

Margate Bowling Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at Margate Clubhouse, 7.00 pm on Friday 23rd November 2018

Present: Anne Gascoigne, Carol Holmes, Geoff Holmes, Miriam Ibbotson, John Mann, Les Samuels, Beryl Stapley, Elaine Todd, Philip Todd, Alan Wood, Chris Wood, Terry Keep (Memories)

Apologies: Trisha Ball, Barbara & Alan Marden, Bob & Sheila Taylor

The meeting began at 7.00 pm.

1 Chairman's welcome

Geoff Holmes welcomed John Mann, who had been co-opted onto the committee the previous month.

2 Apologies

See above.

3 Minutes of last AGM

The minutes of the last AGM, held on 24th November 2017, were passed with no amendments.

Proposer: Anne Gascoigne

Seconder: Phil Todd

4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Annual report of the committee

Miriam gave the annual report of the committee. The general committee met on nine occasions. Les Samuels was also co-opted onto the committee during the year, and came to his first meeting in July.

Full membership as at the end of October 2018 is 24 (15 men and nine women). This compares with 15 full members as of the same time last year. The *total* membership (full, associate, juniors and non-playing) is 21 men and 10 women, which is more or less the same as the total membership last year. However, the higher percentage of active members this year has meant that we could provide four or five rinks for a couple of our home friendly matches this year, something that would have been unheard of last year. We would like to build on this for the future – not only does having more rinks mean that more people get a game, but it also results in increased green fees and bar takings every time we play a home match.

We held a men's and a ladies' championship for our in-house competitions this year. Bob Taylor won the men's championship, while Miriam Ibbotson won the ladies' championship. Bob has been entered into the national Champion of Champions competition for 2019.

In September the Club held its second memorial day to celebrate the Club's past members. The day was organised by Phil Todd and Ryan Cooper, with help from Derek Walker-Smith. Ryan Cooper and Pete Langridge were winners of the day's pairs competition, and Allan Moore and Geoff Holmes came second. Dave Macer won the spider.

Sadly, we came bottom in the men's IoT combination league. We were up against some very strong teams with highly experienced players. Once again we didn't enter a team into the IoT ladies' league this year. We would need two rinks for each game (ie six players), but ideally there would need to be nine or ten ladies who would be prepared to play, to allow for sickness, holidays etc. This should be possible for next year, provided we can recruit a couple more lady members.

We have had a good year socially speaking: last year's Christmas party was well attended and very enjoyable. We also held eight quizzes during the course of the year and in September Les Samuels organised a Macmillan coffee morning, which raised over £113.00.

6 Treasurer's report

Geoff Holmes gave the treasurer's report. The accounts were examined by Lloyd Taylor. The total bank balance (current account plus savings account) as at 31st October 2018 was £6,605.00.

Income from membership fees was £2,140.00, considerably more than the £1,480.00 earned last year. Bar income had also gone up from £2,010 in 2016-17, to £2,955.25 this year. The income obtained from venue hire was £1,250.00 this year, a 50% reduction on the previous year, which was due to the fact that Memories had to stop holding its Monday groups.

This year we made a loss of £2,094.18, as compared to the previous year's loss of £243.53. However, the Club did not receive any grants in 2017-18, whereas it had obtained grants of £2,310.00 in 2016-17. Furthermore, there were some expenditure items (totalling £3,100.05) that should have been paid in the previous year, or had arisen from underpayments in 2016-17. If these are subtracted from the overall expenditure this year, then we actually have a profit of £1,005.87. An example of the underpayments was electricity (£699.44), due to the fact that EDF had rescinded a low-tariff contract without our knowledge and had then taken the shortfall out of our account. Another underpayment (£311.97) had arisen because on taking over from Southern Water as our water provider, Business Stream had discontinued the waste water subsidy on the green part of our water account, again without our knowledge. Geoff was able to negotiate a rebate on this. Furthermore the balance due on the new central heating system, which had been purchased in 2016-2017, was paid in 2017-18. It should also be noted that the Club did receive any polling station revenue in 2017-18.

Green maintenance had gone up to £1,814.70 this year, compared to £1,295 in 2016-17. However, this was more than offset by a reduction in fees for grass clearance, due to the fact that we are no longer using a bin service.

It should be noted that the Club has not made a true profit for several years, and has instead been living off grants. Also, it has not been spending on things that are actually needed. This year we have taken out contents insurance, upgraded the level of buildings insurance cover, and bought new fire extinguishers, and we are also getting the electrics checked and upgraded so that they can meet inspection requirements. This is being done gradually, using second hand parts to cut down on costs. Further work still needs to be done, eg replacing the wooden battens around the edge of the green, and repairing the roof of the equipment store.

Although a lot of valuable work is done by volunteers within the Club, it is not big enough to provide a pool of people who can do everything that needs to be done. We therefore need to continue to supplement the work of Club volunteers with that of paid contractors.

We believe we have stopped the losses and have had encouraging feedback from potential new members. We look forward to building on this year's upturn in membership which will in turn bring increased bar income and green fees. Geoff is also working with Broadstairs Bowling Club to look into further sources of grant funding.

7 Other officer reports

There were no other officer reports.

8 Election of officers

The new committee is as follows (all were voted in en bloc):

Officers: Geoff Holmes (chairman and treasurer); Miriam Ibbotson (secretary)

Other committee members: Trisha Ball (bar manager and ladies' captain); John Mann (competitions secretary); Les Samuels (men's captain); Phil Todd; Alan Wood; Chris Wood (catering manager). Geoff Holmes would continue as green liaison officer.

Anne Gascoigne resigned as president.

9 Election of selectors

This was unnecessary, as there was no voting.

10 Propositions

There were no propositions.

11 Membership fee 2019

It was agreed to follow the committee's recommendation of keeping the full membership fee at £100, with the first two months free for new members.

12 Any other business

Phil asked what progress had been made with next year's fixture list. Miriam said that most of the friendly matches had been booked.

13 Chairman's closing remarks

Geoff thanked everyone for their support. He said that the Club will continue to build the social side of its activities next year. We have bought a bingo machine, and will publicise this via our new website and a leaflet drop in the local neighbourhood. He thanked Terry for his support, saying that the clubhouse is always available if Memories wants to start meetings again.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Date of next AGM

The date of the next AGM is to be confirmed.