

## Smarden Short Mat Bowls Club

### AGM Minutes 29th February 2024

Prior to the meeting, Geraldine Dyer, Chair of the Charter Hall trustees, updated the club members on the current situation regarding the finances of the Charter Hall as a preliminary to the secret ballot (see 1(c) below)

- 1) (a) Apologies :** Ralph Sands, Alan Hipkiss, Roger Wilmot, Jocelyn Craig, Roger Craig, Chris Pugh  
**18 Members present** JL SM AB CK TL KR GD IM LB RB JH ES MP JG MF MN LI BD

**(b) Previous AGM minutes :** Agreed.

**(c) Secret Ballot on Charter Hall donation :**

Forms issued at meeting. Non-attendees have until 14th March 2024 deadline to complete and post their forms in the ballot box.

**(d) and (e) First Aid training :**

LI and JL to be volunteers. Full training to be given and all costs to be funded by the Club.

**2) Captain's Report:**

**April 3 :** Friendly v Hamstreet . 3 teams of 3 players. Combined score loss 18 -51

**May 7 :** Village Coronation celebrations : Treasure Hunt stall raised £84. After deductions of £16 for expenses, £26 was distributed as prize money and £42 as donations to 3 charities.

**Aug 6 :** London Beach cream tea. Profit for Club funds after expenses = approx. £400

**Oct 16 :** Friendly v Coxheath. 2 teams of 4 players. 1 match won (17-15) 1 match lost (4 -18)

**Dec 17 :** London Beach lunch. 35 attendees (8 from High Halden Bowls). Cheque for £1400

presented.

**Feb 16 :** Friendly v Headcorn cancelled. Illness and lack of players.

- 3) Treasurer's Report [2023/24 accounts]:** From last year, subs raised from £2.50 to £3 per session. Thanks to Joy and Janet for arranging two functions at London Beach, raising just over £1000. Bank balance healthy enough to upgrade equipment (ie new mat, jacks and measures). Weekly balance sheet for 2023/24 with current bank balance issued to members.

#### **4) Secretary's report:**

##### **Hall hire rate increase :**

From 1 April 2024, Hall fees will increase from £31 to £40.50 per session. As a comparison, if the number of sessions from April are the same as last year, the Club will pay an additional £600 in Hall fees. There is an option to reduce this rate to £36 per session by paying for all sessions in advance to December 2024.

There was lengthy discussion among members on whether this option should be considered. Main advantage = saving of approx. £160 for this current year until December. Main disadvantage = uncertainty over Charter Hall's financial situation. Club funds would need to be monitored carefully with an option to increase weekly session fees if attendance and therefore income drops.

**(a) Members proposals:** None received

**(b) Committee proposals :** Questionnaire to be sent out later in the year including, for example:

Playing friendly matches v other clubs, playing competitions in-house, playing in S.E.K.

Summer/Winter leagues, trips to Potters/Warners, Summer/ Christmas socials etc.

**(c) Reminder re. 2024 membership :** Renewal due by 31st March 2024 (form completed and subscription paid). MN to forward cash payments to the Treasurer.

**(d) Membership and waiting list:**

(1) Current membership: Registered playing members = 24

(2) There is at present a waiting list of 3. MN has contacted all three with a view to joining. One has not replied, one of the other two is unwell but will contact in future.

**(e) League results :**

2023 Spring Fours : Came top in round robin, lost to St. Michael's in semi-final

2023 summer pairs league : came 4<sup>th</sup> out of 6. Winners = Hothfield

2023 winter triples league : Tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place on points but had to settle for runners-up to Hamstreet on shot difference.

**(f) Reminder :** Re: Hothfield tournament Sunday 24 March. 3 players needed. MN needs to know entries by Thursday 7 March.

#### **5) Committee nominations:**

LI thanked Joy in appreciation for all her work on the Committee since 2015 and LI also thanked Ralph for his commitment to the Treasurer's role since 2020.

(1) Nominations for vacant Club Treasurer.

Chris Pugh offered his services and was duly elected. Proposer RB and seconder LB

(2) Nominations for vacant Club Vice Captain.

Geraldine Dyer offered her services and was duly elected. Proposer RB and Secunder LB

(3) The Club's committee posts for Captain, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Chair

remain the same.

**6) A.O.B.**

JG raised the idea of another social gathering at London Beach to raise funds for the Charter Hall. Janet suggested a Sunday carvery with no set seating plan. Marcus proposed the idea with Janet as Secunder.

**There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.52.**