

Titchfield Old English Bowling Club

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 4 Feb 2020

Apologies – None

Minutes – The minutes of the meeting held on 25 Nov 2019 were agreed.

Matters Arising

- The action to draft a codicil to para 8d of the constitution was deemed unnecessary; the committee will consider temporary changes to the availability of the greens for competition matches on the recommendation of the competition manager.
- A leaving gift of a rose for Joan has been organised with the assistance of Rodney and Shelia.
- The action to find volunteers to assist with 2020 programme is ongoing with the Sec.
- Woods testing at Pershore has been carried out and the cataloguing of the club's woods is progressing.
- 2020 renewal form has been revised and circulated.

Routine Reports

Finance – IW presented the income/expenditure report from Oct to Jan. The current a/c stands as £2821.53. Membership renewals are starting to come through and £1120 was banked in Jan. Four new sets of woods have been ordered from Pershore and it is planned to buy 4 replacement parasols before the season starts. Income from the hire of woods may drop below budget as many members are now purchasing their own.

Maintenance – DJ is satisfied with the state of the greens which have been regularly switched and cut but he is concerned about the amount of moss this winter. The contractor will spray towards the end of February ahead of the pre-season preparation on Sat 7 March [DJ will require 6 helpers on that day]. The working party day is scheduled for 28 Mar. Greens will be turned 90 degrees again this year and marking out will take place on 31 March.

Work on modifying the woods' rack is almost complete. Currently there are 16 unallocated serviceable sets of woods available for hire. IW raised the issue of allocation of new woods to members and this would be kept under review.

Membership – CW reported 26 renewals to date and 2 conversions to Associate status.

Communications – MD gave a candid assessment of the usage data for the website, which he found disappointing. The viewing data from observers outside of the club continues to increase but within the membership the uptake has been below expectation. The Chairman was unqualified in his support for the work MD is doing, stressing that technological changes like this rarely become overnight successes. The Sec also added that in order to ensure that information gets out there to as many members as possible, he has been running parallel systems of both the website and emails with attachments. He has, within the past week, modified this to provide emails with links to the website information which should generate increases to the usage data. The Sec suggested we should revisit the data in 3 months time when the season has started and these changes will have had time to take effect.

Social – VJ reported that the uptake for the skittles evening has been tremendous and the event is almost sold out.

The issue of particular concern to her was the booking of a venue for the Awards Dinner in November. Currently there are only two viable options on the table which are

Lee on Solent Golf club and Palmerston. The feedback from members regarding Palmerston last year has been mixed. As a venue VJ had found Palmerston very difficult to deal with last year, as the catering, bar and facility itself are not well coordinated. After much discussion VJ was tasked by the committee to approach Lee as the preferred venue for 2020 for availability and costings. These would be discussed at the next meeting.

The Sec and Chairman agreed to take over the running of Fun Day in 2020. If the club is to run BBQ events, volunteers to manage these need to be found or they will have to be modified on the programme. The Sec will canvass for volunteers.

Competitions – An assistant for JC needs to be found and the Sec will make enquiries. With regard to the Ladies One Day Doubles event, as currently constituted the limit is for 18 players. The committee were asked to think about the existing and potential alternative formats and to bring back ideas for the next meeting.

Any Other Business

Titchfield v Exiles - DJ enquired whether the club would be willing to field 12 players to play against an Exiles XII in a friendly game to be held at Titchfield outside of the normal club timetable. The committee were content for this to happen.

Thorngate Short Mat – The Sec reported that in Jan the club achieved its best performance against Thorngate thus far, and a return match will be held in Gosport on 4 Mar.

Titchfield News – The Sec has drafted an article for the March edition of the Titchfield News, advertising the induction day on Sat 11 April. This was unanimously approved and the Sec will forward to the TN editor.

Teas Volunteers – SC reported that the response thus far has been poor and this was confirmed by CW. The Sec and SC will monitor this between now and the completion of the renewal period on 1 Mar.

Vacant Position of President – There was discussion about this issue but it was eventually agreed that this would remain an ongoing action for now, since the role is non-executive and we currently have a Vice President in place.

Date of Next Meeting – 24 Mar 2020.