

SORELL BOWLS CLUB INC
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON SUNDAY, 1 JUNE 2014

Attendance (51 members)

Ladies: Alice Barker, Allison Fuller, Angela Powell, Barbara Walker, Barbara Woods, Bev Bennetts, Bev Kelleher, Dawn MacPherson, Del Parsons, Faye Gardner, Gwen Scott, Janet Cowen, Jill Reid, Kathy Matthews, Leona Smith, Lindy Leary, Marion Florence, Nancy Simmons, Pam Evans, Poppy Collett, Sandra Hawksley, Shirley Hay, Mikayla Fuller, Trish Taylor (24 women).

Men: Alan Waller, Basil Marsden, Chris Smith, Chris Schofield, Cliff Iles, Cyril Powell, Darrell Hope, David Long, Doug Jeffery, Garry Smart, George Goetzki, Glenn Petrie, Graham Innes, Kelvin Seabourne, Ken Gatehouse, Kevin Fuller, Laurie Iles, Mike Seabourne, Peter Jones, Peter Self, Ray Young, Ron Cowen, Steve Hawkins, Steven Lang, Tom McVey, Nathan Fuller, Bob Taylor (27 men).

Apologies

Dennis Leary, Max Upton, Peter Scott, Bill Butler, Georgie Lang

Meeting open

The President, Ron Cowen, opened the meeting at 3.00pm.

Notice of the meeting

The Secretary read the notice of the Annual General Meeting that was sent to all members either by post or email. Gwen Scott moved, and Chris Schofield seconded, that the motion be confirmed as read.

CARRIED

Minutes of the previous meeting

The Secretary was going to read the minutes of the previous meeting, however Marion Florence moved that they be accepted without being read as a copy had been provided for each member present. Peter Self seconded this motion.

CARRIED

President's report

The President led into his report by asking all members to stand for a moment's silence in memory of members who had passed away in the past year. The President's report is attached as Annex A. Chris Smith moved, and Gwen Scott seconded, that the President's report be accepted.

CARRIED

Audited balance sheet and statement of accounts

The Treasurer, Jill Reid, presented the audited balance sheet and statement of accounts and moved that it be accepted. Her report to the meeting, and the financial statements, are attached as Annexes B and C. This motion was seconded by Leona Smith.

CARRIED

Jill moved that we ask Anthony Davis to be our auditor for the coming trading year, and this was seconded by Janet Cowen.

CARRIED

ACTION: Jill Reid to approach Anthony Davis and confirm he will audit our books this year.

Jill took the opportunity to thank George Goetzki for his work as auditor before the club moved to MYOB accounting software.

Annual subscriptions

Jill advised the meeting that the BTS affiliation fees had risen by \$3 (from \$62 to \$65 for full members, and from \$30 to \$33 for junior members). The Board decided to keep fee increases to a minimum, so fees for full members have increased by \$5 overall. The fee for first year full members has remained the same as last year (absorbing the BTS fee increase) as has the fees for junior members. The fees for playing members have been reduced by \$5, so ironically, the only “real” increase has fallen to the Life members – their fees have increased by \$3 (the BTS fee).

Marion moved that we should increase all fees by \$5 instead of \$2 but this motion received no support. Jill moved, and Shirley Hay seconded, that the subscriptions as presented be accepted.

CARRIED

In relation to membership renewal, the Secretary asked all members to ensure they:

- Updated their details
- Updated their “in case of emergency” contact
- Indicated whether or not they wanted their phone numbers made available to the club (that is, posted on the notice board).

Election of office bearers

Ron advised the members that Peter Scott had been nominated as Club Patron by Mike Seabourne, and seconded by Peter Self. Ron moved that this appointment be confirmed.

CARRIED

Ron advised the meeting that the only nomination for President was Chris Smith. Chris was nominated by Faye Gardner and seconded by Marion Florence. He moved that this appointment be confirmed.

CARRIED

At this point, Ron handed over to Chris Smith as our new President. Chris thanked the members for their support and thanked Ron for the enormous amount of work he had done over the past year.

The following elections, there being no other nominees, were also confirmed by the meeting:

- Shirley Hay – Vice-President (moved by Leona Smith, seconded by Faye Gardner)
- Paul Matthews – Honorary Secretary (moved by Gwen Scott, seconded by Peter Self)

Chris called for nominations from the floor for the following positions on the Board of Management:

- Jill Reid – Honorary Treasurer – accepted (moved Shirley Hay, seconded Gwen Scott)
- Assistant Secretary – Sally Ridgeway – accepted (moved Doug Jeffery, seconded Leona Smith)

The following elections as general board members, there being no other nominees, were also confirmed by the meeting:

- Leona Smith (moved by Jill Reid, seconded by Peter Self)
- Marion Florence (moved by Faye Gardner, seconded by Gwen Scott)
- Kathy Matthews (moved by Marion Florence, seconded by Peter Self)

There being one vacancy for a general board member, Chris called for nominations from the floor. Chris Schofield, Darrell Hope and Tom McVey were all proposed, but declined for various reasons. Two members accepted their nomination:

- David Long – accepted (moved by Alison Fuller, seconded by Kevin Fuller)
- Peter Self – accepted (moved by Marion Florence, seconded by Shirley Hay)

Marion advised the meeting that she would step down as a general board member so that both nominations could succeed as she was already a member of the Board of Management by virtue of her election as Ladies Match Committee Chair. Chris thanked Marion and indicated how pleased he was to have a full board.

Nominations for Board appointed positions

The Secretary explained that the positions of Auditor, Bar Manager, Greenkeeper and Providedore were Board of Management appointments, but we hoped to identify interested members at this meeting to avoid the need to seek out interested members later.

There were no other nominations for the Auditor apart from the nomination of our current auditor, Mr Anthony Davis, by Jill Reid.

Mike Seabourne moved that Peter Self continue as Bar Manager and Darrell Hope seconded this nomination. Peter agreed to take on this role.

No nominations were received for the post of Greenkeeper, and no-one expressed an interest in doing the job from the members present. Ron Cowen declined his nomination. The Board of Management will follow-up on this matter.

Janet Cowen was nominated as Providedore but declined the nomination. Sandra Hawksley nominated Lindy Leary and Kathy Matthews seconded this nomination. Lindy agreed to take on this role.

Life membership

Gwen Scott read the nomination for life members presented to the Board of Management earlier in the year. Gwen and Mike Seabourne nominated Cliff Iles for life membership and the members agreed. The President presented Cliff with his certificate and badge.

CARRIED

Cliff thanked the members for this honour and said that he enjoyed his association with the club over many years, despite opportunities to move to other clubs.

Merit Award

The Board of Management awarded Peter Self with a Merit Award for his exceptional efforts as Bar Manager of the past year. The President presented Peter with his certificate. Peter thanked the Board but noted that he had a lot of help, particularly from Sally and Jill. He thanked everyone and said he would continue doing what he does as long as you keep coming!

Purchase of a bus

The Secretary advised the meeting that the matter of purchasing a bus for the club had been left with the Board of Management at the last AGM. Jim Gardner did a bit of research on this matter and recommended that we concentrate on building extensions before worrying about buying a bus. The cost of buying the bus, plus insurance, plus maintenance, plus garaging, and the need to have several licenced drivers available, made buying a bus a complicated matter.

In the meantime, Shirley had investigated the costs of hiring a bus, and had in fact done so for a Ladies match at Cygnet. Each traveller paid \$10 and the club covered the rest but the whole hire (which included the driver staying a Cygnet) was only \$250. The Board felt that this was a viable option for away games at distance.

The question was asked about hiring a bus but providing a driver from within club ranks in order to reduce costs. The Secretary admitted he had no idea what, if any, savings would be made by doing this, but could look into it if members thought it a viable option. He noted that such a course of action would still require members to obtain licenses and he wasn't sure about the insurance implications of transporting a group of people.

The members were happy to trial hiring the bus as Shirley had done and see how it went.

Proposed restructuring/renumbering of the constitution

The Secretary moved that the proposal to restructure and renumber the constitution as presented on the notice board be accepted. Marion Florence seconded this motion.

CARRIED

Proposed honorarium payments

Before proceeding with the proposed changes, the Secretary asked that the matter of paying an honorarium to the Greenkeeper and Bar Manager be dealt with. The Treasurer, Jill Reid, advised that this matter was considered by the Board on the suggestion of the Auditor. The Board decided that "no bar, no profits" and "no green, no bowls" meant that these two appointments were critical to continued success of the club.

Ray Young suggested that the honorarium also include a waiver of subscriptions but this was not supported as it would set a precedent for other positions. Alison Fuller suggested the honorarium be paid monthly instead of annually, but Jill advised that payment in this manner would constitute a wage and require tax and super withholding by the club. Ray further suggested that a fixed amount not be set but that the Board of Management should decide on the amount of the honorarium. The Secretary suggested it was better to define a set amount in the constitution and review that amount each year at the AGM.

Faye Gardner moved that the two new clauses to the constitution be amended to read to remove the words “up to” so that it reads “... an honorarium of \$2,500 in April of each year”. Chris Schofield seconded the motion that the two clauses be accepted subject to this amendment.

CARRIED

Proposed changes to the constitution

On behalf of Nathan Fuller, a junior member, the Secretary asked members to consider removing clause 2.7 (b) from the constitution on the grounds that junior members were full members of the club in all but age and should be able to vote and hold office. Gwen Scott put forward that junior members paid junior subs and this would have to be reviewed if junior members were to be considered full members. Kathy Matthews asked if there was a legal requirement that office bearers be over 18 years of age. The motion was not seconded, but a vote was called for anyway, and most members present were against the proposal

NOT CARRIED

The Secretary asked if anyone wished to discuss any of the other constitutional change proposals posted on the notice board. Cliff Iles commended the Secretary on the work he had put into the constitutional updates. There being no further comment or discussion, Paul Matthews moved that the changes to the constitution, as moved and seconded, be accepted. Doug Jeffery seconded the motion.

CARRIED

Delegates vote at the BTS Special General Meeting

Shirley Hay moved that we “vote as a united club” at the upcoming SGM of BTS on 15 June that is being held to determine if Open-gender Saturday pennant will proceed or not. By way of background:

- At the Men’s General Meeting, held before the AGM, the men voted to “vote the same we as we did before”. This meant voting to uphold the motion to overturn the BTS decision and therefore revert to a Men-only Saturday pennant.
- At the Women’s General Meeting, held before the AGM, the women voted to “support the BTS board”. This meant voting to reject the motion to overturn the BTS decision and therefore continue with an Open-gender Saturday pennant.

Shirley pointed out that if each delegate were to vote as instructed above, then these votes would cancel each other out and we might as well not attend and vote at all. Shirley explained how the BTS Board voted on this matter once it was left to that body by the delegates.

Sally Ridgeway made it clear that we were voting on whether or not a decision made by our governing body should be supported or overturned.

Marion Florence moved that we, as a club, support the decision of the BTS Board and Sally Ridgeway seconded this motion.

CARRIED (34 for, 9 against)

ACTION: Club BTS delegates to both vote to support the BTS Board decision.

Provision of Saturday Afternoon Tea

Bowls Tasmania South, at the instigation of the Buckingham Bowls Club, requires all clubs to advise whether they will or will not provide Saturday Afternoon Tea in the coming pennant season.

At a Ladies Special General Meeting held on 8 May, the ladies discussed this matter and moved “that a proposal to pay someone to prepare a ‘sandwiches and buns’ afternoon tea and that players pay \$4 or \$5 be put to the AGM.” Jill Reid explained that if we were to get someone in for two hours on a Saturday to prepare afternoon tea, at the same rate as the bar employee, then \$4 or \$5 from Sorell players should cover this cost.

Garry Smart asked why we don’t do it the same way as we do on Wednesday and Saturday during winter. Lindy Leary asked why everyone didn’t bring their own sandwiches as the women do on Thursdays. Chris Schofield asked if this was prompted by the assumption that we would have a non-gender Saturday pennant and would therefore have a shortfall of ladies able to help with afternoon tea. Shirley refuted this assumption. Ken Gatehouse brought the discussion back on track by reminding members that we were discussing afternoon tea and not bowls.

The President, at this point, asked for a show of hands on who still wanted afternoon tea, regardless of how it was prepared. A majority of members responded that they did.

Darrell Hope moved that the ladies motion be accepted AND that the duty rink be tasked with washing up. David Long counter-moved that the ladies motion be accepted AND we should let the new Board of Management work out the details. Tom seconded this motion.

CARRIED

Vision/Mission Statement

The Secretary asked members to remove the last page from their AGM handout and vote on a vision statement and mission statement that they think best suits our club and to hand them in at the end of the meeting.

Naming of the Green

Ron Cowen asked members to consider naming our green as a way of recognising the efforts of our forebears in getting the club up and running. He believed most clubs have named greens and believes Sorell should as well, particularly as this is our 50th Anniversary year. He asked that suggestions be put to the Board of Management.

Building works

Ron Cowen reminded members that we had to work out what sort of building extension we want in order to make use of the Liberal Party's \$100,000 election promise. We also had \$10,000 to be used to build a disability toilet from then Premier Lara Giddings. Jill advised the members that these moneys were not a grant – they were a donation and so had no time-limit, however they must be used for the specific purposes for which they were given.

Garry Smart moved that we draw up a proper plan, with plumbing etc, and then we'll know what the overall cost will be – and what the club's contribution will be.

ACTION: Board of Management

General Business

Board of Management structure. Leona Smith asked, on behalf of a few members, why the chairpersons of the Match Committees (Ladies and Men's) were on the Board of Management. Questions had been asked about the Bar Manager and/or Provedore being a better option. As this would require a change to the constitution, the Board undertook to consider the matter and put it to the next AGM if deemed necessary.

ACTION: Board of Management to consider

Men's Midweek Pennant. Darrell Hope asked if we could apply to BTS for the Midweek Division 2 team to move up to Division 1 as the other sides above us on the ladder already have Division 1 teams and so won't be moving up.

ACTION: The Secretary to seek BTS consideration of this proposal.

Patron's Plate. Ray Young asked that the Club Match Committee look into improving participation in the Patron's Plate – the only club event open to all members regardless of membership class.

Closure

The President declared the meeting closed at 4.45pm.

Paul Matthews
Honorary Secretary

4 June 2014

Chris Smith
President

___ June 2014

Annexes:

- A. President's Report
- B. Secretary's Report
- C. Treasurer's Report
- D. Audited balance sheet and statement of accounts
- E. Annual subscriptions