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Hon Secretary:
Roger Dear
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MINUTES of WSBL ADM

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Date: Monday 23rd October 2023

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CONTRIBUTIONS FROM: Chairman: Lindsay Bangs (LB) Hon Sec. Roger Dear (RD)
Management Comm: Alan Messer, Nigel Reynolds, Francis Fahey and David Jackson

Together with delegates from 18 member clubs as detailed below:

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

1. Chairman's welcome.

2. Apologies

- 2.1 There were apologies from Chris Rolph president / Paul Leatherbarrow member management committee.

From Chris Rolph

Gentlemen

Please accept my apologies for being absent at this evenings Annual Delegates Meeting. I have another engagement and cannot be in two places at once. As many of you know I founded the league in 1985 and have been in the Secretarial, Chairman and now President's office ever since. When forming the league almost 40 years ago, my intention was to give a competitive game of bowls to all that wanted it no matter what level they played their bowls at. I am very pleased that throughout the journey I have been supported by like-minded bowlers who have served on the management committee with me. I do hope that the league can continue to support the smaller clubs and their players and not just the elite bowlers in West Sussex. If elected again as President I will always consider the wishes and needs of all bowlers no matter whether they play in Division One, Two or Three. The West Sussex Bowls League is a league for all abilities and long may it remain so. **Chris**

3. Minutes of previous ADM

- 3.1 The minutes of the ADM held on 24th October 2022 had been circulated to all clubs, via email and were unanimously accepted by the meeting as a true record and were made available to be signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from previous meetings

- 4.1 None.

5. Chairman's Report

- 5.1 Firstly, as always, I must thank the Management and Committee of Arundel Bowls Club for allowing us to hold another ADM in their clubhouse. This really is an excellent centrally located venue for us all to get together.

Well, another season has come to an end. This year, the season seemed to pass even more quickly than usual. We were fortunate to have very few games rained off this year and, although we did have some very hot weather, this did not interrupt any fixtures.

Congratulations to Worthing Bears, Crablands and Petworth for winning Divisions 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

Now for some 'thank yous.' Firstly, to Roger Dear for the work he has done this season as our secretary. I think that we underestimate the amount of time and effort that the Secretary's job entails. Roger has again been assisted by Alan Messer, who I would also like to thank for the work he has done sorting out all the results of matches and keeping the website updated with these. Again, a significant workload. As you know, Nigel Reynolds as our Treasurer has worked tirelessly in managing our accounts. And my thanks also to the other members of the Management Committee, Dave Jackson for the website and all for their support throughout last season and their input into issues that arose during the season, which were thankfully few and far between.

So, a final thanks from us all on the Committee for your support for the League. I believe that it is a very successful League and has been since Chris Rolph founded it in 1985. We will have 25 teams in the League in 2024, with two teams rejoining Chichester B and Norfolk B and Worthing Pavilion entering a third team.

Finally, I must inform you that after 7 years, I am standing down as Chairman of West Sussex Boels League. I have enjoyed my time as Chairman, but feel that now, with significant workload in other areas, it is time to step aside and let 'new blood' take over the role. As you will see from the paperwork, the committee has nominated Dave Jackson to be my replacement and I am sure he will receive your support.

So, gentlemen, let us look forward to a great year's bowling in 2024 with no major issues arising to disrupt this. In the meantime, I wish you all good health during the winter, success for those of you who play indoors, and let us all look forward to enjoying the League's 40th season in 2024.

6. Secretary's Report

- 6.1 2023 has been a better year for WSBL.

During the season some Clubs have struggled to field full teams on occasions.

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The weather has been kind and most fixtures played.

The finals day was again played at Worthing Pavilion BC, the PC Cup played outside and the match against the champions indoors, a first I believe.

Hopefully 2024 will be a good bowling year, without too many problems, for WSBL.

I am standing down this year and Alan Messer has agreed to take back the reins for our 40th season, I wish him well and offer my support in any way I can.

7. Hon. Treasurers Report

7.1 The Treasurer's report is included below.

<u>RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT</u>		
<u>FOR THE YEAR ENDED 17th OCTOBER 2023</u>		
2022		2023
£		£
2,987.50	Bank Balance b/f	4,891.90
	<u>Add Receipts</u>	
960.00	Club Fees	1000.00
150.00	League Sponsorship (Phoenix)	125.00
1500.00	PC Cup Sponsorship (Legacy)	0.00
5597.50		6016.90
	<u>Payments</u>	
100.00	Honorarium - Hon Sec./Match Sec.	100.00
415.00	Trophies (PC Cup and T and E)	476.50
833.00	Finals Day Expenses	472.00
25.00	Hall Donation (Arundel BC)	25.00
47.60	Bank Charges – Note 1	0.00
50.00	Web Site Fees	50.00
1470.60		1123.50
4126.90	Bank Balance c/f	4893.40

Note 1. The opening balance is correct as per the bank.
There was an error in the figures inherited which repeated last year.

Prepared by Nigel Reynolds
Hon. Treasurer WSBL

- 7.2 The Treasurer proposed the League Fees for the 2024 season to remain at £40 per team. It was unanimously agreed that both the accounts and the League Fee proposal should be accepted.
- 7.3 It was proposed that an honorarium of £100 be paid to the Hon. Secretary / Match Secretary for the work that they do and the expenses that they incur, also a sum of £50 to be paid to the Webmaster to cover the costs of web fees for domain names etc. This was unanimously agreed.

8. Election of Officers

Position	Incumbent 2022-23	Proposed for 2023-24
President	Chris Rolph	Chris Rolph
Chairman	Lindsay Bangs	David Jackson
Secretary	Roger Dear	Alan Messer
Treasurer	Nigel Reynolds	Nigel Reynolds
Man Comm:	David Jackson	Roger Dear
	Paul Leatherbarrow	Paul Leatherbarrow
	Francis Fahey	Francis Fahey
	Alan Messer	Lindsay Bangs

- 8.1 *The officers proposed to stand for office in 2023-24 were unanimously re-elected en bloc. Alan Messer agreed to continue to co-ordinate fixtures, results and website updates.*

**9. Proposals for Changes to Current Rules & or Constitution:
WSBL – none received by the 20th of July 2023.**

10. Dates for 2024

11.

Saturday 14th September 14:00 PC Cup Final, Champions v the Rest and Presentations (venue Worthing Pavilion)

21st October 19:00 WSBL ADM (venue Arundel if Possible)

PC Cup 2024 The completed draw is included as part of these minutes as Appendix 4

12. Closure of formal part of the Meeting

13 Other Business – Discussion only

13.a Letter dated 30th July 2023, from Witterings Bowls & District Bowls Club.

The letter referred to the current rules relating to clubs with two teams in the same division, being able to play up to five times for each side before becoming tied. In 2023 Divisions 2 and 3 had only 7 teams, so only 12 fixtures. They wanted this reduced to 3 times.

A discussion took place, and it was agreed that the Management would look at this and propose a suitable amendment for 2025.

13.b Worthing Pavilion BC sent an email on 20th July 2023.

It raised two points: -

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1. Condition of playing surfaces within the WSBL area. They suggested to all WSBL Clubs to seek assistance, from Bowls England or other organisations, in conjunction with managing groups, either private or council, to try and get a planned maintenance and general improvement strategy in place. The hope being that we would be able to maintain numbers playing outdoors for the future. They have asked clubs to communicate, to promote best practice. This is currently under way in the ARUN DC area, Bognor, Maltravers, Norfolk and Pagham are working together.
2. The Sussex County and Bowls England Competitions dates are putting extreme pressure on the clubs to play early rounds, which is leading to problems playing WSBL matches in May each year. They have suggested the 2 week block for WSBL should be, first Jun/05 – Jun/18 and last Aug/28 – Sep/17, prior to the PC Cup final. With there being now 9 teams in Division 1, sixteen fixtures this maybe a problem. WSBL management will look at this for 2025.

13.c The PC Cup and league format for 2024.

For 2024 the League format would be: -

Division 1 and 2 would be Four Rinks and Division 3 would be Three Rinks.

It was agreed that the league management committee should consult with all clubs in 2024, to see if the 2025 league programme could return to Four Rinks for all Divisions.

13.d Bowls England competitions for rinks are now played over 18 ends.

It was suggested that this change be incorporated into the WSBL and PC Cup rules. The delegates did not feel they had a mandate from their clubs to change at this time and asked that formal notification be made so they could be able to vote.

Minutes Compiled by:

Roger Dear
Hon Secretary
January 2024

Signed as a true record

Chairman (D. Jackson)

Date

West Sussex Bowls League

APPENDIX 2

The proposed Divisions for 2024 are shown below.

2024 WSBL Division 1	2024 WSBL Division 2	2024 WSBL Division 3
Chichester A	Bognor A	Arundel
Crablands	Goring Manor	Bognor B
East Preston A	Middleton	Chichester B
Norfolk A	Petworth	East Preston B
Pagham	Pulborough	Maltravers
Southbourne	Storrington	Marine Gardens
Tarring Priory	Witterings	Norfolk B
Worthing Pavilion A	Worthing	Worthing Pavilion C
Worthing Pavilion B		
10 - Bye		

The draw for the 2024 PC Cup took place at the 2023 ADM.

Roger Dear: Hon. Secretary West Sussex Bowls League