



*Buckfastleigh Bowling Club
Duckspond Road
Buckfastleigh
TQ11 0NL*

Executive Meeting

Meeting held on 28 July 2021 at 2pm.

Present: Shirley Williams – Lady Chairman; Jeanne Pinney – Vice Chairman; Tom Bowden – Secretary & Treasurer; Jenny Goss – Lady Captain; Ham Sampford – Green Manager

Lady Chairman's Welcome:

Shirley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies:

Mike Anderson.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 9 June 2021 were signed by the Lady Chairman as correct.

Matters Arising:

1. External Fence

The hedge on the A38 side of the green still needs some further work.

Action: TB

2. Ian Howkins Plaque

Ham reported that the purchase of the new plaque was underway, but no costings had been obtained.

Action: HS

3. Club Shirts

The remaining Ladies shirts have been ordered and are promised by early August.

Action: TB

4. Rules of Bowls

Further copies will be ordered as soon as the Bowls Devon offices are allowed to reopen.

Action: TB

5. Wheelbarrows and Inventory

Ham reported that a new wheelbarrow had been purchased for £55 and a new tyre had been purchased for the other wheelbarrow at a cost of £18. The inventory still has to be carried out.

Action: HS

6. Scarifier

An update on the scarifier is reported below in the Green Manager's report.

7. PA System for 'special events'

Unfortunately, the PA system wasn't provided for the match v Section 5. The PA system provided by Trefor Jones is required for the Bowls England match on 7 September and the Vic Manfield Memorial Day on 5 September. Additionally, music is required on the Vic Manfield Memorial Day.

Action: HS

Trefor Jones is away on holiday for the Bowls Devon match therefore we need to hire a PA system for that day.

Action: TB

8. Refreshments

Jenny will organise refreshments for the Bowls Devon match and liaise with Pauline regarding refreshments for the Vic Manfield Day.

Action: JG

9. Delivery Mats

These have now been purchased at a cost of £184.

10. The John Hoff Sign

The plastic sign protecting the board needs replacing as it is peeling off in places.

Action: TB

Green Manager's Report:

Ham presented the Green Manager's Report which was circulated at the meeting.

Club Captain's Report:

On behalf of Mike, who had a prior appointment, Tom presented Mike's report regarding the proposed Centenary Gala Dinner.

The idea of a Centenary celebration was warmly accepted and the following decisions were agreed unanimously.

The event will be held at Furzeleigh Mill on Friday 12, 19 or 26 of November, depending on the availability of the entertainment.

Action: TB

Being limited to 45 people, preference be given in the following order: a) those who have previously indicated interest; b) other members and guests; and c) guests invited from other clubs and organisations. A list, with a closing date be placed on the notice board. The cost to members and their guests being £15 and to outside guests, £20.

Action: TB

The idea of a quartet or quintet providing live music was not accepted and the Committee agreed that the entertainment be sourced from acts who regularly provide popular music (60's & 70's etc), at a cheaper cost than proposed.

Action: TB & JG

Any Other Business:

1. Vic Manfield Memorial Day

Various ideas were discussed by the Committee for the day, including a match between Ladies and the Men, a Bowls Drive, Target Bowls, 'Cabbage' Bowls. Shortly, a list be will put on the notice board where Members can indicate if they will be attending. As soon as we have indications of attendees, Tom will discuss with Pauline the format of the day.

Action: TB

2. Dress Code

Shirley raised the issue of the standard of dress of Members when playing matches. In particular, shoes should be white, grey or brown, shorts should be white or grey. It was agreed that Members be informed to 'smartens themselves up' when representing the Club at matches.

Action: TB

3. Terry Humphries

Jeanne proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to Terry for his work as Men's Representative and Bar Manager.

Action: TB

4. Area around the new fence

Jeanne was concerned about the untidy area both sides of the new fence. It was agreed to invite some professional landscapers to provide options for the Club.

Action: TB

5. Complaint received concerning Ladies Unbadged Pairs weekend

A member from another club complained to Margaret Jones (the organiser of the event) that a Member of our Club was making inappropriate remarks concerning walk overs. Can all Members take note that we need to be careful in making remarks that can give the Club a bad name.

Action: All

6. Arrival for Matches

Members, particularly some of the Men, need to be reminded that they should arrive well in advance of the start time, ideally at least half an hour beforehand. This is to not only assist with bringing the equipment out and setting up the green correctly, but also to welcome the opposition. It reflects badly on our club when Members arrive 5 minutes before the start time. A notice to this effect will be put on the notice board.

Action: TB

Date of next meeting: TBC

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.05pm.

Signed as correct:

Lady Chairman



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BBC Green Report to Executive Committee for 28 July 2021

Yet another record broken with dry and hot weather for late June and July. Some rain showers, but nothing like the rain as forecast.

Work achieved:

- Liquid nitrogen + seaweed applied regularly every 10 — 12 days. Granular nitrogen put down late June and watered in well.
- Mowing height to 5+ in June/July and less grass taken off as grass not growing quickly due to high temperatures [from 3 loads to 1+, cuttings left on the green].
- Grass being cut twice weekly at present. Difficulties in fitting around the internal competition matches, as there does not seem to be a fixed schedule available to work from, but manageable, just!
- Hand weeding, hole filling and top sand dressing continued [less top dressing due to such dry weather conditions].
- Edging of green with hand shears. There is considerable instability and wear at the edge [recommend wooden batten edging strip be fixed at some point in the future, and then minimal gap filled with sandy-loam for grass to grow].
- Gully 'blown' clean. New machine a real bonus.
- Had to put the watering system on several times to protect the grass growth. Has worked really well, although there are significant dry patches which show rapid wear. Rinks have had to be closed to allow grass recovery. Looking at the long-term green protection and appearance, and recovery rather than short term use [there are 6 rinks available most of the time. Players ought to move the rubber mats up and down rather than put them exactly in the same place all through the game. This would help to lessen the wear in specific locations].
- Rink five closed for a period to allow remedial work. [needs more attention to fully improve the rink green levels, still needs further old moss eradication treatment].
- Lightweight wheel barrow [pink] bought. Very useful for work on the green, and surrounds.

Work to be undertaken:

- More hand weeding. Will have to wait until the Autumn for any chemical weeding.
- Continue to mow at 5+. Will alter according to weather demands.
- Hand weeding, and hole filling to continue. Top dressing can be continued once the soil is damper and grass growing more rapidly.
- Liquid fertiliser to be applied to strengthen the grass and improve root growth further.
- When weather allows, with more rain and damper soil, light scarifying can begin again in preparation for late August/September matches.
- Scarifier awaiting parts, distribution of which have been delayed due to circumstances beyond our control. [We are not the only customers waiting in the queue for services and parts. Covid-19 has had an effect on manufacture and distribution nationwide].
- Preparation for end of season matches, to get the green to a better standard.

Additional notes:

Drill 'n' Fill has certainly proved to be beneficial as root growth has improved massively and the grass more able to withstand weather problems, so long as it is managed accordingly. Root zone actively growing strongly and much improved.

Ham Sampford
Green Manager



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Proposed Centenary Gala Dinner
Friday 12 November or Friday 19 November

As befits a one-time, special celebration this will be presented as a Gala Dinner. This event will be the culmination of 100 years of the work of many good, local people who have given their all to promote the Club and to maintain its excellent facilities, it should sparkle long into our memories as a high point in our history. I have checked out the local venues and Furzeleigh Mill stands out as the best. It now has an excellent reputation - I've been to a couple of events there recently which have been very professionally organised. It is also, of course, by far our largest sponsor and deserves our support.

Live music will be provided by a quartet or quintet of professional musicians at a cost not exceeding £150 per musician. I have been in touch with a friend of mine who is the director of the Ashburton Arts Centre (Andy Williamson) who has agreed to arrange this for us. Top level musicians will perform, their total fees will be approximately 60% of their normal contract price and will not exceed £750.

As part of the evening's entertainment I will run a knockout carpet bowls competition.

I propose that this evening be partly used in the time honoured way for presentation of the prizes for the Club's annual internal competitions, but also for the presentation of the trophy to the winners of this year's Buckfastleigh Centenary Trophy competition which Tom organised when the Mid-Devon League collapsed. To this end I suggest we invite 2 members of each of the 7 other participating local bowls clubs to join us on this prestigious night.

Currently we have 27 people from our club interested and 14 from the other clubs. The maximum Furzeleigh Mill can accommodate for such an evening is 45. Furzeleigh can provide 2 and 3 course a la carte options. I suggest that we use the remainder of the Ian Howkins Fund plus some of our Covid Fund to subsidise the event to £15 per head for members and partners and £20 per head for the 14 invitees from other clubs. Based on an average dinner cost of £25, the subsidy from the Club would be £1,090.

Mike Anderson
Club Captain