

Minutes of BN Men's Section Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 27th January 2020 at Nottingham Proprietary BC

The meeting was opened at 7.35 by the President David Guthrie who welcomed the few members present.

Roll Call

A roll call of members showed those present as President David Guthrie, Secretary David King-Taylor, Treasurer Frank Wallis, Competition & Match Secretary Lee Garrett and delegates Chris Smith (Arnold Park), Malcolm Potter (Beeston Unity), Mike Owen (Cavaliers), Peter Slack (Keyworth), Elliot Guthrie & Geoff Wilkinson (Newark Northern), Mike Carley & Brian Littleton (Notts Constabulary) and Keith Williams (Queensway Park). Apologies for absence were received from Russ Chamberlain (BE Delegate), Steve Bailey (Under 25's Manager), Mick Leafe (Arnold Park), Alan Ayre (Brierley Park) & Mick Baker (Huthwaite Park).

Minutes of previous meeting

There were no recorded minutes as no meetings had been held for five years.

Notable Correspondence

David King-Taylor stated that most of the correspondence came from Bowls England. This would have been covered in the BE Delegate's report, but Russ Chamberlain was unavailable at short notice due to work commitments. David added that this correspondence was emailed out to all club secretaries as it was received.

Secretary's Report

David King-Taylor reported that two management meetings had been held since the AGM/EGM. Work had been done on making sure that the competitions were up and running, setting-up an agenda to ensure that all roles are filled ie Team Selection, Under 25's Manager, setting up a website and generally getting a committee up and running again.

Treasurer's Report

Frank Wallis reported that the year end for 2019 had been extended from 30 September to 31 December 2019. This was due the fact that he had not been elected until 28 October, there were issues with the Bank regarding signatures and that final payments had not been made until December. Regarding the Income & Expenditure statement Frank stated that he had put the I&E into three categories to show where any issues might arise. County competitions showed a deficit of £800 due to cost of pennants from 2018 and a deficit on yearbooks due to each affiliated club receiving a free copy. Costs and expenses regarding County matches showed a break-even position. The last section, Administration, showed costs where there was no income ie honoraria, insurances and BE capitation fees. These may have to be reviewed in coming years. All in all, there was a deficit for the year of £1943 (2018 - a deficit of £1695). The Treasurer added that the capitation fee may have to be increased to match the fee payable to Bowls England. Bowls Nottinghamshire currently paid the 50p per playing member as only £4.50 was collected and £5.00 was payable to Bowls England. Frank concluded by thanking Chris Smith for handing over an excellent set of accounts, Lee Garrett for keeping it ticking over between June and October and Brian Littleton for auditing the accounts.

Competitions & Match Secretary's report

Lee Garrett commenced with the Match Secretary's report and handed out copies of the 2020 match programme and stated that all Middleton Cup & Midland Counties matches were confirmed.

Moving on to competitions, he stated that competition entries were up 20% (267 entries as against 224 in 2019) on last year. The Midland Counties Championships were arranged for 6 September at Grantham.

Lee then added that BN had acquired a new green polo shirt to be worn on travel to matches as against the casual attire of previous years and that substantial sponsorship had been received from Huthwaite Plumbing (current sponsors of the County Triples and previous sponsor of the Cook Trophy.).

Lee then put forward a proposal to amend the County match fee. He stated that we currently collect £8 per player per match, £192 per match and in 2019 a total of £2088. We paid Newark Northern a green fee of £50 per home game and umpires fees as and when required. Lee put forward a proposal that we pay £5.00 per player for home matches and the away games are free but all travel costs are paid by the players themselves. The proposal from the committee was seconded by Mike Owen (Cavaliers) and carried by a majority with only one vote against.

Bowls England Delegate's Report

The President David Guthrie stated that, in the absence of Russ Chamberlain, no report was available. David added that a report on this subject will be emailed to all secretaries in due course.

Midland Counties Report

David Guthrie reported that he and Lee Garrett had attended an MCBA meeting in Wolvey, Leicestershire. The only item was a proposal from Derbyshire and Lincolnshire (both struggling for players) to reduce Midland Counties matches from 6 rinks to 5 rinks. This proposal was defeated.

Bowls League Report

Frank Wallis stated that there was nothing to report as nothing had changed since the AGM on 4 November 2019. In response to a question from Chris Smith, Frank reported that three clubs (Proprietary, Ruddington & Wilford) had withdrawn from the league with a loss of approximately 100 members.

Proposal to make the Cook Trophy an Open Competition

Lee Garrett put forward the proposal to allow Ladies to play in the Cook Trophy. The main reason was that many of the matches had been cancelled due to a shortage of players. Chris Smith stated that he wanted the County Association to be a Men's County Association and the Cook was a County Team Championship. The proposal from Lee Garrett was seconded by Geoff Wilkinson (Newark Northern) and accepted by a majority. It was stressed that this change would operate from 2021, subject to approval at the BN AGM in March.

BN Executive Committee Report

David King-Taylor reported that the last Bowls Nottinghamshire Executive Meeting took place on Friday 31 March 2017 and that an AGM will be arranged in conjunction with the Ladies Association.

Proposal to increase County Affiliation fees

Current affiliation fees were £4.50 whilst the fee payable to Bowls England was £5.00, the difference being funded by the County Association. The proposal was to increase the fee to match the charge made by Bowls England. Following a long discussion covering various funding sources (HQ Development Fund, member contributions, county matches, travel expenses etc) it was agreed that as we had already paid affiliation fees for 2020, the proposal would commence in 2021. The intention to increase the capitation fee in 2021 to match the fee charged by Bowls England was put forward as a proposal to be ratified at the Bowls Nottinghamshire AGM. A vote was taken and with four votes for and four votes against, the Presidents casting vote was in favour of the proposal.

Proposal to elect Men's Team Captain

The 2019 captain, Mike Owen, was willing to stand for re-election. It was proposed by Elliot Guthrie (Newark Northern), seconded by Geoff Wilkinson (Newark Northern) and accepted unanimously.

Proposal to elect County Selectors

Lee Garrett stated that he was the Chairman of Selectors alongside former Match Secretary Chris Smith and Team Captain Mike Owen. Lee added, that as we now had an Executive Committee, he would be joined by President David Guthrie and Secretary David King-Taylor. Mike Owen suggested a senior player be asked to join the committee. Lee said that David Scott had offered to fill this role. It was proposed by Mike Owen (Cavaliers), seconded by Elliot Guthrie (Newark Northern) and approved unanimously that David Scott join the selection committee.

Proposal to elect Under 25 Selector

Steve Bailey had fulfilled this task in the past. Steve was unable to attend the meeting but had indicated he was willing to stand for this position. Lee Garrett read out a text from Steve Bailey regarding the 2019 team stating that players had dropped out to play Federation Bowls but they were now willing to return to the Bowls Nottinghamshire team and play in the White Rose Trophy. Mike Owen stated that this competition may be returning to a double rink competition. It was proposed by Peter Slack (Keyworth), seconded by Keith Williams (Queensway Park) and accepted unanimously.

Proposal to elect an Auditor

Frank Wallis said that Brian Littleton, who had resigned when the previous Treasurer resigned, was now willing to stand again as the Auditor. The proposal to elect Brian Littleton was made by Chris Smith (previous Treasurer), seconded by Frank Wallis (current Treasurer) and approved unanimously.

Proposal to elect two Social Secretaries

Lee Garrett said that Russ Chamberlain and Steve Bailey had volunteered to take on roles as Social Secretaries. The main purpose was to organise a presentation night in September or October. The motion was proposed by Elliot Guthrie (Newark Northern), seconded by Mike Owen (Cavaliers) and approved unanimously.

Proposal and confirmation of Honoraria for Executive Officers

Frank Wallis stated that in 2019 an honorarium of £150 was paid to the Treasurer. The Competition Secretary, Match Secretary and Yearbook Editor all received £100. Frank did not know why the Treasurer received more than anyone else but presumed that it related to the days of Headquarters when the preparation of accounts was more extensive. He added that he was willing to reduce the amount to £100. In addition, we now had a Secretary and an additional £100 would be required, making a total of £500. The secretary David King-Taylor said he was willing to forgo the honorarium and was closely followed by the other members of the committee, which would result in a saving of £500. David added that he would take the honorarium but then donate it back to the County. Malcolm Potter (Beeston Unity) suggested a reduction in honoraria to £50 per Executive Officer. Geoff Wilkinson said the honoraria went some way towards out-of-pocket expenses. After discussion, Geoff Wilkinson (Newark Northern) proposed the honoraria be reduced to £50 per Executive Officer. This was seconded by Peter Slack (Keyworth) and approved unanimously.

Website feedback

David King-Taylor reported that the website was currently a work-in-progress. Meetings have been held and there is still much work to be done. The website is the main means of communication with clubs and their members. David added that the website had been rehosted and continued along the lines of the previous website. Costs also include a hosting fee to put the information on the Internet. It may be possible to reduce the cost of the yearbook as the historical information would be on the website and would not need to be input annually into the yearbook. Costs to set up the website in the first year would be approximately £1000 and a hosting fee would be paid annually.

Any Other Business

Brian Littleton enquired what would happen to the equipment belonging to the Association that was currently stored at Proprietary when the club was finally closed. Lee Garrett said that Alan Lethbridge, a member of Keyworth BC, had a storage facility and that he was willing to move and store this equipment.

Peter Slack said that membership struggles had been brought up at the League AGM in November and he felt that he wanted to help clubs who were struggling by setting up a sub-committee. He wanted to support Malcolm Potter (Beeston Unity) to keep that club going and he had written to Broxtowe Council to generate some help for Beeston Unity. He added that he felt that the County Association were not doing enough to support struggling clubs and that we don't do enough attract new members. He also praised clubs like Bulwell Forest and Hucknall TP, clubs which had put in the effort to improve their membership. David King-Taylor added that the County had not supported clubs at grass root level and suggested that friendly matches could be arranged with struggling clubs in an effort to boost their membership.

After much further discussion on the subject, Peter Slack stated we needed to put something on the agenda for the next meeting in order to set up a sub-committee to get wheels in motion. He also added that clubs like Bulwell Forest and Hucknall TP, who had achieved good results in membership struggles, should be invited to take part. David King-Taylor added that the next meeting would be the BN Executive meeting in March and thereafter a Men's Council meeting in October.

Diary dates 2020

Presidents Day - the President hoped to invite players from all over the County. The venue would be Newark Northern on a date to be confirmed.

BN Men's Council meeting 26 October venue to be confirmed

MCBA 125th anniversary - details not yet available

The President David Guthrie closed the meeting at 9.08pm saying that the meeting had closed on a positive note and hoped that people would get together to discuss ongoing struggles.