

DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27th JULY 2022 at 9:30AM

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

1.0 Welcome

1.1 John Bucknell welcomed members present

2.0 Apology for Absence

2.1 None - all present

3.0 Reports from: -

3.1 Indoor Section

3.1.1 None

3.2 Outdoor Section

3.2.1 It was again noted there were still problems getting some outdoor clubs to play in home friendly fixtures at Desborough. It was agreed we would continue to encourage our members to make themselves available for all our friendly matches.

3.2.2 A new noticeboard has been provided displaying Outdoor Competition, Match sheets and other relevant notices. The new noticeboard is fixed to the wall immediately adjacent to the green exit door leading to the stairs on the main route to the green.

3.2.5 The Malaysian National team came to DBC, as part of their preparation for the Commonwealth Games this summer. We arranged some friendly practice matches for them against Gerrards X., Desborough, Town, and Thicket.

3.2.6 The Amy Rose Regional Final, between the Counties of Surrey, Kent, and Hants, was held at DBC on Sunday 3rd July. - a very successful day.

3.2.7 The annual "Away Day" to Poole Park took place on Wednesday 29th June. DBC took 5 rinks + 3 triples plus 6 spectators. Poole Park made us very welcome, and the weather was fine ensuring a very good time was had by all.

4.0 Minutes of the last Management Meeting held on 22nd June 2022

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4.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved on a proposal from Maureen O'Reilly, seconded by Jacinta Monteiro 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 22nd June 2022

5.1 None

6.0 General Secretary's Report

6.1 Generally

6.2 Organized roll-ups, Indoors, on Mondays and Wednesdays are now attracting 15 to 20 members.

6.3 The monthly plan/rota of volunteer tasks has continued, making use of those members who had volunteered to help; however, interest has waned, and we are now reviewing the areas where additional support is required.

6.4 The Outdoor Friday Club started on the 13th of May and continues, although attendance is limited, thought to be due to the busy schedule of internal competitions and Kennet League matches scheduled for Friday afternoons.

6.5 The purchase of the new approved Club kit is costing £2,200. 27 Men and 27 Ladies have ordered shirts and trousers and an official order has been placed. Delivery is quoted as 6 to 8 weeks. The cost of the shirts etc. is to be met by the members, as per their order.

As previously reported, our Club Sponsors, Shanly Foundation, Mortgage Required and A-Plan Insurance have had their logos incorporated in the shirt design.

6.6 The 6-week coaching program started on Monday 13th June and finished on 18th July. The numbers attending the course have been disappointing however we anticipate gaining a further 5/6 new members over the next two weeks.

6.7 The detailed research, required for the new honour's boards, has now been completed and the information provided to produce the printed sheets which will then be mounted in display cases. It is hoped the new displays will be installed by mid-August.

6.8 The Amy Rose Tournament took place at Desborough on the 3rd of July – an excellent day and the facilities and service provided was well received by all and subsequent praise from Sandy (Bowls England).

6.9 The Three Way "Mortgage Required" Tournament took place on Sunday 17th July. A very successful tournament played in a great atmosphere with the other clubs, Thicket and Town. Desborough triumphed at the end (144) - Desborough -129 (Town) and Thicket (123). A big thank you to our sponsors Mortgage Available for their support (£1,000)

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6.10 Financial

6.11 The completion of the Club's historical Corporation Tax /VAT submissions, in relation to the last 4 years accounts, are now being finalised by Ellora.

6.12 When we have settled the outstanding issues, completed the tax returns, and agreed the latest audited annual accounts, then we will report to the next Annual General Meeting (November 2022) and advise members accordingly. At this meeting we will also table any amendments to the Constitution, if required, to regularise the Club's legal status (non-profit making) going forwards.

6.13 The general increase in ALL costs relating to Utility charges, food and beverage and inflationary service costs have resulted in a projected increase in costs for the Club. A recommendation of any changes in Annual Subs, Green Fees etc. required to off-set these additional costs, to be tabled at the July Finance and Management Committees, ready for inclusion in the General Secretary's letter to members to be issued in August.

6.14 The 5-Year Plan has been amended to illustrate a scenario, whereby we achieve a break-even point after 3 years and have, if necessary, manageable losses over the next 2 years. All very necessary to ensure the Club's financial position is viable and sustainable in the future.

An extract from the 5-year plan Financial Forecast was forwarded to the Trustees, Committee Members and other members actively involved in assisting with Club operations, requesting feedback as to any ways they would suggest to gain additional revenue and/or reduce costs.

6.15 The cost of coach hire has risen dramatically over the last few months. The coach hire for Southampton was £490 and Poole Park (Away day) was £595. It is recommended that we review our policy regarding future coach hire with a possible alternative being car share.

6.16 At long last we have managed to "persuade" Castle Water that their invoices raised on Green Lane for the period 1st March 2019 to 14th May 2022, amounting to £6,734.65 were incorrect. We have subsequently been informed that our current liability for water is a total sum of £733.34!

6.3 Social Events Programme

We have had a Bingo Night since the last meeting. The Bingo made a profit of £283.00 (excluding bar profits). The next event is Bingo on the 29th of July (82 signed up) followed by a BBQ on August 29th a Bank Holiday.

7.0 Treasurer's Report

7.1 Jaz confirmed the current priority task, to complete the review of the current and last 4 years VAT, Corporation Tax and Stamp Duty payments, was nearly completed and the outstanding accounts will shortly be submitted to HMRC.

7.2 In the light of the current issues the Club faces with rising costs, Jaz has worked closely with the management team to prepare a new Financial Forecast and budget for the next 5 years. A formal presentation was made to the Committee outlining the new proposed budget forecasts together with the assumptions used in formulating expenditure and costs.

7.3 The Committee discussed in detail the financial budget proposals and on a vote, agreed unanimously to adopt the recommendations made in total. The General Secretary to advise members as to the agreed changes in his annual letter to members. Published in mid-August.

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7.4 The recruitment of the Commercial Manager and the second Receptionist (to be re-named Administrator) to start in August with a view to having the positions filled by the end of September

8.0 Marketing/Open Day/Coaching

8.1 The next Open Day will be held in September 2022 ((Saturday 24th September?) concurrently with a new marketing campaign. It is imperative we recruit additional members to meet the membership projections above.

9.0 AOB

9.1 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?

Outstanding Action: -

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

9.2 IT was stressed that when rolls/sandwiches were required after the KL/KLV matches then the team captains should make the necessary request to the caterer via the Office at least 24 hours before the event.

9.3 Potential relocation of the pool table was discussed as it was suggested that the existing location limited the times it could be used. It was thought that a new position in the Lounge Bar opposite the Main Entrance could be possible however it was also thought that this would compromise the capacity of the lounge for events and take up too much room. It was agreed that, to increase the utilisation of the table, we could introduce a new Members' pool competition to attract more business for the caterer and the bar.

9.4 The use of the maintenance gate, as access from the car park to the outdoor green, was again debated. For Commercial and security reasons the gate is currently kept locked. It can however be used for access and egress for non-ambulant guests or wheelchair users, on request. This is the third time in recent months that this matter has been brought to the committee and once again, on a show of hands, the vote was, by a majority, against opening the gate for daily use. The gate therefore remains closed and only used for maintenance.

9.5 It was noted that there were still problems with members and guests failing to return their glasses to the bar at the end of the bowls. Most members are very good at returning bowls equipment to the store after use and it is only the minority who leave items for others to clear up.

9.6 It was suggested that we should investigate the potential installation of a remote controlled fully automated carpet hoover which could potentially clean the indoor carpet on a regular overnight basis.

9.7 It was advised that we have recently "lost" one of our new members to another bowls club as he was unhappy because he had not managed to secure a place in a KL/KLV team and not selected for friendly matches. We were aware of the situation and will be speaking to him when he is next in the Club. To reassure him that, when possible, he would have the opportunity to play.

9.8 There is an opportunity to hold a member's event to watch the "Ladies European Cup Final" Football match at the Club on Sunday 31st July K.O 4:00pm?? Also, to check when Commonwealth Games bowls matches are to be televised.

9.9 The Committee discussed our extremely disappointing exit from the Men's Club Two Fours, initiated by Bowls England, due to our using an "ineligible player".

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10.0 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 23rd August 27th at 10:00am

Roger Wyatt
General Secretary

Date: 27th July 2022