

Redcar Borough Park Bowling Club



Minutes of the 87th Annual General Meeting held in the club house on Sunday 30th March 2014.

Attendance

President: Chris Thomas, Secretary: John Selley, Treasurer: John Branch, Ladies Secretary: Ann Smith, Beryl Alderson, Pat Alderson, Brian Bell, Eileen & Eddie Brettle, Greg Brown, Ian Campbell, Ann Clapham, Jean Coates, Kevin Curtis, Win Day, Kath Delacoe, Brian & Ernie Douglass, Brenda Finnegan, Ian Forrest, Tony Fountain, Dennis Griffin, Maura Grimley, Allan Harrison, Maureen Hickman, Margaret Hockney, Mick Jewell, Alan & Mary Jones, Alison & Dave Lyth, Maureen McGurk, Maureen McLane, Ken Mitchell, Bill Nicholson, Kevin & Sylvia Nixon, Sheila Owens-Pitt, Brian Oxendale, Charles Parvin, Brian & Kath Pears, Reg Sigsworth, Allen Snowball, Sylvia Thacker & Eric Whitham.

1 Presidents remarks

1.1 President Chris Thomas opened the meeting with the following remarks:

"Good morning everyone and welcome to this the 2014 AGM.

This is my last duty as your President before I hand over the reins to your president for 2014.

2013 was another successful year for the club for both Ladies and Men in both the indoor and outdoor. I would like to mention some of the achievements our members have made. Congratulations to our Vets for winning the League and beating the north section in the play-off final; To John Paling for reaching the semi final of the Yorkshire County Competition with John Selley also reaching the quarter final and to Brian Bell and Chris Thomas for winning the E.B.A League Pairs; to Adrian Ward for becoming our club champion for the first time and to Irene Bellamy, wishing her every success in her role as Cleveland League President for 2014.

The indoor season has been very successful with the ladies winning the Yorkshire County Ladies 'A' Division and the men the Division 2 league and gaining promotion. The men's over 55's team finished third in Division 1. Borough Park also had six members representing Yorkshire County; Kath Delacoe and Beryl Alderson for the ladies and in the Seniors Liberty Trophy, Alan Jones, Terry Richardson, Alan Crossman and Eric Whorlton. In the Yorkshire county competitions, Mick Pluves and Vinny O'Neil won the 'champion of champions' pairs and Rodger Godley, Bob Turner, Alan Westwood and Alan Jones were finalists in the triples and fours. Well done to our ladies Kath Delacoe and Beryl Alderson for reaching the National over 60's Pairs quarter finals and congratulations and good luck to Kath Delacoe, Beryl Alderson, Margaret Hockney and Ann Smith for qualifying in the National Fours. The indoor competition's finals take place next Saturday; good luck to all the finalists.

I would like to thank the Greens Management Committee and volunteers for their extensive work and commitment in keeping the bowling green's to such a high standard and to Eileen Brettle, Dennis Griffin and Greg Brown for their time in organising all the club competitions and day events throughout the year.

I would also like to offer my personal thanks to everyone involved in playing their part, however small, in making this season enjoyable to myself and a success for Redcar Borough Park. Well done to all. And finally I wish everyone good health and every success for the coming 2014 season".

- 1.2 President Chris Thomas continued by reading out rule 3 of the club rules and constitution:

"The objects of the club shall be:

- ✓ To promote foster and safeguard the level green game of bowls and other sporting activities*
- ✓ To adopt and enforce the laws of Bowls England and the EIBA Ltd.*
- ✓ To organise the game within the club for the benefit of all its members*
- ✓ The maintenance of the club house for recreation, social and amenity purposes for members and their guests.*
- ✓ To assist the local authority to maintain and secure the outdoor bowling greens".*

2 Apologies

- 3** Apologies received from: Barbara Douglass, June Fountain, Joan Goodchild, Georgina & Ron Joyce, Stella Parvin, Bob & Norma Turner, Sheila Selley & Paul Thacker.

4 Obituaries

- 4.1 Members stood for a minutes silence in memory of:

Dora Ainley, Peter Amass, Geoff Annis, Michael P Bowcock, Steve Burns, Norman Crabb, Harry Dent, Leona Downing, Joseph Gent, Gillian Hainton-Smith, Nell Hamilton, Bernard Haw, Keith Nellist, Howard Pearce, Derek Ralston, Arthur Rutherford, Donald Thomas, Stanley Thompson, John Sam Weaver, Harry Weighell, William Wennington, Eva Whitham.

5 Minutes of the 86th Annual General Meeting

- 5.1 Written copies of the 86th AGM were circulated for attendees to read. The minutes were accepted as a true record, proposed by G Brown and seconded by K Nixon.

6 Matters arising

- 6.1 The application for solar panels was unsuccessful.
6.2 No other comments were made or matters raised.

7 Secretary's report

- 7.1 Secretary John Selley gave the following report:

"My report is in three sections; Indoor bowling, Outdoor bowling and Social aspects.

Indoor bowling:

First of all, many thanks to all those who contribute to the successful running of the

indoor bowls hall. I could name you all personally but in case I fail to mention anyone in particular I would just say that you know who you are and I really appreciate your efforts. There have been 2 accidents since Christmas with players tripping and falling when leaving the green and sustaining nasty cuts and bruises. The General Committee is concerned about this and is looking at measures to improve access to and from the green or at least minimise any injuries caused by stumbling onto the wooden edging on the banks and hopes to have these in place for next season.

The General Committee has agreed that the indoor by laws will be strictly enforced from the start of the 2014/15 season. As stated in these laws any team that has not fulfilled its fixtures and not paid for any cancellations could be subject to losing its league status. Team leaders will be reminded of this at Annual Indoor Bowls Meeting, at which next season's fixtures will be issued.

Entry sheets for the 2014/15 season are on the indoor notice board. Please contact Alan W. Jones if you have any ideas on how to increase participation in the leagues.

Moving on to Outdoor bowling:

The application for the Community Asset Transfer for the bowling greens has finally been resolved. The details have yet to be finalised but in principle a 25 year lease at nil rent has been agreed. The club will be liable for the legal fees but these will be capped at £2,000. So, the club is now responsible for the upkeep of the greens and all within the perimeter fencing. A big commitment and I am looking for as much help as possible from our members. There will be lots to do. The club has become what it is today because of its culture of volunteerism and we need that to continue. Last year attendant duty was abolished and I asked for volunteers to spend an hour or so on a morning doing odd jobs around the greens. Although we did get a few volunteers the general response was poor. In January I posted a notice asking members to help this summer and so far only 6 members have responded. It's very disappointing. Having a team to just to move the rink markers on a daily basis would be a big help.

Once the lease has been signed it will enable the club to apply for improvement grants. Estimates have been given for new paving around both greens and this is something the committee will be considering.

It will be a busy year with the club hosting Irene Bellamy's Cleveland League President's day in May and the Ladies and Men's singles competitions in July. We will host Hay on Wye tourists in June, Yorkshire will play Lancashire here in July and the final stages of the YBA Marshall Shield and the North Yorkshire Bowls League Team Tournament semi-finals will be held here in August.

General matters:

After serving on the Committee for over 20 years Ken Mitchell has resigned for personal reasons. Ken has made a massive contribution to the club's development and has always been there when needed and the Committee is grateful for that. The club has

continued to move forward, introducing the new door entry system (installed by Ken) an upgraded CCTV system and members and visitors to the club will soon benefit from free wireless internet access although it might be turned off on quiz nights. The Cutty Wren Folk club are here every Tuesday evening and our members are welcome to attend. Once again the club will be used as a polling station, this time for the European elections in May. Finally, my thanks go to our treasurer and bar manager John Branch. John has negotiated some really good deals for the club and is relentless in his quest to save money”.

That concluded the report, no questions were raised.

8 Treasurer’s report

8.1 Treasurer John Branch circulated copies of his report and the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013. John read his report:

“As at the 31st December 2013 the Club membership had increased by 22 to 717, when compared to the same period in 2012. This indicates a steady growth, which is contradictory to the national trend, as most clubs have seen a decline in membership over the last few years.

Once again I can report the Club is in a sound financial position, which seems an odd statement to make when the ‘Income and Expenditure Account’ shows a large deficit, compared to a surplus of £19336 in 2012. You may recall in 2012 we issued a questionnaire to consult the membership to determine what our priorities should be and as a result we embarked on some major improvements to the Club facilities. These included renovations to the outdoor greens edges and ditches, a refurbished kitchen and a new central heating boiler. The indoor bowling hall was enhanced with new scoreboards, improved lighting and a comfortable seating area with TV. All this was achieved without the need to take out further loans. As a consequence of the high expenditure you will see from the statement we were not able to recover all VAT payments. With regards to utilities, our gas tariff increased by 20% and usage was up by 6.7%, whereas electricity usage was slightly down and prices remained constant due to our 2 year fixed tariff. Water usage was up slightly and business rates increased by 3%.

Income from indoor bowling was up by 5.6% from increased use of the rinks, whereas revenue from outdoor bowling increased by 8.8%, as a result of the higher season ticket price. The rent from the communications mast fell due to the removal of 1 user. The lottery contributed £5960 to the Club finances and our thanks, once again, go to Ernie Douglass, who is to be congratulated for his achievements and the hard work he puts in. The Christmas coffee morning was again successful, raising £929 and our thanks go to all who helped and supported the event.

The bar account shows a net trading surplus of £8780. This represents a gross return of 42.5% and a net return of 16.6%, after payment of wages and bar sundries. Bar sales

increased by 12% on the previous year primarily due to a price increase and the introduction of the Folk Club on Tuesday evenings. Our three suppliers have all increased prices in January and February 2014, but as usual, I am awaiting the Chancellor's budget before assessing our annual bar price increase.

I would like to add my grateful thanks to the following. To Brian Douglass, who completes our VAT returns and financial statements. To Sylvia Thacker, my Assistant Treasurer, and to the committee members who assist with collections in my absence. Also to everyone involved in playing a part, however small, in running the club activities. With your continued support, I am confident the Club will thrive and be a major asset to ourselves and the local community.

The committee's aim regarding the club finances is not to make a profit, but to have a healthy bank balance, so that we can continue to improve the club facilities and have a contingency fund sufficient to meet any emergencies that may arise. At the same time, we aim to provide bowling and refreshments at reasonable cost to our members and also to be a fair employer to our staff".

There were no questions raised further to Johns report

9 Independent auditors report

9.1 Signed statements from the respective independent auditors Sylvia Nixon and Dennis Griffin were read out by the Secretary. 'I can confirm that I have carried out an Internal Audit of the 2013 accounts of Borough Park Bowling Club. Various items were selected and those transactions with fully supporting evidence were followed fully through the accounts. Everything was correct and duly recorded. My thanks go to the Treasurer for presenting such organised accounts' Sylvia Nixon.

'I confirm that I have carried out an Internal Audit of the bookkeeping procedures for the year of 2013. Several transactions were examined thoroughly covering sales, purchases, wages and banking all of which were found to be accurate and properly recorded' Dennis Griffin.

On a proposal by Brian Bell, seconded by Tony Fountain, the accounts were then unanimously accepted as a true record by those present.

10 Election of officers

10.1 President Chris Thomas announced the proposal of Brian Bell for President 2014. A show of hands confirmed all agreed unanimously on this choice. Chris congratulated Brian on his appointment to office and wished him a very successful year.

On receiving his badge and Chris' congratulatory hand shake, Brian commented:

"Thanks Chris for a magnificent year in office, I will carry on your good work. For the magnificent job that John and John do we cannot fail. Well done to you again Chris and thank you".

10.2 Brian then took over the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

The following were properly proposed, seconded and elected unopposed:

Post	Nominated	Proposed	Seconded
President	Brian Bell	C Thomas	J Selley
Vice President	Mick Jewell	B Bell	C Thomas
Secretary	John Selley	M Jewell	S Nixon
Treasurer	John Branch	B Bell	S Nixon
Assistant Treasurer	Sylvia Thacker	J Branch	J Selley
Committee	Sylvia Thacker	J Branch	S Nixon
Committee	Ian Forrest	J Branch	J Selley
Committee	Tony Fountain	J Selley	G Brown

G. Brown, S. Nixon, A. W. Jones, S. Owens-Pitt, B. Oxendale & P. Thacker remain as elected members of the General Committee until the 2015 A.G.M.

11 Election of Ladies Secretary

10.1 Ann Smith was properly proposed, seconded and elected unopposed:

Post	Nominated	Proposed	Seconded
Ladies Secretary	Ann Smith	B Alderson	M Hockney

12 Election of two internal Auditors

12.1 Dennis Griffin and Sylvia Nixon volunteered to again perform the roles of independent internal auditors. Their nominations were proposed by Brian Bell and seconded by Alan Harrison. The meeting members agreed unanimously to the appointment of Dennis and Sylvia.

13 AOB

13.1 Points should have been made in writing before the meeting date. None were received.

14 Open Forum

14.1 Meeting members were invited raise any issues in an open forum. None were raised.

There being no further business President Brian Bell thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting at 11:30.