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WESSEX BOWLS LEAGUE

**Treasurer**

**Debroy Gregory**

**Secretary**

**Peter Stewart**

**Chairman**

**David Murley BEM**

**Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the League held on Sunday 25th February 2018 at 11:00 am at Westlecot BC, Bowling Green Lane, Off Springfield Road, Swindon SN1 4EU**

**Attendees**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| D.Murley – Chairman & Rugby A&B | C.McColl – Mid Glos |
| D.Gregory - Treasurer | S.Murray – Swindon Manor |
| P.Stewart - Secretary | J.Heathcote – Cotswold A&B |
| A.Small – North Wilts | J.Bailey – Oxford & District |
| S.Hicks – Westlecot | N.Rate? – Oxford & District |
| J.Keay – St Andrews | D.Holboroew – Westlecot |
| J.Anderson - Westlecot |  |

**1. Apologies Received**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Atherley | Banbury | Bridport |
| Bristol | Bromsgrove | Carterton |
| Chipping Norton | Christie Miller | Church Gresley |
| Clarrie Dunbar | Clevedon | Daventry |
| Dolphin | Dolphin Blues | Dorchester |
| East Dorset | Exonia | Fairford |
| Five Rivers | Gloucester | Kingsthorpe |
| Loddon Vale | Malvern | Nailsea |
| Nomads | Oxford C&C | Plymouth |
| Purnell | Rivermead | Shrewsbury |
| Solihull | Thornbury | Torbay |
| Torquay Utd | West Berks | Bournemouth |

**Clubs absent with no apology (Fine as 2017-18 Rules)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Welford | Moonfleet | Moonfleet B |

**2. Chairman’s Opening Remarks**

*Fellow Officers, Ladies and Gentlemen, a warm welcome to Westlecot BC, I trust and hope that you have all had an enjoyable competitive season and now we arrive at the Play Offs for the Champion Club of the 2017-8 season*

*Last season’s winner and runner up have again qualified as of right for this seasons play offs, respectively Clarrie Dunbar and Kingsthorpe. It is also very interesting to see that one of our new member clubs, Atherley has reached the play offs at their first attempt, congratulations on their success. The draw for the play-offs will be done immediately after the completion of business of the AGM.*

*It is always a pleasure to welcome new clubs to the League as well as returning clubs, this year is no different for we welcome our new club Chawton Park, we wish them an enjoyable first season in the League. This year we also take pleasure in welcoming returning club Tamworth who are no strangers to the League and wish them also an enjoyable season with us once again.*

*On the sponsorship front, we have so far been unable to secure a sponsor and as a consequence we shall be offering reduced prize monies. The search will continue for a sponsor be it for just one season or longer and hopefully next year this time we will have succeeded. Our requirements are not huge £2,000 allows us to provide a reasonable level of prize monies all the way down to the last 16 clubs who are in the play offs and leaves some monies over for administration of the league.*

*This coming season has not been without its problems, even before the first bowl is delivered. Your Secretary has been faced with problems in getting our full programme scheduled by the proliferation of National Competitions and the fact that they have chosen to move from play by to play on dates and have moved some of the larger competitions from Saturday’s to Sunday’s which has caused us immense problems. There was no consultation by the NGB despite this being the longest continuing running league in England and in addition to the League being an Associate member of the EIBA Ltd.*

*However, with a great deal of effort your League Secretary has managed to create a spreadsheet of some considerable size which allows us to schedule our league fixtures but not without some difficult choices having to be made by the member clubs. Carl Higgins, Director of Competitions has been contacted and where difficulties occur in the Under 25 Club and County DR matches with play on dates the ties can be arranged mutually to play earlier. We are indeed very grateful to have been granted this concession, which might just allow your Executive to hand massage the fixture clashes as and when they arise. A new rule to cover this point has been submitted for your approval this morning.*

*In passing I would like to mention the fact that David Rhys Jones has decided that he is going to retire from writing about bowls at the end of the approaching outdoor season. David has been a fantastic lifelong servant to the sport of bowls, out spoken but fair which has sustained his career and bought him international recognition, not only as a bowler but as a writer and reporter at all levels, we wish him well in what we hope will be a long and enjoyable retirement.*

*Finally in closing can I wish all the play off teams good luck in the approaching finale of this season, summer well and look forward to the 36th season of the Wessex League commencing October 2018. Thank you for attending the AGM and safe homeward journey.*

**3. Minutes of the EGM held on Sunday 10th September 2017**

The minutes were passed as an accurate record. Proposed by S.Murray Swindon Manor and seconded by A.Small North Wilts. Passed unanimously

**4. Treasurers Report**

D.Gregory tabled the Leagues account. He pointed out that these reflected a time when the League had sponsorship. He highlighted a £786 profit but this was partly due to both Oxford City & County and Moonfleet 2000 generously hosting the semi finals without charging the League rink fees.

Accounts prosed by J.Heathcote Cotswold and seconded by A.Small North Wilts. Passed unanimously

The Treasurer then explained that due to lack of sponsorship the prize money would be £850 this year paid to semi finalists and finalists. The Chairman’s Honoraria was being increased to take into account the mileage he was travelling in connection with the League.

Winners goblet has been ordered for 2017-18.

As it is hoped to break even in 20-17-18 it was not proposed to increase subscriptions also to keep all other fees and fines the same.

The Treasurer reported that Terry Barnes did not wish to continue as Accounts Examiner for health reasons and that Paul Brown who had offered his services was duly elected.

**5. Proposals (including Proxy)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| PROPOSAL | FOR | Against |
| **Amendments to the Wessex League Rules:** Sent as a separate attachment is proposed wording changes to the Wessex League Rules for 2018-19. | 25 | 0 |
| **Addition to Wessex League Rules: New Rule 26.** All re-arranged matches shall be played initially on a free Sunday during the season, if no Sundays are available games can be rearranged for a Saturday or, as a last resort, midweek evenings. The League Secretary must be informed of the new date, within 10 days of being advised of the original postponement otherwise **Rule P2** will apply. (*This new rule is proposed by the League Secretary and is put forward due to the number of fixture changes this year either due to EIBA clashes or the severe weather of December. To keep on top of making sure all games have been rearranged has proved challenging when new dates are not proposed and clubs have to be chased)*. | 24 | 1 |
| **Proposal put forward by Bristol (seconded by Christie Miller).** To propose an amendment to Rule 46 so that grey/club trousers are worn for all League games with white trousers to remain for the Play Offs.  | 11 | 14 |

**6. Election of Officers**

No applications received for the Executive positions apart from current members whio are prepared to continue in these roles

D.Murley – Chairman

D.Gregory – Treasurer

P.Stewart – Secretary

Proposed by A. Small North Wilts and seconded by J.Keay St Andrews. Passed unanimously

**7. League Administration**

P.Stewart thanked all for getting results in on time each Sunday. He explained that no fines were issued at all in 2017 but after commenting about this to the Treasurer the first Sunday of 2018 saw four clubs fined.

Fixtures will be sent out Monday 2th February with a deadline of Saturday 26th May for any changes. The Secretary highlighted the problems as already mentioned in the Chairman’s remarks.

A reminder was made about the website: [www.wessexbowlsleague.co.uk](http://www.wessexbowlsleague.co.uk) which was being well visited now.

The Secretary explained the work he had done on securing sponsorship without success – many companies approached simply did not respond.

**8. Any other business (items should be notified to the League Secretary in advance of the meeting.**

No issues had been raised.

**9 Date of Next Meeting**

To allow an extra week for the League season in 2017-18 the AGM will be held on **Sunday 3rd March 2019 at Westlecot BC**.

Meeting closed 11.33