

HAYDON WICK BOWLS CLUB

Annual General Meeting held on 25th October 2022

Present :-

There were 57 members present at the Annual General Meeting.

Apologies :-

There were 12 recorded apologies from members unable to attend.

The Chairman opened the AGM at 1930 and welcomed those attending. He then introduced Kevin O'Donoghue, the Dementia Friends Ambassador for the Alzheimer's Society, which had been the President's chosen charity for 2022.

The President took great pride in presenting a cheque for £1,900 to the Society raised through the generosity of the members of Haydon Wick Bowls Club throughout the year. He said it had a special meaning to him and was obviously special to the members

Kevin then thanked the members for their generosity saying that it greatly helped their work in this all important care sector and expanded on the work of the Society saying there were three main areas of the Society's work, namely caring for those with dementia, caring for the carers and thirdly in research and development. He explained that dementia is a very individual illness in that no two people have the same problems but help can be provided via an on-line chat line and with extremely professional support workers in the team.

He added that our donation would greatly help research into care and treatment. Diagnosis rates had been falling which suggests that many more may be suffering but not recorded.

He would greatly welcome volunteers for dementia research which does not actually mean that you are a sufferer and he would be pleased to be contacted.

In his role as Dementia Friends Ambassador he runs a dementia friends on line session which gives help and assistance to would be carers. It can be seen at dementiafriends.org and has five key messages for those interested in becoming carers. He would also be willing to run a personalised training course for club members should there be sufficient interest.

He promised to send a guide on "Sunflower Lanyards" to the President and once again thanked the members for their wonderful donation and for their support during the presentation.

Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The members attending agreed the Minutes as a true record of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 26th October 2021.

President's Annual Report

Firstly, thank you all for attending and especially our new members.

2022 was our first full season after the Covid pandemic and it was good to be back to some sort of normality.

It has been an honour to be your President this year; it's certainly been busy but rewarding as well. I have had great support and encouragement from you all but especially the Committee – Barry, Diane, Jeff, Mike, Paul, Bob, Nigel, Trevor, Andy, Alan and Wendy. Thank you.

Our club wouldn't function without the help of all of you doing the various jobs that are necessary. These sections are headed up by: Val Kempshall – Cleaning, Bob James – Bar, Ann Ogbourne – gardening, Wayne Clarke – Green, Trevor Startup – maintenance, Val New – catering. In addition I would like to thank Dave Longhurst for organising the club competitions and our coaches Nigel, Martin and Andy for the very successful Monday evening sessions.

Back to Val New for a moment. Val has been involved with the catering for as long as I can remember and organised the section for the last 6 or 8 years. She has now decided to step down from the organising but will remain on the team. On behalf of the Committee I would like to present her with a token of our thanks.

Events during the year included hosting the S & D v. Wilts Ladies which was a big success both on and off the green and realised a profit of £400. The Big Bowls Weekend/Open Day was well advertised and got a good response particularly in Monday Coaching and new members.

The St. George's Field Jubilee – where we had a stand by the entrance, gave out fliers, organised games for the kids and spread the word generally.

We had a Parish Council/Memory Café Fun Day – which was well supported with families, couples, members and councillors who are really keen to promote HWBC within the community and make the most of our facilities.

The Nationwide Corporate Day failed to go ahead due to firstly the heatwave and secondly the Queen's official mourning period. However, they have paid up front and will be joining us sometime during 2023.

The Boules versus Bowls match was really good fun and enjoyed by everyone who took part. It was followed by a Cream Tea and we are hoping to make it an annual event with maybe a return match on the green!

The Charity Day had a new format and was extremely successful and very enjoyable and followed by an American Supper. The Finals Day was also successful and became an enjoyable event rather than just playing bowls. It was followed by an excellent Barbeque (thank you Wayne) and then Bingo.

After two postponements due to the heatwave the President's team against the Captain's team match was eventually played in the rain!

For the matches in 2022 the Ladies' teams had a difficult season mainly due to selection problems. The evening rinks' team finished 10th of 15 and the afternoon triples 5th of 13. They do hope that these problems will be resolved next year with the influx of new members and they have already decided to revert to two teams in the afternoon triples.

The men had a good season by winning the Wiltshire 4 rinks' league (Division 2) and only losing 2 games. After a slow start in the 4 rinks' S & D League (Division 1); we were bottom at the end of June but managed to eventually come 4th.

Congratulations must go to Jeannette Maisey and Keith Brenton who are both visually impaired bowlers and members of HWBC. Jeannette has just won Bronze at the UK Singles Championships and Keith won Gold in the England and UK B1 Championships.

Treasurer's Annual Report

At last year's AGM I gave a very long but detailed explanation of the club's financial situation. This was necessary due to the huge financial impact caused by Covid and subsequent lockdowns. This year I will return to the much shorter report and a copy, together with the current, pre-audited financial statement will be posted on the Club notice-board.

Once the accounts have been fully audited the Notice-board will be updated and the documents published on the Club website, Facebook page and I will get Tony to include them in the "Wick" monthly newsletter.

Following last year's loss of just over £6,600 I am delighted to announce that this year we have seen a profit of just over £8,000 obtained by income of £39,600 and expenditure of £31,500. This excellent financial result sees the Club's cash holdings return to pre-pandemic levels with cash holdings of £37,500 which is up from £29,500 the previous year.

I must remind you that this cash holding remains split into two specific funds:-

- £20,000 is a constitutionally ring-fenced provision for asset repair and maintenance
- £17,500 is the Treasurer's accessible funds – for the day to day running of the Club.

I would just like to briefly cover two items, a) an overview of how we achieved this year's profit, and b) the challenges and opportunities for next year:-

This year's profit

We finished the season with a healthy increase in membership with 22 new Full Playing members and 5 new Social members joining the Club. This takes our current membership to 106 full members and 43 Social members which generated £9,300 in membership fees alone this year. A great deal of thanks needs to go to a relatively small number of members without whom we would not have seen this incredible membership increase. On behalf of the whole Committee I would like to thank you all.

I would also like to highlight a few for particular praise:-

The club's coaches and the supporting members who worked tirelessly at the Monday night coaching sessions with many going straight to coaching from their S & D afternoon league matches.

I would like to thank Bob Thorley, Mike Grigg and Dave Longhurst who, with me, put in many hours planning and organising community events that raised the club's profile this year. We even got more mentions on BBC Wiltshire than Westlecot Bowls Club in the run up to our Open Day. Not very often that we beat Westlecot!! – well done Bob!

Also to Alan Walters, Tony Coleman and Martin Edwards who did great work in increasing internal and external communication methods for the Club.

- a. We now have a great Club Facebook page for members. For those of you who use Facebook please go and find our page. I am sure that Alan or Martin will be more than delighted to help.
- b. Tony has developed our in-house monthly magazine following feedback from our members about poor communication. "The Wick" magazine is available on the Club notice-board, our Facebook page and is also e-mailed to all members. Again, if you are not receiving this I am sure Alan, Tony or Martin could help.
- c. Last but not least, Martin has continued to strengthen the Club's website which continues to be a valuable resource for members as well as the go to place for Rink bookings.

The Club's members directly generated a fantastic income of £11,700 through greater participation in Club events, such as:-

£5,000 in Green Fees £1,800 from the Bonus Ball £1,100 from Boules
£3,800 Fund raising via the club events and a profit of £2,100 on Bar sales and I would like to thank Derek Richards for managing the Bar stock.

To run the Club this year we had some sizeable expenditure:-

£7,200 Green Maintenance £2,000 Utility Bills £1,100 Club Maintenance
£1,120 Affiliation and Competition Fees £2,000 Catering – and my thanks go to Val New
for managing this considerable spend and activity to such a high standard.

The Club also spent £10,100 on Equipment during the year but fortunately this was almost completely covered by a donation of £9,100 to the Club by a wonderful benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous and I would like you all to give him a big hand for his generosity. The donation was spent on purchasing a brand new mower which will be used on the Green for many years to come.

Challenges and Opportunities for next year

The Club, like our members, is not immune from the current cost of living crisis and rising inflation. We have seen rising costs associated with:-

- Gas, Electric and Water bills
- Green maintenance costs, worst case scenario a rise to £10,000 next year
- Increase in catering and bar stock purchase prices
- Club insurance, petrol for the mower and other consumables increasing massively from last year

That is the bad news but the good news is that thanks to greater membership participation and the subsequent increased revenue we have a healthy cash reserve. Based on this, my proposal to the Committee, and one I hope you vote to accept, is that the Club will absorb these increases without passing on any cost to the members.

This coming year is going to be difficult enough for us all without having to find additional money to maintain Club membership. Therefore, the Committee is suggesting we freeze next year's membership fees, match fees and bar prices at the current level. This is only possible because:-

- a) We have increased membership, meaning 100 full members paying £100 covers next year's worst case Green maintenance costs of £10,000
- b) We have seen increased levels of membership participation, e.g:-
 - i) The Friday night random match format saw higher participation than the normal Friday night Triples (thus generating more revenue).
 - ii) The two In-house friendly matches arranged to replace the three cancelled end of season matches against Purton generated more revenue than the three Purton games would have done.
- c) A reduced spend last year thanks to that huge anonymous donation.
- d) Finally, in the worst case we can use some of the £17,500 cash reserves to cover inflation and the cost of living crisis.

So, in summary, we have seen our finance return to pre-Covid levels and this is down to a significant increase in membership, with greater levels of participation, bringing more money into the Club.

Finally, the Club's Trustees and myself are working with Haydon Wick Parish Council to renew the lease for a further 25 years. The current lease ends in 2023 and the new lease means that we will secure our facilities until at least 2048.

This facility is of no use to us without a thriving membership and as such I have two requests for all current members to help ensure we have a successful Bowls Club for ourselves and for future generations of bowlers.

Firstly – we need to have a membership of between 100 and 120 bowling members. This will allow us to maintain our green to the high standard we all demand. To do this we need to attract a steady stream of new bowlers, away from the narrow stereotypical demographic that bowling currently attracts. We should focus on our unique selling point of being “the friendly club” to achieve this goal.

Secondly – The Committee needs to encourage members to increase the frequency of their participation in the Club. Unapologetically, as Treasurer, “participation” means spending more money at the Club. So, I would like to see more members:-

- Playing Friendly competitions
- Participating in the Club's Friday night bowling matches
- Putting their names down for S & D and Bowls Wiltshire evening and afternoon matches
- Getting involved in the Boules section of the Club
- Joining Wednesday night Clubhouse events during the autumn and winter
- Something as simple as buying an extra drink at the Bar
- Buying an occasional raffle ticket
- Join the Club's Bonus Ball scheme

To achieve all of this we need good two-way communication between the Committee and our members.

As a Committee we have started this improvement with “The Wick” magazine, Facebook page and improvements to the Club website. Some of the new match formats this year have proved very popular and the new Friday night bowling format is a good example. Let's keep this two-way dialogue going and please continue to give feedback to the Committee, whether it be positive or negative.

Thank you for your time.

Proposed Subscriptions and Match Fees for 2023

The members voted unanimously to accept the Committee's recommendation to retain subscriptions and match fees at the 2022 level. They will be:-

- Annual Subscription £100
- Juniors – Affiliation Fees
- Social Members £15
- Friendly match fees - £3.00 home and away
- Men's evening match fees - £2.50 home and away
- Ladies' evening match fees £1.00 home and £1.50 away
- Ladies afternoon Triples - £1.50 home and away
- Men's afternoon triples - £2.00 home and away
- Friday Triples - £1.50
- Boules - £1.50

Proposal by the Committee as to new way of paying match fees

The President invited Andy Tiffin to the floor to explain the new proposal in which tokens would replace actual cash for match fees. The present system was no longer viable in that many people no longer carried cash or produced £10 or £20 notes and expected change. Coins in general caused a great problem for the Treasurer in that it had to be banked and for the Bar staff who were expected to change large denomination notes for match fees thus depleting their float to an unacceptable level. It also caused problems with our insurance because our financial cash limit at any one time was £500 either at the Club or the Treasurer's house.

Andy went on to say that there would be three colours of differentiating values. A green token would be worth £2.50, a Gold token £2.00 and a Red token for £1.50 which covered all match fee variables. These tokens would come into force for men from the start of the 2023 season but the introduction would be delayed for the Ladies.

Tokens will be able to be purchased at the pre-season meeting and thereafter through the Bar on a Friday or via the Duty Officer. They can be paid for by BACS, Cash or cheque and the Club hopes to become totally cashless eventually. Tokens can be returned at face value at any time or can be held over and used the following season.

The proposal raised a great deal of discussion and Andy dealt with a variety of questions and the overall view of the AGM was extremely positive. Any teething problems would be resolved by the start of the 2023 season.

Election of Officers and Committee

Jeff has decided to step down from his position as Secretary and he was heartily applauded for all his good work during his time as Secretary. The President led the tribute by saying his job was so much easier by having Jeff alongside him. Jeff would continue as a Trustee and be heavily involved in the re-negotiation of the lease. He would be succeeded as Secretary by Neil Fuller.

The President himself was also stepping down, again to warm applause, and he said that he was fortunate in that he would be followed as President by Gloria Edwards and that the position of Vice-President would be filled by Derek Richards. Both appointments were well received.

The remainder of the Committee have agreed to remain in place but as the Constitution said there should be a Committee of 12, Mike Grigg would continue as Minutes Secretary as a Co-opted member and Nigel Morgan would remain as Safeguarding Officer but also in a Co-opted position. Neither of these would be eligible to vote at Committee meetings.

In addition to Jeff, Bob James would fill the role of second Trustee. By the terms of the Lease and by legal requirement of Bowls England Haydon Wick Parish Council would also supply two Trustees and these were expected to be named in November.

Appointment of two member auditors

Tony Coleman and Pete Mildenhall have agreed to continue as the two Auditors for 2023.

Meritorious Service to the Club Award

The President had great pleasure in awarding this year's Meritorious Service Award which had been voted on by the Committee. The recipient has also served as President and long term Committee member. Wayne Clarke dealt with the Contractors, organised the Green rotas and kept the Green to a very high standard on a very tight budget as well as spending many hours at the Club. The award was presented by the President to very warm applause and Wayne appreciated the trust that the membership placed in him.

Future Events

Christmas Bingo would be held on 21st December.

Date of Pre-season meeting

The pre-season meeting will be held on Tuesday, 7th March 2023.

Date of next Annual general Meeting

This will take place on Tuesday, 24th October, 2023.

Presentation of Trophies

Gloria, as incoming President, gave thanks to both John, as outgoing President, and Jeff, as outgoing Secretary for all their hard work during their tenure in office. She added that she had been a member for 18 years and looked forward to serving the members as their President. Her chosen charity for 2023 would be Prostate Cancer UK.

She then proceeded to present the prizes for the various competitions held in 2022 assisted by Dave Longhurst.

There being no further business the 2022 Annual General Meeting closed at 2125.

M C Grigg

Minutes Secretary