

## **EWHURST BOWLING CLUB**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

#### **1.**

**The Chairman**, Maurice Bowles, warmly welcomed 35 members. He thanked all the members for their support and the support of the Committee.

He asked members to remember those who are longer with us, John Ellenger, Tom Moss and Nigel Sloman

The Chairman thought the club had a successful year playing on a wonderful green and providing our members with ample opportunities to play bowls at all levels during the season.

Special thanks was given to retiring Committee members Richard Tabor, Ann Riches, Brian Allen and Allan Webber.

He pointed out what he thought would be the main challenges for next season i.e. falling membership and more bowls clubs closing.

Finally he asked all members to respect the views of others during any debates/discussions.

**Apologies received** – John Greenwood, John Thompson, Agatha and Mike Crowther, Jean Esterson, Dianna and Michael Benoy, Maggie and Neil Henderson, Anne Lock, Ann Riches and Allan Webber.

#### **2.**

**Approval of the 2018 AGM Minutes** – These were approved by Roger Newman and seconded by June Brockman.

#### **3.**

##### **Secretary Jackie Rubie**

The Secretary thanked the many who contribute to the running of the Club.

This season the Club welcomed Mo Fairhurst, Brian Kevern, Judy and Paul Tanner, Roy Driscoll and Joan Greenwood.

Our two coaches, Hilary Mitchell and John Greenwood, were thanked for their tuition to our new bowlers, which were of great help.

Thanks were given to Richard Tabor, Jean Esterson. Liz Sprake and Sandy Moore for looking after the flowers beds: also thanks to Lesley Hawes and Jo and Roger Newman for keeping the green edges cut.

Jon Koefman, Allan Webber and his team of brushers and mowers are to be congratulated on the condition of the green, despite some very challenging weather conditions.

Although unable to attend through illness on the day of departure, thanks were given to Ken Dillely who made all the arrangements for our bowls holiday at Bere Regis Golf Resort. Thanks were given to Pauline Gallagher for continuing to administer the Lottery, both very valuable sources of fund raising: Anne Lock and Di Richardson were thanked for supplying the prizes for all the raffles. Ann Riches and Jude Fisher and their catering teams were thanked for the delicious meals at our special events and thanks given to all those members who catered for our match teas and suppers.

Brian Allen and the Social Committee work hard to find new social events for which the Club thank them but they do need the support of members.

Thanks were given to Roger Dobbing who edits and produces the Newsletter and Roger Newman for all his input on the web site both keeping members up-to-date with Club happenings and successes. The Secretary urged members to check the web site as Roger records winners of competitions etc.

### **3. Secretary Jackie Rubie continued**

Many members take on tasks behind the scenes, John Fisher who produced the Rink Diary, Mike White for all the jobs carried out in the Club House, the members who run all the leagues and the various Captains of the Day, the Secretary thanked everyone who contributes towards the smooth running of the Club.

She thanked all the Committee for their work behind the scenes, and for their attendance at our monthly Committee Meetings.

Lastly, she thanked all those who helped to clean the Club House to hand over to the Short Mat Club.

### **4. Club Captain Malcolm Wright**

The Club Captain reiterated all the thanks given in the Secretary's report and added his thanks to the Committee during his first year as Club Captain. The President, Chairman, Ladies and Men's Captains, also ran club events. Thelma Spiers ran the Surrey Advertiser and Roger Newman the Guildford, Woking and District League. Malcolm thanked the Vice-Captains, Doug Lock and John Fisher who also ran club events, Doug for organising the Finals Days and John for organising the Knaphill Triples and the Three Counties League. He thanked the Captains of the Day and the ladies who provided refreshments for the home games. Thanked was John Thompson, Match Secretary, who sorts out the fixture list and worked hard at rearranging cancelled matches and seeking ways of improving the fixtures, without him there would be chaos.

He said we have our Greenkeeper Jon Koefman and Green Steward Allan Webber and their band of brushers and mowers to thank for our green, the envy of all visiting clubs and said we are always interested in recruiting more helpers. He thanked Allan for six years of green stewarding and welcomed Ken Chitty who is taking over.

Sadly Nigel Sloman, the previous Club Captain, is no longer with us but his notes are still a help in guiding as to what was carried out in the previous season.

He said it had been a good year for the club, the new George Spiers Cup and Outdoor v Indoor game plus all other club events were a success. 51 members, out of a playing membership of around 65, entered competitions and hoped more would enter, particularly Harry Burrows, winner of the Bullen Cup and more entries in the Ladies and Men's Singles. Favourite competitions were 101 and Mixed Pairs 32 entries each, Drawn Pairs 27 entries, the Tabor Cup 26 entries and the Handicap Singles 25.

The Club Captain said 54 members played in the friendly games and encouraged more to play next year. There were 19 games cancelled due to rain. Of the 47 games played, 23 were won and 24 lost. The last game against Cranleigh was won on five rinks and drew on the sixth with a score of 100, a shot difference of 19. All players were on top form and shows it can be done.

He ended by saying that it was definitely a good year and hoped the members agreed.

### **Ladies Captain Thelma Spiers**

Before the season started the ladies held two successful coffee mornings.

The green has played well mainly due to the hard work of Jon Koefman and his team who put in many hours of hard work.

We had five matches kindly arranged by Sandra Gower but only managed to play two, one won, one lost, two cancelled by the opposing teams and one by us due to rain.

The Grace Jackman competition was supported by 20 players. An enjoyable day was had including a ploughman's lunch arranged by Shirley Starbuck and Jean Esterson. Photos were taken by Ken Dilley who donated the proceeds of £42 to the Surrey Air Ambulance. Thanks go to John Fisher who kindly acted as umpire and scorer. Overall another £52.60 was raised for club funds. The deserving winners were Jude Fisher and Agatha Crowther and runners up Hilary Mitchell and Jean Bligh.

## **Ladies Captain Thelma Spiers continued**

For once the weather for Ladies Invitation Day was good and playing arrangements ran very smoothly thanks to the organisation by Ken Dilley. Thanks were given to Ann Riches, Sandy Moore and their team of ladies for all their hard work in providing a delicious meal and thanks to all the ladies who gave lovely desserts. Anne Locke and Di Richardson once again arranged a very successful raffle raising £264. As always Jo and Roger Newman supported the club by running the bar. Thank you to both as this year they have made £1200 in profit for the club. Winners of the day were Southwater. We received many letters and emails thanking us for an enjoyable day. Total profit £462.

An enjoyable season was had playing in the Surrey Advertiser competition, ending one point behind the winners of our zone Castle Green. We were rather unfortunate because Stoke Park did not play six of their games giving the points to the opposition, Castle Green being one of these teams.

Finals Day this year was held over the Saturday and Sunday of August Bank Holiday weekend. No member came forward to arrange the food on the Monday but all attending members came up trumps by bringing a buffet dish and we had a wonderful spread which was enjoyed by all. There was excellent bowling over the two days. Jo Newman was our Ladies Champion and as our Ladies Champion last year entered the Champion of Champions competition going through several rounds thus obtaining enough points to gain her Surrey Badge, many congratulations Jo.

The Ladies Captain thanked the many who had helped her – the Ladies Committee, Secretary Ann White, who does so much members are not aware of, Sandra Gower who arranges the Ladies matches, Vice-Captain Lesley Hawes always a support and Catering Liaison Ann Riches for arranging the tea and events rotas and the annual lunch. She gave grateful thanks to Anne Lock and Di Richardson for arranging the raffles, Shirley Starbuck for the cleaning rota, Phyl Lister for being a reliable milk monitor, Hilary Alker for supplying the biscuits, Liz Sprake and Jean Esterson for their gardening, Lesley Hawes and Jo Newman for looking after the green edges. Thanks were given to Jude Fisher and her band of helpers and to all the members who do all the teas and clean the Club. All who help in any other way were thanked. The Social Committee who do a grand job throughout the year were thanked.

In closing she understands a lot of clubs are having difficulties in maintaining their membership, numbers are dropping, new members are hard to find, and encouraged members to spread the word. We must all be prepared to give a little time and effort to maintain the ethos of our club, we have a lovely club house and a great green which we could share with others.

## **Men's Captain Roger Newman**

Roger said we have 38 men playing members on his reckoning, over half the membership.

The Ladies kindly let the Men win the annual Ladies v Gents match again.

We came 2nd in the Guildford section of the Tuesday League. Woodbridge Hill won the league yet again but we beat them twice. However we did lose some silly matches to Mellow and Ripley away and Stoke Park. However, we would have won the league had it not been for Albury infringing the rules when they beat Woodbridge Hill. The resulting complaint resulted in the 6 points going to Woodbridge Hill. 14 played in the matches and my thanks to all particularly those who came in at short notice. We lost to Weybridge who were 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Woking League on the finals day at Stoke Park in an unpleasant match. In fact all the Guildford League teams lost that day.

We did not enter the West Surrey Mid-Week rinks league due to I think to not enough men fancying the format.

Thanks to Jon Koefman and Allan Webber for keeping the green in such good condition and those of you who worked on the green during the season and also to Malcolm Wright for his sterling efforts as Club Captain and Doug Lock who expertly managed our competitions in which on my count 54 different members entered this year.

We have a number of important revenue streams – the Dorset week which again Ken Dilley ran and I hope this is not the last one – the contribution from social events is important which Brian Allen and his team organise so well – and of course the bar from which we try and earn 100% profit over purchase price, please drink more but responsibly, don't spill it!

Finally, thank you to Thelma the ladies captain for her support and all the ladies who did us proud on the catering.

## Knaphill League (John Fisher)

A good season was had by all who took part in the Knaphill League with Ewhurst finishing in third place, playing 16 games, with 9 wins, 1 draw and 6 losses, total points for the season was 28.5. A very strong Milford squad finished top of our zone. A total of 16 members turned out at least once during the season thus broadening the depth of our squad for 2020.

## 3 Counties League (John Fisher)

As a result of the efforts and support of an enthusiastic squad playing in the 3 Counties League Ewhurst finished the season as Division 4 champions. The team played 12 matches, won 8 and lost 4, with an end of season tally of 41.5 points.

A great season was enjoyed by all, visiting far-flung greens across Hampshire, Sussex and Surrey performing on some very trying and testing greens.

In addition to the above the 3 Counties held an anniversary open triples charity competition day on the 20th August, hosted by Wonerish Bowls Club. Hilary Mitchell, Brian Allen and myself were delighted to represent Ewhurst in a day-long competition. The Ewhurst team finished as semi-finalists, eventually losing to the competition winners, namely Midhurst Bowls Club.

I has been a most enjoyable season for those members who supported the team and the club. Looking forward to 2020 and Division 3.

## Three Counties Triples Final

Ken Chitty, Jo and Roger Newman reached the final of the Triples competition played at Alton Social on 21<sup>st</sup> September but sadly lost to a triple from Petersfield.

## 5. Treasurer Brian Allen

The Treasurer started by giving a thank you to the committee for bearing with him in an unfamiliar role then gave a big thank you to Ken Dilley for his guidance.

All members present had a copy of the Income and Expenditure. On page 1, balance sheet on page 2 and the notes relating to the accounts on page 3.

He gave a brief summary of the current position of the accounts in that there was a deficit this year of £991.29. This being partly due to the amount of cancelled matches but mainly due to the fitting of the new surround for the green. The members present were advised that the balance figure shown included an amount (expected to be around £6000) intended for replacement of machinery e.g. the lawn mower.

There were no questions from the floor re the accounts.

6. Regarding the subscription being raised to £100 whilst removing green fees there was some discussion from the floor doubting whether this was a good idea. Roger Newman advised those present that the decision had been made after a sub-committee had compared other clubs fees - none of them charged a 'green fee'. The Chairman added that if the move did not work as hoped then green fees could always be re-introduced next year.

Full Membership	£100.00	Match fees	
Social Membership	£15.00	Home Supper	£4.00
Guest's Green Fee	£2.00	Home with Biscuits	£1.50
		Away Matches	£1.00
		Internal Competitions	£2.00

Acceptance of the Accounts was then proposed by the Chairman, Malcolm Wright and seconded by Thelma Spiers with a show of hands in agreement from the members.

7. Formal election of new Committee. The Chairman read all the nominations to the members.

President	Ken Dilley
Chairman	Maurice Bowles
Secretary	Jackie Rubie
Treasurer	Peter Adams
Club Captain	Malcolm Wright
Vice-Captains	Doug Lock John Fisher
Men's Captain	Roger Newman
Match Secretary	John Thompson
Green Steward:	Ken Chitty
Bar Stewards	Roger and Jo Newman

Officers en bloc proposed by Malcolm Wright and seconded by Gordon Beddall.

8. Roy Glasper, was willing to re-stand as Examiner for the 2019/2020 accounts.  
Proposed by Hilary Mitchell and seconded by Roger Newman.

9. Jon Koefman was re-elected as an Associate Member.  
All members of the Ewhurst Short Mat Bowls Club were voted en bloc as Associate Members, plus those already an Associate Member.

There was no change to any of the above, the vote was taken en bloc and was unanimously in favour.

## 10. AOB

Request from Hilary Ball seconded by Brian Allen

### *EMAIL MATCH DETAILS*

*I found it very helpful when the captain of a match emailed those participating 2-3 days before hand with the final confirmation of who was playing. Many thanks to those who did this. Is this something that could be adopted by all captains?*

The Club Captain will encourage the various Captains of the Day to adopt this if possible.

### *FINALS DAY*

*Would it be possible to have finals day on any other weekend but the bank holiday?  
This is always a very busy time with family commitments, holidays etc*

Members were aware that by entering competitions that they must be available to play on the Finals Day. This year was over two days due to some finalists having to play several finals. The Fixtures Secretary will be consulted regarding a change of date if possible.

Request from Vickie Allen seconded by Hilary Ball

1. A number of members shared a wish not to be involved in the cleaning of the clubhouse this season. Should we consider employing a weekly cleaner and add the cost to membership fees?

Several members spoke on this, it was pointed out that this is only once a year. Regarding the difficulty in finding a time to clean, the diary should be consulted and when a date and time chosen this should be entered. It was also pointed out that equally the brushers and mowers could say they didn't want to volunteer. It was also stated that when cleaned the standard was not good as some members didn't know what was expected to be cleaned. Vickie wanted to use the same system as the Short Mat Club and issue every week a list of items to be cleaned and marked off as being carried out. She will undertake this.

## **10. AOB continued**

2. Change the format of raffles at friendly games to EITHER the lolly stick and monetary reward system OR each member contributes one reasonable raffle prize for the season. Thus reducing the need to buy items and more importantly the recycling of unwanted winnings. (A gift type raffle could still be held at special event / invitation days.)

After some discussion the members agreed to keep the present system. Mike White agreed to buy bottles of wine and one other prize to be agreed. Di Richardson still happy to be involved.

The meeting closed at 9pm

### ***Informal meeting following the AGM***

Request from Vickie Allen (seconded by Hilary Ball)

September minutes state: "particularly noted was the lack of members supporting the finalists on Finals Day".

When Finals are held on a B/Holiday weekend members have other commitments to their family and friends that take precedence, perhaps explaining a lack of attendees. Consider a change of date?

Covered as above and to be discussed with Fixtures Secretary, Captains and the Committee.

Gordon Beddall asked why the invitation from Surrey Bowls for Ewhurst to host a game was refused. The Chairman said that he had contacted them and explained that at the present time we were not in a position to offer Ewhurst as a venue and had received a reply stating that Surrey Bowls would be happy to play a game when offered a date.

Hilary Mitchell asked why there was a Men's Captain when there was no Men's Section. The reply was that the Constitution states the Committee shall consist of a Men's Captain. As Men's Captain Roger Newman explained he acts as an interface in passing on information regarding Surrey Competitions and deals with Men's competitions.

Doug Lock asked for clarification of fees for matches.

The new President Ken Dillely said the membership in 2016 was 85 and now numbers 67. He urged the Committee to discuss the finances again. Several other members raised the question would the new fee (£100) be enough to sustain the clubs outgoings as there would be no roll up income.

The suggestion was the Committee should appoint one lady and one man to sit on the Committee.

### **Closure of the Meeting**

No other business was notified to the Secretary, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 9.30pm