

Hawcoat Park Bowling Club AGM – held on Friday 3rd November, 2017

The Chairman opened the meeting which was attended by approx 30 members, and asked all to stand in memory of those who had died during the past season.

The Secretary read out the minutes from the 2016 AGM, which were accepted as a true record, and there were no matters arising.

The treasurer presented the club accounts for the 2017 season. Exceptional costs were reported, which included cladding on both bowling huts, corner guards, match jacks and top dressing spreader (the cost of which had been covered by a grant received from the Cumbria Community Foundation and a donation from the Cricket section); the bowls section had also contributed towards the cost of making a floodlight pylon safe, and whilst incorporating the Senior Citizens finances into the accounts for the first year, on top of significant contributions from the 59ers club and the Ladies section. A surplus for the season was reported and a very healthy credit balance to move us forward into our next financial year. The Treasurer thanked Roger Barrow for performing an audit of the accounts, and passed on his apologies for his absence due to his wife's birthday. The members applauded an excellent presentation and balance sheet which was followed by the Chairman presenting Liz, who was retiring from the post, with a bouquet of flowers in thanks for her excellent work over the past few years, for which she expressed her gratitude.

The Secretary presented a summary of the club's achievements during the season, congratulating the 1st team for winning F&DBL division 1 title; the 1st team in the U&DBL for winning the KO cup and being runners-up in the league, and the Senior Citizens 1st team for winning the double, both league & KO cup. He went on to congratulate all finalists of the 'in house' and 'open' comps and paid tribute to all who had marked games, measured and the ladies for providing and serving the refreshments, without who's support these events could not take place.

The success of club's cannot only be measured by their achievements on the green, but also in the work put into improving and maintaining facilities, and with this in mind he thanked Ron Woods and his team for their labours on the green surrounds and fixtures....also to Kenny Judge and Ron May for expertly re-cladding the main bowls hut....and to the greens maintenance squad for their efforts in sustaining the improvement seen towards the backend of last year in the condition of the greens, which they believe once again make them two of the best in the area.

The Chairman also thanked Neil Coward and his wife for the flower arrangements around no.1 green.

The Sec proceeded to thank those involved in the organisation of the following events held during the season:

- 1) The barbeque & fun bowls day held in July.
- 2) Hosting the Rotary Club's fixture against their Carnforth division, and laying on a buffet and drinks in August.
- 3) The teams end of season pie and peas.
- 4) The formalisation of the Club Constitution and rules etc (particularly needed in preparation for any grant applications).
- 5) Floodlight pylon safety work, and acquiring additional pylons, one of which is intended for the corner of no.2 green by the small bowls hut.

He went on to thank the delegate for liaising with both leagues, a role fraught with problems, particularly when dealing with the F&DBL. Thanks to our retiring Treasurer, for a job expertly done, in boosting our income in providing funding for those projects previously mentioned, whilst maintaining a healthy balance sheet, and to the committee for their support throughout the season.

He lastly congratulated those players who finished in their teams merit positions and represented the club at the aggregate play-offs.

The Chairman then requested the election of officers for the 2018 season:

- 1) Secretary – Bob Stewart re-elected.
- 2) Treasurer – Liz Christian (retiring). No volunteers came forward at the meeting, and Liz offered to continue until a replacement was found. The Chairman and Secretary were to seek a replacement.
- 3) League delegates – Dave Hird re-elected.
- 4) Chairman of selectors – Tony Kneale re-elected.
- 5) Auditor – Roger Barrow proposed in his absence.
- 6) Committee – Frank Ratcliffe retired. All others re-elected.

Honorariums – Fees paid to the Secretary, Treasurer and delegate to remain as last year.

The Chairman asked for any report the delegate had from the running of the leagues. Dave reported that the U&DBL now had assets totalling in excess of £10k, and that the treasurer to the league would be proposing ways in which some of this income could be spent, from next season.

The general and fixtures secretary roles still needed filling following the retirement of Ray Dunstan. All other officers were re-elected.

It was proposed and accepted that the 'Loan' system would be scrapped next season, and that with no withdrawals from the league, Ulverston

Cons application for a 2nd team had been refused on the basis of the leagues being at a maximum of 14 teams per division.

Dave also reported that the F&DBL had assets of £7.5k and that the proposed layout/format of the league had been passed and now consisted of four sections:

- 1) Constitution
- 2) Structure
- 3) Playing structure
- 4) Competitions

These were to be posted on a notice board in the bowls hut.

Other mandates discussed and voted on at the leagues AGM were:

- a) The league was to be open to male and **female** bowlers – voted against.
- b) That delegates meetings be held at bowling club venues only – passed.
- c) The ‘Loan’ system rule to be removed – passed.
- d) Designated ‘Friday teams’ play all their games on Friday evenings. Promotion shall not be denied because a team is a ‘Friday’ or ‘Saturday’ team, or has more than one team in the same division. – passed.

Considerable discussion then took place around the ‘Friday’ team mandate, and whilst Hawcoat Park had voted on mass against the proposal, some clubs had split votes, suggesting that they were voting on a personal basis rather than for their club.

The delegate then suggested that the club should send both leagues a letter requesting funding towards the re-cladding work.

The club’s Constitution, Rules of Governance and Child and Vulnerable Person Policy was discussed, with only minor changes possibly needed to the latter, Ray Williams to follow up with the Sports Club for guidance.

In any other business, the Chairman suggested that we consider club jerseys for next season, and it was agreed that the committee were to check on the costings and source of supply.

The Secretary then reminded all bowlers of the clubs presentation night, the winter bowls facility, the Sports Club’s general meeting and the Cumbria Bowling Associations AGM.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.15pm and invited everyone for a pint in the bar.