

Minutes of the BNWSL – Annual General Meeting 3rd June 2024

Chairperson Terry Gregory opened the meeting by reading the names of those members who passed away during the 2023/2024 and one minutes silence was observed.

Minutes of the last year's AGM – accepted by the floor.

Chairperson's Welcome -Terry Gregory

Thank you to all teams for another good season.

Congratulations to the winners!

Premier Division Winner – Horfield OB - Runner up – Traders

Division One Winner – Sinners – Runner up – Greystoke Sports, 3rd place – British Rail

Division Two Winner – Beestars – Runner up – Lockleaze CA, 3rd place – Mad Max

Division Three Winner – Dropouts – Runner up – St Bons FTBS, 3rd place – Southmead Sports

Front Pin First Cup Winner – Denims – Runner up Traders

All in Cup Winner – Mad Max – Runner up Samson Rams

Champions of Champions Winner – Horfield OB – Runner up Sinners

Headley Varcoe Cup Winner – Dropouts – Runner up Beestars

Can I thank all the committee members for giving up their spare time to run the league on your behalf. Without them the league would not be possible. Special thanks to Kath and Ian for their hard work. Ian Semple has decided to leave the committee so I would like to thank him for his time on the committee

I have a couple of things to go through which I will do once we have had the treasurer and fixture secretary's reports. These include rule changes, death benefits and condition of the trophies.

Treasurer's Report – Kath Semple read out by Carol Cross

This report is based on the balance sheet that has been prepared for you and represents figures from 01.05.23 to 30.04.2024.

Income

The total overall income received for 2023/2024 season reduced by £289.04 from previous season.

I will summarise the gains and losses for this year:

League Fees

The income from league fees reduced by £60 from the previous balance sheet after losing another team. We had just 56 teams register for the 2023/2024 season.

Benevolent Fund

The benevolent fund received income of £380 this season which was £230 down on last year.

Presentation Dance

The annual presentation received income of £770 for the ticket and raffle ticket sales which was just slightly down from £780 the previous year. The raffle was very well supported again so a big thank you to you all and in particular Sarah Jacques for selling tickets on the night.

Score Books

Score book sales were pretty much the same as we normally sell over a season so income from this was £70 compared to £60. This figure does tend to fluctuate and we still have 23 unsold books.

Advertisement

Unfortunately, the advert we had on the website last year has decided that they do not wish to renew this year. So we are £50 down on last year. If anyone would like to advertise or know of anyone that may benefit from advertising on our website then please contact Ian Millard for the up and coming season. We hope teams will continue to embrace the website and help keep our costs down.

Bank Interest

With bank interest rates rising we saw an increase in our bank interest from £15.43 last season to £42.39.

Expenses

The total overall expenses for 2023/2024 season increased by £464.93 from previous season.

Expenditure

Postage/Printing Costs

You will see for the third year in a row we had no Postage expenses. This is largely down to teams using emails where possible and the committee using up current stock of stamps and stationary held. This coming season we will definitely need to replenish stationary and postage stamps to cover AGM printing and the letters that we send out over the season, mainly for the benevolent letters and also the very few teams that do not have use of electronic emails. These additional costs will reflect in next year's accounts.

Presentation Dance and Prize Money

Once again, at last year's presentation evening, we only had a disco to keep the costs down. The total expenses for last season's presentation was £782.47 so only a £12.47 profit compared with the profit the previous year of £14.96. So once again we have just about broken even. The committee have therefore made the decision to go with only a disco again this year. If numbers dramatically increase for our presentation evenings then I am sure the committee will try to introduce a band in the future. Meanwhile please can all teams continue to support our dance again this year on Saturday 6th July 2024.

Prize Monies

The prize monies paid out for the presentation dance last year remained unchanged and will do again this year.

Telephone/Electric

Due to higher energy costs, our electric has increased by £20 from previous year.

Honorariums

The Honorariums have been reviewed by the committee this year and due to more responsibilities given to less offices there is a slight increase of £45 but this figure is down on previous years when there were many more officers on the committee.

Benevolent Fund

As you are all aware when paying your league fees a small portion of this is paid into our benevolent fund, I have produced a separate balance sheet of the income and the expenses paid out for this season.

There were 4 qualifying death benefits claimed and paid out for the period 01.05.2023 to 30.04.2024 compared to 9 the previous year.

Summary

With a reduction in income of £289.04 and an increase in expenditure of £464.93 our total loss this year was £753.97. This pretty much wiped out the profit from last year of £761.95 so our overall balance carried over to next year only increased by £7.98.

Account Auditing

Again as reported to you at the last AGM, the accounts that you have been presented with tonight remain unaudited as we have not had anyone come forward to volunteer to Audit these. If anyone wants to take on the auditor role going forwards then please let myself or the committee know as soon as possible.

Fees for season 2024/2025

We are trying to help teams where we can financially and therefore the league fees for the up and coming season will remain at £60.00. However, with the increased losses that we sustained this year we will need to monitor these fees carefully as we cannot sustain huge losses like this year on year. I wanted to point out that the league fees haven't increased since 2016/2017 season.

This year's fees will be due and collected on the open night on Monday 12th August 2024 when teams will also be required to submit their player registration forms.

The committee also made the decision not to run the singles, pairs and fours competitions again which we have made a loss on over previous seasons. The committee have no plans to run these competitions in the up coming season.

I trust that members here are happy with the figures that have been produced but if you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cheques

If anyone has won a prize, please see me after the meeting to let me know who to make the cheque payable to.

Fixture Secretary Report

2023/2024 Recap / Report

Given the enforced league restructuring and the potential for a couple of fixture clashes, feedback in general has been very positive.

I appreciate the restructuring resulted in some teams being placed out of their comfort zones, however the alternative would have been a lot of free weeks in each division which, based on your feedback from the previous season many of you were not keen on.

A further enforced change was moving semi final date of both cups into the 2nd free week in January and then subsequently moving the finals date a week forward into April. Had we stuck with our usual end of season semi final and final dates, we would have clashed with the May Bank Holiday, which in all possibility would have caused no end of problems with alley and player availability.

The league also introduced a shorter time frame for returning score sheets (48 hours) so we could provide you all with a timelier update on the league website. Some of you struggled with this concept at first but I'm pleased to say everybody is now onboard. Many thanks for this.

New Season 2024/2025

As we look ahead towards the new season I would like to explain further the information you have been provided in your AGM pack.

- a) Looking at the Fixture Plan for the new season, you will note that the new season begins week commencing 16th September 2024 and the first round of both cups is scheduled for week commencing 7th October.
- b) Any fixture date (week commencing) that is potentially impacted by a Bank Holiday is marked in grey i.e. 14th April, 21st April and 5th May. Good Friday (18th April) and Easter Monday (21st April) will impact any team(s) that usually play on these dates. Please take note in advance and make the appropriate steps to rearrange the game.
- c) Cup information – a live draw for the 1st round of both cups will be held immediately after - invited to draw the teams from the hat.
 - 28 teams and four byes will contest round one of the Front Pin Cup
 - 27 teams and five byes will contest round one of the All in Cup
 - Further rounds of the Cup will progress as marked in your fixture schedule, with the quarter finals and semi finals taking place during the 13th and 20th January 2025
 - If you are not involved in the Cup anymore, please use the two Cup weeks as an opportunity to play any rearranged games, provided of course your opponents are not in the Cup as well.
- d) Note – last season Filton & District Club came under immense pressure with alley availability because nearly all teams at that venue were drawn at home in the Cup, something we as a league committee could not predict would happen. Hence for this reason, if you are drawn at home in the 1st round of the Cup and will struggle to secure your alley for the match, please use week commencing 9th September 2024 instead. This scenario is applicable for the first round only. The second round will obviously contain half the number of teams so should not be an issue. Also please do not assume that just because you are drawn away you will play your Cup match on the Home team's normal night of play. Whilst this might be the case for 99% of Cup matches, please be aware that circumstances sometimes prevent the home team from securing their usual night of play. In this instance you will be offered another night of play during the Cup week.
- e) League Structure, this document is provisional only and could potentially change if any team(s) decide to resign between now and when the season begins. I will keep you updated of any changes as they occur.

- f) For teams in Division 1 only, Rapier A are marked in Grey. This means that their fixture number is currently provisional because I am waiting on confirmation of a confirmed fixture number from the Severnside league.
- g) In Division 3 there is a free week in grey, this means 2 x blank weeks for all teams.
- h) Team Detail and Contact Information – The information is relevant for your division only. For GDPR reasons, the league will not share information about other teams outside of each division. Please contact myself (fixture secretary) for their details.
- i) Fours, singles and pairs competitions as per last season will not run due to minimal interest.
- j) A number of teams are struggling for players, an advert will appear on the league website highlighting those teams that require/looking for new players. Let me know if your team would like to be added to the list.
- k) Results, please make sure that they get to me within 48 hours and I usually update the league website on a Sunday.
- l) Player registration, a form is attached at the back of the pack and can be downloaded from the league website. All players must be registered a minimum of 14 days before the new season commences. Forms can be returned to me on the Open Night or email/post them.
- m) Cancelling a game is only permitted for the following reasons-
 - Serious inclement weather
 - Double booking of the Allye
 - Bank Holiday

If you intend / need to cancel for any other reason, please contact myself or a committee member first. In all cases you must inform the opposition at least 72 hours in advance and inform me immediately. All cancelled games must be played no exceptions as soon as reasonable possible.

Election of Officers

All roles on the committee were up for re-election, this was put to the floor and all members were voted back in as they are currently. This was proposed by Horfield Old Boys and seconded by Filton Wanderers.

Any Other Business

Rules

Terry took the floor through the changes to the rules as detailed in the AGM packs. It was then put to the floor to vote to accept the changes in block. This was accepted by all.

Death Benefit

The chairman then read out a letter from the Yabadabadoos, seconded by British Rail, suggesting a change to death benefit. The change suggested was that a donation is given to a chosen charity instead of a payment to deceased family. The suggested donation is £200. This led to a discussion from the floor with several teams not in favour of the suggestion. Due to the emotive nature of the discussion it was agreed that representatives at the AGM would take this back to their teams to discuss further and the subject would be raised at the 2025 AGM. It was agreed that the death benefit is only for signed on players and names of non signed (previous) on players would be read on the night of the AGM alongside the signed on players.

Cups

The chairman advised the floor that some of the current trophies/cups are in a bad way and on some there is no space to add teams and therefore need to be renewed. In addition some of the cups are worth a lot of money as they are solid silver. One cup in particular is worth in the region of £7K and the cost of insurance would be approximately £500 a year.

It was then put to the floor the option of melting down the most expensive cups and putting the money back into the league to purchase new cups. This was put to the vote and the majority were in favour of this approach with one team against.

The league took an action to document what each cup is worth and work has already commenced on taking the details off the cups of all the names and winners. This will be displayed on the league website when complete.

Dance

Dance tickets are available to purchase from Terry and Kath following the meeting.

Meeting closed 8.55pm,