

LAVANTE LAWN BOWLS (LLB)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12th MARCH 2024 AT ALONAI RESTERAUNT SANTARA RESORT GRAN ALICANT

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Colin Lingren, June Jones, Sandra Heath, Steve Blacklaw Gail Willshire and Lynn Greenland.

Kevin placed on record thanks to Sandra who will be stepping down from her role as Tour Co-ordinator at the next AGM. He thanked her for all the work she has done on behalf of the LLB.

President (Delegado):	Bob Donnelly	Benitachell	Y	Monte Mar	Y
Vice President (Chair):	Keith Longshaw	Bonalba	Y	Quesada	Y
Secretary:	Kevin Storey	Calpe Paseo	Y	San Luis	N
Treasurer:	Lisa Bonsor	Calpe BC	Y	San Miguel	Y
Membership secretary:	Gail Willshire	Country Bowls	Y	Vistabella	Y
Membership treasurer:	Lynn Greenland	El CID	Y		
Winter League Co-ordinator:	Peter Bonsor	El Rancho	Y		
Northern League Co-ordinator:	Peter Matthews	Emerald Isle	Y		
Southern League co-ordinator:	Dave Morrison	Greenlands	Y		
SA Co-ordinator Winter:	John O'Brian	Javea Green	Y		
SA Co-ordinator Summer:	Ray Robson	La Manga	N		
Associate Co-ordinator:	VACANCY Temp Peter Matthews	La Marina	Y		
Tour Co-ordinator:	Sandra Heath				

Total Number of Clubs: 17 Number of Clubs Represented: 15

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting held in December 2023 were accepted
Proposer Keith Hamilton Javea Green Seconder Dave Haynes El Rancho.

3. Matters Arising.

None

4. President – Delegado Bob Donnelly.

Nothing really to report, he wished to express his thanks to the league co-ordinators for doing such a good job in what was their first seasons running the leagues he thinks they have all done really well.

He touched on correspondence he has been receiving all in Spanish which he said details grants and support the clubs could be looking to tap into from local government offices and also Local Council departments. He enquired if anyone knows of a Spanish speaker who would be willing to read through the information sent out and issue guidance to the LLB and the clubs so we can take advantage of what is now on offer.

Pete Bonsor asked if the documents were confidential? Lisa added if not they had a Spanish speaking son-in-law who may be able to help.

Roli Bell also said that Bonalba have a Spanish Lawyer within their membership who may be able to help if required.

5. Secretary Kevin Storey.

Kevin Apologised for the impact the hacking of his E-mail account had on the members of the LLB.

He thanked Suzi Cooper for the work she did covering the Secretary's role during his recent holiday to Australia.

He added his thanks to those of Bob for the work done by the league co-ordinators

6. Treasurer Lisa Bonsor.

Fairly quiet period for Lisa 500 euros received from Linea Directa. We have received 150Euros from Bowling Abroad for touring fees. This is the only payment for 2023 / 2024 compared to previous years where it has been as much as 600 Euros. Lisa is touch base with Sandra to clarify this. We have paid out approx. 3600Euros in Federation fees this is because Federation fees are 13 euros per year but the LLB subsidises all members to the tune of 3Euros Each. This payment is a large factor behind the balance going down year on year it now stands at 7000Euros

Dave Morrison asked what was the benefit of paying out this subsidy when the organisation was losing money year on year?

Bob Donnelly replied that we are losing money because the Valencians and Champion of champions competitions always fail to break even.

Dave repeated his point stating that we should not be paying that 3600 Euros out as it would more than cover the losses on the Competitions it does not make any sense.

In the opinion of the treasurer based on her analysis of the books we cannot sustain the 3Euro subsidy or we will end up without any funds in the account.

Dave Morrison feels we should propose to the clubs that the subsidy is stopped and explain that members will need to pay their full Federation fees going forward.

It was stated that some clubs collect their Federation fees in September so if we are going to propose a change, we must do it quickly to prevent these clubs from collecting the incorrect amount for next years payments. The change is required as the balance is reducing by approximately 2000Euros per year.

Ray Robson proposed a sub-committee to look at all LLB expenditure including the subsidy and they could advise us of required changes based on their findings.

Pete Bonsor re-iterated the point that the LLB would not be putting up the cost of being federated we would just be asking all members to pay their own fees in full.

BD reminded everyone that we get a payment from the Federation around July of 3000Euros which almost offsets the subsidy. However we are of course still losing money year on year.

Lisa Bonsor confirmed that she was unaware of the 3 Euro supplement until she took over the treasurer's role. This sentiment was echoed by many members in the room. She added it was a cost we did not need to pay.

John O'Brien felt we needed to understand where we were losing money and if possible we should stop the subsidy and use the excess money collected to offset the losses in the competitions.

It was felt we need to understand when the subsidy started to get paid.

Bob Donnelly explained that the balance in the account had risen to approx. 19,000Euros. He said it was felt by the committee at the time we did not need so much money standing in the bank. The subsidy was introduced so

all members shared the benefit and the bank balance could be reduced. He added that it would be up to us to decide if the if 7000 euros was as low as we wanted the balance to go and should we now start to grow the account Balance.

Bob explained at this point the difference between the regional Federation fees and the National Federation fees and how they came about.

At this point the cost of Ink was added into the conversation in the past it has been as high as 600Euros. This year so far it is only 100Euros. Lisa confirmed she will only be taking 6Euros for her ink and Kevin 0Euros as his printing costs are minimal.

It was added that we would be saving 1500Euros as we are no longer paying for score cards to be printed as an organisation. This cost has already been passed down to the clubs.

It was agreed that ink usage needed to be better understood so we can justify the expenses being claimed.

Lisa questioned if the printing expenses were in relation to the federating of members should the money be coming from the Federation account.

A large proportion of the people in attendance at the meeting were unaware of the existence of a second account as it does not appear in the LLB accounts or on the balance sheet.

It was asked “who runs the account” and confirmed it is managed by Lynn Greenland. Dave Morrison asked “How much money is in the account”? Lisa Bonsor confirmed she did not know as it does not appear on the balance sheet and she has no access to it.

Bob Donnelly was the only person in the room who knew details about the account and why it was set up. A previous treasurer wanted the Federation money etc to be handled separately and the second account was created.

He confirmed we have two accounts and it was confirmed the LLB treasurer only has access to one of them.

In Summary the committee feel that all accounts must be reported to us at each LLB meeting by the LLB treasurer. The balance of the second account must be shown on the balance sheet and reported to the membership.

This must be dealt with urgently Lisa Bonsor (Treasurer) must be given full access to the account and the funds contained within it.

Lisa confirmed that at present when the federation fees are due to be paid Lynn pays 10Euros from their account and Lisa pays the 3Euros per member from the main account paying on behalf of each member the required 13Euros.

The second account must have a balance as World Bowls affiliation fees and fees for European Bowls are also paid from it. Ray Robson stated that the account cannot have a negative balance as there are a variety of payments and transactions going through it, therefore if it has a balance then we as the LLB committee and Lisa as the treasures should be aware of what is happening.

It was suggested that Lynn produces the statements relative to the account activity and then Lisa Bonsor should do a reconciliation of the two accounts based on all the figures available.

Peter Bonsor then asked Bob if it was correct that visiting bowlers from Almeria and the Costa Del Sol had been offered 100Euros sponsorship to take part in the National Competitions at Emerald Isles?

Bob Donnelly confirmed it was true and said that it was being done to prevent it becoming a South Alicante only tournament.

Dave Morrison objected to this and said it cannot be correct if local bowlers pay full price.

Ray Robson asked if this type of Sponsorship would be available to the rest of us if the competition was being held in a different area.

Bob Donnelly confirmed it would be.

It was asked who authorised the payment.

Bob explained there is an International Committee its members are as follows:

Bob Donnelly Suzi Cooper Gail Willshire, Fred Willshire and Lynn Greenland.

7. Membership Secretary Gail Willshire & 8 Membership Treasurer Lynn Greenland joint report.

We currently have 1,039 members federated across the Costa Blanca. There were a few headaches with the renewal process in December/January but we got there in the end and the cards have all been distributed.

Please note that anyone entering the Nationals needs to upgrade, paying an additional 20 euros. Membership Secretaries are asked to use the change form as normal, completing the 2nd section. The closing date for entries to the Nationals is 24th March and ideally all upgrades would be paid for by 31st March.

There is a slim possibility that the cost of the upgrade could increase slightly as the AGM for the FEB is in March and this is when the decision is made. This could also affect those that have already paid the full amount to play in the Spanish Squad.

As soon as we know anything we will report back.

9 Correspondence Kevin Storey.

Correspondence received from Graham Richardson who is the owner of country Bowls club. He has submitted an idea which he wants to share with all clubs and hopes that the club members will share his thoughts with the owners of their clubs premises. It is an idea aimed at ensuring clubs are able to fund carpet replacement going forward.

To the Secretary at the LLB,

Country Bowls would like to open a discussion on the proposal which follows. CB would like it to be discussed and considered by all bowling clubs in the LLB league as well as the LLB itself. It is meant to provoke thought and to perhaps be taken forward if gaining sufficient support, with the fundamental idea being that clubs will be working together on a means by which future and increasingly expensive new carpet costs will be shared amongst all clubs to the benefit of each.

As many owners and club members are aware, there is a big problem for clubs to renew their playing surfaces given the high costs associated with replacement. Country Bowls' owner has informed the club that he is not prepared to purchase a new carpet when the current one needs replacing, i.e. in 6 to 7 years' time. The current membership fees (which are proposed to

increase each year in line with inflation) will not be sufficient to meet the cost of a new carpet when required based on current 12 month membership numbers and the ongoing need for overheads, maintenance and running costs, taxes and a reasonable level of owner income to be met.

Country Bowls would therefore like to propose a possible solution which it feels is applicable to all clubs given that many, if not all, will be facing the same problem sometime in the future, whether short, medium or long term. We feel and fear that the increasingly rising cost of carpet outlay may cause some clubs to fail, and do not wish any to be added for such a reason to those that have recently had to stop operating (although it is recognised that these may not have been for specifically carpet related reasons).

The main proposal to be considered is therefore the following:

If all federated members of the LLB were to contribute 2 euros/week, to be collected by their own club and handed to the LLB via, for example, a club's Treasurer or Secretary, then with the current number of LLB members a figure of 114,400 euros/year could be raised. This money would be sent on a regular basis to the LLB which would hold it in a determined and specific bank account.

Based on the afore mentioned figure, it is estimated that two new playing carpets could be bought and fitted annually. This would allow all clubs to benefit within an adequate and appropriate timeframe, with the LLB working out a carpet replacement system and rotation based principally on need (some clubs will need a new carpet sooner than others as wear and tear take their toll and periods since last instalment vary). Such a system would negate the worry and need for clubs and owners when considering how they will find sufficient funding to cover what is each club's major bowling associated outlay.

Should 2 euros/member/week be considered excessive, then it is also suggested, given that a large number of clubs still have several years remaining prior to having to change their carpet, with more than one having installed a new one fairly recently, that the charge could be set at 1 euro/member/week, allowing for the replacement of at least one new carpet/year.

Yours sincerely,
Graham Richardson

10 Winter league Peter Bonsor.

Peter stated that there were two weeks left of the winter league but Greenlands have already won the title regardless of results in the last two rounds of games.

Premier 20 final Emerald Isles v Greenlands. With Greenlands coming out on top.

Peter reported that the Winter League Facebook page now has 270 members and he said the content contains poems, videos, pictures and lots of good banter he hopes it continues into next season and gets even better. He said he is pleased that the competition is thriving and is pleased we have had no requests this year to split into North and South competitions.

11 Northern League Peter Matthews.

All games were completed on time, he is however concerned that clubs continue to disappear, the Javea situation remains unclear and it is good that BBC have been able to put 3 teams in.

El Cid have won the league and the trophy was presented to them.

North v South playoff will take place 25th March at Bonalba.

At this point in time Keith Hamilton from Javea Green explained the clubs ongoing situation.

He confirmed their ground sharing agreement with Calpe has gone well, with the Collaborators doing well in the Winter League.

He said at the moment the club feels as though they have exhausted all options some of which had appeared to be very promising but have so far come to nothing.

The latest false dawn came when Javea council offered them three pieces of land with sports council approval. Many extras were also on the table in a package worth many thousands of euros. At the last minute the offers were withdrawn and the optimism disappeared. **One issue which will be pertinent to all clubs is the registry with the sports council. All clubs should be registered and as part of the process should submit AGM minutes to Valencian Federation fully translated into Spanish every 4 years. They were asked to provide previous documents translated and signed by the people who were present at the meetings. This was impossible as people who were there have passed away. So they have had**

to recreate the club from new and as such they will be known as simply Javea Bowling Club.

The club will continue for the next three months trying to find a solution to the issues of having no premises of their own. If unable they will need to either disband the club and the membership will move to Calpe. Or continue in a long term premises sharing agreement with Calpe.

He said should they disband the club there are some issues that will need to be dealt with. Their constitution states that all funds held shall be spread between sporting clubs and charities.

He also said they have a brand new 7 lane carpet in storage which they will need to dispose of.

12 Southern League Co-ordinator Dave Morrison.

Dave thanked Gail for the help she has given him as he got settled into the co-ordinators role. He confirmed that all leagues are finished and that they went well.

Div A winners **San Luis Lions**

Div B Winners **Quesada Swans**

Div C Winners **Monte Mar Matedors.**

Dave asked if all clubs can bring the trophies back engraved with last years winners on them.

He reported the new reporting sheets were working well with results received and published in a timely manner but more diligence is required as some sheets had some slight issues which have needed to be resolved.

Dave fed back that the winter Valencians had gone down well and those who took part had fed back positively about the experience. The tournament had been completed at zero cost to the LLB thanks to the donations from Greenlands. All prize money was covered by the entry fees charged.

Men's Triples Winners **Quesada**, Mens rinks Winners **Vistabella.**

Ladies Triples Winners **Greenlands** Ladies Rinks winners **Greenlands**.

The meeting agreed to continue with the winter tournament in its present form at the same time of the year with no impact on winter leagues. It is hoped that clubs wishing to host the tournament would endeavour to reduce or remove the costs to the LLB. A possible move of the pairs to the winter tournament will be considered going forward.

13 SA Co-Ordinator Winter John Obrien.

South Alicante Winter triples league is now complete.

Voyager League winners were **San Luis Trekkers, Country Bowls Ravens** were runners up.

Discovery League winners were **San Miguel Orcas, Country Bowls Seahawks** were runners up.

Enterprise league winners were **Quesada Pearls, emerald Isles Titans** were runners up.

Positive feedback has been received from various clubs in regard to the new result reporting sheets. The few teething problems encountered were minor and were easily resolved by using a sympathetic attitude. Only teams unable to field full teams were subjected to any penalty points.

The Valencians feedback survey has been completed and returned by a number of clubs. There were mixed feelings expressed regarding any proposed changes. Some clubs do not want any changes some do not want any the new disciplines that were introduced in December. Some do not want the Valencians moved to December. With so many different opinions expressed it is my opinion we continue as we are and engage in further discussions.

There has been a suggestion that the entry fees are raised but with costs going up everywhere it is difficult to see how that will help the Championships. Another suggestion offered is to have regional qualifying with the actual Championships being just the Semi finals and finals. For this to work we would need all clubs to agree to a reduction or removal of green fees for the preliminary rounds. It might prove expensive to all entrants.

So we will leave as is until all things can be thrashed out until acceptable alternatives can be found.

A draw was then held to host the Champion of Champions tournament this year. Emerald Isles, Quesada, Greenlands and Calpe nominated to host. Greenlands hosted last year so were not included in the draw. Quesada were the successful applicant.

14 SA Co-Ordinator Summer Ray Robson.

Last year was three divisions of 6,6,5 teams in each one. Because of withdrawals from Las Siesta and Vistabella requesting to drop from the top this year will be 3 divisions of 5 clubs. Bonalba have asked to enter into the league 1 team as a trial. This will be voted on by the Southern clubs in the following EGM's. The draw has already been done if Bonalba are coming into the league the bye will be replaced with the Bonalba fixtures. The league will start on 1st April. Gaps in the fixtures will allow for the C of C's and the Nationals.

15 Associate Co-Ordinator Peter Matthews.

Same as Ray ref change in numbers. VCL will start on 27th March. Northern Competitions are unclear if they will still run at the moment. BBC are offering to field 4 teams in an attempt to allow the league to progress.

16 Tours co-ordinator Sandra Heath.

Offered her apology for not being at the meeting. She is standing down at the AGM. No report sent.

17 AOB.

John O'Brien said he hoped that teams wishing to host the Valencians would put themselves forward before the next meeting. He said it would be good if they could offer support packages similar to what Greenlands have done for the Winter Valencians to reduce the financial commitment required from the LLB.

Ray Robson spoke on behalf of the match committee and said that he was pleased to see that the few changes which had been accepted into the Constitution of the LLB had worked well and been accepted by all. He did say that one further proposal which was rejected by the clubs last year should be looked at again and that is the fielding of substitutes from one squad to the next to cover temporary shortages within the squad. Ray said it did not matter what conditions we attach to it the rule needs to be changed. He quoted one example where Country bowls had three squads all due to play in one league. On this particular day 2 of the 3 squads had bye's. the third squad was 1 player short and so had to give away 2 points and 10 shots even though as a club we had 40 members able to play. So this not only impacted us but three players from their opponents did not get a game that day either. **We are trying to ensure people get to play bowls so this rule needs to be changed for the benefit of all.**

Dave Haynes from El Rancho asked if the LLB could circulate the pictures of the person concerned when we are publishing death notifications. He said we all play so many people some we know well others not so well and sometimes you do not know if the person concerned is known to you or not. He feels this might make a difference when people are considering going to pay their respects at the memorial services. Kevin responded that he was happy to do it but it would need to be on an individual basis. Not all families will agree but if they do and a picture can be supplied, we will oblige where possible.

John O'Brien has taken over the duties of the CBUMA. This used to be controlled by Fred Willshire but health issues have led to Fred taking a step back.

This organisation delivers markers courses and training for umpires and John will publish dates for future events once he is settled into the role. There used to be a committee of people running this but John is on his own at the moment. He has asked if any clubs have trained Markers or Umpires who are willing to get involve with the running of the courses and the administration of the organisation to get in touch with him to move things forward. He requires a secretary and a Treasurer as a matter of urgency. Lisa Bonsor has now volunteered to cover the treasurers' position for John.

We agreed on the dates for all meetings in 2024 Kevin will circulate the dates for the future meetings and add them to the Calendar.

Can all clubs please discuss if they wish to be considered as hosts for the Valencian Championships in 2024 and notify the LLB of your intentions to stand.

18 Date and Venue of the next meeting.

AGM 23rd April 2024 10:00am at

ALONAI RESTERAUNT SANTARA RESORT GRAN ALICANT.