



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Boules in Gwent (B.I.G) Friendly League held at Panteg on Monday 21 March 2016

Minutes of last meeting held at Caerleon RFC on Monday 16 March 2015 at 7.30pm

Read and approved.

Re-election of officers

The following officers were reappointed:

John Price Chairman

Robin Matthews Secretary

Structure of League

The overall number of teams for the 2016 season increases from 36 to 41. The following teams were elected to the BIG League:

Abergavenny Blues

Upper Cock

Clytha C

Caerleon Centurions

Dormice

As a consequence of the increase in the number of teams, the meeting agreed a committee proposal to increase from 3 divisions to 4 – split between 11 teams for division 1, and 10 teams for divisions 2 to 4.

Several options were discussed:

Option 1 – retention of normal 2 up for promotion to division 1 (with 4, 6 and 6 teams being relegated respectively);

Option 2 – change to 1 up for promotion to division 1 (with 3,5 and 6 teams being relegated respectively);

Option 3 – no promotion, but relegation retained.

It was agreed that the normal practice of 2 teams promoted from each division should be applied for the 2016 season.

The key changes agreed for the 2016 season were as follows:

Pilcs, Wheatsheaf Eagles and Ponthir House relegated to Div 2;

Rising Sun Shunters and Machen Mountaineers promoted to Div 1;

Caerleon Cohort and Clytha B promoted to Div 2;

Halfway Allstars, Rising Sun Buffers, Rising Sun Locos, Talywain Cheetahs and Monmouth PC relegated to Div 3;

Aber Golds, Sharks, White Hart Stags, Twyn y Ffrwd and White Hart Hinds relegated to Div 4.

Five new teams included in Div 4 – Abergavenny Blues, Clytha C, Dormice, Caerleon Centurions and Upper Cocks.

Competitions

All current competitions to be retained for 2016.

The league season will run from 11 April (Div 1 only) until 5 September.

Cup/plate finals and Champion of Champions will take place on 17 September and 2 October respectively.

Fixture compilation supplied by Kon Tomczyk.

Financial Report/Subscriptions

The financial report was accepted as a true record. Expenditure of £2120.85 was exceeded by income of £3170.75 – balance carried forward of £1039.90. This represented a second consecutive year of a balance in excess of £1,000. A request to use some of the balance as a donation to the costs of hosting the Celtic Challenge by Caerleon was rejected by the meeting.

The meeting agreed to retain the subscription level at £20 per team.

Rules of Engagement/Constitution

The Secretary circulated a revised draft document before the meeting which combined the rules of engagement (annual review) and an expanded constitution (updated from 2004). This was accepted by the meeting.

The key changes to the Rules of Engagement were as follows:

Rule 2 – Variations – Late Arrivals

Rule 4 – Postponed/Rearranged Matches – Shared Points/Weather Disruption

Rule 5 – Default – All games to be played with no defaults

Rule 6 – Team Composition – Substitutions

AOB

Pre-Season Melee

A pre-season melee was provisionally fixed for 16 and 23 April (hosted by Rising Sun).

Post-Match Refreshments

Panteg requested that the provision of post-match refreshments should be reviewed. The meeting concluded that this was a long-standing, traditional social feature of the League and should be retained. However, it was acknowledged that this was optional rather than compulsory, and ultimately a decision for the host. In the event that Clubs wished to dispense with post-match refreshments they should inform their opponents.

Web Manager

The Committee gave their warm thanks to Paul Mayfield for his sterling work in the establishment of a BIG website. However, work commitments prevented him from continuing in the development of the website. In a request for volunteers, the Committee were grateful for the support of Machen (Wilf), Rising Sun (Steve) and Monmouth (Paul) for agreeing to share responsibility for its future maintenance and direction.

Presentation Evening

The Secretary thanked Clubs for their continuing support to the annual presentation evening which again attracted a gathering of over 100 attendees at the Ponthir Hall in November. It was hoped that absentee Clubs would attend in the future. It was agreed that the annual presentation evening should continue.

WPA/BIG Inter League Match

The Chairman thanked Clubs for their support in participating in the WPA/BIG Challenge Cup at Caerleon in July. It was particularly pleasing that the BIG League won the cup for the first time.

Availability of Grants

John Jones (Clytha) outlined the availability of sports grants which could be utilised by BIG clubs to improve boules facilities. A community fund of up to £1500 could be accessed through local councils, with higher grants through Welsh Assembly/Sports Wales. John offered his assistance and advice in making applications.

Robin Matthews

League Secretary