MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

11.00am Saturday 31 October 2026

1. ATTENDEES AND APOLOGIES

30 Present: Adrian Allen, Mick Bennett, Ali Bloomer, Peter Bloomer, Jennie Cole, Brian Draper, Dave Evans, Shirley Evans, Barbara Griffiths, Bob Hughes, Sue Kemp, Kevin Mann, Noreen Moles, Susan Northwood, Dereck Pickering, Richard Powell, Eileen Powell, Pauline Preece, John Brian Richards, David Robbins, John Stirling, Lorraine Taylor, Paul Taylor, Lynne Thorn, Howard Turberfield, Cyril Wait, Bill Wheatley, Graham Wilkinson, Val Wilkinson, Brian Zelin

6 Apologies received: David Cole, Claire Goodman, Doug Goodman, Natasha Griffiths, Tegan Griffiths, Marian Wheatley

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING:

a) Minutes of the AGM held on 24 October 2025 were agreed:

Proposed by Brian Zelin Seconded by Richard Powell

b) No matters arising

3. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**, to serve until the next Annual General Meeting

Proposed Officers and Committee Members

It was agreed all posts with nominations would be voted on, on-mass.

OFFICERS POSTS (11 posts):	**NOMINATIONS:**
Chairman:	Peter Bloomer
Vice Chairman:	Val Wilkinson
Club Secretary:	Susan Northwood
Treasurer:	Lynne Thorn
Club Captain:	Brian Zelin
Vice-Captain:	Brian Draper
Men's County Representative:	John Stirling
Ladies Captain & County Representative:	Sue Kemp
Fixtures Secretary:	Bob Hughes
Membership Secretary:	Susan Northwood
Welfare Officer:	Val Wilkinson

4. **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**: to serve until the next Annual General Meeting

It was agreed all posts with nominations would be voted on, on-mass.

Sports Club Representatives	Susan Northwood & Dereck Pickering
Coach	Bill Wheatley
Club Competitions Secretary	(Vacancy not filled – will be covered by Committee)
Marketing and Press Secretary	Dave Evans
Social Secretary	(Vacancy not filled)
Plus	
Groundsman (non-elected):	Richard Powell

VOTE: This was carried – 30 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained

5. **RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORTS:**

a) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2026

Firstly, I would like to thank Dave Evans, Brian Zelin and Jennie Cole for the work they have done for the Club in their respective roles on the Committee. Dave Evans and Brian Zelin are staying, but in different roles, while Jennie concentrates on her Bowls England commitments.

Bowls England and Indoor Bowls are considering a merge. This is being supported by Sport England which funds the expertise to organise the proposed amalgamation. The benefits are that bowls becomes a year-round sport and doubles the membership. Next step would be alignment to Sport England Tier 3 Governance, which means more money from Sport England to help and promote our flat green bowls. If anyone has any concerns regarding this, please let me know before our Club votes and we can communicate to the County through our County Reps.

Jennie Cole added that this will not affect us at Club level but it will mean that we become members of England Bowls, with one calendar and there will be more money available for people who bowl at National level. Aiming for Olympic status in 2032.

We have a great Club which is in good health and it's a pleasure to be on the Committee.

Regarding the Green – we look after this ourselves but we don't invest enough – approximately £2-3000 per year at present, and the machinery is showing its age. This year we are forming a Sub-Committee to spread the load. At present this consists mainly of Richard Powell, myself, Andrew Thomas and Cyril Wait to advise. Philip Watts did a huge amount last year but is stepping back – hopefully he will come back on the team in future. A schedule will be set up for the work and we aim to continue to maintain our green as one of the best in the County.

Ladies County won 3 competitions and our Senior 4s got to the quarter finals at Leamington – congratulations. The men need to do better! I would love us to be more competitive in future. Tarmac League has been good for this and we came 2nd. Dave Evans added that we showed a good standard of bowling. *Men's league is not so good but we keep trying! Members, please keep signing up for Club Competitions and give the County Competitions a go – you learn so much.*
Val Wilkinson added that we are lucky to have 4 qualified coaches in the Club – use them. Strollers is an excellent place to start and to meet everyone and what matters most is our members.

Thank you
Peter Bloomer, Chair

b) TREASURERS REPORT 2026

The year started with £21,839.60 in the current and savings Bank Accounts / Petty Cash

Then ended the year with £19,963.90 in the savings and current Bank Accounts / Petty Cash

NB this end figure includes some payments made for the Presentation Lunch which I will have to use, together with further payments made in October, to pay the Caterer and other costs. Then after taking into account money from the raffle there will be a small surplus of £44

As mentioned previously I very much appreciate that Members are increasingly making payments for their subscriptions, purchase of Kit etc via bank transfer rather than cash.

The Annual Subscription income this year totalled £4,082.50

From this I have paid £970 to The Sports Club for the annual affiliation fee plus membership fees and the fees for use of the clubhouse premises also £703.15 for County Affiliation fees

I feel it should be noted that the fees paid to the Sports Club include it providing Material Damage Insurance within its Insurance Programme for The Bowls Club's assets i.e. the new Shed and items stored in this also the contents of other Sheds / Containers in the bowling green area.

Other main Income items:

- *Raffles £892.70 with some additional sums included in the income figures for Hosting County and Visiting teams matches.*
- *Strollers: £599.80*
- *Match & Rink Fees: £777*
- *Clive's Shed £169.51*
- *Profit from the BBQ/Quiz Night £499.*
- *Profit from Hosting County Matches and Visiting Teams five in all this year with an overall Profit of £1,567.27 with the best being the Welsh visiting team which with payments for a buffet lunch achieved a profit of £569.35.*

Main outgoings:

- *Upkeep of the Green: £5,933.34 which included the purchase of equipment.*

- *Purchase of the new Shed and material for the base £1,392*
- *Purchase of new pushers £475*
- *Maintenance and Cleaning of Club Building £535.79*
- *Training and Coaching Course fees £650*

A full list of all Income and Expenditure figures can be viewed in my year end spreadsheet which will be included with the AGM minutes. I will now get the Accounts audited.

Lynne Thorn

Treasurer

Jennie Cole added that the Affiliation Fee with Bowls England is going up and we will be notified accordingly

6. PROPOSITIONS

a) Committee Propositions

None

b) Propositions from Members

TO REGISTER WITH FUNDRAISING – *Fundraising is a platform that supports groups who are looking to make a positive change. The entire platform is free and a way to raise money for a cause while you shop online. Anyone can sign up. You don't pay anything extra, as the retailers not the shoppers, fund the donations. If we decide to register, we're asked to send details of our Club, who we serve and how our members would benefit. Once accepted, details are forwarded to members who can sign up when they shop online with access to 7,000 brands – supermarkets, fashion, travel, entertainment, electrical etc. Fundraising pay us every 3 months, if donations are less than £15 it rolls over.*

Proposed – Rosie Sheridan. Seconded – Sue Kemp

Kevin Mann said that he uses this and it is very simple. Jennie Cole said that they use it in the Parish and Paul and Lorraine Taylor also use it. Brian Zelin said that they used it is in Spain and it was quite successful. It was proposed by Pete Bloomer that the Committee make some investigations and then act accordingly and this was agreed.

DISPLAY POSTERS IN D'S SURGERIES - *In 2012 Rosie Sheridan was part of a rinks team from Bishops Cleeve Bowls Club, Cheltenham. In 2026 a photograph of us winning the County Fours was on display in local Dr's Surgery promoting the game for their patients. They endorsed that it was a positive way of keeping fit and improve mental health. Would this be an opportunity for us to increase membership? Could we put together a poster and ask members to approach their Dr's surgeries, perhaps advertising an Open Day, or promoting our Strollers Sessions.*

Proposed – Rosie Sheridan. Seconded – Susan Northwood

Kevin Mann said that they had done something similar but with A4 flyers which had been hugely successful. Jennie Cole offered to put a poster together and then members would be asked to approach their surgeries.

There was concern regarding an increase in numbers at the Club and Dereck Pickering asked if we had a maximum number and Pete Bloomer suggested 120 would be ideal. Jennie Cole said that we needed approximately 10 new members per year to account for those who leave, but our Club is above average for the County. Howard Turberfield said that 20 years ago we were 85 and people complained that they couldn't get a game and we need to ensure that new people who join are not intimidated in any way. Kevin Mann added that his previous club went up to 120 and there were issues regarding playing time and Jennie Cole said that when we had 85 members we had more friendlies but that does impact on the green. Barbara Griffiths asked what the numbers were now and Susan Northwood advised that there were approximately 22 ladies and 45 men. John Stirling also added that higher numbers can cause problems with people who put their names down not getting games etc. Dereck Pickering said that thought needs to be given to how we get younger members.

Barbara Griffiths expressed concern that we need to recognise that some people just want to do Strollers and don't want to be pressurised into being competitive and signing up for matches and competitions.

Jennie Cole said that she was involved with Bowls England until 2028 but wants to take forward a health and fitness afternoon here at the Club on a Friday afternoon for a couple of hours. This would be open to all and informal and would link very well with the approach to Drs surgeries. Strollers can be quite intimidating for first timers.

7. UPDATES

a) To note those that have volunteered to assist the Officers of the Committee.

Strollers (Outdoor Thursdays)	Pete & Jane Howsam, Doug & Claire Goodman
Strollers (Outdoor Mondays)	Susan Northwood & Pauline Suffield, Val & Graham Wilkinson
Strollers (Indoor)	Pete & Ali Bloomer
Monday Evening League (Indoor)	Peter Bloomer & Dereck Pickering
Crown Green	Dave Evans
Men's Wednesday Evening League	Brian Zelin
Men's Top Club, Tony Allcock, Club 2 4s, Crown etc	Dave Evans
Club Raffles	Pauline Preece
Kitchen supplies	Val Wilkinson
Website Administration	Dereck Pickering & Paul Taylor

b) Special Dates for 2027 -

January Lunch Sunday 31 January 27 when Membership Fees are due.

Bob Hughes advised that we have a touring team from Wales coming on 18 September 2027.

8. AOB

Kevin Mann advised that some Clubs have tops with advertising slogans on and consequently get their tops funded. Barbara Griffiths asked if we really wanted to wear shirts with funeral services on? Brian Zelin said that in Spain it was just funeral services!

Sue Kemp asked if it was navy next season and Susan Northwood confirmed that it was.

Jennie Cole said that we were reviving Ladies What Lunch over winter with a get together every month and the first is 12noon on Wednesday 11 November 2026 at Fisherman's Arms, Docklow Pools. This is also when we sign up for County and National Competitions – she has 13 names so far and it is open to all the ladies in the Club. She also reminded everyone that there is a coach going to World Bowls at Leamington on 28 July 2027 and please let Jennie know if you are interested. You have to get your own ticket. This is the first time it has been held in the Northern Hemisphere for 20 years. There are also volunteering opportunities if anyone is interested.

Dave Evans said that he was arranging a meeting for the men to sign up for the County and National Competitions and Jennie Cole reminded him to ask people to tick the Over 60s box on the Competition Form as they are looking to form a rink from each Club next year.

Paul Taylor asked if the Club Diary was going online and Pete Bloomer said that he was looking at a system used by Atherley Bowling Club which had an annual charge per member. Dereck Pickering asked if it was "Bowler" which he has used previously and Jennie Cole said that the "Surrey" version is also out there. Pete said that it was neither.

Susan Northwood read a thank you card from Marcia Gwynne, last year's Ladies President.

The AGM was closed at 12.32 pm