



Minutes of Meeting of the Boules in Gwent (BIG) League held at Ponthir Sports and Community Club on Monday 27 March 2023

1. Minutes of Meeting of the Boules in Gwent (BIG) League held at Ponthir Sports and Community Club on Monday 28 March 2022.

Read and approved.

2. Actions Arising

2.1. Safeguarding

The Secretary introduced proposals for a documented policy to be considered by the meeting, taking into account the protocols of similar organisations.

The key elements of a Safeguarding Policy are:

creating a safe and positive environment for all persons, particularly those under 18;

assuming obligation as individuals to protect the safety and well-being of children;

responsibility to be aware of signs of abuse;

providing a point of initial contact for procedural advice regarding allegations and concerns of child abuse, bullying, neglect and poor practice;

taking account of appropriate legislation through Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups 2006 and Protection of Freedoms Bill.

The meeting agreed to amend Section 4 of the BIG constitution which already includes a duty of care which goes hand in hand with safeguarding.

2.2. Bank Charges

The Secretary outlined the League's financial position. HSBC had, for the first time, introduced bank charges from November 2021. This took the form of a new Charitable Bank Account, replacing the Community Account. The new account carries a monthly fee of £5, with charges for cash and cheque transactions.

The Chairman has carried out initial investigations with alternative banks to avoid such charges. The current position is that the new Treasurer will assume responsibility for making the necessary changes.

3. Chairman's Report

John Price, Chairman, provided a comprehensive summary of the 2022 season. This is available as a separate document.

4. Election of Officers

The current Chairman, John Price, is seeking re-election for a further one year. This was agreed by the meeting.

Robin Matthews is not standing for re-election as Secretary/Treasurer.

This post is therefore vacant for 2023 season, with a proposal to separate the Secretary and Treasurer roles:

Derek Jones was appointed as Treasurer and Basil White as Secretary.

Additional support will be provided by web manager, Wilf Hall; fixtures Secretary, Kon; Facebook manager, Paul Macer Wright.

5. Structure of League

Following a review by the Committee of the league structure, 40 teams were approved for entry in 2023. There are four divisions of 10 teams. Promotion and relegation were applied from the final 2022 positions.

Division 1	Division 2
Caerleon A	Ffrwd Bears
Caerleon Blues	Greenlawn A **
Ffrwd Fighters	Clytha A
ROF Nomads	Halfway Allstars
Wheatsheaf Eagles	Greenlawn C*
Pilcs	Machen
Wheatsheaf Falcons	Monmouth PC
Caerleon Greens	Caerleon Cohort
Greenlawn B*	The Pottery Pirates*
Upper Cock*	Clytha B*

Division 3	Division 4
Taines Flankers (Pottery)*	Panteg Steelers
Caerleon Centurions	White Hart Spitters
Abergavenny Golds	Panteg Phoenix
Ponthir S & C C Bees	Ffrwd Vikings
Ponthir S & C C Sharks	Ponthir S and C C A
Greyhound Shi Tzus	Greenlawn D
Abergavenny Reds**	Halfway Allstars Others
White Hart Stags	Red Lion Cubs
Ffrwd Wolves*	Red Lion
Abergavenny Blues	ROF Exiles**

*Promoted teams, **relegated teams. Wheatsheaf Harriers withdrew from the league.

6. Rules of Engagement/Constitution

(text modified 15/3/2024)

One club requested that the playing day be changed to a Tuesday as some clubs and pubs were no longer opening on a Monday evening. While sympathy was expressed for this problem, the proposal was not supported by a vote of League clubs.

The Chairman reinforced the fundamental principle of playing on designated dates without rearrangements (excluding international duty).

The 2022 season lacked consistency due to more than 20 postponements, many without prior Secretary approval.

The Chairman thanked the Greenlawn Club for contributing to the annual review and recommending changes in the substitution rule, team selection and rearranged matches.

- The presence of substitutes should be declared but their subsequent use is optional.
- In league matches, no player may play for more than one team within one fixture week.

The Committee will consider any further changes after concluding the annual review, and report back to clubs.

7. Financial Statement

A healthy balance was recorded in 2023, bolstered by the reinstatement of £20 subscription per team in 2022 and the lower level of League activities.

[Postscript]

The HSBC account was closed on 3 July and a balance of £1,118.58 transferred to the new BIG Lloyds Bank account.

Robin Matthews, Outgoing League Secretary