



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Boules in Gwent League held at the Ponthir Sports and Community Club on Monday 28 March 2022**

1. Minutes of the last meeting held at Greenlawn Club in March 2021.

Read and accepted.

2. Chairman's Report

John Price, BIG Chairman, welcomed club representatives to the AGM and thanked them for their continuing support.

Of the 19 League clubs, it was noted that 15 clubs were in attendance, with only 4 absentees.

The Chairman thanked clubs for their enthusiasm during the pandemic and noted that, despite the overall reduction in teams participating, the shortened season which started in May was free from further disruption.

In addition to the support from clubs, four other key support areas were highlighted. These were Robin for the general administration of the League, including a Treasurer role; Wilf for managing the BIG website, and the successful introduction of weekly online results; Paul for his work in overseeing complementary Facebook activity; and Kon for fixture list compilation, navigating through the vagaries of matching teams with number of pistes.

The Chairman concluded his review by highlighting the increase in the number of participating teams for 2022 to 40, with the likelihood of being the biggest league in the UK. The league benefitted from shorter travelling distances and the support of local landlords and publicans.

3. Election of Officers

The meeting re-appointed the following officers, unopposed:

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Chairman.            | John Price     |
| Secretary/Treasurer. | Robin Matthews |

#### 4. League Structure

With 40 teams from 19 clubs indicating their continuing involvement, the Committee reviewed the league structures, proposing that the number of divisions remained at 4 with 10 teams within each division. Individual divisional breakdown included a policy of guaranteeing a minimum of 2 promotion places, a relegation review, and 7 “new” teams in division 4.

These changes were accepted by the meeting. The revised structure is as follows:

##### Division 1

Caerleon A  
ROF Nomads  
Caerleon Blues  
Wheatsheaf Eagles  
Ffrwm Fighters  
Pilcs  
Wheatsheaf Falcons  
Caerleon Greens  
Greenlawn A  
Wheatsheaf Harriers

##### Division 3

The Pottery A  
Ponthir Sports and Community Club B  
Ponthir Sharks  
White Hart Stags  
Clytha B  
Aber Golds  
Caerleon Centurions  
Greyhound Shi Tzus  
ROF Exiles  
Aber Blues

##### Division 2

Greenlawn B  
Greenlawn C  
Machen  
Monmouth PC  
Upper Cock  
Ffrwd B  
Clytha A  
Aber Reds  
Halfway Allstars  
Caerleon Cohort

##### Division 4

Ponthir Sports and Community Club A  
Halfway Allstars Others  
Red Lion  
The Pottery B\*  
Crown Rogues\*  
Crown Rebels\*  
Greenlawn D\*  
Ffrwd Crusaders\*  
Ffrwd Incrediboules\*  
Red Lion Cub

#### 5. Competitions

Following a suspension of the cup and plate competitions in 2021, due to Covid restrictions, the Committee announced their reinstatement for the new season.

League fixtures would run from 25 April, with fixed dates in May and June for the early cup rounds.

The draw for round 1 of the cup was made at the AGM, to be played on 16 May.

## 6. Constitution/Rules of Engagement

No changes were proposed - subject to review of inclusion of any Safeguarding policy (see AOB)

## 7. Financial Statement

The Secretary reported the latest financial position, up to March 2022. The bank balance fell to £344, almost half of that for the previous year. This was due to subscriptions being waived for 2021 to reflect the lower level of League activities in a shortened season.

The meeting agreed to reinstate subscriptions for 2022 at the standard annual level of £20 per team.

The Secretary announced a review of the League's HSBC Community Account. From November last year such accounts were no longer available, being replaced by a Charitable Bank Account. Such a change has meant a monthly fee of £5 and charges for cheques.

## 8. Web Management Report

Web hosting fees have been paid for 2022.

Publication of results on-line will follow the pattern established in 2021. This will aim to use the web as the main means of circulation, based on prompt reporting.

Individual clubs are encouraged to advertise any open events that they hold on the website. If they have websites themselves, they are also encouraged to include links to those on the league's website.

## 9. Any Other Business (AOB)

### 9.1 Ukraine Appeal

It was agreed by the meeting that the BIG League would support a Good Friday fundraiser event, organised by Caerleon RFC on behalf of the Ukraine Appeal. A number of teams indicated their willingness to take part.

[Postscript - the "Easter Eggs" doubles competition raised an excellent £630.]

### 9.2 Post Match Refreshments

Two points of etiquette:

Following the change of Covid restrictions, it was agreed that clubs would review the current policy of suspending post-match refreshments for players. The meeting confirmed

that clubs would have the option to decide their own policy, taking into account the social benefits given by the provision of such free hospitality.

As a matter of courtesy, clubs should inform other teams in its division if refreshments are not going to be provided.

The Committee also asked clubs to note that the League benefits greatly from the support of landlords and teams should make use of its facilities, and not bring their own drinks.

### 9.3 Safeguarding

Several teams had raised whether there was a policy regarding a minimum playing age and associated responsibilities. There was general support for encouraging the participation of young players, subject to a duty of care by clubs.

The Committee would review the Constitution to gauge whether there should be any formal and specific changes.

### 9.4. Llandaff

A request had been received from Llandaff to join the BIG League. Initial discussion highlighted that entries were closed for the new 2022 season. On a more strategic level, there was resistance to any extension of the League's geographical boundaries on the grounds that it would impose an additional travel burden for other teams.

League Secretary  
April 2022