

## **MINUTES OF THE 91st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CHELTENHAM WHADDON BOWLING CLUB HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON FRIDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2018 AT 7.00 PM**

The President Ray Hawkins took the chair in the presence of 43 men and 17 ladies. There were also a number of social members in attendance.

Ray welcomed all those who had attended the meeting.

I would like to start by giving a big thank you all, to the officers who run the club and then members who support them. Well done!

Jane is stepping down this year as club secretary, thank you Jane for your hard work and support. Also Keith is stepping down as Club Captain - Well done and thank you,

As you know we have a great facility here and to keep it that way we need volunteers to help out. If you have any spare time please make yourself available.

We always need new members so could you please carry membership forms with you just in case,

This year there was an incident involving some of our members which got to the state of involving the County and Bowls England. Thanks to Jane and Keith we went through the proper procedures and resolved the matter. The point of mentioning this, is to say to you all to keep our business within the club, or better still let us not have any disagreements!!

We have a new club constitution and business plan. These will help us to acquire grants etc., which it already has. Well done to all concerned.

A minutes silence was held in respect of members who had passed away during the season.

### **MINUTES**

The minutes of last meeting having been made available were taken as read and approved. No matters arising so the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman,

## **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS - MR DAVE SIMMONS**

Before we get to the numbers, I would like to thank a few people for helping with the Treasurers role this year. Don Hughes for his ever vigilant auditing, Peter Weir, Ray and Keith for helping put together the business plan and then a more general thank you to anyone who has collected, counted (and more importantly) spent or donated money to the club this year. Special thanks to Brenda and Doug Lowe for their donation earlier this year. Colin Bassett for securing a sizeable donation from Marchants Coaches. Liz and her team of helpers for the excellent coffee mornings. Mike for managing the 50 Club and good luck to Jill for taking that on for next year. Pat McGiffie for looking after the book sales. The money received for book sales and Wednesday triples which didn't get paid into the bank in time.

A personal thank you to Jane for her support, time and help in her role as Secretary.. Im sure I have forgotten some individuals - apologies if I have.

Things happen in the background which I am not always sure that all members are aware of, as a committee we are constantly reviewing costs and how we pay for them. This last year we have made substantial savings by changing our supplier of refuse bins, re-negotiated the contract for fire extinguishers and regularly review our energy costs.

Now onto the numbers.

On an accrual accounts basis the club returned a small deficit of £322 in the last financial year - on a cash flow basis we realised a surplus of £9. HOORAY

Overall income was pretty much in line with last year - decreases in catering and raffles being offset mainly due to the increase in donations.

Sundry expenditure looks to have increased - mainly due to purchase of new scoreboards (offset by a generous donation from one of our members) and boards and banners to advertise events etc.

Other news we finally got the new soft drinks dispenser installed behind the bar. We've got acceptance of our grant application via the Council's pride of Cheltenham scheme to part fund improvements to the gents toilet to incorporate a disabled toilet. This was almost a direct outcome from producing a business plan and clearly identifying works that need to be carried out and providing some sort of priority to those tasks.

To conclude - a year in which we have `broken even` but managed to maintain and even improve our existing facilities. Please continue to support your club and your new committee as they continue to carry on this excellent work.

SECRETARY - MRS JANE HAWKES.

I would like to thank everyone for attending this evening and I am aware that many of you are the ones who support the club in varied ways whether that is helping with improvement around the clubhouse, working on the green or surrounds, attending events or perhaps more importantly supporting both captains by putting your names down for games or agreeing to play when others have dropped out. It has been a busy year for the committee members they have put together a business plan to help with getting grants etc., to fund future work and improvements at the club, The club constitution has also been updated and brought into line with bowls england and hopefully this will be accepted later in this meeting. I think I should explain the unpleasant situation that occurred during the season as I realise that many members felt unsettled by events that were taking place at that time. Unfortunately, certain members reported the club to bowls england despite this being a breach of the regulations. As soon as this happened it became necessary to adhere to the procedures laid down by bowls england, this meant that only a small number of members dealing with it at the time could be made aware of what was happening. The reason for this was that if the complaint had been continued a small committee of members who had not been involved in any way with the situation would have had to take part in any disciplinary procedure. The whole process left a bitter taste and I hope as a club we can move on from this. I was shown a video by Lady Gaga talking about kindness and in it she talked about how when things start to go wrong, people start pointing fingers at where we think the bad guys are, they start arguing, everybody has different opinions but hatred is smart it is invisible has no colour, no identity it is a snake trying to divide its enemy into smaller less powerful groups and try and get them to hate each other so that it is easier to take them down while they are blaming each other and guess what the snake is winning. Don't let this club go down that route let us work together and acknowledge that whilst we are all different we do not have to hate each other we need to pull together in a crisis and become stronger and have a common goal of improving the club.

Finally I would like to thank all the committee members who have supported me through my four years as secretary and hope you will give the new secretary all the support they might need and wish him a smooth path going forward.

### CAPTAIN - KEITH HAWKES

Well that was an eventful season. The good thing is that as I am not standing for anything this year I can say what I like.

Thank you for making the effort to attend this evening and to all of those who played in the matches during the season. I would be grateful if everyone would remember that away matches are equally important to our club as home ones, if we do not play at other clubs slowly we will lose the corresponding home games.

It is good to see that we now have a large proportion of mid week bowlers taking part at the weekends.

Results have been mixed this year with a few good wins in the knockout competitions and some good thumpings in a few of the other matches. Irrespective of the results we have always parted having had an enjoyable day. However, for the anoraks here tonight we won 12 lost 19, with 5 cancellations. We finished 5th in the NGL .

I would also like to thank everyone who has helped during the season whether it is with the routine tasks at home matches or assistance with the maintenance off the club during the season in the many duties from repairs to bar work. I would like to wish Nigel and Derek all the best in their captaincy of the club next season.

Finally I would like to make a special thank you to Ray for his support and balanced thinking during the difficult period during the season and I hope that no further incidents will arise again. Lets keep Whaddon popular for the reason most of us joined - a friendly and unified club.

### LADIES CAPTAIN - Jill Whistler

Good evening ladies thank you all for your support during the year with a special thanks to Brenda for assisting me during the year and help with food for all county games. These games are important to the club and take up a full days work. It would be nice for some of the newer/younger members to help in these preparations in order that they could take over and hopefully learn what else goes on in the club apart from just bowling.

Nothing much to report, not a very eventful season several of the friendly games cancelled, look forward to next year being more successful it takes a lot of time and effort arranging these fixtures and I feel we should make more effort to honour these

We started really well in the league but we couldn't sustain the continuity with people willing to play. Next year we have entered top club and interclub please make every effort to fulfil these games.

Finally I would like to wish all new officers a successful year, hopefully we will get the green back to the standard we come to expect.

#### AFTERNOON TRIPLES - MR STEVE GILMAN

We had a good season putting 5 or 6 triples out every game. We played 14 teams both home and away. 36 members had games. We won 80m drew 6 and lost 58. Overall we had 14 match wins, 4 draw and 10 losses. Almost every member that played midweek also made themselves available for other club matches.

Thanks to everyone who helped on match days. You know who you are and to Peter Weir for his arduous work on fixtures. I look forward to 2019 being a more harmonious year. Let's support the club.

Good luck to Malcolm Cooke who is next year's vice captain.

#### FIXTURES SECRETARY - PETER WEIR

Peter is handing fixtures secretary to John Robinson.

#### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - MRS JANE HAWKES

Unfortunately we have lost members that joined us last year. We need new members, please try and encourage new members to join us.

#### GREENS COMMITTEE - SIMON PEARCE

The green this year has not been at its best and has suffered this year from the weather. The past winter was either very wet or we were covered in snow, this effected what we were able to do. The spring maintenance that was carried out consisted of scarification over seeding and a light top dressing. The top corner of the green was extremely wet and the top dressing hopper marked the green with the weight. There was no recovery on the green with the seed rotting before it could establish itself. During the season the green struggled with the heat wave and due to an irrigation failure the green struggled, we could not get enough water onto the green.

## AUTUMN MAINTENANCE

The maintenance that has been carried out this autumn has been scarification..

Hollow tining was carried out at a depth of 75mm and at a spacing of 50mm. 60kgs of 80:20 grass seed this is made up of fescue and bent.

60:40 top dressing. Applications of chemicals. Fertilising of 40kgs of X10 5:2:8 and soil fix.

The STRI came for an advisory visit while the autumn renovations were being carried out the results that came from the visit.

The green was lost due to no water after the committee ordered that I was not to water and during the hot weather and the failure of the irrigation system. There was nothing wrong with any of the maintenance.

The nutritional programme is being adjusted to reduce the N input.

The green when tested by the STRI was close to drought conditions but the top corner of the green by the football entrance was saturated. Severn Trent have said they are surprised that there is no water bubbling to the surface a different engineer said there was no leak.

REPORT AVAILABLE IF REQUIRED.

HOUSE COMMITTEE - no report all going to plan.

PROPOSITIONS - None

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers to be elected unopposed

President **R Hawkins**

Mens Captain N Kavanagh

Vice Captain D.,Fry

Secretary A.Todd

Treasurer D.Simmonds

Competition Secretary A.Todd

Ladies Captain J Whistler

Vice Captain B.Miller

Membership Secretary C Savage  
Promotion/Event's Organiser C Bassett  
Auditor D Hughes  
Fixture Secretary J Robinson  
Seniors Captain (midweek) S Gilman  
Catering Co-ordinator S. Gilman  
GBA Rep J Hughes  
Chairman M Newman (if constitution accepted)

#### PRESIDENTS ADDRESS

Ray Hawkins retained the chain and badge.  
He thanked the members for his support and their confidence in electing him.  
The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

#### CIRCULATION

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