



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Boules in Gwent (BIG) Friendly League held at Panteg on Monday 20 March 2017**

**Minutes of last meeting held at Panteg on Monday 21 March 2016 at 7.30pm**

Read and approved.

**Re-election of officers**

The following Committee officers were reappointed unopposed:

John Price                      Chairman

Robin Matthews              Secretary

**Structure of League**

The overall number of teams for the 2017 season remained at 41 covering 4 divisions. The following changes were agreed:

Two new teams were elected to the League – Greenlawn and Twyn Y Ffrwd Fighters (both in Div 4);

Aber Clarets (Div 1) and White Hart Hinds (Div 4) withdrew from the League.

A number of venue changes were highlighted for the 2017 season:

Due to closure, the Star to move to the Ponthir House (to be known as Ponthir Stars);

The existing Twyn Y Ffrwd team to move to the Rising Sun (to be known as the Rising Sun Sleepers);

Talywain Cheetahs to move to Twyn Y Ffrwd and renamed Twyn Y Ffrwd A;

The two Machen teams to move from the Legion to the Machen Rugby Club – the Legionnaires to be renamed Bouligans.

The meeting agreed that venue changes affecting existing teams should not affect the division in which the team plays.

The promotion and relegation changes are as follows:

ROF Cannons and Red Lion relegated to Div 2;

Wheatsheaf Eagles and Pilcs promoted to Div 1;

Rising Sun Locos and Talywain Tigers promoted to Div 2;

Aber Blues and Clytha C promoted to Div 3;

Aber Reds and Clytha B relegated to Div 3;

Talywain Cougars and Halfway Allstars Others relegated to Div 4.

### **Chairman's Report**

John Price, Chairman, introduced his summary of the season as a new annual feature of the AGM.

Key points were as follows:

In the league's 18<sup>th</sup> season a great achievement was the enlargement to 4 divisions;

Welcome to Upper Cocks as a new team from Cwmbran;

It was an aim to expand the League within the structure of 4 divisions;

Thanks to teams for high fulfilment of matches to schedule;

Excellent support from the BIG League to the annual WPA v BiG Challenge Cup, with 12 teams participating in Cardiff. A narrow defeat for the BIG League;

Impressive turnout again for the annual presentation evening (Ponthir Village Hall). Good value of £10 per head for live band and fish and chips. £120 raised on the night, split equally between Children in Need and Poppy Appeal.

Thanks for additional support from Steve Morgan and Wilf Hall (facebook and web management), as well as Kon (fixture compilation).

### **Web Management Report**

Wilf Hall reported that the BIG website continued to operate via the web-hosting company Spanglefish in 2016. Examples of web pages were made available to the meeting.

The meeting agreed to continue this arrangement with two changes:

Annual payment to allow the site to be free of adverts;

Annual payment for domain name registration – [www.boulesingwent.com](http://www.boulesingwent.com);

These changes allow the web manager to have minimal knowledge of web page construction, with greater flexibility for future changes in web personnel.

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 [bingleague@boulesingwent.com](mailto:bingleague@boulesingwent.com)

### **Competitions**

All current competitions to be retained for 2017.

The league season will run from 10 April (Div 4 only) until 4 September.

Cup/plate finals and Champion of Champions will take place on 9 September and 8 October respectively.

Fixture compilation supplied by Kon Tomczyk.

## **Financial Report/Subscriptions**

The financial report was accepted as a true record. Expenditure of £1858.95 was exceeded by income of £3019.90 – balance carried forward of £1160.95. This represented a third consecutive year of a balance in excess of £1,000.

The meeting agreed that the subscription level should be reduced from £20 per team to £15. This reflected the aim to actively seek to use surplus funds for the benefit of clubs. The Chairman mentioned the acquisition of a PA system as one example.

## **Rules of Engagement/Constitution**

There were no major rule changes proposed, but the Secretary highlighted issues that had arisen during the season which required clarity in applying the rules. These were as follows:

97% of fixtures were completed to schedule, but postponements must be approved by the Secretary in advance, taking into account current rules. These allow for limited postponements within 1 week of scheduled date, or 2 weeks in exceptional circumstances.

All league matches must be played, with no defaults or shared points;

Breach of the rules – such as cup tied players – may result in disqualification of the team from the relevant competition;

A failure to fulfil cup/plate fixtures may result in disqualification;

Rain-affected matches are not grounds for postponements, unless associated with waterlogged/unplayable conditions;

## **AOB**

### **Pre-Season Melee**

A pre-season melee – with £100 in prizes - was provisionally fixed for Easter weekend (hosted by Rising Sun).

### **General Rule Change**

The meeting was informed of an international rule change, whereby the team throwing the coche at the start of ends was limited to one throw (previously three).

### **Lease/Insurance Agreements**

There were several requests for advice on insurance. It was agreed that the WPA insurance system was a good starting point for clubs and players.

### **Smoking on Pistes**

At the request of some members, it was agreed that smoking within the playing area should be discouraged.

### **Post Codes**

At the request of members, the Secretary will include club post codes in the fixture list, with particular benefit for new clubs in finding locations.

Robin Matthews, League Secretary