bowls clubs in England were allowed to reopen for singles play on alternate rinks. All buildings were out of bounds, save for use of toilets. Later we were advised that drinks could be sold for consumption outside the clubhouse. The committee agreed not to reopen straight away and after discussion with Ham, we agreed to reopen on 15 June 2020 with a booking system in order that members would not turn up en masse and defeat the social distancing requirements.

Commercial sanitizers were purchased in order that the equipment (mats, jacks, scoreboards) could be kept virus free.

Further relaxation of the lockdown means that we could now play triples on alternate rinks. However, we have decided to wait a little while to ensure that there is no "2nd spike" and that the virus statistics continue on their downward trend. Providing that is the case then we are hopeful that we can arrange some friendlies in July/August and September. And, if we have an Indian summer, we could even extend into October.

We also decided to accept the quote £2,620 from Neil Edmunds for the redecoration of the changing rooms, the machine shed and the clubhouse. This will include the replacement, where necessary, of all rotten wood (fascia's etc.) and the provision of a bench structure to replace the unsightly plastic chairs outside the machine shed. The changing room roof will be painted in grey, as Neil advised us that black would burn off within 1 year. Externally it will be green. The clubhouse and machine shed will be a light cream and white inside the clubhouse.



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Treasurer's Report for Executive Meeting 24 June 2020

Income

Annual Subscriptions

Obviously because of the effects of Covid-19 we have been unable to hold a recruitment campaign this year and together with those members who haven't re-joined (most of whom didn't even have the courtesy to inform the Club), we now have 24 male members, 14 female members, 2 juniors and 4 social members. This have yielded an income of £2,690.

Grants

I have chased up Teignbridge DC for the final payment of their grant (£1,000) and am pleased to report that this has been received.

I am still waiting to hear from the National Lottery (Awards for All) for funding for our defibrillator.

We are classed as a small business for the purpose of the government grant scheme (Covid-19) and I applied for and we have received a grant of £10,000. This is a windfall, totally unexpected, and one we must put to good use. Following the committee's agreement, £2,620 will be used for the external decoration of the clubhouse and changing rooms and the internal decoration of the clubhouse. I have also applied to the Town Council for a grant for these works.

The balance at the bank, as at 17 June was £27,481.17.

Buckfastleigh Bowls Club

Revenue Account		£	£	
2018/2019				2019/2020
Actual	Income		To Date	Estimate
3,617	Annual Subscriptions		2,689	2,690
5,710	Grants		11,050	11,050
200	Sponsorship		0	0
97	Donations		194	194
2,139	Teas & Draws		0	1,280
1,032	Annual Dinner		1,042	1,042
3,141	Bar Sales		242	1,818
377	Competitions		13	13
259	Green Fees		28	88
232	Clothing		0	0
256	Social Events		109	209
16	Other Income		0	0
<u>17,076</u>			<u>15,367</u>	<u>18,384</u>
	Expenditure			
3,620	Green & Machinery		2,142	3,117
761	Premises & Grounds		1,174	1,174
168	Rent		0	170
396	Electricity		200	300
371	Water Rates		355	455
165	Fire Extinguisher Check		189	189
693	Insurance		752	752
216	Advertising		0	0
228	Printing, Postage & Stationery		106	106
80	Bar Licence		70	70
5	Website		0	0
27	Sundries		140	140
912	Annual Dinner		920	920
1,042	Affiliation Fees & Trophies		122	323
618	Food & Draws		15	335
171	Clothing		0	0
0	Bank Charges		0	0
1,421	Bar Expenses		142	891
<u>10,894</u>			<u>6,327</u>	<u>8,942</u>
<u>6,182</u>	Surplus/(Deficit)		<u>9,040</u>	<u>9,442</u>

Green Report 16th June 2020: to Executive Committee BBC

WORK DONE

Ken and Ham have managed to keep grass cut down to 9, weekly, during April 2020. [At times chaperoned by Bob and Tom]. Ken has put in much time trimming the edges and banks as well.

February And March 2020 saw impossible wet conditions with at least double the average amount of rain for those periods. However, the green survived without the expected flooding or large puddles. This is a sound justification for the work undertaken the previous Autumn.

Managed to 'trim' the grass once each month, fortunately the wet weather conditions and cold deterred the grass growth.

During a couple of drier days soluble iron treatment was applied in early March, followed by deep scarification. After another dry day in mid-March a new eco-friendly granular feed was applied and the wet weather returned making cutting impossible, but the feed dissolved into the soil. Effect of 'greening up' seen with dramatic results.

During the very dry spells in late April and particularly in May the water sprinkler has had to be used for several nights at a time, and three times during the night. This has proved to be an invaluable asset as only 2 barrowloads of cuttings max. have been taken off. This shows how little the grass grew during this early hot/dry period. It was looking a little 'tired' despite the night-time watering.

Hand weeding continued. Patches seeded and top-soil applied.

Grass just about keeping going during this problematic period, but not looking at its best!

After discussion with the management team decision made to open the green for limited playing under the strict guidelines from Bowls England, considering the Covid-19 problem. Opened the Green on Monday 15th June 2020.

Green cut twice the week before opening [first time cut twice since October 2019; unprecedented situation for cutting]. This is why the cut height was kept at 9, to prevent the grass from burning off! The cut height was reduced from 9 to 6 taking off 12, and then another 6 barrowloads of grass cuttings.

Work to be undertaken

At last the weather 'broke' and improved with a few reasonable showers. Grass now looking much better and in good condition, but still in need of light scarification, also Nitrogen/phosphate application.

Weekly cut height to be kept at 6 for the time being whilst limited numbers are practicing.

Further application of soluble feed to be applied.

Hand weeding and patch control to be continued.

Green Team members to be approached ready for resumption of grass work when weather conditions and Covid-19 precautions permit.

Tim, our consultant, will be contacted to view the green and to brief what work-regime, needs to be followed to improve the green further, bearing in mind that the 100 years celebration is just around the corner! [any ideas?].

Ham
Green Manager