

HARPENDEN AND DISTRICT INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON 24TH MARCH 2023 IN THE CLUB LOUNGE

1. WELCOME

The Chair, John Favell, opened the meeting by welcoming 51 members. Peter Seeley, the Secretary, said that following the issue of the annual accounts before this meeting, a member had suggested that they were not in the appropriate format for a company limited by guarantee, the form adopted by the club at the 2022 AGM. Legal advice had been obtained, however, that it would be acceptable to proceed with the accounts as published for this meeting alone.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Peter Bailey, Richard Brooks, Jean Clark, Trevor Clark, Christopher Dean, James Hobson and David Taylor.

3. IN MEMORIAM

A minute's silence was observed in memory of former members who had died in the past year.

4. SCRUTINEERS OF THE BALLOT

Grahame Hiller and John Jones were appointed as scrutineers.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 25th March 2022 had been displayed on the concourse and were available in the Office. There were no matters arising, and the Minutes were approved unanimously.

6. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

John Favell stressed the role of volunteers in maintaining the viability of the club, and explained that in view of the wish of some Council members to retire from their roles it was intended to introduce "shadow officers" to work alongside them with a view to taking over their roles in a year's time. Volunteers to become "shadows" were now being sought. Later in the meeting it was suggested that a more formal structure of sub-committees on specific areas of activity, each led by a Council member, would be useful. While it was agreed that this proposal was worth consideration, it would be important not to increase the size of the Council.

Several other changes had been introduced during the past year to improve members' playing experience. The hospitality at weekend matches had been improved by taking tea

at the end of play rather than mid-match, and Bob Pomeroy as Captain had received a lot more help before and after matches. New arrangements were in place for managing the bar by a team of volunteers, and stocking it according to demand. Another team led by Ken Herbert had been established to undertake light maintenance work on the premises.

7. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Peter Seeley introduced his report which gave a comprehensive review of the past year, and referred in particular to several significant changes, including:

- the establishment of a unified team of coaches, following decision of Trevor Clark to step down as Head Coach.
- the successful recruitment and introductory coaching of some 40 new members
- the fresh start made to holding social events, which had been suspended since Spring 2020 owing to the Covid epidemic
- the development of the online diary for booking rinks, and the introduction of cashless payment of rink fees and bar bills which had been well received despite some initial teething problems.

He reminded the meeting that the current year would see the 50th Anniversary of the club, and Janet Metcalfe and Elizabeth Seeley working together to plan for an appropriate celebration in the autumn.

Finally, Peter Seeley said that that 2023/24 would be his last year as Secretary, and he would be stepping down after the 2024 AGM. John Favell complimented him on the huge amount of responsibility he had carried in this role.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

Barry Ford introduced his written report and the accounts for the year to 31st December 2022, which he said showed a stronger position than in 2021, including an excess of income over expenditure of more than £7,000. Looking forward, it was important to plan for the replacement of the bowls carpet within the next five years at an expected cost of about £35,000; a contribution of £15,000 to the cost of improving the water supply; and repairs in due course to the flat roof.

In reply to a suggestion that the walls of the bowling hall should be re-painted, the Chairman said that while some smartening up would be welcome, priority would need to be given to improving insulation in order to control heating costs.

9. COUNCIL OFFICERS' REPORTS

The following Officers' Reports had been posted on the Club's website, and hard copies had been available on the concourse:

- Weekend Captain's Report

Bob Pomeroy expressed his thanks to those members who had acted as Captains of the Day for club matches.

- Membership Secretary's Report

It was noted that following a steep decline in membership numbers during the pandemic, the total of playing members had shown a slight increase since March 2022 and now stood at 236, including 155 men and 81 ladies.

10. CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY

John Favell said he had delegated the choice of a club charity for 2023 to the Social Committee, which had nominated the St Albans and Harpenden Stroke Club.

11. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

It was agreed unanimously to re-appoint Messrs Hicks as Independent Examiner of the accounts.

12. CLUB SOLICITOR

It was agreed unanimously to confirm the appointment of Messrs Taylor Walton as Club Solicitors.

13. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Chairman explained again that the existing Council members had agreed to serve for a further year, during which "shadow" Officers would be sought to work alongside a number of them and take over from them in a year's time. This approach was agreed by the meeting.

14. DATE OF NEXT AGM

To be fixed on a date in March 2024.