Minutes
For the Annual General meeting of
Sellindge Bowls Club
Held in the clubhouse
On Friday 30th October 2026
7pm

Minutes of the AGM meeting held on FRIDAY November 7th, 2025, confirmed as a true copy and signed by the Chairman.

Apologies

Sonia Munday David Munday Linda Hammond John Hammond John Collins Angela Pumfleet

Present

22 members see list attached.

Chairman's Report

We had another successful year at the Shepway finals following on from Denise, Debbie, and Ros success last year.

Our ladies reached the final of the Eastern cup, and Shelley and Andy became the Shepway pairs champions. A tremendous achievement which reflects so well on our Club.

There were other achievements during the year we were so pleased with the donation we received from Sally for the purchase of the new Club shirts in Rob's memory. This was so favourably commented on by members of other clubs.

Grateful thanks were also extended to Debbie who organised, and largely did most of the work, for the redecoration of our clubhouse.

A large vote of thanks should go to our Tuesday gang who have admirably looked after the whole area. However, we do need more volunteers to assist in the future. The committee will need to discuss the best way of achieving this.

Thanks also to the gardeners for the tremendous display of flowers towards the end of the season, following the rain.

The kitchen has run extremely well during the year and the decision to stop using the heavy urns for hot water and replacing with a more modern hot water system has been a tremendous success.

On a downside one match was cancelled due to a problem with our sewage system, which was very expensive to put right and took a considerable input from LAWRENCE to get fixed, for which we are very grateful.

A great vote of thanks goes to our dedicated committee members who have worked so hard throughout the year to keep the show on the road.

Great thanks were given to Joyce who has decided to step down as President for all she has done over many years for the Club. The committee has decided not to make a further appointment of President at this time.
As all members are aware we sadly lost our Vice Chairman, Rosemary, who will be greatly missed as a friend and very good player.
For the coming year all committee members have agreed to continue therefore a vote was not required.
The one change was that Jacky will continue to look after the Kitchen and take on the Vice Chairman role.

Secretary's report Incl. Groundsman's Report

The secretary had nothing further to add except to read out the groundsman report as follows.

Following the dry summer this year normal end of season maintenance was not possible due to the hardness of the surface; the green was scarified in 3 directions and then over seeded. Recovery is well on the way with lots of new growth. I will start aeration next week and continue through the closed season when conditions allow.

Prior to the start of next season, I will apply a granular wetter which I am advised has worked well with other clubs and increase the liquid wetter to twice a month during the season, hopefully this will prevent the number of dry areas in future.

I would ask that you use my last email regarding future proofing the green as part of the report and wonder if any progress has been made along those lines.

I email with some concern re future proofing the green/club regarding its water usage. During these hot spells, which will only increase we are told, the green is irrigated every day. Clearly this is not sufficient, as you will have noticed there are large areas of the green that are Hydrophobic, areas of the turf that repel water, brown off and harden.
To help combat this I spray once a month with a wetting agent to help the turf absorb the water, I have increased this application to twice a month following the recent hot spells. Going forward I will ask the club to purchase a granular wetter to be applied preseason to help with this issue.
We could I suppose increase the amount of water we use but this of course comes at a cost, one which will only increase over time. There may come a time when the authorities will limit the amount of water we use thus compounding the problem.
I email to ask if the club would explore the possibility of installing a bore hole to extract its own water. If viable and once installed the club would be able to extract 20,000 litres of water a day free of charge,
more than enough to future proof the green for years to come. I am unsure of the cost of installation but according to GC Drilling's website (Borehole-Drilling.co.uk) they will conduct a survey for free and then advise on costs.

I am pretty sure there could be some funding somewhere that the club could avail itself to help with the project, subject to a source being available somewhere close enough.

Chairman commented that he had spoken to several bore hole specialists' companies who quoted ball part figures of between £35000 and £55000. He is awaiting contact regarding feasibility but response from these companies have been very slow.
This would also of course, entail raising considerable funds, although a possible tie up with our main social club may be an option. This is an ongoing concern.

Treasurer's report Incl. Appointment of Accounts Examiner

The accounts show that at the end of September we had a total of £16367. £1240 of that is being held for the Presentation Dinner next month. This is close to last year's figure. We only have a small amount of income before the start of next season, but we still have outgoings. I expect our reserves to fall to around £12500 by March next year. This is about the same level they were 10 years ago. They fell during covid but have now recovered.
Every year usually brings an unexpected bill or two. This year it was the blockage of our sewer pump that effectively put the clubhouse out of action. This was sorted quite quickly but it came at a cost of nearly £3000.
We made some extra saving by not hollow punching and top dressing the green at the end of the season. This was primarily due to the ground still being too hard to punch.
For next year, your committee recommends that we keep the green fees the same at £5, that we reinstate the raffle with cash prizes and that the annual joining fee is increase by £5 to £130
A Vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed that the annual membership fee be increased to £130.
We are pleased John Collins is happy to continue auditing the accounts for the coming year.

Captain's Report

Well, what a year it's been! We've had a good season playing bowls, enjoyed some lovely matches and, of course, had the occasional challenge along the way!

One of our biggest challenges this season has been getting enough players to fulfil all our matches. At times, putting a team together has felt like a game of its own! So, a huge thank you to everyone who stepped in at the last minute, played more games than they might ideally have liked, or generally came to our rescue. It really is appreciated.

Our friendly matches are our biggest source of income, and without them, we simply wouldn't survive as a club. So, thank you to everyone who has helped make sure we can continue to enjoy our bowls.

I'd particularly like to thank Shelley and Kevin for all their day-to-day support and for organising the league matches. A lot goes on behind the scenes, and I'm very grateful for everything you both do.

A big well done to **Shelley and Andy** for their very successful results in the Shepway competitions. You've done us proud!

Congratulations, too, to everyone who entered county and Shepway competitions this season. You've all done well, and taking part is not only a great achievement but also excellent experience. You're representing our club, and that's something we should all be proud of.

Now, onto the subject of setting out the green! Thank you to those members who have made the effort to arrive early and help get everything ready.

I have to say, though, that it has occasionally been a little embarrassing when our visiting team has arrived before our own members — and, on some occasions, our visitors have even helped us set up the green! I'm not sure that's quite the home advantage we're aiming for!

So, for next season, I'm going to ask that all home players arrive by 1.45 pm. For away matches, arriving at 2.00 pm is fine. Hopefully, this will mean we're ready to welcome our visitors properly, rather than leaving them wondering whether they've arrived at the right club!

We've also welcomed some lovely new members this year. I really hope you've enjoyed your time with us, felt welcome and, most importantly, that you'll be coming back next season. It's always good to see our club growing and new faces joining in.

I'd like to wish everyone who is playing indoor or short mat bowls the very best of luck. I hope you enjoy your games and have a successful season.

Finally, thank you to every member who has played, helped, organised, encouraged and supported the club throughout the year. A club like ours depends on people being willing to muck in, and I'm grateful to everyone who has done their bit.

Here's to another successful season of friendly matches next year, plenty of enjoyable bowls, and — if I have anything to do with it — enough players to fill every team without quite so much last-minute panic! Thank you, everyone.

Any other Business

1)

Malcolm has asked that the committee consider installing electric hand driers to replace the existing paper towel system in the toilets. There were a number of different views as total costs were not known, and it was decided to make this a committee discussion at their next meeting.

2) Andy has requested that the fee for the internal competitions be increased to help cover the cost of more appropriate runners up cups/shields for future years for the various competitions.
Internal competition fees currently stand at £3 to be increased to £4 for next season. This was voted on and agreed.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed

Chairman