

CHELTENHAM WHADDON BOWLING CLUB

MINUTES OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE CLUBS ON THURSDAY 11 JULY 2024 AT 2.00PM

Present: Dave Hooper, Dave Simmons, Andy Todd, Ray Hawkins, Jill Whistler, David Hearle, Gail Gilbert, Debby Hooper, Julie Beaven, Jools Gray, Peter McGiffie, Don Bailey

APOLOGIES

Mike Newman

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The Secretary had circulated the minutes of the previous meeting on 07 June 2024. There were no corrections or comments, so the Chair signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

2. We reviewed open actions from previous meetings:

- Action 2401/06: the sub-committee set up to review the Club Constitution had exchanged comments and suggested some amendments. They would be meeting on Tuesday 16 July to discuss these and come up with some proposals for the Committee.
- Action 2403/04: still to arrange a session to familiarise Don and David with the CCTV system
- Action 2405/02: Andy had looked at some possible sources for grant funding for solar panels but so far none had proved viable.
- Action 2406/03: Dave Simmons reported that a suitable clock would only cost a small proportion of the donation, so after discussion, we agreed to acquire a new wooden bench and an appropriate plaque to commemorate Don Hughes.

REPORT FROM IGLU

3. Peter Geddes of Iglu Bars thanked the club for its permission to use the club car park; from his perspective the arrangement and cooperation with club officers, principally David Hearle, worked smoothly and had been very well received by the away fans who used the facility. He would very much like to continue the arrangement for the coming season, though the relegation of CTFC to League 2 would mean fewer matches with sufficient away fans to make it worthwhile. They would liaise with away clubs on ticket sales and take police advice to decide the games at which to offer the service – they would know 1-2 weeks in advance. He concluded by asking to use the club premises on 20 July, 26 July and 10 August for pre-season fixtures and the first regular home game.

4. The club readily acceded to the requests for 20 July (away fixture at Lydney) and for 10 August (no fixture). Peter emphasised that the visiting team for 26 July, Bristol City, would bring many supporters, thus generating significant income. We would discuss this later in the meeting and return an answer quickly. Before Peter left Committee members expressed appreciation for the swift payment of our agreed revenue

share and to the highly efficient crew who put up and dismantled the facility, leaving the club premises exactly as they found them.

5. After Peter had left, we considered the request to close the club on 26 July to set up the away fan zone: this would mean postponing the scheduled Waghorne's Trophy matches. Since only we only use 3 rinks for each round, it would be feasible to play these games on other Fridays and the income would outweigh the potential bar earnings. We therefore agreed to Iglu's request. Andy would send out a message to all members to inform them that the club would be closed and that those playing Waghorne's matches could play them on alternative dates (19 July or 02 August). **Action 2407/01**

6. As regards the other potential fixture clashes as listed in Attachment B, we thought it unlikely that Iglu would want to set up the fan zone on either 24 August or 07 September (numbers likely to be low). In both cases however, we could not permit it: we had already played Moreton-in-Marsh away, so could not now change the venue, and we would not change arrangements for Finals Day on 07 September.

FIXTURE SECRETARY

7. Andy noted that we still lacked a fixture secretary and the time for arranging next season's matches was fast approaching. He had had an offer from Peter Weir, who was prepared to support the previous postholder, Alan Adams, on the IT aspects of the tasks or to take on the post himself, for this year only. In discussion we agreed that it would be more efficient and logical to have just one person making match arrangements and would therefore take up Peter's offer to take on the post, just for 2025 fixtures.

BOWLS BASH TRIAL

8. Peter Weir had submitted a review (see Attachment A) of the short trial of the Bowls Bash format, which he organised over 3 weeks in June. In discussion we recognised that this format should have a place in the club's calendar, though we did not support the idea of creating a new league based on it: if we ran it in the afternoon, members who still work could not take part.

9. Now that the Waghorne's Trophy has supplanted the former club night/open roll-ups on Friday evenings, Dave Simmons proposed that we re-establish this, but perhaps on a Monday evening. We could play a variety of formats, including Bowls Bash, triples and fours, depending on numbers attending, which would be drawn at random on the night. We could see several benefits to this approach:

- It would provide a further opportunity for newer bowlers to play and to get to know longer-serving club members and thus help to integrate them into the club more effectively.
- Newer bowlers would be able to play and learn techniques and tactics from the more experienced players.
- Captains and selectors could assess when newer players were ready to take part in club games.
- It would make more use of our facilities on a day when no other leagues etc are played.

We agreed that we would take this idea forward. **Action 2407/02**

AOB

10. We had received a suggestion that the **club should acquire a television** for the lounge, so that we could show, for example sporting events. We knew that similar proposals had been put forward in the past and rejected as they would spoil the atmosphere in the lounge, and, indeed, some members of the Committee were still vehemently opposed for this reason and on grounds of cost. However, Dave Simmons suggested an alternative: we could set up a screen in the skittle alley use our existing equipment to show major events,

not necessarily sporting. Before going into feasibility, we wanted to gauge how much support there might be among members for such a facility, either ad hoc or permanent. The Secretary would write to all members setting out the possibilities to ascertain their views and report back. **Action 2407/03**

11. **Avonmore** proposed to renew their contract to maintain our green with a 5% increase in fee. We agreed that we should renew the contract.

12. Dave Simmons noted that our **energy bill this month had gone up again to £600**, continuing the upward trend, though it was unclear why it was increasing. His application to reduce the VAT rate to 5% was rejected and we are tied into the present contract for a further year. It was suggested that the coolers for the cellar may be the cause of the increase and Ray Hawkins said he would check meter readings to confirm or deny this. Turning the coolers down was not an option – we could lose through stock going off. The question of insulation in the cellar was raised – if it is not insulated, we should investigate whether installing would help to reduce costs? Gail Gilbert said that the planned electrical safety inspection might reveal areas where we could save.

13. In better news Dave Simmons that **bar takings to date had already surpassed last year's total** with 3 months still to go before the end of the financial year. He remarked that the draught beers were still popular with members: if we dropped them, it could also lose us custom from skittles teams. We should continue to encourage the use of card payments to reduce cash handling – there are occasional problems when the bar float is depleted by members changing large denomination notes. Dave was asked whether it would be possible to assess profits/takings for individual nights and/or events. He replied that the till could be used to do this, but producing the figures would take too much work to make it worthwhile.

14. The House & Grounds committee requested approval to **replace the kitchen tap**, cost £160-180, as the current one did not work effectively. The Committee approved this request.

15. Jill Whistler had received some adverse comment on the 1.30pm starts for afternoon triples games and received approval to change the policy to a 2.00pm start for next season.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16. We agreed that our next meeting would take place at the clubhouse on Thursday 08 August at 2.00pm.

Andy Todd
Secretary

Signed as a true
record:

D. Hooper (President)

Bowls Bash Trial: Summary and Proposals

The main conclusion from the three weeks was that everyone enjoyed playing this game. Those that played suggested a couple of tweaks to the rules, which are covered in the following notes. We do hope the committee in their wisdom find a way of this game being incorporated in the members calendar of games.

However, if the committee consider a way forward so other members have the opportunity to play this game in some format or other there was a consensus from those that played 12 noon would be a good time to play the game. We see it as a game to played Monday to Friday, involving both experienced and new members. There could a seeding process in some way so new members can learn from experienced members. It's also an opportunity for new members to integrate with experienced members.

The following points raised in discussions after the Bowls Bash games.

1. The eight members that played Bowls Bash all enjoyed the games. Game time circa 75 minutes, 2 sets, 5 ends each set, 3 woods and 2 players per team. (scoring was a learning curve)
Scoring 3 points nearest Jack, second wood 2 points third wood 1 point and 2 points for a toucher.
Later in the notes suggestion regarding the number players in the team.
2. This is an opportunity for members to make more use of the green, specifically those members that not selected for the league teams Tuesday and Thursday evenings.
3. There is an opportunity to create a league like Waghornes, This would require some discussion regarding the points system (maybe like Short mat county game point scoring). Also, maybe some seeding for experienced and new players. Team selection using the random process.
4. There is a suggestion that the team numbers increase from 2 per team to 3 per team, so each team has a marker (the 3 members of the team alternate positions). Having a player from each team marking, makes it easier for the others playing the game (This does require more explanation)
5. BE dress code suggests wearing grey trousers or shorts and coloured shirts (not club colours). This requires more discussion and if any benefits case (cricket is a good example has dress code has changed for some games).
6. The game has a power play in each set, opportunity to double points for that specific end. For games we called the joker and it worked very well. The question is there a better title than Power Play or Joker?

The conclusion from the 8 members that played the game, they would very much like to see the Bowls England, "Bowls Bash game" adopted by the club committee may be with some minor changes.

Once again thanks to the members that participated in the game.

Use of Car Park for Football: Potential clashes with Bowls events

Pre-Season Fixtures

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Sat 20 July v. Plymouth Albion | No clash; we are away at Lydney |
| Fri 26 July v. Bristol City | Waghornes/Club night – clash as this will be an evening fixture |

League Fixtures

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| Sat 10 August v. Newport County | No bowls fixture |
| Sat 24 August v. AFC Wimbledon | Home v. Moreton-in-Marsh |
| Sat 07 Sept v. Harrogate Town | First Day of finals |
| Next home game is 28 Sept so after the Closing of the Green | |
| Fri 18 Apr v. Gillingham (evening) | Club night (first of the season?) |
| Sat 26 Apr v. Carlisle Utd | |