



FAB MALÁGA DELEGATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 17 February 2021

2.00 pm

Present:	FAB Chairman	Ron Jones
	FAB Treasurer	Julian Thomas
	FAB Team Malaga	David Mainwaring
	FAB Comp Sec	Robert Wright
	FAB Vice President	Bixo Foletti
	FAB Secretary	Bill Neal
	Benavista	Doug Hall
	La Posada	Jeff Rowe
	Lauro	Not Present
	Mijas	John Wilson
	Miraflores	Carol Frost
	Santa Maria	Sandy Guthrie
	Saydo	Tom Maclean

The Chairman welcomed all the members to our first committee meeting conducted via the internet. He also confirmed that all members had received three documents sent previously, the agenda, January accounts and a proposed calendar discussion document. All members agreed they had received them and had a chance to peruse the detail.

The previous meetings minutes, as amended, were agreed to be a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising.

Ron went on to discuss with the Clubs their decisions on reducing Federation fees in light of the last meeting.

After a short discussion, the majority of Clubs responded that they don't want to compromise Club fees and the present Federation fees should remain.

Ron reminded the Clubs that it is not beneficial to make money from the Clubs as the money doesn't belong to us and the spending options are very limited.

Julian added that any money raised through fees can only be spent on Federation events.

Carol asked if we could use the money to promote our sport on the coast.

Ron reminded the members that various suggestions had been raised in the past but unfortunately no agreement was ever reached by the Clubs so the plans never came to fruition. Use of the media: adverts for publishing ("infomercials") have been prepared before but the idea did not receive Club support. Without Club support, they cannot go forward. We currently have no Press / Publicity Officer and this makes it more difficult to organise a concerted campaign. He asked the Clubs to check with their members to see if anyone was willing to take on this role.

Ron also confirmed that when John Carr was the press officer, he spent much of his time chasing Clubs for material and information for publishing. Perhaps some of the Clubs didn't, and still don't, have media representatives which might explain the lack of support.

Ron reminded the Clubs that the Federation's role is to help the Clubs but it must be on projects that meet the conditions laid down by the Junta de Andalucia / FAB.

Julian added that Jaen controls the funding and employs strict control on the funding streams used. He reminded Clubs the system has changed for invoices/payment and before any future submissions; Clubs must ensure 'all our ducks are in a row'.

Carol ended by saying she strongly suggested we keep the fees and use the money to promote our sport.

Ron concluded the discussion by asking the Clubs to speak to their members and come up with ideas of how to spend the Federation money raised in ways that will promote our sport and bring any ideas to the next meeting.

Bixio spoke about the Federation cards and all Clubs confirmed they had received the individual members cards but not the Club card. Bixio confirmed that the Club cards had not been issued yet and voiced his opinion that most Clubs didn't use the Club card anyway. He also apologised for his having to leave the meeting early.

First Round Draws.

On the subject of players from Clubs being drawn against their own Club players and being allowed to play that round at the home venue.

A lengthy discussion took place with the general view being that the whole purpose of taking part in a competition and open draw, surely, was to visit other Clubs, play different greens and meet old friends. Playing a drawn game, at home, feels like any normal 'roll up' session and perhaps lessen the competitive edge.

Sandy confirmed the general feeling by saying that we should go with the luck of the draw and play wherever.

Tom reminded other Clubs that he had mentioned the possibility of playing at home as this would save an enormous amount of travelling and time wastage for his Club and, perhaps for La Posada and equally for people travelling to those Clubs.

Julian said that this was proposed as an option and not compulsory. If the players involved still wished to travel they would be able to do so.

Ron then proposed a vote that if players are drawn against their own Club, the host Club can provide an option to the players regarding venue.

All the Clubs agreed with this vote.

Treasurer Report.

A copy of the financial statement was displayed for all to see and Julian went through the relevant details.

All members agreed that the account provided was a true and accurate record.

Julian also suggested that the figure of 3730 euro shown as the total assets should be kept as a 'buffer' to allow the Malaga delegation to spend on incidental costs incurred throughout the year ahead. He cited the Umpires Association as an example of a cause that we want to fund but has no official funding stream within the system.

Carol asked if the 4396 euros paid from 2020 to Jaen shown under cash situation, was available for Clubs. Julian explained, again, that, this cash belongs to Jaen and is under their control and will be spent as they see fit.

It was confirmed by Bixio, that it has been agreed that the funds we send to Jaen are, nevertheless, earmarked for use by the Lawn Bowls fraternity when we need it and not intended for general use amongst the other bowling specialities.

Sandy asked where the funding for Team Malaga comes from and could we use the surplus funds to help offset their costs? Ron explained that we (Malaga) are part of the Andalusian Federation and they prioritise funding. Regional, Provincial, Clubs. So that for example, the Andalusian Championships would have first priority, followed by any Andalusian "Regional Team", then comes Provincial funding - Provincial Championships, Provincial Teams, then would come Province wide events that are not "Provincial".

He reminded the meeting that funding for the Malaga team was already a high priority, and gave an example that funding for a bus had been made available to take the team to play against Almeria. Such funding was not available for the match against Spain, however, as this was not an officially recognised fixture - Provincial teams cannot play competitively against National teams.

Chairman Announcements.

Ron then told the meeting that the FEB had announced that the Spanish National Championships have been cancelled for 2021. It is expected that they will resume in 2022 as normal.

An Andalusian Lawn Bowls 'Whatsapp' group had now been formed and all members had the details on how to join. The idea is to use this group to keep all Clubs throughout the region - Almeria and Malaga - informed of decisions made from higher authorities and pass the information downwards to Clubs.

Already Clubs now had to submit a report regarding COVID protocols and their continued obedience, every 15 days via the group. A protocol sheet to be used will be published shortly.

The group will encourage people to visit the FAB website (andaluzadebolos.org) which has information for all of the bowling types within Andalusia. The site is in Spanish but has a Google translate option for all articles.

Calendar.

At the last meeting we discussed a rewrite to the forthcoming calendar with Clubs given the chance to take it to their members for discussion. Ron offered a chance to discuss the changing of the calendar to operate within the financial year period covering January to December. We could incorporate known membership figures of Clubs for the league(s) and the 'snowbirds' who may be constrained by the 90 day rule for staying in Spain.

Robert then discussed in detail the draft calendar already provided to members which he had prepared in discussion with David, regarding the possible new league format.

It was proposed to have separate leagues during the year taking into account both those resident in Spain and the overseas members. These leagues could be different disciplines but each league would result in a winner. Overseas members could choose when they wish to return and hopefully this allow them to take part in some sort of league experience during their stay.

Robert went on to explain that if we maintain the main disciplines currently grouped together within the Malaga Provincial Championships (Men's /Ladies Singles, Men's /Ladies Pairs, Men's /Ladies Triples. Mixed Fours) amongst the Clubs that would result in all Clubs having one of these events.

Also explained was that each month would have 3 spare weeks to allow Clubs to organise their own competitions and events, in consultation with other Clubs where necessary.

David suggested to the Clubs that with possibly reduced numbers of members, perhaps we should only have one team per league, per Club.

Carol stated that her Club members had received the new calendar with enthusiasm and thought it was a good idea and workable but with reservations of the so called spare 3 weeks available to Clubs. This would soon reduce once other Clubs dates were entered onto the calendar.

Ron added that the calendar was a good concept in principle and it gave us a great chance to spread our currently crammed calendar over a 10 month period, excluding perhaps the hot summer months of July and August.

A quick survey was then made from all Clubs who provided the following approximate percentage figures of their overseas members who may find themselves affected by changes brought about by Brexit. This was as follows:

La Posada – 0% Saydo – 0% Lauro – 15%
Mijas – 40% Santa Maria – 50% Benavista – 50% Miraflores– 60%

Julian explained that with these figures, approximately one quarter of current members potentially have a problem. Ron agreed but said that each Club suffers differently which will have a great effect on future planning details.

David asked if Clubs could submit their competition dates to Robert to allow him to adjust the calendar and reminded everyone, this calendar proposal was just that and was being put together so it would allow snowbirds a chance to compete during whichever period they decided to return, and full time players in the Clubs to participate through a 10 month period.

Ron asked for a show of hands at this point to support the changing the calendar to cover a calendar year. All Clubs agreed to this suggestion.

A discussion took place with members expressing their concerns about making a decision about calendar content now without discussing it with their members both resident overseas.

Carol and Sandy agreed that they would like to leave this matter for further discussion.

Jeff added that the concept of the calendar was good and we have to decide and plan ahead now for next year. He also thanked Robert and David for their efforts so far.

Ron asked Clubs if they could consult their overseas members to try and ascertain their plans for later this year and next year. It was agreed to defer any calendar discussions until a clearer idea of the ramifications of Brexit on the overseas members and it was suggested we revisit it in September.

He informed the meeting that he and Julian would have to submit a calendar and budget to the FAB for submission to the Junta de Andalucia but that they would not publish this as it bore no resemblance to what was expected to take place for the rest of this year. He would amend it on a monthly basis in line with the Junta's requirements.

Any Other Business.

With the lengthy discussions having been held no other business was offered by any Club or committee member.

Next Meeting.

Ron thanked the members for attending remotely and agreed it would be the same for the next meeting, Friday 19th March at 1400, if COVID conditions were still in place.