

2024 Minutes

Members Present

Clifford Alvis, Dave Alway, Gerald Andrews, Chris Arnold, Tony Attwood, Frank Booth, Michael Brobson, Brian Clark, Tony Hargraves, John King, Chris Mitchell, Paul Moran, David Oliver, Mark Palmer, Andrew Richards, Christopher Robinson, Gerry Sadler, Phil Stevens, Tony Swaine, Ray Swallow, Ed Tuck, Nigel Wiltshire, Jane Andrews, Joy Arnold, Linda Brobson, Carol Hamblin, Becky Moran, Margaret O'Neill, Les Pleasant, Bev Sadler, Eve Swallow, Jules Tresidder, Barb King, Robert Goodhand, Peggy Groves, Maureen Neale.

Apologies

Brian Brown, Di Baker

Welcome to all.

1. Bowls season report, playing, personnel and Financial

The extra Friday league this season again was well supported. We still do not have sufficient lady membership to enter a ladies' team, although we did manage one ladies' friendly against Frome Selwood that was very much enjoyed by those who played.

As we know, we are not in the top flight of competitive playing like Street, Petherton and Yeovil, who very much are trophy hunters at every level they play. We are still though very competitive and are a real thorn in the side of many very good clubs.

I think for our club, it is very much a case of striking a balance between competitiveness and inclusivity

There are many clubs around that envy our successes in our membership and financial stability, but these do come at the expense of full on competitiveness. I certainly know which I prefer.

The introduction of a new in-house triples league by Bob was very well appreciated and is certainly something we will be looking at retaining for next season. I think all who played really enjoyed the format. I wish to thank Bob in his absence for the effort he put in in setting up and administering the whole league and providing the trophies.

Congratulations to the A team for taking the inaugural league title.

The membership overall remains good we are above last years membership number, but as with our demographic, there will always be a flux of members. We still need to actively promote the club at every opportunity to keep it alive and thriving.

Financially, Robert presented financials

2. Chairman's statement

A year under our new president has been a breath of fresh air.

A president that knows the members and is actively involved in the playing and social sides of the club. A president that this year has donated resources to enable the replacement of the seating around the green. I think you will agree the new benches are a great improvement in the facilities for our spectating guests.

It has been an honour to have worked with Brian this year and I wish to acknowledge his participation and investment in the club. And then to cover the fish and chip supper, was a magnificent gesture. I think a very big round of applause is in order. Thank you Brian.

This year has been another where newer players are being encouraged to join in the league side of matches as much as just playing inhouse fixtures.

This will inevitably weaken sides that are fielded, but is a very inclusive way of involving all members. There are clubs around where you will be highly unlikely to play a league match within the first two or three years. These same clubs are the ones finding it difficult to recruit new players, or retain the ones they do recruit. We have, I hope, no intention of going down that slope.

I wish to give thanks to everyone who has contributed in any way, whether it be through one of our work parties, day to day general help, or some of the more dedicated roles. I'd like to mention some members who have given so much this year.

To Gerald as playing captain, and Linda as his number two, a thankless job, but one they have performed superbly. Gerald for the last three years, and will be standing down from that role today.

And also Gerald of course for doing the food for our social evenings throughout the year along with Jane and their elves.

To Chris, running the bar so efficiently, constantly reviewing what to stock, and bringing ideas to the table like Ice Creams for this season. To Joy who supports Chris and is always on the scene clearing everything away and cleaning up at the end of every match and social event.

A massive thanks for a tremendous achievement to our groundsmen led by Dave Alway, along with his henchmen, Tony Attwood, Chris Mitchell and Cliff Alvis.

Whilst we are on the green, this winter will see a major capital investment project undertaken, We will be installing a fully automatic irrigation system, meaning we will be in an even better position to look after our biggest asset, the green.

A large amount of autumn preparation was carried out on the green last week, with the ground being hollow tined, re-seeded and over two tonnes of top dressing applied.

This, along with the new irrigation system should mean an even better and consistent playing surface next season. We all know it had started to get a little 'bumpy', this should have now been addressed, and should make for an even better experience.

Dave Alway has been, bar a very short time away, our head groundsman for fifteen years, Dave, as you may be aware is stepping down from this role after this long, and, as a token of our gratitude for outstanding service, I wish to present to Dave this voucher for a meal at the Poachers Pocket. A very big thank you Dave.

I will not single out more individuals, merely to say every bit of help given really is appreciated.

Going forward we would like perhaps a few more to get involved in the ground's maintenance with the new groundkeeper. If you can spare a couple of hours a week, please see me or the new grounds keeper.

I'll end by saying it has been a great year, one for much comradery and fun with little or no aggravation. It has been a most enjoyable season.

3. Captain's report

A summary of the year was given by our outgoing captain, Gerald.

He thanked all members for their contribution this season and wished his successor all the best for the new season.

4. Election of Committee – Roles are all working positions.

Nominations were

Joy Arnold

Dave Oliver

Gerald Andrews

Julie Crocket

Team captain and Vice Captain

These were proposed en-bloc by D Always, Seconded by M Neale

Carried unanimous

5. Matters arising from members

1. **Motion to play all non-league rollup sessions and in-house club singles, pairs and triples competitions transversely across the green (clubhouse to car park), to make the green more evenly tracked.**

This motion is presented to help the green condition.

The green at 31m is still league distance although it is proposed to play all league matches the current direction.

This motion is supported by both past groundskeepers and our professional contractor Matt Phillips. This is to even out the end space wear and also to reduce to a great extent the grooving of the green, which becomes evident when the rink markers are moved and we find one side may play with no draw at all or even against the bias.

It is proposed to utilise this direction for all inhouse playing on every Monday and Friday roll up and triples league games as well.

Discussion and any views that contradict this motion was held.

Motion proposed by D Oliver, Seconded by M Neale

Carried unanimous

From April 2025 only league and friendly matches shall be played full length. All non-league sessions will be played transverse (from clubhouse to car park direction).

This is not at the discretion of the players, it can then only be reversed by committee on the advice of the head groundsman or Matt Phillips.

2. Pursuit of sponsorship (proposed by C Robinson)

This was discussed and motion was proposed

Motion proposed by C Robinson

Seconded by G Andrews

Carried unanimous

C Robinson to liaise with committee and pursue

6. Election of Captain

Nominations were T Attwood

Proposed by D Alway

Seconded by G Andrews

Carried unanimous

7. Election of Vice-Captain

Nominations were L Brobson

Proposed by J Andrews

Seconded by B Clarke

Carried unanimous

8. Fixtures/Competitions Secretary

Nominations were P Stevens

Proposed by C Arnold

Seconded by J King

Carried unanimous

9. Election of Bowls Club president from nominations posted.

There was no new nomination, and the incumbent president, Brian Clark was unanimously elected for a second term with a vote.

10. AOB

A request for lighting to the gate and possibly car park was made. This will be brought to committee. Meeting closed at 8:04pm