

GOSPORT BOWLING CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

1000 – 03rd December – 2022

1. The Chairperson opened the Meeting and asked the assembled members to observe a minutes silence to remember those members who we had sadly lost over the last year.

The minutes silence was honoured and respected by all present.

2. Attendance/Apologies

The Club Secretary (Malc Weston) advised that the 2022 Summer Membership numbers were:

Total Membership entitled to vote at AGM = 90

Quorum required = **25%** of members entitled to vote = **23**

Numbers attending = **35**

Apologies = **8**

With the required number for a quorum present the AGM has the authorisation to, in accordance with the Club Constitution, vote on issues raised during this meeting.

3. Acceptance of the Minutes of 2021 AGM

The Club Secretary proposed acceptance of the 2021 AGM Minutes.

Seconder – C Hall

Those present voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

4. President's Report (Chris Hall)

After the Covid restrictions were relaxed this year bowling got back to relative normality.

We held our club winter finals in March and although weather conditions were extremely cold it was encouraging to see many spectators there to support all the finalists. Despite the cold weather the finalist produced some excellent bowling. Congratulations to them all.

Opening day in April was well attended with Dame Caroline Dineage delivering the first bowl of the season and members enjoying their first game on grass.

Although we had over 10 Friendlies booked for the summer season it was disappointing that the majority of them were cancelled due to lack of support from other clubs. We did however have a successful friendly against Uffculme at the end of the season.

Finals this year were played over a week due to extreme temperatures and I would like to congratulate all finalists on some excellent bowling. Including Maria Mogridge and Carl Stanley who were this year's club Champions.

Some of our members also enter external competitions and I would like to congratulate all the bowlers that reached semi-finals and finals. Simon Batchelor winning the Ivan Robb Trophy for singles and Ian and Wendy Homeyard, Mandy and Jason Wilde with Simon Batchelor being runners up in the P&D Mixed 4's

This year saw the return of the Ladies open and I would like to thank all the members who helped to make this day the success it was. The day ended with the Gosport team of Jennifer Putt, Sue Hillary and Chris Hall winning the cup.

The club visited Cowplain to play the Dales Cup which Cowplain won this year.

The greatest honour of my Presidency was having the privilege of naming our pavilion the Derek Collins Pavilion, Derek was very highly thought of throughout all the bowling fraternity and I know he is sadly missed by all who knew him.

I would like to thank all who contributed to the Presidents Fund which was for Harbour Cancer Support Gosport. I presented the Charity with a cheque for £1069.39 which was very gratefully received. I have displayed their letter of thanks on the notice board.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Management Committee and volunteer members of the club who work tirelessly throughout the year to ensure the smooth running and upkeep of the club.

5. Club Secretary's Report (Malc Weston)

I would like to say a few words about the importance of the new constitution coming up later, our current constitution is so out of date now that we need to get a revised one in place so we can move on to the vitally important club rules and procedures.

We do not have currently and desperately need written club rules and procedures that can be easily understood and followed as the lack of these has been an absolute nightmare for the last two years since I became secretary. Unfortunately if you ask 6 senior members about any particular rule or procedure you end up with basically 6 differing versions dependant on their understanding or opinion,

This situation has lead to me making a couple of errors, one quite recently when I had made a list of members who qualified for this year's dales cup match, it was my understanding that it was only Gosport summer 2022 members that were registered for the winter 2022 who qualified. I then proceeded to send out the calling notice to all the members on the list and as the only club captain who qualified was the ladies captain I handed the list of volunteers to her to organise the team.

The following week I had an email from the club captain enquiring if I was sending out a calling notice to which I replied that it had already been done previously and I had given the feedback to Chris Goodchild as she was the only registered captain and I thought that meant she would be captain on the day.

6. Treasurer's Report (Simon Batcheler)

Firstly, many thanks to Ros who has done most of the hard work this year and to Chris Goodchild and Ken Hall for auditing the accounts.

Three ancillary funds all made donations to the club this year; the ladies who had the foresight to plan ahead years ago in anticipation of higher petrol prices donated just under £1000, the social club donated £2250 and the bar account donated a very healthy £6500. Many thanks to those people who give up so much of their time to support the club.

As to the treasury, we've managed to get the accounts on line so Ros, Malc and I can check the funds and pay bills promptly. I have only needed to write one cheque in the whole of this year. Most importantly the members have benefitted from this option and over 1/3 rd make their winter payments in this manner.

Although it's taken a while we have invested most of the AWG ring fenced fund in a 1 year bond. This year the interest from the bank has amounted to around £15. The rate we have obtained is 3.75% which will return £1312.50 or 15 members to use the Tom Start currency!

Now onto the serious point; I'm constantly hearing that people are banging on about extortionate prices for membership and that we're awash with cash. Nothing could be further from the truth. In the spring we were told that the AWG would cost £52,880 to replace if necessary. We only have £38,303.38 ring-fenced so we already £14,576.62 short.

Given that we only increased the price by 4% and the fact that inflation is rising at 10% we are inevitably going to increase the shortfall year on year, UNLESS we make use of the green in such a way that Mandy did with her Fat-Face team for example.

The actual club funds are looking a little healthier but I have similar concerns here in that our fixed costs are now some £15,000 a year before the doors are opened. That's 171 members BEFORE we think about variable costs. We have £27000 with £3000 owed to the Council since the year end. So £24,000. Sounds a lot but isn't!

That leads to the biggest issue of all. Nearly all of the monies raised by the club are contributed by us, the members. Whether it's by green fees, social events, or monies spent over the bar, approximately 95% comes from us. This model, with a dwindling membership is just not sustainable. We need new members or we need to find a way for non-club members to contribute to the coffers. This year the two most profitable events for the bar were the Fatface evening and the friendly against Uffcombe so that's what is required to stay afloat. Failing that we'll end up in 2035 with one member bowling and drinking him/herself to oblivion to keep the club going!

7. Ladies Secretary Report (Mandy Wilde)

P&D

- The P&D Affiliation and competition forms have been submitted for the 2023 season
- Unfortunately, only 1 P&D ladies team has been registered for the league, fingers crossed we will have sufficient membership to register 2 teams for subsequent seasons.

County

- I would like to encourage more ladies to enter **County comps**
A message from our East Hampshire area Secretary to all bowlers, especially those new to our sport, is '**have a go**' as you gain experience every time you play and you might just surprise yourself with what you achieve. NB - The County competitions sheets will be removed from the Ladies changing rooms on 10th December.
- There are 6 planned county friendlies for the ladies in 2023. The county selection committee are welcoming of new names. You will hear more on this subject later in the season but, it would be great to have more of our members put their name forwards for selection.

Opens

- We ran a successful ladies open in 2022, in fact it was our 15th year of running the Gosport ladies open, something as a club we should be very proud of. From 1st hand experience this year's event illustrated great teamwork from our members and I would like to thank you all again for your support.
- For 2023 I am excited to be given the responsibility of leading a team to plan and run both the Gosport ladies and the Gosport Mixed Open

MAC

- Early last month E.B.U.A. **English Bowls Umpire Association** presented a MARKING AWARENESS COURSE at Banister Park. A day event that was hugely supported by members within Hampshire which included myself, Chris Goodchild and Bev Long. It would be great if we could put some of our training into practice, so please keep us in mind when you require a marker.
- It is refreshing to see our members supporting activities outside GBC and hopefully 2023 will have more interesting opportunities for our members to widen their knowledge and skills in the game.

8. Fixtures Sec & G&F Co-ordinator's Report (Malc Weston)

It's been a very busy season with regards to fixtures and fortunately we managed to fit all the games in with no league fixture clashes and congratulations to all the team captains who have

worked their socks off to get all the fixtures played, unfortunately it has not been such a good year with regard to getting the friendly fixtures completed with 7 out of 10 friendlies cancelled but I would like to thank the Gosport members as none of the cancellations were down to us.

Unfortunately when you have the likes of Banister Park, Southampton Old Green, Ryde and Southampton County not being able to raise teams you do start to worry for the future of holding friendlies.

Mind you with that said we have a few already booked for next season, with a previous visitor Wokingham Bowling Club who are back down this way on a tour at the end of April and are visiting us on the 28th.

As you are all aware I am stepping down as the fixture secretary and would like to wish the mug, I mean member, who has volunteered for the role, Peter Jackson, the best of luck but as he has done the job before he doesn't really need luck more like his head examined.

And before I finish just a quick word on the G&F, again it's another role I inherited when no one else would step forward but lucky enough someone has volunteered to take it off my hands this year and a big thank you to Mandy who actually starts in earnest tomorrow when we go to the G&F AGM and the main topic on that agenda is the proposal to reduce the number of rinks from 4 to 3 per team, this was stupidly defeated last year but with a lot of clubs struggling during the season to field 4 rinks it seems the chance of a positive outcome is a real possibility but don't hold your breath.

9. Club Captain's Report (Graham Pistorius)

To open my report for the year 2022, I should like to say what an honour it has been for me to act as your Club Captain for the past year. This is a great club with great people, and to hold this position has indeed been a privilege and I would like to extend my very best wishes to whoever takes over from me in the new year.

On the green, our results have been mixed but satisfactory in that all teams have held their own in their respective leagues ending the season roughly mid table at each level. The Blues G & F team excelled however and in winning their league gained promotion to the mixed 1st division. My congratulations go to them for their efforts and I wish them well in their endeavours next year.

During the year two exceptional bowling days were held at the club. Firstly, I should to congratulate the Ladies of our club who ran an excellent open day, which culminated in one of our own club team entries walking off with the honours. Well done to you all. Secondly, the club played host to a large touring party from Somerset. The weather was great, the bowling was great and the social aspect was fantastic. Here I must once again mention our ladies who performed miracles with food, snacks and great assistance. On behalf of the club very many thanks to them and also all those other members who got stuck in to make the day a wonderful success.

2022 has been a difficult year in that it has been two years since last we came together as a playing club due to the pandemic. We lost a number of players during this off period, and once the new season started it was a little bit of feeling one's way to get the old rhythm back for both players and administrators. In this regard I should like to thank all those members who captained teams during the year, for their hard work, and dedication to their tasks. Well done and thank you for your efforts. Not forgetting though the most important people of all. You the players who represented our club throughout the year. Thankyou for your efforts and support. I do hope you enjoyed yourselves.

Before leaving the bowling scene, I should like to report on a number of members who distinguished themselves outside our club's bowling domain. These members entered into external competitions run by our various governing bodies. How well they performed, a number reaching quarter, semi and finals, with Simon Batcheler actually winning one of the singles competitions. Well done to you all. It would be great to see more of our members entering these competitions going forward. Yes, you are good enough! On the operations side a number of your members also distinguished themselves by holding administrative positions on committees of our governing associations. Topping this list was Neil Rodrick, who acted as President of Hampshire Bowls. A great honour for him, but also for our club, for I know that Neil promoted our club throughout the year whenever he was able to do so. On behalf of the club as a whole, thank you for all that you did.

My final point I should like to comment on is the annual Dales Cup match against Cowplain Bowling Club. This match is an annual event played in early winter between our two clubs who sport artificial surfaces. I know from experience that Cowplain approach this match seriously and enter a strong team each year. It is a great afternoon played competitively. I believe that this is a match worthy of our club also entering as best like for like team as we can to match our competitors. I would therefore urge our Management Committee to decide definitively on what basis our team is selected and who is eligible to play. I believe that this is a formal Club representative match and a broad spectrum of members should be considered for the team.

In closing, I should like to express my sincere gratitude to all the non-playing sections of our club who throughout the year did a magnificent job in keeping us all fed, watered, entertained and maintained. To all those members who stepped up to the plate and gave so much of their personal time so willingly, our very grateful thanks. Without you we would not have this wonderful club that we all so enjoy.

10. Ladies Captain Report (Chris Goodchild)

After the restrictions experienced during the past few years, I'm sure you would all agree, how wonderful it has been to participate in a full and most enjoyable year of competitive bowling.

Many ladies represented our Gosport Club in the Portsmouth and District Competitions, County Competitions and many friendlies. Well done to all who participated and a particular well done to those who reached the P&D semi and finals weekends. On that note, we know the number of lady bowlers is so much lower than in previous years, this did frequently make it difficult to field enough players for both the P&D "A" and the "B" league matches.

With that said, I must say a massive thank you to each of you who rose to the challenge.

Every match was played with pride, despite the 25% loss on our score cards, when having to play a player and sometimes two players short. Moving forward and in order to submit the P&D paperwork and fees for next summer's leagues, this situation was raised at a recent ladies meeting. A discussion was held about how many teams we felt we could confidently enter into the 2023 P&D leagues. After much debate and in the knowledge that some ladies who played this year, for personal reasons would not be able to play nor commit to next year, a vote was taken. It was unanimously agreed that we would only enter the one team for 2023. As disappointing as this may be, it is hoped that there may be an increase in membership numbers by 2024. If numbers do increase, it would then become viable to go back to entering the two teams.

On an extremely positive note, for the first time since 2019, we were able to host the annual Bournemouth friendly match and luncheon. Despite a couple of early hiccups a very successful and most enjoyable day was had by all.

The Bournemouth ladies expressed how wonderful the day had been, they were especially in awe of the fabulous luncheon. Well done Ros and the fella's who generously gave their time to support Ros in the kitchen. The Bournemouth ladies are looking forward to hosting this event next year.

Lastly I would like to say congratulations to Mandy for her dedication and determination in

ensuring the Ladies Open Day was going to happen this year. All that hard work paid off, It was such a successful Day! Congratulations also to the Gosport team, Chris Hall, Jenny Putt and Sue Hillary who on that day won a superbly fought final leg against a Denmead team, thus retaining the trophy in house.

It's been such a privilege to act on behalf of the ladies as their captain throughout 2022. I am extremely grateful for all the support received. May 2023 be even more rewarding.

11. Safeguarding Officers Report (Andrew Sherwen)

Put simply safeguarding is about providing a safe environment at the club which is something that we are all responsible for, more specifically it is about protecting children and 'adults at risk' from discrimination or any kind of abuse.

There are two procedures on the notice boards which cover safeguarding.

Reporting any issues or incidents must be done directly to the club safeguarding officer. Responsibility for investigation lies outside of our club - it is initiated by the Bowls England safeguarding lead. The management committee has no direct right or responsibility for investigating safeguarding issues and will not be informed or involved unless Bowls England decides to do so.

The safeguarding role is clearly defined by BE/BDA, it is now a requirement for us to have one and it is a 'trained position' within the club. I am now registered with BE so that updates on safeguarding or changes in procedures/regulations can be forwarded directly in a timely manner. Two other responsibilities which go hand in hand with safeguarding are Equality and Inclusivity.

Equality - As defined by the equality act of 2010 is in place to protect individuals from discrimination of any kind. The act does list particular characteristics that it applies to, which are; Disability, Age, Marriage, Civil partnership, Pregnancy, Maternity, Race, Religion, Beliefs, Sex, Sexual Orientation and Gender (reassignment). Equality very basically is about ensuring that no one is disadvantaged by this club because of their particular characteristics.

Inclusivity - In about applying the equality act, but is also about looking after our members, it is ensuring that we are equally providing services within our club which are suitable for every single member of our club.

So with all three rolled into one, it is about respect, honesty, diversity, integrity, it is about doing what is right and it's about looking after each other.

Finally, so please make my life easier, have a read up on the BE website where there is an up to date wealth of information. It is such a simple concept but surprisingly difficult to get so many people on board with it. There is nothing 'new' in any of the above but as a club we are very much in a 'catching up' position, much progress has been made and let's ensure that it continues.

12. Bar Management Report (Andy Tappin) N/R

13. Maintenance Manager's Report (Paul Tansley)

I would like to thank all the members who over the year have helped to maintain the All Weather Green. The flower beds and the cleaning of the Club House.

We still need members to maintain the club and also any member who would like to be a key holder to lock up the club at night.

Thank you again for you help and wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year

14. Social Secretary's Report (Tom Start) – N/R

15. Proposals

- a. **Gratuity to Green Keeper** Club Secretary

For his outstanding work this year to enable us to play the summer season on grass, I propose that we give Mike the green keeper a gratuity of £100

Seconder – Mike Goodchild

Those present voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

b. New HLVPs – Proposals by Maria Mogridge, Jim Oswell, Simon Batcheler

Maria proposed Doreen Gill, Jim proposed Tom Start and Simon proposed Ken Mogridge to receive the honour of becoming Honorary Life Vice Presidents to the management committee and all the proposals were supported and approved for acceptance by the membership at the AGM.

Each proposer (Malc Weston in Jim Oswell's absence) made a dedication on behalf of their nominee to the assembled members detailing their attributes and dedicated service to the club over an extended period followed by a vote of acceptance for each.

Those present voted unanimously in favour for each proposal.

c. New Club Constitution Andrew Sherwen

Presentation of Constitution

Reasons for change;

1. To comply with and align to Bowls England procedures.
2. To stop the members and management committee being constrained by outdated rules locked within the constitution.
3. To enable the club to react more quickly to rule changes imposed on us by Bowls England, by changes in legislation or by changes requested by members of the club.
4. So that we have a set of rules that are fit for purpose today and are maintained fit for purpose in the future. [ie. the current rewrite has probably taken hundreds of hours of work, taken around four years to complete and is already out of date. The current re-write already contradicts B.E procedures in several places, and does not comply with current legislation.

How has it changed;

1. The proposed constitution is not a re-write, an update or revised document, it is a new constitution based on the Bowls England model constitution which they recommend that their affiliated clubs use. It must be stressed that B.E. is our governing body who are there to help and support us and as such we should be following their guidance.
2. It is a high level document which sets out the function of the club and how the club will be run and covers our important legal obligations.
3. The new constitution has not fundamentally changed anything regarding the running of the club, it is simply a separation of the part that is actually relevant as a constitution and the rest which is the other more detailed club rules and procedures which should reside outside of the constitution.
4. It must be stressed that the time and hard work put in by others in producing the previous draft has not been lost, it will simply be used to form the basis for a set of rules and procedures which will be available to all in the club.
5. Finally, what we are doing is not unique, sadly we are lagging well behind many clubs in the area and much further afield who have already made these changes.

Andrew answered various points and it was agreed that a vote should be conducted.

The proposal was for acceptance of the new club constitution

Seconder – Malc Weston

Those present voted 34 – 1 in favour of the proposal.

d. **Election of Officers - Club Secretary**

The following officers were duly elected for 2023

PRESIDENT	BARRY SYKES
VICE PRESIDENT	CAROL DE NEUVILLE
CHAIRPERSON	MANDY WILDE
SECRETARY	MALC WESTON
TREASURER	GRAHAM OLDEN
ASSISTANT TREASURER	ROS BAXTER
BAR MANAGER	BOB HART
ASSISTANT BAR MANAGER	DERAL PUTT
CATERING MANAGER	BOB HART
MAINTENANCE MANAGER	PAUL TANSLEY
FIXTURES SECRETARY	PETE JACKSON
COMPETITION SECRETARY	CHRIS GOODCHILD
ASSISTANT COMP' SEC'	ANDREW SHERWEN
COUNTY & P&D REP	NEIL RODERICK
GREENS COM	KEN MOGRIDGE IAN HOMEYARD ANDREW SHERWEN
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	ANDREW SHERWEN
G&F BLUE TEAM CAPTAIN	TONY HORNE
G&F WHITE TEAM CAPTAIN	MANDY WILDE
G&F AMBER TEAM CAPTAIN	KEN MOGRIDGE
G&F SILVER TEAM CAPTAIN	JASON WILDE
CLUB & MENS CAPTAIN	TONY HORNE
G&F CO-ORDINATOR	MANDY WILDE
MENS VICE CAPT	NEIL RODERICK
MENS A CAPTAIN	TONY HORNE
MENS B CAPTAIN	PAUL TANSLEY
LADIES CAPTAIN	CHRIS GOODCHILD
LADIES VICE CAPTAIN	JENNIFER PUTT
MENS MWT RED TEAM CAPT	GORDON SHAKESPEARE
WINTER COMPS SECRETARY	ANDREW SHERWEN
LADIES SEC / ASST CLUB SEC'	MANDY WILDE
SOCIAL COMM' SECRETARY	PETER JACKSON
SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS	TONY HORNE PAUL TANSLEY MANDY WILDE CAROL DE NEUVILLE RICHARD FRAZER

CLUB TRUSTEES	JIM OSWELL JANET COWAN
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e. **DATE OF 2023 AGM – Club Secretary**

The Secretary proposed **Sat 3rd December** as the date for the 2023 AGM.

Seconder – Andrew Sherwen

Those present voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

Malc Weston
Honorary Secretary
Gosport Bowling Club