

CHELTENHAM WHADDON BOWLING CLUB

MINUTES OF THE 95th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.00 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following members: Carol Savage, Jack Cratchley, Richard Mason, Julia Honer, Malcolm Hodges, Veronica Berry, Pat McGiffie, Peter Weir. A full list of attendees is attached to these minutes.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair asked if there were any amendments or questions regarding the Minutes of 94th AGM held on Friday 12th November 2021. There were none and, on the proposal of Gail Gilbert, seconded by Jacqueline Simmons, the meeting approved the minutes as a true record. The Chair then duly signed a copy of the minutes.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (Treasurer: Mr. D. Simmons)

- a. The Treasurer presented the audited accounts for the year ending 30 September 2022, which had been circulated with the agenda and his report below:
- b. I would like to thank a few people for helping with the Treasurer's role this year. Don Hughes for his ever-vigilant auditing, and prompt action to enable us to present an audited set of accounts to today's AGM; the committee for their ongoing enthusiasm and trust in me continuing with the Treasurer's role and particularly Andy Todd for all his extra work which he does remarkably efficiently year on year.
- c. I ended last year's report by saying: "Hopefully this next year will see some return to normality. We rely on the continued support of the members to ensure the ongoing viability of the club. Please continue to support any fund-raising initiatives and encourage new members." Well some sort of normality did return but still very difficult to compare the detail year on year
- d. So - to some notes on the numbers: in cash terms we made a surplus of £128, on the accruals we made a deficit of £631 - due in the main to the annual depreciation charge.
- e. Looking at the miscellaneous items for both income and expenditure the numbers include :
 - An in then out of £300 - which was monies raised for charity from the Xmas hamper raffle
 - Sale of some old green equipment which raised £550
 - Monies raised from sale of donated bowls eqpt (woods and clothing)
 - Waghorne's Trophy: in miscellaneous income is £336 received from Malcolm for the fees collected from the Friday night sessions. Not shown in the accounts this year is another £300 received from the raffles on Fridays - this is after accounting for the prize money. Thanks again to Nigel for the continued support and to Malcolm for his Friday night organisation.
 - Included in the miscellaneous expenditure is £400 for the new club flag. Thanks to Dave

Hooper for the sourcing and purchasing of the item – a welcome addition.

- f. Maintenance and repairs continue to be tightly managed by Mike and his team. The new honours board cost £700 but is a fantastic new addition and will save the club money every year going forward. Astro turf for the green surround was another large expenditure, and a new window has been ordered to create a new serving hatch from the bar. I think we get fantastic value for our maintenance team and I would like to thank them for all their fantastic efforts.
- g. Gas and electric numbers look a bit odd - we carried a large credit with our gas supplier which has now been exhausted, so we will start to see monies going out again for gas. Who knows where the bills will be in the future - our current supply contracts expire in August next year.
- h. A big difference from last year to this was the level of government grants that the club received. Last year we had almost £25,000, this year £4,000. Even with this dramatic year on year swing, that we have come out pretty much even on the year is a great achievement. The coming year will prove to be more challenging - particularly with the anticipated increase in utility bills.
- i. Please continue to support all the club's fund-raising activities - and let's hope for another successful financial year.

5. OFFICERS' & SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. President (Mr M. Newman)

As another bowling season comes to a close, it was nice to play without having to worry about Covid, in fact this season has been very hot, weather wise. Our Open Day was a great success, as was last year's, and found us even more new members. The last two Open Days have brought an influx of new members, most of whom are turning into good bowlers and have settled into the club very quickly. I would like to thank those members who have given their time organising training sessions and making new members welcome.

Our Presentation night went very well and all members present enjoyed themselves, great food thanks to Gail and her many helpers, who supplied wonderful sweets/puddings, good company and great atmosphere with many of our new members attending. Thanks to Colin for his photography, Dave seeing to the bar and of course Andy, for setting up the presentation of trophies.

b. Secretary (Mr A. Todd)

As Mike observed, this season has reverted to a more normal course, but it has still been a fairly busy year.

At the beginning of the year I negotiated with our club kit supplier to set up a Club shop. It has a number of advantages for the club and its members– the club doesn't have to keep stock and tie up money in it, while members don't have to wait until sufficient orders are gathered, if we don't have a size in stock. We also took this opportunity to change the shirt material and how it is produced, so that you can have your name printed on it, and to introduce a new club jacket.

We renewed our Bowlr subscription for rink booking, which is easier to administer than the old paper-based system. I hope members agree that we should continue to use it, especially as it also streamlines our membership records and ability to communicate with members.

I don't suppose that all of you will agree, but I'm also glad to see increasing use of social media around the club. I'm thinking, in particular, of the increasing use of WhatsApp groups to disseminate information both generally and to specific groups and teams. We are also trying to make more use of the

club Google account to store club documents and records. It's still a work in progress but it should make it easier when there is a change in officers.

As Dave said, the financial outlook is somewhat uncertain and bar takings will be affected by the loss of another men's skittles team this year. It seems skittles is a declining sport and we now only have 4 teams (1 men, 3 ladies) playing at the club – before Covid we had 7 (4 men, 3 ladies).

Looking to the future, you may recall that at the end of last year the Borough Council called a meeting with us, the Football Club, Parklands Community Centre and their planning officers to discuss options for the land we currently occupy. We were expecting to hear more during the summer, but a second meeting was cancelled, and we have heard nothing since. We just don't know yet whether anything will come of this.

c. **Club Captain** (Mr. D. Hooper)

Well, that is another year of bowling outside that has come to an end and what a difference to last year which was extremely frustrating due to Covid. A big improvement all round and things have been slowly getting back to some semblance of normal. I think that we were all looking forward to getting together, outside enjoying nice weather and good bowling. Unfortunately, Mother Nature thought differently and surprised us with a heat wave not experienced on these shores for a long time (although many of us tried to get away on holidays that took us to places where extreme heat is normal). However, as expected, we took it in our stride and carried on and enjoyed a good season.

There are many people to thank this year for their help and work during the past 12 months. I am sure that most, if not all, will get a mention at some point this evening but I would like to add my own thanks to the following:

- The greens and gardens crew who have maintained the outside area throughout the year and we have been complimented by most of the visiting teams we have hosted. Many saying that our green is the best looking green anywhere in the county and beyond. Well done to them.
- The members who have stepped up to the mark when it comes to catering this year. A sit-down meal for the NGL presentation night was appreciated by all the visiting clubs and made a great change to a plated salad offered by other clubs when they have hosted.
- Also, for the great meal provided for our own Presentation Night, roast dinner, lovely puds and a cheese board — what could be better? Again, many thanks.
- Derek Fry for his assistance in providing ham rolls for the NGL home matches.
- A mention also for a group of members that do not normally get any formal thanks and they have done a great deal for the club, not just this year but every year and that is the main committee. They convene monthly to look after business that has steered the club on a steady course to where we are today — a healthy, friendly place to come to bowl and socialise.

Now, for the nerds some statistics on our performances for the past year:

- We had 26 Club friendly fixtures arranged for the season, unfortunately, 6 matches were cancelled, 3 due to excessive heat conditions, 2 due to lack of interest by members and 1 due to a mix up in venue. Of the remaining 20 games we won 13 and lost 7. A successful season on those results.
- A fair season in the NGL again this year in a very competitive league. We played 10 matches, winning 5 and losing 5 and finished 4th in the league moving much closer to third than last year.
- Unfortunately, we did not fare well this year's Men's Festival losing on all rinks.
- Better results this year in the NGL Shield, beating Cheltenham Town in the first round, winning in the second round against Bredon before losing in the final to a very strong team from Bishop's Cleeve by only 12 shots. At the NGL AGM, held at Suffolk Square on the 29th October, the draw was made for the Shield competition 2023. Our first-round match is against Cheltenham Spa, the

winner going on to play Cheltenham Town in the semi-final.

- Also, at the AGM, Keith Hawkes was proposed as the new treasurer and was accepted unanimously. It was also agreed, unanimously, that Keith would also act as Vice President of the NGL for 2023.

All in all a very good season and good performance by all players who participated and my thanks to all of them. I have been impressed this season by the standard of our new bowlers out on the green, and lately in the short match competitions. I hope that they continue to play and wish them well and look forward to seeing them play more in the competitive games in next year's fixtures.

Captain's Charity: Over the past years I have had the greatest of pleasure in getting members to part with their well-earned cash for a variety of reasons, of which you will all be aware of. This year has been the best year yet and I am pleased to announce that the club raised a magnificent amount of £640 which I have donated to Maggies. For your information this year's amount was boosted by hosting the NGL Presentation Night when the year's subscriptions are donated to the hosting club plus any monies raised by the NGL President fining attending clubs for misdemeanours committed, which totalled £150 for the subscriptions and £89 from fines. Some of you may think that I fine a lot but I am not as brutal as the NGL President. A couple of members also contributed by handing over their bottles and boxes of spare coins, which raised just over £100, some from raffles and subs from Captains' Challenge match. A princely sum indeed and all my thanks to the many contributors.

Finally. I would like to thank all members for their support last season, not just out on the green but in the rest of the club activities, such as Friday night social evenings, coffee mornings, skittles nights etc. I am assured that these activities will continue this coming year and it is your support that makes them such a success and guarantees the future of Cheltenham Whaddon Bowls Club. Thank you all.

d. Ladies Captain (Mrs. Y. Anderson-Foss)

We've had a fairly good season coming 5th out of 7 teams in Division 2 of the Ladies League. We won 5 matches and lost 7. Next year there will be 8 teams in the division, so we'll have 14 league matches, two more than this year. These are normally played on Tuesday evenings but, subject to the agreement of our opponents, we intend moving a few of the matches to the Monday evening of the same week. We often struggled with availability of players and I was told that one of the reasons for this was that some ladies prefer not to play on two consecutive days. Moving the matches to a Monday, as long as there's not an Afternoon Triples match that day or a Club match the previous day, will hopefully encourage more ladies to sign up for league matches.

We entered the Top Club competition this year and were drawn to play Fairford at home. Although we were well and truly beaten in the singles, pairs and fours games, our triples team of Pat, Maggie and Carol came very close to winning their game. One of the things we discussed at a ladies' meeting last month was whether or not to enter the Top Club competition next year; we decided to wait for at least a year until we give it another go.

We only played 3 of the 10 scheduled ladies friendlies this season. The 7 cancellations were due to: insufficient players on both sides (3 matches), us having insufficient players (2), Covid (1) and hot weather (1). We've decided that we'll reduce the number of friendlies next year to 8 by ditching friendlies against Nailsworth and Cirencester. That will leave us with home and away friendlies against Overbury, Moreton-in-Marsh, Bredon and Cheltenham Spa.

We had 20 ladies eligible to play in matches, but several of these were struggling with physical ailments or were new bowlers. I'm very grateful to everyone for being willing to play even when they were feeling below par or were nervous about their inexperience. I'm optimistic that we'll have a few more ladies next year – we already have four that joined in September and we should gain some more from the Open Day that we intend holding again in May.

I want to thank Jan for her help during the year as vice captain especially for the first two matches , one friendly and one league match, which she owned completely as I was on holiday and then had Covid. Jan has decided to step down from being vice captain so there's an opportunity for someone else to step forward when we get on to the election of officers. I also want to thank Jacqui and Julia for their support as the two selectors; I'm pleased to say they've both agreed to continue in these roles. Hopefully next year we'll have more names than places for matches so we'll spend more time on selecting teams rather than having to encourage players to take part.

And finally, a big thank you to everyone throughout the Club, men as well as ladies, that have given me plenty of support and helped me to settle into the role of Ladies Captain.

e. **Afternoon Triples Captain** (Mrs J. Whistler)

f. **Membership Secretary** (Mrs. Y. Anderson-Foss)

I'm pleased to be able to report that our membership numbers continue to be healthy. At this time last year we had a total of 111 members (77 Full, 18 Social Plus and 16 Social); this year we have one fewer, a total of 110 (73 Full, 23 Social Plus and 14 Social). Of the 21 members that joined this year 4 joined in January (looking for a club in the area), 9 were recruited from our Open Day in May and 8 were introduced at other times by existing members.

The assigning of new members to 'buddy' groups, small groups led by established members to help new members to become familiar with the club and bowling, continues to be successful. The time and effort put into it by this year's Buddy Group Leaders Phil Nelson, Richard Mason and Peter Weir and by Coach Eddie Broughton is much appreciated.

Our Open Day was held on Saturday 7th May this year instead of aligning it with Bowls England's Big Weekend which was the last weekend of the month. The benefit of the earlier date was that new members had more time to learn how to play and integrate into the Club, which the Committee felt outweighed any benefits from aligning with BE's plan. We kept 28th May free in case of inclement weather on the 7th, but thankfully we didn't have to postpone the event. Good weather and marketing resulted in a very good turn-out and, with a lot of help from the Club's members, it was again a very successful and enjoyable event.

This year we were able to go back to providing printed forms for membership renewals instead of having to do things more remotely and electronically due to Covid restrictions. Now that things are back to how they used to be, we need a membership secretary who's able to be at the Club more often, particularly on Friday evenings in February and March to distribute and collect renewal forms, and who's able to pop briefly into the Club as and when required, e.g. to pick up application forms from new recruits. I live too far away to visit the Club often enough which is why I'm stepping down from the role.

g. **Fixture Secretary** (Mr. A. Adams)

The Fixture Secretary had nothing to report but would continue to work towards reducing fixtures to one per weekend.

h. **House & Grounds Committee** (Mr. M. Newman)

During this season the new Honours Board has been put up, thanks to Roy Kirby's excellent job. We shall be starting on the serving hatch to the green, which will enable player to buy refreshments without having to walk through the bar.

Our entrance porch was painted and new carpets fitted thanks to Gail Gilbert for all her hard work. It looks far more welcoming now.

Once again I would like to say a big thank you to the ground crew who turn up every Wednesday, rain or shine, to do the various jobs that need doing, obviously not so much to do during the winter months. However, during the playing season it's a very different story and we could always do with more members to help. So if anyone feels they could spare a few hours per week, please let me know.

6. PROPOSITIONS

The Committee proposed the following amendments to the Constitution:

- a. To amend the Constitution by removing paragraph 3.2.1 (d) Social Plus member in its entirety with consequent renumbering of paragraphs (e) and (f) to (d) and (e)

The Committee believe this is an extra complication to administer, which no longer serves a purpose – it was originally intended to attract new members, but we have since introduced the reduced fee for new bowlers. We have no real means of checking that Social Plus members do not exceed their entitlement to roll-ups and we still have to pay the full BE/GBA affiliation fee (£9). We did discuss raising the Social Plus fee but to make it viable it would be almost as much as a Full membership fee. For that reason, we decided it was more rational to abolish Social Plus and say that if you want to bowl on the green you need to be a full member.

There were some concerns from the floor that current Social Plus members might not rejoin if we remove this category of membership. After some debate the matter was put to the vote and the proposal was carried by 27 votes for to 3 against, thus achieving the required two thirds majority to ratify a Constitutional amendment.

- b. To amend paragraph 3.2.1 (e) of the Constitution by adding the following sentence: 'Social members shall also be entitled to enter Short Mat competitions.'

Intended to compensate in a small way for the proposed increase in fee (see paragraph 6c below). There was little debate and the proposal was passed with no votes against.

- c. To increase the membership fee for Social members from £20 to £30

There were strenuous objections to increasing the for Social membership fee, despite the Committee's contention that it was very low for the facilities provided. When put to the vote the proposal was overwhelmingly rejected.

- d. To increase the membership fee for New Bowlers to £40

The Committee believed that the fee should be higher than for Social membership fee to recognize that new bowlers have full playing rights. It is still a very significant reduction from the full membership fee. The meeting accepted this argument and voted to ratify the amendment with no votes against.

- e. To amend Paragraph 2.1 of the Constitution by removing the following from the list of Officers of Club:

- 1) Chair
- 2) Minutes Secretary
- 3) GBA delegate

The Committee had reviewed the list of officer posts and these three have either not been filled or have few duties, which have been adequately covered by other members of the Committee. The specific reasons for removing these officer posts were:

- Chair: the post was included when we adopted our new Constitution, but we have never filled it: the President has continued to chair committee meetings and the AGM, rather than being a purely

ceremonial figure.

- Minutes Secretary: this is a task that in most small organization would naturally fall to the club's Secretary, who has in fact been producing the minutes without problem for the last 2 years.
- GBA delegate: Any committee member could attend these meetings on behalf of the club – most other clubs send either their President/Chair or Secretary. In total there are about 5/6 meetings per year, so not an onerous task.

The meeting accepted the Committee's proposal and approved the proposal with no votes against.

- f. To amend the Constitution by removing Paragraph 2.4 in its entirety 'No member shall hold the office of President for more than 3 consecutive years'.

The Committee noted that this restriction was introduced to solve historical problem and the reasons for doing so no longer apply. No other officer has any restriction on how many years they can hold office – the President, like everyone else, must put him/herself up for election every year, so if there were ever a problem, he/she could be voted out.

The meeting was convinced by this argument and approved the proposal with only 1 vote against.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- a. Valid and unopposed nominations had been received for the following officers:

- i. President: Mike Newman
- ii. Hon. Treasurer: Dave Simmons
- iii. Hon. Secretary: Andy Todd
- iv. Club Captain: Dave Hooper
- v. Ladies Captain: Yvonne Anderson-Foss
- vi. Competition Secretary: Andy Todd
- vii. General Committee Members (at least 2, no more than 4): Peter McGiffie, Derek Fry, Don Bailey
- viii. Bar Committee (3 elected members): David Hearle, Mike Newman
- ix. House & Grounds Committee (at least 3 members): David Hearle, Mike Newman, Ray Hawkins, Gail Gilbert, Don Bailey, Roy Kirby
- x. Social Committee: Debby Hooper

In accordance with established practice the Secretary proposed the election of these nominees en bloc. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of so doing and the above-named were duly elected.

- b. There had been no valid nominations for the following positions:

- i. Welfare & Safeguarding Officer
Jan Bowd put her name forward to fill this post, proposed by Angela Utteridge, seconded by Jill Whistler. In the absence of any other nomination, the meeting elected her to the post.
- ii. Hon. Fixture/Match Secretary
Alan Adams volunteered to serve for a further year and on the proposal of Dave Simmons, seconded by Jacqui Simmons, was duly elected.
- iii. Hon. Membership Secretary
This position remains open: the new Committee will seek to fill it by co-option when it meets.
- iv. Accounts Examiner
Don Hughes was prepared to act as accounts examiner for a final year and was duly elected.

- v. County Delegates
Since the motion at para 6.e 3 was approved, these positions are no longer required.
- vi. Bar Committee
John Petchey came forward to fill the vacancy for 1 further member and was approved by the meeting
- vii. Selection Committee
Don Bailey and Ray Hawkins volunteered for the 2 elected members of this committee and were duly elected.
- viii. Competitions Committee
The following agreed to serve on this committee to assist the Competition Secretary: Jan Bowd, Jill Whistler & Dave Simmons.
- ix. Social Committee
Maggie Newman and Jacqui Simmons agreed to help Debby Hooper with social events.

8. CLOSING ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT

Last year I commented on my disappointment at the lack of new names appearing on the sheets for election and sadly nothing has changed.

The club has a social side, so it is not all about bowls. Friday night is club night, a chance to chill out and chat with friends. The first Saturday in the month during the winter we have coffee mornings with homemade cake; there are skittles, quiz and race nights, so please try to support these events. Apart from having a good time, it helps the club to make a little money.

Could I make an appeal to the newer members of the club: the club does not run itself, so ask yourself “What can I do to contribute”, however small it may be. Perhaps next year we will see more names on the list.

Andy Todd
Secretary, Cheltenham Whaddon BC

Signed as a true record:

R. Hawkins, President

Attachment 1 to Minutes of 95th AGM, 11 November 2022

LIST OF ATTENDEES

Jim Bowd
Jan Bowd
Dave Hooper
Deb Hooper
Mike Newman
Maggie Newman
Roger Avery
Liz Avery
Allan Pearce
David Hearle
Gail Gilbert
John Petchey
Ken Aldridge
Eldon Thomas

Ray Jones
Ray Hawkins
Andy Todd
Mo Lucas
Judy Parry
Ken Campbell
Julie Campbell
Jacqueline Simmons
Dave Simmons
Derek Fry
Mike Byrne
Keith Hawkes
Jane Hawkes
Tudor Morris
Ramon Riera

Geof Hack
Yvonne Anderson-Foss
Jill Whistler
Peter McGiffie
Angela Utteridge
David Potter
Teresa Adams
Alan Adams
Julia Gray
Phil Goode
Don Hughes
Penny Andrews
Doreen Morris

Total Attendance: 41