

LEVANTE LAWN BOWLS (LLB)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10th October 2023 AT MONTE MAR BOWLS CLUB

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Raymond Robson, Keith Hamilton, Gail Willshire, Maureen Foulcer and Tony James.

Keith Longshaw will be hosting the meeting for the first time since he was appointed to the office of Vice President .

President (Delegado): Bob Donnelly	Benitachell	Y	Monte Mar	Y
Vice President (Chair): Keith Longshaw	Bonalba	Y	Quesada	Y
Secretary: Kevin Storey	Calpe Paseo	N	San Luis	Y
Treasurer: Lisa Bonsor	Calpe BC	Y	San Miguel	Y
Membership secretary: Gail Willshire	Country Bowls	Y	Vistabella	N
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	N		
SA Co-ordinator Summer: Ray Robson	La Manga	y		
Associate Co-ordinator: VACANCY Temp Peter Matthews	La Marina	Y		
Tour Co-ordinator: Sandra Heath				

Total Number of Clubs: 17 Number of Clubs Represented: 14

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd August 2023 were accepted

Proposed Peter Bonsor Greenlands, Seconder Neil Burrows San Luis.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. President – Delegado (Bob Donnelly)

Bob Commented on the Valencian championships and how successful the tournament was again this year. He Thanked the host clubs of Emerald Isle and Country Bowls for their efforts in ensuring all went smoothly. He thanked the owners of both clubs who had charged reduced fees for the duration of the tournament thus saving the LLB 350Euros. He also commented he was glad to see some different clubs winning some of the disciplines instead of a Greenland clean sweep. But he did congratulate Greenland's on another successful year for their entries. Other clubs who won trophies were Country Bowls and the Emerald Isle. For a full list of winning entries see John O'Briens report below.

5. Secretary (Kevin Storey)

Kevin apologised for the Email activity he had subjected everyone to in the previous month keeping everyone up to date with the work of the Match committee and the Counter proposals raised.

He also pointed out he is to visit Australia in January from 8th to February 15th and he will not be answering emails or handling correspondence during the trip so he was asking for a stand in to help out during his trip. Suzie Cooper who is a former secretary of LLB will happily stand in for this period. Kevin expressed his gratitude to Suzi for the gesture.

6. Treasurer (Lisa Bonsor)

*All due payments for league competitions has been received **1590 Euros**.*

*We have a working balance of **11533 Euros***

*The Valencians despite the generosity of club owners generated total costs of **2425 Euros**. The competitions raised **1480 Euros** so an overall loss of **945 Euros**.*

*Bob Donnely reminded Lisa of a **500 Euro** donation from Linear Directa. Which will offset some of this loss. Once again the host clubs were thanked for the provision of free water for the Markers who looked after the singles matches.*

7. Membership Secretary (Gail Willshire)

We have just federated 79 members with the sports council. We have 1,072 members listed but this still includes 9 people from La Siesta who have not joined other clubs and may have retired from bowls.

The last few months have been difficult for me and Lynn. At the end of July I sent a copy of my database to all of the clubs asking them to ensure they agreed with it or to notify me of any changes by the end of September ready for the league season. I do this every year. I have mailtrack and know that every membership secretary saw the email. Some did not respond at all while others seem to have got very confused.

Some membership secretaries have started sending me details of new members who are not federating (I am not interested in those), some have not classified people correctly as changing club, some have been telling me about changes for 2024 and some have missed people off entirely. Lynn has had to chase up payments and has not received proof of payment for all transfers.

I am into the 5th year of doing this job and this is the worst period for problems. Hopefully some of these issues have been ironed out now. However, it is important to point out that, like most of the officers on the LLB, Lynn and I have a number of jobs and we should not have to chase people and correct people constantly. When a membership Sec change there should be a handover from the previous one where possible. Otherwise, please ensure I am informed straight away and if necessary, I can try to meet with them and go through the forms and process.

Finally, would all clubs please ensure they notify Kevin Storey of changes in Presidents, Treasurers and Membership Secretaries. This information is required by Lynn and me to do our jobs.

AOB - Website

The results sheets for all of the leagues are on the website. They can be downloaded and the home team typed in before arriving at the venue - it is hoped this will speed up the process for everyone and ensure at least half of the information is legible!

There is also a pdf sheet that can easily be printed for completion manually.

8. Membership Treasurer (Lynn Greenlands)

Lynn confirmed the sentiments of the report from Gail and said the need for completed paperwork was exacerbated by the fact that all paperwork has to be sent to Valencia. Also a Bill from World Bowls is imminent in

respect of Capitation fees which will need to be paid for all bowlers including social bowlers using Club facilities. The quantity to be paid will be shared once confirmed.

9. Correspondence (Kevin Storey)

A letter from Thomas Heaslewood from La Siesta Bowls Club confirming the club will officially close down on 30th September 2023. From that date La Siesta will no longer be a member of the LLB.

Also Kevin has been in contact with a touring party who are looking for assistance in setting up friendlies with 7 clubs in our region. It will be in July 2024 no further details are known at this moment in time.

10. Winter league (Peter Bonsor)

Peter reported that the winter league had got underway a week ago and one round of fixtures had been played. The new result sheet was used for the first time and all results were in by 4pm. All results and league table on line by 5pm

1 Premier 20 game completed El Cid defeated Javea.

11. Northern League (Peter Matthews)

Started yesterday. Unfortunately, Javea dropped 1 team out of league last Tuesday as they feel they have insufficient players to support the original entry of teams.

12. SA Co-Ordinator (John O'Brian)

Valencians results 2023

Report re The Valencians 2023

The Championship went very well this year with the added benefit of no adverse weather conditions.

I would like to thank Christine Hughes who acted as co-ordinator at Country Bowls and Norman Prior who took the role on at Emerald Isle.

Neither of them had done this before, but they did a splendid job and ensured the Championship went very smoothly.

There was only one incident, this was due to an Umpire not measuring correctly and a player had to point this out, it was corrected and did not happen again.

I received the usual complaints regarding the necessity of playing more than one match per day, unfortunately, this cannot be avoided while the Valencians is played in it's present format.

Also, many people seem to be reluctant to enter this Championship as they are finding that it is still too hot in September to play every day.

I have listened to a number of suggestions from various entrants and the consensus appears to be that if we were to move the Championship to December when it would be cooler they would be happier to enter more disciplines.

There is also the cost of running this, each year the LLB loses a substantial amount of money, partly due to the diminishing number of entrants, there are a number of reasons for this, first, the number of bowlers in this region has dropped over the past 10 years, the bowlers who are still active members are, as we all know only too well, getting older and are less keen to play 2 games in one day and if they are successful, they often have to play day after day, this makes a lot of them reluctant to play in more disciplines, some are even considering not entering in future years.

We need to look at how we can make this profitable or at least, less expensive, preferably without raising the entry fee.

I feel that this has reached the point where we need to take a serious look at this Championship and attempt to make it more user friendly for ALL players. We could, for example, introduce regional rounds that could be played earlier in the year, then end up with a Semi-finals and finals in December when it is cooler.

Or the possibility of players organising their early rounds with the top named being home and the bottom named the away player, again with the semi-finals and finals in December

That is just a couple of suggestions, I am sure that some of you have ideas on what can be done.

If anyone has any suggestions, perhaps we could put aside some time either in the December or February meeting to talk this through.

Dave Morrison asked for clubs to discuss the future format of the competitions so that feedback can be given at the next meeting and a more sustainable format can be settled upon.

Valencians results 2023

Mixed Rinks –

Winners – Graham Richardson/William Miller/Darren Reynolds/ Carole
Donnellan CB

Finalists – Dave Morrison/Andy Miles/Debbie Perryman/Sue Bosworth GL

Mixed Trips

Winners – Pete Bonsor/ Lisa Bonsor/Peta Rhofes GL

Finalists – Sheila Westwood/Paul Durham/Freddie Willey VB

Mixed Pairs

Winners – Russell Marks/Sabrina Marks EI

Finalists – Darren Reynolds/Carole Donnellan CB

Ladies Pairs

Winners – Sue Elvin/Jackie Fenty EI

Finalists – Mary Dyer/Sabrina Marks EI

Mens Pairs

Winners – Pete Bonsor/Dave Morrison GL

Finalists – Peter Morgan/Mel Ward Q

Ladies Singles

Winner - Peta Rhodes GL

Finalist - Mary Dyer EI

Mens Singles

Winner - Pete Bonsor GL

Finalist - Dave Morrison GL

13. SA Co-Ordinator Summer Vacancy (Ray Robson)

Nothing to report

14. Associate Co-Ordinator (Peter Matthews)

Peter Reported that the VCL trophy has now been found and needs to be passed from Vistabella to Javea. Unfortunately, both clubs sent apologies for todays meeting so the exchange did not happen. It is hoped that Javea get the trophy before they have to hand it back

15. Tour Co-Ordinator (Sandra Heath)

Kevin was asked to ensure all touring team fixtures are on the LLB Calendar. He is sure all dates he has been made aware of have been included. If other dates are known please forward them to Kevin for inclusion.

Sandra then fed back about the ongoing relationship with "Bowling Abroad" and said "it is not good news". They do not want LLB to hold money for them they want to pay it direct to the hosting clubs.

They are also unhappy at having to pay 7 Euros for food and they don't want Soup. Bowling Abroad say at clubs further South they get a selection of Sandwiches for 3.50 Euros. If the LLB do not agree to these demands Bowling Abroad will withdraw their endorsement for bowls in our area.

The demands that LLB must agree to are to allow money direct to the bowls clubs. And they want host clubs to offer a selection of sandwiches. The money will be paid to the clubs prior to the visits.

Can all clubs please consider the two options and feedback if they agree to the demands of Bowling Abroad. It is felt only clubs that agree will receive future tour endorsements from them.

16. Any Other Business

It was asked if Javea and Calpe are using the same stickers on their bowls in their combined Winter League team. Lynn confirmed in their game all stickers were the same

Dave Morrison gave feedback regarding the “winter Valencians”. He has received 35 expressions of interest from teams across the 4 disciplines. Greenlands have confirmed the greens will be provided at zero costs. As will the officials. And trophies. The dates will be 18th and 19th December then 6th and 7th January

Keith Jones from San Luis has submitted a letter (below) ref the fixture schedule. He believes there are an excessive amount of afternoon fixtures and he wants this to be debated at the meeting.

Having just perused the proposed fixtures for the forthcoming winter season leagues I would like to express my disappointment at the number of afternoon matches some clubs have over others.

The Southern League Division A
Emerald Isle Cavaliers 9 afternoon matches
Greenlands oaks 1 afternoon match
Both have submitted 3 teams in the league

Division B
Quesada Swans 9 afternoon matches
Greenlands Cedars 5 afternoon matches
Division C
San Luis Leopards 9 afternoon matches
San Luis Pumas 3 afternoon matches
Greenlands Elms 2 afternoon matches
San Luis have entered 4 teams in the League

The South Alicante League Enterprise Division
The Emerald Isle Titans have 7 afternoon matches
whilst other clubs have fewer
Discovery Division
Quesada Rubies have 10 afternoon matches
Voyager Division
San Luis Vulcans have 10 afternoon matches
whilst San Luis Romulans have 3 afternoon matches.
Vistabella Beagles have 7 afternoon matches whilst their
Albatrosses in the Enterprise Division only have 1

I know from experience that scheduling is difficult but it should be possible to equalise the afternoon matches a lot better than have been issued. It takes time but is possible.

Dave Morrison responded he spent 6 hours trying to develop the schedule to avoid clashes. He said it is the first time he has done this but he is sure he can do better in the future. However he did also question the figures supplied by Keith and said some of them are inaccurate.

John O'Brien said he was contacted by Keith but said he would look after the Valencians. Then a team pulled out and he re-jigged it to try and do better. Then another team pulled out. John finds it annoying and feels the letter is based on his original fixtures not the re-jigged ones. And also detailed which of Keiths figures were incorrect. It was his first season doing the fixtures and accepts it could be better and is sure he will improve next season. It was very difficult as some clubs have multiple teams in the same league and obviously, they cannot all fit on the same greens at once. It was pointed out at this point that the date change proposal which will be discussed in the EGM could be used to alleviate some of these problems.

Colin Lindgren pointed out that he was disappointed with how many afternoon fixtures they had but the reasons why was explained to him and he accepted the explanation. He then thanked John and Dave for their efforts and said it was a tough job and they had both done well to produce the fixtures as they have with it being their first attempts. The delegates at the meeting agreed with these sentiments and thanked John and Dave for their efforts

17. Date and Venue of the next meeting

It was unanimously agreed that the venue at Monte Mar is not suitable as a venue and that we should seek to find an alternative for future meetings. The bars surrounding Monte Mar have all been dismissed as alternatives as the rooms are not big enough. The Monte Mar delegates have agreed to explore local facilities including the AJ Hotel to find an alternative and delegates from other clubs will feedback if suitable alternative venues can be sourced.

The meeting will be held on 5th December Venue TBC.