

AGM MINUTES - Sellindge & District Bowls Club
Held at the Sellindge Bowls Club Pavilion on 19th October 2018

Attendees

38 members.

Apologies

Allyson Betts, Rose Coker, Ernie & Joan Beavers, John Hammond, Angels Pumfleet.

Minutes of last AGM

Minutes of last AGM circulated, read and approved as a true copy. Proposed John Collins, seconded Joyce Groom.

Correspondence

N/A

Chairman`s Report

Once again, we come to the end of the bowling season that has been one of the hottest that I can remember in all the years at Sellindge. To start with I must thank many members of Sellindge on your behalf for the work they have put into the club. It`s not only the committee members, which I must say a special thanks to Teresa for being thrown in at the deep end and being a very efficient secretary, and also to the club members who come up here on Tuesdays to maintain the surrounds, those who do the teas, the 100 club, run the roll ups and those who do the general maintenance and once again Jim has done a brilliant job of the green with the assistance of Lawrence. I had a lot of trouble with the manufacturers of the tee shirts but we have finally got all the tee shirts plus a measly £50 compensation. With the help of Allyson, I managed to obtain £1000 sponsorship from "Accounts Unlocked LLP" which is printed on the sleeves of the tee shirts. I must also thank Graham Funnell for being responsible for gaining membership to the Shepway Trust fund who also gave a donation towards the tee shirts. We are not using the Shepway Trust to its full potential as we can claim money towards trophies each year and will give assistance to any coaching program, free advertising and also have a radio station that we can advertise on, and for any golfers in the club they hold golfing days. Over the last three years Sellindge has seen a great deal of success with Allyson reaching the national finals at Leamington, the first time any member has gone to a national final, Gary Clark reaching the county finals in the `unbadged singles` and Callum, George, Graham, Gary and myself reaching the county fours finals for the second year running beating some of the best bowlers in Kent and indeed England. Success breeds success. The club was on its way up. The club entered several county and national club competitions for the first time in many years, and although I am realistic in thinking that we are not good enough yet to reach the finals at Leamington we are good enough to give a good account of ourselves. Obviously, we did not reach the dizzy heights of Leamington but we gained much valued experience which should stand Sellindge in good stead for the future. I will leave the club matches to Malcolm in his report.

I now come to something that I wish I did not have to do. It is with the greatest and deepest sorrow that after 46 years as a member of Sellindge bowls club that I have helped in a small part to get the club where it is today that I will not be joining Sellindge next year. This is not how I wished to end my outdoor bowling career at Sellindge and I wish that I could have seen my 50 years at Sellindge but it is not to be. I would like to see Sellindge at a national final in the future and I will be the first one there cheering you on.

President Trevor Groom gave a vote of thanks to Roger for his past contributions to the club.

Treasurers Report

The end of year figures show a reduction in the money we hold from just over £19,000 to just over £14,000. That appears to be a loss £5,000 but it`s not as bad as that appears.

Looking ahead to how much we will have in the bank at its lowest point, that will be just before sign on next year. I expect that figure to be below £10,000

It is useful to look at what has happened to that figure over the last few years, and that shows that we have been losing over £1000 per year over the last 3 years. Clearly this is not sustainable.

The day to day costs of running the club have only increased by a small amount. There are often one-off items of significant cost, this year it was repairing the dishwasher and supplying the new club shirts that

have cost the club £2,000 although we still have some stock, and this week the sewage pump required repair and I expect that cost to be around £500.

What is apparent is that our income has been reducing: Membership subscriptions down £385, No quiz or race nights £490, Raffle down £140 this year but down by £400 on 3 years ago. Teas down £100.

Our income from green fees has been much the same for the last 3 years, so this is not due to a reduction in home games played

Your committee is proposing raising the annual subscription by £5, but this will only increase income by around £300.

We will have to reverse this trend or cutting back on the amount we spend on the maintenance of the green will be the eventual outcome.

Captain`s reports

Ladies Captain

The Ladies have entered the Molly Cleggett, The Eastern Cup and The Rose Bowl. We have also put out two teams every week to play in the Shepway league. This is despite being low on regular players due to ill health and the loss of experienced players over the last couple of seasons. We actually have 39 female members, but only around 12 active players. So, a big thank you to the ladies who have answered my panicky last-minute phone calls looking for players and to those who have regularly turned out to play every week.

Next year we won't have separate ladies and gents' selection sheets for the friendlies. We will just have one for each game which will be hung in the main room. This is to make it easier for players to put their names down and giving the captains only one sheet to work from. After all we are an integrated club.

I would like to thank Malcolm for his support during the season. I consider that we have made a good team and if we are re-elected I look forward to working with him next year. Selecting the teams for friendlies hasn't always been easy especially when you sit down to select 15 players to find there are only for example 5 players. However, pleading, coercion and blackmail has usually enabled us to make up a team. The good news is we have quite a few newer players with a great deal of potential thanks to the coaches doing such an excellent job. So, we look forward to seeing their names on the boards for friendlies and competitions next season.

A very big thank you goes to Allyson. She has been an excellent vice-captain, with a wealth of knowledge which I've drawn on regularly during the season. She has also been a great support. I'm very disappointed that she won't be standing again for the following season.

Mens Captain

First of all, I would like to thank our members for their help and support throughout the season.

The season started well this year and we have had many successful results over the summer. Average 50/50 wins and losses.

I would like to thank Ladies captain Christina, Allyson, Kevin and Tony for their help and support.

We had fewer new bowlers this year and I hope they enjoyed their first season with us.

Many thanks go to all the coaches for giving up their time and effort this summer, and that includes the coaching fun day. Special thanks to John Cooper for providing and working the video equipment. I believe those members who attended enjoyed the day's events.

Captains` v Vice Captains` match, we had a very good turnout.

Ladies and Gents fancy dress day was also well supported and very well organised by Christina and enjoyed by everyone who took part. Unfortunately, I missed that match.

Fixtures Secretary Report

The fixtures for next year should remain about the same but I am still waiting for confirmation from several clubs. There will not be a Saturday fixture with Whitstable next year as it clashed with the Wood Cup and Eve Harrold Rose Bowl. However, a provisional arrangement has been made for Thursday 13th June.

It would have been good to revert to six triples again but I doubt this will be possible.

Once again, I would like to thank Lawrence for doing the print layout of the information I give to him for the fixture booklet before it goes to the printers. It looks extremely professional and saves the club a lot of money.

Competitions Secretary Report

The usual competitions all went ahead and were completed without too many hiccups. Sadly, some people did have to concede their games through illness and operations. As before the number of competitors is still a little disappointing. We do need to look at the reasons why and try to encourage more participants.

The results of the competitions are posted on the competition board adjacent to the mens' changing room.

The requirement to play 5 friendly games before the semi-finals will probably be dropped from next season. This may encourage more people to participate in the competitions.

The trophies have all been inscribed and will be presented at the annual dinner in November

As Roger mentioned, we are now a silver member of the Shepway sports trust a contribution for buying trophies is one of the benefits of being a silver member

Last but not least, I would like to thank Kevin Gipson for taking charge of the two-wood competition – an all-day competition that I could not attend – thank you Kevin - much appreciated

Catering Report

Ros reported that all had gone well and was pleased with how the seasons Catering had worked out, and thanked everyone who took part.

Green Keepers Report

Following a very wet and cold winter it was with some relief that the weather warmed to record levels and the green was in my opinion able to recover to what I hope was an acceptable playing surface for most of the season. I certainly enjoyed the opportunity to play on it when selected.

Autumn renovation has now been completed thanks to those who pitched up to assist, it should be noted that five tonnes of top dressing was applied this year, a first for the club, and one that all but laid me up for a week afterwards. A warm thank you to all those who showed up to help, the tea/coffee makers and who could forget the wonderful chocolate cake kindly baked by Margaret Cooper. I have to say that following the first cut at the winter height there seems to be a lot less moss on the green at this stage compared to recent years so that can only bode well for next season.

Closed season maintenance will continue throughout the winter, punching and topping off, with the hope that we will start next season in a better state than the last.

Finally, a big thanks to all those that help with the upkeep of the green throughout the season without whose help our green would not be what it is, again in my opinion one of the best in the area.

Shepway Reports

Ladies

Firstly, I would like to thank Captain Christina for all her hard work and determination, she has done a great job. So please continue to support her.

Secondly thanks to the ladies for turning out every Wednesday and doing our very best come rain or shine!

It was difficult at times to get enough players and we asked ladies who hadn't played before in league, to step up to the mark, and they did. We finished 8th in the league so from both of us thank you again.

Cheriton not only won the league but also the Easton Cup which we were knocked out of in the first round by Wear Bay.

