

DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17th MAY 2022 at 10:00AM

PRESENT: John Bucknell (President and Chair)
Roger Wyatt (General Secretary)
Jaz Notay (Treasurer)
Mark Essex
Paul Patel
Bruce Adams
Mike Whittingham (Deputy President)
Jacinta Monteiro
Brian Harris
Mark Peachey
John Davis
Geoff Lofthouse

1.0 Welcome

1.1 John Bucknell welcomed members present with a special welcome to our new Treasurer, Jasbir Notay (Jaz) who is attending her first Management Committee Meeting.

2.0 Apology for Absence

2.1, Maureen O'Reilly

3.0 Reports from: -

3.1 Indoor Section

3.1.1 The new "Honours Boards" using typed text and display cabinets are being prepared. Thanks to Jennie Macleod, Indoor Secretary, who has taken the lead in researching the files and providing most of the missing historical data.

3.2 Outdoor Section

3.2.1 All Outdoor Fixtures for 2022 have now been confirmed and the new Members' handbook printed and distributed.

3.2.2 It was noted there were still problems in getting sufficient members to play in friendly fixtures, particularly for away matches. It was suggested that we should be trying new ways to motivate members to register for games, either on the Club notice boards, Reception or possibly via the webpage. At present we are telephoning members to persuade them to play on an ad hoc basis and if we could identify any other suitable communication method(s) then this would be most welcome.

3.2.3 With the start of the outdoor season it was suggested that, as many members did not appear to check the current notice boards in the Clubhouse, then it would be appropriate to fit a new external lockable weatherproof notice board on the wall immediately adjacent to the exit door at the top of the green access stairs. Match sheets and other relevant notices could then be displayed in a very prominent place on the main route to the green.

DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB

3.2.4 As part of the BE sponsored “Bowls Big Weekend”, which will run from the 27th to 29th May, DBC will be holding an “Open Day” on Saturday 28th May 2022. The advertising of the event to include, local leaflet drops and display of the DBC banner on our neighbours’ fence. The banner is in store and will be amended to show the new date and time. Pietro (Emanuela) has volunteered to design a new flyer/leaflet for distribution in the local area and a poster to be displayed in public spaces e.g., Library.

3.2.5 The use of the maintenance gate giving access from the car park to the outdoor green was again discussed following several emails from Members requesting that the gate is opened during playing hours. As this matter had been thoroughly debated and voted upon at the last Management Meeting, held on the 19th of April, it was agreed that, whilst the members concerns had been noted, the meeting did not consider there were sufficient reasons to change its decision and the gate will remain locked and only opened for maintenance purposes and access/egress for any disabled persons.

4.0 Minutes of the last Management Meeting held on 19th April 2022

4.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved on a proposal from Geoff Lofthouse, seconded by Mike Whittingham and duly signed by the Club President as being a true record of those meetings.

5.0 Matters Arising from the last Management Meetings held on 19th April 2022

5.6 *The proposal for the Club to adopt a new “modern” style of bowls shirt for Desborough, for use of those members selected to play in the National Competitions, has been agreed and approval of the design has now been received from both BE and EIBA.*

5.7 *We have now agreed with 3 sponsors to sponsor the club in exchange for their names being displayed on our new shirts. Their company logos will be added to the shirt design by the chosen supplier Aceit. Delivery of the shirts is anticipated to be 6 weeks from order.*

5.8 *It was agreed that Mark Essex (Men) and Mary Price (women) would confirm the relevant information regarding the number of shirts, sizes etc required so we can proceed with the order as soon as possible. It is anticipated that the initial order will be for circa 50 shirts (£30.00 each TBC by supplier). When received the shirts/shorts will be available for purchase by the playing members with a small number of “loan” items retained in stock.*

5.9 Generally, all other matters arising are included in the current agenda items.

6.0 General Secretary’s Report

6.1 Generally, the Club has returned to “normal” operations.

6.2 Club membership has increased over the last month with the membership categories as follows: -

Full Member	112
Indoor Member	400
All Year Indoor Member	19
Social Member	80
Junior	0
Life Member	10
Total	621

DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB

6.3 The standard of catering has much improved over recent months. Emanuela's are now planning a series of "Italian Nights" on the balcony and Function areas and possibly Sunday lunches.

6.4 The Indoors Competition Finals Week finished on Friday 29th April. The prizegiving was well attended with over 90 people watching several closely fought finals.

6.5 The Outdoor rinks opened on Monday 25th April and the opening game of the outdoor season was an all-Desborough affair held on 1st May. The round-robin match was excellent practice in graduating from indoor to outdoor bowls!

6.6 The outdoor Friendly matches for the season have been scheduled and the first match against Cippenham was played on Saturday 7th May.

6.7 Income from Indoor Green Fees has now been greatly reduced as the Summer, 12-month indoor members are far less in numbers and the organized roll-ups are only attracting 15 to 20 members.

6.8 Commercial Revenue has increased with bookings back to pre-Covid levels.

6.9 The monthly plan/rota of volunteer tasks has continued, making use of those members who had volunteered to help.

6.10 The Bus Shelter immediately in front of the balcony area has been removed allowing an unobstructed view of the green. The move was carried out by our members, led by David Smith, at a total cost of £100.00. Further works are to be carried out to provide a new "back" to the seat at a cost of £200.00.

6.11 The official Queen's Platinum celebrations are to be held 2nd to 5th June and the Club will be arranging their own celebration to mark the occasion – A Jubilee Bowls match and Barbeque on Thursday 2nd June.

6.12 An in-house Easter Tournament was held on Easter Saturday, 16th April, and all entry fees, £400.00 are to be donated to the Ukraine Relief Fund.

6.13 The Outdoor Friday Club will start of the 13th of May.

6.14 Purchase of the new approved Club kit is estimated at an initial cost of £1,500 to £2,000. Discussions are currently in hand with potential sponsors, who have indicated they may be willing to advertise on the shirts for a price. To date: Shanly Homes, The Mortgage Company (£500.00), A-Plan Insurance (£200.00) and Emanuele's (£1,000.00) have expressed an interest.

6.15 Commercial bookings are progressing with regular bookings for all areas.

6.16 The new software for the proposed information monitor has now been installed and is ready for use. It was agreed that the software would feed a new monitor located on the wall over the coffee machine dispenser, as this is the best location for all to see from the Bar area. Quotations are still pending for the cost of the work.

7.0 Treasurer's Report

7.1 The Treasurer, Jasbir Notay (Jaz), reported on the recent progress made regarding the transfer of the Club's accounting/ bookkeeping from Wilson Partners to Ellora Ltd. The transitional arrangements have now been completed and Wilson Partners will cease to be involved with DBC as from 6th June 2022.

DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB

7.2 Jaz confirmed the current priority task is to complete the review of the current and last 4 years VAT, Corporation Tax and Stamp Duty payments and to then finalize the outstanding accounts and submit to HMRC.

7.3 Ellora are still awaiting the final banking authority for Lloyds Bank and need to register with HMRC for agency authority to deal with the Club's VAT returns.

7.4 Jaz stated that, in the light of the current issues the Club with rising costs, she would be working closely with the management team to prepare a new Financial Forecast for the next 5 years.

7.5 The Financial review will also include the financial implications related to any recommendations agreed and adopted, resulting from the General Secretary's operational review of current management and staffing levels.

8.0 Social Events

8.1 Brian Harris presented his report on the Social Events, both completed and planned. The Quiz Night made a very impressive profit of £518 and Cabaret Night £113 (a disappointing turnout due to holidays etc.) The next event is Bingo on the 27th of May, and we have 73 signed up already. A Ukulele band has been booked for the 23rd of September

9.0 Marketing/Open Day/Coaching

9.1 The next Club Coaching Course (6 weeks) will be held following the BE "Bowls Big Weekend", scheduled for Saturday 28th May 2022.

9.2 A much-improved website has been created and the content is now being maintained on an almost daily basis to ensure it is current and relevant.

9.3 The Club banner to be used for permanent display on our neighbor's fence on the main road. Wording to be adapted to suitable for generic message – "Welcome to Desborough Bowling Club"

10.0 AOB

10.1 The current WIFI sign-in for visitors is very unwieldy and appears to have an unnecessary initial request for input – only the person's name and e-mail address should be sufficient?

[RFW to contact the Club's IT consultant, James Hillier, to discuss possible changes to make life easier and to confirm the security and integrity of our WIFI.]

10.2 The report from Bruce Adams, outlining the possible alterations to the glass balustrade in the bar area was discussed. It was considered that, as the height of the panels and rail were 1.1m and conformed to current Building Regulations, then any reduction in height would potentially compromise the safety of members and create a risk regarding our insurance should there be any incident in the future. It was agreed we would not pursue this matter further.

11.0 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 14th June 2022 at 10:00am

Roger Wyatt
General Secretary

Date: 17th May 2022