

DRAFT

DEVIZES BOWLS CLUB

Minutes of Special Meeting held at the club on Saturday 25th November 2023 at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT – 64 Members

--ooOoo--

1. **Introduction** – Chris Holt chaired the meeting and explained that there was one management recommendation and sixteen propositions to be dealt with at this meeting,. The President David Greenwood then made a plea for unity within the club suggesting that some propositions were likely to cause less unity.
2. **Attendance and Apologies** – 64 members attended. 3 Apologies – C Smith, T Miles (Club membership 150)
3. **Appointment of tellers** – Robin Drake and Lyn Hicks were appointed
4. **Approval of Constitution dated November 2023** – Chris Holt explained the main changes to which members were voting for. This document had previously been circulated to all members with a copy of all documents posted in the Club one month before date of meeting. It is a Management Committee Recommendation, not a proposition, so there is not any amendment allowed at this SGM.

Some members were vocal accusing Management Committee of blocking the Devizes Short Mat Bowls Club. Chris Holt reiterated that this had not been the case and the MC had taken steps to allow that club to be formed using DBC facilities in a timely manner to allow competitive bowling this season and asked the for the Constitution approval at this SGM.

After a vote by show of hands this Management Committee recommendation was not approved by the requisite majority. (The Constitution dated March 2020 remains in force.)

Members were reminded that without approval of the Constitution dated November 2023 proposals numbered 1, 2 & 3 could be discussed but not voted on as the current Constitution rules on quorum is not met at this SGM.

5. **Members Propositions** – There were 13 Propositions as follows:-

Proposal 1 – Devizes Bowls Club supports in principle its members participating in competitive short mat bowls

NO VOTE TAKEN

Proposal 2 – Devizes Bowls Club explores options to enter the Wiltshire Short Mat Winter League 2024/25 –

NO VOTE TAKEN

Proposal 3 – The Management Committee proposed changes to the constitution be amended as follows. The proposed addition to the word ‘recreation’ preceding short mat Bowls should be removed. Or deferred until matters relating to competitive short mat bowling have been concluded –

NO VOTE TAKEN

Proposal 4 – Given the fundamental purpose of a Captains Day is to thank members for the support they have given to the club throughout the season, this is a member benefit which should be provided by the Management Committee under the guidance of the Membership Secretary and any associated funding should be redirected accordingly.

Clarification was made that Management Committee was expected to properly fund this event but there is no expectation on the Management Committee to provide the event.

CARRIED (received 41 votes)

Proposal 5 – Captains shall be allocated a small amount of petty cash for incidental expenses, for example to fund rink prizes for friendly matches or to provide trophies for spoons.

NOT CARRIED (received 9 votes)

Proposal 6 – Consideration should be given to an honorarium for members who carry out critical functions over a protracted period that would otherwise require staff or contractors to be employed, for example greenkeeper, catering manager and bar manager. Such positions are fundamental to the running of the club.

NOT CARRIED (received 8 votes)

Proposal 7 – Consideration should be given to former members (who have held membership for a qualifying period) that they be offered honorary membership at low cost or no cost for the purpose of social interaction with their bowling friends and acquaintances and to hold a sense of belonging.

Management Committee advised that long serving and valued retiring members will always be welcome as our guest without limit on number of visits or fee.

NOT CARRIED (received 1 vote)

Proposal 8 – All meetings of the Management Committee or the Bowls Committee or any other formal meeting where club business is discussed, other than any matter of a confidential nature shall be open to any member who wishes to observe. Meeting agendas should be published to all members. Observing members shall not take any active part of the meeting unless invited by the Chairman –

NOT CARRIED (received zero votes)

Proposal 9 – The Management Committee proposal to introduce a Captain of the day/week/month is removed from the Agenda on the grounds that it is unnecessary. These arrangements already exist within the Management Committee's newly adopted Captains Job Description –

Chris Holt reiterated the Management Committee proposal was issued as a result of a suggestion received during the Way Forward Working Group.

CARRIED (received overwhelming support thus proposal 14 was removed from agenda)

Proposal 10 – The position of Vice Captain, both ladies and mens shall be an elected position open to any full member to offer themselves for that position having been proposed and seconded by full members of the club and such election shall take place at the AGM by a vote of members attending. The reason for this proposition is whilst the captains are voted in at the ABM it is custom and

practice that the vice captains are next in line to be captains and are thus elected unopposed as the new captains in the following year

Vice Captains are currently selected by the captains without reference to or formal approval from any committee

Thus almost by default selection of captains due to this custom and practice of stepping up rests with personal choice of captains limiting general members attaining the position of captain

Making vice captains subject to being voted in at an ABM give greater scope for the general membership to put their names forward –

CARRIED (received substantive support)

Proposal 11 – Devides Bowls Club agrees to publish a copy of the members handbook in the password protected area of the website

NOT CARRIED (received 8 votes)

Proposal 12 – The Management Committee reviews its internal communication strategy as it is particularly difficult for groups of members, be that bowling teams or other functional groups to carry out their business –

NOT CARRIED (received 2 votes)

Proposal 13 – Name badges become compulsory for new starters and that existing members are encouraged to purchase their own, similar to those already used by some members (cost approx..£3 each) Wearing name badges will help new members integrate into the club get to know people. They are also good when playing league and friendly games – (following an amendment with a change to strongly recommend not compulsory)

CARRIED (received 37 votes)

The following proposals came from members as a result of the Working Group's analysis and were voted by a secret ballot.

Proposition 14 – To consider moving forward to a Captain of the Day/Week/Month model rather than Ladies and Gents Captains to encourage participation of any member, with or without experience, to contribute to the organisation of friendly games and club nights. This rotational position is not elected by member and support is given from within the remaining Bowls Committee Function Holders that are a member elected sub-committee defined by the constitution

This item was deleted from the agenda due to the vote being carried on Proposal 9

Proposal 15 – To remain with the current split of Bowls Committee Functions. Captains, Vice Captains and Team Leaders working together as a group. Fixtures, Competitions, Coaching/Development working together as a group. Bowls Secretary maintains communication to members arising from all functions within each group as required. Every function Holder is elected at ABM (terms of office remain unchanged) Each Group is regarded as a sub-committee defined by constitution.

CARRIED (received 37 Votes)

Proposal 16 – Formation of New Bowls Committee (sub-committee defined by Constitution) that consists of 7 elected members with voting rights to carry out the functions of Committee Chair,, Bowls Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Competition Co-ordinator, Coaching/Development Co-Ordinator, Ladies and Mens Captain

NOT CARRIED (received 25 Votes)

There were 2 spoilt papers

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.15 p.m.

SIGNED..... DATE.....

CHAIRMAN