

SELLINDGE BOWLS CLUB

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 20th October 2017

Present: 39 members

Apologies received from Brian & Margaret Rawlings, Pauline Ash, Bill & Joyce Searle, Angela Pumfleet, John and Linda Hammond, Teresa and Trevor Oliver-Jones, Christina Searle, Bernie Bellchambers, George Coles, Michael Tidd

1 Minutes of last AGM circulated, read and approved as true record. Proposed accepted John Collins, seconded by Joyce Groom

2 Correspondence - Sonia read out letter from Angela Pumfleet (on file) and thankyou notes from members who had been sent flowers/cards recently.

3 Chairman's report

Welcome to the AGM. Firstly I must thank all members who have given up time to keep the club running in an excellent condition. Special thanks go to members who turn up Tuesday mornings to look after surrounds and make tea, also to Jim and Lawrence for green maintenance which is a 52 week a year job. I also single out club coaches and helpers who help new bowlers become better, and Margaret for organising Friday night roll ups plus all members who bake cakes to sell at the boot fair. Lastly thanks to all committee members, the committee work hard on your behalf and I for one appreciate all their hard work. John Martin is as you know is leaving the club as he moved to Deal and on behalf of all members I would like to thank him for not only the work he carried out for the club over the years but also for being such a good club member. I have I think thanked everyone which must be about all members in the club as Sellindge Bowls club have a good membership who all help as much as possible.

This summer has been kind to us weather-wise raining mainly on Wednesdays when the ladies play Shepway. I will not mention club matches as the captains will tell you how we have done in their reports, but I will say the club is getting stronger; we had some success in the County competitions with Gary Clark reaching the County semi-finals in the unbadged singles and Callum Wratten, George Coles, Graham Funnell and myself reaching the County fours finals. We must build on this success and play better bowlers in Kent to become

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better bowlers ourselves - with the experienced bowlers we have and the newer bowlers in the club I am convinced we are becoming a force to be reckoned with. Apart from the competitive bowlers we also have those who enjoy a friendly game of bowls and they are just as important to the club since friendly matches generate income for the club. We would like all members, new and old, to play in as many friendly matches as possible.

4 Treasurer's report

Lawrence circulated the current accounts and thanked John Collins for auditing these. "Members will see from the distributed accounts that the Club funds were £19,220.5 at 30th September which is the end of our financial year - that represents a loss of £509.36 over the year.

The figure is inflated by £1,620 received for the presentation dinner and will not be paid out until the night. The club does not see any income between the last day of play and collection of subscriptions in April except for fund raisers like the quiz. There are, however, a number of outgoings over that period and a truer measure of how the clubs finances look is to look at what our balance falls to just before signing on night. In 2015 that was £13,082, in 2016 it was £13,263 and this year it was £12,491. Some cost over the winter period is known so I know our reserve will have fallen to at least £13,500 by April.

Our turnover - that is the total income and total expenditure - is just over £30,000. This figure can be misleading as it includes costs for bowls tours and presentation dinners. The figure that actually relates to running the bowls club is a little under £13,000. Based on that figure, membership subscriptions are 44% of our income, up by £240 this year. Green fees are 18% of our income up £170, raffles 9% of our income down £433 due to giving monetary prizes now.

On a personal note I believe that not providing raffle prizes and not coming over to the buy and buying drinks has saved me £150 this year. Based on our reserves staying reasonably level over the past 4 years I am recommending that our fees and charges remain the same next year." (Trevor Groom thanked Lawrence for yet again providing such a good report)

5. Mens' Captain's report

Malcolm thanked everyone for their help and support throughout the season.

"The season started disappointingly with results going against us, and lack of names put forward for selection of matches. However, from mid-season the results picked up and we claimed big scalps such as wins over Ashford Rail, New Romney and Gateway.

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We had a good intake of new bowlers this summer, and I am pleased to say most of them have taken part in and enjoyed the friendly games. My thanks go to the coaches for a good job well done.

The Ladies-v-gents game was well organised by Christina and enjoyed by everyone who took part. The Captains-v-Vice Captains match resulted in a resounding win for the Captain's team despite both teams being picked by the Vice captains. The only disappointment was the lack of support for this event.

I would like to thank Pat who is stepping down as Ladies Captain after 5 years, Mac who is stepping down as Mens' Vice Captain and our Secretary Sonia for all their help and advice. I have thoroughly enjoyed my role as captain for the past two years.

6. Ladies' Captain's report

Pat said it was certainly a different year for me as Ladies' Captain - a non-playing Captain because of having an operation for a new knee; but I was there to help with selection of teams when able to. Thanks to Christina for all the work she put in on my behalf. It was a good introduction to being Ladies' Captain. Thanks also to Malcolm and Mac.

What have the ladies been up to this season? The first competition was 'Top Club' in May, a team of 10 players all playing at the same time in singles, pairs, triples and fours. Unfortunately we were drawn to play against Victoria Park away, a very good team, and we lost. In the Easton Cup and Molly Cleggett competition we were beaten again in the first rounds by Cheriton and Wear Bay. We have had better years! We only had 3 ladies' friendly matches this year - unfortunately the match against Canterbury was cancelled due to rain. The other two matches were against Ham Street, we lost away and won at home. Better results in the Shepway league, we had some good wins and managed to finish in fourth place out of 10 teams - so not a bad result. Thanks to all the ladies who put their names down for selection; I hope all you ladies, men and new members enjoyed this season playing and look forward to next season.

7. Fixture Secretary's report

Joyce reported that the majority of fixtures for 2018 are now finalised but not fine details as unfortunately we may have to revert to 5 mixed triples again next year due to problems encountered by the captains in recruiting enough members to play in the friendlies. This will of course result in a loss of income, but it is a decision which will have to be made at the next committee meeting. There are few changes - Birchington enjoyed playing here and have asked that we have a home and away each year. This has been managed by moving on of our internal competitions. Could I please ask that you support this fixture?

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Both fixtures against Walpole Bay have been cancelled. Also, one of the fixtures against Ashford Rail has been cancelled as this does not appear to be a popular venue, replaced with a Newcomers Friendly which proved very popular this season when held on a Thursday evening. The captain has decided to retain the fixture against Whitstable although it clashes with the Wood Cup and Eve Harrold Rose Bowl as a number of players enjoy the day there, once again though we need your support. The Hythe Ladies Friendly fixtures have been reinstated on a different date.

It has not proved possible to reverse two of the fixtures which clash with the boot fairs. This apparently caused a problem on one occasion this year when a bowler was quite rude to one of the stewards at the boot fair - hopefully this will not recur next season.

Once again I would like to thank Lawrence for doing the print layout of information I give him for the fixture booklet before it goes to the printers- this saves the club a lot of money.

8 Competition Secretary's report

Derek reported that all planned club competitions went ahead and were successfully completed without too many hiccups! However, a couple of the competitions had a small number of entrants and because of this they nearly didn't go ahead. It would be nice to see more people entering the competitions.

I hope all those that took part enjoyed themselves. I know I did even though Callum gave me a thrashing in the two wood competitions. Having said that, it was one of my most enjoyable games I have played- thank you Callum.

For those who haven't seen them, the results are on the competition board behind you. As for the trophies and awards, these are with the engraver and will be presented at the annual dinner on 3rd November.

Just a reminder - to play in the finals, competitors MUST have played in at least 5 friendly games for the club. Lastly, but not least I would like to thank John Martin for his help with organising the one day competitions - thanks you, John.

(Roger added that the 5 games minimum ruling will be reviewed by the committee. John Collins made the point that in order to help players who were running out of time to get their minimum games in the playing lists the selectors were leaving out others who had put their names up for that game which he considered was not fair.)

9. Catering report

Roz reported that the tea rotas ran fairly smoothly and changing the time of teas back to mid-game slots was preferred. Thanks to everybody who helped out with the teas and competition catering, and Roz is happy to continue as last year if everyone is in agreement.

10 Greenkeeper's report (read by Roger)

Jim Betts reported "A strange year greenkeeping with the dry March and April which seems to be becoming the norm and the season long mechanical problems with our small ageing fleet of machines. The green recovered well from disease and moss at start of season and by all accounts bowled a little too fast for some early doors but settled into more consistent speed as months rolled on. Normally at this time |I would report the autumn renovation has successfully been complete but due to mechanical failures and 3 tonne very wet top dressing that is not the case. Scarification is completed and with luck a hollow punch top dress seed and feed with take place next week once autocore has been repaired. We are fortunate that weather has been mild of late so work should be carried out ready to go again come April. My thanks as always to volunteers who turn up when asked to help out with spring and autumn work and to those who sweep, mend, spray and cut when requested to do so - you know who you are and without you the green would not be the surface it is. Thank you all." (Lawrence confirmed the autocore had been returned that day)

11. Shepway reports

Allyson reported that the season started well, a winning streak to start beating Ashford Rail home and away! So, it can be done. A couple of our games had to be cancelled due to bad weather so points were split between clubs - it seems every Wednesday it poured. Coming 4th in the league was a reasonable achievement I think, you can only play with the players you have, so I thank Pat and Christina for doing a difficult job, not easy trying to please everyone making the strongest team possible. Cheriton won the league, we were knocked out of the Easton Cup in the second round and Folkestone Parks won. It was brought up at a shepway meeting that a reserve should always be on standby in case players couldn't make it or were late. Regarding the Eve Harrold bowl, we entered 2 teams and when it was obvious we were not going to do well two of them had one too many glasses of wine! It would be nice if more members entered the Shepway competitions so we could all gain more experience playing in a competitive environment thereby helping to better our league ranking. On a sad note I wish John Martin all the best and a big thank you for everything you have done for us.

John Martin reported "I have been Shepway League Captain and representative for two years now and would like to thank all the players for their commitment, and special thanks to Derek Gosling for his support selecting teams and joining me at Shepway committee meetings. Our Gents played 16 matches winning 8 losing 8 - this is significantly better than the 3 won last year. We increased our points tally from 50 pts to 71; however, we need to reach nearer 100 pts to be in the top echelon.

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- We moved up a position in the league and are now 3d (from the bottom)
- One of only two teams to defeat league winners Ashford Rail
- We knocked Ashford Rail out of the Hudson Cup
- We enjoyed a fairly successful day in the Wood Cup at New Romney winning as much as we lost.
- We scored more shots than any team other than the league winners

Lowlights -

- We had more shots scored against us other than the bottom team
- We have very strong skips and need to focus on the lead positions to reduce the shot difference
- We were narrowly beaten by Folkestone in the Hudson Cup
- We were whitewashed by bottom of the league team

This year I have also been results/fixture secretary for Gents Shepway League providing weekly scores and league tables to interested parties. I attended the Gents Shepway AGM last Wednesday along with Derek Gosling and informed them I have the fixtures for next year ready to be handed over to my replacement. There is a note about that meeting for our Shepway League Captain; it was voted on a change to the rules regarding an incomplete triple. Rather than playing the match and forfeiting some shots a vote resulted in a large majority in favour of NOT playing the incomplete triple with 2 points and 7 shots awarded to the other team. I am still awaiting the minutes from that meeting. There is also a note for our treasurer - league fees for next season are due now.

I have completed my house move to Deal and thank those that have wished Elizabeth and myself well. Likewise, I would like to wish all of Sellindge good luck for next year.

12 Election of Officers

The following appointments to committee for 2017/18 were confirmed:

Chairman	Roger Coker
Vice Chairman	Rosemary Coker
Mens' Captain	Malcolm Cage
Mens' Vice Captain	Tom Wratten (resulting from vote taken at meeting between two nominees)

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Junior Vice Captain	Tony Excell
Ladies' Captain	Christina Sandy
Ladies Vice Captain	Allyson Betts
Catering Officer	Roz Sawyers
Secretary	Teresa Oliver-Jones
Treasurer	Lawrence Harvey
Match Secretary	Joyce Groom
Mens'Shepway Rep	Derek Gosling
Ladies' Shepway Rep	to be appointed
Competitions Secretary	Derek Nelson
General Maintenance	Derek Nelson

13 Proposals by Committee

Roger - "We now come to the proposal from the committee that they feel very strongly about that that is about coloured shirts. Over the last few years the club has not had a definite club dress so the committee has put this proposal forward that the dress code will be coloured shirts. The design has been on display in the corridor together with material samples. The committee is mindful that some members have purchased white tee shirts so will issue your first shirt free of charge. Coloured shirts will be worn for all club matches and competitions.

White shirts may be worn for roll ups if you wish. I would like to add that sponsorship is being sought for shirts and I am more than confident that this is forthcoming but only after purchase of the shirts. The proposal is that the club dress in future will be coloured shirts as to the proposed design."

Trevor said he was sceptical previously about coloured shirts but having seen how many different styles are worn by other clubs he now saw there are some attractive designs i.e.Folkestone who have a similar design shirt to that proposed for us. At County level all

other clubs now have coloured shirts and it is important we conform so I would like to propose we accept the style introduced by the committee and vote in favour.

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Graham Funnell said after many years bowling here and for other clubs he sees the need for branding and realised we were the only club in Shepway not wearing coloured shirts. Playing for the County finals team showed other clubs had their own identity which we did not leading to questions such as where we come from etc. The bulk of the shirt design is white. We should move with the times, the 20th into the 1st century and if you want more than one shirt you can purchase that - it may be in the future our application for sponsorship from the Shepway Sports Trust will result in jackets also being part of our uniform in future.

Roger confirmed in answer to queries that white tee shirts can still be worn for roll ups etc.

Lawrence pointed out that the design of shirt must be approved and registered with the England Bowls Association in line with all clubs in Shepway.

Terry Nettleship commented that his father (founder of the club) although strongly traditional would have approved of going along with keeping in line with other clubs in the community; if staying with traditional whites was an issue perhaps it should also be recognised that coloured woods were not traditional either.

John Collins asked if sponsorship could be obtained before purchasing the shirts - Lawrence emphasised that money was not the issue being discussed here. The funding for shirts will come from club funds.

Joyce mentioned that in many cases clubs buy one themselves then get one free - we are arranging to do the opposite.

At this point the voting slips were distributed and counted by 3 members resulting in a vote in favour of new shirt designs 27, not in favour 12 thus the proposal was accepted by the AGM.

14. Appointment of auditor - John Collins has agreed to do this again this coming year.

15 Any other business

- The AGM date next year is 19th October 2018
- Signing on night is 6th April
- Closing day 22nd September 2018
- Roger confirmed 10 shirts in various sizes will be available in ten weeks time for members to try on
- Quiz night has been cancelled due to lack of support