

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Boules in Gwent (B.I.G) Friendly League held at Greenlawn on Tuesday 19 March 2019

Minutes of last meeting held at Greenlawn on Tuesday 20 March 2018

Read and approved.

Re-election of officers

The following Committee officers were reappointed unopposed:

John Price Chairman

Robin Matthews Secretary

The Committee sought volunteers for the role of Social Secretary to support/lead the annual presentation evening. There were no volunteers.

Chairman's Report

John Price, Chairman, introduced his summary of the season.

Key points were as follows:

20 years since the creation of the BIG League in 1999; suggestions sought from clubs on ideas to celebrate this landmark;

League grown from inaugural 10 teams to current 44 teams, although disappointed that three founder teams are no longer participating – NHSOB, Panteg and Red Lion. Good news that Panteg has shown interest in returning in 2020.

Thanks to teams for a largely disruption-free season, with excellent weather and most games played to schedule;

Welcome to three new teams – Greenlawn C, Crown Crusaders and Greyhound;

Very competitive season, with particular congratulations to Caerleon A for winning the treble of Division 1, Cup and Champion of Champions;

The annual WPA v BIG Challenge Cup took place in July, with 12 teams participating in Caerleon. An excellent win for the BIG League, the second win in 6 events;

Impressive turnout again for the annual presentation evening (third time at Ponthir Village Hall) with 120 representatives. Good value of £12 per head for live band and hog roast. Money raised on the night, via a raffle, donated again to the Poppy Appeal. Thanks to all helpers for setting up the hall and clearing up afterwards.

Thanks for support during the season from Steve Morgan, Paul Macer-Wright and Wilf Hall (facebook and web management), as well as Kon (fixture compilation) and Robin (secretary/treasurer).

Web Management Report

Wilf Hall reported that the BIG website continued to operate via the web-hosting company Spanglefish and payments, unchanged for 2019, have been made for the annual charge and domain name.

The web site contains fixture lists, match results and details of clubs and events. Club-related items should be sent to web manager in the form of text or pictures, using new email address of bigleague@boulesingwent.com

Reminder that weekly league results are posted on the web site normally within 24 hours of their publication by the Secretary. The tables are linked to the Machen web site due to inflexible imaging on Spanglefish.

No personal contact details are posted online in order to meet data privacy considerations.

Wilf was re-elected as web manager for 2019.

Financial Report/Subscriptions

The financial report was accepted as a true record.

Expenditure of [£xxxx] was exceeded by income of [£ xxxx] - balance carried forward of £ [xxxx] which was broadly in line with the previous year in order to maintain a reasonable surplus.

The Secretary noted that the contribution to the Poppy Appeal was increased from £108 to £200 as a result of using a small net surplus from the annual presentation evening.

The meeting agreed that the subscription level should be maintained at £20 per team. This would maintain a healthy surplus for future expenditure, and support potential contingency costs.

Structure of League

The overall number of teams for the 2019 season increased to another record from 42 to 44, covering 4 divisions.

The meeting agreed with the Committee's proposal to have 4 divisions of equal numbers covering 22 weeks, thus giving a common start/end league season, with 2 byes during the season. The inclusion of 3 new teams entering Division 4 meant that there would be no relegation for the 2019 season. Promotion places were retained within the overall structure.

The following changes were agreed:

Three new teams were elected to the League in Division 4 – Greenlawn C at New Inn, Crown Crusaders at Varteg, and Greyhound Shi Tzus at Llantrissant;

Founding club Red Lion (Division 1) withdrew from the League.

The promotion changes are as follows:

Talywain Tigers and Wheatsheaf Falcons promoted to Division 1;

Twn Y Ffrwd Fighters, Aber Reds and Clytha C promoted to Division 2;

Upper Cock, ROF Exiles and Caerleon Centurions promoted to Division 3;

Change of names are as follows:

Clytha C to Clytha Wrythas;

Sharks to Isca Arms Sharks;

Dormice to Isca Arms Silures;

Crown to Crown Jewels and Crown Crusaders.

Competitions

All current competitions to be retained for 2019.

The league season will run from 8 April until 3 September.

Cup/plate finals and Champion of Champions will take place on 7 September and 6 October respectively.

The Chairman reinforced the aim that all finalists are expected to attend on the designated dates for finals. This follows only 5 teams out of 6 being represented in the Champion of Champions.

Rules of Engagement/Constitution

The Secretary introduced a draft amendment to Section 5 of the Constitution. This was intended to strengthen the data privacy arrangements following the introduction of the GDPR Regulations. The meeting endorsed the change, including each club signing a Consent Opt-In Form. The revised Constitution would be placed on the web site.

AOB

Machen PC informed the meeting of their public liability insurance through the WPA scheme. Costs in Year 1 are £75 – split between £15 x 3 members and £30 for the club.

Greyhound indicated that as new members of the league, they were seeking piste accessories such as score boards etc. They were recommended by Greenlawn to speak to Design Print, Sebastopol.

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Robin Matthews

League Secretary