

Kidlington Bowls Club. AGM October 25th 2023.

Minutes.

Prior to the meeting a minutes silence was held in memory of May Berry and Dave Floyd, both founder members of the club.

There were 36 members present according to the attendance register.

Apologies were received from: Dixon Wright, Sue Feeley, Ian and Janet Whelpton, Bernie May and Paul McGrath.

Minutes of the AGM 2022 having been circulated, were signed as a true record by M Cox, Chairman.

Chairmans opening remarks.

I would like to welcome everyone to the AGM,

Wow what a season 2022 was. I hope you all enjoyed the weather, the games, company and social aspects of the past season as much as I did. We were busier than ever, and I would like to thank all who helped make the season such a success. Both by playing in the various fixtures, competitions and leagues, as well as helping when we welcomed external teams to our green. We have received very positive feedback especially from the County regarding the team and facilities that Kidlington provide.

As you are all aware, the lease has been signed securing the future of the club for another 15 years, and it is now up to you the members to take this forward and continue with this success.

I must reiterate again, what a great team your committee has been over the past year. Especially Bernie for ensuring the bar is always stocked up, Pam, who has helped out a lot on the bar, alongside her job as treasurer, Bob for his never-ending vigilance in ensuring the club is maintained to a high standard, along with Veta who ensured the weekly cleaning was completed and the club captains (social games, ladies, and men's league) for ensuring the various games went ahead. We still need however a few more people to help, especially on Bobs working parties, running the bar, and general duties when we host games, and I know I've said it before many hands do make light work.

On a personal note, I would like to thank a few other members, in particular 3 social members, Gillian, for always ensuring the raffle went ahead, Sue Foster for her continued help in the Kitchen especially during external events, and Jenny, who has stepped up to help on the bar. Other stalwarts include Ray for putting out the equipment week in and week out, and Chris and Alan for cooking Bacon and barbeques and Jackie and Linda for raising the bar in relation to social events, and their success with the meat raffle, bingo and darts.

Short mat has re-started, and I thank Bob, Adrian and their team of helpers, for ensuring the mat is always as it should be. I'm sure I've missed some other folk, but I do thank you all on behalf of the Club.

I have seriously considered my continued role of the committee, especially now the lease has been signed, however following a vote of confidence from the committee, I have been persuaded to do one more year, my 9th!

As usual there are still a few unfilled roles on the committee. including OBA representative and housekeeping officer, neither role is onerous, so please consider during the meeting if you could help for the 2023 season. What we would like to try and avoid is one or 2 members taking on more than one committee position. If you feel you could help in any way we would be delighted if you would think about joining the committee, to keep the spirit of this successful club alive for the future.

Maureen

Treasurer's Report

Welcome everyone and it is good to see so many of you here supporting your club and having a share in voting for decisions which will affect us all.

The current Balance is £30150. As Maureen has mentioned the lease has been signed, but this does mean that we will have more expenditure with rent and water from signing the lease and the graduation of electricity and heating which will come in slowly over a period of the next 5 –10 years.

Last year I mentioned about the £10,000 grant received and that we purchased a new mower and the balance was to be spent on new ditch mats which have now been purchased and they certainly made the shutting up of the green easier this year for the working party this year.

Maureen and the committee have worked very hard again this last year and we were very lucky to have had quite a few OBA, BOL and Nationals allocated to us. This was because the visiting clubs are greeted warmly and made to feel very welcome. This is a big credit to both members and the club. By hosting these extra games/competitions it again shows how valuable these games are in bringing in revenue for the club, by purchases over the bar and selling teas, coffees etc. I am pleased to say that the teas etc made £2026. But we really could do with more volunteers helping with teas, bar and greeting visitors instead of mainly leaving most of it all to the committee, it is your club as well as the committees after all.

Next year we have not been allocated so many external games because OBA have been requested to share these games out more evenly around the county, not because we did a bad job.

Regarding your finance sheets, the Auditor has put the green costs at £3494 but this is incorrect the true cost is £11896. Contractor costs of £6418 + grass cutting £2248 and equipment for the green £3230.

As you may have noticed the green has been top dressed for which I have literally only just received the invoice which is an additional cost of £1700.

We have had to increase the subscriptions to £90 and social membership to £12.50 which we have not had to do for many, many years. £12.50 for a year's social membership is not expensive when you consider the list of events coming up. Jackie

and Linda have been working very hard to ensure that we have a full event list during the winter season which has been sent out to members and which we hope everyone will support. If any member who has not given us their email address, please could you do so before leaving tonight.

Thank you

Pam

Pam was questioned from the floor regarding why the match fees were down this year? It was explained that the rink fees had reduced by £1 per game in the 2022 season as we no longer had to pay the full amount to cover the costs of a buffet meal. The club has in fact gained revenue as a result of not providing catering for most matches.

It was also noted that we might gain some small additional income from transferring some of the current account balance into the deposit account, and Pam has agreed that this is something she will be looking into, but it has been made more difficult now the local bank has closed.

President's report

As your president last year, I would like to thank everybody for their help. It has been an enjoyable experience, and a steep learning curve for me.

I would also like to thank all of you on behalf of Cancer Research UK for helping to raise £1389.00. The monies have been sent off.

I would also like to thank you the players, Gillian, and my girls for their help in making my first president's day such a success.

I would like to wish the new President every success, going forward.

Adrian.

Captain's report

Mandy, Bill, Eddy and Adrian have done a great job in coving this role throughout the summer. Bill reported that it was nice to see so many of the newer bowlers on the green. He summarised the season, in that 27 games had been played, 4 had been cancelled, 1 due to the weather, and 2 by the opposition and 1 by mutual consent as neither team has enough players available. Most games however did require an adjustment in the numbers of players for each match.

Won Lost shots scored for against

Bill

Ladies Captain's report

Joy reported that the ladies league games had improved with Woodstock/ Kidlington coming 6th in the league, our highest ever position.

The ladies' fixtures have not been so successful, we only managed to play 3: 6 due to various reasons, but the plus side we were able to field an all-ladies team for the first time for all these games.

Joy.

Match Secretary's report.

When I took on this role 24 months ago, I did so with very little knowledge of how each club's match secretary communicates, or agreed with other clubs re dates etc.

It wasn't long before I realised that most dates are "cast in stone" and trying to alter anything usually has an impact on something, or someone else.

There were 31 mixed friendly fixtures scheduled, ~ 15 at home and 16 away. As noted by Bill only 1 fixture was cancelled by us, 2 by opponents and 1 by weather. Although I understand that quiet a few games had the format adjusted to fit with numbers of players available. This may be a trend in bowls going forward.

6 ladies' fixtures were scheduled, ~ 3 at home and 3 away. Alas only 3 were played as Joy has already noted.

I think we have nearly reached saturation point with the number of friendly games at the moment. We played 22 different clubs~12 just once and 10 twice. We probably need to reduce a few of the 10 clubs we play both home and away, to just one per season, before we take on any new fixtures.

I would like to ask the members to let me know if they have any clubs in mind we should only play once, or conversely if they knew of any clubs you would like to play, which we currently don't have a fixture with, I will see what can be done. It's always nice to play a new club or two each season.

The second part of my role is booking the external clubs to use our green. Kidlington has developed a reputation for our hospitality within the County. Which has resulted in being asked if we could host County fixtures, semi-finals and finals etc.

For the 2023 season, we hosted 9 OBA men's matches in various formats~ plus 4 U 25's matches and finals, and the League Cup final. Bowls Oxfordshire ladies also played County semi-finals and finals on 4 occasions. However, all these occasions albeit a recognition for the club, does put pressure on the committee and the same few volunteers, if I am going to keep saying yes to all these requests, we are going to need more members to get involved with the various chores involved when hosting these days.

Thank you all for your support.

Bob Wright.

Competition Secretary report.

Congratulations to all the winners, and a BIG thank you to those of you who entered the competitions to make them the success they were, and my job easy and pleasurable.

The Competitions provided some very close finishes, especially in the Friday Singles competitions with only 2 shots separating the finalists in the Ladies Never Won Trophy.

21 - 20 was the scoreline in the Terry and Margaret Ellis Bowl and the Noel Aust Men's Never Won, with the latter arguably the most exciting of the evening, seeing the eventual winner make a tremendous comeback from what looked certain defeat. This game had the attention of all the spectators, whether inside the club house at the bar, or sat outside.

Since the completion of the competitions, I have been approached by some of the female competitors requesting that the Harold Hibbert Cup Mixed Pairs be changed to only contested by Male & Female pairings. Now that there appears to be more Ladies entering competitions, I understand where they are coming from, and it my intention to change to this format in Next Year's competition.

More details will follow with the 2024 Competitions Entry forms.

We played four singles games on the Friday evening and even with the lights on I feel that was not the ideal conditions to play a final in. Therefore, it is my intention to play the 2024 Finals on the Saturday and Sunday of the Bank Holiday weekend, and if absolutely necessary, the Bank Holiday Monday.

Ian Whelpton

Charlie asked if the in house triples could also be drawn as a mixed competition. To be discussed in committee with Ian.

Bar manager's report.

Bernie, has tendered his resignation as bar manager and sent a report thanking all who had helped with the bar over the summer. There has been some discussion in committee regarding a review of bar prices, given the increases in VAT. This will take place once the new bar manager is in post.

Bernie

Entertainment Officer's report.

The new programme of entertainment during the summer was well received with the meat draw, darts competitions and bingo being well attended. The winter is more challenging. Given the poor attendance on the last Friday night social, a discussion was had re the continuation of opening on a Friday night. A comment was made that as short-mat is Friday afternoon, members who attend that often go home and don't want to come out again in the evening. A vote was taken and passed that the **social evening** should take place monthly, on alternate weeks to the social functions, on a **Saturday evening**, (7-10.30pm) The meat raffle will be suspended during the winter, as there needs to be enough members to make this viable. A notification of dates will be circulated as soon as it can be formulated.

A new notice board has been situated just outside the main door so that players can put their names down for events if the porch is locked during the winter

A race night has been organised for January.

Jackie and Linda

Press officer's report.

Mike reported that he has suspended reporting to the Kidlington news now until April 2024 and reminded everyone that these reports are always backdated due to the date that copy has to be with the printers.

The website will be updated as soon as the new committee is known.

Our Facebook page is up to date and thanks go to Jackie, Mandy and Adrian for their comments on this. Mike reminded everyone that all members who use social media are welcome to add to these pages.

Mike

Maintenance Manager's report.

Bob reported that all is looking good. The most recent work party has repaired the felt roof over the shed and a fault noted over the lady's toilet roof mended. Thanks go to the stalwarts of the work parties, Alan R, Chris, Bernie, Paul and Jim, as well as Adrian and his hedge cutting gang, along with Maureen and Sue F for refreshments.

4 redundant machines which have been stored in the garage have been sold, thanks to Eddie for putting them on eBay. A total in excess of £2000 has been raised by this. Eddie was also thanked for his help in spraying the weeds around the green which has saved a lot of man hours in weeding this season.

The next big job is to collect the artificial turf we have been able to obtain, free of charge from Oxford City Football Club, ready to edge the green in time for next summer.

The work party to put the green to bed was a bit disappointing with only 5 members turning up.

Bob still has a few jobs in his list, so if you have an hour to spare, get in touch with him and he can advise what needs doing.

Following a suggestion from the floor Bob has agreed to ensure that the dates for the next work party are circulated by email.

Bob Foster

BOL delegate's report.

Nothing to report. Minutes of the last meeting have been posted in the foyer. **Pam**

OBA delegates report.

Nothing to report.

Bernie

Election of Officer's to the committee:

Office	Nominee	Proposer	Seconded
Existing committee willing to stand again			
Chairman	M Cox	Proposed en block Charlie Holley	Seconded en block Adrian Nicklin
President	Barry Willoughby		
Vice President	Adrian Nicklen		
Captain -Social games	Roy Hailey/ Eddie Stevens		

Vice Captain	Adrian Nicklen		
League Captain (Men)	Ben Dixon		
Ladies Captain	Joy Williams		
Fixtures Secretary	Bob Wright		
B.O.L. Delegate	Pam Willoughby		
Press Officer	Mike Petersen		
Maintenance Manager	Bob Foster		
Safeguarding Officer	Maureen Cox		
Nominated Positions			
Hon. Secretary	Audrey Fairgrieve	John Henman	Bob Foster
Competition Secretary	Ian Whelpton		
Bar Manager	Eddie Stevens		
Entertainment Officer(s)	Jackie Tanney / Linda Slay		
Safeguarding Officer	Joy Williams		
Vacant positions			
Treasurer	Pam Willoughby	C Cox	M Rodway
Vice treasurer	Alan Blunsdon	John Henman	Eddie Stevens
Housekeeping officer	Unfilled position		
O.B.A. Delegate	Barry Willoughby	Bill Hailey	Andy Crawley

Motions/ rule changes to be debated

No proposals noted.

AOB.

Mixed Triples League For 2025. Kidlington have been invited to join the Oxfordshire mixed triples league, (West Oxfordshire league), which is an expanded version of the existing league, planned to fit with the County's unification policy. We have been notified that to date 17 teams have registered to play for the 2024 season, but it undecided yet as to what format the league will be played.

There was a lot of discussion around this proposal, and several concerns were raised:

- Bob W raised concern that to accommodate any additional fixtures required to play in the league we would have to reduce some of the fixtures that are currently played on a home or away basis, to play these teams only once a year.
- These fixtures only require 12 players, (4 triples) which is less than we currently play. Meaning some players would not get a game. It was noted that

in the original set up of the West Ox League, there was provision for more rinks to be played, but 4 rinks needed to be nominated to count for the league.

- If we don't join, some clubs may cease to play Kidlington as they need to drop teams to accommodate league fixtures.

A vote was taken, and 9 players indicated they would be interested in joining the league; however, it would be important to obtain a copy of the league format and rules of play before any final decision is taken. The committee will follow this up and the issue is to be discussed again at the preseason meeting.

The provision of refreshments after games: The club has now completed a full season without catering except for games where it is known that catering will be provided on the away leg. It was debated and a vote was taken, agreeing that Crisps and biscuits only will be supplied by the club for home fixtures and rolls / crisps for those teams known to provide a buffet. (West Oxford, Witney Town)

Halloween Night Jackie requires numbers asap for this. It is not well supported currently and is in danger of being cancelled.

Daytime roll up. Russ asked if anyone was interested in a roll up during the day in the summer to contact him.

Notification of teams on the website. Dave asked if it might be possible to put the teams once selected on the website. This is not a problem, but teams are often changed at the last minute. It was re-iterated that if you put your name down to play, assume you are playing unless contacted by the Captain.

Indoor fixtures for this winter. The sheets are now up for the 3 indoor fixtures. Players are invited to put their names down. Adrian has agreed to act as Captain for these games. Flo requested that the team sheets be placed lower on the board, so those who are not as tall can access them.

Cleaning Rota for 2024. As there is no House keeping officer on the committee, members who are listed for the cleaning rota will not be contacted as a reminder of their rostered weeks in advance. Please would all members be vigilant as to when their week is. Nigel raised the point that not all members were aware how to access the club for cleaning. Any member who is unsure should ask a committee member for this information.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.20.