

NOTES FROM THE MEMBERS MEETING 11 NOVEMBER 2025

Apologies: Jeff Davis, Ketan Bavalia, Jeremy Edwards, Janice Fleuty, Margaret Hankin, Doreen Knight, Jim Lange, Jeff Bevins, Martin Rogers.

1. Introduction. 41 members were present. Lou welcomed everybody to the meeting.

2. Finance - Andy Shrimpton

Andy gave a brief outline of all the income and expenditure over the last year. There will be a full audited account at the end of December. Subs had increased by £1000 from the previous year with 91 members having signed up.

Income from Competition/leagues - £3395

Friendlies - £760

Green Fees - £1028

Internal Comps - £511

Entertainment - £1327

Overall the revenue was £1000 higher than last year.

Monies spent include £10400 for the work on the LHS of the green.

Spend through this year is £21500.

£13500 will be spent on the RHS of the green later this year.

Currently cash in the bank is £20,000, with £4000 to come from VAT. Some sponsorship money may be coming in 2026 as several are up for renewal.

Nick asked if we were worried about funds, Andy replied that he was not unduly concerned.

Kevin asked about the front and back of the green. It is felt that this can be left for a couple of years. Apart from the above, there are no other major projects in the next couple of years.

Mike Ankers asked if we make a small profit each year. Andy reported that last year there was £4000 profit of which £1500 was donations.

3. Captains Report - Peter Sunderland

Peter thanked many members for all the work they do, including Trevor and his team on the green Mike and Ketan for all the work done to get the new kit. He praised the A&D league teams and also the Stan Hardman teams which all did well last year.

There is an opportunity to put in a 4th team in the A&D. Is this a good idea? (discussed later).

There were good results in the County and A&D competitions. Peter has passed the role of A&D Competitions Secretary to Ben and taken on the role of VP of Bowls Hampshire.

We will host a game for Bowls Hampshire against the A&D next summer with Fleet Social putting in a rink and a meal after. Helpers may be needed.

Rink bookings have worked well although we may look at another system other than BIAS as the developer seems to be working alone.

Several coaching sessions were held by Peter and Ben, more next year.

One hot topic - Several bowlers have commented on the 'bouncing' bowls which damage the green. A lot of money has been spent on the green and so it may come to caution/penalise those bowlers who repeatedly bounce their bowls. Please ask if you need to try the arm.

There will be an IOW tour again 17-19 April; so far he has 18, if you are interested please let Peter know.

Lastly the work on the RHS side of the green. Repairs are urgent and cannot be delayed. We have accepted the proposal from the builder, working with our neighbour. The work will commence on the 17th Nov. The fencing and decking will be replaced by us. This will cost £2500 to £3500. Kathy said that the fencing costs will be paid by the Social Club.

To help with costs we are considering a one off increase to 2026 subscriptions by £30, we also have other fund raising ideas.

Peter finished by thanking everyone for a successful 2025 and he looks forward to seeing everyone on the green again in 2026.

4. The Green – Trevor Bromelow

The weather last year was somewhat testing for the green, however it did recover well once the sun came out. We have large water tanks which helped but a failure of one sprinkler head didn't help the corner of the green, the system is old and may need more heads replaced. We need to learn the lesson of getting the mats down quickly at the end of the season as well as at the beginning. Mowers have gone for servicing but are also getting old. We have 2 green bins now and that has improved the removal of the grass. The flowers at the end of the green also looked good thanks to Ben.

The renovations that took place in October have gone well and cutting of the grass has already begun. Thanks to Andy Pickup for his help during his absence. Trevor reported that the support he has had from so many has been a delight and he was very grateful to all those who helped to maintain the green. If anyone else would like to join the team please do come forward.

Kevin and Nick said that they felt that there were not enough to field a 4th A&D team. Several considered that 4th team will help and be a training team. There are possibilities to field a team with only 9 or play on an alternative day when more people could play.

Stephen - Can Bounce mats be put down early in the season even using 2 where needed? Some bowlers bowl over the mats, what's the answer?

New instructions may be needed for use of bounce mats in future.

If players from another team are bouncing the bowls, this should be reported to skip, Captain, etc.

Play will remain in both directions.

5. Fund Raising - Ben Holt

The events, including a race night, outdoor skittles, BBQ and Tombola, have raised around £1500. There is an indoor skittles next week and there will be a breakfast in January.

Methods for raising funds include donations, increase in subs and a possible 100 club. A raise of hands showed interest in all. It was suggested a space for a donation on the enrolment form.

Ben is retiring from the fund raising committee and taking over Membership Secretary. Steve asked if anyone can host the BBQ, Ben and himself already having done it.

6. Club Kit - Mike Gilbert

The new kit had been well received by all. He had 2 special shirts designed for Ben and Peter who are now official coaches. There will be one more bulk order in the spring.

Reminder that waterproofs should be white or Club kit and caps preferably navy blue, possibly white but not with football logos or makers names. Straw hats are ok.

7. Committee – Lou Foulger

Lou reported that the Committee are happy to stay on and thanked all those who contributed their time to do all the jobs.

8. AOB

Michael Ankers commented on the roll ups. Tuesday is always well organised, not so Friday, where some members seem to be left out at times. We need to ensure newer members are made welcome at all roll ups.

Stephen suggested some roll ups, or some rinks on roll ups, be 2-woods only.

Steve suggested that the end of season presentation could be at the Club, there was also approval of the current system of a meal out making it more of an occasion.

Stephen reminded that all friendlies should have more ladies in the teams. He is arranging a match at the Bohemian Bowls Club for 6 rinks in 2027. Betty suggested Flowers be sent to Margaret Hankin as she is retiring from the Committee.

Sets of Bowls. The Club has several sets of bowls for use, but they should not be removed from the Club.

It was requested that we have a ladies pair's competition now that we have more ladies.

Dave commented that there were too many competitions at the moment should we continue with the Club league competition? Some members showed support for this league, but not everybody.

There was little support for all competitions to be open to all.

The Meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.