



*Buckfastleigh Bowling Club
Duckspond Road
Buckfastleigh
TQ11 0NL*

Executive Meeting

Meeting held on 17 May 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, the first in the Clubhouse following the 3rd lockdown and stage 2 of the roadmap out of lockdown.

Apologies:

Mike Anderson, Terry Humphries.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 29 March 2021 were signed by the Lady Chairman as correct.

Matters Arising:

1. Honour Boards

All the honour boards have now been updated.

2. External Fence

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

Action: TB

3. Vic Manfield Trophy

The trophy has now been received and was presented to the Club by Pauline.

4. Ian Howkins

Ham mentioned that some members were unhappy with the bench both in terms of quality and colour. Tom pointed out that the colour was the same as those benches restored by Ken Bamsey. The bench was ordered at a time when it was thought that the Club would receive a £500 bequest. When his cousin arrived to scatter Ian's ashes, she presented us with a cheque for £1,000. Ham agreed to pass this information onto those members who were unhappy.

Ham also mentioned that the plaque wasn't of sufficient quality and said he would organise a suitable brass plaque.

Action: HS

5. Club Shirts

There were a number of Ladies shirts that were still too small. The committee agreed to finance those replacements at a cost of approximately £240.

Action: TB

6. Rules of Bowls

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

Action: TB

7. Wheelbarrows and Inventory

The wheelbarrows still need to be purchased, but a new wheel has been acquired for the existing wheelbarrow. The inventory still has to be carried out.

Action: HS

8. Gully Rubbers

These have been purchased and laid at a cost of £999, substantially cheaper than previously envisaged.

9. Scarifier

The scarifier should be going in for repair this week.

Action: HS

10. No Smoking Sign

A more substantial sign is needed on the entrance gate.

Action: TB

Secretary's Report:

Tom presented the Secretary's Report which had previously been circulated.

Unfortunately, we have had to withdraw one team from the Men's Over 55's league, because there are a number of members who are reluctant to play because of Covid.

The latest Return To Bowls advice has been received, which basically removes all restrictions on the playing format of the game and the removes the restriction on car sharing. Indoor hospitality is now allowed and the Changing Rooms can be reopened.

Tom also reported that the new rinks open/closed sign will be installed on Wednesday 19 May.

Treasurer's Report:

Tom presented the Treasurer's Report which had previously been circulated.

Green Manager's Report:

Ham presented the Green Manager's Report which had previously been circulated.

Jeanne and Tom both asked about the sand underneath the flagpoles. Ham said that it will be used up over the coming weeks.

Any Other Business:

1. Handicap Competitions

The Club Captain has suggested that the Hoskings and Grogan Cup competition be reinstated as handicap competitions from next year. There was a note on the old competition rules that there was a Bowls England rule that we weren't allowed to run handicap competitions. This is not the case. It was agreed to reintroduce them as Handicap Competitions from the 2022 season, the handicaps to be decided by a yet to be appointed Handicap Sub Committee.

Action: TB

2. Fold Up Chairs in the Clubhouse

These are a little bit of an eyesore and it was agreed to purchase a small shed, along the lines of those at Abbrook Park, to house them outside.

Action: TB

3. Social Events

Tom suggested that once the final stage of the route map out of lockdown is reached then we should have a number of social events (quiz nights etc.), to which the Committee agreed.

Action: TB

4. Winter Indoor Competitions

Kelvin had raised the issue that we struggle to fulfil some winter fixtures because of falling numbers. Tom suggested that we approach Ilsington to see if we could enter into an arrangement whereby we put out a joint team in these matches. As we are playing Ilsington on 27 May the Committee agreed that we approach them at the time.

Action: TB

5. Food Hygiene Certificate

We need to check that we hold a valid Food Hygiene Certificate.

Action: TB

Date of next meeting: TBC

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.23pm.

Signed as correct:

Lady Chairman



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Secretary's Report for Executive Meeting 17 May 2021

Fixtures

After printing the fixture booklet, 2 days later the MDL cancelled all fixtures for 2021. I contacted 8 other clubs in our local area to see if they were prepared to play in a mini league so as to replace the lost men's fixtures. I am delighted to say that 7 other clubs agreed to this and the men will play in the 'Buckfastleigh Centenary Trophy' league this year, with home and away fixtures against:

Abbrook Park
Bitton Park
Bovey Tracey
Chudleigh
Marldon
Newton Abbot
Totnes

We have also arranged friendlies against Abbrook Park, Torquay, Paignton Torbay and Totnes.

Unfortunately, because a number of members are unwilling play this year, we have had to withdraw from the South Devon Over 55's Y league.

I have reprinted the fixture book to take account of the fixture changes.

Open Day

We had a very successful Open Day with 45 people attending. Thanks to Ham for arranging for Trefor Jones to provide the PA system. Trefor also arranged for a lady from the Mid Devon Advertiser to be present and a very good report followed in the MDA paper.

Equipment Shed

Matt Bowen and I have tidied up the equipment shed making everything more accessible. I have also asked Neil Edmunds to paint the pushers and 2 yard markers.

Bill McKimm

We have decided to leave his Application for Membership in abeyance until if and when we receive his completed application form.

Tom Bowden
Secretary



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Treasurer's Report for Executive Meeting 17 May 2021

Annual Subscriptions

No provision is made for any further new members, although there are a number of 'irons in the fire'.

Covid Grants

We have successfully applied for and received an additional government "restart grant" of £8,000. In total, we have received £27,431 and have used £8,994, leaving £18,837 in hand. Total spend:

Display Cabinet	87.98
Can Crusher	30.39
New Clock	22.99
Blower/Sucker	271.79
Hedge Trimming	100.00
Centenary Bowls Stickers	96.00
Drill 'n Fill	3,000.00
Fencing	1,847.00
Centenary Pens	142.74
50% Membership Fees	1,506.00
Ditch Matting	999.00
Centenary Shirts	
Contribution	379.60
Welcome to Buckfastleigh	
Sign	308.40
Flags	180.00
Bunting	21.98
Total	8,993.87

We have also committed to a new 'Rinks Open/Closed' sign costing £297.60.

We also have £850 remaining from the bequest by Ian Howkins, and an estimated (year end) £18,576 in our general fund.

The estimated loss this year is almost entirely due to the fact that the repainting costs arose in 2020/21, whilst the Town Council grant for the works was received in 2019/20.

We are in a very healthy financial position, but we can only spend each £ once.

The balance at the bank, as at 11 May was £35,137.

Tom Bowden
Treasurer

Buckfastleigh Bowls Club

2019/2020 Actual £	Revenue Account	2020/2021 To Date		2020/2021 Estimate	
	Income	£	£	£	£
2,837	Annual Subscriptions	1,599		1,600	
3,670	Grants	0		0	
500	Sponsorship	300		1,200	
194	Donations	43		44	
255	Teas & Draws	0		2,200	
1,042	Annual Dinner	0		0	
784	Bar Sales	172		2,800	
13	Competitions	326		334	
28	Green Fees	0		200	
145	Clothing	480		570	
109	Social Events	0		200	
118	Special Fund	8,876		9,257	
0	Ian Howkins Bequest Fund	150		150	
0	Other Income	40		40	
9,695			11,986		18,595
	Expenditure				
2,617	Green & Machinery	5,316		6,636	
792	Premises & Grounds	5,348		5,760	
168	Rent	0		170	
308	Electricity	203		350	
512	Water Rates	117		500	
189	Fire Extinguisher Check	207		207	
752	Insurance	790		790	
0	Advertising - BBC	308		308	
0	Advertising - 3rd Party	617		617	
143	Printing, Postage & Stationery	183		210	
70	Bar Licence	70		70	
0	Website	12		12	
191	Sundries	207		300	
0	Centenary	239		1,000	
920	Annual Dinner	0		0	
122	Affiliation Fees & Trophies	510		550	
49	Food & Draws	33		750	
485	Clothing	1,507		1,507	
0	Bank Charges	(1)		(5)	
381	Bar Expenses	80		1,200	
7,699			15,746		20,932
1,996	Surplus/(Deficit)		(3,760)		(2,337)



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BBC Green Report to Executive Committee for 17 May 2021

April was one of the driest on record and coolest. The green struggled to grow under the prevailing conditions. It was watered on several occasions and cut to 8. The opening of the green on 24th April saw 77% of the membership attend, playing two spiders and some team ends [twenty in total]. Green stood up well to the movement of players, and was reasonably accurate in line, and relatively good on length. Considering the previous work completed to improve the playing surface [Drill 'n' Fill, scarifying, top dressing, reseeding and fertilising] and cutting to 8 it was quite acceptable. Tim came before the Open Day, and judged the green to be in good condition for this time in the year.

May and the rains have made work more than difficult. However, cutting has gone ahead, although it has not grown significantly considering the more than adequate watering it has had, but the temperatures have been less than average for this time of the year. Guidance from our consultant has prioritised feeding the green. A wetting agent has been applied to avoid 'dry patch'. Rather ironic with all the rain!

Future work:

- lower the cut height gradually, feed regularly, hand weed, and gently scarify [once the machine returns from repairs and adjustment].
- It is essential that as much thatch and moss is removed during the playing season, as this will massively improve the playing surface and achieve fuller benefits from the Drill 'n' Fill treatment.
- It is not just a matter of cutting to a very low cut [4], as, under our conditions, this will only encourage moss to outgrow the fine grasses.
- A fully integrated regime is needed to maintain the green, especially acting in conjunction with weather conditions rather than against them.
- The cut height may have to be raised slightly, if there is a period of 'drought' in order to help the grass.
- We cannot afford to throw water down, despite our irrigation system, as this will never replace natural watering, but only encourage a short-term solution and possibly be harmful as the root zone begins to rise to find surface water and then becomes more vulnerable to wind drying or drought conditions.

- Our mower has a useful heavy roller that can 'flatten' out minor peaks, when cutting the grass providing the soil is moist, and combined with the top dressing using the available sand the surface ought to be playing more evenly!
- Any thoughts from members ought to be directed to the Green Manager.

Ham Sampford [BBC Green Manager] 16 May 2021