

BIDBOROUGH SPORTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE 39th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2020 at 8pm

AS A ZOOM MEETING

**Committee Members Present:**

Robin Brown	Chairman
Colin Barber	Treasurer
Doug Moore	Bidborough Parish Council (and Custodian)
David Shepherdson	Bidborough Parish Council
Rodger Poulson	Cricket
Eli Clarkson	Cricket
Ros Packer	Tennis
Peter Eames	Tennis
Kerry Thorne	Stoolball
John Robinson	Badminton
Alan Robinson	Bowls
Elizabeth Shepherdson	Bowls
Linda Paterson	Secretary

**In Attendance:** 16 other members

**1. Welcome from the President**

As the President could not attend, his welcome was sent in by email:

Don Buckland as President welcomed Officers of The Bidborough Sports Association and Representatives of the Constituent Sports Clubs, the 100 Club and the Parish Council. He said how important sport was to the Bidborough community, most of it focused on the recreation ground. It appealed to all ages, as active participants, those who enjoyed it as spectators, and those who coached others. It was always impressive to see how well young people are introduced to the sports in Bidborough, with correct style and an understanding of the rules and etiquette of the game. **Don Buckland**

**2. Apologies for absence**

- ., Don Buckland
- Jill Buckland
- Chris Kelly
- Becky Steptowe
- Wendy Weavis
- Stephen Hebditch

**3. Minutes of the 2019 AGM**

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

#### **4. Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

#### **5. Chairman's report**

Good evening everyone and welcome to the most well attended BSA meeting that I have been involved with, it is a shame it has to be on Zoom.

It has been remarkable how much sport has been played under the circumstances of COVID and you will shortly hear the club reports. Thanks again to the 100 club and their sterling work, without which some of the clubs might struggle. **Robin Brown**

#### **6. Treasurer's report**

##### **TREASURER'S REPORT for the year to 31st March 2020**

The accounts are consistent with the previous year, except for the following:

1. A 4% increase in club contributions from £2,900 to £3,015. No increase agreed for 2021.
2. The water usage and waste water disposal are now invoiced together. However, a creditor that should have been provided for in 2019 was not and the rates and usage have increased a lot. So total cost increased from £548.65 to £1,636.86.

The result for the year to 31st March 2020 shows a small excess of income over expenditure of £127 compared with £987 last year.

As far as the Pavilion Maintenance Fund is concerned there is now a balance of £69,284.53 an increase of £500 which was the transfer from the Revenue Account and no expenditure.

The annual contribution from the 100 club must be emphasised, as without this regular annual surplus of £2,020, club contributions would need to rise substantially.

My thanks to John Lovett for his unqualified report as the Independent Examiner. **Colin Barber.**

#### **7. Election of officers**

All the officers agreed to stand again. There were no other nominations and therefore, they were duly re-elected:

Chairman - Robin Brown; Treasurer - Colin Barber; Secretary- Linda Paterson.

The appointments of the following were also approved:

Custodian - Doug Moore; 100 Club Representatives - Chris Kelly and Jill Buckland; and Independent Examiner - John Lovett.

#### **8. Custodian's report**

Because of Coronavirus the pavilion, except for the toilets, has been off limits. The pavilion is now in winter mode, water turned off and system drained down. During the year both changing rooms and toilets were painted.

A couple of soffit boards at the flagpole side have rotted and come away and need replacing. I will undertake repairs.

During the season all the benches were repaired and cleaned with six further benches sourced from Tunbridge Wells Spa Golf Club.

The pond has had its annual clean and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Les Hawksfield who has helped during the year, especially improving the security of the garage and Gary Thorne who repaired the garage roof.

Finally, I would like to point out after monsoon-like rain, the rec is saturated more than normal making it unsuitable even for dog walking. **Doug Moore**

#### **9. Parish Council report**

No report

#### **10. Club reports:**

##### ***Cricket***

We renamed the junior section the BCC Academy in December last year, and despite being unable to train the amount of new coaches we wanted to because of the pandemic, we have to consider the 2020 season a roaring success. As a club, we were all excited about the use of Judd's outdoor facilities and although we had to wait a lot longer than we thought, we were able to run 10 weeks of Academy sessions as soon as things were safe to do so. Every Thursday we had up to 50 children across three age groups training, expertly marshalled by Sue, Owen and a cast of volunteers including the first team skipper.

The u13 age group, coached by first team stalwart Howard Nankivell, played some fantastic cricket to finish second in their division, and we now have 6 district players at that age group.

The u15 age group, coached by Owen Blackhurst who combined this role with running the coaching structure for all age groups, also had a good season. Taking the league down to the final game and narrowly losing out to a very strong Linden Park. We now have eight district players from this age group.

Fingers crossed that next year we can restart our plans to invest in women's cricket, train more coaches, and seek sponsorship to take the academy to the next level. **Rodger Pulsom**

##### ***Tennis***

The Tennis Club held their AGM in February. All seven of the committee agreed to stand again, with the addition of Rob Masters who is our new Welfare Officer. Officers continue with myself as the Chair, Stephen as Treasurer and Cate as Membership Secretary.

The tennis court had to be shut during the first lockdown and was closed from April 23rd until May 15th. The LTA imposed strict regulations about the re-opening of tennis courts involving the removal of items such as the broom and scoreboard, putting up safety notices, conducting risk assessments and only allowing singles play within certain rules. Doubles was permitted later so all the notices about the rules had to be changed again! It was quite a testing time making sure we followed these guidelines properly before re-opening. Excellent weather and lack of other entertainment meant

poor Cate was inundated over the summer with new enquiries and subsequent applications from people wanting to join the Tennis Club. It reached the point where we had to close our membership because we simply had too many members and it was becoming difficult to book the court.

It was heartening, however, to see the court being so well used and so many people enjoying playing.

In the midst of this Susan Adam managed to organise another successful junior coaching week, with Ian Chapman from the Indoor Centre as coach. It was very well supported.

In line with LTA recommendations the Club dispensed with the old paper booking sheets and introduced a new online court booking system on October 1st. Committee member, Mark Alborough, spent a lot of time setting this up and we're very grateful to him. We had several committee meetings via Zoom this year discussing it all and I'm pleased to say the new system worked smoothly from the start. It makes the court both easier to book and, almost more importantly, easier to cancel.

The second lockdown on November 5th meant the court had to be closed again - yet more notices, emails to membership and padlock changes. The court was cleaned during the shutdown and is now open and being well used again.

The Tennis Club Committee (whom I have to say, are a great bunch) are hoping next year will be a little less busy! **Rosalind Packer**

### ***Stoolball***

To say what a strange year would not, in fact, begin to express how I currently feel about the events that have unfolded over the last twelve months!

Unfortunately, the stoolball season as we would usually know it, did not happen. We were categorically told in April by Stoolball England that the best we could hope for was an end of season tournament, no league and no county games.

As some members were shielding or having to consider family members who were vulnerable, it was a surprise to hear in June that a reduced season was going to be allowed following on from an ECB announcement that recreational cricket would return.

The club took the decision this year to abstain from the league but several were able to fill in for some of the other local teams who were also struggling.

We look forward to a resumption of normality next year. **Kerry Thorne**

### ***Badminton***

We entered 2020 blissfully unaware of the unimaginable storm that was about to hit us all - Covid 19.

Play at the village hall has been severely limited throughout the year. Indeed, we only managed a short period from September to mid-November when, following the strict guidance from Badminton England, a small minority of the senior members played on Thursday evenings. Now that we are in Tier 3 of restrictions, play has been suspended again until 2021.

Despite all this, members remain engaged and well and a thriving junior section led by our professional coach is 'ready to go' as and when restrictions are lifted again.

We are indebted to the village hall for the discounted rates and their willingness and support to operate a charging approach that means we only pay for what we use. This means that the club will most likely make a small, but manageable loss for 2020/21. **Mike Harris's report, read out by John Robinson**

### **Bowls**

Although all our fixtures with visiting Clubs had to be cancelled, the Bowls Club managed to hold regular (Covid - safe!) casual roll ups throughout the summer and our thanks go to Chris Mortimore for his sterling work on the green throughout the season.

We also held a pairs competition in which our President, Don Buckland and his partner, Bill Liddall were undefeated in every match. **Alan Robinson**

### **100 Club**

We wish we could buck the trend and offer a good report for the 100 pub but, unfortunately, our membership has dropped to 90 members which produces an income of £3,240. Out of this sum £1,400 is paid out in prize money with the balance of £1,840 available for the Sports Association. For some time now, we have paid £500 per quarter to the Association but this will have to be reduced to a maximum of £460 per quarter. Some members have donated their winnings to the Club and these are paid to the Association along with the quarterly cheques.

We would very much like to increase the membership to the full complement of 100 so if you are able to encourage anyone to join, Jill Buckland has the necessary forms and will be delighted to provide them. **Chris Kelly**

## **11. Update on Pavilion Planning Application**

Robin Brown gave a summary of the meetings which had taken place and other developments.

**David Shepherdson** then presented a report commencing as follows:

Let me firstly say how important sport proved to be in 2020. Not only how busy the cricket net was as soon as some restrictions were lifted but also the enthusiasm for playing the game just as soon as games could restart. I saw the uplift in my two boys when they could restart playing and I suspect this was mirrored in many other families. Sometimes you only realise how important something is when you take it away. Mind you, we still have not got an answer to the question of was the ball a vector of disease!

It is against such a background that we do want to improve the facilities on the recreation ground which I think we can all agree do need to be substantially upgraded.

This was followed by an outline of the history of the pavilion upgrade project from initiation in 2014, and a summary of the current position, leading to a wide-ranging discussion involving all the clubs present. No decisions were taken at the meeting but it was noted that seeking planning permission would be the next step.

## **12. AOB**

There was no other business.