

SUSSEX COUNTY BOWLS (Men's Section)

(Members of Bowls England & the Home Counties Bowls Association)

**Minutes of a Meeting of the General Purposes Committee held at Adur IBC
at 10.00 hours on Tuesday 7th November, 2023.**

Members: Mark Broadway (MB)(Chairman), John Whitfield (JW)(President), Micky Young (MY)(Vice-President), Rod McBeth (RMc)(Hon. Secretary), Lindsay Bangs (LB)(Hon. Treasurer), David Page (DP)(Hon. Asst. Secretary), (Bob Markham (BM)(Comp. Sec.), Roger Day (RD)(Hon. Match Secretary)) and Barry Hobbs (BH)(Hon. Safeguarding Officer). Plus 1 member from each of the Four Areas: Area 1 – Brian Henty (BH), Area 2 – Chris Reynolds (CR), Area 3 – Graham Scutt (GS), Area 4 – Paul Chuter (PC).

Invited as observers: Peter Copper (PC) (incoming Vice Chairman)' Mike Cross (MC) (incoming Match Official).

1. Apologies. Action

- a) Apologies were received from Roger Day, Brian Henty and Barry Hobbs.

2. Approval of Minutes of Meetings held on 11th September, 2023.

- a) The minutes of the previous minutes were considered and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Matters Arising for the Previous Meetings.

- a) MB confirmed that as requested in para 13 b) he had written to Garry Olver.
b) RMc confirmed that information for VP's had been amended to ensure that procedures are in place to deal with players who are incorrectly dressed.

4. Officer Reports.

- a) All officers reports submitted, were accepted.

5. Match Fee, Travel costs and meal costs.

- a) A considerable discussion took place concerning match fees, travel payments/costs and meal costs for the 2024 Season. The following was agreed for all outdoor fixtures - County Friendlies, Presidential Matches, Middleton Cup and Home Counties League;

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- i) The match fee for all matches, other than Under 25 matches (foc), would be set at £7.50 (matches where no meal is provided - remain at £5.00);
ii) In line with procedures used in other counties - travel costs - as currently paid for matches outside of the county - will no longer be paid;
iii) For matches, where travel via the Dartford tunnel is required, the driver will be paid the appropriate Dart Charge fee;

For all Indoor Marches.

- i) The match fee will be set at the sum charged by the club.

Review of Fixture v IOW.

- i) Bowls IOW had indicated that when it is their 'home' fixture, they wished Sussex to travel to different clubs on the Island - rather than just to play at Ryde BC, every other year as is the current situation. Alternatively they

wished all matches, both 'home and away' - to be played at Southampton Old Green.

- ii) The financial implications of such a change were considered at length by the Committee - and it was finally agreed that:

- (a) RMc would check with the Hovercraft to see if we made a block booking - would all players have to travel on the same craft and what would happen if one missed the ferry. RMc
- (b) LB would establish prices for coach/mini bus for travel from Ryde hover terminal to the relevant location; LB
- (c) Bowls Isle of Wight would be notified that subject to suitable costing Sussex would be prepared to travel to greens other than Ryde BC;
- (d) If satisfactory arrangements are able to made then a match fee of £20 would be set for both players and guests (maximum of 8 - first come first served) - and the county would book and pay for the hover tickets and coach/mini bus on the island;
- (e) Final arrangements would be confirmed at the next GPC Meeting.

6. Finals Day Photographs.

- a) A proposal from DP was considered and will be reviewed again at the next GPC meeting after further information on costs is able to be provided by DP. DP

7. Letter re Rink Allocation for Finals Day.

8. Review of Mileage Rates

- a) The county mileage rate of 0.35p per mile, paid for travel on official business, has been the same for over 9 years and despite being considered for review on other occasions it had not been amended - despite the considerable increase in fuel costs. RMc ascertained from other neighbouring counties what mileage rate they paid, together with rates paid by BE, HMRC and the Women's Section. all paid a higher rate than we currently do. After discussion it was agreed to increase the mileage rate to 0.40 p from after the AGM on 4 Dec the same rate that the Women's Section increased to for 2023. RMC
LB

9. Period of time that the Vice President will be at Leamington

RMc ascertained for BE that the actual competitions schedule for Leamington 2024 would not be available until circa 1 Dec. When it become available RMc will forward to all GPC and the actual dates of the eight days on which the Vice President will be paid to attend at Lamington will be agreed RMc

10. Update of Stock

- a) RMc reported that following agreement at the last GPC meeting, top up orders had been placed for Trousers, Shorts and Shirts and were now due to be delivered on 20 November. An order had also been placed for 250 county caps, due for delivery the same day RMc
BM
- b) Following the order for the new County Caps it had been agreed they would be retailed at a cost of £6.00. However, subsequently it has been agreed by the GPC - that in order to ensure that caps - were not given to players who were not County badged players - the county would arrange - for the players name to be embroidered on the side panel of the cap. This will incur an additional cost so it was agreed that:
 - i) They will still be presented 'free of charge' to newly badged county players;
 - ii) Any current badged players will now be required to pay **£8.00** to purchase a new cap; (old caps will remain at a cost of £6.00).

- iii) Any player who has already paid for a new style cap will not be expected to pay the additional sum of £2.00 - bit it would be nice if they wished to do so!!

11. Any Other Business

- a) LB sought permission to dispose of old accounting paperwork as we are not required to maintain for a lengthy period. He will maintain for 2 year. This was agreed. LB
- b) RMc reported that Worthing Grasshoppers had notified that with effect from 11 November the club would cease to exist.
- b) MB reported that at the recent HCBA Meeting it had been agreed that the county subscription to that organisation would remain currently at £150, but that it had been agreed that when the balance in the HCBA account was in excess of £4k, then for the following season no subscription would be payable. MB
- c) MB reported that Stuart James had recently notified him, that he wished to stand down as one of the two Area One Selectors. Brian Fellowes had previously indicated that he would be prepared to undertake such a position if one became available. With the closing date for nominations for consideration having passed - and the necessity to have two selectors able to share the workload in each area, the GPC decided to co-opt Brian Fellowes to fill the vacancy, until such time as nominations and elections may once again be made. RMc

14. Date of Next Meeting

- a) The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 13th February, 2023 – at 10.00 hours – at Adur IBC.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12:05.

Signed:

Mark Broadway (Chairman)

Date: 13th February, 2024