



MINUTES OF 2024 WCI BC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2024 AT 2.0PM.

Members Present

Catherine Lord (WCI BC Chairman), Mavis Green, Tony Dakin, John Fisher, Pam Evans, Paul Lundy, Pat Kempster, Dennis Walsh, Lyndsay Hardy, David Hardy, Brian Rudkin, Pat Burton, Michael Gregory, Alyson Lundy, Barbara Pickersgill, Len Stocks, Alan Thickett, Chris Michael, Barbara Michael, Thelma Willis, Phil Green, George Wardle, Janice Wardle, Brian Turton, Jackie Turton, Norman Clayton, Lynne Clayton, Tony Simmons, Jill Saunders. Jill Fisher, Hilary Horsfield, Keith Spafford, Michael Robinson.

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Brenda Roddis, John Roddis, Barbara Roberts, Andy Firth, Maurice Evans, Liz Thornton and Gerald Horsfield.

Obituaries

Catherine Lord began the meeting by asking everyone to stand in a minute's silence for June Thickett who passed away last year.

1.0 Chairperson's Remarks

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the CI Bowling Club AGM for 2024. She described how it had been a good season for several teams & individuals: -

Maltby Tuesday Men's- WCI Winners of Division B.

B Division averages: - 1st Terry Chappel, 2nd Matthew Birch, 3rd Jamie Verhulst.

Maltby Wed mixed doubles Div A: - WCI A team 2nd place.

RCCGBA Saturday Singles Div1 – WCI B team winners

RCCBBA Friday Doubles Div 2 – WCI A team winners

RRPBA (Vets) Singles Div2 – WCI B team winners. Div Average winner Len Stocks

RRPBA Merits Doubles runners up – Barbara Pickergill & Terry Chappel.

2.0 Minutes of Previous AGM

The minutes of the previous meeting, held in the pavilion February 11th 2023 were taken as read, having been previously displayed on the notice board, website and circulated.

Those Minutes were accepted by the meeting as a true record of the 2023 AGM.

3.0 Matters Arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising from the 2023 AGM minutes not covered in the agenda for the 2024 AGM.

4.0 Election of Officials and Committee

John Fisher informed the meeting that the following club members were willing to stand for the Committee and officer positions.

The Committee currently comprises:

Officers:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Chairman | Catherine Lord |
| Vice Chairman | Pam Evans |
| Secretary | Vacant (John Fisher had temporarily carried out some essential tasks following the resignation of the former Secretary) |
| Treasurer | Mavis Green |
| Social Secretary | Vacant |
| Club Captain (New position) | Brain Rudkin |
| Publicity Officer | Vacant |

Committee Members:

Paul Lundy
Pat Kempster,
Dennis Walsh,
Andy Firth,
Lyndsay Hardy
Tony Dakin
John Fisher

Derek Wake has again agreed to act as Child Protection / Safeguarding Officer.

The Committee proposed the creation of the new post of Club Captain. The aim is to resolve, earlier than has been possible in the past and in discussion with team captains, issues such as teams being over or under subscribed. The role also involves ensuring that new and existing members are encouraged to join the “right” team(s) (ie appropriate to their abilities) to improve the overall performance of the Club’s teams. Brian Rudkin is willing to take on the role.

In the absence of any other nominations or expressions of interest from members, John Fisher asked that the Officers and Committee as above be accepted en bloc by the meeting. This was proposed by Norman Clayton and seconded by Hilary Horsfield and accepted by the meeting with no dissenters.

Until the post of Social Secretary is filled John Fisher volunteered to make a provisional booking at Sitwell Golf Club for the 2024 Presentation Evening. Barbara Pickersgill has offered to take photographs of key events, pending a decision on the future of the Publicity Officer role.

5.0 Treasurer’s Report The Treasurer made available copies of the Club’s Income and Expenditure Account for the financial year ended 31 December 2023. (A copy is attached to the official copy of these Minutes but, for confidentiality, not to the version that is circulated).

They show that there was a small surplus of £288 for the year.

The Treasurer thanked Tony Dakin for his help with the accounts throughout the year. She, or Tony Dakin, would answer any questions about the accounts from members. None of the attendees asked a question.

John Fisher alerted members to a long-running dispute with the Club’s water suppliers. The

Club believes that is being wrongly charged a “surface water” levy for the metered supply specifically relating to water used for watering the green. None of this flows into the public drainage system. The amount involved is significant but, based on latest discussions, the Club is hopeful that the matter will be resolved in its favour.

6.0 Subscriptions for 2024

The Committee has proposed that subscriptions for 2024 remain at £75 for full membership and £20 social membership. The meeting accepted the proposal without comment. The Club rules have now been clarified to reflect the reminder that social members are not allowed to use the green or take part in club competitions.

7.0 Secretary’s Report

As the former Secretary resigned part way through 2023 there is not a conventional Secretary’s report for this AGM.

The Committee believes that all matters that would have been mentioned in such a report are covered by the other Agenda items for this meeting.

John Fisher has provided continuity by processing the BCGBA / SYCCGBA and league registrations required to allow teams and members to compete as normal in 2024.

8.0 Social Secretary's Report

As the Social Secretary role is vacant, John Fisher gave a brief summary of the notable events. Last year’s Presentation Evening at the Sitwell Golf Club was, well supported, and again very enjoyable, with excellent food and good entertainment from a lady vocalist. The meeting recognised that Jenny Shaw had been an excellent Social Secretary and that her contribution will be sadly missed. The meeting recorded its thanks to Jenny for her past efforts.

This year we have continued to hold coffee mornings and social evenings. The evenings are very well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Coffee mornings are less well supported and will be reviewed before next winter. We will hold another coffee morning and a “games night” in February.

10.0 Teams and Captains for 2024

The following table shows the teams that have been entered into the various leagues. Depending on the numbers of players who want to join each time there’s still a short opportunity to increase or decrease the number of teams for the upcoming season.

The Captains and Vice Captains are those from last year, updated for those who have stood down and for those who may be willing to replace them.

There are several gaps, particularly for Vice Captains. Please will members let any member of the Committee know if they’re prepared to help share the workload.

The list will be finalised as soon as possible.

| League | Team | Captain/ Vice-Captain | Day Played |
|---|------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Rotherham retired persons Division 1 | A | Phil Green | Tues & Thurs 2.00 pm |
| Rotherham retired persons Division 1 | B | Len Stocks | Tues & Thurs 2.00 pm (Home 11.am) |
| Rotherham retired persons Division 3 | C | Tony Dakin/ Pam Evans | Tues & Thurs 11.00 & 2.00 |
| Rotherham Friday Doubles Division 1 | A | Jenny Shaw | Friday 6.0/6.30 pm |
| Rotherham Friday Doubles Division 3 | B | Paul Lundy / John Roddis | Friday 6.0/6.30 pm |
| Rotherham Saturday League – Division 1 | A | Liz Thornton / Vacant | Saturday 2.00pm |
| Rotherham Saturday League – Division 1 | B | <i>George Wardle /</i> vacant | Saturday 2.00pm |
| Maltby Mens, Singles – Division 2 | | Vacant / Phil Green | Tuesday 6.00/6.30 pm |
| Maltby Mixed Doubles - Division 1 | A | Jenny Shaw / John Roddis | Wednesday 6.00/6.30 pm |
| Maltby Mixed Doubles – Division 2 | B | Len stocks | Wednesday 6.00/6.30 pm |
| Dinnington Ladies | A | Pat Kempster | Thursday 6.00/6.30 pm |

The meeting was informed that the Phoenix club can no longer use its green. It is hoped that all the Phoenix / Aurora teams will play at Brinsworth, without a reduction in the total number of league teams.

11.0 Internal Competition Dates for 2024

The following table shows the internal competitions proposed for the upcoming season.

The Organisers shown are those from last year, updated for changes already notified to John Fisher.

There are still several gaps; please will members let any member of the Committee know if they're prepared to help share the workload. Volunteers are also welcome to assist the organisers, with a view to learning what's involved.

The list will be finalised as soon as possible.

| Provisional Internal Competition Dates 2024 | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Competition | Format | Date | Organiser |
| C Pearce Trophy | Mixed Doubles – Pick your partner | Sunday 5 th May | John Fisher |

| | | | |
|---|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Mulroy Trophy | Mixed Doubles Open draw | Friday 17 th May | |
| Private Function | | Sunday 19 th May | |
| Vets Doubles | Mixed Doubles Open draw | 16 th June | Len Stocks |
| G Corton Trophy | Rotherham v Maltby | 23 rd or 30 th June | *See note below |
| Ladies only | Singles | 14 th July | Paul Lundy |
| WCI Seniors Trophy | Singles Ladies & Men Open Draw (over 70's) | Friday 26 th or 2 nd August | |
| Vets Singles | Ladies & Men Open Draw | 18 th August | |
| Brian Hall Trophy | Men vs Ladies | 8 th September | Jenny Shaw |
| J Cook Trophy | Mixed Doubles Open draw | 15 th September | Pat Kempster & Barbara Pickersgill |
| Hasnip Shield | Singles Gents Only | 29 th September | George Wardle / Richard Cagen |
| Turkey Trot | Doubles Open Draw | 6 th October | John Fisher |
| Presentation Night | Sitwell Golf Club | November date TBA | |
| AGM | | 2025 | Saturday 1 st February |
| ALL COMPETITIONS WILL COMMENCE AT 10am. | | | |

We still

*Note: The George Corton may not run again, there appears to be little enthusiasm by the two leagues involved.

12.0 Green and Pavilion Maintenance

We have now stopped using Bothams for our green maintenance. They provided a good quality service for a number of years but the financial climate means that the Club has had to explore cheaper alternatives. We will now be using an ex-greenkeeper, John Newton. John will start cutting the green in February with the aim of opening the green mid-March. John will need assistance from members with some tasks such as scarifying and top dressing.

Worm casts were a problem last year and will be no less so this year. We are no longer allowed to treat the green in any way that suppresses the worms so it is essential that members swish the green before use. This includes when using the green for personal practice as well as for matches and social/coaching sessions. A specialised brush is available that could be fitted to the lawnmower, but this would cost over £800 and is therefore currently unaffordable.

Over the winter the boards at the bottom of the green were replaced, with the bulk of the work carried out by David Hardy and Paul Lundy. The radiators in the Pavilion have also been replaced at no cost with ones generously donated by Barbara Pickersgill. These should provide heat more quickly than the ones they've replaced, and which were more suited to buildings that required a constant source of background heating.

Previous AGMs have heard about the diminishing number of members willing or able to help maintain the clubhouse and grounds. The problem worsened in 2023; any working sessions at the club were very poorly supported, with generally the same, very small number of

members turning up. We do know that some members may not be fit enough to help but the financial health of the club depends on members doing as much general maintenance/housekeeping as possible. The looming alternative is that we will increasingly have to use external contractors which could have a significant effect of future years' subscriptions.

The work isn't onerous if sufficient people get involved. If you're willing to play your part, please let any Committee member know and/or respond when to the emails about specific working days or tasks. Very many of the tasks could be done on days that suit you.

The Committee intends to create a rota of people willing to keep the clubhouse clean and tidy, a role that Barbara Pickersgill had previously carried out single-handedly. Please let any Committee member know if you're available to help.

13.0 Discipline a sportsmanship.

Last season we received a number of "complaints" about unsporting behaviour aimed at opponents (sledging) and incidents of unacceptable intrusion on to the green. In addition we have picked up comments from other clubs that that our reputation as a welcoming club has been tainted.

Members are reminded that, although we want our teams to be competitive and to win matches, it is equally important that our teams and our opponents should be able to enjoy their games. Members are urged to ensure that their enthusiasm doesn't spill over into "winning at any cost".

Club Rule 15 (see next section) has been amended to reflect the Committee's determination to ensure that the current, relatively isolated, issue is nipped in the bud.

14.0 Proposed Rule Changes

The Committee proposed the following changes to the Club's rules:

Rule 2 To add the role of Club captain to the list of Club Officials.

Rule 4 To allow the AGM to be held in February if this is more convenient than January.

To clarify that all members can attend the AGM but that Social Members cannot vote

Rule 5 To allow some flexibility around the dates of meetings of the Executive Committee.

These will now normally be on any day in the 3rd week of each month.

Rule 9 To clarify that Social Membership will be allowed. Social members will have no voting rights, cannot play on the green in any circumstances (except briefly to assess if they are physically or medically fit to apply for full membership), or play in club competitions.

Rule 12. To make clear that any person wanting to join the club must complete an application form at the time of applying. This is necessary for insurance purposes and for claiming gift aid. The application will be considered by the Committee and, if the Committee considers it necessary, the applicant will be interviewed by at least two Committee members. This also applies to former members who are applying to rejoin the Club (not least because, to conform with data Protection regulations, the Club deletes all information when a member leaves the club by resignation or by not paying the annual subscription).

Rule 13 To clarify that the registration of playing members with the BCGBA, is achieved via registering them with the SYCCGBA.

Rule 14 To set a maximum limit of 2 months for the period that non-bowlers can take part in the club coaching or social bowling sessions free of charge . After that, to continue playing they must apply for membership and pay the appropriate membership fee. This is intended to clarify that the coaching and social sessions are designed to allow non-members a reasonable but time-limited period to decide if they want to take up the sport, which should be possible within 2 months.

Rule 15 To emphasise that ungentlemanly, unladylike or unsporting conduct by a club member when playing on any green will not be tolerated. Any WCI member or supporter who is deemed to be causing aggravation or embarrassment on the club premises will be asked to leave. The incident will then be referred to the Committee and appropriate disciplinary action taken. Repeat offenders of ill-discipline will be expelled from the club and unregistered with the BCGBA, and they would not be readmitted as members in the future. In answer to a question, John Fisher explained that a team captain could abandon a match, with the full support of the Committee, if any member of the team was subjected to unacceptable behaviour by players or supporters of the opposing team. WCI cannot discipline members or supporters of other clubs but would report poor behaviour to the Committees of those clubs and/or to the relevant league Committees. WCI would be within its rights to deny access to our facilities to a member or supporter of another club who had behaved unacceptably.

Rule 20 To clarify that entry sheets are displayed in the pavilion indicating all the leagues entered by the club. Any member may put their names to any sheet, or request another person to do it for them. If more than one club team plays in a league the team members will be allocated by the Club Captain and team captains,

Rule 32 To add Vaping to the existing ban on smoking on the green, within any building, enclosure or as elsewhere specified.

Pat Kempster proposed the motion and Tony Dakin seconded it. There were no dissenters.

14.0 AOB

The Committee had not received any motions from members prior to the meeting, so any points raised during the meeting would have been “for discussion only” and not “for decision”. In the event none of the attendees raised any points under this item.

The meeting closed at 2.50pm.

15.0 Other matters that did not form part of the actual discussions during the AGM:

- (i) The 2024 Fixtures Meeting, if needed, has been provisionally scheduled for March 16th @ 2.00pm.
- (ii) By way of clarification: John Fisher volunteered temporarily to carry out some urgent administrative tasks following the resignation of the former Secretary. John has reverted to simply being a member of the Committee. The post of Secretary is vacant.
- (iii) The defibrillator continues to be registered with the ambulance service and is regularly checked. However the cost of replacing pads and batteries has increased considerably. We have changed our nominated charity to “the defibrillator” and any ideas for fundraising would be welcome.
- (iv) We have also been generously gifted a top-quality leaf blower by a well-wisher, Sylvia Fox. This replaces one that stopped working earlier this year. It will be a great help in keeping the green playable from the late summer onwards.