

HARPENDEN AND DISTRICT INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON 22nd MARCH 2019 IN THE CLUB LOUNGE

1. 1. WELCOME

The Chair, Brenda Bennitt, opened the meeting by welcoming 63 members. A minute's silence was observed in memory of former members who had died in the past year.

1. 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Peter Bailey, Beryl Birch, Ray Dodd, Jean Murphy, Colin Ratcliffe, Doug Rodger, Barry Cottle

1. 3. SCRUTINEERS OF THE BALLOT

Mike Franklin and Janet Metcalfe were appointed as scrutineers.

1. 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 23rd March 2018 had been displayed on the concourse and distributed to members by email. There were no comments and the minutes were approved unanimously as a true record and signed by the Chair.

1. 5. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

1. 6. CHAIR'S REPORT

Brenda Bennitt said she had enjoyed her year in the chair of what she considered to be a friendly and successful club. Its success had just been marked by members winning three titles in the County Finals, in the Ladies 3 Wood and 2 Wood Triples (Jennie Redford, Beryl Birch, Brenda Bennitt), and the Mixed Pairs (Nick Muir and Jennie Redford). In a fourth final the Mens Triples team of Richard Fensome, David Payne and Chris Kane had lost by the narrowest possible margin on the final wood of their match.

Brenda Bennitt paid tribute to the many individual members, in addition to the Club Council, who had continued to work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep the club running smoothly. She thanked the Secretary, Peter Seeley, for his work in a demanding role, and also extended her thanks to the retiring Treasurer, Sue Holtby, and her husband Terry for their great contribution to the club's success, and wished them well in their planned move to Somerset.

Finally, she reported that an amount of some £680 had been raised by the club for her nominated charity, McMillan Cancer Care, and thanked all those who had contributed to this excellent result.

There being no comments or questions the report was adopted unanimously.

1. 7. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Peter Seeley's had been displayed on the concourse and distributed to members by email, and was taken as read. There being no comments or questions the report was adopted unanimously.

1. 8. TREASURER'S REPORT

Sue Holtby introduced the financial statements which had been made available to members on the concourse and by email. Following the surplus of some £23,000 made in 2017, the Council had decided to invest in some long overdue improvements during 2018, including renewing the lighting in the bowling hall and lounge, and an upgrade of the electrics throughout the club. These projects together had cost over £20,000 net of grants. There had been a drop in income from repeat bookings of the lounge, which it was important to maintain despite the inconvenience of clashing with mid-session breaks in bowling. Also, the cost benefits of the improved lighting had not yet been reflected in the accounts but should be evident in the next six months.

The surplus for the year of £4,115 left the club in a good position with funds of £44,382. Peter Seeley added that it was intended to create a contingency fund of £30,000 which would be ring-fenced and placed on deposit.

Thanks were expressed to Barry Ford and John Favell for their support in banking cash from rink fees and bar takings.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by James Hobson, seconded by Trevor Clark, and unanimously approved.

1. 9. MEN'S CAPTAINCY REPORT

A report provided by Arthur Page was read by the Secretary.

Peter Seeley thanked Arthur Page, who was retiring as Men's Captain, for returning to this role after his temporary absence due to illness. Bill McAllister, as Fixture Secretary, added thanks to John Bartlett for stepping in to the breach caused by Arthur's absence.

1. 10. LADIES' CAPTAINCY REPORT

A report provided by Jane Thomas, who was retiring as Ladies' Captain, was read by Brenda Bennitt. Mention was made of the continuing ladies' sessions on Monday afternoons, a number of friendly matches, and a 3rd place finish out of six clubs in the

County League. Despite the addition of some new bowlers, the Ladies' Committee would be pleased to recruit more players to join the group.

1. 11. EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS

In the absence of the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, George Knowles took the chair. It was agreed unanimously to make ex-gratia payments for 2018 to the Chair (£500), Secretary (£1000) and Treasurer (£1000).

1. 12. PROPOSALS

12(a) Jack Longdon introduced his proposal that the fee of £1.50 per team member playing in league competitions should be scrapped, on the grounds that it was a deterrent to potential team organisers who often paid the fees themselves, it was difficult to apply fairly when players were added to teams part way through a season, and the total amount of money involved was not significant. Sue Holtby commented that this figure was of the order of £500 and would become increasingly significant over time. On a show of hands the proposal was defeated but it was agreed that the Council would consider collecting the fees by a different method, either together with membership fees or otherwise.

12(b) Peter Seeley recalled that the Council's proposal in 2018 to suspend the purchase of blue polo shirts had caused controversy and an undertaking had been given to refer the question back to the present meeting. Members were therefore asked to vote on whether the purchase of blue shirts should be reinstated, and this proposal was passed by 28 votes to 18. It was noted that the details of where the shirts should be sourced, the quality of the material and the badging remained to be decided, and a volunteer was needed to organise this project.

1. 13. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

It was agreed unanimously to re-appoint Margaret Crosby as Independent Examiner of the accounts.

1. 14. PRESENTATIONS

Peter Seeley presented Mike Franklin with a plaque, which would be permanently displayed in the lounge, identifying him as the artist of the three very successful paintings depicting games of bowls in progress.

Peter Seeley followed this by presenting certificates conferring Life Membership of the club on two long-serving members, Mike Franklin and George Knowles.

1. 15. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were duly unanimously elected to serve of the cub council until the next Annual General Meeting on 20th March 2020

Chair	Mr John Favell
Secretary	Mr Peter Seeley
Treasurer	Mr Jack Longdon
Membership Secretary	Dr Michael Arnold
Men's Captain	Mr Steven Griffiths
Ladies' Captain	Mrs Maralyn Pomeroy
Summer Captain	Mrs Jennifer Evans
Assistant Summer Captain	Mrs Jean Adlard
Competition Secretary	Mrs Joyce Archibald
Day Leaguer Secretary	Mr Michael Franklin
Evening Secretary	Vacant
Fixture Secretary	Mr William McCallister
Social Secretary	Mrs Elizabeth Seeley

Peter Seeley referred to the section of his report on the progress being made towards readying the club to approach St Albans District Council with a view to purchasing the freehold of the building. He confirmed that once the legal requirements had been completed, an Extraordinary General Meeting would be called to seek members' approval, and to explain how it was intended to restructure the club. Until this point he had agreed with the Council to continue as Secretary.

John Favell assumed the chair from Brenda Bennitt and congratulated the Secretary on the organisation and conduct of the meeting. He said that he had not yet decided on the choice of a charity to be supported by the club in 2019, but would do so shortly.

He then closed the meeting at 8.30 p.m.

16. DATE OF NEXT AGM
20th March 2020