

Minutes of the 92nd Annual General Meeting of Redcar Borough Park Bowling Club held in the club house on Sunday 31st March 2019 at 11am.

Attendance

President Sylvia Thacker, Treasurer John Branch, Secretary John Selley and 29 members as listed on the attendance sheet:

Andy Baxter, Barney Bassett, John Blackett, Eddie & Eileen Brettle, Kath Delacoe, Brian Douglass, Ian & Steve Forrest, Tony Fountain, Peter Fulton, Dennis Griffin, Maura Grimley, Andrew Harrison, Maureen Hickman, Brian Hockney, Alan W & Mary Jones, Alice & Ted Kent, Maureen McGurk, Maureen McLane, Sylvia & Kevin Nixon, Brian Oxendale, Charlie Parvin, Geoff Piper, Mike Richardson & Sheila Selley.

1. The President's remarks followed by the reading of rule 3 of the club rules and constitution: The objects of the club.

Sylvia commented "Good morning everyone and thank you for attending the 2019 AGM. This last year has passed so quickly and soon my time as President will come to an end. I would like you all to know how much I have enjoyed my year and thank everyone for their support especially the members of the General Committee and especially the 2 Johns for their advice and guidance. My thanks also go to all the club members for their support not only to me but each other. Together we have seen both sad and happy times. Thanks also to all the volunteers who have helped keep the club matters running smoothly. Those people who work behind the scenes making sure that the facilities are kept to a high standard for the benefit of us all.

The sun shone throughout the outdoor season and continued during some of the winter months when we were all back indoors. The men's YCIBA team won division 2 and were promoted and came 2nd in the Challenge Cup. They were runners up in the over 55's league and qualified for the Challenge Trophy. Jim Atkinson, Alan Westwood, Graham Russell and Maurice Roe won the YCIBA 4's beating Thornaby in the final. The ladies still have one game to play in the Yorkshire league with the possibility of ending runners up. Finally, I hope that the incoming president has a successful and rewarding year"

She then read rule 3 of the club rules and constitution: The objects of the Club

- a) To promote, foster and safeguard the level green game of bowls and other sporting activities.
- b) To adopt and enforce the laws of Bowls England and the E.I.B.A. Ltd.
- c) To organise the game within the club for the benefit of all its members.
- d) The maintenance of the club house for recreation, social and amenity purposes for members and their guests.

2. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from the following:

Pam Bergdahl, Greg Brown, Ian Campbell, Barbara Douglass, Brenda Finnigan, Mark Fleming, June Fountain, Margaret Hockney, Sandra Larry, Alison & David Lyth, Sheila Owens - Pitt, Stella Parvin, Allen Snowball & Chris Thomas

3. Obituaries.

Members stood for a minute's silence in memory and honour of:

John & Wyn Atkinson, Derek Beckham, Ann Clapham, Richard H Goodchild, Barbara Jewell, Ken Kirby, Jim Lawton, Albert Martin, John McCabe, Tom McCabe, Maurice Metcalfe, Paddy Murphy, Bob Nicholson, Mike Scott, John Taylor & Fred Vickers.

4. Minutes of the 91st Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 25th March 2018.

Minutes of 90th Annual General Meeting were circulated and read. They were accepted as true record, on a proposal by Andy Baxter, seconded by Brian Douglass.

5. Matters arising from those minutes.

There were no matters arising.

6. Secretary's report.

John Selley's report read as follows;

"Good morning. I was grateful to receive some old photographs from Brian Douglass showing the construction of this Club house and of the members enjoying President's day in 1986. The progress the Club has made since then is amazing, with each year bringing more improvements. This year we have transformed the indoor bowling hall and the feedback I have received from visitors is "wow!" Our Club is not just a bowling Club but an important focal point for the local area, with the Friends of Borough Park and Redcar Cemetery groups both using our facilities for the benefit of the local community. Most of you will know that the Club has a website. We have also developed a face book page where you can see some interesting videos and pictures. Search for Redcar Borough Park.

Indoor bowling

Alan W Jones is stepping down as Indoor Secretary. Alan has been a big help to me over the last few years and I am very grateful for that. If anyone is interested in taking on this position, please see me. As Sylvia has already mentioned, we have had some notable bowling successes this season. League entries were down slightly on last year but there was an increase in players rolling up, playing social bowls and entering the competitions. Beginners and improver sessions have also been very well attended. Entry forms for the 2019 / 2020 indoor leagues are now on the notice boards. We are always open to suggestions with regards to creating new leagues so if you have any, please see me. Finals Day weekend is scheduled for the 13th and 14th of April but some finals must be played earlier. Keep an eye on the notice boards for details. Thanks go to our new competition secretary Brian Oxendale who has ensured things have run smoothly.

Outdoor bowling

We have been busy over the winter period cutting back overgrown shrubbery and keeping the paths clean. Thanks to Malcolm Smith and Janet and David Coles for doing this work. Both greens have been aerated to a depth of about 10 inches which will improve drainage and the root structure of the grasses.

We have no official tours arranged through Yorkshire, but we have a friendly match arranged against a group of bowlers from Essex in June. Borough Park will host the YBA ladies Northern Trophy tie vs Durham on Friday 10th May and the Stella Logan tie vs Northumberland on Friday 21st June. Yorkshire Patrons play us here on Tuesday 23rd July and we will also host their game against Durham HVPs on Sunday 4th August. All these events involve meals after the games. We are fortunate to have an excellent caterer in Ian Forrest who has raised the profile of the Club by providing high quality food at very reasonable prices. Everyone likes coming here! A round of applause for Ian please.

The number of outdoor bowlers has declined. To try to reverse this trend we will be holding a few open days and advertising them on Zetland FM. But the best advertising comes by word of mouth. Please spread the word that bowling is good for you. Invite your friends and family to come along and have a go.

There will a short preseason bowls meeting after this AGM when the fixture books will be distributed so if you are playing outdoors this season please stay for that. Finally, a big thank you to our Committee and to all who have played their part this year in the smooth running of the Club. As I say every year, a lot of work goes on behind the scenes without which the Club would not be where it is today.

That concludes my report."

7. Treasurer's report.

Treasurer John Branch provided copies of the Redcar Borough Park Bowling Club Unaudited Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2017. He then read his report.

"The Club is in a sound financial position, with the accounts showing a net surplus for the year of £4,721. We are lucky in that we have a number of people who are prepared to give a lot of their time for no reward. Consequently, we have a first-class leisure facility which is run at a very reasonable cost to the members. Our aim is to have sufficient funds to be able to respond to emergencies and at the same time continue to improve the Club. We want to provide bowling and refreshments at a reasonable cost to our members and be a fair employer to our staff.

Club membership was 706 at the turn of the year. This has continued to decline slightly each year since 2015, when it was 749. I have just completed collection of the 2019 subscriptions and a further 53 have resigned or lapsed their membership. The surplus from the bar account of £2,111 is detailed on 'page 6' of the accounts. Bar sales were down around 10% giving a net return of just 5% after wages and costs were deducted. Wednesday and Friday evenings were traditionally our most profitable, but like a lot of other clubs and pubs, numbers were declining. Hence, I introduced a bar promotion of reduced prices on those evenings, which has had some success in improving attendance. Bar prices have increased this month to offset increases imposed by our suppliers.

'Page 5' of the accounts details the 'Income and Expenditure Account'. You will see our overall income is down on the previous year. The bar surplus being £5130 less and the Club lottery being £1250 less were significant factors. The Strawberry Tea and Christmas Fayre were very successful, producing a gross income of £965. Our thanks go to all who helped and to those who supported the events. With regard to the Government's gift aid scheme, I was able to claim back £625 for donations made in 2017.

On the expenditure side, our electricity consumption was down a further 15%, having dropped 5% in 2017. Gas consumption rose a further 8% in addition to the 7% rise in 2017. However, I notice a lower usage in both gas and electricity in the recent months of November 2018 through to February 2019. We now have 2 cleaners working to cover every day of the week, hence the rise in cleaning costs.

Expenditure on the indoor bowling hall lighting, ceiling, bowling carpet, underlay and front surround carpet totalled £80,971, for which we received a partial grant of £27,435. We also purchased a Bradshaw Bowls Buggy, a computer, a Cubb Weed Brush and 12 bowls collectors. The costs for all the above are shown on 'Page 8, Item 2' as additions to our fixed assets. Our defibrillator was also replaced with a more economical machine. John Selley and Tony Fountain are to be congratulated for taking over much of the servicing and maintenance of our outdoor greens' equipment, keeping down our greens' maintenance costs. I wish to extend my grateful thanks to Brian Douglass, who completes our VAT returns and Financial Statements. To Tony Fountain, John Selley, Brian Oxendale and Ian Forrest, who assist me with collections in my absence. Also, to everyone involved in playing a part, however small, in running the club's activities "

Charlie Parvin asked if there was any reason the Club Lottery membership was down. John Branch explained that there had been some resignations and that members were welcome to purchase additional numbers for just 50p each.

8. Independent auditors report.

Dennis Griffin read out the auditor's report; "An examination of the accounting documentation was carried out by checking samples of purchases, bank payments and receipts, wage details, bar takings, indoor income and membership sales for 2018. All items checked were accurate and correctly recorded. It is therefore our opinion that the records continue to be carried out in an accurate and efficient manner.

9. Election of officers.

The following nominations were proposed and seconded and agreed by the meeting members:

President.

Ian Forrest (proposed Sylvia Thacker, seconded John Selley)

Ian presented Sylvia with flowers on behalf of the Club. He remarked how proud he was to take on the role of Club President and thanked everyone for electing him.

Vice President

Mike Richardson (proposed Bruce Barwell, seconded Barney Bassett)

Secretary

John Selley (proposed Ian Forrest, seconded Brian Oxendale)

Treasurer

John Branch (proposed Dennis Griffin, seconded Mike Richardson).

Members of the General Committee

Andy Baxter (proposed John Selley, seconded Ian Forrest)

Greg Brown (proposed Tony Fountain, seconded John Selley)

Mike Richardson (proposed Bruce Barwell, seconded John Selley)

Sylvia Nixon (proposed John Branch, seconded Brian Oxendale)

Barney Bassett, Ian Forrest, Tony Fountain & Brian Oxendale remain as elected Committee members until the 2020 AGM.

10. Election of the ladies' secretary.

No nomination

Sylvia Thacker offered to take on the role of Outdoors Ladies Secretary.

Sylvia Nixon suggested she might take on the role of Ladies Secretary subject to seeing the job description.

11. Election of two independent auditors.

Peter Fulton (proposed Tony Fountain, seconded Charlie Parvin)

Steve Forrest (proposed Ian Forrest, seconded Kevin Nixon)

12. A.O.B.

No communications had been received.

There being no further business the President thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting at 11:40.

13. 2019 Pre-season outdoor bowls meeting.

A short meeting took place to discuss the coming season. Peter Fulton was unable to continue as the Vets C Captain. Charlie Parvin volunteered to take on this role.

Fixture books were distributed.