

HECKINGTON & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2023

Meeting held Thursday 30th November 2023 at Bowls Clubhouse
17 members were present. The meeting started at 7.00pm

Minutes silence

Roy Baker, Les Richardson and Malcolm Spencer were remembered

Apologies for Absence

Wendy Repp, Ann Clayton, Rodger Doughty, Mike Smith, Joyce Miles

Minutes of the 2022 AGM & Matters Arising

No matters were arising from the minutes and they were Proposed by Linne Wollerton and seconded by Alan Davey.

Chairman's report

Chairman stated the 2023 season had been a great success, both on and off the green.

He explained that there were only two committee meetings as any issues and problems were dealt with by email or phone calls.

Thanks was given to John Collard for managing the installation of a new water heating system & John Stevenson for giving a lot of time and effort to replacing clubhouse chair upholstery. Thanks was also given to all the volunteers who helped out.

On the green it was extremely satisfying to see our members really enjoying their bowling. The performances have improved & bowlers coming into the league bowling have made adjustments quite easily through our internal bowling games.

The Mason Cup competitions were our flagship events once again, giving us an opportunity to showcase our club. He gave a huge thank you from the club to the most generous sponsorship given to us. Thanks was also given to the volunteers who provided catering, raffle prizes & organisational help.

It was the first year that Heckington guides were invited to discover green bowls. It was a success and everyone enjoyed the event.

The new club shirts look very good and we plan to introduce a club baseball cap for the 2024 season.

The Chairman thanked the Committee for their hard work, the players for making the year enjoyable and supporters who have watched the bowling.

He stated that, if elected, he was willing to carry on as Chairman and looked forward to further improvements in 2024.

Secretary's report

The Secretary reported that the club continues to grow membership with this season closing with 40 members. The club was promoted with a series of open days, on the website, on Facebook & by advertising in the village magazine. Thanks was given to Malcolm McIntyre for managing our Facebook presence.

As the accounts show, our catering continues to be popular at our competitions & Saturday roll ups. We plan to introduce 2 new social events for 2024. There will be a summer version of our Pie & Chips quiz & a Strawberries & Cream tea & bowling event. Thanks must go to Mezz & Wendy for all their hard work catering the events.

Members voted for a Club shirt at the last AGM. We agreed on a design at the pre-season meeting and had a successful take up. Shirts are available to order at any time, charged as cost, but there is a 5 week lead time.

There are two upcoming events. This year's Pie & Chip quiz is at the village hall on Friday December 15th. The presentation evening is on January 26th 2024 at the Barge & Bottle, Sleaford.

A volunteer list is kept. Any members, who can spare a few hours during the season, to join a working party were asked to register their interest.

Treasurer's report

Over the year the club finances have been reduced by £930 against a £500 profit the previous year. However the loss was accounted for by non recurring expenses which include skip hire, supply & installation of new water heater system and repairs to the irrigation pump and some new equipment. If you take these out, the running costs were similar to last year. Covering our costs was due, in large part, to generous donations by some members, notably our President and an unexpected donation from a local company. These donations and the associated gift aid claims are the largest part of the club's income, £2000. Membership fees were £1675, competition and match fees £635. Profit from food sales went up from £291 the year before to £965 making the catering an important part of our income. This is thanks, in the main, to Mezz & Wendy.

This year we promoted the Easyfundraising site & raised £166 an increase from £50 in previous years. The treasurer explained the scheme and encouraged members to use it, offering to give details to any member not currently using the scheme.

Maintenance of the green and clubhouse cost £4500 over the year. As usual, this would have been a lot more if it wasn't for the committed voluntary work of the green team. So, overall, the club finances are pretty stable, currently £12,200. It's the funds raised from all the other activities, the catering, the raffles and events that enable us to avoid a large increase in membership costs. It's your support for the catering, the raffles and things like that is very much appreciated, and needs to continue.

Financial Statement

1st October - 30th September 2023

Registered Charity Number 1133746

Balance at bank	30/09/2023	(01/10/2022)
Lloyds current a/c	£ 2,074.60	(£ 4,117.14)
Lloyds savings a/c	£ 46.07	(£ 9,000.47)
Term savings	£ 10000.00	
	£12,120.67	(£13,117.61)
Petty cash held	£ 83.20	(£ 15.45)
TOTAL FUNDS	£12,203.87	(£13,133.06)

Net loss for year **-£ 929.19**

Income

Membership fees	£ 1,675.00	(£ 1,675.00)
HMRC gift aid	£ 278.95	(£ 211.18)
Easy fundraising	£ 166.23	(£ 46.87)
Donations	£ 1,887.94	(£ 1,277.00)
Competitions & match fees	£ 635.66	(£ 722.00)
Masons Cup fees	£ 436.00	(£ 243.00)
Food sales	£ 965.40	(£ 725.25)
Raffles	£ 408.08	(£ 260.00)
Penny jar	£ 1.76	(£ 4.02)
Stickers		(£ 11.50)

Quiz night	£ 216.41
Shirts	£ 802.00
Bank interest	£ 46.07

TOTAL **£7,519.42** **(£ 5,175.82)**

Expenses

Fertiliser etc.	£ 921.31	(£ 466.26)
Petrol	£ 24.95	(£ 183.65)
Clubhouse / shed	£ 1,952.10	(£ 498.93)
Bins	£ 64.00	(£ 64.00)
Rent	£ 576.00	(£ 576.00)
Water	£ 51.76	(£ 44.62)
Advertising	£ 75.00	(£ 110.00)
Insurance	£ 195.84	(£ 194.72)
Methodist Hall rent	£ 25.00	(£ 25.00)
Equipment (green)	£ 389.36	(£ 696.25)
Maintenance	£ 1,003.76	(£ 482.94)
Food costs	£ 385.27	(£ 433.61)
Gifts	£ 66.00	(£ 33.98)
Gas cylinders	£ 156.00	(£ 104.00)
Prizes	£ 780.00	(£ 780.00)
Stamps / sundries	£ 16.32	(£ 15.20)
Skip	£ 414.00	
Linc County fee	£ 67.00	
Engraving	£ 19.50	
Presentation evening	£ 399.95	
BBQ	£ 45.79	
Shirts	£ 802.00	
Sum-up fees	£ 17.70	

TOTAL **£ 8,448.61** **(£ 4,693.86)**

Income over expenses **-£ 929.19 loss** **+ (£ 481.96)**

Green Manager's report

Thanks to Stewart, Steve & Rodger for their assistance this year, not only in terms of grass cutting but, more recently Stewart, Steve, Stewart's son-in-law and his neighbour for maintenance work on the Sisis machine. This will improve its overall performance and ease of use as we switch from blades to tines and back again.

It has been another tough year with the weather, high temperatures and lack of rain for extended periods. Rink 1 is under shadow for large periods, Rink 5 dries out very quickly and both are impacted by the proximity of trees we can do little to address. It is a weather pattern we are going to see repeated more often.

At the end of the season we focused on adding loam to the soil to level out the minor imperfections. This followed with an overall re-seed, which has had only limited success in the worst areas of the aforementioned rinks. More attention will be given in the early spring.

We have needed maintenance work on the watering system and thanks to John Collard for dealing with that. Equipment wise we are now in a good position and should require little capital expenditure over the next few years.

One of the outstanding points remains work on the clubhouse, particularly at the front. John Collard and myself will investigate what needs to be done but, as mentioned last year, the upcoming end of the current lease and the need to engage with the landlord for the next period, means it is not sensible to spend too much at this stage, other than running repairs.

Finally, a thanks to everyone who turned up to help at the pre-season preparation day back in April. It really helped get us in good order for the start of the season and it would be great to see as many people back again before the start of the 2024 season.

Competition's Secretary's report

I have broken this down into four sections.

Championship Competitions

Unfortunately we did not finish our comps. This year as certain players took too much time arranging their matches not necessarily the finalists, but through earlier rounds. Although we had until mid September to get matches played, they forget that they needed to arrange games early for this to happen. So, in 2024, I will be putting a play-by date on each round. If you have not arranged the game by that date, you will both be excluded from that competition. (Unless sanctioned by the Match Secretary). The two outstanding finals will be arranged for early next season.

Club Competitions

These were shared between Saturday mornings and Monday afternoons. It was quite clear that the take up for these one-off comps was more popular on Saturdays than on Mondays. With this in mind we have taken the decision to move them all to Saturday mornings in 2024. The 2 & 4 wood pairs and 3 wood triples will move alongside the Australian pairs, 4,3,2,1 Pairs, Dave Wollerton singles and the Ladies v Gents match to Saturday mornings.

Sleaford League

2022 result: Played 14, win 1, lost 13, points 31 finished in 8th (last) place

2023 result: Played 16, win 8, lost 8, points 76 finished 5th (mid table) place

In view of this you can see the improvement in the performances. The games we lost were much closer than last year. We worried most of the top teams and gave them a good game. It would be nice to see us go that one step further and get into the top three next year.

Woodhall Spa League

2023 result: Played 10, win 5, lost 5, points 30, finished joint 3rd (out of 6)

Eslaforde 47, Sleaford Town 34, Cranwell 30, Bristol 30, Heckington 30, Ruskington 6

All in all we were rather unfortunate not to finish 2nd. It was achievable.

Next season, 2024, we are entering two teams, Heckington Millers and Heckington Bees. We can do it and it will give those who are uncertain in thinking that they are not good enough the chance to prove themselves wrong. I shall require a captain for one of the teams as I cannot physically do both teams. It was nice to see all the members enjoying themselves at the competition this year.

The Competition's Secretary then asked if there were any questions.

Member enquired: Can members contact details be circulated to assist with contact to arrange a game? The secretary stated that it was not policy as some members did not want details published on the internet. A copy of members' details was on the clubhouse noticeboard and the website stated, on the membership page, that members could request a copy to arrange matches.

Member enquired: Our facebook page was open to the public & the member did not like the public viewing members comments. The Club Facebook organiser explained that currently members & public can view but only members can post comments. It could be changed to members only. The secretary said that the website invited viewers to click on the Facebook logo to access the Club facebook page. This enabled them to see any posts without being a Facebook member, or giving any details. He suggested that, perhaps, it was better not to make a post if it was not wanted to be generally viewed. This was accepted.

ELECTION OF OFFICER

All current Committee members were happy to stand again & the meeting voted all members to continue for the 2024 season. This was proposed by Alan Davey and seconded by Malcolm McIntyre. The meeting was asked if any member wished to join the Committee but there was not.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The Treasurer reminded members the current fee was £45.00. It is our second biggest chunk of income, so it is obviously very significant but it doesn't go anywhere near covering all the running costs. To a large extent, the money raised from members' support through competition fees, catering and raffles makes up the difference. The committee felt that as finances were stable, with no large capital costs expected, all membership and catering charges would remain unchanged for the 2024 season. The meeting was asked for comments on this and a member felt that the fees were very cheap and an increase to £50 would be a help to finances without impacting on members. The treasurer said that a third option is to keep the fee at £45 but give the membership the option of making a donation, which would then qualify for gift aid, giving a further 20%. A vote to increase fee to £50 was proposed, but not seconded, so the Chairman declared fees would remain at current level.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A member wondered why the Club Constitution was no longer on the web site. The Secretary said he was having a technical issue but would try to ensure it appeared on the site in the near future. He also said a copy would be on the internal club notice board immediately after the meeting. No other matters were raised and the Chairman announced that the next meeting would be the pre-season meeting on the 29th March 2024. The meeting closed at 7.40pm.