



*Buckfastleigh Bowling Club
Duckspond Road
Buckfastleigh
TQ11 0NL*

Executive Meeting

Meeting held on 14 September 2023 at 2pm.

Present: Present: Mike Anderson – Chairman; Sue Heyes – Secretary; Ham Sampford – Green Manager; Ladies Captain & Representative – Pauline Manfield; Men's Representative – Terry Humphries.

Chairman's Introduction

Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies:

Jeanne Pinney, Ann Pedrick.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 5 April 2023 were signed by the Chairman as correct.

Matters Arising:

None.

Secretary's Report:

None.

Treasurer's Report:

None.

Green Managers Report:

A report is attached to these minutes

Any Other Business:

1. Treasurer

A discussion was held regarding the position of Treasurer as Ann does not wish to continue. Our previous Treasurer Tom Bowden rejoined the club this season and offered to be Treasurer. It was concluded that he was the best person for the position so he will take over with immediate effect. It was also decided that at least 2 people were to control the bank account online so he and Mike would do this, the constitution to be checked regarding this matter.

2. Leagues

The only viable leagues for next season are the South Devon Mixed Triples League and the Men's Over 55's League. There are not enough Ladies to enter a league as teams have to be registered before the end of the year.

3. Order of Merit

There are no nominations for the Order of Merit award.

4. Door Ramps

An example of possible metal door ramps was shown. Terry pointed out that from experience these could become slippery when wet regardless of what the information stated, so it was decided to look at the possibility of concrete ramps at the same time as trying to find someone to fix the slabs on the far side of the pavilion which have tree roots growing under them. Ham will ask Les Tanner when he comes to do the hedges if he knows anyone reliable.

5. Water and Electricity

We are £34.92 in credit with the Water Company and £83.38 in credit with EDF. A new contract with EDF commenced on 5 September 2023 for 3 years. The direct debit is £30 per month, but this is only payable when we are not in credit.

6. Safeguarding Officer

It will become compulsory from 2025 that every Bowls Club has a Safeguarding Officer who has attended a Bowls specific Safeguarding Course. A place has been booked for one of our members on 7 February 2024 at the Sir Francis Drake Bowling Club in Plymouth,

Terry said he would be willing to attend if his shifts allowed and Ham also said he may be willing to attend.

7. Subscriptions 2024

A long discussion took place regarding subscriptions for 2024. Both Terry and Sue said that £85 was a lot of money in these times of austerity when league games were limited due to lack of members and also games that clashed with work patterns. Mike pointed out that you were paying for membership of a club rather than the number of games played. A final decision was not made but it was stated that they would probably remain the same.

8. Financial Year / AGM

Mike pointed out that we had changed the financial year to 31 March so therefore the AGM should be changed to coincide. It was pointed out that the Constitution had not been changed accordingly, so in order to comply an October AGM was essential.

9. Rent – Teignbridge DC

Mike said he was in discussion with Teignbridge DC regarding the annual rent payable under the terms of the lease. As Hamlyn Playing Fields was gifted to the people of Buckfastleigh and Teignbridge do not do anything such as refuse collection for the Club then we should not pay any rent. He is in contact with Chris Bouchard at Teignbridge DC.

10. County Competitions 2024

Terry asked about County Competitions for the men. Sue will try and obtain the forms from David Mercer, but it may be too late for next season.

11. Green Opening 2024

The green will open on 20 April 2024 with our first game being at Plymstock on 27 April 2024 at 2pm.

Date of next meeting: TBA.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3:45pm.

Signed as correct:

Chairman

BBC Committee Meeting GREEN REPORT 14th September 2023

This year has been most unusual, not only for the weather, but also for the some of the green team who have succumbed to ill-health .

Weather for begging of the year [April and May] was most unsettled with insufficient rain. June was the driest and hottest month on record for many decades. Grass just about survived. July broke wet and windy, but the green stayed well drained and the grass barely grew. August was damp and warm and the green drained well. Grass began to grow and fill out.

September has been warm and grass has continued to fill out and grow.

Have not been able to scarify as anticipated as the ground was too hard and 'well-drained'. Liquid feed only applied as no point in applying granular fertiliser without rain to dissolve the granules. Again ground too hard too spike, as the machine 'bounced' off the surface.

Rook holes filled in with sand and seed mix, regularly. Hand weeding has been carried out during the season.

With the ground surface so firm any mower rolling has had little effect. Therefore, no point in trying to roll grass. Now that the top surface is damper, rolling should be more effective.

Work for autumn after the closing of the green, Saturday 30th September:

Scarify at least two ways, and deep Verti-spiking [Tim]. Mow/roll adjusting grass cut height. Lightly dress with sand/seed mix. Apply granular fertiliser.

Remove gully mats, and movable benches.

Hedge trimming by Les Tanner – to be paid.

General tidy up.

Green Team:

Unfortunately, Ken and Ham were unable to commit partially or fully to helping the Team due to health problems, treatment, and hospitalisation. These health issues were not Covid related!

Sue and Kelvin immediately took over and master minded the running of the Green. Many thanks to them and their 'encouraged helpers' for taking over in this time of emergency. They should be thanked formally on behalf of the Club! The whole team played their part magnificently.

It is fortunate that the Green Team was ready to tackle just such emergency situations. The Club is truly indebted to the Team for keeping the Green going under the weather and health circumstances.

A few more volunteer members joining the Team would be a great help and value.

Other points noted:

- ❖ The flag stones surrounding the green need some appropriate work to level and 'square-up'.
- ❖ Green edge boards need adjusting.
- ❖ Green Edge itself could be supported by wood 2"x1" edging strips and facing boards [3"x1].

Thank you Team for stepping in to help when things got 'difficult'. Ham. Green Manager.