



SHEPPARTON PARK BOWLS CLUB INC.

INC. Reg.No.A0045877T ABN. No.87 296 478 522
Kialla Park Ph. 5823 1731 Facsimile Ph 5831 2333
All correspondence to: P.O. Box1796, Shepparton, Vic3632

BOARD CHAIRMAN
Lloyd Mawson

BOARD SECRETARY
Steve Mitchell

R.V.B.A. SECTION

PRESIDENT
Laurie Fagan
Phone: H 5823 1594

SECRETARY
Ron Holland
Phone: H 5821 3508 Mobile 0419 213508
Email : rvba@sheppartonparkbowls.com.au

MINUTES GENERAL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2009

President Laurie opened meeting at 7.30 pm with 44 members present.

Apologies were received from Jim Shanahan, Rick Anderson, Norm Mitchelmore, Ted McDade, Lynton Burkitt, Bill Probst, Jeff Boyle, Brett Foley, Trevor Serafini, Geoff Sutcliffe, Roy Rowan.

These were received on motion Ben O'Donoghue, 2nd Fred Murley.

The President welcomed all members to the new season and advised the meeting that to save time we would from now on provide members attending with an agenda setting out all correspondence/matters for discussion – unless there was anything relevant to the meeting we would no longer read them in detail but comment on anything that required action. Members can still read any information by contacting the secretary after the meeting. Members indicated they were happy with this and the meeting proceeded as set out in the agenda in front of all members.

Matters of relevance to members included.

1. Any member intending to use a bowling arm must complete application form with doctors certificate attached. Secretary then signs and forwards to GVBA Secretary for endorsement and on-forwarding to RVBA.
2. Secretary to contact Harry Bradbury re OBE badges for Alex Thorne and Morrie Treble
3. Amalgamation update: The four GVBA clubs Colbinabbin, Rushworth, Stanhope, & Kyabram will stay in our region/group. Ongoing discussion with the Bowls Victoria JWP regarding make-up of the new region's association. GVBA have voted to remain as a 3 association region and to oppose any change. JWP would like to make it 4 associations but this will be resolved before unification vote now to be held on 3 Dec 2009.
4. GVBA will host a goodwill visit from Ballarat on 18-23 Oct. We are required to provide 32 players on Monday 19th 12.30 start followed by meal.
5. Entry forms for state events are with Match Committee chairman and will be placed on board as appropriate
6. Affiliations for RVBA/GVBA now due and returns will be sent off on 25th Sept to ensure all are processed before pennant start – due 1st Oct. Secretary asked for co-operation and in particular to ensure any transfers are in well in advance – unless submitted early they may not be approved in time by RVBA.
7. Transfers and affiliations for Roy Rowan, Colin Todd, and Geoff Sutcliffe have been approved by RVBA.

REPORTS

GREENS Noel Dobson

Noel welcomed all to the new season and advised that all greens are open and slowly coming out of dormancy. The Members green will be cored and renovated around 20th October and will be out of action for approx 6 weeks from then. The rooster for greens helpers has been done – if unavailable please arrange a swap with another member. New rink numbers have been purchased for 2 greens and will be installed shortly. Hedge at the northern end of the Foundation Green has been removed to allow light though to grow the new shrubs planted last year. Hedge adjacent to Members green has been trimmed to lessen the impact of flower pollens later.

IMPORTANT With heavy bowls program this year including Aust Open it is critical that all members observe signs and play only on those indicated as open and in the direction indicated. Greens are closed for a reason and benefit of all and as an example they may look ok but have been sprayed with insecticide and not safe for use. Please co-operate with the Greens committee as they have a tough job to juggle the usage and ensure the greens are in optimum condition.

Noel also advised that 2 x 2 Pairs now commence Thursday 10th and suggested that at least once a month the event be by single entry only to alleviate the perception of "stacked" teams. Members were in general agreement with this concept and the suggestion will be forwarded on to the 2 x 2 organisers for their action.

MATCH COMMITTEE Leigh Pomeroy

In welcoming all to the new season Leigh Pomeroy stated that we were pleased to see Geoff Sutcliffe' appointment as club coach as a final building block in our structure. Although the Match committee has yet to meet he welcomed Don Dickinson to the panel. First task will be to set handicaps for 120 male members for club events.

Club events this year would be Singles (Open & B Grade) Pairs, Triples, 21 up 100up as well as two mixed events (one prior to Christmas one after). Both singles events would commence early and first round will be Sunday 25th October with subsequent rounds at regular intervals concluding with a final on the first Sunday in January (2nd Jan)

Growing membership and larger fields means that round deadlines would be closely monitored and walkovers given against the offending players. It is the responsibility of BOTH players to arrange games properly. If delays occur these must be reported to Match Committee for assistance/resolution. With the Open here there is less time to complete events. Mens Triples are scheduled for a Monday evening in mid January and subsequent matches on following Mondays. Entry for all events on the official entry forms in the monthly newsletter. Please check your email or the alphabetical letter box on a regular basis for current information. Entry fees of \$5 per event must accompany entry. Leigh urged members to support GVBA, & State events much more than we have in the past. In wishing all a happy season he reminded members you only gained satisfaction by participating in all facets of the club activities.

SOCIAL John Davy

John Advised the meeting that he has some health problems to resolve over coming weeks, however plans are in hand for several corporate functions

Wed October 21st the club will host 150+ mixed players from the Australian Medical Suppliers conference for a BBQ, Mixed Bowls & Drinks. He requires 20 volunteers to assist with basic bowls instruction and preparation & serving of meals. Substantial revenue for the club will be gained.

Meat & Allied Trades 3 day carnival in April 1-21st will be another big money spinner – more information closer to the date. Our first Chicken Night will be 25th September with Roger Bone advised Happy Hour commencing this Friday 11th Sept – he has \$20 spinning wheel tickets left but selling fast.

UNIFORMS John advised that we were almost out of maroon hats and arranged with KC Bowls to provide yellow/gold hats without club logo as replacement. Coloured examples were modelled and members opted for gold version. Keith advises that it may not be possible to get bucket hats in this colour but would report back. Hats may be purchased from KC Bowls at \$14 each.

We are investigating a supply of SP hat bands

SELECTORS Vince Page

Vince Page has been elected Chairman of the committee with Graeme as deputy.

Selectors discussed voting slips and agreed to commence the season without them. In lieu, each selector has been allocated a division: Division 1 Geoff/Sutcliffe/Graeme Betts, Division 2 Vince Page, Division 3 Reg Jefferies, Div 4 Maroon Graeme Sinclair, Division 4 Gold Leo Walsh/Graeme Betts. Each will be responsible by liaising with the managers, skippers and individual team members prior to next selection meeting

To give selectors adequate time selection will be on Tuesday evening at 7.30pm. Members will be advised of any change to this arrangement. Members are invited to request a meeting with selectors and air any concerns or put forward suggestions for consideration.

Practice matches have been arranged for 12th, 19th and 26th Sept – sheets on the board. We need 92 players each week so any new members' names are required urgently. From previous experience we will need around 110 affiliated players to allow for unavailability. Anyone NOT available please place their names on the sheets on the board.

Vince asked members for direction on Division 4 team makeup – Stronger/Weaker or 2 EVEN teams (as possible)

After discussion moved Noel Dobson and 2nd Frank Winter that teams be selected as evenly as possible. CARRIED

PUBLICITY OFFICER Bill Clark

Any information for the News to Bill by say 6pm Tuesday evening

60 & OVER NIGHT PENNANT Bill Clarke

Season will commence 30th September at Shepp East. Five groups entered for this day. Still looking for another group leader to assist. Current leaders Jim Broadbent, Ken Allen, Ken Cuthbert and Bill Clark. Fees will remain at \$5 this year but will NOT include drinks on the table. Shepp Park host second round on Oct 7th. First inter Group match will be held at Tatura on Monday Nov 2nd.

Night Pennant will be held on Tuesday & Wednesday prior to Christmas due to greens available. At this stage only 27 names so members are urged to enlist players asap. Competition is due to commence 27/28 October

BOARD CHAIRMAN Lloyd Mawson

Lloyd advised that the contract for the new undercover complex will be completed in the near future with tenders to close and let by mid December so that works will commence in late April and the works completed by October 2010. Council will soon peg out the area of the forth green to the west of the Members green and clear that area including removing any trees etc. We can then commence to fence the area and claim it for future development of an additional green.

The club is proud to again host the Australian Open in conjunction with Mooroopna and this indicative of our efforts earlier this year. He emphasised that the Club Coach has been appointed for the benefit of ALL members not just the elite. If it is not working as you wish then contact Men's President Laurie Fagan as the responsible person to remedy any perceived shortcomings.

HOUSE & MAINTAINENCE Bob Smith

Bob reported the shades between Members and Foundation greens had been erected at minimal cost as most was recovered under insurance. New Planter box added to help avoided step at rear of clubhouse. Council still to advise the outcome of their inspection/planned solutions of the floor area for indoor bowls. Club also have appointed cleaners (Flo/Kath) to keep club in order.

WELFARE Brian Hardy

Brian asked John Davy to give a short summation of his health situation and assured him that the club was there in support. He asked members to keep him informed of any health/other issues to which the club can give support so that he can follow up.

PROTECTION OFFICER Ken Allen

Ken advised his expertise had not been called on but with the demise of his footy team he would be available earlier this year.

Moved Ken Allen 2nd Dave Hardie that all reports be accepted CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN Bob Smith

We host the Open from the Sunday 14th - Saturday 21st February 2010. Qualifying rounds for ladies will be held in Bendigo and the men's is to be advised (may also be Bendigo)

We expect to have better viewing areas/more shade this time. Tenders will be let for the Corporate/Officials Catering and we will cater for players and spectators enabling us to make considerably greater profit.

Volunteer application forms will be sent out shortly

The Australian Bowls Classic schedule has expanded and will now cater for deaf, blind, Wheelchair and Alcohol rehabilitation groups as well as disabled. All finals will be held at Shepparton. Some details of Triples still under discussion.

There is a 50/50 chance that we will host an International TV Challenge between Australia/England on Thursday/Friday prior to the Open.

Bowls Australia has agreed to promote the Raffle and that 100% of sales will go to the club selling the tickets. Price will be \$2 each this year and presents an additional opportunity for our profit. A committee is required to source prizes/sell tickets.

A Welcome event will again be conducted and the Australian & probably the English team members will be required to attend. A venue is still to be decided.

There is potential here to make a profit of up to \$40,000 if the International TV challenge event is included.

GVBA /RVBA

At the last meeting two new members were added to fill vacancies on committees. Lester Trevaskis to Greens and Peter "Boxer" Brodie to the Match Committee.

A Goodwill visit from South West region is planned for 1st Week of May. Details TBA

Clubs had difficulty finding out about coaching programs as the information only appeared via the RVBA website and in a fairly obscure manner. Our officials have been notified where to find this and President Laurie pulled a couple of examples from the Umpires 75 question test to test members knowledge.

Due to Shepp Golf withdrawing a team the Division 5 draw will again need to be re-drawn.

GVBA Opening Day this Sunday – we have two teams and would like to enter a third. Those wishing to play contact Laurie/Ron 12.30pm at Mooroopna BC \$6 a head GV Hearing will sponsor this event.

The secretary outlined the current situation on Amalgamation and raised a concern at the significant decline in VLBA over past decade where steady decline has resulted in a drop from 26098 to 20262 or almost 6000 less over the period 2000 to 2009. That is a drop of 22% and spells out a warning for all clubs to think about how this can be arrested. Over the same period Men's membership dropped from 40537 to 38813 or almost 10%. Details will be placed on the Notice Board for member's consideration.

OTHER ITEMS

Noel Dobson suggested that there may be an opportunity for a Mixed Gala Day on Melbourne Cup Day as there will be no Ladies Pennant on that day and 2x2's will be replaced by the Ladies Pennant on the Thursday.

Frank Winter asked that Men show some courtesy to the ladies refrain from starting practice until say 15 minutes after all Ladies have cleared the greens on Tuesday and that scoreboards remain in place for at least 15 minutes after end of play to enable them to note scores.

Meeting closed at 9 pm sharp Next meeting 7.30pm on 17th November.

Ron Holland
Secretary
9th September 2009