

Minutes from Hawcoat Park Seniors EGM 23/7/19 – 10.30 am Main Bowls Hut

A meeting was called to discuss current perceived selection problems within the Seniors Bowls Section.

Background - A letter had been handed in to the Seniors Bowls Chairman (Jim Bawden) outlining some members concerns about current seniors selection policy. (See attached letter below).

Tuesday July 16th 2019

To:- Hawcoat Park Bowling Club Selection Committee

Following recent events involving selection policy for teams, I would like to bring up two issues regarding the situation which resulted from my meeting with Billy McLaughlin re: selection for the pensioners teams.

It has always been my understanding, and that of many other players in our teams, that the merit tables form the basis of selection for teams, particularly the movement of players between two teams who are in the same league. Recently I was moved into the first team to replace someone who could not play and I remained in the team for two games, both of which I won. Prior to these games I already had a better record in this division than two members of the first team. I was therefore surprised to find myself dropped back into the A team following these two games. Just a couple of games later another player was unable to play in the first team and I assumed that I would be promoted back into the team. Once again however the topsy-turvy nature of first team selection procedures raised its head and a player who had made himself unavailable for selection after just one game of the season was brought back in to the team-so much for encouraging team spirit and giving a recognised pathway for promotion!! I approached Billy McLaughlin to ask him for an explanation. He told me that he does not use the merit tables for selection purposes and in addition I had only played a couple of the top players to achieve my current position. In fact I have played the top player in the opposition teams on no fewer than ELEVEN occasions, winning seven of these matches. I would have thought that this was ample reason to justify my selection to the team. I believe that if the first team is selected, in what appears to many club members, to be by a different system to other teams, then it is quickly going to gain a reputation as a team that is an old boys clique and selection to the team is based on how long you have been there. Is it any wonder we don't attract younger players to the Furness League teams if this policy was inherent throughout the club.

By far the most concerning issue however has revolved around this week's selections. Following Bill McLaughlin being unavailable, a player below myself in the A team merits was promoted to play in the first team. Again I asked why I was not selected and I was informed that it was because the first team players had not wanted me to play. If this is true it beggars belief and simply reinforces my comments above, about the creation of an old boys clique. In the event of other players facing a similar situation in the future, this is something which the selection committee cannot allow to happen, otherwise they will lose all credibility.

Yours in sport

Attendees: Chairman – Jim Bawden Secretary – Ray Williams

Phil Waplinton, John Gill, Ray Nutter, Tony Moxham, Joe Knight, Jack Curphey, Barry Christian, John Lavender, Paul Caine, John Sutherland, Ronnie May, Frank Ratcliffe, Mike Bowyer, Ian France, Bob Parkinson & Wilf Heywood

The meeting was opened at 10.30 am by the Seniors Chairman and the letter of "complaint" was read out to those in attendance by the chairman.

Those in attendance were reminded that the club did not have in place a selection committee for the seniors and teams were selected by captains. Bearing in mind the club now runs 4 teams and due consideration was given to those who were not getting a game in the lower teams.

Tony Moxham explained current selection policy and how it would be difficult keeping up with positional movement (changes in aggregates) due seniors fixtures being played on Mondays, Tuesdays and the occasional Thursday. So this would need to be considered.

John Gill expressed his support for the submitted letter of complaint.

Nick Reilly proposed that the Seniors Teams should be picked in line with the current selection policy for the Furness League. (Selection Committee).

The Chairman explained the current selection policy for the Seniors as agreed 2 years ago.

Paul Caine also explained how current selection works and expressed concerns about how the current 1st Team Captain had not been fully backed up.

A general discussion ensued in which Tony Moxham backed up the concerns raised in the letter.

The chairman intervened, called the meeting to order, and again explained current selection policy and that nothing had gone outside the current selection policy.

Ian France stated that current selection policy was not commonly known and suggested that the Seniors selection policy should be aligned with that of the Furness League.

The chairman again re-iterated nothing had gone on outside current selection policy.

Wilf Heywood stated he was happy with the current selection policy.

John Lavender suggested we adopt the same selection system as the Furness League.

Another general discussion ensued where various people voiced their opinions;

Ron May, Jim Bawden, Jack Curphey, Tony Moxham, Paul Caine, Ian France, Bob Parkinson and Barry Christian all expressing their opinions.

The Chairman called the meeting to order again and suggested there were 2 proposals on offer;

1. Keep current selection policy for the remainder of this season with a review at the end of the season so any “new” selection policy would be in place for next season.
2. **Bring in a change to current selection policy now – this would mean selection for the Seniors Teams being carried out in the same manner as selection for the Furness League Teams. Review of selection policy to be carried before the start of next season.**

The Chairman put these 2 proposals to the floor and a large majority voted for the second proposal.

Nothing else needing to be discussed the Chairman closed the meeting @ 11.35

Ray Williams - Sec