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Hon Secretary:
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MINUTES of WSBL ADM

Date: 16th October 2017

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PRESENT: President Chris Rolph (CR) Chairman Lindsay Bangs (LB)
Secretary Alan Messer (AM) Treasurer David Parker (DP)

Management Committee Members: Ray Hills and David Jackson,

Together with delegates from 19 member clubs as detailed below:

Arundel, Bognor, Chichester, Crablands, East Preston, Goring Manor, Maltravers, Marine Gardens, Middleton, Norfolk, Pagham, Petworth, Pulborough, Southbourne, Storrington, Tarring Priory, Witterings, Worthing and Worthing Pavilion.

Aldingbourne although not entering in 2018 attended for information purposes

- 1. Welcome** Acti
on
- 1.1 The Chairman (LB) welcomed all delegates to the meeting and asked that all questions be directed through the chair and that delegates did not have conversations with their neighbours whilst another member was speaking. **LB**
- 2. Apologies**
- 2.1 John Frew, Paul Leatherbarrow, John Whitfield, Eric Pidgeon. **AM**
- 3. Minutes of previous ADM**
- 3.1 The minutes of the ADM held on 17th October, 2016 had been circulated to all clubs and were unanimously accepted as read and were then signed by the Chairman. **AM**
- 4. Matters arising from previous meetings**
- 4.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes of previous meetings. **AM**
- 5. Chairman's Report**
- 5.1 The Chairman then presented his report as now attached. **LB**
- 6. Secretary's Report**

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- 6.1 The Secretary's report had been circulated to all clubs prior to the meeting to enable it to be read fully. Clubs were asked if they had any comments or questions concerning the report which was accepted. **AM**
- 7. Hon. Treasurers Report**
- 7.1 The Treasurers report was issued to all of the delegates present. The Hon. Treasurer reported that although we recorded a reduction in funds over the year, due to higher spending on trophies and other expenses, we remain in a healthy position. The actual loss was exacerbated by the change in sponsorship regime. Previously C & M had covered the cost of engraving and this year we had to meet the engraving costs ourselves, which amounted to an extra £200. He also reported that he had at the meeting received a cheque for £1500 from Peter Chiffins. This money guaranteed the PC Cup for the next 12 years. **DP**
- 7.2 The Treasurer proposed League Fees for the following season to remain at £35 per team. It was unanimously agreed that both the accounts and the League Fee proposal should be accepted. **DP**
- 7.2 It was proposed that an honorarium of £100 be paid to the Secretary for the work that he does and the expenses that he incurs, also a sum of £50 to be paid to the Webmaster to cover the costs of web fees for domain names etc. This was proposed by Pulborough, seconded by Chichester and unanimously agreed. **DP**
- 8. Election of Officers**
- 8.1 The current officers had already agreed that they wished to stand for office in 2018. All officers were unanimously re-elected en bloc. The secretary advised the meeting that he would stand for one more year only as work commitments would preclude his involvement beyond that time. He further advised the meeting that there was a space on the Management Committee for one other member. No volunteers from the meeting were forthcoming. **CR**
- 9. Proposals for Changes to Current Constitution**
- 9.1 Two Amendments to WSBL League Rules were tabled by the Management Committee. The first was to clarify how points were awarded for match results. The second was to clarify what happens when a player changes clubs within a season. Both were adopted unanimously **AM**
- 10. Finals Day**
- 10.1 The Secretary confirmed that the date for Finals Day 2018 would be Sunday 16th September, 2018 at Worthing Pavilion. **AM**
- 11. The PC CUP Draw for 2017**
- 11.1 The Draw for the PC Cup was carried out as last year at the Annual Delegates Meeting. The Chairman and President drew numbers 1-19 and the numbers drawn were recorded on the sheet with a copy being in the possession of at least five Officers. The completed draw is as on the Attached sheet. **AM**
- 12. Date of next ADM**
- 12.1 It was agreed that the 2017 ADM would be held on Monday 15th October, 2018 at Arundel BC at 19:30 hours and was entered into the Arundel BC diary on the night. **AM**
- 13. Closure of formal part of the Meeting**
- 13.1 The Chairman then concluded the meeting at 20.25 hours by thanking all delegates for attending and wished them a safe journey home. **LB**

14 Other Business

NB: An opportunity was given to the delegates to raise any issue for discussion on which no binding decision could be made at this meeting, but which would aid decision making and planning for the future

During the course of the season the Secretary had raised several issues which merited discussion by member clubs and he had issued formal notice of these matters before the meeting to allow the views of clubs and not just delegates could be canvassed

RATIONALISATION of FIXTURES

- The initial discussion point from the Secretary was that Div 1 teams could be issued with fixtures set out by the Management Committee. Fixtures would be ideally played on a Saturday afternoon but could be agreed to be played on Friday evening or Sunday afternoon of the same weekend. Div 2 and 3 would retain their existing ad hoc arrangements.

A lively discussion ensued with some lower division clubs asking why only Div 1 clubs were being thought about. The Div 2 and 3 clubs were divided about the issue and the stumbling block appeared to be the age profile of some clubs and the legacy of historical fixture patterns. A further thought generated from the floor was that fixtures could occupy any of 5 slots in a weekend (Friday PM Sat AM or PM, Sun AM or PM) which would overcome some of the issues of shared greens. In a straw poll a small majority indicated that this plan could be pursued for Div 1 clubs and that rule changes to allow fixtures to be agreed in this way should be drawn up for agreement at the 2018 ADM with a view to introducing prescribed fixtures for Div 1 clubs for a trial period of the 2019 season.

MAINTAINING THE SIZE of OUR LEAGUE

- A number of our clubs are struggling with falling rolls, and this impacts on their ability to get 16 players out to bowl for a league game.

The almost unanimous view of the meeting was that we are a rinks league and that if we needed to reduce the number of players needed to fulfil a league fixture, it should be to 3 rinks rather than 4 triples. It was acknowledged that we do not yet need to do this but we should be alert to the needs of our member clubs. Lindsay Bangs suggested that 'at risk' clubs should keep the Management Committee informed of any difficulties they have in 2018. At least one club indicated that they would be able to enter another team if the formats were reduced. Chris Rolph talked about the situation of the blossoming sport of Croquet and particular his own club, which has doubled its membership in recent years and asked the question about comparable recruitment by bowls clubs. He felt that were lessons to be learnt from the croquet clubs in nurturing and bringing on and keeping new members.

CLARIFICATION of PROCEDURES for ABANDONMENT of MATCHES

- Our rules are clear about the outcome of an abandoned match, i.e. if all rinks have completed 11 ends the result stands. What is not clear is who calls the result and at what point.

The feeling of the meeting was that common sense should prevail, and after a deal of debate which featured, penalties, formal hearings, green rangers, captains and sundry others it eventually came down to issuing a code of conduct to clubs (Not a rule!)

1. If a green is adversely affected by weather conditions, a match can be called off prior to commencement of play by the home club to reduce travel inconvenience for the away team.
2. If a game has started and weather deteriorates a game can be abandoned by mutual agreement between captains.
3. If no agreement can be reached the home captain has the final say as he has responsibility for maintaining green condition for future use.

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One addendum to this discussion was the clarification that if one area of the green is unplayable, then that rink may reconvene and continue on a different but playable area of the green.



Alan Messer

Hon Secretary

17th October 2017

Signed as a true record

Chairman (L Bangs)

Date