

Margate Bowling Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at Margate Clubhouse, 7.00 pm on Friday 24th November 2017

Present: Trisha Ball, Peter Fitt, Anne Gascoigne, Jackie Hayes, Roger Hayes, Carol Holmes, Geoff Holmes, Miriam Ibbotson, Doug Levy, Bob Taylor, Sheila Taylor, Elaine Todd, Philip Todd, Alan Wood, Chris Wood, Terry Keep (Memories)

Apologies: Pete Armstrong, Ryan Cooper, Neil Kemp, John Mann

The meeting began at 7.00 pm.

1 Chairman's welcome

Roger Hayes gave the Chairman's welcome. There was a minute's silence for John McDonald, who had sadly died early in the year.

2 Apologies

See above.

3 Minutes of last AGM

The minutes of the last AGM, held on 25th November 2016, were passed with no amendments.

Proposer: Trisha Ball

Seconder: Sheila Taylor

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 twelve times. The committee members were Trisha, Ryan, Roger, Geoff, Miriam, Sheila and Phil. Geoff was co-opted part way through the season. The number of full members at the end of October was fifteen (nine men and six women), i.e. not much change from the previous year.

Taking into account people who joined at the tail end of the season and hadn't paid any subs yet, the total membership at the end of the 2017 season was nineteen men and eleven women. We lost a couple of members, including John McDonald who died early in the year, but some new members also joined as well. The new members were recruited partly by word of mouth, and partly via a couple of open days which were well attended, thanks to some advertisements in the press.

Roger co-ordinated the competitions this year. Bob Taylor won the men's championships, Trisha won the ladies', and Geoff took the yard of the jack and the two-wood. In September, we held a memorial day to celebrate people who are no longer with the Club. It was organised by Phil and Ryan, with help from Roger, and comprised a one-day pairs competition, with a spider at the beginning. It was well-attended and enjoyed by those who took part. The Club did not have enough ladies to enter the Isle of Thanet ladies' league this year, and we came second from bottom in the men's league. The free Thursday afternoons (which would have been taken up by ladies' IoT fixtures) were used for rollups, and it was advertised that Thursday afternoons and Sunday mornings were times when there would always be at least one Club member there to let members of the public in and show them the ropes if they wanted to try bowling. Sheila, Trisha and Miriam facilitated these sessions.

Roger put together a second grant application to the People's Health Trust. We asked for just under £30,000, part of which would have been for capital expenditure, and the rest would have been to employ a caretaker. We didn't get the grant, but were informed that the PHT would look favourably on us if we applied next year.

We did invest just over £3,000 in a new electric central heating system for the clubhouse – this is less than half the standard cost and was achieved thanks to some keen negotiation by Geoff. It is hoped that the new heating will make the clubhouse a pleasanter venue for meetings and social events. On the subject of social events, Neil Kemp has continued to run Friday night quizzes every month or so; they have been popular and have brought a bit of money to the Club.

The green had a shaky start, but has improved over the season thanks to the work done on it. We have had some advice from County green specialist Ivan Hoile and his son Chris, and various people in the Club have helped to mow the green and do other necessary work.

The committee agreed to make a few changes to the by-laws. The main one is that members are now eligible to vote at AGMs and SGMs if they have paid a minimum of £40 towards their year's membership fee of £100. In other words as soon as someone has paid £40, they are deemed a full member. (This change was already in effect on the night of the AGM.) A full list of changes to the by-laws is given in the September committee minutes.

On behalf of the committee, Miriam thanked all the Club members who had volunteered their help over the past year, whether on the green or off it.

The annual report of the committee was accepted.

Proposer: Phil Todd
Seconder: Anne Gascoigne

6 Treasurer's report

Roger acknowledged the efforts of Lloyd Taylor who had examined the accounts. He did a very thorough job and had asked some pertinent questions.

This year we made a loss of £243.53, slightly down on last year's figure of £300.14. Taking into account depreciation and the amount that is ring-fenced as a development fund, the loss for 2017 is £15,205. It is shown like that so that the Club continues to be a non-profit making organisation and so that any excesses of income over expenditure is put into a ring-fenced area against future development.

The money in the bank at the end of the financial year (31st October) was:

Reserve	£8,439.54
Operating account`	£1,236.53
Cash (bar float)	£50.00
Stock	£367.14
Overall total	10,093.21

In terms of income, subscriptions were down from 2016 because we had fewer members who were actually paying. Green fees were also down because there were fewer matches. Green maintenance was up by £500 from last year. Committee expenses were £288 compared to zero last year; the £288 was for two advertisements in the Thanet Extra, to publicise our open days. The reduced number of members that affiliated obviously meant a reduction in affiliation fees compared to 2016.

The major item of income (about £2,500, or almost 25%) is for hire of the venue, and this almost all comes from Terry and the Memories group, who meet up here on a

Monday. Bar income was the next largest source. Our sales were well up from last year and we achieved a 57% return on sales. Roger congratulated Trisha for her very effective management of the bar. The final instalment of the PHT grant was 10% of our income, which we will not get next year. We also got 9% of our income (£980) from the use of the clubhouse as a polling station. We will not get that next year either.

On the social side, we held nine quizzes this year and they made a net profit of £821, which is £90 per quiz.

Turning to the expenditure, the major item is green maintenance at 36%. The largest expenditure on green maintenance was for getting rid of the green waste; this was £937, compared to £360 for last year. This year we paid £553 to contractors as opposed to £2,366 for last year. The high figure for last year was due to the major work on the green by Ivan Hoile. We needed to service the lawnmower and other items of equipment, and used outside contractors to do this – the total cost was £567.

We reduced our electricity bill by negotiating a new tariff. We did not appear to spend so much on water and sewerage for the clubhouse/changing rooms, but this was because it was taken over by Business Stream and they've grouped the two accounts together so both the water for the green and the clubhouse/changing room water supply is now under one umbrella.

On the overhead account, the large item was for security, and this was because we needed to buy five new extinguishers which cost £396. We also had to purchase a new CCTV system for £320, and new outside security lights for £100.

Expenditure for the new central heating system straddles both financial years, with the deposit coming under 2016-17 and the balance being paid in 2017-18.

The treasurer's report was passed.

Proposer: Phil Todd
Seconder: Trisha Ball

7 Other officer reports

There were no other officer reports.

8 Election of officers

There was only one office which had more than one candidate, namely that of chairman. The two candidates were Roger Hayes and Geoff Holmes. Roger had originally been proposed and seconded by Miriam and Geoff, but both had withdrawn their support. Geoff's name had been added to the nomination form on 10th November, and Sheila Taylor and Miriam had put their names down as proposer and seconder respectively. The nomination form had been removed from the Club notice board a few days later. Roger had not been informed of the change in the nomination status.

Roger was asked if he still wished to stand for chairman. He said he did wish to stand, but nobody volunteered to propose or second him.

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); Ryan Cooper; Phil Todd; Doug Levy. Alan and Chris Wood (who were not full members at the time of the AGM) also volunteered to go on the committee, and would be formally co-opted when the committee met again.

Roger said that he was disappointed at the withdrawal of support for his candidacy as chairman, and at the "underhand" way in which it had been done. He stated that he had done a lot for the Club and regretted that he had been unable to reverse the continuing trend of people leaving the Club. He and Jackie withdrew from the meeting.

9 Election of selectors

This was unnecessary, as there was no voting.

10 Propositions

1. That section 3.2 of the Club constitution should be reworded from

"Membership of the Club shall be open to any person completing a membership application form and paying the relevant subscription and joining fees."

to

*"Membership of the Club shall be open to any person completing a membership application form and paying the relevant subscription and joining fees, **subject to approval by the committee.**"*

2. That section 7.4 of the Club constitution should be revised from:

*"Special General Meetings may be convened by the General Committee or on receipt by the Secretary of a request in writing from **not less than twenty Full Members** of the Club. At least twenty-one days notice of the meeting shall be given."*

to

*"Special General Meetings may be convened by the General Committee or on receipt by the Secretary of a request in writing from **not less than 20% of Full Members** of the Club. At least twenty-one days notice of the meeting shall be given."*

Both motions were passed via a show of hands, with no votes against. The Club constitution would be changed accordingly.

11 Any other business

There was some discussion about the circumstances surrounding Roger's departure, and the events that had led up to it prior to the AGM. (See the committee minutes from November 2017 for more details.)

12 Chairman's closing remarks

Geoff thanked everyone for their support, saying he intended to try and make the Club profitable and to recruit new members. He said that he intended to put an end to the situation that had occurred in the past, where the chairman had made decisions without involving the committee. He would organise the Christmas party, which had been shelved at the previous committee meeting. He also said that in future there would be a petty cash float kept behind the bar, so people could claim expenses from this rather than it coming out of the bar takings as it has done up to now. This would give a more realistic idea of the profit made during social events such as the quizzes.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Date of next AGM

The date of the next AGM is to be confirmed.