

President (Graham Hughes)

I'm writing this after only holding the position of President for only a few months. This is due unfortunately to Jill's ill health preventing her from carrying on. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her on behalf of the club for her long-standing service in her many roles over the years which we greatly appreciate.

I would like to thank all the committee members who have helped me settle into the position and the members of the club who have supported and encouraged me. The job is a lot more involved than I thought it would be. However, I hope that you the members think that I am doing a reasonable job and things are moving in a positive fashion.

We have seen an influx of new members players and social who seem to have settled into the way the club operates. However, it would be nice to see them put their names down for more matches and too see them at the coffee mornings and social events during the coming winter months.

Constant change is here to stay and the club is evolving in the right direction. So, if members have any ideas they think could improve the club in any way, they should put their ideas forward in order that they could be discussed. Or even put their names down for the various positions available on the committee.

I would also like to thank all the members who volunteer their time in running the club and without their support and contributions the club would not run as smoothly as it does. We are always looking for new people that could offer their time or expertise no matter how big or small it would be much appreciated.

Remember it's a members' club and if there is anything I can do to support and encourage any member please come forward and ask

Treasurer's report (David Simmons)

This year's accounts show a deficit of £10,885 (last year £6,060) and a net cash outflow of £8,875 (last year £3,380). The difference in these 2 numbers is down to depreciation and valuation of stock adjustment.

I will keep this report pretty short but would like to thank anyone who gets involved with handling money within the club, makes my life easier - especially when I'm not here. My thanks also go to anyone who does any volunteering for the club - always appreciated.

For easier reading the cash flow statement shows more clearly the incomings and outgoings of the club and covers the accounting year. We have now had 3 years of cash deficits and need to remedy these shortfalls - unfortunately this means putting up prices over many items – membership subscriptions, bar prices and short mat fees.

We knew this year would be a financially challenging one – but important health and safety issues within the club have now been addressed, although not yet totally finalised.

The movement year on year can be explained in the main by:

Movement Positive Negative (£)

Income

Bar 1,500

Subs 500

Hire of Club/Probus 400

50 Club 350

Social/Coffee Mornings 400

IGLU football 240

Waghornes 140

Movement on Income +1,600

Expenditure

Water 1,200

Maintenance/Repairs 5,500

Movement on Expenditure -7,000

It would be nice to have a volunteer to resurrect the 50 club - in some shape or form, previous years have been a good fund raiser!

It would also be nice to have a volunteer for an auditor to review the accounts, this usually involves reviewing the paperwork twice a year and would provide an extra level of credibility to the accounts

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

Secretary (Andy Todd)

The Secretary's role means that I am involved in much of what happens at the club, which could make this a very long contribution. However, much of what I might say is covered elsewhere in these reports, so I will concentrate on a few issues, which I believe are the most important and which have been much debated in the Management Committee this year.

Firstly, we have undertaken a thorough review of the club's finances: Dave has already taken you through the figures and the accounts make the situation very clear. We have been looking carefully at both how to increase income and reduce expenditure, wherever possible. In terms of income, we have managed to secure some sponsorships; hire fees from Cheltenham Probus and continuing hire of the car park to Iglu. These have made a difference, but not enough to compensate for the increase in outgoings. You will also have already felt the effect of some changes, such as increases in bar prices and short mat fees, but to balance the books and to provide a small surplus to build up depleted reserves, we have also had to turn to members again for an increase in subscriptions. We don't take these decisions lightly: it has been the subject of discussion at almost every Committee meeting this year, but we just can't see another solution to keeping the club afloat. Even if you approve this latest request, the cost of membership would still compare favourably with other clubs.

The second issue I would highlight is club uniform: it cropped up at last year's meeting and then broadened from just the greys v. whites debate to a discussion about a complete change (originally an idea put forward to mark our centenary). I researched some of the options available and you'll have seen the various ideas and designs that emerged. Having sought members' views the Committee considered the options over several meeting and eventually decided to stick with our current shirt design. Which has brought us back to the grey v. whites issue which is the subject of a proposal later in this meeting.

I'd like to mention communications within the club: it's been remarkable how most of you have taken to using our club WhatsApp community groups, so much so that it is now the primary means of getting messages out to you and getting feedback. However, recently I've had comments that major Committee decisions have not been communicated quickly or effectively, so I'd just like to point out that minutes of meetings are posted on the club's website and a printed copy is available from the folder in the club foyer. Nevertheless, the point has been taken and I will make sure that in future, if we make an important decision, I will use the WhatsApp channel or e-mail to publicise it.

Finally, I have been working to develop a new more integrated website for the club. The current arrangements are a mixture of sources: the main website from Hugo Fox, the Bowlr microsite for rink bookings and membership database and a club calendar on Google. Because they are on different platforms it requires knowledge of the different operating systems and a lot of work to keep them in sync. So, I have set up a trial site from The Bowls Group, which is specifically aimed at bowls clubs, provides all the current facilities plus the ability for members to indicate availability for matches and captains to select teams and inform those selected automatically. It's still a work in progress, but I should have something fit to show members in the New Year, and, if the Committee approves, would still be available in time for the new season.

Club Captain (David Hooper)

I always like to begin my annual report by thanking members who have been instrumental in making the club as good as it is. When I looked down the list of those volunteers I decided that it was far too long to thank individuals, as we would probably be here all night. Volunteers are vital to keep the club going, so thank you to you all that given your expertise and/or your time, and to those that haven't – there is still time to get a mention next year.

I also have to include a passage in this report to satisfy the nerds who live on statistics – so here goes.

Club Friendlies – weekends.

We played 25 of our scheduled 29 matches this season. We won 17 and lost 8, the other 4 matches were cancelled for one reason or another, so a very successful set of results for the season. There was a total of 53 different players taking part in those fixtures, 19 of them playing over 50% of those games and 34 playing in less than 50%. I am presuming that a large number of players participated in the afternoon triples.

Men's matches

An excellent season, probably of our best for a few years. First of all, winners of the Men's Festival Cup for the 4th year in the last 5. Well done to all the players that brought the cup back to the club.

The NGL league was a tighter affair this year and we finished in a creditable 3rd. All I would say is that we were in 2nd place going into the last game of the season against Tewkesbury. Alas, we lost that game 9-4 and Tewkesbury took 2nd place in the league.

The NGL Shield was a different matter.

Round 1: Winners against Spa 78-51

Semi Final: Winners against Cheltenham Town 80-59.

Final: Runners-up against Bishops Cleeve losing 48 -67.

Many thanks to all the NGL squad for their performance throughout the season and a special thank you to all the reserves who stepped up when needed.

As for the future, there are plans in the pipeline to make some necessary changes to selections of all matches. We currently have a nucleus of players who have years of experience of playing of skips and they have continued to do us proud in our matches over the years. However, we have to look to the future and progress younger players to take up those positions, so we will be asking current skips to step back and help and support the skips of the future.

Captain's Charity

This has been a difficult year for me to get you to part with your hard-earned cash, either you have all improved or you have found a way of disguising your misdemeanours. I have my thoughts on which it is. It, therefore, gives me great pleasure to inform you that there is a subtle change to next year's charity. Having spoken to the other 2 captains and they have agreed to move the apostrophe on Captain's to Captains' – i.e. all captains will now collect fines and it will be a concentrated effort next year. Nowhere to hide anymore!

Over the six years that I have been Captain we have donated our collection to Maggie's, in that time our total donations amounted to approximately £2000. This has been a hard year financially for everyone, charities included, but Maggie's, like all big charities still have their big donors, so I have decided this year charity begins at home and I am donating this year's collection to club funds. So, thank you all for your contributions and I can report that I have handed the sum of £420.00 to Dave Simmons.

Finally a big thank you to all of you that have supported me this year and the years before, it has been a pleasure and an honour to have served as your Captain.

Ladies Captain (Julie Beaven)

Firstly, apologies that I cannot be at the AGM to give my report personally: it will be short & positive.

The Ladies league games were all played successfully, we came 4th in the second division, so very well done to all the ladies team.

The Ladies' friendly games will be removed from the fixtures next year. Instead I will arrange ladies practice games.

A big thank you to Jan Bowd and Jacqueline Simmons for all their advice and input on the selection team. very much appreciated. special mention to Wendy North & Carol Newsham for entering the county games and one national game this year. It was a good experience for us all and a thank you to Jan for stepping in for Wendy when unable to play.

As Jill had to step Down from Triples Captain, it was such a great loss to us all. but I was truly honoured to be asked to step in on Jill's behalf alongside Peter Weir who has very kindly put in the report for the triples games. So I just wanted to say a big thank you to Peter for all his help and to to Phil Nelson & John Petchey for stepping in to be captains for the day.

Thank you to Gail and the helpers for supplying the food & many cakes, also for her gardening skills: the flowers looked fabulous as always.

A big thank you to David and the maintenance crew for all their hard work. We had so many good reports and compliments for the green this year, so a big clap to you all.

Well done to captain, David Hooper, & Vice Captain & Treasurer, David Simmons, for all their hard work organizing the weekend games. Also a shout out to Mickey Martin for doing a grand job of Fixtures Secretary. Well done, Micky.

A Big Thankyou to the one & only Andy Todd, all your hard work during the open & closed season is never ending. We all appreciate all the work you do for us and congratulations on your big County win this year.

Finally, thank you to all Full & Social members , whether you're playing or watching and cheering us all on. I am very proud to be part of the club - GO WHADDON.

Afternoon Triples (Peter Weir)

This has been another excellent year for the for the Afternoon Mixed Triples with 51 members that have played during the season.

Our thanks go to Jill Whistler for the significant amount of work she has done this season and previous years in organising the members, games, and the opposition. It was unfortunate that Jill had to stand down part the way through the season. However, our thanks go to Julie Beaven and a couple of members to ensure the excellent work that Jill had started continued to the end of the season.

The last couple of years, to assist with the team selection process, ensuring fairness to all members and so that everyone who enters their name on the availability sheets has an opportunity to play, we have introduced a spreadsheet to log all the games and who played and who were reserves. So, for example, if you entered your name on the availability sheet and on the team sheet you were named as a reserve, the next game your name will be on the team sheet (that is, of course, if you have entered your name on the availability sheet).

Statistics for 2025

- Total fixtures planned 25.
- Games cancelled 4
- Triples played: 6 triples - 14
 5 triples - 6
 4 triples - 1

There are a couple of clubs that cancelled games: the fixtures secretary will be talking with these clubs and may be find alternative clubs that are more dependable.

Finally, thank you to all the members that assisted with the green set up before games and those that assisted with teas and clearing up after the games.

Membership Secretary (Debby Hooper)

Our membership numbers are as follows:

84 Full Members

22 Social Members

106 members in all (128 last year)

We currently have 84 Full members, which is only 2 less than last year's total but unfortunately, we have lost a few of our Social Members, for various reasons.

We had 7 new members join us since April this year, who have slotted in perfectly by joining in with playing outside, short mat matches and attending our Coffee Mornings and Social Events. On the whole our club membership remains at a healthy level and we pride ourselves on having a very friendly and sociable club, with an amazing green that is admired by all.

Social Events (Debby Hooper)

We again have a full Social Events calendar with something for everyone, each month. Our next event is a Skittles Night next Sat 15th November and the sheet is on the Social Events Notice Board for you to add your name to the list.

We recently enjoyed another week away in Devon at the Sports and Crafts Hotel in Okehampton, where 21 of us had a wonderful but busy time. I will be arranging another trip, probably in the new year for around October 2027 but this time we are looking at a Bowls Break in either Spain or Portugal. Details will be published soon.

We have some really fun social events coming up so please make sure you all keep an eye on the Social Events noticeboard, WhatsApp Group, or website for details. We really need more people to join us on these evenings, which are put on for your enjoyment but they also raise much needed funds for the club.

Bar Committee (David Hearle)

Another year successfully negotiated. Thank you to all our bar staff who work behind the bar on Friday evenings, social events and Skittles evenings.

This year there are changes afoot. With the breakdown of the cellar cooling system over last summer we are going to trial a venting of the cellar combined with a stand alone air con. I expect this to work well between October and April though the summer months may throw up problems especially if it is a hot summer like last year.

Furthermore we have tighten up on the use of the bar. Key access has been changed and we have purchased a new touch screen till which will enable us to improve financial control and stock checking.

There will be a slight reduction in stock primarily bottles and cans which are not big sellers. This will clear space in the coolers and cellars and mean that we do not have to carry unsold items for so long.

It must be emphasised that the bar is the main driver of income for the club. Basically the use of the bar and purchase of alcohol enables us to run the club. I would hope that all members realise this.

There has been a drop off in attendances on Friday evenings and social events and this has a direct effect on income for the club so please visit us as much as you can if you only drop by on a Friday.

Finally we always need bar staff and if anyone can help please let me know. There is a looming problem here which will probably manifest itself over the next few years as some of our longer serving bar staff pull their last pint and retire.

Please come forward to help if you can. At present we have just enough members working behind the bar on Friday to mean that they only have one shift a month. So the duties are not onerous.

Competitions Committee (Andy Todd)

Club competitions ran very well this year and I'd like to thank players for getting matches played on time, with very few exceptions. One notable change, which will continue, was converting the Mixed Pairs into a Mixed Triples event, which meant more participation. A recurring problem is that the closing date for entries is early (usually the last week in April), which means that new members miss the opportunity to take part. We intend to push the closing date back to the end of May next season, so playing your matches before play-by date will be even more important, as the time for each round will be compressed.

You may have noticed that the Honours Board has now been updated: it is very pleasing to see some new members getting to finals and, in some cases, winning for the first time, though there is a fair sprinkling of more familiar names up there.

Finally, we had more entries to County and even National competitions this year than at any time in the 15 years I have been at the club, both men and ladies. Even more pleasing is that most entries progressed beyond the first round, so I hope you have all been encouraged to have another go next year.