

Notes from the Members Meeting Sunday 27th October 2025

1. Lou welcomed everyone to the meeting, there were 35 members present and 8 apologies had been received before the meeting.

2. The Green - Trevor reported on the work on the green over the last 2 autumns and reviewed the way forward. He was grateful for all the support from the members, in particular all those who help regularly with the green maintenance, both summer and winter. He believed that playing across the green on alternate weeks has helped to keep the green in better condition. Some damage was done to the green towards the end of the season when the ground was softer and needs to be avoided in future. Following the close down weekend, it was discovered that beneath the baize many of the sleepers were in very poor condition. Not surprising considering they are over 50 years old. This is a big project and the way forward will be discussed over the next few months. Judy and Peter have looked after the rink markings for years. Andy Simmons has now volunteered to review the rink marking system in light of new England rules.

Peter Hudson commented that it would be preferable to play up/down for all league matches (A&D, SH) even if it is a week for going across. Kathy commented that rinks 1 and 6 playing up and down had actually been spoilt by the footfall of playing across. The Committee to discuss these points with a view to deciding on the way ahead for the next season.

3. A&D - Peter S advised the members that Tim Kite's widow had bequeathed a donation of £10000 which Tim had wished to leave the Bowls Club as he had loved the game and made so many friends. A decision on how best to use this money has yet to be decided. Peter reviewed the Clubs historical performance in the A&D premier league, they had in fact won 12 times since 1919. Dan will continue to Captain the A&D A team; the 2 Dave's the B team and Kevin and Nick will be joint Captains of the C team. Stephen Major had suggested prior to the meeting that to do well in the A&D we need more practice at bowling with 2-woods. Peter also commented that we need to practice more strategies, eg. moving the mat up. Both Peter and Ben are going on a coaching course in the new year and hope to be able to offer all types of coaching next year. It was also suggested that the men's champion play the ladies champion; starting next season with a match.

4. Kit Sponsorship - The club has been offered sponsorship of £2250 by Avery Care for new shirts with their logo on. Discussion took place over the offer and the state of our present kit. Although the shirts are good, it was suggested that we often look

very scruffy with a variety of grey trousers. It was agreed we would (a) accept Avery's offer, which means all must wear the new shirt in any competitive games against other clubs and for finals weekend (b) we will have navy blue trousers – which can be from the clubs supplier (preference) or elsewhere (c) subject to a maximum total of £22.50 pp, the club will subsidise 50% of the cost of a new shirt and 50% of the cost of new trousers (NB trousers must be sourced via the clubs kit supplier to qualify for the subsidy Mike will circulate the designs but the final decision will be made by the Committee. It was agreed that the kit will be worn at all league and friendly matches and for finals days for Club competitions. If members do not intend to play in the matches they will not have to buy the kit. It was also agreed that Mike will source jackets and if members do not want to have them they should wear white tops. The meeting agreed that if members consistently decline to wear the kit they will not be picked for the teams.

5. BIAS - Rink bookings will be made on BIAS next season so there will no book outside as before. It is planned to have a laptop in the men's changing room to help with the system. There will be sessions at the beginning of next season to help with the use of BIAS. Priority will be given to County/Area competitions over block booking. There is the opportunity for both competition booking and finance (match fees) on BIAS. Again, more information and help will be available at the beginning of the season.

6. Fund Raising - Ben stated that over £1800 has been raised this year through various events, eg. The Dinner, BBQ, Fun and Games afternoon and the Wine tasting. Other events such as the breakfasts raised a little. He asked in the questionnaire for other suggestions; a club lottery was suggested and also having a raffle at matches. These suggestions were not supported by attendees. The questionnaire showed the majority accept that raising the subscription fees is one reasonable way to increase income. Running social events was accepted to be another.

7. Bowling Standards - It was agreed that there will be etiquette sessions at the beginning of next season to include delivering the bowl badly thereby damaging the green, also to cover bowler behaviour on the green.

8. AOB - Mike reported that the honours boards are being replaced shortly. Bob suggested a pair's league to run as well as the singles league. Martin suggested that days at the weekend which were unallocated could be available for members to play league games.