

Brighton and Hove Walking Football Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting - Moulescoomb Community Leisure Centre, 13/02/2024

Present: Jobe Berrington (Chair), Ian Gretton, Neil Lewin, Frank Wenham, John O'Donoghue, Graham Smeed, Brian Woodward, Joe Meredith, Sandra Hollingdale, David Adey, Julie Busfield, David Wilson, Peter Faulkner, Robin Adams, Nick Tate, Phil Brown, Peter Liddell, Andy Russell, Nigel Hollingdale.

Apologies: Ramola Manocha, Rose Gardner, John Finch, Jeannette Hollingdale.

Minutes of last AGM: The minutes of the AGM held on 20/03/2023 were approved and there were no matters arising.

Chair's report: Jobe said that this had been his first year back after his illness and he was pleased that the club was still doing well. There were now four or five sessions a week, all well run and enjoyed by members. The dedication and commitment of many members were astounding, he said. Where there had been differences of opinion, members had always managed to reach amicable agreements.

He said that the club welcomed all-comers and had a diverse membership, exactly as it should be. Three male squads, as well as the Starlings, regularly took part in tournaments. Contact with Clearwell had been re-established and the company had said they wished to continue sponsoring the club.

Treasurer's report: Julie said the club's finances were in a good state. Income for the year ending 31/12/2023 was £10,861.22 and outgoing were £11,059.23. £343.40 had been raised through social and fund-raising activities and £1565.00 was carried forward at the end of 2023.

The chairman thanked Julie for her work on behalf of the club throughout the year.

Membership Secretary's report: Rose was absent through illness but Jobe reported that the club now had 118 members, slightly fewer than at this time last year.

Weekly sessions: Hove Park - David A reported that Friday sessions at Hove Park had become very popular, while Tuesday sessions normally attracted 16-18 members. Costs were being covered, and there would be more free sessions in the future.

Peter L said that at a previous meeting it had been agreed sessions should alternate between mixed ability and same ability. But when between 16 and 20 members were present this was difficult to organise.

Frank said that skills training sessions could improve the way people played, particularly ball control and passing. If there was a demand, these sessions could be organised, and he suggested we extend the sessions at Hove Park to accommodate skills lessons. It was

suggested that we could extend the duration of some sessions to two hours. Frank volunteered to lead the skills sessions and Pete L also offered his services.

Action: Frank and session managers

To devise a means for including regular training in sessions

Action: David A

To investigate the possibility of extending Hove Park sessions to 2 hours

David W suggested new members should have a short preliminary training session so that they fully understand the rules of walking football before they begin playing. He also said that the better ability group on Friday should have a non-playing referee.

Peter F said he believed the club was stagnant and failing to attract new members. He suggested that the three-touch rule in mixed-ability sessions should be scrapped.

David A said the three-touch rule had been introduced to help improve players' skills, while **Nick** said it was difficult to referee when players were allowed unlimited touches. **Frank** said that during training sessions with the England Over-70s squad three-touch play was the norm and players were encouraged to play three-touch football with their clubs.

Robin said membership numbers were falling because we weren't doing enough to promote the club, not because of the way we play. He said he would be willing to set up a Facebook page for the club. This suggestion was approved.

Action: Robin

To set up a club Facebook Page and review promotional material and opportunities

Jobe proposed that we should establish an induction procedure for new members, telling them in advance what equipment etc they will need. Potential new members should inform club officials in advance of their intention to attend a session. It was also suggested that experienced club members should act as mentors to newcomers and that a welcome pack be prepared for all potential new members.

Action: Jobe

To gather information from new players prior to their first session and forward to session managers

Action: all session managers

To assign a mentor to a new player to help and monitor their progress

Starlings – Julie said that sessions were going well and that between 20 and 24 members attended each session at Preston Park.

Preston Park – Nick reported that normally that Preston Park sessions normally comprised eight- or nine-a-side games.

Tournaments: Several members suggested that the club should, if possible, enter more tournaments, believing it would improve our performance in these competitions. **John O'D** said that Over-50s and Over-60s leagues were now operating in both East and West Sussex and agreed to find out more about entering B&HWFC teams. He said both the Penguins and the Bees were entering a tournament in Bognor Regis in April and Eastbourne Borough were also organising a tournament.

Action: John O'D

To investigate participation in local leagues

It was agreed that squad managers would talk to their players about taking part in more tournaments.

Action: squad managers

To explore the possibility of squads taking part in more tournaments

Frank said that the club should enter the Walking Football Association's national tournament in May, and members agreed to enter two teams.

Action: David A

To coordinate entry for the Over-70s squad

Action: Peter L

To co-ordinate entry for the Over-60s squad

Clearwell Cup - It was agreed that the club should attempt to stage the Clearwell Cup tournament in the summer, while **Julie** said there had been discussions about holding a women's walking football in Preston Park.

A sub-committee comprising **John O'D, Mike Green, Rose** and **squad managers** would be established to attempt to organise the Clearwell Cup later in 2024. It was agreed to keep the format similar to the previous ones, but investigate alternative venues.

Action: John O'D and Rose

To set up a working committee to organise the Clearwell Cup – ideally for this summer

Social activities: **John O'D** said several successful social events had been organised during the year, including a quiz night at the Bevy, a tour of the Amex and a Christmas dinner at the Park View. The Chairman thanked John for his efforts.

Nick announced that the annual cricket match would take place at Patcham on Sunday, 7th July 2024.

Fund-raising: **John O'D** said the charity Awards for All, which is National Lottery-funded, make grants of up to £20,000 to social clubs such as ours. According to their website, three walking football clubs, including Portsmouth, have recently received grants of £10,000.

Frank suggested that the club could approach Albion in the Community, who provided funds to help establish the club in 2015.

It was agreed to pursue both of these.

Action: John O'D

To make further enquiries about Awards for All

Action: Frank

To approach Albion in the Community

Amendments to the Constitution: No amendments to the existing Constitution were proposed.

Election of Officers: The following members were elected or re-elected to serve as the club's management committee:

Chair: Jobe Berrington

Treasurer: Julie Busfield

Membership Secretary: Rose Gardner

Minutes Secretary: Ian Gretton

Social Secretary: John O'Donoghue

Kit Managers: Nigel and Jeannette Hollingdale

Session Organisers: David Adey and Nick Tate (Hove Park), Rose Gardner (Preston Park), Julie Busfield (Starlings)

Squad Managers: Peter Liddell (Dolphins), Robin Adams and John O'Donoghue (Penguins), Frank Wenham (Bees), Julie Busfield (Starlings)

Website Manager: Jobe Berrington

Promotions Officer: Robin Adams

Fixtures Secretary: to be appointed

Any Other Business - As Website Manager, **Jobe** appealed to members to provide action photos and videos from tournaments to replace members' profiles and photos on the website.

The meeting closed at 21.15.