



BRIXHAM BOWLING CLUB

www.brixhambowlingclub.co.uk

Nelson Road, Brixham TQ5 8BH Tel: 01803 852118
Affiliated to Bowls England & Bowls Devon

(Founded 1913)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 10.30 Saturday 11th November 2017

Present: Audrey Armitage, Doug Barnard, Sheryl Baxter, Geoff Baxter, Margaret Bond, Thelma Bunney, David Bunney, Rob Cann, Penny Cooley, Graeme Davies, Phil Davies, Chris Dawes, Sue Dawes, Mike Evans, Jenny Farley, Mike Friend, Barry Goldsmith, Maggie Goldsmith, Anne Gray, Paul Harris, Bebs Harvey, Ken Higgins, Sally Hoare, Fred Hoare, Margaret Holbrow, Mike Holbrow, Jenny Hopkins, Jane Innet, Dot Langford, Margaret Medway, Roy Moore, Jenny Moore, David Moseby, Roy Nash, Graham Oakden, Linda Oakden, Jane Parker, Pauline Parker, Alan Parker, Keith Parker, Mo Penhaligon, Ken Penhaligon, Alan Simpson, Anne Stenning, Sandra Sutton, Audrey Taylor, David Taylor, Mo Thomas, Margaret Watters

1. President's Welcome

Alan Parker welcomed members to the meeting, and informed them that we would be holding two minutes silence at 11.00 for Remembrance Day, and also to remember Peter Martin, who passed away recently.

2. Apologies: Anne Dyke, Dave Farley, Bill Gray, Brian Gray, Sybil Greatbatch, David Hayden, Harry Riley, David Stone, Marion Turner, Malcolm Turner, Mo Wilmot

3. Minutes of previous AGM held on 5th November 2016

No comments forthcoming.

4. Matter Arising from previous minutes

None.

5. Opening Remarks by the President

Alan started by thanking a number of people in the club. Mike Friend and his team for their work on the green and surrounding areas, and Maureen and Ken for their sturdy work on the bar for the last four years. Alan then presented Mo and Ken with a small gift in appreciation of their contribution to the club and its finances. He then went on to thank Sheryl and Geoff Baxter for their work to raise money for the defibrillator, which is now installed, and training courses will be held early in the New Year.

Congratulations to the Ladies' and Men's A Teams on their promotions to the First and Premier Divisions respectively. Unfortunately the Ladies B Team was relegated, and the Men's B Team's position remained unchanged. We need to put some effort into these teams next season.

We had a successful and enjoyable season, with new windows enhancing the appearance of the pavilion. Unfortunately the number of touring teams was half of the previous year, and this trend seems to have been reflected at other clubs across the bay.

Members were reminded that if they are due to play against a touring side, they should turn up unless advised to the contrary. A classic example was the visit by Avon and Somerset Police, on a day when it was pouring with rain. Our visitors chose to spend the day with us, rather than wander around an inclement Brixham, and, thanks to the quick thinking of Dave Moseby and his Social Committee, a quiz was organised, and a happy and relaxed atmosphere ensued. Our visitors left happy, and with the promise of a return. Unfortunately, due to incorrect assumptions, only 14 members turned up, but fortunately these included the tea ladies and the bar staff. Therefore please always turn up to play or entertain our visitors unless you hear otherwise.

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6. Annual Reports

i Management Committee Report from Hon. Secretary

2017 was a successful year for the club. Both Ladies and Men's A Teams achieved promotion, and the Men's Over 55s Triples team successfully defended their 2016 title. We should not ignore the B Teams, which not only compete in their leagues, but also serve as an introduction to competitive bowling for new members, and provide the future A Team players.

David Hayden cannot be here today, but it would be remiss of me not to congratulate him and Sally Hoare for their time as Captains.

The green itself remains the best in Torbay, so special mention should be made of Mike Friend and his team, who work hard all year round to maintain it to the standard to which we have become accustomed.

Off the green and in to the pavilion we saw the remaining windows replaced, an oven installed providing welcome pasties and sausage rolls, and the arrival of the defibrillator – many thanks to Sheryl and Geoff for their initial idea, and the running of the "market stall" table.

We welcomed a number of new members this year, and I trust you all found the club friendly and helpful. If any of you have friends or neighbours interested in joining, we have new application forms available.

We should not forget that we are not just a bowls club, and we have had a number of excellent social evenings – the last one featuring the Torbay Ukulele Band – and with more to come.

Finally, a last mention for the Quiz Team, who not only beat the Eggheads, but also promoted the club on national television.

Now is the time we start planning for the 2018 season, and I hope you will support our new captains in making it another season of improvement for the club.

ii Financial Report from Hon. Treasurer

A copy of the finances had been distributed before the meeting. A more detailed analysis showing income and expenditure is on the notice board.

The accounts have been audited, and this year the auditor did not find any mistakes.

It's been an odd year from the Treasurer's point of view. The income looked like it was going to be a disaster, as we had a substantially reduced membership taking away around £1,000 and less scheduled touring teams resulting in a reduction of around £2,200 in income from green fees, bar and raffles. However, we made £1,000 over budget from catering, with £500 coming from the pasties and sausage rolls provided by the new oven. The Green Team also spent £1,000 less than expected which also made a valuable contribution to the accounts. We never economise on expenditure on the green, as it is one of our major assets.

The year ended (in financial terms) roughly where it had started. David emphasised the value of the bar (which raised £3,900 last year), and encouraged everyone to patronise it. Raffles brought in around £1,000 and catering around £770. The money raised from 2017 Captains' Charity went to the club, so thanks to David Hayden and Sally Hoare for that.

The financial document also shows the expectation for the 2018 season, and it assumes no increase in membership, although new members should be encouraged to enhance the teams as well as raising finance. This means that there will be no rises in the fees for 2018.

Next year we will also need to renegotiate our lease with our landlords, once they can be properly identified. This may result in increased payments for the 2019 season, and would affect the fees required to support the club.

We are now renting the pavilion out during the close season, providing an additional source of revenue in the order of £500-£600. Please, therefore, do not assume that the pavilion is available, and check on the list displayed on the notice board. If you wish to plan an event between now and April 2018, please speak to David or Geoff first.

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There are no large expenditure items in the pipeline, so the balance next year should be healthier. A question was posed about the Specsavers sponsorship, and David confirmed that we had received several hundred pounds from them initially, and were still in dialogue going forward.

iii Fixtures Secretary's Report

In David Hayden's absence his report was read out by the secretary.

"This past season went fairly well as regards to cancellations, but it would have been nice to say we didn't have any. Looking forward to next season we intend to start with a Try It Day on Saturday 14th April at 2 pm, and Opening Day on Saturday 21st April at 2pm. The first Club Night will be at 5.30pm on Wednesday 2nd May. Closing Day will be on Saturday 22nd September at 2pm.

Touring sides are running at 12 at the moment; more to come hopefully. On a lighter note, I had an email from a bowls tour organiser offering us a 2 week bowls tour to South Africa at 45,000 Rand each! Might have to let that one go I think."

Secretary's Note – 45,000 Rand is approximately £2,400

A question was raised about whether we would be rearranging the fixture against the RNLI. David Moseby was able to confirm that efforts are being made to achieve this.

iv Riviera Mixed Triples League Report

David Stone provided the following report.

"We finished a respectful 7th in the RMTL considering the quality of the opposition we played against. 10 points behind St Marys, but even if we had claimed the opening game due to the fact that they played illegal players it would have had no effect. I did offer to replay the game, and they agreed to it, but as I had signed the results card (because I did not have the 2015 rules amendment with me) the RMTL said that the result stood, but we would have stayed in the same position due to points difference. I would like to thank Sandra and Phil for their help.

I am also very sad that due to demands made on my time by having LPA (Lasting Power of Attorney) for a 95 year old, long standing friend, I have had to give up being Sec for the RMTL.

I have enjoyed the 7 years doing it and will help out whoever takes it on i.e. with the printing and admin."

7. Report on Men's Elections for 2018 Officers

The Men's election resulted in the following appointments;

David Moseby	Men's Captain
Chris Dawes	Men's Vice Captain
Roy Moore	Men's Over 55s Team Coordinator
Rob Cann	Men's Competition Secretary
David Hayden	Men's Selector
David Bunney	Men's Selector
Alan Parker	Men's Selector

The MDL representative would be the Hon. Secretary.

8. Report on Ladies' Elections for 2018 Officers

Jenny Hopkins	Ladies' Captain
Mo Penhaligon	Ladies' Vice Captain
Jane Inett	Ladies' Secretary
Pauline Parker	Ladies' Competition Secretary
Dot Langford	Ladies' Selector
Jenny Moore	Ladies' Selector
Thelma Bunney	Ladies' Selector
Janet Bolland	Ladies' Fixture Secretary

9. Report from the Green Maintenance Team

Not much to report. There is a good team of helpers to spread the load, and Avon continue to do a good job. Mike Friend asked the secretary to write to Avon once again to thank them for their contribution to giving us such a good green.

Concreting on the far side has now been completed, and nothing major left to do.

New "Verticutter" blades were purchased, which remove the thatch from the green, and the faulty pump on the irrigation system has been replaced.

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10. Election/Appointment of Officers

i	President	Alan Parker
ii	Hon. Secretary	David Bunney
iii	Hon. Treasurer	David Taylor
iv	Bar Secretary	Barry Goldsmith
v	Child Protection Officer	Barry Goldsmith
vi	Riviera Triples Secretary	Brian Gumm
vii	Welfare Officer	Thelma Bunney
viii	Publicity Officer	Barry Goldsmith
ix	Fixture Secretary	David Hayden
x	Section 6 Delegates	Men's and Ladies' Secretaries
xi	Head Greenkeeper	Mike Friend
xii	Pavilion Manager	Geoff Baxter
xiii	Raffle Coordinator	Ken Penhaligon

11. Membership Fees for 2018

As previously mentioned, there will be no change to the current fees in 2018

12. Constitution Changes

David Stone proposed that the President's role be split into two, resulting in a President and a Chairman. The former would be an honorary position, possibly viewed as a reward for service, whilst the latter would chair meetings etc.

After some debate a vote was taken, and the majority was in favour of remaining with the status quo.

13. Club Competitions Rules

The Management Committee had agreed some changes to the rules in order to standardise between Men's and Ladies' competitions, and to attempt to make them fairer.

The first change was to the eligibility to compete in the Novice competitions. The meeting agreed that the following definition be applied: *"A novice bowler is any member who has not won a singles competition at the club (or any previous club), but also excludes any currently registered A Team player who represented the A Team in the previous season"*. The competition rules document will be updated to reflect these changes.

The second change was to the handicap system. The meeting agreed the following;

- Handicaps will be allocated by the selection committees, based on players' experience and performance
- Handicaps will be between 0 and 9, where 9 represents a "top player"
- Each round will won by the player who first reaches 21 shots
- The "better player" will start a match on zero shots, whilst the opponent will start on the difference between the two handicaps
- The competition rules document will be updated to reflect the changes

Example

George Clooney is a top player in the club and is awarded a 9 handicap accordingly. Brad Pitt is a promising but inexperienced player assessed by the committee to warrant a handicap of 3. They are drawn to meet in round 1. George starts on zero, whereas Brad has the advantage of starting on 6 shots (9 – 3). The winner is the first to reach 21.

14. Club Social Evenings

David Moseby thanked all who attended the Social events. These included

- the Christmas Extravaganza, featuring Audrey and David Taylor, with cameo appearances from other members.
- Quiz Night
- Auction with the Torbay Ukulele Band

The rained off match against Avon and Somerset Police also gave us an impromptu social event, and thanks to Barry Goldsmith for providing the quiz.

Coming up we have the (fully booked) Christmas Extravaganza Dinner at the Cricket Club on 21st December, again featuring Audrey and David, but also the opportunity to "rock with laughter" with Graeme Dee. The ticket price includes an amount of £2.05 which will go to the club, raising £130, which

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is more than the bar takings when we hold the event at the club. There is also an excellent meal involved.

The Annual Dinner/Dance and Presentation Evening will be at the Golf Club on 17th November (6.30 for 7pm).

A new Social Committee chairman is sought, as David Moseby has captaincy responsibilities, but if anyone has any suggestions for events, the team will endeavour to make it happen. We have the opportunity to see the return of the Ukulele band, and there is a possibility of a local shanty group. We are also looking at reintroducing the horse racing evening.

15. Call for volunteers for green and club maintenance

We are currently well served with volunteers, so for once this is not an urgent requirement, but if you can help please contact Mike Friend (green) or Geoff Baxter (pavilion).

16. Club website

The club website contains loads of information about the club, access to forms (such as membership forms), a general diary (which currently has all of the Men's A and B team fixtures) and a social diary. We are happy to include anything people would like to see there (and to remove anything deemed not to be useful). The list of club officers has been updated.

17. A few words from the President

Alan asked for volunteers for the bar on behalf of Barry Goldsmith.

We need to encourage new members to the club, so invite any friends, relatives or neighbours to have a go.

18. Close Meeting

After holding two minutes silence in memory of the fallen, and of Peter Martin, the meeting was closed.

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