



*Buckfastleigh Bowling Club
Duckspond Road
Buckfastleigh
TQ11 0NL*

Executive Meeting

Meeting held on 29 March 2021 at 2pm.

Present: Shirley Williams – Lady Chairman; Jeanne Pinney – Vice Chairman; Tom Bowden – Secretary & Treasurer; Jenny Goss – Lady Captain; Ham Sampford – Green Manager.

Lady Chairman's Welcome:

Shirley welcomed everyone to the meeting at Jenny's house and thanked her for allowing the meeting to be held in her garden following stage 1a of the roadmap out of lockdown.

Apologies:

Mike Anderson, Terry Humphries.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 9 December 2020 were signed by the Lady Chairman as correct.

Matters Arising:

1. Honour Boards

Having not heard from Teign Signs, it was agreed that SJB signs should supply the updates at a cost of £78.

Action: TB

2. External Fence at the entrance

The external fence at the entrance was completed in January, and the barbed wire on the existing entrance gate has been removed. The hedge on the A38 side of the green still needs some further work.

Action: TB

3. **Vic Manfield**

A suitable trophy was agreed with Pauline and ordered, but later found to be out of stock. Tom will search for another suitable trophy. It had been agreed with Pauline that the competition will be a 4 wood singles, open to men and ladies, played in the best of 3 sets, the precise format will be decided by Pauline. The Family Fun Day on 5 September will be renamed the Vic Manfield Memorial Day and the final of the competition will be played on that day.

Action: TB

4. **Ian Howkins**

Ian's cousin scattered his ashes over the rose beds and presented Tom with a cheque for £1,000 to be used to purchase a bench and the rest for club funds. A bench and plaque have been purchased at a cost of £150.30, leaving £849.70 for club funds.

5. **Club Shirts**

These were received on 26 March, but unfortunately due to an error at the factory (for which they have admitted the error), the ladies shirts were far too small. The replacements are being given a high priority and we hope to have them before the Opening Day.

6. **Rules of the Club**

These have now been incorporated in the Fixture Booklet.

7. **Rules of Bowls**

Tom has received a complimentary copy from Harry Riley, Bowls Devon Administrator, further copies will be ordered as soon as the Bowls Devon offices are allowed to reopen.

Action: TB

Secretary's Report:

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

Further to the report, the Secretary of the South Devon Ladies Bowling League has informed Jenny that following a vote amongst the constituent clubs, it had been decided to abandon the league for the forthcoming season. As we are opening up from lockdown this was unanimously felt to be a wrong decision, but there is nothing we can do. Our Fixture Secretary, Sue, will be actively trying to fill the 12 match gap in the ladies fixtures with friendlies for the ladies.

Tom reported that Bowls England had issued an update on their 'return to play' advice. The key points are:

- Bowls is considered an organised sport and as such can return to play in all formats from 29 March 2021.
- For organised competitions, singles and pairs can use every rink, whilst triples and fours must be played on alternate rinks.
- For casual play, ie roll-ups, then the rule of 6 must apply.
- Spectators are not allowed.
- We need to display an official NHS QR code poster.

- Changing rooms and the Clubhouse remain closed (except for toilet access).
- A Risk Assessment needs to be undertaken.
- The Bowls England guidance must be distributed to every member.

The NHS QR code poster has already been obtained and the Risk Assessment has been carried out.

Action: TB

Tom reported that Mike has been asked to select the Men's X & Y teams and captains. The teams need to be registered by 21 April 2021.

Action: MA, TB

Treasurer's Report:

Tom presented the Treasurer's Report which had previously been circulated. The committee were saddened to hear that Will Wale and Derek Voaden will not be re-joining the club this year. Tom confirmed that Toby has re-joined, but it is uncertain how many games he might be able to play.

Green Manager's Report:

Ham presented the Green Manager's Report which had previously been circulated.

Ham was very pleased with the effect the Drill 'n Fill had had on the green and said that it should be done every 5 years or so. It was agreed to earmark up to £4,000 from the Special Fund for a further Drill 'n Fill in 2025.

Action: TB

Ham also reported that the gully rubbers need replacing. This will cost approximately £1,488 + delivery. It was agreed that they be purchased and financed from the Special Fund.

Action: TB, HS

It was agreed to repair the current scarifier which should then be operational for a number of years. This might cost between £400 and £800.

Action: HS

It was also agreed to purchase 2 wheelbarrows at a cost of £80.

Action: HS

Ham will also update the inventory of equipment.

Action: HS

Centenary Arrangements:

Tom updated the committee that the following items have been purchased, or are in hand:

- Centenary Pens. 500 are in stock.
- Bowls Stickers. 500 are in stock.
- Centenary Shirts.

Ham reported that he had sourced a PA system from a local man, Trevor Jones. This will be provided on Opening Day, the 3 centenary matches (Bowls England, Bowls Devon and s5.) and also on the Vic Memorial Day.

Jeanne volunteered to manage the catering arrangements for Opening Day on 24 April 2021. Note that we have previously agreed to provide a 'higher quality biscuit'.

Action: JP

Regarding Opening Day and the Bowls England match, Ham had approached various media outlets, TV and radio, and they all replied to let them know nearer the time. The local press were also approached and where appropriate they asked us to supply the copy and any photographs.

Action: Centenary Sub Cttee

Tom read out an article prepared by Mike for inclusion in the 'Around Buckfastleigh & South Brent' and 'Around Ashburton' booklets that will be distributed to every household in the district during April. It was agreed to replace the picture of Mike with one of the new flag and also distribute the copy to the local press and the Buckfastleigh News Sheet in mid April, which will give us some advance publicity of the Opening Day.

Action: TB

Ham suggested and it was agreed that we'll run 2 spiders on Opening Day.

Action: All

A discussion took place as to whether we should invite some guests to watch the centenary match against Bowls England, such as representatives from Bowls Devon, the leagues and other clubs. A limit of 30 people outside was agreed as a working number for guests. A final decision was deferred until after Opening Day, when we'll have further information regarding Covid.

Recruitment:

It was agreed that the 4 large banners obtained in 2019 will be used again in Ashburton, Buckfastleigh, Buckfast and South Brent together with laminated posters for display in shops and lamp posts etc. These need to go up in mid April.

Action: TB

Shirley suggested we run a 'Saturday Morning Club' aimed at, but not exclusively for, juniors, whereby people could come along and try their hand at bowls. We would need to advertise this, via schools and the Town Councils. We would also need an informal rota to ensure we have enough cover on those mornings.

Action: TB

Tom also suggested that each member be asked if they can attract at least one additional member. It was agreed that a 50% reduction in membership fee be offered as an incentive for members.

Action: TB

Any Other Business:

1. New Flag

It was agreed to purchase 2 flags, one with the dates and one without, at a cost of £90 each from SJB signs Ltd.

Action: TB

2. Welcome Sign

It was agreed to purchase a 'Welcome to Buckfastleigh Bowling Club' from SJB signs at a cost of £308.40.

Action: TB

3. Gardens and Beds

It was agreed to purchase new roses for the flower beds in the Autumn at a cost of around £200. Ham also agreed to plant some ground cover on the area around the new fence.

Action: HS

4. Internal Competitions

It was agreed to bring forward the closing date to 30 April, to ensure that there is enough time to complete the competitions. Every round, including the final (with the exception of the Vic Manfield Trophy final), will have play by dates. The first player drawn will have the responsibility of offering 3 dates to their opponent. There will be very limited extensions. The presentations will take place at the annual Christmas Dinner.

Action: TB

5. Equipment Shed

Tom agreed to contact Andy Bowen and together they will tidy up the shed.

Action: TB

6. Bunting

Ham agreed to arrange to display bunting all around the green for the whole of the centenary year.

Action: HS

Date of next meeting: TBC

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.05pm.

Signed as correct:

Lady Chairman



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Secretary's Report for Executive Meeting 29 March 2021

Fixtures

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, West Sussex Tourists have had to cancel their fixture which was scheduled for 17 May. They are hoping to tour in 2023. The fixture booklet is 'oven ready' (sorry, couldn't resist!), subject to one or 2 fixture amendments. I will print the booklet as soon as stage 2 of the roadmap out of lockdown is confirmed on 12 April.

Leagues

The Ladies P&D are proposing that 2 rinks of triples are played, with 2 spare rinks in between. Social distancing to be maintained by players walking off to the adjacent spare rink when they have bowled to be replaced by the next bowler. Each lead to have their own jack and mat. Hand sanitisers to be available at each end of the rink. They have stopped short of requiring spacesuits!

The Ladies South Devon league put forward 2 proposals. Abandon the league for 2021 or continue as normal but extend the play by dates (the end of the league season) until 19 September. We decided to vote for option 2.

The Men's MDL have decided that the DEFAULT position will be to play triples, with 2 rinks at home and 2 away, with a start date of 17 May (which is stage 3 of the roadmap – clubhouses can reopen). If Bowls England can persuade Sport England that we are an organized sport, then the league would revert to 4's.

The Men's Over 55's league is scheduled to continue as normal, the format being triples anyway.

Insurance

Both the Civil Liability (£95) and the Buildings and Contents (£695) have been paid for this year.

Firewatch

The annual inspection and testing charge (£207) for our fire extinguishers has been paid. I am hopeful that the person who carried out the checks might join our club.

Decisions Taken During Lockdown

The Committee made a number of decisions during lockdown by email/telephone. These were:

Entrance Sign – to be erected on the small border in front of the new fence.

Flag – to obtain a new flag. I hope to have details available at the meeting.

Barbed Wire – removal of at the entrance. This has been done.

Centenary Pens – we now have 500 of these.

50% Discount on Membership Fees – this has been applied to the 2021 subs.

Opening the Green – Bob Dowdell, Bowls Devon President will open the green. Our President, John Sims, will officiate on the Club's behalf.

Notice Boards – these have now arrived, at a cost of £142.

Tom Bowden
Secretary



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Treasurer's Report for Executive Meeting 29 March 2021

Annual Subscriptions

Will Wale, Derek Voaden and Ben Hamlyn-White are not re-joining this year. Will has said he 'wants to try something else', Derek has taken umbrage over something last years A team captain said and Ben has to concentrate on his exams. We may also lose our other junior – Toby – because he may be starting work in Plymouth.

This leaves us with a number of named centenary shirts that we'll have where there has been no £10 contribution.

However, Covid restrictions permitting, I am confident that another recruitment campaign in April/May can attract some more members.

Covid Grants

Like most Bowls Clubs, we have been extremely fortunate in benefiting from the lockdown grants from the government. In total, we have received £19,431 and have used £6,833, leaving £12,598 in hand.

We also have £850 remaining from the bequest by Ian Howkins, and an estimated (year end) £19,316 in our general fund.

The estimated loss this year is almost entirely due to the fact that the repainting costs arose in 2020/21, whilst the Town Council grant for the works was received in 2010/20.

We are in a very healthy financial position, but we can only spend each £ once.

The balance at the bank, as at 21 October was £31,952.

Tom Bowden
Treasurer

Buckfastleigh Bowls Club

Revenue Account		£	£	
2019/2020		2020/2021		2020/2021
Actual	Income	To Date		Estimate
2,837	Annual Subscriptions	1,378		1,609
3,670	Grants	0		0
500	Sponsorship	0		900
194	Donations	43		44
255	Teas & Draws	0		2,500
1,042	Annual Dinner	0		0
784	Bar Sales	9		3,500
13	Competitions	0		400
28	Green Fees	0		200
145	Clothing	440		465
109	Social Events	0		400
118	Special Fund	6,715		6,715
0	Ian Howkins Bequest Fund	150		150
0	Other Income	40		40
<u>9,695</u>			<u>8,775</u>	<u>16,923</u>
	Expenditure			
2,617	Green & Machinery	3,771		5,602
792	Premises & Grounds	5,260		5,459
168	Rent	0		170
308	Electricity	174		348
512	Water Rates	73		500
189	Fire Extinguisher Check	207		207
752	Insurance	790		790
0	Advertising	0		200
143	Printing, Postage & Stationery	69		204
70	Bar Licence	70		70
0	Website	12		12
191	Sundries	143		143
0	Centenary	96		1,000
920	Annual Dinner	0		0
122	Affiliation Fees & Trophies	0		550
49	Food & Draws	0		800
485	Clothing	0		965
0	Bank Charges	(1)		0
381	Bar Expenses	0		1,500
<u>7,699</u>			<u>10,664</u>	<u>18,520</u>
<u>1,996</u>	Surplus/(Deficit)		<u>(1,889)</u>	<u>(1,597)</u>



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BBC Green Report to Executive Committee for 29th March 2021

This has been an unprecedented difficult time since the last report of 9th December 2020. Covid-19 restrictions have had a huge impact on servicing and work. The Covid effect together with extremely wet ground and a large number of frosts, some very extensive, has prevented any work until the beginning of March 2021. The mower and scarifier were sent away for servicing, the return was delayed awaiting parts. In particular the 'Sisis' Scarifier is well past its best and advised that it was in need of replacement, sooner than later. Whilst new parts can be obtained, it is still getting to be 'worn out'. We did not purchase it from brand new, and if it had been a 'demo' machine, there is every chance it had had a hard life, as a 'hire machine' as well as a demo. Other specific items need replacing as they are at the end of their days: Gully rubbers, wheelbarrow(s), hand tools; list could be extensive!

WORK DONE:

- ❖ Green was cut just once in January 2021. However, the bonus was that due to such poor weather the grass was not growing until the 'warmer' period in 2nd week of March.
- ❖ March has been a time of high activity: green mowed at 10, old scarifier used for first run, but it broke down due to age of parts [if it is to be retained then it will have to go back for replacement pulleys and new belts]. This has meant there has been some extremely hard work put in by Ken and Ham, trying to use this very inefficient machine. The lawn sand treatment was spun out and irrigated in. This had an immediate effect on the moss and grass. 7 days later after the application, the mower was used to remove thatch pulled up, after **Ham provided his own mini scarifier to go over the whole green and remove thatch**. Ken was mowing up the excess and cutting the grass tips. **In eight days 20 barrowloads were taken off the green.**
- ❖ Fertiliser spun out, more grass seed applied, and green given next treatment of topping sand. Gully cleared for first time after winter using the brand-new blower, a delight to work!
- ❖ Tim, the consultant, came down to see how we were getting on, and remarked that the green was looking better than he had ever seen it for this time of the year [he was very impressed by our enthusiasm and effort]. After discussion, he went away to prepare a programme of work following on from our outline.

- ❖ The new venture attempted, by Ecosolve Ltd, 'Drill 'N' Fill' has been a considerable success, as the green has been much less waterlogged, considering some of the heavy deluges received. **BBC must budget and save up £600 to £800 per year ready for the second treatment in 2025?** [Likelihood is that in five years' time the cost will have risen from £3000 to somewhere in the region of £4000! We must be prepared to invest in this treatment again, to help the improvement of the green].

WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN:

Gully clearance. General green treatment; weed removal, hole filling, light cutting to reduce from 10 to 8 in mid-April, and down to 6 for the opening of the green on 24th April 2021, chemical applications for weeds, wetting agent to be applied in mid-April.

- Decision to be made: to replace the old scarifier or purchase either a newer one, or alternative machine, or buy a new cartridge to fit the Allett 24.
- **Gradually preparing the green for opening in 2021, by Devon Bowls President.**
- Continued renewal; old, damaged, tools, equipment, removal/disposal of obsolete items.
- [Update the Inventory].

Ham Sampford [BBC Green Manager] 24th March 2021