



## BRIMFIELD AND LITTLE HEREFORD BOWLING CLUB

[www.brimfieldandlittleherefordbc.co.uk](http://www.brimfieldandlittleherefordbc.co.uk)

CHAIR: Mrs Jennifer Cole

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### MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

4pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020 via Zoom

#### **REMEMBRANCE 2020:**

This year has been a very strange one with the flooding followed by a world pandemic. We were all together for the January Lunch at the start of the year. Little did we know then that that would be the last time that we would all get together. Sadly, this year, we have recently lost one of our long serving members, Jill Turberfield. Jill was an incredibly involved member of Brimfield and Little Hereford Bowls Club. Club Secretary for many years, often in attendance at Strollers and Club matches and very rarely missing a Club Competition. Jill represented the Club and County at the National Championships and will be fondly remembered by many across the whole County.

Jennie Cole, Chair

#### **APOLOGIES AND ATTENDEES**

Due to Covid-19 regulations attendance was limited to a maximum of 6. 3 were present: Jennie Cole (Chair), Craig Webb (Treasurer) and Sue Webb (Social Secretary)

All other members were invited to attend via Zoom and submit votes in advance via Proxy:

17 attended via Zoom: Jim & Lynne Allen, Peter & Ali Bloomer, Richard & Barbara Griffiths, Josie Jordan, Susan Northwood, Mike & Maureen Owen, Richard & Carol Powell, Clive & Rosie Sheridan, Helen Skinner, Alec Tandler, Philip Watts. 4 apologies were received from: Eileen Powell, Doug & Liz Smurthwaite, Karen Tandler.

28 voted by proxy, 33 abstained (Proxy not submitted).

Our thanks to Craig and Sue Webb for hosting the event.

#### 1) **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING:**

a) Minutes of AGM held on 25th October 2019 were agreed:

Proposed: Jim Allen    Seconded: Richard Powell

b) There were no matter arising, not covered by the Agenda

#### 2) **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**, to serve until the next Annual General Meeting.

It was proposed that [for this meeting only] both Agenda Items 3 (Election of Officers) and Agenda Item 4 (Committee Members) be voted on on-mass for those Posts that have Nominations, as no posts have more than the required nomination.

Proposed: Craig Webb    Seconded: Lynne Allen

**VOTE: This was carried – 28 For, 0 Against, 33 Abstained**

<b>OFFICERS POSTS (10 posts):</b>	<b>NOMINATIONS:</b>
<b>Chairman</b>	Jennie Cole
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Barbara Griffiths
<b>Secretary</b>	Jennie Cole
<b>Treasurer</b>	Craig Webb
<b>Vice-Captain</b>	Brian Draper
<b>Ladies Captain &amp; County Representative</b>	Karen Tandler
<b>Men's County Representative</b>	Alec Tandler
<b>Fixture Secretary</b>	Doug Smurthwaite
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Eileen Powell

**2a) Club Captain:** No nomination was received for the post of Club Captain. This is a key post in the Club and on the Committee. It requires somebody (male or female) with experience of the Club, friendly matches and our members. You are supported by a Vice Captain and the post is for one year. Those in attendance confirmed agreement that the Committee Members take on the role of Captain of the Day with a sub-committee formed to select teams i.e. Vice-Captain and Vice-Chair with advice from the Immediate Past Captain. This was agreed.

3) **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS,** to serve until the next Annual General Meeting.

<b>Sports Club Representative &amp; Club Coach</b>	Bill Wheatley
<b>Welfare Officer</b>	Eileen Powell
<b>Club Competitions</b>	Lynne Allen
<b>Marketing &amp; Press Officer</b>	Dave Evans
<b>Committee Member &amp; Mowing Rota</b>	Richard Powell
<b>Social Secretary</b>	Sue Webb
<b>Plus Groundsman (non-elected)</b>	Cyril Wait

4) **RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORTS:** The meeting received and noted the Chairman's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 October 2020. These papers were circulated to members prior to the meeting:

**4a) CHAIR'S REPORT:**

*'Firstly, I have to say what a strange year 2020 has been, and therefore what a very short Report this will be.*

*OFF THE GREEN - We finished last year with a wonderful Presentation Dinner at the Clubhouse, celebrating all the successes of 2019, organised by our newly appointed Social Secretary, Sue Webb. Sue then went on to arrange a Quiz Afternoon in November and our super annual January Lunch, both of which were also a great success. 80 members, friends and family came together for the January Lunch at the Club.*

*Little did we know that this would be the last time we would all be together. We had to abandon any plans for the 'Beetle Drive' and the 'Poets and Puds Night' in March due to a double dose of severe flooding.*

*THE GREAT FLOODS - Not to be disheartened, some of us attended a Sports Club Meeting, to agree the way forward in the hope that we could be up and running*

and out on the Green for the start of the season. The Sports Club was very well insured. Approximately £28K has been paid out for new front doors, wooden flooring, carpet, plus loss of earnings for the Sports Club.

Our Committee met at a The Fountain to clarify what we needed to do regarding the Bowls Club. As you will see from our Treasurers Report, we submitted a bid to Sport England and were allocated £8K in a Flood Defence Grant, match funded with £2k from the Club, to enable some form of protective defence barriers to be installed. Unfortunately, all plans were then put on hold.

WORLD PANDEMIC - The floods were followed immediately by a world pandemic that would see us all in lockdown before the end of March. It was with great sadness that, on the 18<sup>th</sup> March, I had to inform you that all county, national, international matches and competitions would be cancelled, and the Club would be closing for the foreseeable future. Doug Smurthwaite joined with Fixture Secretary's across the country, cancelling games and rescheduling for next year.

The COVID-19 pandemic lockdown brought to a halt any opportunity for the Club to get trades people out to do any of the repairs or flood defence work. At one point I really did not know when or if we would open again this year.

ON THE GREEN - As far as the Green area was concerned, life continued as normal. After several years of hard work to get the Green to the current standard the Committee agreed that it was important to keep it well maintained throughout the lockdown, despite the views of Sports England, who consider a bowling green as no different to a fairway!

Throughout the year the Green drains well and a rest from bowlers certainly would not do it any harm. Without any hesitation, Cyril Wait and the Green Management Team have worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure the Green has been well maintained. On behalf of all members thank you to everyone involved!

At this point I feared that I would be informing Members that there would be a significant increase in their membership fees to cover the cost of replacing our Greenkeeper, as no one had volunteered to take on the role.

Thankfully, our Greenkeeper, and thank you very, very much Cyril, is continuing for one more year. During the next twelve months I seriously hope that some of you will be learning all there is to know about how to maintain our Green to the standard that Cyril has achieved so that you can consider the role in the future. Cyril has been the Greenkeeper for as long as I can remember and has done a fantastic job to ensure we have a playing surface and surrounds that we can enjoy and be proud of. The Greenkeepers job, undertaken behind the scenes throughout the year, is only seen by a few, but the results are enjoyed by us all.

Thank you for delaying your retirement Cyril, it is very much appreciated!

END OF LOCKDOWN - Towards the end of May news trickled in from Bowls England that we would be able to return to the Green in June, but only a maximum of 18 players would be allowed on the Green at any one time, socially distanced, de-bugged and disinfected and pre-registered. Thankfully, we were able to obtain another Sport England Grant of just under £2K for COVID-19 which was a bonus as disinfectant and hand sanitiser costs went through the roof.

Reopening the Green to bowlers would not have been possible without Doug and Liz Smurthwaite, Barbara and Richard Griffiths and Dave Evans. They immediately stepped up and offered to supervise four Strollers events if there

was a need, and we reopened the Green on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June with 7 bowlers. This slowly increased and, by the 21<sup>st</sup> July, we had not only reached the maximum 18 in a session but welcomed many new members. We had a total of 33 members playing across the sessions during the week, the majority being first- or second-year bowlers. Our thanks to Bill Wheatley, Craig Webb and Doug Smurthwaite, who provided coaching when required. The Green has been open for play for a total of 15 weeks so thank you again to all those that made this possible.

*MEMBERSHIP* – An interesting year for our new Membership Secretary, Eileen Powell, who is also our Welfare Officer. The two roles came together beautifully this year as Eileen provided support where needed to our members, particularly during Lockdown. Our Captain, Richard Griffiths, has maintained contact with the players and I truly hope people do feel that they were supported as we all struggled to remain sane during this period. Several members decided not to re-join the Club in 2020, the majority because of ill health, and we wish them well for the future. Overall membership numbers have been maintained, with 9 new members joining us, many having been coached by Bill indoors, during the winter. As of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020, Membership currently stands at 73, with a total of 62 playing members, compared with 74 and 62 on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

*LOOKING FORWARD* – As I write this report, work is well underway to spend the £8,000 Grant funding received from Sport England for Flood Defence work. We hope that the work that we are doing will ensure that we can avoid any future damage from flooding.

Looking for a builder to take on what is in effect a small build project has been futile. With Sport England agreement we are using our own members and the community as peoplepower, barrowing and mixing cement, under the guidance of Alec Tandler and my husband, David. If there is any perceived conflict of interest with our chosen contractor, please be assured that he is working for the benefit of the Club. Raising the roof of the Snug so that we can raise the floor level and raising the floor of the Equipment Shed has only been possible because of these two plus the sheer number of members that have given their time to help make it happen. Thank you to everyone involved.

Diverting flood water away from the entrance has been a key focus of the work for the Sports and Social Club. This gave us the opportunity to run a water pipe to the far end of the Snug to support the new kitchen, kindly donated by members, Lynne and Jim Allen.

It was deemed cost effective, at this time, to relocate the outside toilet to a safer position more suited to wheelchair access. This requires further funding and bids have been submitted in a variety of areas in the hope of raising further funds. Unlike many other bowling clubs in the area, we have not received any of the Local Government Covid-19 Funding to cover lost income this year, it has gone direct to the Sports Club. If we can raise the £2,000 required, we hope to have the new disabled toilet in situ before the start of next season. Our thanks go to Craig Webb, who is doing an admirable job keeping track of the different income streams and balancing the books. Incredibly difficult without our usual income from social events and other money raising activities.

At this point I must say a huge thank you to everyone on the Committee and all the members, new and old. Everybody has, in a wide variety of ways, ensured the future of Brimfield and Little Hereford Bowling Club. Without you this year would have been an extremely difficult year.

My apologies if this has turned into a newsletter as well as an annual report but I do believe, as members, you all need to be fully aware of the situation. We still

have a lot of work to do to get back to anything like normal. I am incredibly pleased that most of the Committee are continuing for a further year. Promoting our Club and encouraging people to 'Play Bowls' is a vital element of the work of the Committee, via word of mouth, regular press articles, social media and our website.

If anyone has any suggestions or ideas on how we can do things better, please don't hesitate to speak to a Committee Member.

Jennie Cole, Chair

#### 4b) TREASURER'S REPORT:

'We have lost a further £597.44 this year, primarily down to COVID-19 and the closure of all sporting fixtures, whilst still needing to maintain the Green and the buildings.

Competition entries show a large difference due Tony Allcock prize money paid into bank in the previous year and paid out to players this year.

Grant Funding: We have had £8,000.00 grant funding from Sports England for Flood Prevention, and £1,675.00 grant funding from Sport England for Covid 19. Grant funding is not displayed in these accounts. When all the works are completed, they will show in the 2020/21 accounts.'

Craig Webb, Treasurer

	Balance 2018/2019	Balance 2019/2020	Variance on previous year	
Subscriptions	£2,770.00	<b>£2,728.00</b>	-£42.00	9 new members @ £5
Annual Functions	£325.50	<b>£338.25</b>	£12.75	Presentation Dinner/January Lunch
Match Fees	£617.24	<b>£0.00</b>	-£617.24	No revenue - COVID-19 loss of income
Raffles	£1,005.50	<b>£401.00</b>	-£604.50	No matches - COVID-19 loss of income
Bank Interest	£7.53	<b>£3.87</b>	-£3.66	
Competition Entries	£321.36	<b>-£469.50</b>	-£790.86	paid in/paid out. £320.00 prize money to Tony Allcock Team
County Income	£453.00	<b>£0.00</b>	-£453.00	No matches - COVID-19 loss of income
Men's League	£0.00	<b>-£10.00</b>	-£10.00	No matches - COVID-19 loss of income
Strollers	£296.10	<b>£0.00</b>	-£296.10	No strollers charge – Flooding & COVID-19
Uniform/Clothing	-£64.00	<b>£0.00</b>	£64.00	not spent
Sundries	-£45.28	<b>£0.00</b>	£45.28	not spent
Stickers/Badges	£8.77	<b>£0.00</b>	-£8.77	not spent
Social Evenings	£0.00	<b>£145.00</b>	£145.00	Limited social events – Flooding loss of income
Skittles Night	£34.23	<b>£0.00</b>	-£34.23	Limited social events – Flooding loss of income
Green Management	-£4,615.57	<b>-£2,808.96</b>	£1,806.61	Mats in 2019. Not spent buildings - Pesticide, Fertilizer, Weed Killer, Training, Green M/ment
Trophies & Engraving	-£200.41	<b>-£164.00</b>	£36.41	No competitions – COVID-19
Match Teas	£0.00	<b>£0.00</b>	£0.00	No matches – COVID-19
Affiliation Fees	-£440.00	<b>-£186.00</b>	£254.00	Some fees refunded – COVID-19
Printing & Postage	-£97.52	<b>-£94.20</b>	£3.32	
Sports Club	-£585.00	<b>-£430.00</b>	£155.00	Rent & Subscriptions
County Entries	-£83.50	<b>£0.00</b>	£83.50	No comps
Mowing Rota	£0.00	<b>£0.00</b>	£0.00	Mowing Rota

BE Insurance	-£118.00	<b>-£120.00</b>	-£2.00	
Tour Account	£94.50	<b>£0.00</b>	-£94.50	<i>Every 5 years</i>
Friends of Bowls Eng.	£0.00	<b>£0.00</b>	£0.00	<i>Special Event</i>
Lawnmower	-£1,035.62	<b>-£57.80</b>	£977.82	<i>Repairs in 2019</i>
Donation	£285.00	<b>£150.40</b>	-£134.60	<i>£130 A.Tandler</i>
Advertising	£28.60	<b>-£23.50</b>	-£52.10	
	Balance 2018/2019	Balance 2019/2020		
Total	<b>-£1,037.57</b>	<b>-£597.44</b>		
Opening 18/19	£6,904.97	£5,867.40		
Opening Balance 19/20	£5,867.40	<b>£5,269.96</b>		

The Accounts have still to be audited but have been scrutinised by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

5b) Endorse the Annual Accounts

Proposed: Lynne Allen    Seconded: Jim Allen

**VOTE: This was carried – 28 For, 0 Against, 33 Abstained**

- 5) Approve the Annual Subscription – Remain at £55.00 for Playing Members, £10.00 for Junior and Social Members (incorporates £5.00 Sports Club Fee).

Jennie explained that, unlike many other Bowling Clubs, we had not received £10k Covid funding from Herefordshire Council and so would be unable to reduce the Membership Fee for this or next year.

Lynne Allen asked for an explanation and Jennie informed members that the Sports Club have received £25k Covid funding from Herefordshire Council for the different sports at Brimfield. The Sports Club have not yet released, or yet agreed to release, any of this funding to the different sections.

Proposed: Sue Webb    Seconded: Clive Sheridan

**VOTE: This was carried – 28 For, 0 Against, 33 Abstained**

- 6) To consider any propositions from the Committee – non received
- 7) To consider any propositions from the Club Members – non received
- 8) To note that the following members have kindly volunteered to be co-opted for specific duties on behalf of the Committee:

Richard Griffiths, Doug & Liz Smurthwaite	<i>Strollers Outdoor</i>
Richard Powell	<i>Indoor Strollers</i>
Barbara Griffiths	<i>Special Match Teas</i>
Dave Evans	<i>Friday Night League/Roebuck Cup/Crown</i>
Karen Tandler	<i>National Club Competition: 'Tony Allcock'</i>
Howard Turberfield	<i>Men's League</i>
Stan Beale	<i>Men's Hereford Times Cup</i>
Stan Beale	<i>Men's Top Club/Double Rink</i>
Jennie Cole	<i>Website Administration</i>

Liz Smurthwaite

*Club Raffles*

Susan Northwood

*Kitchen (Tea/Coffee/Biscuit supplies)*

Members have also volunteered for:

Regular mowing and green maintenance Team: Phillip Watts

Social Event and Catering: Clive Sheridan

Catering: Rosie Sheridan

Assistant Competition Secretary: Jim Allen

9) **Updates:**

- What had been agreed here tonight along with the date of the 2020 AGM on the last Friday of October 2020 will be published on the website.
- The first meeting of the new Committee will be on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, following the EGM at 4pm.
- All social events are on hold now due to COVID-19. As the Sports Club have announced that they will not be reopening until Spring 2021 we have cancelled any social events this winter including the 2021 January Lunch. We are truly hope that there are significant improvements by the Spring and that Sue will be able to arrange a get-together before the Green opening next year.
- Before the Meeting closed Mike Owen, on behalf of the Club members, thanked Jennie Cole and the Committee and so many people for all the work undertaken this year.
- Richard Powell added his thanks: to David and Alec, the new members from Neen Sollars, Ian and Peter, and Colin, Hubert's son, for helping move all the materials with his tractor

Jennie thanked everyone for attending the AGM and closed the meeting at 16.35

Note: The plan is to reopen the Green on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021 with an Open Day afternoon. We will also hopefully take a Club Photograph at the start of the season. Subject to Covid!