

Annual General Meeting 2nd February 2020

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 2nd February 2020

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1. Open The Meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Henry Bone at 1400 hrs

A total of 61 bowling members, 3 Social Members were present.

2. remembrance

A minutes silence was observed for the following who have all passed away during this year:-

Margaret Smith	Betty Whitbread
Laura Etwell	Tony Capon

3. Apologies For Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following members:-

David Harndon	Sheila Stickland
Mike Stickland	Paul Damiano
David Horton	Sheila Horton
John Treanor	Faye Swallow
Ann Neville	Ingrid Girdlestone
Nick Allan	Jo Sanders
Les Dykes	Lyn Britton
George Auret	

4. minutes of the last AGM on 25th november 2018

4.1. Points of Accuracy

Eddie Readings objected to the wording in last year's 'Competition Secretary' report where he was quoted as saying, 'he suggested to eliminate Runners-up trophies and spend more on Winners' trophies.' Eddie said this should have stated that this was a proposal that should be considered for the future. The matter was not pursued.

4.2. Approval of Minutes

A request was made for a proposer and seconder for the minutes. Brian Rammell proposed that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting which was held on the 25th November 2018 be approved. The proposal was seconded by Ray Furnell.

4.3. Matters arising - none

5. Reports

5.1. President Report (Graham Cripps)

Good afternoon everyone. As President I have the great pleasure of being the 'warm – up' act for the rest of the speakers. being president is a strange position to hold as you are not responsible for anything specific, unlike the treasurer who has his accounts, the secretary with her minutes and mail, the president can float-around poking his/her nose into everyone's business searching for problems and hopefully solutions without annoying too many members.

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This year I am leaving all results in club and county competitions to the various captains and match organizers to report. I have however picked out several topics which i believe should be mentioned.

Unfortunately, the first of these topics begins with an apology to all of you, but specifically to those competition finalists who were not awarded their trophies on the presentation night. It even now seems incredible for this to have happened but i think break-downs in communication, a lack of help and information and an unawareness that something was wrong combined to catch everybody by surprise I now believe that members taking on difficult demanding jobs should have a 'shadow' to look out for mistakes or offer assistance when required.

The trophies have now arrived and will be presented at the end of this report. I realise that this is almost a token gesture, however the apology to each one of you is not.

This used to be a friendly club – it's not like it used to be - how many times do we hear this being said. well let me tell you they are right, it's not like it was – it's much better!! Okay, we have our various little groups who enjoy the odd moan, but overall it's a friendly well-equipped club sufficient to hold good functions inside and decent bowling on a greatly improving green outside.

This looking-back is a great way to get me on to the next topic, the honesty bar. let me read this to you:

'Finally, with regard to the bar it is unfortunately necessary to mention the honesty bar. This service, provided to enable members to enjoy a drink when the main bar is closed, is being abused and costing our club a significant amount of money. if this service is to be continued then the honesty side must be complied with by all members'

So what's new you might be thinking, well nothing really because that last paragraph was taken from the treasurers report at the November 2011 AGM!

We have suffered with the criminal amongst us for more than ten years and yet I continue to strongly recommend keeping the honesty bar going as a benefit to the club financially and to the members as a service. the simple choice is:

- a) Close the honesty bar completely and lose the benefit of access to cold drinks throughout the summer. equally we would lose the opportunity to make good sales for the club funds **or**
- b). Keep the bar functioning, enjoy cold drinks on a hot day and accept the potential healthy sales.

This of course means biting the bullet with regards to the thief amongst us. I hate the thought of a member doing this to us but to close the bar would be to cut off our own noses!!

Moving on, on numerous occasions questions are asked and answered confidently; However when looked-into it turns out that nobody actually knows where this information is written down. a good example is that of bringing guests into the club. My version of a correct answer is that guests may be brought into the club by a member, with no payment asked, as long as they are signed in.

Should the guest be brought into the club for a function then a guest payment in addition to any payments made by club members is due the laid down payment for a guest attending a function is - ??? I don't know!.

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A second example is when a social member volunteers his or her services by offering to join a committee, or help in the kitchen or bar. my answer is that's fine, thanks for the help. others have argued that it states in the constitution that they can't. I 'm positive I have read it – but where? again – don't know.

The club, not necessarily the executive, needs to create a group to look through the constitution, the rules book and any other paperwork relevant to the everyday workings of the club, once gathered it should be sifted through and presented for updating.

My final couple of points are to welcome and thank Gareth Jenkins who is taking over running the club's web home page. The key to this being a success is the provision of interesting items or photos so please contact him sooner rather than later with your offerings.

There is one date I would ask you to keep aside for the club; the opening of the green by the mayoress and the 'open day' have been combined and are set for April 18th starting at 10.30am. Information for the day will be given out when we have organized who is doing what. The important thing is that you make yourself available to help out, additionally it would be great if each of us could bring a relative, friend or neighbour. We do need to recruit if only to cover members who are restricted from playing while waiting for medical treatment. We naturally send them our best wishes and look forward to seeing them out on the green again.

Finally i finished my report at the last AGM with the following few words, I think they still apply:

'We are all here by choice and are free to leave at any time. as we are all still here, we must be enjoying something – so make the most of it, come to the club as often as possible, especially to functions, and above all else' Enjoy your Bowls.

Prizes for Finalists were handed out at this time (see under AOB)

5.2. Treasurer

5.2.1. Treasurer's report

Income for the year 2018/19 was nearly £3,000 down on the previous year. This is attributable to the decline in total members from 149 to 123, resulting in lower total subscriptions and bar sales.

Expenditure increased by almost £10,000. However, we incurred exceptional expenses of almost £11,000 for the installation of the new kitchen.

Overall we made a loss of £10,213.41.

Subscriptions represent just a quarter of our income, the rest being made up of all the other club activities. Apart from the bar which raised nearly £5,000, the income from Cribbage, Short Mat and Bingo raised around £1,500, special events raised £1,200 and fund raising (Match raffles, meat raffle, Sunday lunches) raised a further £1,500. We have been served magnificent teas throughout the season and even managed a surplus of £500 on that as well.

This year our selected charity was the Thames Air Ambulance. We paid £768.60 to the charity and also raised a further £676.98 during the year. This was paid out during the current financial year.

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The club is now using accounts software provided by Clubtreasurer.com. This means that we can more easily analyse the financial information and produce reports. Profit and Loss Statements have been issued to the Executive Committee throughout the year.

I have included substantial notes to the accounts and hopefully these will be useful in understanding the figures.

The accounts for the club tour are ably managed by Lorraine Capon and are summarised in the notes. The club tour account was £1,464.12 as at 30th September 2018, £1,000 of which is a club loan. Thanks to Lorraine for maintaining good records for this important aspect of club life.

Apart from the treasurer, our auditors also have access to the electronic records and have carried out quarterly interim audits, as well as the final year audit. I am very grateful to Gareth Jenkins for his care in conducting the audit.

Ken Perrett

31st October 2019

5.2.2. Independent Examiners' report

I have looked at the detailed accounts and report being presented to the Executive Committee and members and agree that they are a true reflection of the financial status of the club.

Gareth Jenkins

31st October 2019

5.2.3. Presentation of the accounts for approval

The Treasurer, Ken Perrett, presented the Income and Expenditure accounts for the year 2018/2019. Copies of the accounts are attached to these minutes.

Geoff Stokes questioned the collections for the Charity – Ken explained that monies collected in one year are paid out to the selected charity in the following year. Normally the amounts paid out and received are similar.

The accounts were then approved.

5.3. Clubhouse Manager

Good afternoon Fellow Bowlers

It has been quite a busy year starting off with a refurb of the kitchen. We had to convince a couple of Remainers that the majority had voted for the go ahead to spend the money and they finally conceded defeat to the chant of 'we don't like the colour'. At the same time as the kitchen refit, John Preston decorated the Store Room, no complaints about the colour here, white ceiling and white walls, shame about floor! New shelving also put up so that the Honesty Bar could display what drinks were available to purchase!!

To show that the Executive Committee listens to all requests, even from a minority of the members, it was agreed to purchase a shelter for smokers, complete with two ashtrays; as usual we had complaints that it was in the wrong place!

I would like to mention the Executive Committee's much improved relationship with the Council. We are now having regular meetings with the Town Council Clerk, Jackie Burgess and the Recreation Facilities Manager, Alan Moffatt. I think you will agree that the Green

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has improved over the last couple of years due to their help and efforts of the Green Keeper, Tiffany

I am not going to mention all the less noticeable work that the Management Committee has carried out during the last fourteen months but I would like to thank the other members of the Management Committee for their help and support. They are John Preston, Paul Chapman and Neil Lofthouse and I must not forget Irene Gallacher who helps me out with the paperwork and my wife Rita who puts up with me.

I would like you just to just spend a moment and think about who it is that: -

- a) opens the Clubhouse at the weekend and sets the rinks out,
- b) spends their time tending the gardens for all of us to enjoy,
- c) cleans the carpet twice a year,
- d) opens the Clubhouse every weekday during the Season.

Perhaps you could help more, possibly sweep the patio if you notice it needs doing or clean the windows or even volunteer to be a Bar Person, (Neil would welcome you with open arms) You don't need to be on a committee to get involved.

What does the future hold? We have purchased another set of steps to access the green and have purchased a new Shed. This will be erected before the season starts and will house some of the green equipment to make it easier and safer to store pushers. A start has already been made in clearing the site; thank you to all who helped with that so we are be ready to go.

Finally, I will finish, as I have done for the last 18 years and show you the Maintenance Book and show you how to use it, Thank you for your attention

John demonstrated where to find the book, how to fill it in, and the importance of it being used.

5.4. Club Captain (Olive Bambury)

My year as Captain started on a sad note with the death of Tony Capon but having said that, the Club showed its true colours by pulling together in an amazing way and I knew exactly why I wanted to be Captain of Great Hollands Bowls Club. The 2018 Christmas party went well and although I was not there, I understand, the New Years Celebrations also were enjoyed by all.

In January we had the New Kitchen installed and it is a great improvement on the old. Also we have kept our 4* rating after an inspection in June. Thanks to Judith Cooke-Sanderson's sterling work.

The new computer system that started up at the beginning of the season had quite a few hiccups' needing ironing out'. Which hopefully have been done ready for the new season. The fact that many of us get confused these days and do not need the help of computers. I am glad I have a lot of hair to pull or I would be standing here bald. I am keeping my fingers crossed that everything runs smooth in future. Many thanks to Ken Perrett for all his help. If anyone would like to know details of how many friendly games played or how many were cancelled and the results. Ray Furnell has kept a record. Mitch Mitchell has kept a record of how many games each individual put their names down for and how many they played.

Many of our players did well in the 2019 County matches and will I have been told about these successes by the ladies and men's Captains at their annual meetings in October. I would

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have liked to have seen more people attending the Cub Finals Weekend and showing their support for the players. In passing I'd like to mention the Captain vs President game. I had great feedback about the day, thanks to my three daughters volunteering to do all the hard work. I will just say the Captains team won!

Once again, due to the efforts of Karen Chapman and various helpers, the popular Christmas dinner was enjoyed by all, with more and more people attending. I bet Karen regrets having started it. The Christmas and New Year parties in 2019 were once again a great success, as were Bingo and Race nights; thanks to the efforts of Eddie Readings and all members off the Social Committee.

I have been told by members of the Executive Committee that there has been some confusion about the Captain's Trophy. At the presentation evening I tried to explain how I came to my decision that seems to have been completely misunderstood. The trophy is given at the end of the season to an improved player. I asked Ray and Carolyn for some names and had 8. From then on I had to decide who would receive the trophy and the person who received the trophy was on the list. I would just like to add that nobody came to me and queried my decision; that would have been the best thing to do. There is always the box by the door to enable you to voice your opinions and get answers to any query you may have.

To end with I would like to say a big thank you to the Executive, Social and the Ladies Selection Committees, for all their help and hard work in the past year. I know most of the time we only get moans about what has not been done but only people on these committees really know how hard it is to please everyone. I know it is nice to get a thank you now and then, so I am saying this on behalf of myself and all members of this club. Thank you!

5.5. Ladies Section Chairperson (Rose Reason)

Good afternoon, as I am new to this role please forgive me if I make mistakes.

We have a good Ladies section with 37 members; having two teams in the Thames Valley Ladies League. Last year the Linnets again finished in 3rd place with 75 points and the Wrens came 8th and this year will be playing in the 3rd division – where I am sure they will do well

We entered the Berkshire Top Club competition, again did better than the previous year. Going through two rounds and then being beaten in the third round by Island Bohemia, who went on to win it.

We also had 17 friendlies arranged but unfortunately 5 were cancelled. We won 5, lost 6 and drew 1. All ladies are welcome to play in these matches as it is a good time to gain experience and get to know people

As most of you know the ladies do the catering for the friendly matches. Last season several questions were being raised about these and other duties being gender specific. It was decided that a survey would be carried out amongst all of the bowling members with regard to this matter. 69 Members completed their survey forms. 40 voted for no change to be made to the tea and cleaning duties and 29 for change. Therefor the ladies will continue with the catering duties and the men with the cleaning. The survey also asked for comments – and the main one was ladies miss the opportunity of 3 games when covering their 3 tea duties. We have decided to trial some changes for the coming season. There will only be two ladies per tea duty - so they will only have to complete 2 tea duties instead of 3 – cutting the amount of games they can potentially miss playing. Ladies covering the tea duties will have the option to choose the food they will offer on the day that they feel that two people can cope with preparing and serving. Options for this can be discussed at the Ladies Pre Season Coffee

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Morning on 29th March @ 10:30 am. The second change that there will be no tea breaks halfway through matches.

Just a quick mention about the Craft mornings that started during the winter months they have proved to be a success and initially they were held once a month but this has been increased to twice a month at the request of those who attend. They will be held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month.

The ladies committee would like to thank everyone for their hard work with all the catering duties and support on charity and club days.

Finally, I would like to wish everybody the best for competitions. Both County and Club, but most of all enjoy your bowling.

5.6. Men's Section Committee Chairperson

Nothing to report

5.7. Match Secretary

In friendlies we have lost the University of Reading, have gained 2 games against Woodley, plus one extra game against Palmer Park, and Windsor & Eton, although we have had to lose one game against Farnborough.

Men's friendlies remain the same

Ladies friendlies have lost Desborough but gained Woodley back.

I asked the men to put their names down for the Kenneth league and KLV.

Bannerette forms go up on the board

5.8. Competition Secretary – Steve Daniels

First, a thank you to all the members who took part in the club competitions last season and a very special thank you to the few who consistently put themselves forward to mark matches, without them the singles games could not be played

The days set aside for 2 wood and triples went fairly well with both the ploughman's and BBQ making a small profit for the club so a big thank you to the club members who ran these two events or us.

Overall the competitions went well and I look forward to next season. I have suggested that 2 wood day is given up as 2 wood days are easy to arrange and the day be given to an extra round of triples which is not easy to arrange.

I have also suggested that the club could run a markers introduction for those members who would like to mark a few matches but lack the experience or are worried about making mistakes. These could be run on a Saturday morning alongside the coaching sessions.

5.9. Social Committee Chairperson Committee Report (Rose Reason)

First of all, I would like to say a special thank you to Karen for all her hard work in her leadership over the past year as Social Chairperson. Since taking over from Karen last October it falls to me to thank not just Karen and all the Social Committee for all their hard work in organizing running social events, not only in the winter but also Charity Day and Club days

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Social events held in the last year include Country and Western, Quiz Night, Race Nights, Film Nights and two BBQ Friday Night Socials in the Bowling Season; a first for the Club

I would also like to thank everyone for their help with donations for the Christmas Hamper and Raffle prizes for different events and those who supported Social Events that are a great asset to the club.

5.10. Barman

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the Bar Team. George Auret who helps me, Irene Bradley and Bob Rhodes, Dave Brown, Paul and Karen Chapman, Graham Cripps, George Harris, John Hills, Peter Hurrell, Stewart McMoneagle, Eddie Readings, Angie Sherfield, I repeat my thanks, not just for your commitment during the bowls season but also during the closed season when the bar is open Sunday lunchtime, Crib and numerous social events.

As you have heard from Ken, and can see from the accounts, the bar profits of close to £5,000 are a significant part of the Club's income. I think that we can all be very pleased and proud of our efforts on behalf of the Club. Well done!

Having read out all the names in the current bar team you may think I have enough but last season we were stretched even though Irene and Bob, and Dave Brown stepped up to replace Syd and Lawrie. Simple maths tells us that we need at least 12 to cover a 24 week season – we had 11 last season and I ran the bar for 3 weeks (and it remained closed during the September Tour week).

When I took this job over from Alan Cheatle 3 years ago there were 13+ in the team but Alan, Syd, Fred, Lawrie, Bill H, Dave A, have either all retired or moved on and it is highly likely that we are going to lose one or two more out of the current list of 11 before the 2020 season starts. So it is over to you, we need more members stepping up to join the team – men – ladies – pairs, otherwise there are going to be occasions when the bar will remain closed and profits and income will fall. I will be happy to be behind the bar to help anyone willing to find out how the bar operates. Please contact me for more information. Thank you.

5.11. County Report (Sheila Lee)

I asked at Berkshire bowls AGM, as the ladies are now supposed to be amalgamated with the men's section, are we going to get free tops and Colt badges? The reply was that there are no plans to extend it to the ladies section; so just the men' section will continue to get them free! I also asked several clubs if they gave runners up trophies for competitions and they all said yes.

The county competitions are on the board and online, I will be available for any queries and I will help any way I can.

Carolyn Lofthouse is now East Zone Rep. so she will be reporting from meetings and anything new from County. Good luck jn all county competitions

George Harris stated he will no longer be our County Representative (men;s) or County liaison officer for benevolent funds.

5. Proposal to Amend Item 13 – Selection Committee

John Hills raised this item as he felt the need to clarify the wording. As follows:

The Selection Committee shall comprise the following:

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Club Captain, Men's Captain, Ladies Captain, one Lady bowling member and one Male bowling member, both of whom shall be elected at the Club AGM. If the Men's or Ladies' Captains cannot attend the meetings the respective Vice-Captains can stand in for them

The change was agreed. John also felt there was a need for a general update of the Club Constitution etc. and will pursue this over the coming year.

6. Appointment of AUDITORS

There being no nominations for the posts of Internal Auditors a request was made for volunteers.

Gareth Jenkins and Mo Darley volunteered and were duly elected

7. Appointment of tellers

Three volunteers were asked to act as tellers for the counting of votes. Brian Rammell, Neil Lofthouse and Eddie Readings volunteered and were duly elected.

8. Elections

Executive Committee

There were two nominations for Chair:

- a) Henry Bone proposed by Gerry Austin and Dave Brown
- b) Fred Payne proposed by Allan Cheatle and unreadable signature.

A ballot was held and Henry Bone was confirmed in the position.

There were two nominations for the position of President.

- a) Graham Cripps proposed by Eddie Reading and Angie Sherfield
- b) Mitch Mitchell proposed by John Nightingale and Fred Payne

A ballot was held and Graham Cripps was confirmed in the position

Olive Bambury proposed by Rita Hills and Fred Payne was confirmed in the post of Club Captain unopposed

John Hills Proposed by Gerry Austin and Eddie Readings was confirmed in the post of Clubhouse Manager unopposed.

Management Committee

Only one nomination was received for the four of the Management Committee posts, the following were therefore elected:-

Elected Member 1	Gerry Austin
Elected Member 2	John Preston
Elected Member 3	Paul Chapman
Elected Member 4	Neil Lofthouse

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5.12. Social Committee

There was one nomination for the post of Social Committee Chairperson and one for five committee members. The following were therefore appointed:-

Social Committee Chair	Eddie Readings
Elected Member 1	Angie Sherfield
Elected Member 2	Irene Bradley
Elected Member 3	Julie Furnell
Elected Member 4	Bob Rhodes
Elected Member 5	Olive Bambury

5.13. Selection Committee

One nomination was received for the selection committee male member, as follows :-

Fred Payne proposed by Mitch Mitchell and seconded by Unreadable.

Irene Bradley volunteered on the night (lady member)

Both were confirmed in the post.

5.14. Other Club Officers

Membership Officer	Sue Richardson
Match Secretary	Ray Furnell
Competition Secretary	Fred Payne
Bar Steward	Neil Lofthouse
First Aider	Brian Rammell
Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Officer	Steve Daniels
Food Hygiene Officer	Judith Cooke-Sanderson
Welfare Officer	Una Cripps

6. Any Other Business

- a) The Treasurer proposed, on behalf of the Executive Committee, that the Annual Membership Subscription should be increased from £80 to £90, with the Social Membership Subscription being increased from £15 to £20.

There followed a keen debate with various alternatives suggested from the floor, almost all of which proposed greater increases. In particular, there was a strong feeling expressed that we should not charge per session for Social events, Cribbage and Short Mat, but rather include these within the annual subscription rate.

As there seemed to be some support for this proposal, Ken proposed an alternative. This was that the Annual Membership Subscription should be increased from £80 to £100, with the Social Membership Subscription being increased from £15 to £25. At the same time we would publish a scale of charges for guests, both for bowling and social events. We would no longer charge a session fee for Cribbage, Short Mat, and Craft Group, but these would be for members only.

This was passed unanimously.

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- b) Question was raised on why the social committee had a float of £200. Karen Chapman said it was necessary as she used it as back up to cover items/food for the club's socials and it should not come out of her account.
- c) Angie Sherfield asked why the opportunity to raise funds by using football cards was rejected. The Treasurer stated that we did not want to encourage 'betting' in the club but agreed that raffles, etc were forms of betting but more acceptable. Angie asked how much we paid for the Licence to cover us and Ken confirmed the fee was £70 p.a.
- d) Graham Cripps apologised for the lack of prizes for finalists, previously runners up, and that the Executive Committee were largely to blame for not assisting Steve Daniels. Prizes had been purchased for anyone who still wished to receive the trophy. These were handed out at the beginning of the meeting by Steve assisted by Graham
- e) There was a vote to decide which Charity we should sponsor this year and the winner was 'Local Charities'. Graham Cripps explained that if there was a need in the community for say a wheelchair or similar, a member of the club could approach the Exec Committee for the money. This could result in good publicity for the club.
- f) Bill Cruikshank questioned when the heaters could be turned on. John Hills explained that the heaters could be turned on by anyone using the club; providing they turned them off when leaving. A request was made to the members not to stack the chairs in such a way that would cover the heaters.
- g) There being no other business the meeting was closed @ 4.10 pm