# VETERANS’ BOWLING LEAGUE

# 73rd Annual General Meeting 2019

1.00pm Monday 18th November 2019

At Balmoral Bowling Club

1. **(i) Apology:** Honorary Secretary Brian Connor apologised for the late change of venue which had necessitated a telephone call warning to all Clubs.

**(ii)Welcome:** President Robert McCullough welcomed all to the meeting, thanking Balmoral Bowling Club, for again hosting the event at relatively short notice.

1. **Roll Call:** 40 Clubs signed the attendance sheet; most delegates were accompanied; 5 clubs sent in an apology. 14 Officers and Committee Members attended. All delegates had received copies of the 2018 Minutes plus the 2019 Agenda in advance and, on arrival, the 2019 Treasurer’s Report.

**Apologies:** Curran, Esplanade, Glengormley, Nortel, Windsor.

**In Memoriam:** On behalf of the meeting, Derek McCann read out the names and clubs of 30 Veterans who had died during the last year. The Meeting then observed a minute’s silence in remembrance of those we have lost.

1. **Minutes 2018:** The Honorary Secretary took notice that our records omitted one of our auditors John McCartney (Holywood) Otherwise taken as read and accepted as an accurate record of the 2018 A.G.M.

**Proposed Bell (Ewarts) Reynolds (Gilnahirk) and accepted unanimously.**

**D.1 Matters Arising:** None that did not arise in the 2019 Agenda.

1. **Correspondence:** None Received that were not included in 2019 business.

**REPORTS**

1. **President:**  President Robert McCullough thanked the Committee who had made his year such a pleasure – he outlined the events which made the year such a success.

The magnificent response to the Children’s Cancer Fund Charity gave him great pleasure. Opening Day was again boosted by the attendance of the Big Three Presidents. Closing Day was another great success.

What should have been one of the highlights of 2019 was marred by the weather which brought our Challenge against the “Provincials” to an abrupt end at Limavady.

Robert congratulated the N.I.B.A. selection on their victory over the Private Greens Veterans, at Pickie; he said a big thank-you to all who helped deliver Leagues, Cups and Competitions and to our Web-Site team.

Robert finished his speech by extending his best wishes to incoming President Derek McCann.

1. **Honorary Secretary:** Presenting his tenth Report **(enclosed),** Brian Connor also thanked the **Officers and Committee** for their continued support and guidance. He commented on the excellent attendance at the monthly Committee meetings – normally near 100%! He thanked all present for their attendance at the A.G.M. The Executive makes important decisions, but needs the continued mandate of the Clubs.

The Honorary Secretary expressed his, and the Committee’s disappointment that Dungannon had been unable to take their turn in the Presidential Rota; the Committee had nominated Portadown to assume the Vice Presidency for 2020 **but unfortunately no representative from Portadown was able to attend the A.G.M. .** Dromore, next N.I.B.A. team on the Rota were asked to nominate. The new Vice President will team up with incoming President Derek McCann of Downpatrick.

The Honorary Secretary highlighted the **Festival of Bowls at Belmont** , where, once again, 168 players participated, and our **Finals Day at Forth River.** He paid special tribute to **Competitions Secretary Jim Flynn** for his excellent management of these marathon events, despite inclement weather.

Our Charity Appeal raised £5,430 for Children’s Cancer Fund N.I. – a credit to veteran bowlers!

Balmoral played host to our sixth Opening Day in April and the response was encouraging.

Yet another successful **Closing** Tournament & Distribution of Awards was hosted by Balmoral, with, once again, a pleasing attendance of over 80 bowlers.

The Honorary Secretary again asked for continued patience; despite the rare mistake, the Executive makes all decisions for the good of veteran bowlers and continues to flourish; of course age, illness and death take their annual toll, but lost stalwarts continue to be replaced by new Veterans as they reach the big 60.

1. **Honorary Treasurer:** Harry Sloan presented his fifth written Statement of Accounts (enclosed) which revealed the V.B.L. to be in an excellent state financially, with a total of **£1,978.77** in our accounts.

**The Honorary Treasurer reported, with pride, that, thanks to the generosity of Veteran Bowlers, we were able to donate £5,430 to the Children’s Cancer Fund; though not quite equalling our 2016 record, this was an encouraging response and a credit to veteran bowlers. We have now donated total of £28,000 to this Charity; this sum was boosted by £671 from “Arvon’s Bucket”.**

1. **Auditors:** Sandy Dalzell and John McCartney both congratulated the Honorary Treasurer on “Shipshape and Apple Pie Order Books”; they and Ken Aiken also signed off the 2019 Accounts.
2. **Cups & Championships:**

In a comprehensive Report, J Flynn reported on the excellent co-operation he received from all clubs and competitors; he thanked Belmont and Forth River for their superb hosting of our semi-finals and finals respectively. 21 Clubs contested the Semis while 13 played in the Finals.

Jim also thanked the Umpires’ Association. He paid tribute to our Webmasters Michael Bunting and Paul McIlreavy for keeping all results up-to-date

Jim read out the full roll of honours which was as below

**Roll Of Honour: Cups and Championships**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
| TITLE | CUP | WINNER | RUNNER UP. |
| Intra Association | W.J.Irwin Cup | N.I.B.A. |  |
|  | Chris Lord Cup |  | PRIVATE GREENS |
| Inter Association | Perpetual Cup | V.B.L. | N.I.P.V.B.A. |
|  | G.W.Scott Cup |  |  |
| Hatch Cup | George Hatch Mem Cup | OLD BLEACH | FORTH RIVER |
| Lyttle Cup | Jack Lyttle Cup | OLD BLEACH | WHITEHEAD |
| Thornton Cup | Ernest Thornton Mem Cup | BANBRIDGE | WILLOWFIELD |
| Stevenson Cup | Harry Stevenson | SAINTFIELD 2 | BELMONT 2 |
| Singles | Len McMurtry Rose Bowl | BANBRIDGE | WHITEHEAD |
| Pairs | Thornton Trophy Pairs | PORTADOWN | LURGAN |
|  |  | K LAMOND W MARTIN | B BONESS H COSGROVE |
| Triples | George Richardson Shield | CLOUGHEY | ESPLANADE |
|  |  | E GWYNNE T THOMPSON | J MCCONNELL H HENNING |
|  |  | M FAY | J STEVENSON |
| Fours | Art McCullough Cup | WARD PARK UTD. | ULSTER TRANSPORT |
|  |  | R KAYES H KERR | B LENAGHAN J CARRUTHERS |
|  |  | A BAILE H MCFARLAND | R GILLESPIE T BROWN |

**J**  **League matters: H Gilmour** reported; he also thanked the V.B.L. Webmasters for their prompt processing of so many returns.

Harold reported that we have currently 59 Clubs who run 92 teams in 12 Leagues. He informed the A.G.M. of imminent changes. Divis, R.U.C. and Greenisland have withdrawn.

Harold noted quite a number of sides turning out one player short!

Generally the weather permitted matches to be played on schedule and most results came in “on time”.

Care must be taken filling in result cards! Home = Left/Top, Away = Right/Bottom.

Harold read out the League winners and Runners up were as shown below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| League Winners |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Zone A Section 1 | Montgomery Cup | OLD BLEACH | WHITEHEAD |
| Zone A Section 1A | Sam Boyd Memorial Cup | BALLYMENA 2 | LARNE 2 |
| Zone A Section 2 | Hugh Simpson Cup | CLIFTONVILLE | EWARTS |
| Zone B Section 1 | Pickie Cup | SYDENHAM | C I KNOCK |
| Zone B Section 1A | D Gill Trophy | HILDEN | SAINTFIELD |
| Zone B Section 2 | Raymond Connor Cup | BELMONT 2 | FINAGHY |
| Zone B Section 2A | Warnock Memorial Cup | GILNAHIRK | WINDSOR 2 |
| Zone B section 3 |  |  |  |
| Zone B Section 4 | Mourne Cup | ESPLANADE | LURGAN |
| Zone B Section 4A | Portadown Trophy | LURGAN | ESPLANADE |
| Zone B Section 5 | Fashion Sport Cup | PICKIE | DONAGHADEE |
| Zone B Section 5A | May Trophy | PICKIE 2 | WARD PARK UTD. 2 |

**K. Acceptance of Reports: These reports were Proposed for acceptance by K Aiken (Dromore) and Seconded by N Cunningham (Dunbarton): the Meeting accepted them unanimously.**

**L. Notices of Motion:**

J Carroll (Belmont) introduced a Motion which would permit the use of Substitutes in Veterans’ Bowling. It would offer opportunities to older and less able bowlers and to players unable to command a place weekly. The A.G.M. postponed any positive decision on the grounds that not enough time was given for clubs to discuss the matter and its implications. The Executive Committee will consider the proposals for 2020 Agenda.

**M. Votes of Thanks:** D Simpson (Ulster Transport) proposed votes of thanks to the ‘outgoing’ officers in turn. He thanked outgoing **President Robert McCullough and his team of Officers for a “marvellous job”.** He paid tribute to Treasurer **Harry Sloan** and Secretary **Brian Connor.** He praised **Harold Gilmour** and the **League Section Secretaries and the Competitions Secretary Jim Flynn.** He commended the work of our **Web-Master s** and invited all Clubs to access our excellent site which we hope to redesign.

The delegates once again showed their universal support for each of these Votes of Thanks with enthusiastic applause.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS. (Conducted by Brian Connor)**

1. **President: Derek McCann (Downpatrick):**

**Proposed Noel Walsh(Downpatrick) seconded Robert McCullough** **(Antrim Lawn):**

Receiving his chain of office from **Robert** he promised to serve to the best of his ability and assured all Veterans of a warm welcome in 2020.

**(ii) Vice President: William Clingham (Dromore)**

**Proposed K Aiken (Dromore) seconded Derek McCann (Downpatrick)**

The Honorary Secretary expressed his, and the Committee’s disappointment that Dungannon had been unable to take their turn in the Presidential Rota; the Committee had nominated Portadown to assume the Vice Presidency for 2020 **but unfortunately no representative from Portadown was able to attend the A.G.M.** Dromore, next N.I.B.A. team on the Rota were asked to nominate and Portadown were restored to their original position.

1. **Past President:** Outgoing President, **Robert McCullough** (Antrim Lawn):automatically assumed this office.

**At this stage of proceedings, B Boness (**Lurgan**) proposed that, as they had done such a great job, the remainder of the Committee should again be re-elected “en masse”! G Dawson** (Dromore) seconded the proposal and it was carried unanimously.

1. **Honorary Secretary:** The A.G.M. approved the appointment of **Brian Connor**.
2. **Honorary Assistant Secretary:** The A.G.M. approved the appointment of **Arvon Bickerstaff**.
3. **Honorary Treasurer:** The A.G.M. approved the appointment of **Harold Sloan**.
4. **Assistant Treasurer:** The A.G.M. approved the appointment of **John McCoy**
5. **Competitions Secretary:** The A.G.M. approved the appointment of **Jim Flynn**
6. **Section Secretaries:**The A.G.M. approved the appointment of **Harold Gilmour, Arvon Bickerstaff, Derek McCann and Dessie Simpson**
7. **Auditors:** The A.G.M. approved the appointment of **Sandy Dalzell, John McCartney** and **Ken Aiken.**
8. **Web Masters:** The A.G.M. approved the re-appointment of **Michael Bunting and Paul McIlreavy unanimously:**

**Any Other Business:**

1. Following discussion, it was decided that our Chosen Charity should remain **the Children’s Cancer Fund, Northern Ireland.**  Proposed M Bunting (Executive), seconded N Walsh (Downpatrick)
2. D Randall (Mossley) asked why there was little or no promotion or relegation in the Leagues. Some Clubs would enjoy seeing different venues and would relish fresh Challenges! H Gilmour explained that distance travelling was a problem for some clubs but that we are always ready to discuss requests from any ambitious club.
3. J Collins (Falls) complained regarding lateness for games/matches. He felt that the Executive had not given Falls’ protest a fair hearing. D Simpson, relevant Section Secretary explained that the matter had been debated at length at Committee and had taken the decision in the interest of the V.B.L. and both Clubs concerned.
4. Old Bleach, winners of League, Lyttle and Hatch Cup were honoured by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council; they were named “Senior Team of the Year”! The A.G.M congratulated old Bleach with a spontaneous round of applause.

**Close** there being no other business, the meeting closed at 3.00pm.

***Brian Connor***

**(Honorary Secretary)**