

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**Margate Bowling Club**  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7:00pm.**

**Present:** John McDonald, Trisha Ball, David Carman, Jackie Hayes, Roger Hayes, Beryl Stapley, Bob Taylor and Sheila Taylor.

**Obituaries:** Derek Davenport.

**Apologies:** Rosemary Davenport, Anne Gascoigne, Miriam Ibbotson and Neil Kemp.

Chairman John McDonald welcomed those present and it was noted there was the necessary quorum. The AGM was opened at 7:00pm.

1. **The Minutes of the 2014 AGM** were confirmed. Proposed by Trisha Ball and seconded by Sheila Taylor.

2. **Matters Arising:**

Catherine Wheeler League - Plans to join with Dane Park to form joint teams playing at Margate were not agreed by the League organisers. The Catherine Wheeler League Rules were also changed to a minimum of five triples to be played. As we did not have sufficient players we had to withdraw from this league.

An initiative to amalgamate with Dane Park was not agreed by Dane Park.

An SGM was held to review the differences between Full and Associate membership.

New pushers – as there were very few bowlers using the green - this has not been pursued.

New design of blazer badge - as there were very few members this has not been pursued.

3. **Annual Report of the Committee.** – see attached file “Annual Report 2015.pdf”  
– main points are:

Two Special General Meetings were held concerning feedback on issues raised at the AGM and also proposed Constitution changes. The Bye-Law restriction on joining another local club was removed. Several existing members had already joined other clubs. Most of the Constitution changes were agreed although the change of minimum members to call an SGM did not gain sufficient two-thirds majority so the existing minimum twenty members remains.

“Full Membership” at 31/10/15 is 8 women and 7 men plus “Associate Membership” of 1 woman and 3 men (including 1 junior).

Unfortunately with our decline in membership we were unable to continue with Lee Company so the Green-keeping Service contract was terminated at the end of May. Bob Taylor has now resumed maintenance of the green.

We have successfully introduced social activities at the club so the club is in a sound financial position. The project is now progressing exceptionally well and the PHT are happy that the original idea for community activities to support the local neighbourhood has come to fruition.

The report was proposed by Sheila Taylor and seconded by Bob Taylor.

4. **Treasurer' Report** – see attached file “Year End 2015 Accounts.pdf”.

Neil Kemp was thanked for examining the accounts. Thanks to our social activities, the Club is in a good financial position having cash reserves of £10,636.88 although this includes “ring-fenced” amounts of £7,374.41 from Peoples Health Trust grants and development funds. Net Income was £17,784.18 against expenditure £13,992.90 realising an operating surplus of £3,791.28 but taking into account depreciation and development reserves, results in a paper “loss” of £10,082.96

Two more additional tranches of £11,088 have been received from the Peoples Health Trust and a further tranche of £3,024 is expected later this year. The PHT have agreed to extend the funding period by six months to, now, end in September 2016. When our funding runs out we intend to sustain the Project by raising venue Hire-charges based on an hourly rate of around £15 and we hope this will not result in a loss of community group activity at the Club. Other possible funding opportunities will be pursued as well. Based on our current activity of ten hours per week should realise an annual net income of £5,250 that could rise to around £20,000 if activities increased to six hours each week day.

There are no specific recommendations to change the structure or fees at this point in time. The Annual Subscription will remain as £100 but noting ‘Pay as you play’ was discontinued in 2012 and remains so. Allowance will be considered, on request, if anyone for financial reasons would prefer to pay in instalments. A pro rate subscription will be charged at a rate of £20 per month for experienced bowlers joining after the season has commenced. New bowlers will join as Associate Members and allowed a free period of three months during the bowling season but then charged a pro rate subscription at a rate of £20 per month for the remainder of the bowling season. Bye-Laws remain to remove the vote from those who have not paid the full annual subscription.

Treasurer commented he had tried to run the Club accounts as a “small business” using “now out-of-date” financial software but has come to realise this is far too complicated for a simple bowling club. He has therefore decided to simplify the accounting process based on simple spread-sheets (Excel or paper based). This will also enable a relatively easy transfer without extensive training, when a new Treasurer is appointed in the future. The new accounts format is included in the attached file “Year End 2015 Accounts - new format.pdf”

Proposed by Sheila Taylor seconded by Bob Taylor.

5. **Other Officer Reports**

Captain's Report :

Ladies League won 8; lost 7; drew 1 – finished mid table.

Men's League won 5; lost 7; drew 1; conceded 5 due insufficient (five) players.

Mixed Friendlies won 9; lost 4; cancelled by Margate 5; cancelled by other clubs 10.

Ladies Friendlies won 1; cancelled by other club 1.

Club competitions - there were not enough entries in Club competitions and as no one was prepared to organise them, these were cancelled, including the Ladies and Gents Championships.

Bar Manager and John McDonald were thanked for efficiently running the bar that has achieved a creditable 51% return on cost of sales, despite the reduced income due decreased club matches.

- 6. Election of Officers** – Only two Officer nominations (Chairman/President - John McDonald & Treasurer – Roger Hayes) and two Committee (Bar Manager – Trisha Ball & Catering Manager - Sheila Taylor). No election required and all elected en block.

Club Trustees: Kim Marsden (ex-officio) and Roger Hayes.

Noted there are vacancies for Club Secretary, Captain, Match and Competition Secretaries – these to be hopefully filled by co-opting members during the next season.

Bob Taylor agreed to continue as Green Ranger and David Carman to represent the Club at IoTBA and County meetings – both posts ex-officio.

- 7. Election of Selectors** – no volunteers forthcoming – to be addressed by the new Committee.

- 8. Propositions** – No propositions have been received.

- 9. Any other Business**

Roger said again he was very despondent with the diminishing membership and the lack of support for activities from most members of the club. He was doing his best to ensure the club survives but we need to get more people into the Club. His intention is to remain as Treasurer during the Peoples Health Trust funding period until 2016.

In the absence of both Match Secretary and Captain, Roger will arrange friendly match fixtures with other clubs, but only three mixed triples. Also he will arrange entry to the IoTBA Men's Combination League noting we will need to guarantee six players for every game. The IoTBA Ladies League will be entered, noting again six players need to be guaranteed for every game. It was agreed to convene a Special General Meeting late April to discuss where we go from here.

- 10. Chairman's closing remarks** - John thanked everyone for attending and hoped things will improve next year.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:00pm.**