

SECRETARY'S REPORT MARCH 2024

At the club's last annual general meeting in 2023 I announced that I would be relinquishing my position as club secretary at its following AGM.

How quickly time has passed. Having served for around nine years I feel that others need to build on what we have achieved over that time and to move the club forward to new ideas and challenges.

There have been numerous challenges over my time serving the club... for those who know a little about business speak...the acronym **PEST** comes to mind.

There has been **Political..Economic...Social..and Technical** challenges along the way.

Political... challenges are never far away with local and central government keeping us on our toes so as not to get caught out in changes of policies and legislation.

Economic... When taking on the secretary role the club had some difficult financial concerns to overcome having essentially run out of funds due to two large projects occurring simultaneously. We had to 'bolt down the hatches' and at the same time keeping mindful of our contractual obligations to our landlord and other critical suppliers. Not only did we do that but were able to keep investing in the club's fabric and its environment whilst growing our financial wellbeing. Please take note of this year's financial statement as evidence. I urge the club to stay financially vigilant as some near-term expenditures will arise due to the following;

- The need for a new bowling surface at a cost of approx.. £40k
- The need for a new flat roof covering over the lounge of approx. £35k
- Probable payment to St Albans District Council for the new water main supply of approx. £15k

I would advise that excesses over income of approximately £20k per annum over the following two years should be realised prior to commencing any of these projects. Failing to achieve this could place the club in a risky financial position once more.

Social... We had to keep very focussed on our responsibilities to the local communities from whence our memberships is drawn, as well as to encourage those to whom indoor bowls remained a mystery to 'take the plunge'... our outreach goals. To grow our membership base without overstretching the club in a detrimental way.

Technical... advancements in technologies surround us all whether we like it or not... we all are challenged to adapt to stay current in an ever- demanding world. So, it is even in the relative microcosm of our club... the way in which we all communicate now than nine years ago.... No more booking rinks in a diary in the office... weekend teams being announced on the website.... Paying rink fees electronically without the need for cash... enlisting for competitions paperless... joining the club and renewing our membership cashless if we wish.. and so much more.

The acronym **PEST** needed to be applied during **COVID**... this was a huge challenge for the club.... Closing the club for two years without any income and then managing the re-emergence of playing bowls as the pandemic relaxed but under the strictest of hygiene controls.... **WE MANGED AND CAME THROUGH.** Dear members... none of this could have been achieved without the service and dedication of each and every member of the club councils with whom I have had the pleasure to serve. I especially thank the chairpersons and treasurers with whom I have worked most closely, and the membership secretaries who never ever let me off the hook. To John Millins the club webmaster who has taken and shared ideas and advancements with me and brought them to web-based technical solutions.

There are many of you who give of your time quietly and efficiently to the club and its members, you know who you are... **I KNOW WHO YOU ARE...** and I thank you all for your support.

Lastly, I would like to thank my ever patient and supportive wife, Elizabeth, without whom the last nine years would not have been possible.... SO..... if anything went wrong in that time you know who to blame

ME

In closing I wish HDIBC a happy and successful future

Peter Seeley
Honorary Secretary HDIBC