

## **Brighton & Hove Walking Football Club**

### **Special General Meeting - Lord Nelson Inn, 12th May 2025**

**Present:** Jobe Berrington (Chair), Ian Gretton, Rose Gardner, Sharon Hopkins, Neil Lewin, Peter Liddell, Franklin Wenham, John Finch, Nick Tate, John O'Donoghue, Robin Adams, Danny Carter, Peter Jones

**Apologies:** Julie Busfield, Jo d'Ambra, Rod Chinn, Des Harvey, Peter Faulkner, Peter Watts

**Minutes:** The minutes of the AGM held on 3rd March 2025, which had previously been circulated, were approved.

**Selection:** The Chairman said that the purpose of the meeting was to put the issue of selection of teams for tournaments to bed and to move forward in a spirit of cooperation. There had been a lengthy debate on the issue at the AGM, when a vote was taken to amend the Constitution. This would establish a hierarchy of teams, with selection by the managers of those teams. However, no exact wording had been agreed, rendering the vote invalid. The only solution was to call a Special General Meeting to discuss and vote on a proposed amendment, and according to the Constitution a two-thirds majority would be needed to approve the amendment.

A proposed amendment to item 5.3 of the Constitution had been drawn up and submitted to the Management Committee by Peter L and Frank, and Jobe had submitted an alternative. What was needed, he said, was something that would satisfy all members of the club and was future-proof.

Robin said that some of the wording in the proposed amendment was contradictory and confusing and placed unnecessary constraints on both managers and players. Jobe said he had researched the constitutions of a number of other walking football clubs and many of them did not have a section on team selection for tournaments.

All members present felt that team managers should have the final say in squad selection and should not be constrained by unnecessary regulation.

After several changes were made to the original wording of the proposed amendment, the following change to item 5.3 of the Constitution was put to the meeting:

**The Team Managers, who together make up the Selection Panel, must decide on their team or squad based on ability and availability.**

**The first team, known as the Dolphins, will have first choice of players. The second team, known as the Bees, will have second choice of players. The third team, known as the Penguins, will then decide on their squad.**

**Within the women's section of the club, a similar system will be adopted.**

**Communication between managers is essential to ensure that a member who has made themselves available to play for the Dolphins but is not selected should be considered for the Bees. Similarly, a member who has not been included in the Bees squad should be considered for the Penguins.**

**In general, there should be movement between teams to encourage members to play at their best and most suitable level, according to ability. However, where a member decides and makes clear to the managers in advance that they wish to play at a lower standard, managers should consider and respect that decision.**

The amendment was approved with 10 votes in favour and none against, with three abstentions.

The meeting closed at 20.40.