



WELLINGTON (SOM) BOWLING CLUB

REPORTS OF THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 13th

There was a 1-minute silence as we remembered members who had died during the past 12 months.

1 The Chair Paul Kelly declared the meeting open 7.01pm.

2 Apologies for absence

Tony Woollard, Richard Whiting, Simon & Monica Spalding, Geoff Stamp, Ken Foweracre, Debbie Beasley, Richard Whiting, David Beaudet, Sally & Chris Williams, Bernard Barnes, John Lister, Steve Bradnum, Tony Weston.

3 Presidents address by Ann Cowling

I am very honoured and proud to be nominated as your President. I have been a member of the club since 2006/2007 and over a period of time taken on various roles – Social Secretary, Treasurer, Ladies Administrator and Ladies Captain. Bob (my husband) was new to the area after living in Berkshire for 25 years and as Bob was already a bowler, we joined Wellington. I did not want to bowl as I did not like the “uniform” at the time. Well, I am here now which is all down Dick Northam who persuaded me to try and luckily was also my coach. Now 100 years old it was good that he was able to Open the Green for us this year.

By being members of the club, we have many friends and acquaintances who helped us to find other interests in Wellington and the surrounding areas. We do not regret our move to Somerset.

That is enough of me - now down to business.

Congratulations to :-

- **The A Team** in the West Somerset Bowls League – winning division one for the first time in 40 years.
- **The Lions** for winning Division 3 in the Exeter & District over 60s Triples League and gaining promotion to Division 2. **The Tigers** won division 5, resulting in promotion to division 4.
- **East of Ex Mixed League** Division B: We came third overall and will stay in the same division.

Mixed Friendlies

They were run to perfection which allowed our new members to get involved.

Ladies matches

Please see Brenda Wilson's report. It was a good season and well supported, may it continue.

May Open Day

It was good to see so many people showing an interest in the game of bowls and from that we have increased our membership. A big welcome to all our new members.

The Club's competitions

All went smoothly with the Finals Day being well supported by so many of our members- this was the weekend when the sun shone, and the temperature rose – *not on the green!!*

Congratulations to all the winners.

President's Day and Closing of the Green

The whole afternoon went like clockwork, and this was down to all those members who worked “behind the scenes” before and on the day and all the players who took part on a sunny and windswept afternoon.

I would also like to thank Paul and his team who have worked extremely hard to provide us with an immaculate green for the whole of the 2023 summer season.

Thank you to all our members, throughout the outdoor season. Who have supported my chosen charity "Reminiscence Learning". We invited Fiona Mahoney, Director, to join us so that we could present the check to her in person. Just before that, the Reminiscence Learning Choir sang a number of pop songs for us, which was most enjoyable. We were still raising money during the afternoon which meant I did not know the full amount until the end. I was highly delighted to see the grand total of £650.00. Steve Lovell and I had great pleasure in presenting Fiona with the big cheque which is now displayed in a club house. Fiona expressed her sincere thanks and said it will go a long way in helping to achieve their goal of £20,000.00 this year. My chosen charity for 2024 is Guide Dogs for the Blind, which I hope you will all support.

Earlier in the afternoon Steve presented a cheque for £200 to Air Ambulance, raised via the collection tin, which is kept on the bar plus monies from the Social Fund. An excellent finish to the outdoor season.

My first year has been a memorable one.

Outdoor season 2024 will soon come round. Right.

Ann Cowling

4 The minutes of the 2022 AGM held on the 14th November and the subsequent Special General Meeting held on Monday 13th February 2023 were approved.

5 Matters arising from the previous minutes. There were no matters arising.

6 Chairperson's Comments Paul Kelly

It was incredibly good to get back to a full Season's bowling and leaving the disruptions that COVID caused well behind us. The weather was what we can expect in an English summer, mixed. I'm sure you will all have used your waterproofs. I did with reluctance on multiple occasions, but bowling in the rain beats not bowling at all.

A grave concern during the last year was the massive increase in utilities bills. Our cost during the winter was triple the previous year. The action which was approved by the members was to increase our annual subscriptions at an EGM. This has resulted in the club finances recovering well from the hit caused to bank reserves. You will see from the audited accounts that we managed to make a small profit of circa £2K, year, on year. Our reserve account is back to the level of the previous year despite taking a big hit when we replaced the carpet and underlay in the Indoor Rink. What is not shown is that our reserves at the lowest point in March last year, was £32K?

Contributing to our stabilisation as a club to ensure our running costs are covered each year was the concerted effort to recruit new members. Prior to this the result of little recruitment for three successive years had resulted in a 20% reduction in membership. Recruitment has now been extraordinarily successful, with 34 new bowlers joining us during the year. A huge thank you from me for all that put in and the hard work to get out and generate interest. Feedback from those recruited is very positive. The Bowling "Buddy scheme" was a new initiative this season and it was voluntary. New members requested interest in being assigned a buddy. Feedback is showing this was a huge advantage in making members welcome as they gained an understanding how the game is played, rules, etiquette and where to make yourself available for matches, etc. It has opened a debate as to whether we should assign a buddy on joining. That would require expanding the number of Buddies. If you're interested becoming a buddy, please approach me for more information.

The coaching team have been amazing, especially a big thank you to Martin, who always seemed to be on the green during July and August delivering the free taster sessions to those showing interest in playing bowls. We have during the year added two additional coaches, Janet, and Angie, to give us more coaching capacity. Richard is running skills training for those who want to play competitive bowls. We would like to add to our coaching team next season. If you are interested, please speak with Graham Brown or any of the coaches.

The Social Team have been very busy during the year with a varied programme of events to entertain you. The one area where, as a club we have not bounced back to pre-COVID levels is in the number of members attending our social events. The team believes our advertising events do reach you and all the members. What are we not doing? What would generate your attendance? We will have an open question session after the AGM, your chance to discuss issues and debate personally. Having attended most events, bingo the exception, I can say the content, variety and quality has been exceptionally good, but I must stress that it is important that we give them our support by attending these events in greater numbers.

It is important as the Social Events produce income from the bar that adds to the running of a profitable club. It also one of the main reasons stated in feedback from new members. The social aspect is a strong driver for joining. All revenue is ploughed back into the club, supporting areas such as the green and indoor facilities

that you the member use. We have a high standard of playing surface and club facilities. Those that play away matches will have seen what happens when you do not have a buoyant membership. Many clubs regrettably are in terminal decline.

I would like to thank all of you as Members who have contributed to the year successes. It is the unseen work from all of you that has enhanced Wellington Club standing with the other Bowls Clubs and the wider community. Teams look forward to playing at Wellington and it is you, our members who make it a pleasant experience for our visitors, which by the way is over 1200 people in a season. One task is a must do for next year is to expand sponsorship links. We have looked at how other clubs achieve this. We must develop an action plan for Wellington.

At the AGM, one task is to appoint Post Holders to serve on the Executive Committee. Most of the existing post holders are prepared to stand again, which is very encouraging. Derek Alford has stood down as Treasurer having served three years in post but will continue in a supporting role as Deputy Assistant Treasurer. Thank you, Derrick, for your services over the past three years.

Paul Kelly

7. Executive Committee Members Reports

Admin Coordinator's Report- Jay Merrell

I took on this role on an acting basis at the 2022 AGM due to there being no volunteers. It can be a busy and challenging role at times, but I have decided to volunteer for a further 12 months.

I would like to pay tribute to those club volunteers who comprise the admin sector sub-committee.

Our Admin Assistant is Brian Wombwell, I can safely say if it were not for Brian there is no way I could have carried on with this role, as well as my other club duties such as fixture secretary, webmaster etc. Much of Brian's work is carried out quietly behind the scenes and he doesn't receive the credit he deserves for helping to ensure the smooth running of the club. One of the many tasks he takes on is responsibility for club shirts. At most clubs, this role is a stand-alone duty, if any member is prepared to take this on, please let Brian or myself know.

Our Membership Secretary is Lynda Manning, at a club our size this is another busy and challenging role. Lynda has worked tirelessly to help integrate twenty-two new members who have joined this year, ably assisted by Clive she has also updated the Bowlr records of all our members. Bowlr is not loved by all, and it does have some significant room for improvement, but it remains an essential tool enabling the smooth running of the club.

Publicity is the responsibility of Di Dagg, she is regularly in contact with local media outlets with our news. I occasionally hear comments from members that such and such an event was not publicised in local media, can I invite all members to be more proactive in this area, if you send any interesting news to Di, I'm sure she will forward it to appropriate outlet, whether the WWN or Around Wellington website.

Our Welfare Officer is Steve Lovell who combines this with the Functions Coordinator role. Steve is regularly in contact with members who maybe, for example, unwell offering help where appropriate. Please let Steve know if you hear about any member who might be unwell or just in need of some assistance, perhaps simply needing a lift to the club for a roll-up occasionally, Steve will always try to help.

Working closely with Steve is Henry Richbell, the club's Safeguarding Officer. I am sure Henry will agree that in many ways the less we hear about this role the better, but it remains an essential role, indeed one we are legally obliged to provide with a suitably trained volunteer.

The other role within the Admin Coordinator's sector is the webmaster, which I carry-out myself. If anyone has an interest in this area, please let me know. Populating the website with content is a job that can easily be shared.

A recurring topic in my report is acknowledging the efforts of a few volunteers who help ensure the smooth running of the club for the benefit of all members. Occasionally club officials, whether members of the Executive, team captains or selectors must make difficult decisions which not all members will agree with. When we join the club each year, we agree to abide by the club Code of Conduct, a copy of which can be found on the website. One of these codes is "All members must respect officials and publicly accept their decisions". We must all remember this the next time we are unhappy about a selection decision, or a decision on another matter by the Executive Committee.

Jay Merrell, Acting Admin Coordinator

Lynda has kindly provided the following summary of our membership numbers.

Overall it's been an excellent year regarding membership with numbers almost getting back to pre-pandemic levels.

The Open Day was well supported and it was pleasing to see how many actually progressed to applying for membership and in total 17 have joined the Club as a result of the Big Bowls weekend. Taking into account others that approached the Club direct and took up membership, the total number of new members for this year is 22. (6 ladies & 16 men)

We currently have (including Pétanque members) 251 Members. The number of Members per category are;

	Men	Ladies
Outdoor Members	93	45
Indoor members	102	50
Social	73 in total inc Pétanque members	

Historically the Membership numbers have been;

2014	70 men (inc 4 life members)	22 women= 92 outdoor members.
2015	84 men (inc 4 life members)	30 women= 114 outdoor members
2016	88 men (inc 4 life members)	31 women= 119 outdoor members.
2017	85 men (inc 4 life members)	41 women= 126 outdoor members
2018	90 men (4 life members)	45 ladies (1 life member)= 135 outdoor members
2019	94 men (4 life members)	52 ladies (1 life member)= 146 outdoor members
2020	Not available	
2021	71 men (3 life members)	40 ladies (1 life member) = 111 outdoor members
2022	66 men (2 life members)	39 ladies (1 life member) = 105 outdoor members
2023	93 men (1 life member)	45 ladies (1 life member) = 138 outdoor members

Based on the May 2023 SBA Returns, these numbers compare well with other clubs in Somerset.

The others were;

Minehead 138, Ashcombe 121, Ilminster 119, Victoria (WSM) 119, Burnham 118

Finally, I am pleased to confirm that Bowlr is now up to date and correct.

Lynda Manning Membership Secretary

Bowls Co Ordinator. Graham Brown

Summary:

Without dwelling on the details, after a promising 2022 League season the 2023 season got off to a troubled start. The impact caused a lot of issues for the selectors who had to work hard to create new squads.

Ian's unfortunate spell of illness created a bit of a vacuum, but the team rallied well, and matches progressed as scheduled and Ian thankfully fully recovered.

The undoubted success this season was the tremendous recruitment activity, which has put the club back in a healthy position in both terms of membership and new talent emerging.

Another objective was to try and elevate the status of finals weekend and President's Day, which judging by the feedback both were pleasingly achieved.

Bowls Coordinator subcommittee activities

Firstly, I would like to thank each of my subcommittee members for their support and contribution throughout 2023. Being my initial year in the post, and new to the club, there was a lot to familiarize myself with the way things are done in Somerset. In this respect I thank Jay in particular for his guidance throughout the season. In my opinion, the outstanding success for the club this year has been the outcome of the "Big Bowls Open Day" and supporting recruitment activity. With many clubs struggling to maintain, let alone grow membership, the number of new members we have welcomed has been excellent. This would not have been achieved without the support of the coaching team, and special mention needs to be made of Martin Speakman for his total commitment to getting the significant numbers through their initial free coaching sessions. It is encouraging to see that many of the new members are now making themselves available for friendlies and some making League appearances which augers well for the future.

Regarding coaching, I again congratulate Janet Moore and Angie Moore on successfully completing their Somerset Coaching qualification and subsequently delivering initial coaching for several new members. In addition, Richard Whiting will be running several courses over the indoor season aimed at developing

established bowlers in preparation for 2024. There will be programs for both front and back-end bowlers so please contact Richard if you would be interested.

I would also like to thank Trevor Jenkins for his role as Outdoor Competitions Secretary. Always seemingly a controversial office, but it was our joint intention to make this year's competitions worthy of the status they deserve. We received an impressive number of entrants, and after some initial bumps in the road, resulted in an excellent Finals weekend with both high-quality matches and an excellent turnout from members spectating. The intention is to maintain a similar format next year with hopefully even more members competing in the various competitions.

The August Bank Holiday mixed triples competition and President's Day were both similarly well supported, which was pleasing and as we morph into the indoor season Janet Moore has capably assumed the role of Indoor Secretary.

Season resume

If not reported elsewhere these seasons "highlights" and "dipped lights" were as follows

Ladies Somerset League. Difficult first season but relishing the renewed challenge in 2024.

Somerset League. (Saturday men's rinks). "A" team relegated from Premier 2 to Southwest 1. "B" team relegated from Southwest 1 to Southwest 2

Exeter and District over 60s. (Wednesday men's triples). Lions and Tigers comfortable League champions and promoted to Division 2 and 4 respectively. Pumas stay in Division 7 and Leopards regrettably had to withdraw mid-season due to insufficient support.

East of Exe. (Monday mixed rinks). Narrowly missed promotion after an impressive second half of the season.

West Somerset Bowls League. (Thursday open triples). "A" team Division 1 Champions for the first time in 40 years. "B" remains in division 1 due to expansion of the League, "C" team remain in division 2.

Objectives for 2024

1. Continue to integrate and develop the 2023 intake of new bowlers.
2. Seek to further increase membership to consolidate the strengths of the club, both competitively and financially.
3. Seek to generate increased commitment from members regarding League squads to support the selectors.
4. Regain Somerset League Premier 1 status and maintain the competitiveness of all other League teams.

Graham Brown (Bowls Coordinator)

Assets Co Ordinator

There is no report due to the illness of Tony Woolard who had to resign at short notice. We understand that there are no problems requiring urgent attention at the moment His post is being taken over by Alan Moore who will be in contact with Tony to discuss any outstanding works.

Functions Report: Steve Lovell

Since taking over the Functions Co-ordinator role in July, the Functions Team have arranged many social events including:-

- Bingo Nights (always Popular)
- Acoustic nights
- Petanque Evening
- Motown Show (one-off) *Thanks to John Walker & Friends. This was a free event and we managed to raise £170.00 for the Pancreatic Cancer Fund.*
- Presidents Day and Closing of the Green (which was a huge success)
- Friends Of the Park AGM with music by Rod Thomas.
- World Cup Rugby
- 11th November Bingo

Over the next few weeks, we are looking forward to:-

- 18th November Music Quiz
- 9th December Christmas Party (Teresa D who wowed us last time she performed at our club).
- 2nd and 16th December Xmas Bingo and Raffle Draw.
- "Boxing day Lunchtime" the bar will be open and food available.
- New Year's Eve "Party Night" with dancing to Rod Thomas.
- February 2024 Ferret Racing with Real live ferrets. *(Place your bets and have a laugh.)*

- March 27th, 2024 - Our very popular annual Torquay Indoor Bowls Tour staying at the TLS Complex. *We still have five double rooms available. (if you don't want to bowl why not come along for a seaside break)*
Cost £250pp Includes Dinner, Bed and Breakfast, and Evening Entertainment Monday to Friday.

The "Presidents Day" and "Closing of the Green" event was a fantastic day! Around 50 plus members competed in the "Spider" challenge which was won by Thelma Helps. Then we played 18 ends of bowls "Men v Ladies" on six rinks which turned into a fun event with laughter ringing round the Green. It was great to see some of the new members joining in. Even the sun was shining giving us a perfect day for bowling. Following the games everyone tucked into Jacket potatoes-with a choice of fillings.

Many thanks to Janet Lovell & Angie Moore who went home shattered after working most of the day in the kitchen preparing our food. They started at 10am and did not finish until everyone had gone home in the evening. I don't think members realise what happens behind the scenes at these events. We do not employ anyone, and everything is planned and executed by our volunteer members.

Before this event, we had been selling raffle tickets for a raffle draw to benefit our "Presidents Charity" which this year was for Wellington Reminiscence Learning (based at Tonedale). The Head of the charity attended in the afternoon, and their 'Singing for fun' group entertained us. We were all very proud to watch Ann present her with a cheque for £650.00. She made a short speech of thanks telling us that, *"this is a lot of money to them, and it will make a big difference for local people who are affected by Dementia."*

The "Friends of the Park" held their AGM in our Clubroom, and our members were invited. When the AGM was over it was followed by a free event which included a buffet and music. IT was a brilliant evening, and the club made a few pounds.

Another free event was the Motown Show. This was not supported by many of our members, but it was advertised on the About Wellington website and members of the public turned up and it turned out to be a very pleasant evening. The evening raised £170.00 for Pancreatic Cancer. We welcome any ideas or suggestions for events, games or hobbies you would like to happen at the club, especially in the winter months, please speak to a member of our Functions Team, or email me, and it will be discussed at the following meeting.

The Executive have repeated *the* message many times that our club is owned by the members and run for the benefit of members. We do not rely on outside support for finance and our funds come solely from membership fees, rink fees and money raised at our social events. Over the last four years we have extensively improved all of the facilities at the club, and we now have a Club House and Green which is the envy of most other clubs in Somerset. This has been possible due to the efforts of the members who serve on the various committees and the volunteers who support them. If you want to support the club then attend the social events, volunteer your help, and enjoy your bowling. Not only will the club benefit but you will make many new friends.

The members of the Functions Team are as follows:-

Steve or Janet Lovell, Marg & Pat Nichols, Derek & Cath Alford, Di & Dave Dagg, Angie Moore, Dave & Pat Bridger, Alan & Liz May, Alan & Janet Moore.

I would also like to personally thank all of them for their help throughout the year. Without their help activities would just not be possible.

Steve Lovell

Functions Co Ordinator, Wellington Bowls Club

8 Treasurers Report/Auditors Report

The Treasurer's report was presented by Derrick Alford and accepted and approved by the meeting.

Auditors Report - Copies of the Audited Annual Accounts as issued by Batchelor and Company were handed out to the meeting and displayed on the TV screen.

Tony Gibson and Clive Manning proposed that the accounts should be accepted.
The Accounts were accepted Unanimously

9 Team Captains Reports

Ladies Captain Report Brenda Wilson

I would like to thank everyone who had put their names down to play league and friendlies. In the Southey Trophy we played against Taunton Vivary which they won, but we had a good game. In the Fear Cup, our first game was against Ashcombe Park, and we won that game, but we lost the second game against St. Andrews. It was quite a challenging match, our ladies did well. Also, many thanks to the men who took us there.

In the South & West Somerset Ladies League, this was my first-time being Captain. I had a lot of help from Linda and Angie and all the ladies that played and a big thank you to Win for doing our teas. Ilminster won the league this year.

We had some nice friendlies against N Petherton, Uffculme and Taunton Vivary.

I am looking forward to seeing all the new ladies next year. We need you all.

I hope you all have a good winter bowling, and I am sure we all look forward to bowling outdoors next summer.

Brenda Wilson Ladies Captain

2023 Ladies Bowls League (Saturday 3 Triples)

Ann and Linda were happy to be selected for the above. Their report is as follows:-

Our first season in the Ladies League was well supported by 20 ladies. Thanks to them this enabled us to play all eight games home and away. It was a good experience to play against Taunton Deane, Ilminster, Yeovil, and N Petherton. On this level. We did get six points as we won a rink against Ilminster N Petherton, and Yeovil at this level.

The weather was not kind to us, which meant we had to re-arrange three games. Not an easy task as our opponents had to fit in with all their other fixtures. Instead of being on a Saturday, two games had to be played during the week. Should the weather repeat itself next year our ladies, if possible, would prefer the rearranged games to be played on a weekend, even if it is on Sunday. This depends on the other clubs being available.

We also thanks all those who were available to drive us to our away games.

In 2024, we will not be the "newcomers". And with the same support we had this year, hopefully, we will progress further. As this is a weekend league, it gives those who work the opportunity to play competitive bowls. If you are interested, please let us know.

Ann Cowling and Linda Manning.

Men's Captain Report 2023

This year has been quite successful considering the challenges that we had. I want to thank Henry Richbell, and Mike Groves for their invaluable help with the selections.

Thank you to the members that went up into the A, B&C teams in the West Somerset Bowls League, which helped with our success.

The A won the league and the B team avoided relegation. This enabled us to get some prize money which is going towards the food a drink on the presentation night.

In the Somerset Bowls League, unfortunately, both teams were relegated.

Next Summer A team will play in Southwest One and B team in Southwest two.

In the Devon and Exeter over 60s league we had a good season with:-

Lions winning Division Three.

Tigers winning division five

Pumas played well and held their own.

Eddie Dilley

Mixed Friendly Captain's Report. Ian Hollingsworth

In what has been a difficult season for me, being the mixed friendly captain, has been a great release. It continues to be a real privilege and hugely rewarding role. I believe the thriving Mixed Friendly section is arguably the most important aspect of the entire organisation. I say this because it provides opportunity for those who are new to competitive bowls as well as those who lack either the desire or confidence to play in competitive league matches. It has been wonderful to see so many players gain in both confidence and ability during the course of the season.

To my knowledge, we played 38 mixed friendly matches against other clubs. Winning 21. Losing 16 and drawing 1. Overall, proportionally this was an improvement on 20/22 as we are now winning more games than we are losing. We achieved this even though I have sought, where possible, to select players through the whole range of experience and ability. I have relied on several stronger league players to play in the role of Skip, and I am indebted particularly to Steve Lovell, Henry Richbell, Tony Gibson, Jay Merrell, David Beaudet, Bill Warnett. Allen Every and Darren Sparks for making themselves available as often as they did. This enabled me to pick sides that provided experience for many who don't play higher level league bowls. I was also able to give new players the opportunity to play at lead and begin to develop confidence to play in competitive matches. All told, around 70 players represented the mixed friendly sides over the course of the season, a truly remarkable number.

Once again, our home matches were played on a surface that was in better condition than almost any other that we visited. Our thanks go to Paul, Nick, David and Mike for the amazing job they do in always providing us with rinks that are well prepared, ready for use and a credit to the club. We received numerous positive comments from visiting teams about the quality of the playing surface. Again, the reception for visiting teams has been excellent, and for that we have to thank those who have worked on the bar and the many who have set up and served teas, as well as the players themselves who have been unfailingly welcoming. I am also greatly appreciative of those who were prepared to stand in for me as "captain of the day" and to Graham Brown, who with Jay, kept the mixed friendlies afloat during my absence with pneumonia. Alright. Let me read that bit.

Jay does a tireless job arranging the matches and I would be completely unable to carry out my role without his input. Members are aware that he, Eddie and I agreed that we needed to reduce the number of matches overall. This has led to the whole structure being more manageable with far fewer counselled fixtures. It has also enabled me to introduce the concept of internal friendlies and an evening competition, all of which seemed to go down well. Looking to the future, we will slightly increase the number of fixtures and Jay will try to get some that are rinks as well as a small number in the evening. Obviously, that depends on the willingness of other clubs to participate. We shall see!

Ian Hollingsworth

10 Motions proposed by the Executive Committee

Clive Manning had carried a full review of the Club Constitution and had found several anomalies and discrepancies which required correcting, clarifying, or updating. These items formed part of the information which was listed in the agenda and shown on the TV screen to the members attending the AGM. **It was agreed that the Constitution should be updated according to all the recommendations. This was a unanimous vote for all 11 proposals except for proposal 5 which was 46 for and one against and proposal 9 which was 40 for and 3 against. A copy of the proposals can be found at annex A.**

Clive was thanked by the Chair for carrying out this work which must have taken a considerable amount of his time.

11 Officers to serve on the Executive Committee were approved by the meeting

President

Ann Cowling

Chair

Paul Kelly

Admin Coordinator

Jay Merrell

Treasurer	Phil Ellis
Assistant Treasurer	Derrick Alford
Bowls Coordinator	Graham Brown
Assets Coordinator	Alan Moore
Functions Coordinator	Steve Lovell
Greenkeeper	Paul Kelly

The Club Captains were approved as follows:-

Men's Captain	Eddie Dilley
Ladies Captain	Brenda Wilson
Mixed Friendlies Captain.	Ian Hollingsworth

12 Membership Fees for 2024/5

It was agreed that the Membership Fees for 2024/5 are to be assessed in early March and if the Executive Members agree that the fees need adjusting an EGM will be called so that this can be discussed by members.

Proposed by Derrick Alford and approved by the meeting.

13. Election of Auditors Derrick Alford reported that he was pleased that the Auditors had issued the Annual Accounts on time and had co-operated with him during the preparation of the balance sheet. No issues were raised.

The Annual Accounts were approved unopposed.

It was also agreed that Batchelor and Company should be retained as our auditors for 2023/4

14 Items to be discussed at a later date

- a) The membership fees for 2023/4 may need reviewing if there is another unexpected increase in energy costs.

The meeting was closed at 8.20pm

Annex A- The following proposals were from the Executive Committee.

PROPOSAL 1

In recognition of the valuable contribution that club coaches provide, it is proposed to add a further post to the Bowls Coordinator subgroup as detailed below.

This will enable coaching activities to be reported and acknowledged and provide a route for any requests to further support their activities.

It is hope that members will support the proposal.

2.1 Officers of the club

Bowls Coordinator subsection

Coaching Coordinator: to provide feedback and make requests concerning coaching activities.

The following proposals are to make amendments to the Constitution in order to clarify various matters and proposed changes in order to keep the Constitution up to date with current working practices.

PROPOSAL 2

Section 2 – Officers of the Club

This Proposal is to clarify the term of Office served by the President and Vice President.

Whilst these positions have always been for a period of 2 years, there is nothing in the Constitution to confirm that this is the case. It is proposed to amend paragraph 3 of the Notes to Section 2 - Officers of the Club to the following;

“The President and Vice President are both proposed for election by the Executive Committee at the Annual General Meeting and will hold their positions for a term of 2 years.”

Reason : Confirms current practice.

PROPOSAL 3

Section 3

This Proposal is to clarify that under the Constitution, the term “Full Member” refers to an Outdoor Member.

There is no official membership category in respect of “Outdoor Member” in the Constitution, as the Constitution refers to them as “Full Member”. The following proposed amendment to the wording of Section 3.1.1 (c) & (d) would clarify the situation.

“(c) A FULL MEMBER (being an “OUTDOOR MEMBER”), is a member who at the date of election shall have attained the age of eighteen years, shall have one vote at the Annual General Meeting (excluding any Full Member who joined for the first time after the 1st of May of the current year, who will not have a vote). However, a Full Member who has joined for the first time after the 1st of May of the current year and who takes up a position on a Sector Committee will be entitled to vote on the Sector Committees on which they serve.

(d) To qualify for FULL MEMBERSHIP, a member must pay either the annual Outdoor membership fee which is due for payment at the very latest on May 1st or that part of the annual Outdoor membership fee (calculated by the Treasurer) which is due at the time of joining the Club.”

Reason: It has been brought to the Executive’s attention that there is no mention of “Outdoor Member” within the Categories of Membership described in Section 3. This amendment would clarify that an Outdoor Member is in fact deemed to be a Full Member within Constitution any reference to a “Full Member” means an “Outdoor Member.

PROPOSAL 4

SECTION 3

This Proposal is to amend the wording of Section 3.3 (d) and remove “by a full (Outdoor or Indoor) member” and replace with “ by an Outdoor or Indoor member”

Reason: This is because there is no such thing as a Full Outdoor or Full Indoor member and merely causes confusion

PROPOSAL 5

SECTION 3

This Proposal is to amend the wording of Section 3.4(d) to read:

“The Membership Secretary shall furnish all newly elected candidates with a copy of the Constitution (or details of where a copy can be found if no email address is available), together with a welcome letter informing the candidate that they will become a member when they have paid their membership subscription.”

Reason: Where there is no email address or one has not been supplied , it is impractical to send out a hard copy of the Constitution to every new member.

PROPOSAL 6

SECTION 3

This Proposal is to delete 3.1.5

Reason: This section relates to the recruitment and transfer of players between Teams and Roll Up Groups in the Indoor rink. It is repeated in Section 6. MANAGEMENT AND RUNNING OF THE CLUB, (see 6.3.1) where it is more appropriate.

PROPOSAL 7

SECTION 4

This Proposal is to delete “Appeal against refusal or removal may be made to the members” from the end of 4.1.8

Reason: As stated in Section 5.1.2 (a) All disciplinary matters will be dealt with in accordance with Bowls England Regulation 9 (Misconduct)”, so this wording is no longer relevant.

PROPOSAL 8

SECTION 4

This proposal is to add “emergency contact details” to 4.2.

Reason

This relates to the contact details that must be supplied to the Membership Secretary, which at present does not include “emergency contact details”. This will correct this.

PROPOSAL 9

SECTION 6

This proposal is to remove the requirement for a “hard” copy of all official communications to be sent to those members who do not have an email address or have not supplied one to the Membership Secretary. However, this proposal does require a copy of all official communications to be posted on the Administration Coordinator’s Notice Board.

The proposed revised wording for 6.1.4 (g) is;

“Be available to all post holders and ensure that the membership is kept aware of all decisions made. Members will be sent all official communications by email and a hard copy placed on the Administration Coordinators notice board for the benefit of those without email facilities.”

Reason: There are 41 members without an email address (or have not supplied one) and it is not only expensive for official communications to be sent out in hard copy to all of them, it is also labour intensive. This motion removes this requirement, but at the same time ensures that a copy is posted on the notice board for those without an email address.

For the same reason, a similar revised wording relating to official communications will also have to be made to Sections 4.1.9, 7.1.1 and 7.1.9.

PROPOSAL 10

SECTION 8: Election of Officers

This Proposal is to amend the Constitution so that only Men can vote when electing someone for the position of Men’s Captain and only Ladies can vote when electing someone for the position of Ladies Captain.

The proposal is to amend the wording of Section 8 to include the following paragraph;

“When voting for the election of the Men’s Captain and Ladies Captain, only male Full Members may vote for a candidate for the position of Men’s Captain, whilst only female Full Members may vote for a candidate for the position of Ladies Captain.”

Reason: There are no such restrictions under the Constitution at present. Historically though it has always been the case that the men vote for their Captain and the ladies for their Captain.

This Proposal amends the Constitution to confirm that this is now officially the case.

PROPOSAL 11

SECTION 12: CLUB RULES RELATING TO THE LICENSING ACT

This Proposal is to rename this Section to SECTION 12: CLUB RULES and incorporate the existing rules relating to the Licensing Act (with “Full Member” on the last line now replaced by “Member”), the existing rule relating to dogs (this would also mean the removal of 5.2.4, as this is now included in this revision) and add a Rule that smoking or vaping is prohibited on the premises.

The proposed revised wording will be;

“SECTION 12: CLUB RULES

12.1 Rules relating to the Licensing Act

12.1.1 The club shall adhere to the provisions of the [Licensing Act 2003](#), all Rules, Byelaws and Regulations for the time being in force and will comply with any modifications or subsequent legislation relating to the sale of intoxicating liquor.

12.1.2 The purchase for the Club of excisable goods and the supply of the same upon Club premises shall be exclusively and solely under the control of the Executive Committee in conjunction with the Functions Sector Committee. One member of the Club shall hold the office of Bar Steward who shall be delegated the responsibility of purchasing and maintaining the bar stock.

12.1.3 No person shall take a commission, percentage, or other payment in connection with the purchase of excisable goods for the club. Any profit deriving from the supply of such goods shall (after deduction of the costs of providing such goods for the benefit of the club) be applied to the provision of additional amenities or the purchase of goods to be used for the benefit of the club.

12.1.4 Proper accounts of all purchases and receipts from excisable goods shall be kept and presented at the Annual General Meeting in each year and such information as the Administration Coordinator or Auditors may require shall be furnished to enable any statutory return or statement and the payment of excise or other duty or tax to be made.

12.1.5 Intoxicating liquor may only be sold for consumption on the club premises to persons who are entitled to the use of the Club premises in pursuance of the Rules, Byelaws and Regulations for the time being in force.

12.1.6 No intoxicating liquor may be sold or provided to a Junior Member or anyone under the age of 18.

12.1.7 No guests visiting the club may purchase intoxicating liquor unless they have signed the Visitors Book with their name and their address and this has been verified and counter signed by a Member.

12.2 Rules relating to dogs on the premises:

12.2.1 No dogs other than Assistance Dogs shall be brought onto the club premises, which includes the outdoor green and the surrounding areas.

12.3 Rules relating to smoking on the premises.

12.3.1 Smoking or Vaping is prohibited on the Club premises (which includes the outdoor green and surrounding areas) other than in the outdoor designated area.”

Reason: The current “Rules relating to the Licensing Act”, state that only a “Full Member” can sign a guest into the premises, this is clearly not the case as stated in 4.3.3, which states “Any member”),so this has been amended to “Member” Whilst it has always been understood that smoking is prohibited on the premises, there is no mention of it within the existing Constitution. This now confirms the Rule and extends to include vaping. For some strange reason the ruling relating to dogs was previously under Section 5.2 – Settlement of Accounts, which is obviously illogical, and this new wording brings them all under a renamed section – CLUB RULES.

