

PURLEY BURY BOWLING CLUB
MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on Saturday 14th October 2016
at 10.10 am in the Clubhouse

Members present: 46

John Tucker, Hon. Secretary, took the Chair, and opened the meeting. He called for a Minute's silence in memory of Gordon Wright and Bob Clarkson.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** 35 members

2. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17th October 2015 have been displayed in the Club House for some time. Roger Chapman proposed, and Rob Hobart seconded, the motion to approve the Minutes. This was carried unanimously and the Hon. Secretary signed them as a correct record.

3. **Matters Arising**

None

4. **President's Report**

(a) John read out the President's Report. Robin expressed his apologies for absence which was also mentioned at the EGM. The Club had a successful bowling year and he will leave it to the Captains to report on the winners. During the year he had interviewed a number of new applicants and a common theme to the question "Why do you want to join Purely Bury?" is "You are all so supportive of each other when you are playing a match". We do this naturally and it has become a cornerstone of our club.

(b) Both Captains are standing down this year and he thanked them very much for all their hard work and support throughout the year. Ann took on the twin roles of Ladies Captain and Club Captain in her first year and excelled in both. Paul had to contend with all the usual pressures and also with a serious operation towards the end of his term of office. He has come through both challenges with flying colours.

(c) There are many people who carry out often onerous jobs around the club. He just wanted to highlight a few this year – Ray Crosbie who regularly sweeps the Green in the mornings, Penny James and Monica Hayes who keep the club supplied with milk and biscuits and Dave Warrington who is sorting out the security lighting and must be credited with introducing "A nice dew drop" and "Halleluiah that will do ya" into the club's vocabulary. There are, obviously, many more names to be mentioned next year.

(d) Robin said he had enjoyed his first year as President and he thanked everyone for their help and support.

5. **Ladies Captain's Report**

(a) Ann said that the ladies had a reasonable season playing 40 matches – won 31 and lost 9. A few clubs had cancelled matches for various reasons. We did not have to cancel any match.

(b) We lost in the second round of the Top Club competition to Knaphill. We only managed to reach the quarter finals of the Surrey competitions. Sheila Cable, Margaret Gordon and M. Ann Brown played in the triples and Val Hobart, Diane Tarran, Sonia Harwood and Pat Jaques in the fours. This means that Pat earned the final point to enable her to qualify for her County Badge. Congratulations to Pat.

(c) In the Borough of Croydon competitions Monica Hayes and Fanny Smith reached the semi-finals of the Championship Pairs. Diane Tarran, Pat Jaques, Monica Hayes and Geraldine Tucker reached the Finals of the Jean Barr Fours which means that Monica and Geraldine qualify for their Borough badges when they have played the required three games for the Borough.

(d) In the Croydon League we came fifth. We won the Croydon & District League Knockout triples for the second year running. Congratulations to Val Hobart, Pat Jaques and Maureen Atkins.

(e) Ann thanked Jean Murphy for organising the Smith League. Unfortunately we were unable to play the match against Wallington. In the Past Times Competition we lost in the second round to Leatherhead. Thanks are due to Margaret Gordon for organising the teams.

(f) We had three new lady bowlers this year. We have 47 lady bowlers only 30 of which have played in club matches and a few of those only played in one or two matches.

(g) Ann also thanked Margaret Gordon, Val Hobart, Sheila Cable and Tina Harland who have all acted as Captain in games during the season. She thanked Kathy for arranging the catering rota, and Steve Cooke and Dave Popejoy for organising the Bar rota.

(h) Ann concluded by thanking Paul for all his help throughout the year and wished him a speedy recovery. Finally, she thanked all the ladies for their gift.

6. Men's Captain/Club Captain's Report

(a) Paul reported that we played 9 indoor matches, winning 3, losing 4 and 2 we had to cancel for lack of numbers. These are fun games and he would encourage members to put their names down. We won the Mid-Week Spitfire League for the second year in succession and collected £220 in prize money. There will be only one team in the Colin Hibbs League this year.

(b) The short mat continues to be very popular and well supported. Thanks are due to Alan Bailey for overseeing this. The Darts section, run by Peter Scott, is about to start in the next few days but, unfortunately, the Crib section has closed for lack of numbers. However, thanks are due to Tom Singleton for all his efforts. The Bridge section continues to flourish – thanks to Roger Chapman. Thanks are also due to all our Quiz masters.

(c) Our Social events have been successful and I hope they will continue if we can encourage a few more members to assist the Social Committee. Thanks are due Geraldine and Dave Popejoy for all their hard work and long hours in the kitchen together with their helpers, Dave and Kay Crush, Kathy Pickett, Carol Searle and others. Geraldine is now taking a well-earned rest.

(d) The outdoor season opened with President's Day followed by an excellent roast beef meal in celebration of St. George's Day. Our full fixture list included a mixed game against Friends of Bowls England and we hosted the Surrey Ladies County Final.

(e) The men's section had 61 competitive games – league, friendly and mixed. We won 33, lost 18 and 8 were cancelled some due to lack of numbers.

(f) In the East Surrey League we won 10 matches, lost 6 and finished 2nd in the table – an improvement on last year. Our ESL Top Ten team reached the finals but lost to Cheam B.C.

(g) In the RSB league we won 13 and lost 11. We finished 10th in the table – not last!

(h) In the National Top Club we played 5 games but then drew North Sheen B.C. in the Semi-finals. We retained the Borough of Croydon Double Fours "Advertiser Cup" and the Borough's "President's Bowl".

(i) Congratulations to Joe Cable on receiving the Leopard Award from the County President and also for his continued selection for the Middleton Cup team.

(j) In the Surrey competitions, Dave Staples lost in the semi-finals of the Secretaries Cup. Alan Bradshaw lost in the quarter finals of the 2 Wood. Sean Dempsey, James Rabson and Peter Pickett lost in the quarter-finals of the Triples. Richard Tucker, Paul Harland, John Tucker and Keith Searle lost in the quarter finals of the fours.

(k) In the Borough Competitions Alan Bradshaw, our only representative in the finals, won his Championship Singles.

(l) Paul thanked everyone who had contributed to making Finals Day so successful. It was nice to see so many people at the Presentation Supper – again thanks to all who helped that evening. He had the pleasure of presenting Sue Wragg, the Chair of Croydon Mencap, his Captain's Charity, with a cheque for £1,240.

(m) Paul concluded by thanking the Officers and Committee for all their hard work, especially Tony Bourne as Vice-Captain and Ann Brown, Ladies Captain. His thanks also went to the Green Committee, Bob Daintree and Peter Pickett, along with their assistants; the coaches Alan Bradshaw and Kevin McNamee; Roger Chapman for organising the aggregates, Dave Popejoy and Steve Cooke for running the Friday night triples and as bar managers. Thanks also to Kathy Bradshaw, Catering Manager. There are numerous other people who help with hedge cutting, gardening, maintenance all of whom volunteer to help the club. Thanks to you all. Paul said he had enjoyed his term in office and wished the Club every success in the future.

7. Secretary's Report

(a) John said his second year as Secretary had been challenging, busy, but enjoyable. He thanked all the Members for their support throughout the year especially his colleagues on the Committee.

(b) During the past twelve months, nine Meetings have been held to discuss a variety of topics and these have been well attended by the elected Committee Members. Whilst the regular Reports have been well covered, there have been other topics under discussion which have required input from individual members and I believe we have worked well as a group in endeavouring to do what we felt to be in the best interests of the Club. We have continued to display a summary of the main points from each meeting where relevant. This keeps members informed about what has been agreed by the Committee. We would encourage members to maintain an interest in what is going on. My thanks go to Monica Hayes, for once again being Minute Secretary – this is a great help to me.

(c) Membership – this year our total membership is 189 (last year 183). The breakdown is Full Members: Ladies 49; Men 63 Total 112 (last year 110). Social Members: Ladies 36; Men 26 Total 62 (58). Life Members: Ladies 3; Men 3 Total 6 (6). Winter Members: Ladies 4; Men 1 Total 8 (5) and Juniors: Ladies 0; Men 1 Total 1 (1).

The new Full Members are Sophie Clarke, Mavis Haeger, Norma Livermore, Allen Banks, Alan Franklin, Colin Gray and Peter O'Driscoll. Sadly Gordon Wright and Bob Clarkson passed away this year. Jean Owers has moved to live near her daughter.

(d) Green – John congratulated all those associated with the upkeep of the green. It has played well all season considering the amount of use it had. Visiting players from around the County have passed positive comments. As you know we had the honour of hosting the Ladies County Finals which went exceptionally well. John thanked all those who helped. We will be hosting the event again in 2017.

(e) Coaching – John thanked Alan Bradshaw and his team for all their continued commitment to this important aspect of the Club.

(f) Helping around the clubhouse – Alan Bradshaw has done an excellent job as Maintenance Co-ordinator. He has, with the help of members, kept on top of everything.

(g)(i) Security – John said that we had increased our security lighting when approaching the Clubhouse. Lights will come on just after you walk in the gate. This is to make it safer for members especially for those who have to come out at night when alarm goes off.

(ii) John said it was essential that when opening up the clubhouse you enter the correct code on the alarm and do not rush. Secondly, you immediately take the key back and put it in the key safe. It is also essential that the last person to leave, regardless of the time of day, lock up and put the alarm on even if people are coming later in the day. Everyone should know how to unlock and lock up the clubhouse. If a member does not know how to do this, they should ask and they will be shown how to do it.

(h) Lottery Syndicate - this has been running for 41 months during which there have been many Jackpots won. The prize money has just topped £10,000, with £3,171 going to Club funds. There are currently 62 members participating producing 89 lines per week. New participants are always welcome. Many thanks to Alan Wilmot for the work he does on the Lottery.

(i) Social - John said he did not know where to begin to thank two members who over the past 11 years have contributed so much to the social aspect of the Club. Dave Popejoy and Geraldine Tucker are standing down this year. They have, with the help of a great team around them, put on many enjoyable evenings and the Christmas lunches/dinners.

(j) The social aspect is going to continue but needs help. Dave, although no longer on the Social Committee, has offered to book the acts for the cabaret. Helen Trendell has offered to organise the catering and will be doing the Christmas meals this year. We need more people to come forward to join the Social Committee.

(k) John concluded by saying he thought this Club is one of, if not the best, Clubs in Surrey. It is a privilege to belong and serve fellow members of this Club.

8. Treasurer's Report

(a) The Treasurer reported the Profit on Normal Activities for the year to 31st August 2016 was £6,351, which was about £1,700 less than last year. The most significant cause of this shortfall year on year was a £700 reduction in Bar Income. The rest was due to minor differences in both income and expenditure year on year.

(b) We incurred Exceptional Expenditure of £5,192. £3,654 related to new equipment for the Bar. Had these costs been shown in the Bar Accounts, the bar profit for the year would have been reduced to £4,577 instead of £8,231.

(c) The Treasurer said that regrettably, an analysis of bar profits over the last few years is showing a downward trend and all members are encouraged to make more use of the bar facilities in future. Without the income from the bar, subscriptions would need to be at least 50% higher.

(d) After taking Exceptional Expenditure into account, we finished the year with a net profit of £1,159 compared to a net loss of £4,368 in 2015. It was his opinion that the Club is in a healthy financial position.

(e) Alan thanked Henry Marlin for examining the accounts and reporting on them.

9. **Coach's Report**

(a) Alan Bradshaw reported that we had eight new bowler applications this year although two have decided not to continue due to other commitment or ill-health. Two have delayed joining but may appear next season. The remaining four seem to be enjoying what the Club has to offer. Alan expressed his thanks to the members who go out of their way to welcome new bowlers, particularly those who play in the aggregates. He stressed the importance of not trying to undo what they have been taught unless the member is qualified to do so. Kevin McNamee and Dave Candeland are also qualified coaches. Alan said there were a number of good coaching, marking or umpiring courses run by Surrey. He stressed the importance of competent markers for all competitions.

(b) Alan reminded members that they should be aware of the Laws of the sport of Bowling and particularly highlighted 'Rink Possession' (Law 35) and 'Wandering onto a neighbouring rink' (Law 36.2) and the need to know which bowls belonged to your team. They should never be turned over in the head in case accurate measuring was required.

(c) If any members have small sized bowls they no longer needed, particularly size 00 and 0, he would like them for new bowlers coaching. They can be donated or sold to the club.

10 **Green Report**

(a) Peter Pickett said that the green had seen some important events played on it this year – the highlight being the Surrey Ladies Final where the club and the green demonstrated why the club is so highly rated.

(b) We have had the expert services of Keith Driver and technical advice from John Noyce. During the year a team of members, Bob Daintree, Steve Cooke, Dave Popejoy, Kevin McNamee, Alan Bradshaw and Ken Harwood, have cut the green each Wednesday. On Fridays Ray Crosbie has brushed the green, plus those who open the green throughout the week.

(c) The green is now closed and the annual renovation work carried out. However, work carried out in the winter and spring dictates show well the playing surface will perform. This includes the spraying of chemicals, brushing, cutting, spiking, rolling, ditch clearing and mat maintenance. Peter mentioned that this work done by the Green Committee and some members saves the club about £3,000 p.a.

(d) Bob Daintree orders the chemicals required, arranges delivery and undertakes the spraying of the green to reduce the spread of diseases. We did get dollar spot and fusarium this year along with nearly all other greens. Fortunately, this only appeared towards the end of the season.

(e) Peter said if anyone plays on a green that shows signs of disease, please wash/disinfect woods and bowls shoes before playing on our green. If anyone causes a divot or scruffs the surface, please replace the divot or pull the scruff back into position. The green mats should be used if divots are being made. He also asked people to return all glasses and cans taken on to the green.

(f) Peter said the green was the Club's greatest asset and he hoped that we will be able to host major events next year. He had suggested that we might host the Borough championship.

(g) John thanked Peter and all those who help maintain the green for all their hard work throughout the year.

(h) John James asked who had responsibility for putting down the mats during a match if divots were being made. John Tucker said the Skip should mention it to the Captain who in turn should inform the opposition Captain that the mats will be put down. It is clearly stated in Bowls England rules that mats can be put down during a match. Bob Daintree said that it was our green and anyone can put the mats down if divots are being made.

11. **Short Mat Report**

In Sylvia Smith's absence, Gerry Smith said that two teams have been entered in the Jack Jackson league for the coming winter. All the other teams in the league are short mat clubs who play throughout the year. Competition is very strong but the games are very enjoyable. We also have a couple of friendly games.

12. **Bar Report**

(a) Dave Popejoy read Bar report on behalf of Steve Cooke. The gross profit for the last financial year was £8,411. Whilst this figure is quite good it is several hundred pounds down on recent years. The bar profit is one of the main criteria which helps to stop the subscriptions rising. The cost of sales is carefully managed by taking advantage of special deals by the supermarkets so the fall in profit is attributable to lower income.

(b) Steve said that the majority of the profit is provided by a minority of members who enjoy a good drink while the benefit accrues to all members. He said the bar had good range of soft drinks so you do not have to drink alcohol

(c) Steve thanked Dave Popejoy for dealing with the brewery and machines and chauffeuring him to Makro and all those on the bar rota who give up their time on at least 5 occasions during the summer.

13. **Election of Officers & Committee**

(a) Before the Meeting voted on the election of officers, John explained that no one had come forward to be Ladies Captain. Maureen Atkins, Sonia Harwood and Pat Jaques have offered to stand at Acting Ladies Captains. They have assured John that they will cover all aspects of the role of Ladies Captain and will ensure that everything runs smoothly.

(b) It was agreed to vote en-bloc for the Officers of the Club: Secretary – John Tucker; Treasurer – Alan Bailey; Men's Captain – Tony Bourne; Acting Ladies Captains – Maureen Atkins, Sonia Harwood and Pat Jaques; Men's Vice Captain – David Candeland; Ladies Vice Captain – Jean Murphy; Ladies Secretary – Sonia Harwood; Men's Match Secretary – Roger Chapman and Ladies Match Secretary – Val Hobart.

(c) Paul Harland proposed and John James seconded the election of the Officers of the Club. The motion was carried unanimously.

(d) John said that the Honours Board would read "Shared" under Ladies Captain. This was agreed.

(interval)

(e) There were 7 people standing for the 4 Ex-officio Committee members: Alan Bradshaw, M.A. Brown, Steve Cooke, Bob Daintree, Ian Frisby, Graham Paxton and Helen Trendell. The votes (including all proxy votes) were counted (tellers John James and Alan Wilmot) and the following were duly elected to the Committee: Alan Bradshaw, M.A. Brown, Steve Cooke and Helen Trendell.

14. **Election of Club Captain**

Tony Bourne was elected Club Captain unopposed.

15. **Presentation of Badges**

John presented the officers with their badges.

16. **Confirm Club Appointments**

(a) Bar Managers - Dave Popejoy and Steve Cooke; Catering Manager - Kathy Bradshaw; Fire Officer & Health and Safety Officer - David Candeland; Maintenance Manager - Alan Bradshaw; Safeguarding Officer - Peter Pickett; Green Sub-Committee - Peter Pickett and Bob Daintree; Gardens Co-ordinators – David and Kay Crush; Social Committee – Graham Paxton and Helen Trendell.

(b) There were two nominations for Competitions Secretary, Keith Searle and Graham Paxton. After a vote of hands (counters Alan Wilmot and John James) Keith Searle was confirmed as Competitions Secretary.

(c) Social Committee – M. Ann Brown and Tina Harland agreed to join the Social Committee.

(d) Gardening Co-ordinators – Penny James, Sonia Harwood, Gerry Smith and Jean Murphy offered to help the Garden co-ordinators.

17. **Life Membership**

John said that it was the unanimous decision of the Committee to award a Life Membership to Judy Havinden who has been a member for over 20 years and given great encouragement and support to the Club. John presented Judy with the award and also passed on Robin's apologies for being unable to present the award personally.

18. **Any Other Business**

(a) Security – John said that the Committee have decided to change the lock on the Clubhouse. There will be a limited number of keys. These keys will be registered and cannot be copied. Any new keys will have to be authorised by the Secretary. In addition the code number will change. Members will be advised of the new number when the lock is changed. This will increase the security of the club because we no longer know who has keys. Dave Candeland, as Safety Officer, asked that he be kept informed of any other changes to security.

(b) Winter Members – Marc Smith asked what Winter Members' voting rights were. John said they had none as they were not full members.

(c) Surrey/Borough Appointments – Joe Cable mentioned that the following were standing for various appointments: Dave Staples as Junior Vice-Captain of Surrey; Peter Hunt as Middleton Cup Manager and Rob Hobart as President of the Borough.

(d) Benches – Marc Smith if benches could be put at the hedge end of the green. John said that the path was not sufficiently strong for benches. It was also pointed out that the path is not that wide and we would not be able to get the large Waste Bin along if benches were on the path. Those who needed to a seat can always take out a plastic chair.

(e) New Romney – John thanked Dave Popejoy for sorting out a cheaper coach for the New Romney visit and also raising funds to cover the hire charge. Paul Harland thanked Robert Brown for organising the day.

(f) Brancaster Road restrictions – Alan Wilmot asked whether the Council are still going ahead with the proposed parking restrictions. John said that the matter was not active and he was pleased to report that members had been very co-operative by not parking on the opposite side of the road. We had not had any further complaints from the neighbours.

John closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 11.30 a.m.