

# **CHELTENHAM WHADDON BOWLING CLUB**

## **MINUTES OF 96<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held at the Clubhouse on Friday 10 November 2023 at 7.00 pm**

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1. Apologies for absence were received from the following members: Peter Weir, David Potter, Phil Nelson, Angie Uttridge, Yvonne Anderson-Foss, Veronica Berry, Trish Williams, Pat McGiffie, Ramon Riera, A full list of attendees is attached to these minutes.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

2. The Chair asked if there were any amendments or questions regarding the Minutes of 95th AGM held on Friday 11th November 2022. There were none and, on the proposal of Jacqueline Simmons, seconded by Don Bailey, the meeting approved the minutes as a true record. The Chair then duly signed a copy of the minutes.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

3. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

### **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (Treasurer: Mr. D. Simmons)**

4. This year's accounts show a deficit of £4,145 and a net cash outflow of £4,933. The difference in these 2 numbers is down to depreciation, capitalisation of some assets, valuation of stock adjustment and an accrual for some of Avonmore's services. For easier reading the cash flow statement shows more clearly the incomings and outgoings of the club and covers the accounting year.

5. Part of the deficit can be explained by some non-recurring expenditure:

• Council insurance- paid 2 years	£300
• CCTV	£220
• New gates for green access	£700
• Defibrillator	£1300
• Gas - 2 years expenditure in one year	£1300

6. On a more positive note we saw increases in revenue in the following:

- subscriptions from members, coffee mornings, short mat, Waghorne's Friday night triples, social events and
- a new source of revenue from renting out the car park on Cheltenham Town FC match days.
- the revenue from the 50 club has fallen, so I would encourage any members not yet in the 50 club to speak to Jill Whistler and sign up.

7. Next year's biggest challenge looks to be the ongoing saga of the utility bills, particularly electricity. The new committee will no doubt be tasked with monitoring this closely as we go through the year.

8. The Captain's charity, which raised £413.50, is not shown separately as it missed the end September cut off, but a cheque has been delivered to Maggie's cancer charity.

9. I would personally like to thank Don Hughes for his ever-vigilant auditing, and he is now stepping

down from the auditor's role.

10. Please continue to support any fund raising/social events - don't forget friends and family are always welcome.

## OFFICERS' & SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

### a. President (Mr R. Hawkins)

11. The President reserved his remarks for his closing address (see para \$\$ below).

### b. Secretary (Mr A. Todd)

12. I believe the club has made some significant progress this year and I would like to highlight a few important developments:

- In January 2023 we acquired a **Defibrillator** through the Bowls England scheme in conjunction with the Community Heartbeat Trust, which was made possible by the generosity of a donor, who does not wish to be named. A subsequent training session on how to use the machine was well attended, but let's hope we never have to put it into practice! On behalf of the club I would like to offer our thanks to the donor
- We have made some notable improvements to **Club Security** by acquiring a CCTV system using 2 cameras covering the car park and lobby, which is now operating successfully. We had also intended to replace the lock on the front door with a keypad lock but the multipoint lock on the door was not compatible with such a system. Instead, we purchased a key safe and installed it next to the front door, so that we no longer need to issue keys to new members and thus save the expense of cutting new keys.
- Early in the summer we began negotiations with with catering company serving our neighbours, Cheltenham Town FC, who wanted to **use our car park on match days** to provide facilities for visiting supporters. The first plan envisaged 2 permanent structures, losing 2 parking spaces but this came to nought when the football club decided to contract a new caterer. This second company, Iglu Bars, came up with an amended scheme, using tented structures, which can be erected and dismantled on match days, for which we receive a hire charge of 10% of their gross income on the day. Thus far we have had no problems with the arrangement and it has provided us with much needed income. While there was a possibility of clashes with club events during the crossover period in late April and August/September, we would be trying to arrange fixtures to avoid home matches on a Saturday in those periods.
- There have been other improvements to the **fabric of the club**, most notably the refurbishment of the bar, improved lighting in the skittle alley (again made possible by a donation). I would like to offer my thanks the House & Grounds committee who did an excellent job.

13. You will have noticed during my previous points that we have received very welcome **donations** from several individual members this year. They don't want to be named, but I would like to repeat here that our club is very grateful to them. Given our financial position outlined above by the Treasurer, many of the improvements would not have been possible without their generous contributions.

14. Finally, speaking in my other capacity as **Competitions Secretary**, I was very pleased that there were minimal delays in getting games played and all matches were completed in good time for Finals Days. I am also pleased to report that some of our new members did very well and their names will appear soon on the Honours Board. I would like to thank all those who helped make Presentation a very successful evening, in particular Jill and catering team.

## c. Captains

### I. Men's Captain: Mr. D. Hooper

15. This year I should like to start my report by thanking a few people, well a lot of people really, who have assisted me in what has been a difficult year:

- Firstly, Keith Hawkes, my Vice Captain who stood in for me while I took some time out due to illness at the beginning of the season. It was good to know that there was someone there to take the reins when needed.
- Secondly, to the selection committee comprising of Ray Hawkins and Don Bailey who met religiously every Monday evening at 7pm to select the teams for the following weeks fixtures. More about their activities later.
- Thirdly, to the ground crew who maintained the green and the surrounding areas so well all year. The green continues to be the best in Cheltenham and surrounding area.
- Next, to all the members who rallied around and provided catering for our matches, both club friendlies and NGL Matches. Towards the end of the season, we reverted to old style hospitality by providing sandwiches and cakes for our visitors which was appreciated by everyone who attended. Speaking to other club captains I get the feeling that will start to happen at many clubs next year - something positive to look forward to.
- Finally, to all the members of the club for your support and backing that I have received over the past 5 years. However, 5 years is a long time, so I have decided, as some already know, to stand down as Captain at this AGM. I have enjoyed the experience but feel it is time for someone else to take on the role and I know that you will give your backing and support to whoever your new captain is.

16. Club friendlies have been well attended this year and we have not had to make announcements asking for more players, as the availability sheets have always been to full capacity. Some games have been so oversubscribed that we have used additional players in games to play for the opposition where they have come up short on numbers and in one or two instances we have used a 6th rink purely for our own players to play each other just to get them bowling.

17. Success rates have been good with more than 50% of the games being won. We have also seen an element of success in the NGL this year which got off to a good start by winning the Men's Festival Cup for the second time in 3 years, - well done to all the players on that day. Our final league position was third - only 13 points away from the 2nd place team (Cheltenham Town). We also won our first round Shield match against Spa quite convincingly but lost in the semi-final to Cheltenham Town. A good overall season and very pleased to see some of our new bowlers being included in the competitive side of bowls - a different ball game all round.

18. A lot of the thanks to our performances this season has been down to the selection of the teams and as I mentioned earlier my thanks go out to Ray and Don who changed some things around, a little tinker here and another little tinker there - and we all know how they love a little tinker.

19. The Captain's Charity: just when you think you have a club full of bowlers who know how to bowl and how to dress for the occasion, and how to behave correctly and conduct themselves in an appropriate way along comes the captain's charity and smashes your thought away. With many thanks to all of you who have misbehaved, bowled atrociously, used inappropriate language or given your own donations I have to report that I have presented a cheque to Maggie's in Cheltenham to the value of £413:50 for which they are exceedingly grateful and send their thanks to all of you who contributed.

20. Finally, thank you all again for your support over the last five years and keep doing what you are doing - enjoying your bowling.

## **II. Ladies Captain: Mrs. Y. Anderson-Foss**

21. This year we did very well in the ladies' league and, after winning five of our ten matches, we finished second in the division so we will be playing in Division 1 next year. It was good having plenty of lady bowlers in the Club with 16 playing in at least one league match and a few of the others giving it a go in the friendlies.

22. We started the season with a couple of warm up sessions in the week immediately following Opening of the Green. We agreed, at a ladies meeting in July, that these sessions worked well and that we'll do the same next year. As our league matches are on Tuesday evenings our first warm up session will be at 6pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024; the second warm up session will be at 2pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024. We also agreed that next year we want to KEEP our ladies' friendlies with Overbury, Moreton-in-Marsh and Bredon, but we'll DROP ladies' friendlies with Cheltenham Spa. With Alan's agreement, I've contacted the fixtures secretaries at the other clubs and sorted out dates for next year's ladies' friendlies. I've put the dates into the Club Calendar which is on the Club's website.

23. I believe I've done a good job as ladies captain remaining fair and unbiased throughout, without any prejudices and staying true to my beliefs that bowls is a hobby and that people's family, work and social life should take priority over being available to play in a team. Hopefully the next Ladies Captain will have this same philosophy as I think I've shown that it works well.

24. I want to thank Jacqui and Julia for their help with team selection and Jacqui Simmons, Jill Whistler, Julie Beaven, Carol Savage and Jan Bowd for stepping in to take charge of the August and September ladies' friendlies. As it happens four of this year's eight friendlies didn't actually go ahead due to various reasons: the weather was awful when Overbury were due to come to us, we weren't able to get enough players for two of the matches (Cheltenham Spa away and Bredon home) and Cheltenham Spa weren't able to get enough players when they were due to come to us! Hopefully we won't have the same problems next year.

25. It's possible that ladies not playing in league matches feel that they're not perceived as being good enough and/or they don't have the confidence to sign up to play in friendlies. It may help if members are clear about the Club's official selection policy: for league matches the strongest possible team must be selected; for friendlies the policy is that players must be given the opportunity to progress and develop their skills and players should get their fair share of games. This is the policy for all matches not just ladies' ones. The Selection Policy, together with loads more useful information, is available on the Club's website. Please go and have a browse at the pages. I'm sure you will discover something new about the Club and about playing bowls!

26. Many thanks also to David Hearle for sorting out a bottle of wine from the bar for each home match's raffle and for making sure the rinks were facing the road for our evening matches – this was in case there was a chance that we would be dazzled by the setting sun.

27. And finally, a big thank you to everyone throughout the Club, men as well as ladies, that have given me plenty of support in my 6 years at the Club. I'm looking forward to coming to play against you next July when Winget and Whaddon meet up for their annual friendly.

## **III. Afternoon Triples Captain: Mrs J. Whistler**

28. A very good season was had with only two games called off due to the weather. A big thank you must go out to all the members who helped in putting out and clearing away equipment. Also, thanks to all drivers for giving lifts. Special mention should be made for the excellent state of the green throughout the season. Many comments were made by the opposition and it was certainly very enjoyable to play on. Well done to all concerned.

29. 25 fixtures were confirmed and results were: 12 games won; 9 games lost ; 2 games lost/cancelled due to rain; 1 game cancelled by opposition; 1 game to be re-arranged at request of opposition but never

arranged. I would like to wish all incoming committee members for an enjoyable 2024.

**d. Membership Secretary: Mrs. D. Hooper**

30. I'm pleased to say that our membership numbers are looking quite healthy with 79 Full Members and 43 Social Members, 124 members in all.

31. We held an Open Day on 8<sup>th</sup> May and since then have welcomed 19 people to the club (9 Full & 10 Social). 5 new memberships came from the Open Day and the other 14 have come from introductions from our members and walk ins. Some of the new Social members intend to convert to Full Playing Members in April 24 when the new subscriptions are due.

32. Our numerous WhatsApp groups are great way to communicate quickly with our members but can become quite busy at times. If you are finding the notifications are driving you mad, you can turn these off. It doesn't stop you receiving the messages, but it does stop the 'pinging'. I can show you how to mute them, if you are not sure.

33. We have some very supportive club members and our new members have slotted in perfectly by joining in with playing outside, short mat matches and attending our Coffee Mornings and Social Events

34. With my Social Events hat on I just want to remind everyone that tomorrow's 'Old Time Music Hall' evening has been postponed to 25<sup>th</sup> November, because of so many people being struck by Covid. Please put your name on the list in the bar if you would like a ticket. It will be an extremely fun evening with many 'special guests' it would be a shame to miss it! We have some really fun social Events coming up so make sure you all keep an eye on the board, Social Events WhatsApp Group, or website for details.

35. Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to Andy Todd & Yvonne Anderson-Foss for all the help they have given me when I took over as Membership Secretary at the end of July.

**e. Fixture Secretary: Mr. A. Adams**

36. Only 1 fixture and the Ladies County game to be confirmed for next season but nothing else to report

**f. House & Grounds Committee: Mr. M. Newman**

37. When it comes to the building its mostly painting and decorating. This year Don Bailey, Ken Campbell and I revamped the bar and the ladies changing room and I think you'll agree that the lads have done a good job.

38. Like I said its mostly painting and decorating but the odd jobs turn up which require a carpenter and we arepleased to have the skills of Roy Kirby, jobs like the outside hatch, the new honour board and new base unit and taps in the kitchen etc.

39. I have been doing this work for quite a few years now and I feel its time to step down and let the younger element of the club take over. I will still be involved with the club doing bits and pieces. Thank you very much and Good Night.

## **PROPOSITIONS**

40. To increase membership subscriptions for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 seasons as follows:

- a. Full membership subscription to increase by £10 on 1 April 2024 and by a further £5 on 1 April 2025
- b. Social membership subscription to increase by £5 on 1 April 2024 and by a further £5 on 1 April 2025

Proposed by: Management Committee

The Secretary proposed this motion on behalf of the Management Committee, alluding to the background and relevant factors, as laid out in the attachment to these minutes. He stressed that our fees were still modest in comparison to other clubs and had been maintained at the same level for an unusually long period, which could not sustain on a reducing income with rising costs. Derek Fry objected that with the rising cost of living this was the wrong time to increase subscriptions. There being no further comment or objection, the meeting proceeded to the vote by show of hands. The motion was carried overwhelmingly with only 1 vote against.

41. To amend paragraph 7(b) of Appendix B (Club Rules) of the Club Constitution as follows:

- i. Delete 'white collared shirts' from the first sentence.
- ii. In the final sentence, add 'club or' after 'If required,'.

Proposed by: Yvonne Anderson-Foss. Seconded by: Julia Honer

Neither the proposer nor seconder were present to argue for this proposal though the reasons and background for it may be found at the attachment to these minutes. There was some confusion over the intent of this proposal, which the Secretary attempted to clarify. Essentially, in all club representative matches, whether mixed or men or ladies, the rule now insisted that the standard club shirt must be worn and the dispensation for ladies to wear plain white with green top was abolished. It also specifically allowed the wearing of rain or training jackets in club colours. The meeting then took a vote by show of hands, which carried the motion by a clear majority (7 votes against).

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

42. Unopposed nominations for the following officers had been received by the closing date:

- i. President: Dave Hooper
- ii. Hon. Treasurer: Dave Simmons
- iii. Hon. Secretary: Andy Todd
- iv. Club Captain: Ray Hawkins
- v. Ladies Vice-Captain: Julie Beaven
- vi. Afternoon Triples Captain: Jill Whistler
- vii. Afternoon Triples Vice-Captain: Peter Weir
- viii. Membership Secretary: Debby Hooper
- ix. Competition Secretary: Andy Todd
- x. Bar Committee (3 elected members): David Hearle, John Petchey
- xi. House & Grounds Committee (at least 3 members): David Hearle, Ray Hawkins, Gail Gilbert, Don Bailey, Ken Campbell
- xii. Social Committee: Debby Hooper

With no further nominees from the floor the Secretary proposed that in accordance with established practice the meeting should approve the election of these nominees en bloc, which was duly carried unanimously.

43. There were 5 nominees for 4 places as Management Committee members: Mike Newman, Peter McGiffie, Julie Beaven, Derek Fry & Julia Gray. An election was therefore necessary and the nominee with the least number of votes was Derek Fry; the other four were therefore elected as members of the Management Committee.

44. There were 3 nominees for 2 ordinary members of the Selection Committee: Ray Hawkins, Don Bailey & Mickey Martin. However, one of these, Ray Hawkins was elected as Captain (para 42. iv above),

and thus became the ex-officio Chair of this committee. Two further nominations, Malcolm Hodges and Nigel Kavanagh were made from the floor, which were accepted despite objections, as this is allowed under the Constitution. An election for the two places on the Committee ensued and the 2 candidates with the most votes, Don Bailey & Mickey Martin were duly elected onto the Selection Committee.

45. There were no nominations for the following positions:

- i. Men's Vice-Captain
- ii. Ladies Captain
- iii. Fixture Secretary
- iv. Safeguarding Officer
- v. Accounts Examiner
- vi. Bar Committee (Hon Sec, Hon Treasurer ex-officio): at least 1 further elected member.
- vii. Competitions Committee (Competition Secretary ex officio): 4 elected members (normally 2 men, 2 ladies)
- viii. Social Committee: at least 2 more elected members

The Secretary invited nominations from the floor for these positions with the following response:

- Dave Simmons volunteered to become Men's Vice-Captain on the proposal of David Hearle, seconded by Ray Hawkins and was elected unanimously.
- Mark Beaven volunteered to join the Bar Committee, proposed by Paul Leake and seconded by Peter McGeachan and was elected unanimously.
- Malcolm Hodges was willing to join the Competitions Committee, proposed by Andy Todd, seconded by Dave Hooper and was elected unanimously.
- Gail Gilbert volunteered to become Safeguarding Officer, proposed by Mike Newman and seconded by John Petchey and was elected unanimously.

The Secretary noted that this left some important posts unfilled and urged members to consider helping the club by coming forward to fill them. The incoming Committee would be more than willing to explain any duties required and had the power to co-opt members onto the Committee.

## **CLOSING ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT**

46. I would like to start with our Open Day. It attracted some new members, who were given a warm welcome and basic tuition by the club volunteers. It made it a successful day, so well done to the volunteers.

47. Next, I would like to give thanks to the members who run the club, the club officers and those who assist. There is a lot of work behind the scenes, so a big thank you to them. The club relies on volunteers mainly, so please come forward during the year and help out. Just an odd hour or two (or a week!), when you have some free time – it all helps.

48. We have a great facility and this is down to past and present members who have put lots of effort into making it successful. So if there is a problem or disagreement, let us not look to criticise, let us look for solutions. We are all different and look at things in a different way!

49. This is my final act as President and with that I would like to hand over to the new President, Dave Hooper, who we are all sure will do an excellent job. Ray handed over the chain of office to Dave Hooper to much applause. He then declared the meeting closed.

Andy Todd  
Secretary, Cheltenham Whaddon BC

Signed as a true record:

D. Hooper, President

## LIST OF ATTENDEES

A total of 46 members attended the meeting as listed below. This list was compiled from the sign in sheet provided on the night. If you attended but your name does not appear below, please inform the Secretary, who will add your name to the list.

Ray Hawkins (President & Trustee)  
Dave Simmons (Treasurer)  
Andy Todd (Secretary)  
Dave Hooper (Club Captain)  
Debby Hooper (Membership Secretary)  
Alan Adams (Fixture Secretary)  
Jan Bowd (Safeguarding Officer)  
Jill Whistler (Afternoon Triples Captain & Trustee)  
Mike Newman (Trustee)  
Malcolm Hodges  
Derek Fry  
Carol Savage  
Jacqui Simmons  
Paul Leake  
Peter McGiffie  
Jan Hawkins  
Jim Bowd  
Allan Pearce  
Ken Aldridge  
Roger Avery  
Liz Avery  
Maggie Newman  
Julia Gray

Phil Goode  
Ray Jones  
Gail Gilbert  
Tudor Morris  
Nigel Kavanagh  
Julie Campbell  
Ken Campbell  
Don Bailey  
Keith Hunt  
Peter Robbins  
Teresa Adams  
Roger Gill  
Sharon Gill  
Ken Tovey  
John Petchey  
Doreen Morris  
Don Hughes  
Mark Beaven  
Julie Beaven  
David Hearle  
Malcolm Cooke  
Peter McGeachan  
Geof Hack



## ATTACHMENT TO MINUTES OF AGM 96

### Proposition 6a: Increase in Subscriptions

The Management Committee are concerned that the small loss incurred in this financial year will surely grow in the coming years. Our energy costs have nearly doubled this year; other utilities and green maintenance will all go up as well. At the same time our income is reducing, particularly from the bar, which has been affected by loss of skittles teams over the winter. The maintenance grants we received to get us over the Covid epidemic have masked this underlying downward trend but this year the net outflow is much higher. Therefore, we have reluctantly decided to propose a modest increase over the next 2 years, noting that we have been able to maintain subscriptions at their current level for at least 15 years.

### Proposition 6b: Amendment to Dress Rules

The Proposer provides the following rationale for these amendments, the first of which will affect mainly Ladies players.

Para. 7(b) of APPENDIX B (CLUB RULES) of the Constitution states:

*For Club and Competitive Matches Members shall wear club shirts or white collared shirts with grey or white trousers or skirts or tailored shorts, as advised for the match. Socks, if visible, should also be grey or white. If required, white outer or waterproof clothing may be worn.*

This proposal has two parts. These are independent of each other but are provided together as they both refer to the same paragraph in the Constitution.

**Proposal A** is to delete “or white collared shirts”

Currently, for ladies matches, the ladies wear white collared shirts with, if needed for warmth, green waistcoats or cardigans. The proposal is that for all Club and Competitive matches the club shirt should be worn by everyone.

Reason for proposed change

1. It's easier to turn up in the right top if you don't have to work out which one you're supposed to be wearing (on a couple of occasions this season a team member played in the 'wrong' top, i.e. club shirt in a ladies match, white top in a mixed match). It's bad enough working out what colour trousers to wear!
2. There's no rule about what design a white top should be - it can be a polo shirt, a fully buttoned blouse or shirt, long sleeved, short sleeved, etc, and can be made of any material so the end result doesn't send out 'team' signals. Imagine the confusion if we were playing against another Club that also had random white collared tops as their 'uniform'. Surely we should make it clear which club we're representing.
3. The green waistcoats and cardigans are 'recycled', i.e. when someone leaves they hopefully donate their green clothing to the Club so that it can be passed on to a new player. No supplier has been identified for the purchase of new tops in the correct green colour (which apparently is Devonshire green).

**Proposal B** is to change the final sentence to “If required, club or white outer or waterproof clothing may be worn”.

Reason for the proposed change to the wording:

To change the Constitution to reflect what is actually happening.