

DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2023

PRESENT:

John Bucknell (President and Chair)
Roger Wyatt (General Secretary)
Jasbir Notay
Bruce Adams
Brian Harris
John Davis
Bob Forster
Angie Isaac
Fred Ashmore
Mark Peachey (Club Manager)
Mike Whittingham (Deputy President)

1.0 Welcome

1.1 The President welcomed all members.

2.0 Apologies for Absence

- Mark Essex
- Marina Bignell
- Debbie Stavrou
- Jim Macpherson
- Geoff Lofthouse
- Jennie Macleod

3.0 Reports from: -

A. Indoor Section

- 3.1 The fixture calendar for the 23-24 season is now complete.
There are: 26 Home matches, 8 Away matches and 11 GOLs.
The fixtures to be reviewed to identify any potential problems.
- 3.2 The Indoor membership (12-month Indoor Membership) is now at 110 members.
- 3.3 Organised roll-ups are being held Monday's and Wednesdays. Currently the Wednesday session has attracted 54 members.
- 3.4 DBC are hosting the following World Bowls qualifying rounds: -

Saturday 7th October	-	Scottish International Open Singles
Sunday 8th October	-	Ladies World Matchplay

We have three club members entered in the competitions, **Mark Essex** in the Scottish International Open Singles on Saturday, and **Jacinta Monteiro** and **Nicola Jones** in the Ladies World Matchplay on Sunday. (all scheduled to start at 10:30am)

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3.5 Due the competition in 3.4 above, the home drawn Denny and Top Club matches have had to be rearranged and now DBC will be playing the home rinks all at Loddon vale on Saturday 7th and Top Club at Whiteknights on Sunday 8th.

B. Outdoor Section

3.6 The friendly fixtures have been completed for 2023.

3.7 The Club Competitions were completed over a very successful finals weekend (8th to 10th September). Congratulations to all who took part in this year's competitions and particular thanks to Mark Peachey for organising the events.

3.8 The Outdoor rinks were closed on the 18th of September.

3.9 The Autumn treatment for the outdoor green was carried out by Avonmore on the 26th of September. The works included hollow tining/scarifying, spraying with Fortify, re-seeding areas with 20Kg Grotrax and covering overall with 6 tonnes of top dressing.

3.10 It was noted that the Outdoor Annual General Meeting has now been rescheduled from 8th to 15th October at 11:00am. A formal notice and associated papers have been circulated to all Full and Outdoor Members and the same notices are now displayed on the Club Noticeboard.

3.11 It was considered that we should be more diligent in ensuring any new members joining for the Indoor Season are encouraged to join the Outdoor section as well. At present we recruit new members and they the join one of the other Maidenhead outdoor clubs.

4.0 Minutes of the last Management Meeting held on 23rd August 2023

4.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved on a proposal from Angie Isaac, seconded by Fred Ashcroft and duly signed by the Club President as being a true record of those meetings.

5.0 Matters Arising from the last Management Meeting held on 23rd August 2023

5.1 None

6.0 General Secretary's Report

1) Having constantly monitored the energy supply market over the last 12 months we have agreed with our advisors that, whilst nothing is definite with electricity supply costs, now is an appropriate time to take a new contract, before the potential rise in prices for the Winter. Please note the potential energy "cap" being discussed in the media only applies to residential properties and not businesses.

2) A new 12-month contract has now been locked in with British Gas (for electricity) as follows: -
Term: 12 Months as from December 2023
Unit Rate: 25.25p (current rate 18.98p) an annual increase of £9,101.36 (31.84%)

3) The Outdoor season has finished, and the green has been given its winter preparation: -
- Hollow tining
- Re-seeding to bare patches
- 6 tons of top-dressing.

The green is developing well (4th year) and next year will be ready for further treatment to increase the thickness of the root base and the resilience to damage from our more "enthusiastic" bowlers.

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- 4) The last Open Day was held on Saturday 23rd September 2023 with **52 attendees**. Many thanks to all our members who came along to help on the day.
- 5) As a follow-up to the Open Day, we have arranged a 6-week Coaching Course, starting on Saturday, 14th October and finishing on Saturday 25th November. Each coaching session will start at 9:00am and finish at 10:30am. N.B. There may be some variations of timing due to national/County competitions. (Denny, Top Club etc.)
- 6) It is anticipated that we shall have in excess of 20 attendees on the coaching course and we now need members to volunteer to assist at the sessions. A minimum of 10 members per week please.
- 7) The Indoor Season commenced on Monday 25th September and most league teams have now registered and fixtures commenced.
- 8) We have now registered **two** Ladies' teams in the TVL for 2024, Desborough **Diamonds** (formerly Bluebells) and Desborough **Pearls** (formerly Buttercups). Diamonds will be managed by Angie Isaac and Pearls by Judy Smelt. Managers to agree their team squads from total ladies of circa 32 players. The registration fee has been paid (£30.00)
- 9) Indoor Club handbooks have been produced and are available at Reception.
- 10) The Club's computers have now been upgraded which allows us to correct our email addresses and increase our resilience and avoid computer "crashes".
- 11) We are now receiving subscriptions for 2023/24 (due October 1st).
- 12) Members are reminded that if they pay by Standing Order then they need to change their SO to reflect the new subscription charges for 2023/24. New bank Standing Order Forms are available at Reception, if required.
- 13) It was noted that we are still having difficulty in achieving publication of our weekly press reports despite assurances from the Advertiser that they would give "bowls" more coverage. A formal complaint has again been issued to the editorial staff at Baylis Media and they have responded and confirmed our report would be published in this week's Advertiser (29th)
- 14) The **OUTDOOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** has now been re-scheduled for **SUNDAY 15th OCTOBER, STARTING AT 11:00am**. Notice and papers have been issued to all Full, Life and Outdoor members and relevant notices are displayed on the club's notice board.

7.0 FINANCIAL

7.1 Capex & Revenue Expenditure

a) Renewal of Extract Ventilation Plant to Front Building	£4,500.00 – <i>Completed</i>
b) New Indoor Carpet Gripper renewal with metal.	£1,000.00 - <i>Completed.</i>
c) Cleaning of Indoor Green Carpet	£1,000.00 - <i>Completed</i>
d) Cleaning of Bar extract duct	£500.00 - <i>Completed.</i>
e) Purchase of new raffle/bingo machine	£411.00 - <i>received.</i>
f) Purchase of new exterior picnic table and sunshade	£379.00 - <i>received.</i>
g) Replacement of faulty emergency lighting fittings	£4,934.73 - <i>Completed.</i>
h) Replacement Laptop computers (2)	£1,600.00 <i>purchased.</i>

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8.0 Treasurer's Report

8.1 Monthly Accounts

8.2 A copy of the July dashboard and Profit & Loss sheets was tabled, and it was noted that revenue was up by £2.5k, driven by upside in bar sales and green fees. Overall, we were on budget.

8.3 Future P&L Reports to include YTD column for comparison.

9.0 Social Update

9.1 Over the last month we have had 1 event, Bingo, with a profit recorded at £311.00.

9.2 We continue to advertise the forthcoming events, Bingo on 29th September (101 signed up), Cabaret Night on 14th October (61 signed up), and Quiz Night on 28th October.

9.3 The eighth 200 Club Draw took place on the 5th of September with Denise Howse winning the top prize of £50.00. The next draw will be on the 3rd of October.

9.4 A free disco was provided by Andre Davis on Saturday 23rd September. Only 18 members turned up, however, as they all enjoyed the evening so we will try again in November.

9.5 The new "cash" raffles to be introduced after all friendly matches.

9.0 AOB

9.1 Ways of increasing rink utilization together with providing financial incentives to decrease the rink fees were discussed. Possible discounts if you paid in advance for a bunch of say 10 sessions etc. block-booking at a set price? It was agreed that this subject requires more in-depth discussion to see if there were any different ways, we could approach the marketing and revenue capture for members rink fees, without reducing our overall income. A sub-committee group is to be formed to meet, consider possible options and report back to the next Management Committee.

10.0 Date of Next Meeting (start 10:00am)

Wednesday 25th October 2023

Roger Wyatt
General Secretary
28th September 2023