



West Somerset Bowls League

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held at **North Petherton Bowling Club** on Thursday 26th September 2024 **at 7.00pm**

The chair, Don Bridges, opened the meeting at 7.03pm

In attendance-

Don Bridges (DB), Chair - Burnham on Sea BC
Mark Reeve (MR), Treasurer - Taunton BC

John Swayne (JS), Vice Chair - North Petherton BC
Jay Merrell (JM), Secretary - Wellington BC

Rod Stoodley (RS), - Eastover Park BC
Callum Harrod (CH), - Williton BC
Mike Beale (MB), - Taunton Deane BC
Royston Ball (RB), - Minehead BC
Colin Gay (CG) – Victoria Park BC
Alan Preston (AP) - Ilminster BC

Graham Lewis (GL), - Bridgwater BC
Graham Brown (GB) - Wellington BC
Nick Gardner (NG), - Minehead BC
Alvin Affleck (AA), - Taunton BC
Jackie Weeks (JW) – Ilminster BC

1. Apologies for Absence- No apologies were received. All member clubs were in attendance apart from Watchet.

2. Minutes of AGM Thursday 21st September 2023- Acceptance of the 2023 minutes were proposed by NG, seconded by RB, and approved unanimously.

3. Matters arising- Nil

4. Secretary's report (Jay Merrell)

I would like to start by congratulating our winners, Taunton A team in division 1 and Bridgwater B in division 2, commiserations to Watchet and Wellington B on their relegation. Well done to Ilminster on gaining promotion in their first season as members of the league.

We must be honest and acknowledge it was not the smoothest of season's, the weather was not great resulting in some cancellations, we also lost a few games due to the general election and an incident on the M5. Unfortunately, there were several games cancelled because clubs were unable to raise a team. Despite this with a total of 28 teams competing this was by far the most matches the league as ever seen. Well done to club's flexibility in rearranging many of these cancelled matches.

The introduction of the results website perhaps predictably had a few teething issues, usually due to finger troubles on the operator's part, not exclusively though as there were some glitches in the software identified which hopefully will be squared away next season. The results website was designed for Crown Green bowls, with just a small number of flat green leagues, though the developer is keen to expand in this direction, despite the small glitches it made my life so much easier, and next season we'll strive to have all results entered by all clubs, at the end of the season it was about 2/3rds doing it themselves with me entering the rest.

Despite rumours to the contrary before the start of the season, as far as I know, all matches ended with a light snack with a drink in the clubhouse. This does not get any easier year on year, but it is great to see clubs putting the effort in to maintain this enjoyable tradition.

Thanks, are also due to the other members of the Executive, Mark in particular with his work as treasurer and uncanny knack of keeping me on the straight and narrow when my zealotness sometimes gets the better of me. Don and John in their roles are always available for a chat and to bounce ideas off.

Finally, a word about Chard who were one of the founding members of the league back in 1984, they have resigned after one season back. We wish them well and they will be welcome back should they wish to reapply in the future.

5. Treasurer's report (Mark Reeve)

All reasonably straight forward. Received confirmation of £90 overpayment from Wellington which has been refunded.

The accounts as I can report them are:

2023 AGM Balance Carried Forward £1217.03
Income £840

Expenditure £695.74.

Carried Forward £1361.29

JM pointed out that some expenditure will be required because the division one shield will be full once Taunton have their 2024 win engraved.

6. Chairman's report (Don Bridges)

My thanks to my colleagues on the Executive Committee especially JM for his work with the fixtures and collating the scores.

I would like to congratulate the winners and runners-up of both leagues. Also, can I ask John to express our sincere thanks to North Petherton for agreeing to host our AGM once again.

Finally, my I thank all of you for your attendance.

7. Presentation of Trophies

Division 1 WINNER	Taunton A	£300.00
Runner-up	North Petherton A	£100.00
Division 2 WINNER	Bridgwater B	£150.00
Runner-up	Ilminster	£50.00

8. Election of Officers

The following officers were proposed by MB and seconded by AA

Executive Officers

Chair	Don Bridges
Vice Chair	John Swayne
Treasurer	Mark Reeve
Secretary	Jay Merrell

Non-Executive Officers

Assistant Secretary

Vacant

All Executive Officers were re-elected unanimously.

8.1 Assistant Secretary- There were no volunteers forthcoming to take on this role.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Feedback on results website- Overall those attending thought the results website worked well. Next year we hope all clubs can enter their scores into the system themselves, though JM will be on standby to enter the scores himself should this prove difficult.

9.2 Proposal from the Executive Committee- That rule 15c changes to-

15c. If a player must leave the green due to illness a substitute can be used. Where no substitute is available or where a full team is not fielded a team may play with one player short on up to 2 rinks. However, with only 2 players present in one team each side will play 6 bowls per end. The team of 2 players will incur a penalty of one third of their shots scored which will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.

So, for example, if a team are playing with two players and their total score is 20 shots, then 13 shots will be entered on the scorecard as their final shot total for that rink.

Another example would be a team starting with three players, but a player leaves the green after, say 9 ends, due to illness. If no substitute is available, the remaining shots gained by the team of two will be reduced as above and then added to the total number gained before their player left the green. So, if after 9 ends 12 shots have been won, and in the remaining 9 ends a further 16 shots are won, the 16 shots are reduced to 11, giving a total number of shots for that team of 23.

This proposal was passed unanimously.

9.3 Proposal from the Executive Committee- We wish to consider options with respect to the awarding of prize money at the end of the season. There are three options to be debated and voted on-

a) Change nothing and leave prize money in place.

b) Award prize money as now but to the winning club's chosen charity.

c) Remove prize money from end of season awards. This will allow us to reduce annual subscriptions to £10 per team. (Winning teams will be entitled to reclaim the cost of engraving their shield from the league).

After a secret ballot between the 11 clubs present 6 voted for option A, 1 for option B and 4 for option C. So, option A won and there will be no changes next season.

9.4 Proposal from the Executive Committee regarding rule 12 cancellation we propose to add this- If a match is cancelled due to one of the teams not being able to raise a team, then 12 points and 10 shots will be awarded to the non-defaulting team. There is no option to replay the match on another date. Where a club is hosting county or national matches and do not have enough space for all matches, in the first instance they should try to convert one of the home fixtures into an away fixture. If that is not possible then an attempt can be made to rearrange the fixture, if both teams cannot agree then the points will go to the non-defaulting team.

After a lengthy discussion, an amendment to this was proposed by CG and seconded by NG. The amendment read- If a match is cancelled due to one of the teams not being able to raise a team, then 12 points and 10

shots will be awarded to the non-defaulting team. There is no option to replay the match on another date. Where a club is hosting county or national matches and do not have enough rink space for all matches, in the first instance they should try to convert one of the home fixtures into an away fixture. If that is not possible then an attempt can be made to rearrange the fixture, if both teams cannot agree then the matter will be referred to the Executive Committee for resolution.

The amendment was passed unanimously.

MB from Taunton Deane then raised a couple of questions regarding what he believed were points incorrectly awarded following a cancelled match between Taunton Deane B team and Chard. JM reviewed last season's scores and points allocation and is satisfied all points for Taunton Deane matches were awarded correctly.

9.5 Teams for 2025.

The only changes for 2025 are Ilminster entering a B team and Chard withdrawing. The 2025 league season will run between Thursday 15th May and Thursday 7th August.

9.6 In the event of more than 28 teams applying to join the league a proposal to increase the league size would have been debated and voted on. However, as only 28 teams are entering this will be held in abeyance-

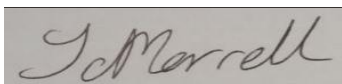
The proposal would have read-

This added to rule 3-

If one or more teams apply to join the WSBL to take the number of teams to between 29 and 32 then the league shall be divided into 4 divisions with a maximum of 8 teams. Each team shall play each other home and away resulting in a maximum of 14 games. In this event the "bottom" two divisions will be divided on a regional basis (probably based on travelling time/distance). There will be two teams promoted and relegated between divisions one and two. With one team promoted from each of the regional divisions and two relegated from division 2. The maximum number of teams will be 32.

There was a brief discussion on this where some doubts were raised as to its viability. It may be discussed again at future AGMs.

With no further questions DB brought the meeting to a close at 7.58pm.



Jay Merrell
Secretary
WSBL