

**MINUTES OF THE 104th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE VICTORIA PARK BOWLING CLUB HELD ON SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024 AT 11.00AM**

**PRESENT:** \*49 members as shown in the Club Records

**APOLOGIES:** \*25 members as shown in the Club Records

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

President Ted Morrell thanked the 49 members who had come to the meeting. The club had 162 members, 31 were new. The club needed new members and the best people to recruit them were existing members. The club was blessed to have lots of volunteers. It could not work without volunteers and those who volunteered got more out of it than they put in. This year was the centenary of the Southport Flower Show which was a big part of the club's life. The club had been going longer than the Flower Show and its centenary had been during the Covid pandemic. While the club was principally a summer club for social bowling, team bowling and coaching, there were opportunities to bowl all the year round. Ted said that Betty Hunter was an inspiration to everyone and proposed that she be appointed an honorary member. This was approved with applause by all those present.

**2. Apologies and In Memoriam**

Ted said that there were 25 apologies and their names would be put with the minutes. There was one minute's silence for Dave Edwards who passed away shortly after last year's AGM.

**3. Minutes of the AGM held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**The minutes were approved.** Proposed: Paul McCabe. Seconded: Gayle Gordon.

**4. Annual Report – Chairperson Sue Mountford**

Sue said that the club had a good season with promotion for the Parks teams and the Seagulls and the Round Robins were well attended. She thanked Mike Kellett and Dave Gordon for taking over the organization of competitions. They had run them very well and levelled the playing field, enabling new members to enter and do well in competitions. The Away Day had been at the Fox Lane Sports Club in Leyland where Dave and Tracey Charlesworth had done everything they could and there had been bowling on two greens. Sue thanked Gary Burgess for organizing the Away Day. The Awards Night had gone without a hitch. Sue thanked Irene Kermode for organizing the cups and plaques. Sue proposed a vote of thanks for Paul Crummey and the Greens Team who did much more than mow the greens. The meeting applauded the Greens Team. Sue thanked everyone who had helped to make the Flower Show a success, especially the co-ordinators, Dave Ormesher and Mo Ahmady. Sue thanked Alan Adams, the Victoria Park manager, for his support throughout the year. Winter activities included Indoor Bowls at the Dunes on Monday and Wednesday, Tuesday afternoon games in the pavilion, and Saturday Winter League bowling at Fleetwood Hesketh in which club members made up the majority of players in four teams.

**5. Treasurer's Report on the 2023 Financial Statement – Treasurer Steve O'Toole**

Steve introduced himself as the new treasurer and thanked his predecessor Dave Spratt for his help. He thanked Sheila Mo and John Sawyer for examining the accounts and Suzie Robertshaw, the cashier. The club had a surplus of £913 last year. Steve outlined the main features of the club's income, expenditure and balance sheet. While the highest expenditure of £9,528 was on Bowling greens maintenance & irrigation, it would be more than twice that without the Greens Team. The social events – Away Day and Awards Night – were designed to cover expenses, not make a profit.

**The 2023 Financial Statement was approved.** Proposed: Neil Regan. Seconded: Ian Goulding.

**6. Annual Membership fee; Authority for the committee to offer discounts to new members**

Sue said that the committee had proposed a £60 annual membership fee, a £5 increase, to pay for higher costs of just about everything. The Committee also requested the authority to offer discounts to new members.

**The annual membership of £60 was approved and the committee was authorised to offer discounts to new members.** Proposed: Dave Spratt. Seconded: Paul McCabe.

**7. Election of Officers**

The committee had proposed Sue Mountford as chair and Steve O'Toole as treasurer. Both had agreed to stand. Mike Bimpson had to resign as secretary as he was due to go into hospital soon for major surgery. Dave Spratt was thanked for stepping up as acting secretary while a new secretary was sought. **The meeting approved the appointments.**

#### **8. Election of the Committee**

The committee proposed Paul Crummey, Mike Bimpson, Ian Goulding, Irene Kermode, Sheila Mo, Suzie Robertshaw, Graham Whittaker, Paul McCabe, Dave Ormesher, Liz Butler, Haydn Preece, Dave Spratt. **The meeting approved the appointments.**

#### **9. Appointment of Examiners of the 2024 Accounts**

Dave Spratt advised the meeting that two examiners were needed to go through the 2024 accounts and check items of expenditure. Paul Sealey had agreed to be an examiner. The meeting approved the appointment of Paul Sealey and approved the committee to appoint a second examiner.

(After the meeting, Steve Ridgway offered to be an examiner. This will be put to the committee for approval at the next meeting).

#### **10. Chair's Plans for 2024**

Sue announced that this year would be her last as chairperson. Ideally she was looking for someone with new ideas and energy to shadow her in the near future. The club had set up a manual irrigation system at the beginning of last season. This was time intensive and would not be sustainable in a drought year. It was now intended fitting a water tank in the mower room with an electric pump. This would provide a pumped water supply so the irrigation volunteers didn't need to spend hours attending to the sprinklers. It was hoped this would be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> May. The club would start the season with 16 teams, the majority in mixed leagues. The club intended introducing club colours for all teams and Royal Blue had been voted the colour. Players would no longer need to buy different colour shirts for different teams. Dave Gordon and Mike Kellet would organize this year's competitions, if possible on the last Sunday of the month, unless the Victoria Park Management organized an event at the last minute. The club was offering coaching sessions free of charge for new and experienced bowlers and Sheila Mo would be organizing 'Come & Try' sessions to attract new members. Sue thanked Mark and Jayne Eustace for organizing the Flower Show competitions.

#### **11. Any Other Business**

Paul McCabe asked about the withdrawal of the Lottery and asked if it could be reinstated.

Sue said that the Lottery had been withdrawn because 30 to 40 members were playing each month and it was thought unfair that a small minority of members were paying for something that would benefit all members. The committee would look at what could be done on an ongoing basis.

Jayne Eustace asked what the responsibilities of the committee members were.

Sue replied that Ian Goulding was responsible for teams, Irene Kermode for trophies and awards, Sheila Mo was the Membership Secretary, Suzie Robertshaw the cashier, Graham Whittaker, handyman and Greens Team, Paul McCabe, Greens Team, Dave Ormesher, promoting the club, Dave Spratt, admin, helps everyone. Liz and Haydn were new committee members and new members were needed to bring new ideas and fresh energy.

John Sawyer asked about the entry codes. Sue said that, because of misuse, VP had cancelled all codes.

Dave Spratt said that a new 2024 season code had been issued by VP and the code would be on the membership fee acknowledgement email to each member.

Les Appleton said that there were teams short of players. Ian Goulding confirmed that two teams were seeking players – the Saxons, who would play Monday night, and the Wednesday afternoon Vets C team.

Ted Morrell gave special thanks to Dave Spratt for all his administrative work. On behalf of the Committee, Dave Spratt presented a bouquet of flowers to Sue Mountford to thank her for all her work.

#### **12. Next AGM.**

**It was agreed that the next AGM would be on Saturday 1 February 2025.**

The meeting closed at 11:40.

**Mike Bimpson - VPBC Secretary**

