

FLEET SOCIAL BOWLING CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 10TH 2025

Lou opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies: Received from: Graeme and Ann Yonwin, Bill Turner, Kevin Bissell, Margaret Hankin, Mike Gilbert, Ketan Bavalia, John Davis, Vicky Lovelock, Martin Rogers, John Bryan , Brain Cox. There were 41 members present.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the last AGM held in November 2023 were proposed by Peter Hudson and seconded by Dave Rideout. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Presidents Address

Lou reported that it was good to see the Bowls Club thriving with over 90 members last year, this is almost double a few years ago. Also good to see a number of ladies joining the Club. We had three A&D teams last year and these were well supported by the Ladies. Lou thanked the Committee and all the volunteers who have helped behind the scenes. Lou thanked Trevor for all the work on the green and also Jeff for the work on the surrounds and all the other volunteers who contributed their time and effort. Without all the volunteers we would not be able to continue. Thanks to Ben for all the fund raising which many have enjoyed away from the bowls.

4. Secretary's Report

Maggie thanked all the Committee for their continuing support and also Audrey for dealing with the ladies competition entries. We are affiliated to Bowls England, Bowls Hampshire, and local Associations including Aldershot and District; the Stan Hardman League and the NHWBA. Members played in a number of competitions last year with varying degrees of success in particular Margaret, Kathy and Judy who won the NHWBA triples competition. Congratulations to all those who played in the Club competitions, entries for the coming season are with the enrolment form. Holidays during the season are not a problem but it is important to keep the finals weekend of Sept 13/14 free. We will help match up pairs for the mixed competition if you let us know.

Members were reminded to put their names down for the friendly games with other clubs. We will be playing 3 new ones this year. All members of the Club are eligible to play and are encouraged to put their names down to play.

All Information relating to Club activities is sent out by e-mail. If you are not receiving anything then please let me know.

5. Treasurers Report

Andy had distributed the accounts before the start of the meeting. At this time they have yet to be scrutinised but this will be carried out shortly.

Since the last AGM, there has been an increase in Membership, in game fees and also in the fund raising. This is all good as much needed funds are required for all the work that is being done on the green and its surrounds.

Currently the Club has £25536 in the bank; this includes £10000 from the Tim Kite Estate (a decision has not yet been made on what this money will be used for). The sponsorship money of which £5250 will be spent on the new Club kit for everyone and work on the green has already cost £5000 and more will be required. This leaves £4486 as a balance. The subs have increased to £100 this year to help with some of the green expenses.

Michael Ankers asked if we had a reserve especially considering the work needed on the green. Andy explained that the current reserve was being used and we will aim to build this up again. Jeff reported on the work currently being done and what future work needs to be done.

6. Captains Report

Peter reported that he enjoyed his first year as captain; he thanked Bill for his support and encouragement, Mike Gilbert for his advice and support as well as Maggie. His focus had been on the Stan Hardman and the friendly matches whilst others led the A&D. He also assisted Mike G with the new Club Kit project. An agreement has now been reached with the Social Club (SC) on the Honours Board which will be moved to a new place. He thanked Pat Foulger for her help and also the SC for their assistance during the season.

On the green the teams met with mixed success; the 'A' A&D team coming close in many matches but eventually relegated. Many lessons were learned from this experience. The various Captains for the A&D were successful with the two Dave's winning promotion for the B team, and the performances of the C team under Stephen Majors guidance was also excellent.

There are 12 bowlers going on a short tour of the Isle of Wight at the beginning of the season for some early competition before the season gets under way.

Peter encouraged everyone to put names down for the matches. We have new friendly matches this season including one against Windsor Great Park. He thanked Margaret Hankin for all her efforts as fixture secretary over the years. She has decided to step down from this role this year so we will need someone to take this on.

Peter and Ben have decided to take on the coaching role and would like to give all new bowlers at least an hour's training before they start bowling. Their final assessment for Level 1 is on March 1st, so far so good.

The green played much better last year due to all the investment made off season and the efforts of Trevor and his 'Mow the Green' team. We should all applaud their efforts. Jeff Bevins is now working with Trevor and the team on the surrounds where rotten sleepers have been found. Much work has already been done and will continue in order to make sure everything is ready for the beginning of the season. Works so far have cost £6000 and

expected overall costs will be higher. He asked everyone to do their bit to help towards the costs and he has decided that he will contribute £2 every time he plays in a roll up.

On Sunday 2nd Feb, it was the anniversary of Tim Kites untimely passing. Many have asked how the legacy he left the Club can best be used. This matter was discussed with the family and Mike G and it was felt that Tim would have liked it put to finish the green surrounds that have been started. Peter would like to receive the thoughts and views of Club members on perhaps an appropriate plaque situated on the decking area in remembrance.

Peter stated he will focus this year on the coaching and encouraging young bowlers to join the Club. His course highlighted the issue of Health and Safety and it was found that the Bowls section was not included in the emergency procedures and risk assessment completed by the SC in the event of fire. He will therefore take on the role of Health and Safety and will liaise with Mick.

He wished everyone every success on the green and to enjoy themselves.

Andy Pickup queried the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) and wondered if we saw the Club taking on juniors. Peter stated that it was a requirement of Level 1 coaching before going on to stage 2. John Bunter asked if we have a capacity number for bowlers. Comments included that too many bowlers may mean some members didn't get enough games. There is need to check that there is an even distribution for players in games. Mike Freeman said he had not got enough games last year despite putting his name down for many. Bill offered to try to work out a scheme to evenly distribute games to players. Michael Ankers asked about Open Day.

7. New Kit Information

Members have already been given much information. There are a few more opportunities to order from Ketan and Mike before the order will be sent off at the beginning of next week.

Kathy queried the length of the trousers and also if the blue colour on the shirts was the same as the trousers. Unfortunately the lengths are not individual but differ with the sizes ie. small trousers have shorter length than large trousers. Ian was concerned that if Members source their own trousers the blues will be different.

8. League Matches

Peter had covered the A&D earlier. In the Stan Hardman the 2 teams have to have separate squads. Both Kestrels and Wagtails went well and members were reminded to sign up on Bias. Peter Hudson said there were games where members had not signed up and he had to chase for players.

9. Fund Raising Report

Ben reported that the funds raised from the Social events are important for the Club and also to enhance the fabric of the Club keeping members together through the year.

In 2024 there were several events; the Summer BBQ, hosted by Steve and Debbie Pape, a games on the green, the Bowls annual dinner. There were also several breakfasts and

brunches and also 2 wine tasting sessions. Jeff Bevins had a raffle at his quiz. Altogether we raised about £1900, a very valuable contribution to the bowls finances. He thanked all who helped and attended and especially his team of Peter Hudson, Kathy and Andy Pickup. There are plans for a breakfast in March; a race night in April, outdoor skittles in June, the Summer BBQ in July and games on the green again in September as well as the Annual Dinner.

10. BIAS

Dave reported that this season we will be using bias for rink booking. There will be a laptop in the men's changing room for use.

Match fees for Stan Hardman, A&D and friendly matches will also be totted up on BIAS. Once selected for a game £3 will be added to your account. You can pay periodically or upload money to the account which can then be deducted each time you play. More information on all of this will be sent out nearer the beginning of the season.

11. Election of Club Officials

Lou advised the current Committee stands as follows:

President - Lou Foulger

Vice President - Judy Brown

Captain - Peter Sunderland

Secretary - Maggie Marsh

Treasurer - Andy Shrimptom

Ladies Secretary - Audrey Salter

Membership Secretary - Dave Bacon

Communication - Mike Gilbert

Green Rep: Trevor Bromelow

Other members: Ben Holt - Fund Raising

Dan Rogers - A&D

Jeff Bevins - Grounds

Ian Shrimptom - SC Liaison

Fixtures Secretary - Margaret has stepped down leaving this post vacant, however, Stephen Major has volunteered to take on the role of Fixtures Secretary but not as a Committee role. He will liaise with Margaret during the coming months.

The current Committee were prepared to stand again and were voted in, proposed by Peter Hudson and seconded by Bill Moore.

12. Proposals

Peter Hudson stated that he disliked playing across the green and thought that all friendly and league matches should be played up and down.

This will be discussed at Committee meetings but Peter also stated that play across had improved last year and had definitely helped to keep the green in better condition. He also stated that there is a skill to playing across, many clubs use short jacks and we should be using it to our advantage.

13. AOB

Steve Pape stated that some damage on the green occurred when bowlers could not bend enough and could we get a ball release piece of equipment for members to use. Peter agreed and the Committee will look into it.

Steve also asked about a crisp monitor, or could we use Mick. This will also be discussed at Committee.

Jeff thanked all those who have been helping on the green with the work, in particular Mark Collins who although leaving the club due to relocation has been very helpful.

Steve also reminded bowlers that it is important to support the SC, ie. No Social Club - no Bowls.

The meeting closed at 8 p.m.