

DRAFT MINUTES

BURNHAM BOWLS CLUB **Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM)** **Held on 5th January 2023**

1. Present:

Jessie Clark, Hilary Hall, Len Hall, Frances Hope, Mark Hope, Gilly Bunce, Loraine Ryan, Les Newman, Anna Burgess, Wendy Oswald, Dave Oswald, Suzanne Cannon, Stuart Cannon, Clive Helmuth, Jean Grimshaw, Nick Carter, Helen Hotson, Derek Hotson, Robert Green, Tom Berry, Eddie Moon, Lee Bishop, Andrew Marlow, Michael Cole, Diane Hassett, Brian Hassett, George Stevens, Marjorie Howell, Shelley Collins, and Lee Collins.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Trish Helmuth, Anne Marriott, Martin Marriott, John Ryan, Jeff Simpson, Jackie Slater, Bob Slater, Denise Howse, Margarida Caldeira, Ian Ackers, and Cliff Sparks.

3. Chairman's opening remarks

With the recent sad loss of Val Brown, a minute silence was held before the meeting started.

Jessie thanked everyone for coming and said it was good to see Nick Carter back at the club.

"I am sure you will all agree that we had a very successful centenary in 2022 and did justice to all those players who have been members of the club over the years.

As I have said many times during the year, we certainly gained a reputation for being a well-organized friendly small club, which Bowls England consider to be the backbone of the sport of bowls.

We also kept our ambition to be part of the Burnham community alive and are proud of our Associate members, Burnham Joggers, Men Sheds and Bucks vision.

At the AGM I will try to say thank you to all of you who are willing to do all the million and one jobs that keep the club functioning. From Hilary, whose explanation of our finances comes next, to Anne Marriott who acts as the welfare officer and sends cards for big birthdays and sickness, and to those of you who are on the cleaning roster.

We had several match meals, the opening tea party, the closing barbecue and of course, Presentation evening (didn't you men look smart in your dinner jackets), where Frances Gilly and Hilary sourced splendid food and everyone helped serve and clear up. I had to convince one member that we could seat a 6-rink game in the clubhouse and still have room for other people. In the 'olden days' we did this every week.

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We are also getting a reputation for having an excellent green and we have Robert and his band of merry men to thank for this; Len, Michael, Lee B, John R, Clive and Bicester Turf who look after us very well.

I must also mention Len as maintenance manager, despite moving house and keeping an eye on Hilary after her operation he has made sure the clubhouse and surrounds stay in good order, and Mark as Master of Ceremonies at Presentation evening. It was an excellent evening with a red carpet and citations, Hollywood could not have done it better.

My thanks to Shelley for her handling of the bar throughout and to those members who have helped serve and to those who have volunteered to learn the ropes of the bar. We must make sure the bar continues to function well, as you all have been told many times we need the revenue to run the club and the green.

Finally, my thanks to Lee, our secretary, he has kept us on the straight and narrow throughout Covid and he can also be found making sure that the men's loos are up to scratch if we have a letting of the clubhouse, (something which should not be his responsibility.) Lee is not standing for re-election but is willing to carry on in tandem with someone who can get to know how the club functions. We have as a club really benefited from all the time and organising ability that he has given us, perhaps if some of you would volunteer to take over some of the jobs he does, and shouldn't, we could persuade him to just carry on as a proper secretary".

4. Minutes of the 2021 AGM

The draft minutes of last year's AGM were circulated, via email, on 3rd January 2023.

No comments or issues were raised so they were agreed by the meeting – proposer Helen, Seconder Len – for sign off by the Chairman (Jessie).

Jessie advised that we need to review the Club Constitution to reflect the circumstances in which the club now runs. Proposals for change will be put to the 2023 AGM next January. **(JC)**

5. Approval of the accounts and Treasurer's review.

"I hope you've all managed to read through the accounts (circulated by email 11th December 2022).

For our newer Members, although the AGM is in January, our financial year runs from 1st October to 30th September, which means that last year our income was still partially impacted by the pandemic.

With the effect of COVID giving us a distorted view of our account figures over the last couple of years, it was a good time to give our income and expenditure a financial review.

Within the review it was noted that Membership fees were increased in 2016 from £110 to £115 and in 2019 from £115 to £120, hence our proposal to make a further

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increase to £130 for the 2024 season. Social membership fees were last increased in 2016 from £20 to £25 therefore there is also a proposal for 2024 to increase to £30. Membership numbers were down this year. Income from playing and social members was £5,900 and our Associate Members, being Burnham Joggers, Mens' Sheds and Bucks Vision provided further income of £1,680.

Membership fees alone fall a long way short of covering the cost of running the club which means that supporting club events, weekend matches, social events and Friday evening get-togethers is hugely important to cover costs and avoid any further increase in subs.

We were lucky enough to be able to celebrate our Centenary year in style. It was agreed that we would cover whatever it cost as it was more important to do it well, which I think we all did. The extra cost was approx. £3,000 which resulted in a £2,500 overall loss for the year.

We should all be immensely proud of how we've jointly managed to keep our finances in good shape but there's no denying that, with the proposed increase in gas, electric, water and waste, trying to keep financial stability in the future is not going to be easy.

We've managed over the last few years to make substantial repairs and purchase many new items where needed. Thanks for some of this goes to the extremely generous members who have contributed with various donations.

I'm very pleased to say that our Joker jackpot of £400 was won on Presentation Evening – fantastic timing. The board has been re-done and the prizes will remain at £50 for every Jack, Queen, King and Ace turned over and £400 for the jackpot. The prize pot now stands at £2,244 and £518 was added to club funds, so thank you to everyone who participated over the year.

We are extremely lucky to have a wonderful membership who work really hard in helping to maintain the green and surrounds, clean our clubhouse, run our bar and help with functions. A big thank you to all of you.

My thanks also go to Suzanne and Gil for auditing the accounts”.

The accounts were approved by the meeting – Proposer: Marjorie. Seconder: Stuart.

6. Election of Committee Members & Club Officials

A list of nominations for committee members and club officials. There were no individual posts contested by more than one person and all nominations were accepted by the meeting (see appendix A) to these minutes.

However, this left a number of unfilled committee & club official posts.

We agreed to carry on without a Club Captain – having a Captain of the Day - which has worked adequately for several years. We will put together a list of volunteers (Day Captains) for the selection committee.

Lorraine agreed to join Gilly and Hil on the selection committee.

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Stuart agreed to join the social committee.

Tom Berry has taken on running the Club website.

We have no general secretary, but Frances offered to take on some of the roles.

Frances and Gilly agreed to remain on the committee as co-opted members without specific responsibilities.

Robert agreed to take on responsibility to oversee events i.e., to arrange for bar staff to be available and ensure that other supporting issues are in place e.g., making sure the clubhouse is ready for external bookings.

As highlighted in the Treasurers report, maintaining (and increasing) membership numbers, and supporting events is critical to the financial welfare of the club. Whilst many people help with tasks there seems scope for greater clarity on what needs to be done and oversight to co-ordinate that it happens.

Mark Hope offered to facilitate a workshop to see how we address these issues – Provisionally arranged for 17th January 2023.

7. Proposals put to the AGM

As advised prior to the meeting, a proposal was to be submitted by, and on behalf of, the committee to increase the annual membership fees for 2024.

- Playing / Associate Member – Increase by £10 to £130 pa
- Social Member – increase by £5 to £30 pa.

Although two people suggested a larger increase to help cope with cost pressures, the meeting approved the committee's proposal.

8. Appointment of Auditors

Suzanne Cannon and Gilly Bunce agreed to continue in this role for another year and their offer was unanimously accepted by the members present.

9. Any other business

Promoting the use of the club house to raise income was debated. Frances will continue using Round and About to promote the club, Gilly will continue with Facebook. Look to update the club website. What else – The neighbourhood app “Next Door Burnham”? To be picked up at the forthcoming workshop. We also have a number of planned events at the club leading up to the new bowls season, which members were encouraged to support.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

10. Date of 2023 AGM

To be held at Burnham Bowls Club at 7:00 pm on a date to be confirmed.

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Appendix A

2023 – Elected Committee Members and Club Officials

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| Management Committee | |
| Chairman | Jessie Clark |
| Treasurer | Hilary Hall |
| Secretary | Vacant |
| Club Captain | Vacant |
| Club Vice Captain | Vacant |
| Bar Manager | Vacant |
| Coopted without portfolio | France Hope Gilly Bunce |
| | |
| Club Officials | |
| Fixtures Secretary | Lee Collins |
| Selection Committee & Match Management | Gilly Bunce Hilary Hall Loraine Ryan |
| Competition Secretary | Mark Hope |
| C&T Manager | Gilly Bunce |
| Events Manager | Robert Green |
| Maintenance Manager | Len Hall |
| Welfare Officer | Anne Marriott |
| Safeguarding Officer | Jessie Clark |
| Website | Tom Berry |
| Social Committee | Frances Hope John Ryan Loraine Ryan Stuart Cannon |