



**Annual General Meeting
Monday 21st October 2024
2.30 to 4.00 pm at WBCL Clubhouse**

MINUTES

1. Welcome to old and new members

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Georgina, Andy and Wendy, Karen, Pat, Houshy, John G.

3. Reports from officers:

- **Chair**

No report, other than to welcome everyone and comment on the difficult year.

- **Treasurer**

The Treasurer's report is attached below, presented by Ian in John's absence.

- **Safeguarding Officer**

The Safeguarding Officer's report is attached below, presented by Ian in Andy's absence.

- **Ladies' Captain**

Linda reported on the difficulty of fixtures with this year's rainy weather. There will be fewer players next year in each team which should help fill matches.

- **Men's Captain**

Pete reported, as per appendix. Those present agreed to play an extra game against Imperial next year, and to have various captains share the role for men's matches in future.

- **Fixtures Secretary**

Pete reported, as per appendix. The Chair thanked Pete for all the hard work involved.

- **Competitions Secretary**

Pete reported, as per appendix. Sue Smith was awarded the Captain's Cup for all her hard work, which was reiterated by the Chair.

- **Membership Secretary**

Malcolm reported, as per appendix.

- **Coaching**

Fred reported, as per appendix. The Chair thanked Fred for all his very hard work.

The Chair asked for 'match management etiquette' to be improved next year – could people please be ready to bowl on time etc so that matches can be as efficient as possible. Houshy via Ian asked for awareness to be raised on the use of hand signals and avoidance of leaving mats, drinks, belongings etc. on the Green and surrounding walls which could distract bowlers. Fred was happy to continue to address in coaching sessions and best practice guidance to bowlers.

- **Maintenance Officer**

Pete B reported, as per appendix. He also added that the club is looking at extra help for people to get on and off the rink, and that he is looking to replace the maintenance shed with a bigger, new one, generously donated by Peter. Help will be needed for that! Tony asked about lighting, Ian is donating some and Houshy, who has volunteered to help raise funds, for this and also security, more permanent lighting, safety measures for getting on and off the green, and more seating. The Chair thanked those who helped clean the rink for all their hard work.

- **Publicity and Communications**

Andy's report was shared by Ian, as per appendix. The Chair asked for thanks to be sent to Andy and shared a hope that they would be having an easier life in due course.

4. Matters for report and discussion:

- **Appointment of Cleaner (TJ)**

Tony thanked those who supported him when he took over from Dave. He suggested that cleaning was done professionally due to the difficulties some people have in

managing the work involved. Various members offered their opinions and made suggestions. The consensus seemed to be that a renewed effort from members, signing up to a list overseen by Tony, would suffice. The Chair suggested we review this next year to see if this has worked.

- **Catering (IH)**

Ian reported that at the last GMC it was discussed that at other matches simple food was offered to our team and we would like to do the same, basically providing food for opponents to make sandwiches etc. for themselves. Members have volunteered to organise this. Various views were shared for and against, and about the effect of Covid and the quality of shop-bought ingredients. The meeting agreed that Sue and Karen would organise, and we would see how it went.

- **AOB**

- a) Fred shared the good news that three Short Mats had been retrieved and moved into better storage, one with a carrying bag, to be set up in the Rec pavilion. Watch this space for opportunities for members! Fred also expressed a hope that this might be a means of getting newcomers, like primary children, involved. The Chair suggested a further meeting once more detail was available, if necessary.
- b) Houshy, via Ian, asked about a sign to help with the parking problem. Ian reported that this had already been agreed by the GMC and would be provided soon.
- c) Houshy, via Ian, asked about replacing kettles with a water boiler. Members thought this was expensive, but Roy said he had one we could use, which Houshy can take a look at.
- d) Houshy asked for thanks to be given to Roy and June and an additional day in the calendar to be set aside to present a Cup in their honour. The Chair suggested this be taken to the GMC.
- e) Houshy suggested the club buys and has a barbecue to encourage social interaction. Roy said he had two the club could use. Roy E also has one we could have which he kindly offered. The new shed should have room for a BBQ.
- f) Houshy, via Ian, suggested a fancy-dress event on Boxing Day. Tony said there was one in the past, oddly enough. There was some support for the idea but not for the time of year. The Chair suggested Houshy be allowed to look at this

further, with Pete suggesting that it could be combined with his proposed day of competition.

- g) Pete asked about subscription rates. Ian confirmed that John has advised that there is no need to raise the rate at the moment and it could remain the same next year.
- h) Darryl said that the additional gate padlock is a nightmare, and this seemed to be a widely held opinion. The Chair guaranteed to personally find a better, easier to use one.

5. Election of Officers 2023/2024

Those members who had been nominated, proposed and seconded for each post were considered and the following were all elected unanimously.

President: Roger Smeed

Chair: Roy Clements

Secretary: Steve Miles

Treasurer: John Gowar

Membership: Geoff Warman

Men's Captain: Houshy Rahimi

Ladies Captain: Linda Johnson

Fixtures & Competitions: Pete Johnson

Safeguarding (Men's): Fred Cowgill

Safeguarding (Women's): Rita Wright

Club Coach: Fred Cowgill

Website/Publicity: Steve Miles and Ian Harries

Maintenance: Pete Bourrel

Catering: Karen Upsdale and Sue Smith

Cleaning: Tony Jefferies

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

6. 2024 Club Competitions Prize Giving

Wrighton Bowling Club Ltd Reg No 12714109 & CASC Reg No 12327
Reg Office: The Walled Garden, Westhay Rd, Wrighton, North Somerset BS405NP

The following prizes and awards were presented by Roger, after thanking Pete for all his hard work.

Wrighton Bowling Club's Club Champions 2024.

Men's Singles: Fred Cowgill

Runner Up: Roy Clements

Ladies Singles: Angela Bateman

Runner Up: Jill Cowgill

Challenge Shield: Darryl Brown

Runner Up: Houshy Rahimi

Men's Handicap: Roy Clements

Runner Up: Steve Miles

Ladies Handicap: Angela Bateman

Runner Up: Darryl Brown.

Second Chance: Pauline Jeffries

Runner Up: Fred Thomas

Men's Pairs: Roy Clements, Fred Thomas

Runners Up: Fred Cowgill, Steve Miles

Ladies Pairs: Daryl Brown, Rita Wright

Runners Up: Jill Cowgill, Sue Smith

Mixed Pairs: Jill Cowgill, Steve Miles

Runners Up: Linda Johnson, Houshy Rahimi

Family Cup: Peter & Linda Johnson

Runners Up: Fred & Jill Cowgill

Men's Triples: Andy Brown, Fred Cowgill, Fred Thomas

Runners Up: Ray Bowden, Chris Brown, Steve Miles

Ladies Triples: Darryl Brown, Sue Smith, Sue Titman

Runners Up: Angela Bateman, Jill Cowgill, Brenda Lewis

Christine Bowden Cup: Pauline Jeffries, Neil Coombs

Runners Up: Christine Phillips, Houshy Rahimi

Fixed Jack: Angela Bateman

Runner Up: Linda Johnson.

Chairman

Company Secretary

Club Secretary

Appendix: Officials' Written Reports as presented in advance:

Treasurer's Report – John Gowar

My apologies for being unable to attend. The cash-flow account for the current year as at 30th September is shown overleaf. Membership subscriptions are from 45 Annual, 9 winter (with 3 more expected), 6 social members. And we have 4 Life members. We have affiliated 55 members to the Wrington Sports & Social Club. An approximately breakeven budget was set for the year. Lower than hoped for subscription income is offset by some generous donations. Likewise, less net income from events and sales is more than offset by less expenditure to date on maintenance and administration. So far, very little of the £3000 set aside from reserves for promotions and publicity aimed at increasing membership has been called upon.

The final accounts for 2024 are in a separate file.

Secretary's Report – Andy Tandy

The past 10 months have been particularly difficult for us, the death of my dad, 2 close friends, one of our much beloved pets, illness and family matters have all made things very difficult. This has resulted in both of us needing to take a step back from the club and as a result needing others to pick up our various responsibilities. As secretary I therefore have little news to pass onto the meeting other than to wish Steve Miles who has volunteered to replace me.

Safeguarding Report – Andy Tandy

There have been no reported safeguarding issues at the club during the last 12 months. As a club we have agreed to adopt the safeguarding policies of Bowls England and a folder exist detailing these in the clubhouse. Somerset Bowls Association have stressed the importance of clubs complying with the requirements during the 2025 season and I anticipate we will continue to hear from them as to the future needs relating to safeguarding. Fred has volunteered to take on the role I am now vacating and will be ably assisted by Rita who will be the ladies rep.

Membership Secretary – Malcolm Parsons

During the summer 7 people joined, 4 Adult members did not rejoin, 3 Adult members changed to Social membership, 3 Social members did not rejoin, 4 Life Members, 47 Adult, 6 Social and 14 Winter members.

Coaching Report – Fred Cowgill

Overall, the standard of bowling within the club is rising. In the last year we proved to be as competitive on grass as we are on our own artificial surface.

The Monday morning sessions are regularly attended by 8 or more people and we have been able to encourage some new bowlers through these sessions to become valuable members of the club.

The attempts to bring in youngsters (the primary school children?) Have not so far been successful. But we have now located our short mats, and these can be used in the Rec bar and the memorial hall. We will try to encourage the school to participate with us at one of these venues.

We were successful in working with the Youth Bus but unfortunately the bus now comes on a Wednesday afternoon, so it conflicts with our Winter triples and in the Summer, it is difficult to link with them given the amount of time we bowl. We will however continue to pursue this project.

There are a number of our older members who find it difficult to bowl a full match and some are becoming less physically able to bowl. I have identified several pieces of equipment that can help these bowlers (some of you will be aware that I now have to use a stick!) I am very willing to discuss with any member who finds themselves in difficulty what can be done to keep them bowling. With this in mind it is my intention to organise some indoor short mat sessions for those who now find bowling outdoors in the winter too cold. I would like to finish by thanking Fred Thomas who assists me at the coaching sessions. Without his help it would be difficult to deal with the numbers who come to the sessions.

Maintenance Officer's Report – Peter Bourrell

During this year we have washed the carpet and in the last few weeks we have sprayed the rink to control moss growth. The hedges have been cut by our contractor. We have removed the netting to enable us to cut the hedging growing through the fence. We did this work ourselves and I would like to thank those who helped me with this and the carpet washing in particular. My physical abilities have deteriorated during the last year which means I will be relying on helpers to keep the club in good condition.

Fixture and Competitions Report – Peter Johnson

League matches: We ended the Men's League in 2023 getting the one point we needed on the last shot of the last match to stay in North 2. We ended 2024 needing to lose the last match to make sure that we were not promoted to the keen lot in North 1. We ended a very creditable third out of the 12 teams. I must thank Fred Cowgill for standing in for me in the latter part of the season while I recovered from my operation.

Friendlies: The ladies were only set to play four friendlies, two were cancelled by rain and in the other two against Nailsea we came second.

19 mixed friendlies were scheduled, one was rained off, two cancelled by the opposition and one by us. The support for these fixtures by our members was not good. We had already cut the match numbers, but not enough people signed up for the away matches and we struggled to raise nine players for three rinks.

We only average one friendly a week and next year we need more commitment, or we will find the other clubs will not want to bother having a fixture with us. At the moment, the only changes next year will be both home and away with Long Ashton and no fixtures with Wedmore. Planning is running late because there has been a big turnover of fixtures secretaries and some clubs do not have anyone in post yet. Somerset Bowling Association are also running late with the date for the Men's League matches.

Competitions: We had nine days of competitions without any cancellations. 34 members entered for at least one competition and 24 were either a winner or runner-up.

Congratulations to all those who won a competition for the first time. Next year's Captain's Day will be on Saturday the 12th of April 2025.

Publicity/Website Report – Andy Tandy

Early this year I agreed with Roy that I would need to take time out from these roles for the reasons previously outlined in my Secretary's report. We did try at the beginning of the year to attract new members through a postcard campaign. We delivered almost 1300 postcards to houses in Wrington, Langford, Cleeve etc. and received just 1 enquiry.