

Minutes of WBPC Committee meeting 25 January 2023

Present: Martin Hudson (Chair), Pam Stockton (Treasurer), Ken Johnson, George Tait, Phil Lear, Chris Houghton (Secretary)

Agenda

- 1 Accounts – current and expected
- 2 Membership – confirmed and expected
- 3 Review budget – income and expenditure (attached)
- 4 Fencing project – new, secondhand, groundwork
- 5 Participation – pairs, friendlies, league and floodlights
- 6 AOB Poloshirts

Accounts – current and expected

Pam gave a report on the current finances. Currently the club has a balance of £2267-61 plus a further grant of £750 for fencing from the Town Council. The Committee thanked Martin for his efforts in securing this funding. There had been a £90 profit from the Christmas party, thanks to George,

Membership

Chris reported there were currently 41 members who had renewed so far this year. It was agreed to send out a reminder letter to those still to renew. **Chris.** It was further agreed there would be a membership drive in the spring with an Open afternoon, and possibly flyers and posters around the town.

Review of Budget

Martin gave a review of the Budget for the coming year. See attached.

During 2022 the club made donations amounting to £500 to the Sports Centre. It was agreed that we should aim to do the same in 2023. These donations to be from funds earned from functions.

Club Liability insurance of £250 from Petanque England to be purchased at the end of March by committee members paying membership to PE (reimbursed from Club funds).

Electricity for charging floodlights, either at home or at Sports Centre (with their consent). Requires approximately 15hrs charging. **Phil** to check how much it will use.

Polo shirt set up of £30 has been paid.

League match refreshments £200 will be covered from pairs competition profits.

Socials income. George proposed his son-in-law, who has played cricket for England could give a talk at the Sports Centre. Would be open to a wider audience e.g. Ross cricket club.

It was agreed George to contact and book Dick Bryce to perform at the Sports Centre. Would need advertising to attract a wider audience.

Also a possibility that Michelle from the Phoenix would come and perform. **George**

Pam and Danny are happy to organise BBQs again this summer. It was suggested June and August (depending on weather!) would be best. It was **agreed** that £10 per head would be charged this year.

Fencing Project

Martin has met with Gary to discuss the fencing. A previous quote for fencing was £5,500 (excluding labour). Buying from Meshdirect would reduce the amount to £3000 (excluding labour). Gary would be prepared to undertake the work.

Martin has also contacted the Cricket Club re their second hand fencing. They will have a meeting to give us a price. Their fencing is rigid and is 7' high. The cost of matching this would be more expensive than the chain link type. The fencing would need to be removed by the Petanque club if we decided to purchase.

Options for funding included possible Crowd funding but it was decided the fence would probably not attract a lot of interest.

Ken asked whether Petanque England made grants to clubs. Martin said he'd applied last year for a grant for signs etc. but had heard nothing back. It was suggested that a banner on the fence advertising WBPC with the Petanque England logo would promote the club.

Participation

At present 24 members had indicated interest in the Pairs competitions, 19 in Friendlies, Leagues 9

The Pairs will start in March and run through until May. Members to choose whether to play as couples, (bearing in mind holiday arrangements), or to be paired randomly.

Phil suggested that once members had played in Friendlies this might give them more confidence to take part in the Leagues. He was awaiting a reply from Golden Valley club. Abergavenny were very interested in playing at Wilton in February, with a follow up game later in the year. Cheltenham U3A had also expressed an interest in playing us. There had been no reply from Solihull and he will try to contact Monmouth again. **Phil**

Phil also reported on the League. See attached.

Phil will go ahead with the purchase of the floodlights and organise practice sessions on non-club days. **Phil**

AOB

George suggested an email be sent out to ask members what sort of socials they would support and any ideas for entertainment. **George/Chris**

Polo shirts – Phil hopes to collect them from Ledbury on January 27. Members will then be able to collect them at club sessions over the following week. **Phil**

Website – Martin to ask Harry to update the website and create a photo gallery if possible. It is hoped if the website is updated regularly with more pictures and competition results, members will log on more often and make better use of it.

Martin

It was suggested we get publicity for the club around the Petanque England Training day.

Meeting Closed

Minutes of WBPC meeting February 10 2023

Present: Martin Hudson (Chair), Ken Johnson, George Tait, Pam Stockton (Treasurer), Phil Lear, Chris Houghton (Secretary)

Meeting to discuss purchase of alternative floodlights

Pam Stockton produced a summary of the current financial situation. (See separate sheet). Once the current outgoings and earmarked monies are taken out we currently have a balance of £181.61 disposable income with a further possible income to funds from pairs competition of approximately £200. Total £381.

This does not take into account future fundraising events or deductions for refreshments for home friendly/league matches.

The provision of refreshments for home friendly matches was discussed. It was agreed that participating club members would be asked to bring a food contribution for these matches. It had been previously agreed to provide tea/coffee/biscuits from club funds.

Ken & Phil had purchased floodlights for the home league matches, as agreed. However on testing them they did not give enough light to cover the two pistes. The choice was to either buy a second set of the same lights and hope they would be bright enough, or to return the ones already purchased and buy two brighter sets at an additional cost of £230 which would definitely give off enough light. It was unanimously **agreed** to return the lights and purchase the brighter floodlights. It was felt this additional cost would be covered by monies from the pairs competition and planned fundraising. It was suggested that club league players could take it in turns to recharge the batteries at home. The batteries should only need recharging at most 4 times during the year.

Meeting ended.

Minutes of WBPC Committee meeting March 29 2023

Present: Martin Hudson (Chair), Pam Stockton (Treasurer), Phil Lear, George Tail, Chris Houghton (Secretary) **Apologies:** Ken Johnson

Agenda

- 1 Accounts – current position
- 2 Fundraising ideas
 - 100 club – see circular distributed by George
 - Petanquethon – see rough idea attached
 - Social events – Cricket talk, Bob’s quiz, Band night etc
 - BBQs
- 3 Fence project
 - Funding
 - Cricket club fence
 - Options for 30m section fencing
 - Gary’s opinion – refer to email
- 4 Advertising the club – Martin & Phil
- 5 Open afternoon – see rough advert
- 6 AOB

Accounts

The current balance of the account, after all deductions for all registration fees is £2830-61. It is not anticipated that there will be any further amounts to be deducted. This means there is currently £2000 available towards the cost of fencing. (There is an amount of £500 pledged to the Sports Club but this will be covered by fundraising events).

Fence Project

There was a wide ranging discussion on how we go ahead with the Fence Project with ideas for possible additional funding to be looked into.

Martin has been looking into various types of fencing with Gary and also asking different companies for quotes and costings. The Cricket Club has also offered us their old fencing for £100, however there are problems with this. We would have to remove the fencing and make good the ground. Additional fencing would not match this fence and it would be on a roll which, it has been discussed, would be more difficult to install. Gary has suggested CLA C-pro 55v Mesh panels, which are easier to install and would be easier to replace, if needed, in the future. A 30m stretch would cost £900 + fittings, labour and hire of tools, which would add another £400 approximately. This would equate to a total cost of approximately £7500 to replace

all the fencing. **Martin to continue talks with Gary & thank Bryan Hunt for his offer of help and advise him of the current situation.**

Fundraising

George reported that the feedback he'd had from members is that for much of the year the Sports Club is not practical for socials as it is too cold and there was an issue with the toilets. In order to continue supporting the Sports Club it was felt it could be used for 1 or 2 events in the summer when hopefully it will be warmer. George to speak to his son-in-law to see if he would do his Cricket talk during the summer. This event would be open to all and George felt we need the support of the Cricket club for this event. **George to suggest a suitable date in June or July depending on calendar of events.**

Martin suggested Bob could do his music quiz as he has suggested. Chris suggested later in the year, as Bob was likely to have other commitments in the coming months. Phil reported that Graham Brown, from Ross Walking Group, was available to do general knowledge quizzes, (for the more mature quizzers!), at no charge. He suggested 4 rounds, a break for food, followed by a further 3 rounds. It was felt that if a Ploughman's was offered, we could charge £10 per head.

George reported that Michelle Cooper (singer), from the Phoenix Theatre, had offered to sing at the club. Martin suggested that in addition to this George could also perform and there could also be an open mike session for those interested.

Pam suggested the following date for the summer BBQ – Thursday 22 June 2023 or Friday 30 June 2023 if the weather is bad. Also a further BBQ in August , date to be agreed at a future meeting. Pam suggested that the June BBQ could run alongside the 24 hour Petanquethon, which Martin had suggested. The idea is to ask for sponsorship for the fence fund.

George put forward his idea for a 100 Club. This would be open to people outside the Petanque Club. The idea is to pay £5 per month, per person by DD. The draw for £100 to be held monthly. Even if only 40 people take this up this will provide an income of £2400, less £1200 prize money, less £500 pledge to the Sports Club, this will leave WBPC with a profit of £700. There would need to be a separate account for this money. George to be responsible for this. No cash will change hands and profits will be transferred to the main account. (on an annual basis?) It was agreed that we would need to check the rules regarding this very carefully before going ahead. It will take several months to set up and we can decide if we need to go ahead with this later in the year. **Martin to compose email to members to see if there is interest in this and also if there is support for a Petanquethon.**

Advertising

Both Martin & Phil had given thought to how we could best advertise the club to attract new members. It was decided to go ahead with Martin's advert encouraging potential new members to come along during club sessions, have a game, and see if they would like to join. Martin had made enquiries as to the cost of having A4 posters and A5 fliers printed. He has been offered a very reasonable rate of £38 for 30 A4 posters and 200 A5 fliers. Phil suggested that we should advertise further afield than Ross. He is to place posters/fliers in the Forest of Dean, Upton Bishop, Newent etc. Pam suggested putting posters in the Library, Larrapuz Centre, Kings Head and around Ross. Chris suggested promoting the club through the U3A.

Open Afternoon

Martin has prepared a rough draft of an advert for the Ross Gazette. It was agreed that the open afternoon would be on June 15.

AOB

Weeds

Danny Webb has suggested we get together to clear weeds and brambles from around the pistes on Saturday 15 April. After the work is completed we can all retire to the pub for a well earned pint.

Refreshments for visiting teams

Chris suggested that Phil make a list of suitable food for home friendly and league matches. Participants would then be asked to commit to providing one of the items. This way everyone knew what to bring and there would be no repetition. All agreed that as Phil organises the matches and was the host, it wasn't fair that he should be expected to organise the serving of the food too. It was suggested that team members take a turn at organising this. **Phil to put to Friendly & League members.**

No further business. Meeting closed.

Minutes of WBPC Committee meeting 2 May 2023

Present: Martin Hudson (Chair), Pam Stockton (Treasurer), Phil Lear, George Tait, Ken Johnson, Chris Houghton (Secretary)

Agenda:

- 1 Accounts – current picture
- 2 Any points from last meeting not covered below
- 3 S106 Funding – current picture
- 4 Fundraising feedback – petanquathon, 100 club, social events, BBQs, Lions
- 5 League matches – feedback, refreshments
- 6 Advertising the club
- 7 Open afternoon – more?
- 8 AOB

Accounts

Pam gave an update of the club finances – see attached. The current balance is £2781-61

Points not covered below

Martin has spoken to both Gary & Bryan re S106 funding. Bryan is happy to work with Gary and Martin is arranging a meeting with them both.

S106 funding

CIC has invited bids from clubs for a share in the available fund. Martin to put in a bid for £9000 for the fencing however with bids from other clubs this would exceed the £20,000 available. If we could get half we could get most of the work done with the addition of funds we already have. If we had not been part of the CIC we wouldn't be in a position to make a bid for any of the funds. The committee thanked Martin for all the work he has put in to make the bid.

Fundraising

There was a wide ranging discussion on both the 100 club and the rules on setting it up. Most members were willing to support this fundraising. As it is a private lottery the rules need to be checked to make sure that it is operated legally. **George/Phil** to check rules and legal implications. **Phil/Ken/George** to meet with treasurer of the bowls club and check with the legalities of selling outside the club.

Whilst there was support for the Petanquathon many members were not keen in taking part during the night. The committee agreed to make this a 12 hour event from 6 am to 6 pm on Thursday 22 June with a BBQ organised by Danny and Pam at the end. **Martin** to prepare a letter. **Pam** set up a new bank account to keep 100 club monies separate.

Martin reported that he had asked Ross Lions for a donation to the club and they had given £200.

George has asked his son-in-law, a former cricketer to give a talk on 30/6/23. He will talk for approximately 45 minutes with a Q&A after. He will not make a charge. He has strong connection to Herefordshire County Cricket Club whose members could be invited. Charge of £10 per head. Event to be advertised in the Ross Gazette. Invite members of Ross Cricket Club & Goodrich.

George also has contact with Billy Steele who played Rugby Union for Scotland & the British Lions, who may be persuaded to give a talk.

Martin to contact Graham from the Walking club who organises Quiz Evenings to see if he would do a quiz for us in September.

George to contact Michelle at the Phoenix to see if she was available for a music evening. Also Don, guitar player, to see if he was available. George also to sing.

It was agreed to have a second BBQ on 11 August (**Danny & Pam**) Cost £10 per di

Thinking ahead it was suggested a Christmas “do” could be held at the Royal Hotel? **George** to investigate.

League Matches & refreshments

Phil gave his report on the first league match at Hereford. The pistes were a little different from what we are used to. Very thick gravel and only room for 2 games at a time. It was a new club still in the process of setting up. We lost to them 5-1. Their floodlights were effective as they were connected to the mains.

There are only 7 players for the next match. Paul has offered to drive everyone in his car.

Phil has asked Ken to stand in for him, to organise the matches, whilst he is on holiday.

The club had had coffee and tea donated for members and visiting teams. However this had caused problems with the Sports Club. As we are part of the CIC we need to follow the rules. As they are reliant on revenue from the bar and tea/coffee sales we will donate our supplies and arrange to pay for home match refreshments (tea/coffee) by cheque. As a rough estimate this would come to £245 annually (to be checked). This will be partly funded by profits from the pairs competition.

Advertising

Posters and leaflets have been displayed in a wide range of outlets around Ross on Wye by committee members. Phil has been covering South Ross + the Forest of Dean. Peterstow, Whitchurch, Newent and Ledbury. Others to explore posters in remaining villages.

Open Afternoon

To be held on June 15 2023 at 14.00

Martin to organise advert/press release in Ross Gazette. Also Ross Notice Board on Facebook.

Diane has successfully organised sessions for the Walking Club at £5 per head. The next at 10.00am on September 6. Pam has suggested the Ramblers might be interested in the same. It was also suggested we invite the Lions to play as they have made a donation to the club.

AOB

Chris to ask Gary if he has the key for the bench in the shed.

Many thanks to Danny for organising the work party to clear the weeds and brambles around the pistes. Thank you to everyone who took part. **Ken** to ask Dave Thorne for advice on treating the weeds.

Meeting closed

Minutes of WBPC Committee meeting 4 August 2023

Present: Martin Hudson (Chair), George Tait, Phil Lear, Ken Johnson, Pam Stockton (Treasurer), Chris Houghton (Secretary)

Agenda:

- 1 Financial update
- 2 Shelter
- 3 Social events
- 4 AOB

Financial Update

Pam took the committee through the interim accounts as at 4 August. Currently there is a balance of £3942 in the account.

Martin presented his projected income and expenditure for the rest of 2023. Projected income approximately £1032 against expenditure of £968 meaning there should be no further erosion of funds.

Shelter

Martin presented two options for the proposed additional shelter. The first from Walford Timber, a pent roof shelter. Quoted cost (26/7/23) was £2102 + VAT total £2522-72. This is self assembly and would require volunteers to put it together.

The second option was to purchase a similar cabin to the existing one, but larger, from the original company based in Liverpool. The cost of this would be £1899

If we went ahead with this now we risk having to repay the £750 grant to the Council which was given for the fencing. The Council won't meet until September 19th when a decision will be made as to whether we can use this grant for the shelter instead.

It was **unanimously agreed** that we purchase the second option but wait until the Council meeting on September 19th before placing an order.

George Tait spoke for all the committee members in thanking Martin for all his work on researching the best options.

Social Events

Quiz to be held on Friday 15 September 7.00pm for 7.30pm It was decided not to provide food and reduce the tickets to £5 per head.

BBQ Wednesday 23 August 6.00pm. Email needed to remind members to book.

Christmas party George has reserved the Buckingham suite at the Royal Hotel for Thursday 7 December 7pm-11pm. Maximum 60 people. Email to be sent inviting members and partners. Price £22 per head to include buffet and disco.

Chris to send out email about social events.

AOB

Chris asked that no emails are sent to new members until we have an application form from them to cover us for Data protection.

Phil discussed the possibility of getting a team to go to Northern France to play against some French clubs. He is contacting Petanque England to see what the protocol is, and the Ross on Wye twinning association to see if they have any suggestions. It was suggested he approached Miles Morgan travel agents with regard to transport and accommodation. **Phil to make further enquiries.**