

PURLEY BURY BOWLING CLUB
MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on Saturday 14th October 2017
at 10 am in the Clubhouse

Present : Members: 51
Social Members : 6

Before the meeting started, Tony Bourne and Maureen Atkins presented cheques for £702 and £300 respectively to a representative of Macmillan Cancer Support, this year's Captains' charity.

Robin Gordon, President, opened the meeting and called for a Minute's silence in memory of Past Members – Vera Shaw, Reg Lovejoy, Gordon Skilton and Enid Parker.

1. Apologies for Absence: 34 members

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15th October 2016 have been displayed in the Club House for some time. These were put to the meeting and were carried unanimously. The Chairman signed them as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

Security – Phil Froude asked whether changes had been made to the security of the Club. John said that the lock to the main door had been changed and a limited number of keys distributed. In addition, the code for the key box in the Visitors' Changing Rooms had been altered.

4. President's Report

(a) Robin said that with some clubs struggling to survive and at least one club considering closing altogether, he had to report another successful year for Purley Bury Bowling Club.

(b) The Captains will report on the match results. More importantly we continue to be a friendly, supportive, social and competitive club. In short we have created a bowling club that has something for all but this will only continue if everyone plays their part.

(c) He thanked all the Officers who have done so much work, often carrying on through ill-health and competing commitments.

(d) He highlighted the Club Coaches, Alan Bradshaw and Kevin McNamee. In February this year it was announced that the skill of both coaches resulted in the Surrey Coaching Scheme awarding our Club £220 to help with coaching costs. Well done to Alan and Kevin.

(e) As well as the Officers of the Club, the President thanked the many members who carry out tasks and jobs on a regular basis. These include, amongst others, catering and bar commitments, cutting the green, maintaining the fabric of the building, taking minutes of meetings, maintaining our web site, putting out the bins each week and maintaining the garden.

(f) Robin said there were many small tasks which anyone can do. For example, putting away the plastic chairs, helping with closing the green, making sure all the cups have been washed up and put away as well as supporting the Social Committee when they put on an event.

(g) He was sure if we support each other and do a little extra our Club will continue to grow and flourish along with its members.

5. Ladies Captain's Report

(a) On behalf of Sonia Harwood, Pat Jaques and herself, Maureen Atkins said that this year the role of Ladies' Captain had been shared between the three of them. Sonia had taken the "behind the scenes" role of organizing the matches, taking the phone calls and keeping the records whilst Maureen had been the Captain for the majority of the matches, both Ladies and Mixed. Pat and Jean, the Vice-Captain, had taken a number of the ladies matches. Together they had enjoyed the year. They made a good partnership and worked well together.

(b) The Ladies section had a very successful year. Of the 21 ladies matches played (a few others cancelled for various reasons) we only lost 4.

(c) In the Croydon District League we finished third out of ten clubs.

(d) In the Top Club Competition we played away to Sutton in the 3rd round, drawing level in disciplines and only losing to them by 12 points. Sutton went on to win the competition and to represent Surrey at Leamington.

(e) In the Surrey County competitions, our Triples team of Margaret Gordon, M. Ann Brown and Sheila Cable reached the semi-finals and went to Leamington as 3rd place.

(f) In the Borough of Croydon competitions, Maureen Atkins reached the finals of the 2 Wood Singles and Maureen and M. Ann Brown reached the Final of the Pairs. At the Borough lunch we were delighted to be presented with the President's Bowl having won by one shot.

(g) We were unfortunate to lose in the 1st round of the Past Times Trophy but had more success in the Smiths League getting through to the Final Day to come 4th.

(h) The Ladies Invitation Day was well supported by our club members, both past and present. There was a "Bring and Buy" table, an enjoyable afternoon tea and fun games of bowls on the green. The day raised £300 for this year's Club charity. Special thanks goes to Maureen's daughter, Sonia, who very generously gave many gifts for our fundraising, in memory of her Father.

(i) Maureen thanked Kathy for organising the catering rota and, on several occasions, went out of her way to give extra help. Thanks are also due to the lady bowlers who commit to so many of the matches.

(j) Sonia, Maureen and Pat thanked Jean Murphy for all her help as Vice-Captain and wished her well for the next season.

6. Men's Captain/Club Captain

(a) Tony Bourne thanked Maureen, Sonia, Pat, Dave and all the Committee for their help in running the Club. He particularly thanked Maureen for taking most of the Mixed Matches.

(b) Thanks are due to the Green Sub-Committee for again giving us a near perfect playing surface and one of the, if not the, best greens in Surrey. He also thanked Alan Bradshaw and the Maintenance team of workers especially the Monday morning 'gang'. He thanked Kathy Bradshaw and all those who helped with the catering, David and Kay Crush for maintaining the gardens and Dave Popejoy and Steve Cooke for running the bar. Tony said he would like to mention to the persons who failed to turn up or were on the green bowling, that as they chose to do bar duty rather than catering, they should make arrangements to swap their turn with another person on the bar rota.

(c) Tony congratulated the ladies on their successful year. The men, too, had a very good year. Robin Gordon and Kevin McNamee gained their Surrey badges. Joe was a Middleton Cup player again. Dave Candeland retired as Middleton Cup Manager and Peter Hunt was appointed Manager. John Tucker continues to manage the U25 team, while Derek Harvey, a Social Member, is our County President.

(d) We had some very good results this year. We were ESL Top Ten winners; RSB League winners and we had a good run in the National Top Club and Past Times competitions

(e) In the Borough competitions, Steve Cooke and Peter Pickett won the Championship Pairs; the Champion of Champions was won by Alan Bradshaw, the Jubilee competition by Ian Frisby and Alan Bradshaw, Keith Searle and Colin Gray lost the Triples. In the Championship Singles Colin Gray beat Keith Searle and John Tucker was finalist in the Secretaries. In all Purley Bury was represented in 6 of the 9 Borough competitions. Tony urged members to aim for County and National finals.

(f) The Club had also won the Irene Lansley Cup.

(g) We have won our opening indoor game in the Spitfire competition and Tony hopes we will do well in our mixed friendly matches as well as the Spitfire and Colin Hibbs Leagues.

7. Secretary's Report

(a) John said this has been his third year as Secretary but is to be his last. He wishes his successor all the best in this challenging job.

(b) The Committee - During the past twelve months, eight 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 topics under discussion which have required input from individual members and he believed that we have worked well as a group in endeavouring to do what was felt to be in the best interests of the Club.

We continued to display a summary of the main points from each Meeting where relevant to keep Club members informed about what has been agreed at Committee. We would encourage members to maintain an interest in what is going on. He thanked Monica Hayes for her help as Minute Secretary.

(c) Membership - the breakdown of membership is:

			Year	2015	2106	2017
Full	Ladies = 45	Men = 61	Total	110	112	106
Social	Ladies = 33	Men = 24	Total	58	62	57
Life	Ladies = 3	Men = 2	Total	6	6	5
Winter	Ladies = 8	Men = 2	Total	8	5	10
Juniors	Ladies = 0	Men = 2	Total	1	1	2
Grand total				183	186	180

We welcomed the following new members during the year: Susan Richards, Pam Randall, Tony Goucher, Thomas Goucher, Janet Nicholls, Cathy Sidhom, Eleanor Rhodes and Geoffrey Bell. Sadly, Vera Shaw, Reg Lovejoy, Gordon Skilton and Enid Parker passed away this year.

(d) Green - John congratulated all those associated with the upkeep of the green. Visiting players from around the County have passed positive comments. We hosted the Women's County Finals which went exceptionally well and thanks are due to all who helped. The Surrey County Bowling Association President will be holding his President's Day at the Club in 2018.

(e) Coaching - thanks are due to Alan Bradshaw and his team for their continued commitment. They are willing to offer help to experienced bowlers as well as new bowlers.

(f) Aggregates - Monday and Thursday aggregates have been well attended throughout the season. The average attendance each week on Mondays was 24.4 (62 players) and on Thursdays 19.0 (56 players).

(g) Maintenance - Alan Bradshaw has done an excellent job as Maintenance co-ordinator and John thanked him for all his work. However, it has been disappointing this year in terms of members not helping to keep the club clean and tidy. There have been

many occasions when members have not bothered to wash up their tea/coffee cups, or wiped the table after drinks or meals.

(h) Lottery – this is now in its fifth year during which many Jackpots have been won, and £4,450 has gone to Club funds. Currently 60 members participate producing 87 lines. It is still our aim to reach 100 lines. John thanked Alan Wilmot and M. Ann Brown for running the lottery.

(i) Social – this aspect of the Club is at a critical stage. We have 58 social members who, in John's view, are not getting value for money. He encouraged all members to support the social events.

(j) Finally, John said he thought this Club is one of the best Clubs, if not the best, in Surrey. Next year we will be hosting the County President's Day and the Quarter and Semi Finals of the County Fours competition. He thought these prestige events will only come to us if we maintain our standards and the ethos of the Club. We must not let them be eroded. We have our own identity – we do not want to become just another club.

(k) He wished Joe Cable every success and enjoyment as Surrey Junior Vice-President, Senior Vice-President and as President in 2020.

8. Treasurer

(a) Alan Bailey, Treasurer, presented the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2017. These showed the Profit on Normal Activities was £5,137, which was about £1,200 less than last year. Although there were some minor differences in both income and expenditure year on year, there was a £1,350 reduction in Bar Income, which more than accounted for the reduced profit overall.

(b) An analysis of bar profits over the last few years is showing a downward trend. He encouraged members to make more use of the bar facilities. Without the income from the bar, subscriptions would need to be at least 50% higher.

(c) After taking Exceptional Expenditure into account, we finished the year with a net profit of £4,487 compared with a net profit of £1,159 in 2016. It was his opinion that the Club is still in a healthy financial position with cash and bank balances at the end of August totalling about £29,000.

(d) Alan concluded by thanking Henry Marlin for examining the accounts and reporting on them.

(e) Fanny Smith asked why it was necessary to increase the short mat fee from £1 to £1.50 – an increase of 50% - when short mat contributed £1,377 to Club funds. Robin said some while ago the Committee looked in detail to find ways of increasing the income of the Club. The Committee decided to increase the short mat fees because they use electricity (lighting and heating) and have tea and biscuits. Fanny agreed it was an argument but not a convincing one.

(f) Joe Cable queried the increase in printing, postage and stationery. John said this was because the Fixture Lists and Directory are now printed by a commercial firm.

(g) Colin Gray asked about the reduction in bar profits. Steve said there were lower sales last year. He had tried to minimise this by taking advantage of special offers in the local supermarkets. Steve added that the bar takings for September 2017 were £1,738 compared with £1,078 last year.

(h) Sheila Cable proposed and M. Ann Brown seconded, the adoption of the Accounts. This was carried unanimously.

Robin thanked Alan and Henry Marlin for their work on the Accounts.

9. Coaches Report

(a) Alan said he had coached four new bowlers this season. Two have decided to defer playing until next season whilst Sue Richards and Janet Nicholls have joined in the aggregates. Alan expressed his thanks to those members who welcome new bowlers, particularly the aggregate players.

(b) Dave Candeland and Kevin McNamee are also qualified coaches and all three coaches are willing to help new and existing bowlers improve their game. Alan had helped two members improve their delivery. He added that there are others who would benefit from some coaching.

(c) Alan has enrolled on a Level Two coaching course starting in the Spring. The standard of marking at the Club is better than many clubs but there have been instances of bad marking practices last season and he intends to revise the list of competent club markers. It is his intention to run a "Club Markers Course" next season.

(d) The Club is short of small sized bowls, in particular size 00 and 0's for new bowlers. If members have bowls they do not use they may like to donate them to the club or advertise them for sale on the Club noticeboard.

(e) Alan hoped everyone will continue to enjoy their bowling next season and not to forget the markers course.

Robin thanked Alan for all his hard work throughout the year.

10. Green Report

(a) Bob Daintree reported that the green was in good condition. During last winter it was sprayed with worm suppressor and Ferronex (an iron treatment for moss). The new sprayer has now been well used with various chemicals.

(b) In March the green was scarified and given a dressing of fertiliser. There were two patches which were treated at the beginning of the season but did not respond properly. It is intended this winter to remove the patches, replace the subsoil and then replace the turf.

(c) Throughout the season the efforts of those helping with the green have produced a great surface for all bowlers. We have received many compliments on our green and the Surrey Ladies Championship competitors and officials were pleased with playing at Purley Bury for the last two years.

(d) The green has now been put to bed after it had been sprayed with Rescue to reduce rye grass and with iron to suppress the moss before scarification and re-seeding. The ditch mats have been lifted, allowed to dry and are now being stored in the Shaw Pavilion. This will keep them clean and free from growth over the winter. It is hoped to have the area behind the Clubhouse cleared and the rubbish removed by a grabber lorry.

(e) We 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 on Wednesdays saving the Club money. Thanks are also due to Ray Crosbie who comes down during the week to drag brush the green. This really helps keep the worm cast from leaving earth pancakes which impact the grass growth. Any swishing that members can do to remove the dew helps to maintain the green in a healthy condition and reduce the growth of fungus.

(f) The air ambulance landed on the green towards the end of the season and left an impression on the green. Fortunately the marks have lifted and no real damage was done.

(g) Bob stressed that it was important that members put down the mats when instructed by the green rangers or when they notice a divot being made. In a match it is the skip's responsibility to see the mats are put down as soon as they see, or are told, that divots are being made. This applies to all members. It is also important if anyone plays on a green showing signs of disease, that they wash/disinfect woods and bowls shoes before playing on our green. These rules are for the protection of the green. It is to be noted that any decision taken by the Green Committee applies to ALL members.

(h) Next season we will host the Surrey Men's quarter and semi-finals. Perhaps the Borough might consider playing their semi-finals at Purley Bury.

Robin expressed his thanks to Bob and all the Green sub-committee and helpers for their hard work throughout the year.

11. Short Mat Reports

- (a) Alan Bailey's section of the report was read by Sylvia Smith. Short mat bowls was as popular as ever with play for the Don Howes Aggregate Trophy taking place 117 times during the season that ended in April 2017. The winner of the trophy was Helen Trendell and Eleanor Rolph was the runner up.
- (b) The average attendance was 12 but Mondays continue to be the most popular day and was nearly always fully subscribed. In addition, we had four friendly matches home and away against Redhill and Warlingham.
- (c) Alan reported that the short mat had contributed £1,377 to Club funds.
- (d) Sylvia then reported on the Wednesday evening league games. Last season we entered two teams in the Jack Jackson Short Mat League. We got off to a slow start because our home mats are considerably slower than the ones used by our competitors. As most of our early matches were played away this put us at a disadvantage. However, Ian Frisby and Maggie Glover were invited at the start of the season to play in the London Counties League games played at the Royal Russell School. As a result of this connection, Maggie was offered the long-term loan of a surplus fast mat which was transported to the Club in Maggie's camper van. Initially there were a few groans from the mid-week players about the fast pace but by the end of the season most people were happy.
- (e) If anyone is interested in joining the evening competitive sessions, we meet at 7.30 pm most Wednesdays for either matches or practise. Please contact Sylvia, Alan Bailey, Maggie or Ian.

12. Election of Officer's & Committee

- (a) It was agreed to vote en-bloc for the Officers of the Club: Secretary – vacant; Treasurer – Alan Bailey; Men's Captain – Tony Bourne; Ladies Captain – Jean Murphy; Men's Vice Captain – Dave Candeland; Ladies Vice-Captain – Ann Allison; Ladies Secretary – M. Ann Brown; Men's Match Secretary – Roger Chapman and Ladies' Match Secretary – Val Hobart.
- (b) Alan Wilmot proposed and John Tucker seconded the election of the Officers of the Club. The motion was carried unanimously.

(interval)

- (c) There were six people standing for the 4 Ex-officio Committee members: Allen Banks, Steve Cooke, Ian Frisby, Helen Trendell, Paula Thompson and Sheila Cable. The votes (including the proxy votes) were counted (vote counters: John James and Alan Wilmot) and the following were duly elected to the Committee: Allen Banks, Steve Cooke, Sheila Cable and Helen Trendell.
- (d) The meeting agreed unanimously that the Secretary should destroy the voting papers immediately after the meeting.

13. Election of Club Captain

Tony Bourne was elected Club Captain unopposed,

14. Presentation of Badges

Robin presented the Officers with their badges.

15. Confirm Club Appointments

The following appointments were confirmed:

Bar Managers – Dave Popejoy and Steve Cooke; Catering Manager – Kathy Bradshaw; Fire Safety & Security Officer and Health & Safety Officer – Dave Candeland; Maintenance Manager – Alan Bradshaw; Safeguarding Officer – Peter Pickett; Green Sub Committee –

Peter Pickett and Bob Daintree; Gardening Co-ordinators – David and Kay Crush; Social Committee – Helen Trendell, M. Ann Brown, Tina Harland and Sonia Harwood.

16. Change to Honours Board

(a) Robin explained that at the AGM last year it was agreed that the word "Shared" should be used for the Ladies Captain on the Honours Board as the role was to be shared between Sonia Harwood, Maureen Atkins and Pat Jaques. Sonia has asked the Committee, with Pat's full agreement, that the Board should show "Atkins/Harwood" rather than "Shared".

(b) Jean Murphy proposed that the Board should read "Atkins/Harwood" instead of "Shared".

(c) There was a debate with members putting their views for and against the proposal. In particular, Joe Cable was against a decision taken at one AGM being altered at the next AGM. The Chairman said that the meeting seemed divided over the issue and so called for a show of hands:

(d) For the proposal to alter the Board to read "Atkins/Harwood" – 12 vote + 4 proxy votes – Total 16

Against the proposal so the Board will read "Shared" – 18 votes + 1 proxy vote – Total 19

Abstentions – 4.

(e) The Chairman declared the motion rejected.

17. Club Secretary

Robin said as there was no nomination for Secretary, he wished to propose the following: "In the absence of a Full member volunteering to be Club Secretary, Rule 3.3 be overridden for one year only, to allow Alan Wilmot (currently a Social Member) to be Club Secretary for the coming year. (2017-2018 season).

The resolution was carried unanimously and so Alan Wilmot is elected Club Secretary.

18. New Shirts

(a) Robin said that the Committee had decided to change the material of the Club shirts. It had been agreed to use Aceit as our suppliers. The material will be the same as that used by Bowls England.

(b) The Committee decided to take the opportunity to propose a new design (a sample of which was displayed at the meeting) but that it would have to be agreed by the members. The meeting had to decide whether the Club went for a new design in the Aceit material or keep the existing design but in the Aceit material.

(c) Dave Candeland said that the new shirts would be £24 and the shower proof jackets £34. The current shirts cost £18 and the jackets are £24.

(d) There was a long and varied discussion on the merits of each option. Robin said that if we went for the new design it may be possible for the club to subsidise a shirt for every member.

(e) Tony Bourne said that if we went for the new design this will have to be registered with Bowls England. A club can only have one registered design. If it is decided to change, all members playing in representative or competitive matches will have to have the new design.

(f) Robin then called for a vote by a show of hands:

To change to the new design – 20 votes + 3 proxy votes – Total 23

To retain the existing design – 19 votes + 2 proxy votes – Total 21

There were 10 abstentions

(g) Robin said that the vote is carried to change to the new design. The meeting agreed that the Committee would decide the final colour of the collar and sleeves. Members were urged to express their individual preferences to a Committee member for consideration.

19. Any Other Business

(a) Improvements to the grounds – Joe Cable said that work will be done to the path by the visitors' changing rooms to enable the Biffa bin to be moved more easily. They were also going to concrete the gaps in the path along the hedge. He was also proposing to put a pergola either side of the Shaw Pavilion to give protection from the rain.

(b) Club Handicaps – Colin Gray asked whether action was going to be taken to prevent members playing in Club competitions where their handicaps should have prevented them entering the competition. John said that all the handicaps will be reconsidered allowing for playing ability and adjusted accordingly before the beginning of the next season. Each member's handicap will be on their subscription renewal forms.

(c) Thanks – Ann Allison thanked all the people who organise the competitions.

Robin then declared the meeting closed.

John Tucker proposed a vote to thanks to the Chairman.

The meeting closed at 12.10 p.m.