

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**GREAT HOLLANDS BOWLS CLUB**

**Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025 10:00 at the Clubhouse**

**Attendees:** Full Members (with voting rights) : 32 of 68 Social Members : 13 of 26

- Meeting Opened:** The Annual General Meeting was opened at 10:01 by Jose Chippendale in the Chair. Members were welcomed and reminded that the sign-in sheets at the door should be completed. Hard copies of the agenda were placed on every 3 seats. Nominations for the vacant positions were greatly improved from the previous year.
- Minute's Silence:** Jose asked that members join in a minute's silence to remember those we sadly lost this year: Derek Tickner, John Hills, Alan Clark & Bridget Cruikshank.
- Apologies for Absence:** Apologies had been received in advance from: Ruth Edgson, Linda Stone, Lorraine Capon, Roy Williams, Steve Daniels, Carole Drury, Charlie Drury, Sheila Stickland, Mike Stickland, Liz Markham, Tony Serjeant, Alison Serjeant, Trevor Compton, Carol Hegarty, Brian Cooper, Martin Atkins, Gloria Compton, Rita Hills, Karen Chapman, Sheila Horton, Una Cripps, John Gill, Olive Bambury, Madeleine Atkins, Sheila Lee & George Lee.
- Approval of Minutes of the 2024 AGM:** Minutes of the AGM held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024 had previously been made available to members. Gareth Jenkins proposed and Eddie Readings seconded the acceptance of the minutes and after a show of hands they were duly signed by Jose Chippendale.
- Approval of Amendments to the Clubs Constitution:** Section 7 – Dissolution of the Club were amended and a copy of the amendments had previously been made available to members. Gareth Jenkins proposed and Eddie Readings seconded the approval of the amendments to Section 7 of the Clubs Constitution, no objections were raised from the attendees and therefore the amendments were approved.
- Reports for 2024:**

**Executive Committee Reports**

President – Olive Bambury – Olive could not attend the meeting but gave a written report for the Chair to read: “Good-morning everyone. This will not take long as I am going to leave the interesting parts to the people who know far more about them than I do.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee for all their hard work this year. We have developed a very good relationship with Bracknell Town Council and they are looking forward to meeting the new members of the executive committee in due course.

The presentation night went very well and I think my daughters did a good job with the catering.

I’m sorry to say that due to Syd’s health issues, my involvement at the club in future will be limited.

Finally, I’d like to wish all members good luck in any county or club competitions this year.” All attendees wish Olive and Syd all the very best.

Chairperson – Jose Chippendale – Jose advised that this is her last time as Chair and reported the following: Our dishwasher has been replaced and thanks go to all concerned in a

obtaining the equipment and b) aiding with its installation. Also a combination cooker has been obtained. We held meetings with Bracknell Town Council and advise we are awaiting delivery of saplings for the right-hand hedge, these will be planted by BTC. Loft insulation needs to be updated and this is in hand with the clubhouse manager. There have been a few enquiries via the Club's website from non-members asking to hire the clubhouse, the club is not intending to hire out the club premises to non-members, only members of Great Hollands Bowls Club are eligible to hire the premises. The new shirts have been selected and this is going through due process, an estimated delivery is the end of February. Thanks also to Jo, Kevin, Barbara, George, Rose & Jean for the Sunday lunches and evening meals. Jose would like to see more people to attend when there isn't a meal being provided. The ovens will be cleaned this year. There are new membership forms which everyone is required to complete this year. Good wishes to both the new and retained executive officers.

Club Captain – Eddie Readings- We played in club friendlies Wednesday and weekend games. We had 47 games to play last year, we won 16 and lost 15, 12 were cancelled and 4 game cards are missing. The amount cancelled was due to inclement weather, also not enough names were entered for selection. We tried some late afternoon games with a BBQ and this was very successful, thanks to Jo, Kevin and Charlie for doing the catering. Well done to Ian for arranging a friendly with Arundel this was a great success and they are coming to us this year. Well done to everyone who has been catering meals on Sundays to raise much needed funds for the club. Thanks to Olive and Sheila who organised the Christmas Hamper, donating the prizes and thus making a good profit for the club.

Clubhouse Manager – Ian Clarke – First year over and we accomplished good things. I would like to thank Phil Sherman, Liz Markham and Kevin Merryweather amongst many others who have come to the Club's assistance when asked. We have during the year completed/undertaken the following: Boxes for the newly painted edge markers and wedges have been introduced, steps onto the green have been painted together with the hand rails and the gate (thanks to Liz), new signs have been installed on the gate and the open shed, a computer has been acquired, a TV has also been sourced, a defibrillator has been purchased and installed (the cupboard was kindly donated by BTC), a lightweight vacuum cleaner has been purchased, new lights have been installed in the open shed and on the wall of the clubhouse, the gutters have been cleared of leaves on a regular basis, the green edge has been improved and finally a new dishwasher has been purchased and installed.

The computer has been set up to enable the friendly matches to be updated and distributed and also the new RCBBA system.

The following are outstanding and will hopefully be addressed this coming season: Sponsored mats and score boards, new hedging, new lane markers, a grant has been applied for, to enable new heaters, carpets and additional storage, a list of small minor works will be posted on the notice board in the clubhouse and volunteers will be needed to help out.

As part of the role last year I took on Interim Membership Officer with the help of the Club Secretary. This was to enable the membership to continue uninterrupted, RCBBA software was being updated and progressed in the background. GHBC were one of the few clubs to complete the tasks requested. For this year we have been tasked to update the system with both full and social members (hence the new / renewal of membership forms which need to be completed by everyone both playing and social members alike) this is ongoing. We have also been asked to enter the requirements for the county games both male and female, this

is also being addressed. My request is that if you are planning not to re-join as a playing member to let me know before 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 this will enable me to remove your name from the affiliated list and make it easier for you if you plan to join another club.

Treasurer – Brian Taylor- The income over the past year was £23,789.20 compared to £26,425.62 in the previous year. This significant reduction is due to there being less social activity in the Club, resulting in lower bar sales and receipts from events. Membership numbers have not changed significantly since last year; 103 compared to 106. The expenditure for this year includes a payment of £2991.12 for electricity used in the previous year hence the deficit for this year is £2895.37. Hitherto the Club has operated at a profit or small loss. A major contributor to the increase in expenditure is the cost of electricity, which is anything will continue to increase. This increase partially was offset by clubhouse costs being lower this year and Bracknell Town Council not increasing their charges for using the club and green. However, this cannot be relied on and in, all probability, this deficit will continue to increase unless the membership takes action to increase the Club's income. Consequently, the executive is proposing that membership fees for 2025 – 26 should be increased as follows:

Full Membership	£120 to £130
Social Membership	£30 to £35

Our Clubhouse Management Team is to be congratulated on all the work they have done on our behalf in maintaining a safe and comfortable environment for our enjoyment.

The accounts for the club tour are managed by Lorraine Capon and are summarised in the notes (11 of the finance report). The Club tour account was £2353.89 on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024, including £540 of refunds for the 2024 tour. Of this, £1,000 is a Club loan. Thanks to Lorraine for all her work organising the tour, and for maintaining good records for this important aspect of club life.

Our Independent Examiner, Gareth Jenkins has access to the electronic records and has carried out the final year audit. I am very grateful to him for his care in conducting the audit.

Independent Examiners Report – Gareth Jenkins- 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.

**Acceptance of Accounts:** Agenda item 9 – There were no questions from the floor – Ian Clarke proposed and Ray Furnell seconded the proposal and the accounts were formally accepted.

**Club Reports:** Jose invited those holding Club positions to present their reports, thanking them on behalf of the Executive Committee and Club members for the work they have done. A summary of each report is below:

Bar Manager – Linda Stone- I would like to thank the following volunteers who have assisted in running the bar, these are listed alphabetically:

Angie, Eddie, Irene, Jo, Karen, Kevin, Mike and Sheila.

We lost Roy but have gained Charlie, he did one shift and then went off to Australia, hopefully he will return and join us.

Thanks to Neil for replenishing the stock and getting very good deals whenever he can, which is usually always.

Unfortunately, we had to do some price increases on spirits and beers, but still they are very good value as all branded drinks. The bars net profit for the club is £3627.47 as noted in the Club's finance report.

Thanks to Carolyn and Neil for running the Honesty Bar for another year with great efficiency, an income of £519.58 as noted in the Club's finance report, please try to pay promptly this will stop Carolyn having to chase you with her clipboard.

We had a very slow start in the winter season (October – March) with very little support until the lunches re-started which gave us health bar sales.

Bar Trading Account as in the full finance report (1 October 2023 – 30 September 2024)

	Amount (£)
Main bar sales	8661.50
Honesty bar sales	519.58
Total bar sales	9181.08
Cost of goods sold	
Opening stock	1569.20
Purchases	5339.47
Less closing stock	1521.10
Total cost of goods sold	5387.57
Gross profit	3793.51
Other bar costs	166.04
Net profit	3627.47
Margin	67%

Competitions Secretary – Eddie Readings- I took on the Competitions Secretary position very 'reluctantly' as no one else offered their services and would like to say thank you to the girls who made the roll ups on final days. A big thank you to Olive's daughters for taking care of the catering for the presentation night helping to make it a success.

This year I am going to try running 13 competitions including ladies 2 wood and triples if we can get the ladies to enter.

Country Reps – Carolyn Lofthouse: Ladies report - I represent the ladies at a delegates meeting each year held in October, usually at Suttons and at the County AGM, held at West Berks indoor club, Newbury in November. I've already given the ladies an update at their AGM. Since the County AGM I am able to tell you the full calendar is available on line at [berkshirebowling.com](http://berkshirebowling.com). This includes all the competition dates, friendly match fixtures and Lemington dates etc. There is a copy on the board. If you have entered competitions please note when they are scheduled.

You will be aware that matches and competitions will be administered using an online system this year. All members will have had their details entered onto the system. Through this our affiliation fees will be calculated and paid. Once the online system goes live for individuals you will be able to go to the "Competition Portal" to create your own account. You can then view information about next round opponents in competitions, input results and apply for matches. There is a sheet with more detailed information about the process on the ladies county board which should help. It will be a learning curve for us all!

A motion was passed at the AGM that mobiles are not be used during a game unless in an emergency.

Good luck to everyone who has entered competitions, they were sent in by our ladies secretary. You will be able to view the draw once this has been done, again online. We hope to be able to repeat our success last season of getting to the semi-final of the Double Fours this year and perhaps go even further.

Best wishes to all our bowling members in 2025 and enjoy every type of game you play.

County Reps – David Horton: Men's report – I attended the same meeting as Carolyn so a lot has already been covered by her. I have had discussions with Stewart Wright regarding the RCBBA portal – this should be going live this week and is being input by Ian Clarke. Men's participation is unfortunately lacking, we only have 3 full county badges being held by our club. If members would like to enter these this will bring up the standing of GHBC and be an improvement for our club all round. If there are any men who are interested in participating please feel free to contact me for further information.

Ladies Chairman – Jose Chippendale – Nothing to report at this time.

Men's Chairman – Steve Daniels – Steve apologised for his absence and submitted a written report – Firstly, I would like to put on record the assistance that I received from my deputy Roy Williams. I do not think that he has received the credit that he is due for the interest that he took in helping out, not just me, but the Club Captain in organising the emails that went out to the membership regarding fixtures both in friendlies and in the leagues. He gave me 100% support and I thank him so much for making my job just a little bit easier. Secondly, I would like to thank the new members who, when asked, turned out to play in the leagues on Tuesday nights when so many others declined. With their help we managed to keep our place in the league for another season. Finally, I would like to thank the members who turned out every week to play in the KLV, and who also kept their teams together to play in the Kennett. This made the teams much stronger and formed good balanced units. It was only down to some bad luck that we failed to gain promotion at the end of the season. I would like to wish GHBC all the best for the future and look forward to meeting them in a game at some time – with respect S. Daniels.

Match Secretary – Ray Furnell – Members often ask me if the diary is finished around this time of year and the reply will always be the same, no. I can't finalise the diary until after our AGM as there are several items to finalise, like the new committee and dates to be agreed by the new committee. You should hopefully be receiving the diaries at the beginning or mid-March. This year we have lost our friendly against Windsor Great Park as it fell on Easter Sunday and they felt their members would not want to play on that particular day. Also lost Horsell as they had filled the dates up in their diary. Both Windsor Great Park and Horsell are hoping to reinstate these fixtures next season. We have also lost friendlies against Tongham as they prefer to cut down on their fixture list and play more inter club games. However, we have gained fixtures against Hawley, Shiplake, Isle of Bohemia and a Tilehurst friendly is a possibility. We will be hosting Arundel on their return match in August. Ladies, I am pleased to say I have secured a friendly with Maidenhead Town as requested, but sadly due to a date mix up, we have lost the Hurst ladies friendly but I hope to reinstate this next season. I am hoping we can arrange 2 open days this year with the first being bank holiday 5<sup>th</sup> May, but this

and any other dates are to be verified by the new committee. So all dates will be in your diary soon and as I say I hope to get them to you as early as possible in March.

Social Committee – as there was no social committee last year there is no report to submit.

**7. Elections to the Executive Committee:** Jose advised that there was a very good response prior to the AGM for nominations to the Executive Committee for this coming year outcome and results below:

Chairperson – there were 2 nominations for this position ballot results - Jo Sanders-Merryweather (proposer Ian Clarke, seconder Eddie Readings) 18 votes and Angela Sherfield (proposer Rose Reason, seconder Irene Bradley) 22 votes - Angela Sherfield is the clubs new Chairperson.

President – 1 nomination only for Ray Furnell (proposer Eddie Readings, seconder Ian Clarke) – no opposition – Ray Furnell is the clubs new President.

Club Captain – there were 2 nominations for this position ballot results – Eddie Readings (proposer Ian Clarke, seconder Ray Furnell) 12 votes and Carolyn Lofthouse (proposer Karen Chapman, seconder Rita Hills) 28 votes – Carolyn Lofthouse is the clubs new Club Captain.

Clubhouse Manager – 1 nomination only for Ian Clarke (proposer Eddie Readings, seconder Gareth Jenkins) – with no opposition – Ian Clarke retains the Clubhouse Manager role.

Club Secretary – 1 nomination only for June Clarke (proposer Ian Clarke, seconder Ray Furnell) – with no opposition – June Clarke retains the Club Secretary role.

Treasurer – 1 nomination only for Gareth Jenkins (proposer Ian Clarke, seconder Eddie Readings) – with no opposition – Gareth Jenkins is the clubs new Treasurer.

For clarity:

President	Ray Furnell
Chairperson	Angela Sherfield
Club Captain	Carolyn Lofthouse
Club Secretary	June Clarke
Clubhouse Manager	Ian Clarke
Treasurer	Gareth Jenkins

**Election to other Club positions** - all approved due to no oppositions

Account Examiner	David Horton - unopposed
Account Examiner	Dick Fisher - unopposed
Bar Manager	Linda Stone – unopposed
Safeguarding Officer	Jo Sanders-Merryweather – unopposed
Club Development Manager	Ian Clarke – unopposed
Competition Secretary	Eddie Readings – unopposed
First Aider	David Horton – unopposed (refresher course required)
Food Hygiene Officer	Linda Stone – unopposed
Match Secretary	Ray Furnell – unopposed
Welfare Officer	Irene Bradley – unopposed (with support of David Horton)

**Election of sub-committees – all approved due to no oppositions**

Clubhouse Management Committee (6 posts)	Nigel Rowe, Wilf Langer, Ernie Diaz, Phil Sherman, Kevin Merryweather & Lindon Kenshole
Selection Committee (1 female, 1 male)	Lesley Langer & Dick Fisher
Social Club Secretary, Chair + 5 posts)	Carole Drury, Nigel Rowe, Irene Bradley, Angela Sherfield, Linda Stone & Rose Reason

**8. Proposals and Votes**

Accept the accounts for 2024 proposer Ian Clarke, seconder Ray Furnell – carried on show of hands.

Accept the proposed membership fees for 2025 Full member - £130 and Social member £35 proposer Keith Roberts, seconder Lindon Kenshole – carried on show of hands.

**9. AOB**

Charities for 2025 – a proposal from a club member was read by June Clarke: The Cowshed (thecowshed.org) based in Wokingham (covers Bracknell). It's a charity that supports local people in times of need and crisis. This is on a one-time basis, but, where an ongoing need is identified, they put people in touch with the relevant support organisations. There is a transparent referrals process. Professional organisation nominate individuals or families and the type of help depends on specific need at that time and is wide ranging – clothing, bedding, towels, curtains, baby equipment, school uniforms, toiletries. They provide bras and offer a bra fitting service, sanitary products and prom dresses, which are all so important for empowering women and girls. Their Arts & Crafts group recycle material items that aren't suitable to pass onto clients and is in itself a community group for crafters. Their sustainable approach is to reduce clothing waste and to ensure that every donated item serves a purpose. Overall, a compassionate and community driven charity that makes a real difference to local people in crisis. Question from the floor, is this just for money to be raised we are not collecting items? – response only money will be provided for this charity, GHBC will not be doing a clothes drive. Acceptance for this charity proposer Eddie Readings, seconder Ian Clarke – carried unanimously. Question from floor, are we still going to support the Macmillan appeal with a coffee morning – response yes, we will continue to organise and raise money individually in the once a year coffee morning event.

The date of the next AGM for 2026 will be advised by the new Executive Committee their first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 10am in the Clubhouse.

**10. AGM with no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 11:12am**

**Minutes approved and signed by J. Sanders-Merryweather – Chair on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**