

AGM

Sellindge & District Bowls Club

To be held at the Sellindge Bowls Club pavilion

On 18th October 2019 7.30pm

Attendance 31 members. Apologies received from Teresa and Trevor Oliver-Jones, Jacky Stiles and Angela Pumfleet

Minutes of last meeting read and agreed a true copy for filing. Proposed by Tony Excell, seconded Christina Sandy.

Chairman's report

John opened the meeting by welcoming all members especially newly joined ones. Sadly, we have to record the loss of Brian Hodges, Derek Gosling, Bert Baker, Michael Tidd and Margaret Sewell this year – all valuable members who will be badly missed by us at the club. There is a thank you letter from Derek's wife for you all to read, expressing her appreciation of our attendance at his funeral recently.

Since at the start of our playing season we were around 10 players short and the prospect of divisive factions was overcome by players adopting a friendly, relaxed approach which helped to rebuild the good playing atmosphere which we enjoyed for the whole season. We hope to maintain that same enjoyable playing atmosphere again next season.

Thanks are due to our fundraising team, and to Jim Betts and the Tuesday Gang for maintaining such good conditions on our green and surrounds. We had the honour of hosting the Shepway Finals this year, and it provided a platform for showing off our club grounds and hosting to good effect.

I would like to encourage more bowlers to enter both the Shepway and County competitions – they really are enjoyable events. Generally, we need more signatures for games, and since we had to cancel some of our inhouse competitions this year because of lack of support it would be good to have more entrants.

Many of our members joined the local shortmat club for the coming winter months of bowling, which proved to be an asset since the shortmat club won a decisive victory over St May's Bay players recently!

I will leave other comments on the team results to the rest of the committee; but would remind you of our continuing contact events such as games afternoons and coffee mornings which we hope you can come to.

Treasurer's report

Lawrence circulated the financial report and graph to members.

Last year I was a little concerned that our finances were showing a downward trend and proposed that we needed to look at ways of improving our finances. This year I am pleased to say we have made a small but important improvement.

On the negative side, our income from the friendly matches that we all depend upon continues to fall. We have had fewer people playing fewer games, so there has been a reduction in match fees, teas and raffle income. We also have fewer members so subscription income is lower. On the positive side, the fundraising has been very successful and full credit to those involved.

The maintenance cost of our machinery has been low this year and I have changed companies that supply the treatments for the green which has shown a saving of around £2,000 over last year. We have also sold a surplus machine for £1,500. Overall we are about £3,000 better off than we were last year. If you look at the graphs on the back of the accounts you will get an idea of what has happened over the past 4 years.

Kevin Gipson thanked Lawrence for his work on the club accounts.

Captains' reports

Christina Sandy – Ladies' Captain. 2019 has been a good season with a lovely atmosphere in the club. When picking teams Malcolm and I found it rather disheartening having so few names down for friendlies especially as we have a membership of over 50 players and we only require normally 15 to enable us to put out a team. Thank you very much to members who have regularly played several times a week and apologies for all our begging.

The Ladies finished in second to last place beating Folkestone Parks in the Shepway league which I'm very happy about given that this was the first Shepway season for a few of our ladies. We also played in the Mollie Cleggett, Eastern Cup and Eve Harold Rose Bowl.

I would like to thank Malcolm Cage for all his hard work and support – it's been a pleasure working with him. I would also like to thank Pat Harvey for being my vice captain – she has been a great support and her wealth of knowledge has been invaluable.

We sadly lost Derek Gosling a few weeks ago and this week Margaret Sewell passed away – both invaluable club members who will be greatly missed. I look forward to next season when I am sure more of you will put your names down for friendlies. They really are good fun and a great way of improving your bowls and meeting players from other clubs.

Malcolm Cage – Men’s Captain. Sadly, we have come to the end of another summer of bowls. Each season seems to go quicker and quicker. It was pleasing to see people enjoying themselves on and off the green. There were a lot of very close matches both in the friendlies and the Shepway league which could have gone either way. I was disappointed to see our internal one day matches poorly attended as these are great competitions and good fun.

My thanks go to Christina Pat Kevin and Tony, I thought we made a good team. I would also like to thank our fundraisers for all their hard work throughout the summer. Time now to recharge our batteries and be ready for another enjoyable season in 2020.

Fixture Secretary’s report

Joyce Groom – The majority of fixtures will remain the same but quite a lot have still to be confirmed by other clubs. The Opening Day next year will be 18th April and closing day 21st September. A number of members suggested that the season be extended for another week on closing day as the weather was so good but I don’t think it has stopped raining since then so I doubt this request will be made next year.

Now that the boot fairs occur fortnightly it is impossible to avoid clashes but I don’t think it has presented any problems this year. The friendly matches against Headcorn and Whitstable have been cancelled altogether which should allow the Two Wood Day or the barbecue to be moved next year as they clashed this year resulting in the Two Wood being poorly attended.

Once again, can I remind you that we cannot always play at home. We have to honour our away commitments otherwise we risk losing fixtures and much needed revenue. Please support your captains by putting your names down to play as often as possible.

I would like to thank Lawrence for doing the print layout for me and both Pat and Lawrence for proof reading and checking all the dates. I think Lawrence does a very professional job on the booklet thus saving money for the club.

Competition Secretary’s report

Derek Nelson – not much to report, all the competition results were posted on the noticeboard for members to see. The Ladies/Gents competition was cancelled due to lack of support. Thanks to Kevin for his help running the one-day competitions.

Kevin thanked Derek for his work in the past on competitions.

Ladies Shepway rep report – Joyce - nothing to report

Men’s Shepway report – John Collins attended the AGM recently and will take the role of representing our club at future Shepway meetings.

Catering report – Christina Sandy. This year we went to supplying just tea and biscuits. This bought in more money for the club and more importantly meant only two people were required for tea duty giving us more available players for friendlies. Some members preferred to supply cakes etc. Instead which I know went down well. Margaret Sewell bought mugs for the club which meant we didn't have to worry about saucers. Anne and John Collins bought us new milk jugs. Thank you to everyone who took their turn on the tea rota.

This year we hosted the Shepway Finals which ran smoothly. A big thank you to Marion Letley who went shopping to buy the food and spent the day with me in the kitchen preparing meals and cooking bacon rolls. Joyce Groom did a great job of looking after the paperwork side of things and buying desserts. The fundraising team not only sold cakes in the clubhouse, they took cakes to the boot fair and Jacqui even popped home to bake more. They also organised an impressive raffle all raising valuable funds. Anne kept tea and coffee flowing all day almost giving herself heat stroke! There were lots of other members helping out on the day, too many to name but a big thank you to all. It was long but enjoyable day. The good news is that it should be around 9 years before we have to host it again.

The cleaning of the club was again problematic with not everyone taking their turn, this means that the club house is either not cleaned or some members do it several times during the season. I wonder if the way forward would be to run a cleaning rota in the same way as the tea rota; this would mean you would be allocated a week and it would be your responsibility to swap if you couldn't do that week. We welcome lots of teams to our club over the season and I for one would be very embarrassed if we invited them into a dirty club house.

Marion Letley supported me with the catering and was invaluable in making sure everything ran smoothly. Thank you Marion

Maintenance Manager - It was agreed that the position of Maintenance team leader was not needed for the coming year. Derek Nelson was thanked for his work in this role for the past season.

Kevin Gipson thanked Derek for his past work.

Lawrence asked for some help from other members with the Tuesday gang jobs.

Trevor Groom our President offered to stand down this coming year as President but was asked to keep his post which he was happy to do.

Proposal by Committee -Change in the Constitution

The Chairman explained that the committee had altered the Club Constitution wording to allow club members to play for more than one club. A copy of the full amended wording is displayed on the noticeboard as usual.

Appointment of Auditor

John Collins has audited the present set of accounts prepared by Lawrence and is happy to continue to do so next year.

Election of Officers

The list of proposed committee members for next season was read to the meeting and the following appointments were voted unanimously to take effect in 2010:

<u>Chairman</u>	John Collins	<u>Treasurer</u>	Lawrence Harvey
<u>Secretary</u>	Teresa Oliver-Jones	<u>Captain</u>	Christina Sandy
<u>Vice Captains</u>	Kevin Gipson and Pat Harvey	<u>Junior Vice Captain</u>	Tony Excell
<u>Fixtures Secretary</u>	Joyce Groom	<u>Comp Secretary</u>	Kevin Gipson
<u>Ladies Shepway Rep</u>	Joyce Groom	<u>Men's Shepway rep</u>	John Collins
<u>Catering officer</u>	Marion Letley		

John thanked Malcolm for all his hard work over the past few years and fully understands his reasons for standing down as Captain.

Thanks also to Joyce for the work over the winter months compiling the fixtures booklet which must entail many hard negotiations.

Any other business

John Hammond proposed that the club members be allowed to wear normal dress when visiting the green for practice sessions during stand down times when no roll ups or matches are taking place at the club. The Chairman confirmed that this would be in order since there is no ruling in our rule book or constitution that determines what dress should be worn on those odd occasions. However, it was stressed that roll ups should be attended in grays, and matches in whites as normal practice.

Jim Heap suggested that matches were selected at the beginning of the season electronically. It was decided that this wouldn't be workable at the present time. Christina Sandy agreed to players emailing her their availability. John Collins made the point that members should take responsibility for putting their names on the match sheets and ticking once selected where possible. The selection sheets will be displayed on the boards as usual. John Collins assured Jim he understood why he raised the question but at the moment the present system stands. Andy Shepherd also mentioned his difficulty - because of work commitments - but is happy to contact by email both offering to play on dates in his fixtures book and confirming if he has been picked.

The opening day is 18th April, Signing on night 3rd April.

Rosemary Atkins thanked John Collins on behalf of the meeting for the superb job he has done undertaking the administration of our club.