

FLEET SOCIAL BOWLING CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 5th 2023

Opening Remarks: Lou opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the AGM.

1. Apologies Received from: Michael Ankers, Douglas Millard, Janice Fleuty, Margaret Hankin, Martyn Flanagan, Dave Gale, Gary Burkey, Ian Shrimpton and Jan Lucas. There were 39 members present. Lou then asked for a minutes silence to remember those who had passed away since the last AGM. These were: Ernie Jasper and Betty Hood's husband Clive who was a strong supporter of the Club.

2. Minutes of the Previous AGM

The minutes of the last AGM were proposed by Peter Hudson and seconded by Stephen Major. There were no matters arising from the Feb 2023 AGM minutes.

3. President's Address

Lou reported that this had been a special year celebrating the centenary of the Club. The game against Bowls England attended by the President of Bowls England and also our local MP, was a highlight of the year, also the match against local clubs which Bill and the ladies organised with an afternoon tea. He thanked Bill and all those involved. It had been another good year for recruitment with the Open Weekend, thanks again to all those who organised the event, delivered leaflets and helped. Over 60 people visited with many new members joining. The U3A has also contributed to some of our newer members. Lou thanked the Committee, especially Bill for all his good work throughout this year. Congratulations to the A&D teams with the A team gaining promotion and grateful thanks to all those who help Mike W and Trevor with the green. Also, thanks to Ben for all the fund raising activities; the BBQ at his home and the end of season dinner and all the breakfast meetings. Thanks to Dave Bacon for the plants and finally thank you to all the bowlers who make this such a friendly Club to be a member of.

4. Secretary's Report

Maggie thanked the Bowls Committee for their help and Audrey for dealing with the ladies matters. We remain affiliated to: Bowls England, Bowls Hampshire, North Hants Women's Bowling Association, Aldershot and District Bowling Association, the Stan Hardman league and the Blackwater Valley. This year we will not however be rejoining the Blackwater Valley league. Competitions were entered with varying degrees of success. Members have been informed that the lists for the County Competitions for 2024 have just been received and an e-mail will be sent soon asking if there are any entries, Entry lists for A&D competitions will be sent out later. Congratulations to all who entered the 2023 Club competitions, entries for 2024 are made when you enrol although there will be a chance for late entries at the beginning of May 2024. Last year we introduced a mixed pair's competition, maybe next year we can have a ladies pairs? There will

be a full season of friendly matches and the fixture card will be available early next year. Members were reminded to volunteer to play in the friendly matches and the Stan Hardman. This is now much easier with BIAS. Finally, a big thank you to Bill for all his expertise and great work over the year.

Information is sent out by e-mail; please do let me know if you don't appear to be receiving any.

5. Treasurer's Report

Tim reported that he is unable to give a full report as the AGM is before the end of the year, however, he gave a financial statement as things are at present. There will be an EGM in Feb with the full accounts. Currently there has been an income of £12,400, money spent is £14,400. This leaves a deficit of £2000. Income comes from Subs, Match fees, green Fees, and competitions, Social Club contributions and Fundraising also. Expenditure has been £9000 on the green and irrigation; mower repair, plus a new rotary mower for winter mowing, and water rates. The year started with £5,500 and so with the deficit reserves will be about £3000 this year. Looking forward, less will be spent on the green, however, we need to build up reserves as we may need a new primary mower at some time and this will cost £8000.

Fees for 2024 will go up to £90. Steve Pape queried if £5 of the £10 is for BIAS. Tim said it was for the overall expenditure. Social Club contributions are now ceasing.

Jeff Bevins asked if the accounts will be published before the EGM. This is the intention.

Bob asked about the VAT. We are able to claim VAT back through the Social Club, many other bowls clubs cannot do this.

Jeff Bevins asked if leasing a new mower was an option. Kathy said any finance agreements would have to be done through the main Club.

Andy Pickup asked if £10 increase was enough. Tim hopes so.

6. Club Captains Report

Bill provided a very detailed report about his year as Captain, he thanked many people and finished by saying that personal circumstances have meant that he will be unable to carry on as captain. His full report is attached at Annex A.

7. Constitution Update

The Committee had updated the constitution to take account of different requirements within the club, updating the Executive Committee, dress code, AGM date and bank mandate. Despite previous discussion and the new constitution pinned on the wall in the social club, Kathy Jasper said it could not be accepted at this AGM as the membership had not been clearly notified of the changes. This will now be done at the EGM in February.

8. Ladies Captain Report

Janice was unable to attend but had sent a report. She thanked all the ladies for their continued support and was pleased to see so many new lady bowlers. The Club entered the Blackwater Valley League, but were unable to field a team on several occasions and we managed to win the wooden spoon this year which is displayed in the Club. The ladies will not be entering this league next year as there is very little support for it. With no ladies teams there will not be a need for a lady captain next year. Congratulations to Maggie, Margaret and Judy who reached the final of the North Hants Triples; sadly they lost to Fleet United by a very narrow margin. Lastly she thanked Bill for all his hard work.

9. League Matches

a) A&D

Bill had mentioned the A&D in his report. Maggie however explained that the A&D AGM is on November 6th and at this time there are no nominations for persons to run the league or the competitions. If no one volunteers there will be no leagues or competitions next year.

Stephen asked if there were enough members enlisted to play if we have 3 teams. Bill said 39 had signed up so far. Stephen has volunteered to help with the C team.

Ben who will shortly be attending the A&D AGM with Maggie, discussed the proposal that has been put forward that the Division 3 should be triples. Some discussion took place including the point that it is the training ground for Divisions 2 and 1 and if players haven't practiced playing with 2 woods they will find it more difficult when called upon to play with 2 woods. The floor voted that the Committee make the decision.

b) Stan Hardman

Peter S and Peter H took over from Roger Peck and decided to make it more competitive and rotated 27 players over 14 matches. Next season it is planned to have 2 teams, playing in 2 different areas, all local. 6 ladies will be needed, please tick the box at enrolment. Peter suggested that the 2 teams should have names, he suggested Kestrels and Merlins, but Wagtails was also suggested and will replace Merlins.

10. Fund raising Report

Ben reported on the various events that had taken place during the year, he thanked everyone involved in the BBQ in his garden, making £280 for Club funds. The Annual dinner this year was held at the Army Golf Club and was very successful. This venue will be considered again for future years. A successful skittles evening was held in Feb and the Social breakfasts have also been very successful keeping members in touch with each other over the winter months.

Besides more breakfasts, a skittles evening and a wine tasting is being planned. He thanked Dave Bacon, Peter Hudson and Kathy who helped with the running of the social events.. Finally a thank you to all members for supporting and providing raffle prizes, attending and general helping.

11. Website and communication

Mike G reminded members that the website is now up and running and to take a look. Now that we do it ourselves we are saving money from the previous arrangement. There is also the requirement for the Club (as a whole) to have a safeguarding officer. We do have a volunteer and there will be more information on this over the next 6 months.

12. Fixture and Competitions

Maggie reported that the fixture card is in preparation and information about area and district and Club competitions will be sent out as usual. Betty asked that all matches should have a time to meet at the social club for those who need a lift.

13. Election of Club Officials for 2024

There had been no new nominations, so some of the present committee had agreed to stand again and were voted in. Bill is standing down as Captain and there were no volunteers for either his post or that of vice Captain. However there were nominations for 3 new members to go on the Committee, Ben Holt, Peter Sunderland and Dan Rogers. All committee members were voted in.

Committee for 2024 will be as follows:

President - Lou Foulger

Vice President - Judy Brown

Secretary - Maggie Marsh

Ass Sec - Audrey Salter

Treasurer - Tim Kite

Fixtures Sec - Margaret Hankin

Green Rep - Trevor Bromelow

Membership Sec - Dave Bacon

Communications - Mike Gilbert

Other committee members Ben Holt, Peter Sunderland, Dan Rogers.

14. Proposals

Jeff Bevins had proposed a drawn Rinks competition, the Committee had already agreed this and will come up with a date.

He also proposed a 2 wood league; this was decided against at this time.

15. AOB

Stephen Major suggested an award to target new players, Player of the Year. Committee will consider. He suggested the word 'competitive' be inserted into the Objectives of the Club in the constitution at Clause 4c, ie. maintain and seek to further the **competitive** reputation and standing of the Bowling Club. To be considered.

Steve Pape reminded members that there is a quiz twice a month and speakers on the alternate Wednesdays. Please support your Club.

The meeting ended at 11.30 a.m.

MENS CAPTAINS REPORT
AGM 5th NOVEMBER 2023

At our last AGM we looked forward to celebrating our centenary - and I do believe we can reflect back that we did this well with the two fantastic events we had to mark this occasion over the summer - against a Bowls England celebration team, where we were honoured to have the President of UK bowls and his wife in attendance, and our match against our local clubs. It was Maggie who took the initiative to hold these events, drove it all forward and also sourced the pens, shirts, pads and badges. Many thanks to everyone who put so much work in to make these occasions so successful, in particular of course to Maggie.

Again our most important asset is the green. Many of you are not aware of all the work Mike Wilkins has done for several years behind the scenes – coming over to the green to mow every Monday, swishing the green, repairing fox and bird damage and turning up at short notice to rectify issues. We are very much indebted to Mike Wilkins for all his work on a daily basis, particularly in what has been an extremely difficult year for him with the loss of Jan. Many thanks Mike. Trevor has joined up with Mike this season to expand our expertise and Trevor has updated you on all the work that has been undertaken post season, our plans going forward and help required from the membership so we bear fruit from our investment.

A big thanks to all the mowers and swishers throughout the season, and those who took time to arrive early before matches and roll ups to prepare the green. Also, thanks to Peter (and of course Judy when she's needed) for all the work he does quietly behind the scenes which many of you do not see.

Another highlight has been the pre and post season work parties, the buzz on the green as all those who came along mucked in to get the works done in record time was incredible. I have never seen the fence panels painted so quickly. Some issues were highlighted pre-season around the leaking ladies changing rooms and in particular the walkway deterioration. Trevor decided to encamp himself to the club for a week to take on the repair and painting ably supported by Alex and Andy. Many thanks to them and everyone else who helped with all this work.

We held another very successful open weekend driven by Steve Clarke, 2500 leaflets were delivered, advertising put in place and over two days we were constantly busy looking after new potential bowlers. A record number signed up to join us and are integrating into the club. Welcome all. Many thanks to Steve and Mike Gilbert and all the others who helped.

A big change has been that for the first time we have had sponsors boards around the green. Many thanks to Mike Gilbert, Jeff Bevins and Michael Ankers and all others who helped bring these sponsors on board and to the sponsors themselves for supporting the club. You will also have seen the new web site and thanks to Mike & Peter Sunderland for the work here.

We introduced BIAS this season for match management and club competitions. Training sessions were held, and guidance notes were issued to bring members on board. Whilst there was understandable some trepidation on making this step it has brought many benefits, particularly to those managing matches and games. Many thanks to Jeff Davis and Dave Bacon for all the work

with me on this.

Outside of bowls we have again had a very enjoyable social season, the new breakfast and quizzes over the winter have been much enjoyed, skittles as always, a great fun evening and who can forget the memorable summer BBQ. After many years we have also started bringing back breakfasts before bowling events which makes the day more of an event. Finally, we held a very enjoyable dinner and awards night at the Army GC. I would like to thank Ben and his team for all the work they have put in to arrange such enjoyable events and to Mick, Jenny, and Jo for the catering.

Thanks also to support from the main club in particular Mick, Jenny, Jo, Kathy and Angie serving drinks and food throughout the season which adds to our enjoyment. We are lucky to be part of a social club so don't have to operate and run our own bar and catering. A plea to all is please remember to support the club not only over the summer but over the winter.

I did say at our last AGM that we ought to review the structure of the club - this has been done in conjunction with the updating of our constitution. We now have club captain and vice-captain (not men's and ladies) and formalised Membership and Communication roles, and not before time have a Green representative on the committee.

With all that I have said so far it could be forgotten with all this great activity across the club we did actually play some bowls.

Friendlys this season have been very successful with some enjoyable matches against our regular opposition. Thanks as always to the captains of the day for taking charge of matches.

Stan Hardman under the two Peters Sunderland & Hudson has been more successful in terms of results than for many years in what is becoming a more competitive league. Thanks Gents. We are looking to running a second team next season to meet increased demand to play.

A&D has been a mixed year - the A team gaining promotion to the Premier league for the first time since last century, sadly the B team did just slip down a division. This may have been as we looked to rotate selection to meet big demand to play rather than pick maybe our strongest rinks and maintain consistent rink selection. We are considering entering a C team next season if demand warrants it. Thanks to the two Dave's Bacon and Gale, and Ben for helping each week with selection and captaining the teams.

Overall we will be looking to how we can review selection across the board next season to try and ensure a fair and consistent selection is seen as well as allowing newer bowlers to learn in the company of more experienced bowlers.

Roll ups - from none a few years back there are several taking place each week to allow proactive and friendly games and our newer bowlers to grow their skills.

Internal club events have been well supported despite bad weather at the Fred Gardner triples. The September shield was oversubscribed for the first time I can recall so perhaps this can be looked at in 2024 to ensure all can play who wish too.

Club competitions have been successful, and it appears easier to organise using BIAS as minimal chasing up of games was required. Congratulations to all the winners.

We held a very successful dinner and awards night a few weeks back where the club competition trophies were presented. One of our new sponsors did offer us the opportunity to have a new trophy. Looking back over the years we have recognised off the green contributions verbally and in writing at AGMs but nothing formal was ever done to recognise this work formally. It was felt that perhaps a special award could be nice to recognise someone who had put a great deal of effort into the season away from bowling. There have been so many people deserving of such extra recognition over the years who I am sure you know. This in no way was to undermine anyone who has done work in the past or made huge contributions in the current season. There has been some discord I understand following the award this year – this was not meant to be the case and sorry if we have upset anyone. Perhaps this award needs to be reviewed on how it is decided in 2024.

I would like to thank all the committee for their support throughout the season, in particular Maggie who does so much to make this club successful, usually unheralded and behind the scenes every day. What we have learnt is that across the club many small teams have got together to deliver all the jobs needed to make a successful club.

One person who does not bowl who always puts her all in to support us via raffles or organisation is Pat Foulger - many thanks Pat.

I have thanked many people above for all their efforts this season, but to all those I have not mentioned personally another big thank you, you know what you've done, and it is really appreciated by all.

Finally, I was looking to put myself forward for club captain next year but personal circumstances over the last few weeks mean I have sadly had to change my mind. I would still like to help the club as this is in my nature and after 35 years is such a big part of my life, and after a break away I will see where I can help.

Thanks for all your support over the last two seasons.

Bill Moore

5th November 2023