



Townsend Hook Snodland Bowls Club

Annual General Meeting Minutes

held on Saturday 17th October 2026

1) Opening of meeting

RF opened the meeting by thanking all who attended and particularly welcomed new members. The total attendees were 24 so we obtained the required number to satisfy the quorum requirement for voting purposes.

2) Minutes of previous meeting

RF asked if there were any queries resulting from last year's meeting. There were none so the minutes were accepted as a true record.

3) Treasurers Report

CG said that the club had several "one off" expenses during the year and made particular reference to the canopy extension, new club shirts for all match playing members, painting of the outside of the clubhouse and partially funding activities associated with the club's 100 anniversary this year. A financial statement is available to all members and the year end figures have been audited in accordance with normal financial practise. We received a grant of around £1750.00 from TMBC toward the cost of the canopy. We also purchased items to help those less mobile, namely a ramp to allow special wheelchairs to access the green, a bowling arm and stick enabling those unsteady to play.

Utility bills continue to rise in line with household ones. Much more water was used on the green this year because the summer was very dry and hot.

We need to increase our membership as this will provide additional income as well as giving us a more comfortable buffer regarding playing in friendlies etc. The social activities will continue in the out of season period as this provides more income.

4) Captain's Report

MJ thanked all those who put their names down to play this season and said that fewer matches had been cancelled this season. He thanked the Committee and RF, TMc and others who helped out on the green. Thanks to Wendy, Barbara and Janet for helping out with the teas. We have all had a good season.

He further asked members not to just cross their names of a play list but to please check your diary first and if you need to pull out of any game please let the Captain know. That gives him/her a chance to find a replacement. He thanked the new members for their positive manner in entering the spirit of the game.

MC said that we need a weekend Captain and it would be good to have a Vice Captain to cover for sickness or holiday. RF said he was happy to cover the Vice Captain role and asked if anyone would be prepared to take on the Weekend Captain role. PH said he could do it but would need more information. MJ and RF said they would both help. RF thanked PH.

5) Chairman's Report

RF said that overall we've had a good season, by winning the Weald League, Captained by HL. We were runners up in the Men's' Friday Maidstone League, Captained by JE. The ladies had an encouraging season, Captained by PL.

Forms for KCBA competitions for next year are on the notice board for both men and ladies and said that applications must be made before November. HL had already put his name to the over 55 4's competition. HL has said he will continue as Fixtures Secretary next season but this will definitely be his last. We expect to receive an invitation to play the Chelsea pensioners at their home green next year and expect to receive available dates by the end of October.

The day trip to Gildredge Park with the meal at the Smugglers Restaurant was very successful and RF asked if the same should be arranged next year or somewhere else. It was agreed to try to arrange the same event next year.

RF gave thanks to Katie and all those who made the teas, washed up, cleaned and tidied up. Special thanks should have been given to Chris B for doing the BBQ and Glynis F for her work regarding food preparation and coordinating the social events.

External painting of the clubhouse is now complete and RF thanked TMc, SG, GT and all those who helped complete this job.

We had problems with the green this year with a fungal infection in May and the subsequent dry, hot summer resulted in areas of the green drying out even though the irrigation system was in use most days. We have spent over £1000 in water during the summer alone. Very special thanks to Tony Mc for helping out as without this it would be impossible to manage the green with only one person.

Latterly, Rickie M started coming on Mondays and Fridays cutting the perimeter areas and trimming the hedges. He is not a member of the club and is doing a fantastic job.

As CG has already indicated, we made an overall loss for the year but if you remove the costs of the one off exceptionals we actually made a small profit. The social functions have become an important element of the club and he hope the supported events will continue. The expenditure next season is not expected to be out of the norm so the Committee has decided to keep the fees the same as this season namely, £80.00 adult membership and £25.00 junior membership.

As we have new members, the club is intending to have coaches to help the development of players. MJ have indicated that he would be willing to take on a level one coaching course. RF said he would try and get someone who is level two trained as well.

The Council have informally approached the club and proposed to charge £1000.00 per annum to cover the costs of maintaining the car park next year. This will include cleaning drains and gulley's etc. RF said he had written to the Council and asked them to reconsider the proposed charge.

Lastly, our annual Christmas get together is proposed to be held in January as many members are away. RF said the Committee would see what was available early January.

b) Advertising to Increase Membership

RF said that we needed to increase membership and outlined some types of advertising used in the past. This included the local Oracle where the cost of 3 months advertising was over £1000, local advertising on notice boards including Tesco, council offices and the Coop none of which produced much of a response. He said that several people had contacted the club via its website and he had replied to everyone but this only produced a few new members. BC suggested that Holmesdale School may be work contacting to recruit younger members. RF wondered if Facebook would give us better coverage if the style of advert was attractive. It was agreed to explore the use of Facebook more.

6) Social

GF said that the social events started on the 16th October with a Bingo night it was supported by 19 people and just a bit of fun. The next event is a Games Night on the 6th November. You can just turn up and join or just a chat with your friends. The Quiz Night on Friday 4th December is already full. This will include Christmas specialities like turkey stuffing muffins, mince pies, crisps and Danish cookies. The entrance fee is £7.00 per person.

Every penny raised goes into the club funds.

All social events will be put on WhatsApp chat. Social evenings will run through until May. Any suggestions for events will be seriously considered.

7) Care and Maintenance of the Bowling Green and Clubhouse

RF said that we really need someone to come forward who could be trained to cut the grass as only he and TMc have any knowledge. This is due to the fact that if one or both people who cut the grass are unable to do so for any reason there is no one to cut the grass. It is essential that we are able to continue as normal in peak season. The grass has to be cut at least twice per week in the summer. We have two mowers both set to the same cutting height so the grass cutting overall time can be cut to 45 minutes if they are used together. This has worked well as it frees us to carry out other jobs as well. SG said he would come along. RF thanked him and said we will start next year as we are only cutting the grass once per month at the moment. Other things need doing like repairing the bank edge where players have crushed it, removing weeds from the green and more importantly the verge surrounding the green as any weeds that seed often spread to the bowling green and germinate there. We will put up a chart next year for jobs that can be carried out anytime not just Mondays like edging the green.

8) Current Trustee Position

RF said this had come to a head when Angela D suddenly passed away. She was one of the two club trustees. MF has done a lot of work looking at the trusteeship and our options available. It was decided to continue as we are since the other options were somewhat burdensome from an accounts and paperwork submission perspective. At last year's AGM both TMc and JP volunteered to be the new trustees. It has taken an extraordinary amount of time and paperwork to get to the position we are in today; RF expressed his many thanks to MF for all of his efforts. The easiest way to add trustees is for the current trustee, DK, to sign a document of appointment. He could also appoint two new trustees and resign himself, at his discretion. Inline with this, MF wrote to DK by email which was neither acknowledged nor responded to. He was contacted again which was summarily ignored. RF said he had personally spoken twice to JE who is DK's stepson which again treated with the same disdain. To move forward, the club has no other option than to remove him as a trustee. RF said that this was not the preferred option as this could involve the club in additional legal costs.

b) Removal of Current Trustee – VOTE

RF said the reasoning had been outlined and formally put forward a proposal that DK be removed as a trustee. He asked members for a show of hands in favour of the proposal. The vote was unanimous in favour.

JF to write to DK to advise him of his immediate removal as trustee. Summarily both the Snodland Town council and Fields in Trust have to be notified. MF has already prepared the paperwork.

9) Appointment & Election of Officers

The following officers were elected to office unopposed:-

Chairperson	Roger F
Vice Chairperson	Malcolm J
Treasurer	Chris G
Secretary	Julie F
Wednesday Captain	Malcolm J
Weekend Captain	Peter H
Ladies Captain	Pat L
Fixtures Captain	Henry L
Additional non elected roles	
Weald League Captain	Henry L
Maidstone Men's' League Captain	Bill H

10) Any Other Business

RF asked if any members wished to raise any other matters.

BC said that we do not formally need a first aider as this applies to clubs and societies with over 100 members. She added that we should cancel or reschedule matches if the temperature was forecast to be over 30 degrees C. RF said he has contacted KCBA before and asked if there was a maximum recommendation and was advised there was none but players should keep well hydrated and use common sense. MJ said we could under extreme temperatures bring the match time forward to say 11:00am or 12 noon. The decision to play earlier, cancel or reschedule must left to the Captains of the match in liaison with our opponents.

VH said she had attended the KCBA Ladies AGM and the secretary is standing down next season. They have asked for someone to step forward or the Ladies section may have to close. RF thanked her for attending.

It was proposed that the charge for hire of the clubhouse be reviewed as it has been £12.50 for some time. The proposal was to raise the hire charge to £15.00 per hour which was agreed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12:50.