

## **MINUTES OF THE AGM**

### **Woodhall Spa Town Bowls Club**

**Clubhouse 2pm Saturday 2nd November 2024**

#### **1 Welcome**

31 Full Members were welcomed along.

The Chairman opened the meeting with a minute's silence for members and friends of the club who are no longer with us since the last AGM.

#### **2 Apologies:**

Paul Fox, Steve Smith, David Kirton, Karen Kirton, Jean Girling, Ron Nicholson, Sue Anderson & John Brown.

#### **3 Matters Arising from the last AGM held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

The minutes were agreed as correct.

#### **4 Chairman's Report (Dave Walsh)**

The Chairman reported that we still have a good membership, and it is especially pleasing to see newer members getting involved in the league bowling.

We will be moving away from using Grassroots for our Green maintenance now and have eight members in the new Green party, who work in two groups to complete the vast majority of our Green maintenance. There will be some equipment expenditure involved with this.

#### **5 Treasurer's Report (Steve Anderson)**

The Treasurer reported that independent examination of the accounts had been completed and approved by Judith Brainthwaite & Maggie Hanchett.

Net assets stand at £20,688, up £1001 from the previous year.

Profit & Loss is made up from Total income £12,160 (Membership fees, Green Fees/Team Receipts, Car Boot and related fundraising at events). Total expenses £11,961 (Green maintenance, Utilities, Insurance, Legal Fees & a one off legal expenditure). With £800 of sponsorship added on, we get the overall asset increase figure of £1001.

The Treasurer compared 22-23 with 23-24: Income was down £3,043 but expenditure was also down by £4,360.

In 2024 we have had to contend with several issues which have eaten into the income of the club, the main ones being: Loss of 1940's weekend, Reduction in membership and the one-off legal bill for land registration.

In response, The Committee implemented measures to combat these losses including: No unnecessary infrastructure improvements, increased Green fees, removing milage payments for away matches, negotiating a cheaper energy contract and seeking more sponsorship/advertising.

Balance sheets show net assets remaining about the same over the last three periods: 30<sup>th</sup> Sep 22 - £20,832, 30<sup>th</sup> Sep 23 - £19,686 & 30<sup>th</sup> Sep 24 - £20,688.

In summary it would appear the measures the Committee have implemented along with efforts of you the club members, have prevented a severe loss in net assets of the club in the last financial year. This leaves the club in a healthy financial position going forward, still resilient to any unexpected major expenses.

With this in mind, The committee have recommended that we do not need to raise subs, green fees etc but simply carry on as we have in 23/24. There are plans in progress as outlined by the Chair to take on more Green maintenance; which whilst involving capital expenditure this coming year, will soon lead to a considerable decrease in expense long term.

Discussion was held around the cost of additional Greenkeeping equipment and moving away from Grassroots. We will still have access to a piecework menu from Grassroots for anything the equipment is too costly for, or we could consider renting this equipment as needed. Ron Nicholson & Richard Chester are currently working to secure grants for additional work and cover the equipment for Greenkeeping however the Greenkeeping equipment we spend out on will also become assets of the club.

## **6 Secretary's Report (Sam Elgar)**

The Secretary thanked those who have sent news and photos to her for the website and to share with Val Sylvester who kindly continues to produce our newsletter and magazine articles. These are much appreciated, please keep them coming to: [secretary.wstbc@outlook.com](mailto:secretary.wstbc@outlook.com)

The Secretary stated that Paul Bastiani continues to do a great job as Membership Secretary ensuring all members email addresses and details are maintained and this in turn allows communications to be received by all. Please let Paul know if you change any details to ensure you receive all correspondence.

The Secretary reported that it is great to have been able to enter some of our bowlers into County Competitions this year after the Lincolnshire Bowling Association Honorary Secretary asked her to encourage you at last year's AGM.

The flower troughs looked amazing this summer. Despite losing 1940's weekend, this club always steps up to a challenge and there has been the most innovative fundraising, cost cutting and sponsorship encouragement yet over the 2024 season. This club is a wonderful place we can all be SO very proud of. Well done.

## **7 Independent Examiners**

As per the Treasurers report, independent examination of the accounts had been completed and signed off by Judith Brainthwaite & Maggie Hanchett for 2023-24.

The 2024-25 independent examiners were confirmed as Judith Brainthwaite & Di Redman.

## **8 Report from the Fixture Secretary (Phil Redman)**

Phil had nothing new to report but as last year, it is really helpful for Phil when he shares a draft Fixtures list that it is thoroughly checked, and he is advised of any inaccuracies. Drafts will again be shared with Captains in 2025, as well as Committee to try to iron out any inaccuracies at the earliest opportunity.

### **Friendly Fixtures Secretary (moving to Paul Bastiani for 2025 season)**

Paul talked about our visit to Holt Bowls Club this year and that we have an invite back in 2025 season. With it being a 2.5hour journey, Paul gauged interest in him securing a bus for approx. £30/head with a view to visiting the seaside on route, bowling in the afternoon and socialising at their licenced clubhouse before returning for approx. 2030hrs. A show of hands demonstrated there to be much interest, and Paul will look to arrange this.

Paul has also begun contacting geographically closer clubs to provide more weekend fixtures and will not be disheartened by our nearest club declining.

### **9 Report from the Competitions Secretary (Pauline & Kevin Mallon)**

Kevin reported the competitions went well this year although not all the trophies were engraved in time for Presentations Day.

We look to run the same competitions in 2025 season, thank you to all who took part.

### **10 Team Reports**

Patrick Newton reported that the **Wednesday Wanderers Team** won 7/5 matches against the Woodpeckers this season, a reversal of last season's fortunes. The Wanderers finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the league. The home and away format in the North section is set to continue in 2025 season.

Paul Bastiani reported **Wednesday Woodpeckers Team** had been a wonderful campaign which has seen them as winners of the North division. This was made sweeter by beating local rivals Horncastle by one point. Following this they played in the North v South final against Sleaford Road at Billingham. Not content with this they then played themselves into the semi-final of the Wilkinson Shield. This was played at Marham against, once again, Horncastle. They managed to beat Horncastle quite convincingly which meant playing yet another final against Eslaforde. Sadly, they were found wanting in both finals but received the North Trophy at Billingham and a monetary prize of £30 at Marham. This has been donated to Club funds. Quite a remarkable and successful year, I'm sure you will agree.

Paul Bastiani reported from the **Monday night B Team** that once again this was well supported, however, they had mixed results and eventually finished up a credible 8<sup>th</sup>. Paul expressed his extreme gratitude to the members of

both teams for their continued support and enthusiasm, even when occasionally matches didn't go as well as they would have liked.

Ron Nicholson captained the **Thursday Evening Competition** in 2024, a few more players would be appreciated next year. Supporting this and the **Tuesday Trophy** allow players to share experience, novice players can only progress when they play with those of more experience. With all games being at home, these games raise valuable funds for our club without incurring any travel expenses. Please consider competing next year either to build on your experience or encourage others by sharing that already gained.

Dave Walsh reported that the **Friday night B Team** finished third in the League this year having been promoted as a team dropped out.

## 11 Croquet

Val Sylvester who is also a member of the Croquet Club based at Jubilee Park explained that our Green quality is admired by many sports people including members of the Croquet Club and being aware that there are many sessions, particularly over the weekend where our Green is not utilised, had arranged a demonstration of croquet that could be played for the Committee at the last meeting on 26.10.24. This demonstrated that croquet can be played without causing any damage to the Green.

Val explained that AC croquet is the original game which is much more precise and requires a good quality Green.

There are currently 6 people interested from Jubilee in becoming members of our club if we are able to put on sessions of croquet. This could potentially bring competitions as well as members to us, along with related revenue.

Val explained that if a proposed trial takes place, sharing the Green would not mean interrupting bowls but working sessions of croquet around bowling. Val demonstrated that there have been 17 free slots this season each week so croquet, needing only 5 could easily be worked into some of these and still offer flexibility in moving slots to accommodate events such as Friendly Fixtures/Open Pairs & Triples.

A discussion took place where questions were answered including appropriate shoes are worn by croquet players, the equipment required fits into a bag so would not cause storage issues, some communal mallets could be sought out to allow all full members to try croquet with tuition, as bowls are available for the new members croquet would bring to try bowls. There was concern regarding reported damage caused to the Sleaford Road Bowls Green which already hosts croquet, different reports had been provided by

different members there however it was agreed that if the croquet players join WSTBC as members in order to play croquet, they would be absolutely committed to ensuring no damage is caused to the Green as indeed the high standard of our Green is the very reason they wish to join us. It was agreed that in a trial, if damage was caused then the trial would be halted immediately.

A vote was then held for a 12-month trial period hosting croquet, with players becoming members of WSTBC. In favour were 14. Against were 10. Giving a majority in favour and meaning the 12-month trial will go ahead.

## **12 Election of Officers**

The Chair, Treasurer and Secretary wished to remain, with no proposals received to stand against them. The following was approved:

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Chair     | Dave Walsh     |
| Treasurer | Steve Anderson |
| Secretary | Sam Elgar      |

## **13 Election of Committee**

Hazel & Brian Trinder stood down from Committee - Thank you for all your work over the years.

Two seconded proposals were received: Val Sylvester to join the Committee as Croquet Secretary as well as Ian Kendall to join the Committee.

With the remainder of the existing Committee re-standing, Committee was confirmed as follows:

|                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Greenkeeper                           | Ron Nicholson   |
| Social Secretary                      | Beverley Redman |
| Croquet Secretary                     | Val Sylvester   |
| Sponsorship Liaison                   | Terry Butchart  |
| Property/Membership/Friendly Fixtures | Paul Bastiani   |
| Joint Competitions Secretary          | Pauline Mallon  |
| Joint Competitions Secretary          | Kevin Mallon    |

Fixtures Secretary

Phil Redman

General

Ian Kendall

Responsibility for Safeguarding and Bar will be allocated within the Committee at their next meeting.

#### **14 Leagues to enter in 2025**

Our entries will be dependent on sufficient player engagement to be able to continue with the following League entries. Teams have been entered under their new names rather than A & B:

MONDAYS – Boston 3 wood – The Sparklers & The Spartans.

TUESDAYS – Boston 2 wood – 1 Team (WSTBC).

WEDNESDAYS – Woodhall Friendly League – Woodpeckers & Wanderers.

FRIDAYS – Coningsby 2 wood – The Sparrowhawks & The Stars

#### **15 Election of Captains**

Teams can only run if Captains are agreed, the following were agreed:

##### MONDAYS:

Boston 3 wood: The Sparklers – Tom Scholey

The Spartans – David Kirton

##### TUESDAYS:

Boston 2 wood: WSTBC - Dave Walsh

##### WEDNESDAYS:

Woodhall Friendly League: The Woodpeckers – Paul Bastiani

The Wanderers – Patrick Newton

##### THURSDAYS:

FRIDAYS:

Coningsby 2 wood: The Sparrowhawks – Tom Scholey

The Stars – Dave Walsh

**16 Chair's Closing Comments**

The Chairman thanked all for attending and asked we be patient with the new Greenkeeping Parties.

Patrick Newton thanked the Committee for all the work they do, including that not seen.

It was clarified that there is no AOB on the agenda as all proposals must be directed through the nominations/suggestions box on the appropriate form, to be opened prior to AGM as had been communicated over the preceding month.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 1456hrs.