

HECKINGTON & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday the 29th November 2019 in the Methodist Chapel.

20 members were present. The meeting started at 7.27p.m.

1. Minutes silence

This past year thankfully no members have passed away

2. Apologies for Absence

These were received from Tony Pitkin, Malcolm Spencer, Angus Brown, Doug Fletcher, and Les Richardson.

3. Minutes of the 2018 AGM and Matters Arising.

No matters were arising from the minutes. These were then proposed by John and seconded by Anne, as an accurate account of the previous AGM. This was accepted by the meeting.

4. Chairman's report.

There was no chairman's report this year.

5. Secretary's report.

It is fair to say that the year started off very well. The club had been promoted the previous season to league division three in the Coningsby league, we had a good committee and things looked well for the future. The open day held at the beginning of the season was a fantastic success; so many people came many who had never played before. The league bowls teams set off very well. The Coningsby team was second in the league. However things went wrong at the Bourne friendly game and things went downhill afterwards. We could have lost the club it was that bad. But the club survived.

Looking back as you always do you realise people do not see things the same way and that can and does cause friction. Also I think we were over thinking what we should be doing to educate and integrate the new members. Concentrating too much on that issue and taking our eye off carrying out the basics, which always, come what may, need to be done.

Some good things came out of the season. It was nice to play Gosberton and Bourne home and away in friendly's at the weekend. Food was involved and it is always nice to meet new bowlers, and even find that in Gosberton's case, some of their bowlers know and knew some of my relatives.

I would like to thank Dave and Sid and others for helping bring the green round. It requires a plan and most importantly dedication and sheer hard work to make it better. Dave set to this with a will starting in October last year.

The season this year finished on September 1st and autumn work began on the green straight away. We were fortunate that there was a mixture of rain and sunshine. A great help to make the grass grow. Dave has also networked with other clubs for advice, to borrow equipment, and acquire seed etc for free. Well done Dave.

I would also like to thank Anne for taking on the accounts, and the Bonus ball. Keeping things going. Paul for looking after the Coningsby League, and coaching people, under great personal pressure, I might add. Mezz did sterling work in preparing food for various social events, and I would like to thank my sister Ann for rescuing the Joyce Mason's on the refreshment side especially. If there were no refreshments people would be reluctant to come to future Mason's competitions and a valuable income stream, as there are many others, would cease.

No help, no money, no club.

I would also like to thank Christina and Trisha for their contributions to the club, as Chairman and joint Social secretary, up until their respective resignations.

We, during the season, had a special meeting to confirm a new position of Honorary Membership Secretary and appointed Andrew in the position. This I am sure Andrew would agree, never got off the ground, before his resignation. It was not totally clear as to the function of the position, as this was not fully developed, but we as a club need to clarify the need and function of this position when we come to election of officers. My thoughts are whatever the outcome regarding this position, the person elected, needs to be a hardworking individual who is an integral part of the club, and committee.

Next year I am sure will be better. The Bonus Ball/Lottery needs steadily improving, recruiting more people to take a number, there are many spare ones going. There will be more friendlies and maybe, hopefully another weekend open competition. Weekends will be busy either with social events or

friendly bowls matches or competitive open competitions. More importantly past differences must be just that in the past, and we look forward to pulling together to keep improving the club. More sheer hard work I'm afraid.

Just a sad point, we are losing Malcolm. He is returning to his native Liverpool. Thank you Malcolm for all you have done for the club. It sounds a bit shallow just saying that but I and many others know what you have achieved to make the club what it is, through thought, hard work and your generous spirit. I and everyone else I am sure enjoyed the surprise meal at the Finch Hatton, well organised by Anne. Take care and when it's raining cats and dogs on a Friday think of us out there getting wet. All the best for the future, Malcolm.

6. Treasurer's report.

Anne and Paul went through the accounts. The balance is now a healthy £12643.31. We are carrying on with the Bond, which stood at £9764 for the year, having previously invested £2000 more from the current account. Of the major Expenses, £1239 was spent on rent and insurance, and the green and waste £3364.80. Also £2000 from the current account was transferred to the bond. Major income, subscriptions £1472, the Bonus Ball £641, and social events £876.99. No gift aid will be claimed from the season. There was an overall loss for the year was £3815.17.

7. Club Captain's/Leagues/Competitions report.

Paul, captain of the Coningsby league team, reported that the team started well with three wins from four games. Unfortunately we lost in the first round of the KO cup this year. After that we only won one match and finished 6th of 7 in the league. We may be relegated it will depend on any redistribution of league teams. Nineteen players were used throughout the season. In the Ron Kitchen cup we had a wonderful win at Burton House 3-2. The next round we lost at Carter's Park 5 -0. They were a really good team and Paul was proud of the people who played. Well done to all.

Regarding Competitions they were all completed except the Ladies Championship which will be completed first think in 2020. Paul informed us that next season, he will distribute a form that each member will fill in stating which competitions they wish to enter and entry fees will be paid up front. Dress code for next year so that everyone knows is a white top and grey 'trousers' for competitions, club shirt or white top and grey 'trousers' for the

league games. Club roll ups and practice casual wear is fine.

Anne, as captain of the Woodhall Spa, thanked all those that played for the team which did well and came equal 5th in the league. Anne mentioned that some of the new members were successfully honing their skills indoors. And they will continue improve and play well against different people. A team of Anne, Gassen and Sid represented the club in the Ron White shield, winning the Southern Section, winning against Sleaford Town, Bristol and Eslaforde Park. The clincher against Wanderers did not take place because of the rain, and on count back we just came second, receiving a cash prize for coming second.

8. Social Events

No report because I forgot to put this on the agenda. Overall £876.99 was made, from a Pimms Bowls Competition, Midsummer Bowls Competition, Friendlies against Bourne and Gosberton, and two Paupers Lunches; one just came into this financial year from October 2018. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to these events, whether organizing preparing or making food, doing the washing up etc. A big thank you to everybody involved.

9. Ground's man's report

Dave took over in October and the green was in a poor state. He has worked very hard to make a general improvement. He thanked everyone for their help, especially Sid who introduced him to beer sampling at the Nag's Head. Much of the equipment was broken, lawn mower and water pump and the generator. All important bits of kit. These were repaired and a new Billy Goat scarifier was purchased. In September he asked for help and 12 people helped work on the green, coring and seeding and topdressing. Ruskington also lent us their spreader to make it easy to spread the topdressing. Tea and cakes were also provided. Dave again thanked everyone for their help. Next year he hopes to top dress and reseed. He apologized for any disturbance created on Sunday mornings. Thanks well done.

10. Club Manager's report

Overall the clubhouse has stood up very well this year. There is still maintenance that needs to be carried out during this winter period. The extent of the damp caused by the earth being heaped too high against the wooden side of the northern wall will be investigated, and a way to prevent water rushing into the clubhouse from the path needs sorting. I appreciate it hardly ever rains though. The men's toilet has a water leak, but overall things are holding up. The outside sheds, the wooden ones, are coming to the end of

their lives so if there is anyone who knows of a shed going for a song of the right size please let me know.

I would like to thank all those members who kept the clubhouse clean last year. Things have been helped with the purchase of the new battery vacuum cleaner, and cleaning mop. I am very impressed by the cleaning mop. Paul's survey indicated that 14 members were willing to help with clubhouse related things, best word I could think of, which is great. If there is any one of those members' fancies a bit of do it yourself maintenance then that would be brilliant.

11. Next year's League Entries (2020)

It was decided to enter a team in the Woodhall Spa League and the Coningsby league. There will be a roll up on a Saturday morning which will involve a bacon roll or two. It is planned to play up to 8 friendlies on a Sunday, hopefully at Gosberton and Bourne and possibly Boston West End and North Hykeham. Several clubs are interested. The friendlies will give, as last year, new bowlers the opportunity to play in a friendly team environment. This will help them again gain confidence preparing them to play in competitive league games if they so wish.

Recruitment would be promoted, taster events would be advertised in the usual outlets.

12. Election of Officers for 2020 season

There was a discussion as to whether the recently created of Honorary Membership Secretary should be continued. It was decided by a clear majority that it should be scrapped. It was proposed that a position of Development Officer should be created. This proposal was passed by the meeting. Paul was proposed to take this position and he was duly elected by those present. The following people were duly proposed and seconded and accepted by the meeting for the following positions in the club:

Chairman	Dave Marriott
Vice Chairman:	Linne Wollerton
Treasurer:	Anne Clayton
Secretary:	John Stevenson.
Social Secretary:	Trisha Mellett Brown
Assistant Social Secretary:	Mezz Inchley
Captain Coningsby League:	Paul Inchley
Captain Woodhall Spa League:	Anne Clayton

Green manager:	Dave Marriott
Clubhouse Manager:	John Stevenson.
Development Officer:	Paul Inchley

13. Bonus Ball

Anne had been given the job by default after Andrew's resignation. Mezz kindly offered to take it on. More numbers need to be sold and the appeal given out will hopefully gain fruit. Club members will help Mezz with promotion of the lottery and collection of the monies.

14. Membership Fees.

Fees for forthcoming season 2020. It was proposed and seconded and agreed to raise the membership fees to £45, keeping social membership to £10. It was also agreed that the Match/Tea fee for each player be increased to £2 home and away. Club Competition fees remain at £3 per person per competition. For away matches the car fees are £1 for less than 10 miles total journey, and £2 for games over 10 miles. "Roll up" fees will remain at £1; individuals going for practice etc. should be free. The fees for friendly matches will have to be about £3 to cover for refreshments provided etc.

15. Constitutional Changes

It was accepted that there needs to be some revision of the constitution. This will be carried out by the committee. These revisions will be presented to the membership at the preseason meeting for further revision if necessary and ratification.

16. Life Memberships.

Malcolm was proposed and seconded and adopted by the members present as a new Life Member. Very appropriate.

17. Presentation Evening.

This is to be arranged at the end of January 2020 by the secretary. It will be held at the Barge and Bottle. We will be using the Early bird menu. Two courses are about £12.95 and three courses are about £15.95.

18. Preseason Meeting

This will be held as normal in April just before the season starts.

The Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.