



WELLINGTON (SOM) BOWLING CLUB

MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 12th

There was a 1 minute silence for members who had died during the past 12 months.

1 The Chair Janet Moore declared the meeting open 7.01pm.

2 Apologies for absence

Bill Warnett, Carol Connor, Simon and Monica Spalding, Earnie Windsor, Geoff Stamp, Sally Waygood

3 Presidents address by Paul Kelly

Congratulations to all Members you have made 2022 a memorable season for our Club.

We have bounced back from two Covid affected years very positively. While we have had some Mixed Games cancelled by us, we have played far more matches than any other club we normally play during a season.

Feedback has been positive and from my observations our members have enjoyed bowling this season. Good weather with plenty of sunshine always adds to the enjoyment. Our fast-playing surface has helped those who have difficulty playing on heavy greens. You the members have made Wellington a a welcoming club for our visitors, and we know this from the very positive comments from many clubs who always look forward to visiting us.

We have seen a good number of new members joining us, some with bowling experience but the majority new to the sport. It is important that we ensure that they are made welcome, helped to understand the game, and are encouraged to participate and Roll Ups and competitive bowling when they are ready.

As in all good clubs the work carried out by those in formal posts and those who help are often unseen but make the difference to the smooth running of all the activities we enjoy. To all those people I thank you on behalf of all the members.

It is with concern that I note we have several key posts with no nominations being proposed prior to the AGM. Please do not assume that someone else will volunteer.

If I can amend a famous statement from the past.....

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU !

Paul Kelly

4 The minutes of the last AGM and the subsequent Special General Meeting were approved.

5 Matters arising from the previous minutes. There were no matters arising.

6 Chairperson's Comments

This is my final report as Chairperson as I will not be standing for re-election. Over the past three years I would like to thank all those members who have served on the Executive and in other club roles during my period as Chairperson. Without their hard work we would not have the successful club that we have. We have been able to make improvements to the club with Covid grants whilst maintaining a healthy financial position.

A number of people or standing down from their roles and it is imperative that we have volunteers to take up these roles. If no one comes forward our club will not survive. **We all want to play bowls "but think not what your club can do for you but what you can do for your club"** Even if you are a newer member and unsure of what we can do please speak to a member of the executive there is always some way that you can help. When I became Chairperson three years ago, I had only been a club member for 18 months and was new to bowling but felt that I could help the club. So, if you feel you could help, please come forward.

Over the last year our indoor programme was curtailed do to Covid and despite a few interruptions, for us and other clubs, we had an almost full programme of fixtures outdoors. Thanks to players and all involved in organising matches and providing Match teas at all of our home matches.

It has been an honour to be your Chairperson and to have helped the club come through one of the most difficult times due to Covid. I would like to wish our new chairman every success in his new role.

Janet Moore

7. Executive Committee Members Reports

Admin Co Ordinator's Report

I am writing this short report for the AGM as Henry Richbell resigned as our Admin Co Ordinator in August. I would like to thank henry for his work on the Executive Committee and being part of the Club management Structure. Thanks to

Thanks to Chris Williams for his work as Membership Secretary and we all wish him a speedy recovery from his recent surgery. Membership renewal went well this year, although we did lose a few numbers. Thanks to Jay who has continued as our Webmaster, Fixture Secretary and has helped recently with some of the admin tasks. Thank you to Di Dagg in her role as Publicity Officer, and for the reports sent into the Welly Weekly and also to Dave, her husband, for his photography and skills at club events. Thanks to Brian Wombwell who has been our Admin Assistant and takes minutes for all of our meetings and helps with admin matters. This year however Brian has also spent a great deal of time sourcing new club shirts. This has not been an easy task and took nearly a year for an acceptable shirt to be found which was UK manufactured.

Janet Moore

Bowls Co Ordinator

This year's outdoor season has been an improvement on last year and we have managed to complete an almost full programme of league matches and friendlies. Most match cancellations have been by other clubs who have not been able to raise a team. The ladies were particularly disappointed by the cancellation of friendly matches when teams had already been selected.

Club competitions progressed well for the Indoor and Outdoor season. Congratulations go to all our winners and thanks to Jerry Mangeolles and Henry Richbell for organising the competitions.

I organised an umbrella weekly event outside on Fridays and the £1 fee going to the air ambulance fund. Support was good to start with but disappointingly attendance dropped off.

We had a successful tour to Torquay and our trip to the Royal Household club at Windsor was a great success and was enjoyed by all who went.

I would like to thank all Members who have taken part in matches this year and thanks to our Fixtures Secretary J Meryl, who spends a great deal of time organising our fixtures and being point of contact for other clubs. All friendly matches, county matches and touring clubs are arranged by Jay. Thanks also to our Team Captains and selectors who give up their time for the benefit of all who play in matches.

We have a small number of away indoor fixtures and support for the two October dates has been good. I hope that members continue to support these fixtures.

Ed Dilley

Assets Co Ordinator

1. There have been quite a few minor jobs completed during the last year and all servicing work is up to date except for the servicing of the gas boilers. I will expand on that later in this report. All work associated with the alarm servicing, fire systems servicing, and appliance testing is up to date, and the new till appears to be working ok.
2. The main work during the last year was the replacement of the indoor rink carpet and underlay. The work came in on budget and there were no problems found. The base was found to be in good condition and was level. The carpet has been stretched once and is due another next summer, which was included in the price
3. During the early part of this year our electricity contract became due for renewal. Thankfully this was before the price of utilities increased dramatically.
4. A new contract for supply of gas has been negotiated. Due to circumstances beyond our control the new contract is considerably more expensive. We were able to negotiate the price down from the original quote of over £17,000 to a figure of around £9,000 per year. This is roughly three times our bill for this year. The Government grant reduces this to closer to £4,000 but only until April 2023.
5. While negotiating the gas contract the "British Gas" adviser suggested that our gas usage is a lot higher than it should be. This is the main reason why the gas boilers have not yet been serviced as we need to investigate more efficient ways of using gas. We have also had a problem with each boiler due to the water pressure in the closed loop dropping enough to trip out the boiler. The club room boiler had repairs done last year during servicing which did not solve the problem, which was later found to be several leaks in the radiator system. One thing being looked at is to fit a smart thermostat in the clubroom.
6. The internet appears to be working ok at the moment albeit a bit slowly. This could cause a smart thermostat on the heating to not be viable. The present supplier has sold their internet business to "Plusnet" so we may be able to negotiate a faster internet once this is complete.
7. This brings me back to the concerns over the indoor rink carpet and all the club premises. The concern is the lack of care of the club assets by some club members. This is your club, and we are

all responsible for looking after it. I was aware of problems, but they became more apparent when a new schedule was produced for the club cleaning. We do not employ a cleaner for 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Our cleaner works, at this time of year, only 4 hours a week. This means that if 1 hour of the cleaner's time is taken up clearing up unnecessary mess then there is only 3 hours cleaning time left. It is also unfair on the majority that we have to pay for a lot of repairs. I will not list everything that has been found, you know who you are, but I just ask everyone to look after what we have. The Exec. will not hesitate to embarrass or exclude anyone found abusing the facilities.

8. I am willing to carry on in the role of "Assets Co-ordinator" for one more year, but it would be a good idea if there was someone to under study the role who could take over next year.

Tony Woollard

Functions Report

The year started off slow as members were still very aware of the COVID situation. Due to this, quite a few functions we would normally have didn't happen.

Trying to get members back into the club for any event has proved rather difficult this year. We held craft fairs on a few Saturdays and the first one was very successful but the next two or three had hardly anyone attend. This again, was because COVID raised its ugly head.

The opening of the green saw quite a few members coming back as they could obviously start playing outside with less risk of COVID.

We put a stall together at the Friends of the Park event to try to recruit new bowlers. A few people showed interest and came to the club to have a try at bowling, but I don't think any of them stayed. We tried to introduce an umbrella evening. This started well, but then members stopped coming down, and it died a death.

Through the summer we had glorious weather, everyone enjoyed their bowling, and the club came back to life.

There are many events on the notice board with dates up until the New Year and beyond. This is where we need you, the Members, to put your names down and come to the events. The entertainment, no matter who we have, cost money. Members do not realise these acts/ entertainers are booked over a year in advance and we cannot just cancel them a week before without incurring penalty costs. We have to book them well in advance and we pay deposits. Now if you don't support these events and we have to cancel due to low numbers we then lose that deposit and also incur a cancellation fee, which is a cost to your club. If we do not get your support the social side of the club activities will not exist. The social Team are volunteers and they work very hard to put on the events. Sometimes they are working from 9am until 11pm setting up tables, putting chairs out, decorating the clubroom and preparing food etc. This does not include purchasing the food and the bar stock which takes several days. All this to give you a good night out. All profits go into club funds and you the members benefit. On that note I would like to thank all the members of the Social Team, Kitchen Staff, Bar Staff, and all the other helpers for giving us their support over the past years.

We need to get more use out of our club in order to pay for the current extreme rise in costs of gas and electricity. This can only succeed if members support the various events. Failure to do this and the club may not survive the consequences. The bar is open Monday to Friday evenings and sometimes we are lucky sell two or three pints of beer, and this will not cover the cost of utilities, Gas and Electric. The result may be that we have to turn off the heating to the club room and only open the bar when we have an event at the weekends.

There have been some suggestions that could happen during the winter such as offering soup and a roll at lunchtime, music and dance classes or an afternoon Bingo Session. These could be offered to non-members to try and raise some funds and also "do our bit" for the local community.

We have a regular booking for a craft club every other Saturday and the Walking Group come to club some weeks for coffee and biscuits which also brings in a small amount of revenue.

At the end of the day **Your Club Needs You** to support the events that we organise. If you don't there will be no events and what a waste of a clubroom that would be.

As you all know this is my last year of being Functions Co Ordinator. I have really enjoyed doing this over the past four years. Again, I would like to thank Alan Moore and all the other bar staff for their help over this time, also Marguerite Nichols, Angie Moore, Janet Lovell, and all the other members of the social team for all their hard work.

I will still be organising the Torquay Tour which we have already booked for March 2023.

Steve Lovell

Green Keepers Report 2022

The winter preparation in early October 2021 laid good basics for the 2022 playing season. Moss was treated four times during the winter period usually following a topping of the grass. We had one attack of Fursarium (fungal patches) which was treated with a fungicide and assisted with an application of Ferrous Oxide (moss killer). The iron content hardens the grass sward, speeding up recovery and limiting further attacks. We also reduced the grass height from 10mm to 8mm for the out of season period, to allow the grass to dry out quicker when the sun and wind blows which reduces the risk of fungal attack. The outcome by early March was very little moss, and what had survived was scarified to reduce it further before the green opened. The Green was solid tine spiked at the end of March this is to reduce the occurrence of dry dead grass patches as the spiking keeps the surface open to allow water to penetrate.

We opened with a good bowling surface, the good weather gave us a good pace in the early weeks, and the Green bowled consistently well for the whole season. At the height of the hot dry periods the pace was exceptionally quick and challenging to deliver consistent line and weight. We watered regularly to allow a quick recovery when drought periods end with that inevitable rain. In extremely hot weather irrigation will not maintain that lush green grass colour.

Feedback from club members and visiting teams has been very positive with all enjoying the good playing surface. I believe we have had the most consistent bowling surface this year since we undertook green maintenance internally. We have one of, if not the best, greens in Somerset which is very pleasing to me and my Green Maintenance team, and an asset for the Club. We are very proud of what we have achieved over the past few years and it stands as a tribute to all the hard work we have done.

Good weather certainly helped, together with a combination of past experience, gained knowledge amongst the Green Team, plus the addition of a new mower with a superior cutting blade achieved a tighter and accurate cut. The wear on the green has been much less than seen in other seasons so the Green Team would like to thank all of you who bowl in roll ups, for moving the mat ensuring we get even wear, and not playing just on the middle rinks. Spreading the play on rinks allows you to gain the home advantage on the

best lines to bowl as all rinks have small differences when bowling competitively.

To achieve this quality of playing surface we have to purchase significant amounts of products. The healthy Club finances make it possible to afford the products which I take care to purchase wisely. I am pleased to be able to report that Nick Channon and David Beaudet have confirmed that they will continue as Green Keeper assistants for the next year. It is good teamwork that delivers the results, and I thank them both for the total support they have given me in the past year.

Paul Kelly

8 Treasurers Report/Auditors Report

We have come through a difficult time over the past two years due to Covid but we have come through it and we still have a comfortable bank balance. We have also been able buy new furniture and complete the renovations in the clubroom and changing rooms. We have also recently replaced the Carpet on the Indoor rink and purchased a new grass mower.

The rising inflation costs and the extreme increases in the cost of gas and electricity are certainly going to affect us. We need to limit these costs by switching lights off when not needed and do not interfere with the boilers or temperature thermostats.

Derrick Alford

Auditors Report

Wellington Bowling Club		
Balance Sheet as at 30th September 2022		
	2022	2021
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Clubhouse & Indoor Green	255,777.56	255,777.56
Outdoor Green	13,696.34	13,696.34
Indoor Carpet	11,124.00	486.00
Greens Keepers Equipment	-	-
Central Heating Systems	-	-
Kitchen Equipment	-	-
Other Clubhouse Assets	6,621.72	4,430.03
Total Fixed Assets @ NBV	287,219.62	274,389.93
Current Assets		
Cash	1.36	1.36
Current Account	16,762.47	17,086.07
Building Fund Account	25,713.69	30,708.59
Unrepresented Deposit	275.00	38.00
Social Fund Cash	200.00	200.00
Stock	1,128.47	1,364.69
Bar Account	746.31	1,186.40
Total Current Assets	44,825.30	50,585.11
Total Assets	332,044.92	324,975.04
Liabilities		
Long Term Loans	-	-
Total Liabilities	-	-
Building Fund	-	5,704.64
Accrued Expenses	-	2,043.99
Reserves		
Accumulated Fund	332,044.92	317,226.41
Total Reserves & Liabilities	332,044.92	324,975.04

Approved by a member of the committee on

Signature

We have prepared the above Income and Expenditure account from the books and records provided and from the information and explanations given and certify it to be in accordance therewith. In connection with the examination no matter has come to my attention to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signature

Marie Johns FCGA
Batchelor & Company Accountants Ltd
Chalfon House
Cullompton, Devon
EX15 1AE

Tony Gibson and Clive Manning proposed that the accounts should be accepted. The Accounts were accepted Unanimously

Question by Member – Why do we not included statements in the Minutes of the Exec. Committee.
Answer - The minutes are examined at every monthly Executive meeting and are also sent to the Trustees. If they were distributed to members, they would become “public knowledge”. This would expose us to scammers, advertisers etc. The published minutes contain information detailing reasons why all main items are needed and purchased.

9 Captains Reports

LADIES' CAPTAIN'S REPORT FOR AGM 14TH NOVEMBER 2022

It has been an excellent season, not as we would have liked, but we have fulfilled at least 95% of our games as this was all down to the full support of everyone who signed up to play. Sadly, some clubs have suffered through not having enough players which lead to them cancelling the game this was very disappointing for us as we had selected our teams and ready to go.

SBA Southey Trophy – we played against Clarence Park, Weston super Mare, who we beat last year, but not this year. All players enjoyed the game despite the result.

SBA Fear Cup/Plate Cup - the first round was played at Watchet we lost, but we went on to play North Petherton at home in the Plate – what an exciting game that was – we only lost by one shot. As I told our ladies at our recent meeting, we have the ability and enthusiasm to go even further next year.

S & SW League – this year was won by Watchet, would have liked to have been nearer the top of the league, but not to be. Through no fault of our own.

Friendlies – played Taunton, Bridgwater Durleigh and Victoria Park, should have played North Petherton and Williton but they had to cancel through lack of players.

It has been a busy season and with the help from Brenda Wilson and Lynda Manning everything went smoothly for which I thank them. I must also thank all the lady members who signed up to play for every game – without you we would have been cancelling games which would not have been good for morale and the club. There are a number of other people I need to thank – they are Jay, with our fixtures, Win for doing our league teas and the men who drove and prepared our tea when we played our County games.

Not forgetting Paul Kelly and his dedicated team who have kept our green one of the best in the County throughout the exceptionally high temperatures we have experienced this summer – a big thank you from all our playing members.

Any new lady members interested in taking part in our games please contact us we would so much like you to be involved.

As I am standing down, Brenda Wilson will be taking on the Captaincy – please give Brenda and her team the same support that you have given me over the last few years. I wish her well and every success in 2023 onwards.

Thank you each and everyone of you.

Stay safe and well this Winter

Ann Cowling

Ladies' Captain.

Men's Captain Report 2022

Another good seasons bowling in all our competitive leagues, coming back from a period of very limited bowling due to Covid a very creditable performance from all those who bowled.

We were very fortunate with the weather and the wet weather coats little used, bowling in the rain happened very rarely, those who did, appreciate it is a much better game played in the dry with the sun on your back.

Congratulations to the Lions 0-60 team who won the league gaining promotion to league 3 next season, they won 16 matches losing only 2 and were clear winners. They have gained promotion in every season when promotion was possible. Tigers and Pumas, finished in the top half of each respective league, Covid impacted negatively with us conceding matches that halted any possibility of promotion. The Leopards in the first season since we have entered a fourth side, finished a creditable third, just missing promotion.

The West Somerset Evening Triples had the A team finishing a very respectable fourth this league has three premier clubs competing. The B Team gained promotion to the first division finishing in the second promotion spot one point behind the winners. This league is now an open competition which allows ladies to play in any of the teams we enter. The B team had three Ladies regularly selected playing for all of the season, feedback has been very positive from all five ladies who played matches during the season. They found the style of play, the atmosphere and team togetherness an enjoyable experience. We should continue to encourage ladies to make themselves available for selection for this league. The C team had hopes of finishing higher than the B team and were nip and tuck with us in the league tables for most of the season. C V B on the opening match with the B team winning proved crucial in the final outcome.

The Somerset Saturday league saw Wellington A finish a very creditable mid table, we achieved our objective of consolidation helped by a good run of winning four consecutive game, the 12-0 win away to Bath a highlight.

The B team finished third a tremendous achievement, picking consistent rinks is always more challenging for the B Team, selectors selected 21 different players during the season. In this league there are several Clubs who only field one team on a Saturday these often prove to be the most difficult to win against with one rink often winning the match result.

Well done to all who participated and made themselves available to play it is a big commitment especially when county competitions are running midsummer. I as captain made the decision to only enter the Turnbull for 2022, dropping the Top Club. We lost in the first round by two bowls away to Taunton Deane, we subsequently entered the Plate and progressed to the Quarter Finals, playing all matches away. Losing to Ashcombe Park the significant crowd watching lifted Ashcombe players in the final four ends as the match was level at that point.

I have made the decision to resign as Men's Captain after six consecutive years in the Post, thank you to all players that have supported and played for Wellington teams during my period as captain the Club has improved its standards of bowling, I look forward to playing under a new Captain next year. That, of course, is assuming I am selected!

Paul Kelly

Mixed Friendly Captain's Report

"I haven't had sex in 8 months; to be honest I now prefer to go bowling" (Lil Kim, American rapper)

Being the mixed friendly captain of the club has been an ongoing privilege, not an easy role by any means, but very rewarding. Having a thriving mixed friendly section is without doubt a significant bedrock of the club. It provides opportunity for new players, those who are developing and those who don't play league matches to have the opportunity to play in a competitive way. Here, they can begin to learn the more formal way that bowls is played, albeit in a friendly environment, learning from each other, the opposition and more senior members who choose to play at least some friendlies. We are very fortunate to have one of the most thriving mixed friendly set-ups of any of the clubs we meet.

Throughout the season some 70 members played in at least one mixed friendly with several playing regularly and clocking up over 25 matches. I have reliable results for 45 matches (there were more

but results evaded me!) of which we won 21, drew 2 and lost 22. As a matter of interest and amusement we totalled 2,808 points and gave away 2,785!!! Amazingly close. The game at Windsor is NOT included – it was nothing to do with me!!

Sadly, but somewhat inevitably with the cost-of-living issues, post Covid uncertainties and some significant travel expectations, a number of games had to be cancelled. This happened in almost equal proportions to us and the other clubs. Most were cancelled by the visiting team, but not all. As a result of cancellations, Jay, Eddie and I have looked at fixtures that are not viable, making sure we retain those away matches that are popular and well supported even if they involve significant travel. Again, we have to thank Jay for the huge amount of work he puts into setting up the fixtures, securing them and dealing with issues that arise.

Without doubt, our home matches were played on a surface that was in better condition than almost any of those we visited. Huge thanks must go to Paul, Nick and David for the amazing job they do in always providing us with rinks that are fit for purpose, well prepared, ready for use and a credit to the club. Similarly, the reception for visiting teams is excellent and for that we have to thank those who have worked on the bar and the many who have set up and served teas.

As a captain who hasn't been able to play as often as I would like because of other bowls commitments, I have put my trust in a range of players who have taken on the role of 'captain of the day'. Not a single person I asked to do this job has quibbled, grumbled or refused the role. This is an area of club leadership that I want to develop further next year. Similarly, I have been grateful for, and delighted with, all those who 'skipped' in matches. Some were experienced skips from league teams others were new to the role, friendlies being an ideal 'training ground' for player development.

All in all, though challenging in some ways, 2022 was a successful one for the mixed friendly teams. This wasn't down to being the best team, but it was about being the friendliest and most cheerful. It would be great to win more games in 2023, but my vision is much more about involvement, setting high standards of sportsmanship and building self-esteem and confidence.

Ian Hollingsworth

10 Motions proposed by the Executive Committee

1/ To reduce the Annual Membership fee for Outdoor Bowling by £20.00 for members who considerable hours on behalf of the Club i.e. Green Keepers, Bar Staff and Kitchen Staff. **This was rejected by members.**

2/ To allow "Indoor Only" members to vote on matters in relation to the Indoor Rink.
This was rejected by members.

3/ To amend several clauses in the Club Constitution to clarify the meaning, remove ambiguity, and bring them up to date.
All these items as detailed in the Agenda were passed unanimously by members.

Motions proposed by Members

1/ Amy Stanton Cup – The motion was to reinstate the cup as a Mixed Pairs Competition as originally intended. It was currently used as an Australian Pairs Cup.
This motion was accepted and approved by members.

11 Officers to serve on the Executive Committee were approved by the meeting

President	Ann Cowling
Chairman	Paul Kelly
Admin Co Ordinator	Jay Merrell
Treasurer	Derrick Alford
Bowls Co Ordinator	Graham Brown
Assets Manager	Tony Woollard
Functions Co Ordinator	Janet Moore

The Club Captains were approved as follows:-

Mens Captain	Eddie Dilley
Ladies Captain	Brenda Wilson
Mixed Friendlies Captain.	Ian Hollingsworth

12 Membership Fees for 2023/2024

Due to the rising costs of fuel, inflation etc it is very difficult to ascertain what our membership fees should be. We may be able to apply for grants which will help but the Executive Committee feel that it would better to delay this decision until the situation becomes clearer. We have to make a decision in March so that we can issue the membership forms because we have to distribute them by the end of that month. In the circumstances we will call a Special General Meeting early in March when members can discuss and approve the Indoor and Outdoor membership Fees for 2023/24.

Proposed by Derrick Alford and approved by the meeting.

13. Election of Auditors Derrick Alford reported that he was pleased that the Auditors had issued the Annual Accounts on time and had co-operated with him during the preparation of the balance sheet. No major issues were raised.

Proposed by Tony Gibson and seconded by Clive Manning. This was approved unopposed.

14 Items to be discussed at a later date

- a) The membership fees for 2023/4

The meeting was closed at 9.05pm