

CHELTENHAM WHADDON BOWLING CLUB

END OF YEAR REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. Although Government restrictions have prevented us from holding an AGM, the Committee decided that we should still publish the usual officers' reports and the annual audited statement of accounts.
2. The Committee also proposed an amendment to the Constitution setting out our banking arrangements, which would normally be voted on at the AGM. As we wished to proceed quickly with this, the proposal was put to members by e-mail and post.

RESOLUTION ON CLUB'S BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

3. The full text of the amendment to the Constitution codifying the Club's banking arrangements is attached at the end of this report. The resolution to adopt this amendment was proposed by the Committee and members were asked to vote by e-mail or post by 31st October 2020. The result of the ballot was:

For: 33 votes Against: 0 votes

4. The resolution is therefore approved. Appendix F will be added to the master copy of the Constitution and will be published on the website in due course.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (by the Treasurer, Mr. Dave Simmons)

5. As with other officers – this year's accounts will be unique amongst previous years due to the ongoing Coronavirus situation. The committee continues to make decisions with the best interest of the club at heart – with a determination that there will be a club here for members if/when things get back to 'normal'.
6. There are too many people to thank individually for anyone who has supported the club these past 8 months. I would like to thank all members who paid their annual subscriptions – this was a great and much appreciated gesture. Financial issues for next year will again be difficult – but those members who paid match fees in 2020 will not be asked to pay these again in 2021.
7. So, to the numbers: on an accrual accounts basis the club returned a surplus of £7,094 in the last financial year – on a cash flow basis we realised a surplus of over £9,702.
8. It is almost academic to try and compare this year's numbers to prior years – so here's a few highlights:
 - Contract to Avonmore for the maintenance of the green is proving to be financially beneficial to the club. Combined with the magnificent efforts of all who help maintain the green and its surrounds – we now have an improving playing area which members are taking pride in once more.
 - Grants – the main reason for the cash surplus this year is the club receiving 2 grants – one from central government for £10,000 and one from local government for £2,200. The latter we applied for from Cheltenham Borough Council under their Community Fund scheme and this has enabled us to provide a disabled toilet facility within the club.

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9. What about next year? The club does have cash reserves which will keep the club in good order over the winter months but without any income these will slowly be whittled away. So let's hope we are back on the green bowling next April and that things will be a bit clearer by then.

10. Captain's charity raised £170 is not shown separately but a cheque has been sent to Maggie's cancer charity.

PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN (Mr Mike Newman)

11. This year I have covered both positions but because of the pandemic I have not had to do very much. As Chairman I have been involved with the steering committee. We had a lot to discuss and decisions to make, our main thoughts being the health and safety of our members. This resulted in a lot of e-mails etc which fell to Andy who has done a terrific job.

12. When we did play bowls outside (because the building was closed) we set up an outside fridge (Mike's fridge bar), this did prove to be very popular and I managed to sell quite a lot of stock from the bar mainly bottles and cans. I have now cleared all the old and out of date stock from the bar.

13. I don't know how long this virus is going to stay with us but in the meantime everyone stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all in safer times.

SECRETARY (Mr Andy Todd)

14. As Jill notes below 2020 has been a sad year for the Club with the deaths of Frank Ladbroke, who was a long-standing and very well respected bowler, and of John Martin, who hadn't been at the club for so many years but was a valuable member of the club. We would normally pay our respects to those who have passed away at the AGM but this year we can only send our condolences to both families.

15. Considering the season didn't really happen there was plenty to do to keep the club going through the summer and in the end we did play more bowls than I thought possible back in April. However, running the club remotely is an experience I would hope not to repeat! I would like to thank the other members of the Steering Group and the wider Committee for their support and hard work in getting the club through this difficult period.

16. One of the most heartening aspects of the season was the way members responded to our appeal by paying full subscriptions, not knowing whether they would have any opportunity to play and I would like to thank all of you for your generosity, which has helped to maintain a viable club. Nevertheless, our membership has declined and we will have to work hard to recruit new members for next season.

17. As I write we are back in lockdown again and we can only hope that by next April the situation will have improved enough to play bowls again. Perhaps, we may even have been able to hold a proper AGM by then.

MEN'S CAPTAIN (Mr. Dave Hooper)

18. It has been a very unusual year this year and quite a difficult one to report on for obvious reasons. Who would have thought at last year's AGM we would be in the situation we find ourselves now.

19. The Covid-19 pandemic has taken its toll on the full programme of bowling that we had planned for the year. I hope that everyone has managed to keep safe and fit. As you will all know the steering committee

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has been working to keep the club active and able to continue into next year and the years beyond, whilst still managing to provide some bowling for the season.

20. My thanks, in the first instance, is to Mike's team of volunteers who have kept the green in tip top condition and the surrounding areas clean, tidy and very neatly trimmed. All the outside areas of the club look really good and are a credit to their hard work.

21. It was good that we were able to open the green for rollups and give members an opportunity to at least get a feel of bowling on grass. The lock down competitions went well and were very well attended and the standard of bowling was high. My thanks to all participants and congratulations to the winners.

22. There was also some good news on the NGL programme this year. Obviously, a full fixture programme was out of the question but a friendly competition was put in place to enable clubs to play games at a higher standard. The teams taking part on a home/away basis were Cheltenham Whaddon, Cheltenham Spa, Cheltenham Town, Bishops Cleeve and Tewkesbury and the summary of our matches was:

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Shots For	Shots Against
8	4	4	0	341	318

23. We therefore finished in 3rd place, only a couple of shots away from finishing 2nd after a thrilling away match at Cheltenham Spa where we lost by 1 shot. 3 shots up going into the last end and dropping a 4 but well played to everyone.

24. This competition gave me the opportunity to try out a selection process that I had been working on since the end of last season. I am happy to report that the system worked well and we now have a basis for when we get back to normal. It also gave us the chance to try out some new players in the NGL games and I am pleased to include Dave Hearle, Richard Mason, Phil Nelson and Tom Woods into NGL squad after they played extremely well in this competition.

25. As the restrictions took place and the club fixtures were cancelled I had some concerns about how I was going to be able to get funds for the Captain's Charity. Last year, through the fines procedure, we managed to donate £85. Although there were some fines this season it was never going to get close to last year's total, Big thank you to Debby, who started to make and distribute face masks for friends, family and club members and she made a fantastic £155 to go to the Charity and we ended up delivering a cheque to Maggie's of £169.79.

26. Even though it has been a reduced captaincy this year I have enjoyed what we have done and should I be returned as your Men's Captain for next year I will look forward to working for you and the club. Please look after yourselves – stay safe – and hopefully we will get back to normal soon.

LADIES CAPTAIN (Mrs. Jill Whistler)

27. It has not been a good year only good thing about it all is the fact that we have all survived. We have lost a couple of members who will be sadly missed. Rest in peace.

28. I have received a request from the league secretary asking if we are entering a team next year. I have to do this and just hope and pray that we get back to normal, and I get your full support.

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29. Things will be different but I think we will all need something to look forward to I wish you as happy a Christmas as will be possible, with as many family members as we are allowed. Take care keep healthy we can beat this dreadful pandemic.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (Mrs Carol Savage)

30. On behalf of Whaddon bowls club I would like to thank all members who have supported the club during this difficult time. This season we had 52 full members who renewed their subscriptions, including one re-joining from Bishops Cleeve, which was brilliant. We also have 13 Social plus members and 8 Social members.

31. Only 5 of the 13 new bowlers from 2019 joined this year, but maybe under normal circumstances the others might well have re-joined. Hopefully 2021 will be nearer to normal than this year and an Open day might be possible to find new members.

32. I am standing down as Membership secretary, which with the AGM. being postponed complicates the issue. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year and Keep Safe

FIXTURES/MATCH SECRETARY (Mr Steve Pattenden)

33. This year has clearly been unprecedented and I am sure is unique in our 93 year club history with all Club fixtures being cancelled and no club matches played. I am sure even during the second world war years, some senior matches would have been played; historians among you may be able to confirm this. At least we were able to play roll ups amongst ourselves and limited internal competitions were played and completed. Congratulations to all the winners and the Honours Board will always for the future indicate we did have a 2020 Season, albeit a very limited one.

34. I am please to report most of our club's fixtures have already been confirmed, with another full programme for 2021 season, very similar to this year's fixtures at the same venues, format and number of rinks.

35. My thanks go to Peter Weir for arranging 2021 Seniors mid-week triples once again on my behalf and I believe are also almost complete, with an additional game against Pineholt on 14th June next year.

36. My only concern is that ours and other clubs' membership may be a little down due to the pandemic, as the virus will still be with us next year. We may well still be feeling the effects, with government-imposed restrictions on what we do, who and how we play.

37. There are also major questions relating to food, after match refreshments and of course if the opening of the bar can be offered to away clubs next season. All these questions hopefully will be addressrd before the Opening of the green on the 18th April 2021.

38. Other notable Games and dates:

3 rd May	Mens Festival at Tewkesbury
8 th May	Open Day
26 th May	We host Gloucestershire Ladies v Worcestershire Ladies
31 st May	Jubilee Trophy hosted by Cheltenham Spa

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28 th July	We host Gloucestershire VP v Northamptonshire VP
21 st August	Ladies Festival hosted by Cheltenham Spa
4 th & 5 th September	Finals Weekend
26 th September	Closing of the Green

Club Bowls matches may never be quite the same again. Let us hope we are able to have a full and successful Season in 2021.

COMPETITIONS SECRETARY (Mr. Andy Todd)

39. Competitive bowls looked unlikely early in the summer but once we resumed playing it wasn't long before we felt the need to spice it up and thus was born the Lockdown League. At the time it could only be a singles competition, which I think we all enjoyed and was keenly contested among the 21 members who took part. In all at least 30 members managed to get a game on the green.

40. Following that we managed to run all the singles and one pairs competition in August, though entries were not surprisingly lower than normal. I'd like to thank all involved for getting all the matches played in good time for Finals Days on the first weekend in September. Some new names among the winners so congratulations to them and the other winners. Better luck next year to the runners-up. We do intend to hold a presentation evening when it becomes possible so you will still get your moment of glory!

HOUSE & GREEN COMMITTEE

41. Good news - last season we decided to dispense with Simon's services and bring in Avonmore and the difference between last season and this proves we made the right decision. The good news is we actually saved money but it also meant we would have to cut the grass ourselves. Fortunately, we have a great team (male and female) names as follows:- Don, Dave H, Dave R, Gail, Yvonne, Steve P, Andy, Richard M and a special mention to John Petchey who cut the grass through the winter and generally looked after the green. Unfortunately, John has had to stand down due to ill health, thank you John for all your hard work. These people cut the grass and tended the borders and hedges (or anything that needed doing) they did a fantastic job and they do it with pride. Ray Hawkins did a great job looking after all the machinery.

42. As far as work on the club itself, I have been working on the disabled toilet. Unfortunately, we have had to make alterations to the work the builder did incorrectly, so Roy has taken on this work and done a first-class job. I am at present continuing with the painting.

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Appendix to be added to the Constitution as approved by vote of members in paras 3-4 above:

Appendix F: Banking Arrangements

1. The club shall hold a current account with a recognised high street clearing bank.
2. The club authorises the use of Internet Banking Services on this current account. It acknowledges that using Internet Banking Services means that a named individual, which should normally be the Club Treasurer, must operate such an account and will have access to and be able to make payments from this account solely. The Treasurer must delegate the authority to access and make payments on the account to at least 2 other current members of the Management Committee.

Payments from current account

3. All cheque payments will require 2 signatories from those authorised by mandate from the bank. Authorised signatories will include the Treasurer and at least 2 other current Management Committee members, who may be the same as those who have access to the current account.
4. An 'offline' authority, approved by at least 2 signatories from the authorised list as above, will be required prior to any payments being made via Internet Banking Services (e.g. BACS). The Treasurer must retain evidence of this authority, which will be made available for audit purposes.