

Hawcoat Park Bowling Club AGM – held on Friday 25th October, 2019

Apologies: B Christian, D Hird, M Kittley, I McBride, G McFarlane.

The Chairman opened the meeting which was attended by approx 20 members, and asked all to stand in memory of those who had died during the past season.

The Secretary read the minutes from the 2018 AGM, which were accepted as a true record, and there were no matters arising.

The Treasurer presented the accounts for the period ending 30th September, 2019; which showed a healthy balance in cash and bank, following considerable expenditure on greens, buildings, grounds maintenance and league fees; whilst income from registration fees, open competitions, sponsorship, 59ers club, beverages and a generous donation from the ladies section led to a small profit on the seasons activities. Not covered in the balance sheet was a loan made to the Sports Club to cover cash flow issues.

The Secretary presented his account of the season, which he described as not being the happiest in memory, following the deaths of D Hurley, J Hartley, G Skyrme and N Coward during the year, all of whom had contributed greatly to the club over many years.

Injuries, ill health and simple wear and tear to ageing joints to other bowlers had denied the club of players services throughout the summer, which had contributed to the 'C' team conceding a number of walkovers during the season.

The club had also suffered from a Senior's team selection issue which we were unable to resolve amicably, and which will probably result in a loss of some members for next season. In actual fact, the atmosphere had been toxic at times, with players also being criticised for poor performances, instead of being supported.

On a brighter note and with the intention of moving forward, the Secretary congratulated the Furness 1st team on a creditable 4th place in div.1 with the support of other teams due to absenteeism, but thought the 'A' team who had been relegated were a better team than the results showed, and wished them a happier season in div.2 next year. The 'B' team had held on to their place in div.2 after languishing in the relegation zone for large parts of the season, thankfully due to a good selection policy and the cooperation of players who had helped out. He hoped that their efforts would lead to a stronger performance from the team next year.

He went on to congratulate both Ulverston league teams on some excellent wins and maintaining good positions in their respective divisions, and also the Senior's 1st team for claiming the div.1 title and the 'B' team for their Billy Hall Trophy success.

In the club early season comps, he congratulated Bill McLaughlin on his Championship success and Bob Parkinson for winning the Handicap.

The five open comps run during the season had been well supported, and although we had lost the sponsor of the Spring Singles, all the others had made a profit.

The Salmesbury trip organised by Ray Williams had once again been a huge success, with the members receiving a warm welcome, great food, and everyone enjoying the 'round robin' pairs, played in good humour and competitive spirit.

The 'Big Smash' hosted at the club during May, had roughly 128 bowlers playing at Hawcoat Park. A good contribution had been made to club funds irrespective of the poor weather. The organisers expressed their thanks to the club and have already applied to hold the event here again next season.

Finally, he complimented the work teams on maintaining the greens, grounds and facilities, and for continuing their activities on installing more plastic seating and perimeter boarding during the close season, he thanked all who had contributed to the running of the club, and wished everyone good health and a successful season in 2020; a year that marks the 90th anniversary of the Sports club.

The Chairman acknowledged that Officers to the club had been appointed for 2 years at the last AGM, but due to illness, one or two vacancies had arisen on the committee. John Lavender and Jim Bawden volunteered, and were voted onto the committee, the Chairman thanked them for their support.

The meeting voted no change to the honorariums, with the Secretary on £80 Treasurer on £60 Delegate on £30 and Comp Sec on £40.

In the absence of the Delegate, J Bawden and C Knipe had attended the Furness League AGM the previous night, and with no mandates on the agenda and the current Officers all being re-elected, they presented the league's accounts for the year, which showed a small profit, and

confirmed that the league in future would offer teams who requested donations towards projects, up to 10% of the cost, after production of the project accounts. They also confirmed that the next meeting of the league's management committee would be held on Tuesday 19th November, 2019.

The members were then asked if there were any updates to be made to the Club's Constitution, but agreed that no additions or amendments were necessary.

In any other business T Moxham confirmed that the clubs policy around dogs on the premises was simple, they were not allowed, and A Troughton said that this may be tricky to enforce, should it be a guide dog or similar.

The Secretary then confirmed the following:

Presentation night – Friday 6th December in the bar from 7.00pm; lady bowlers and all spouses invited, and to let him know numbers for pie & peas.

The club had organised Defibrillator Courses to be held in the club on Thursday 7th November @ 2.00pm and Thursday 14th November @ 7.00pm and asked all interested members to register with Andy Woods. An email had been received from Andy Woods requesting donations of Chrissmassy type foods for the Ladies Section of the Sports Club to raffle off in hamper form at their Christmas Craft Fair.

And lastly, A Artis raised the issue of members smoking vapour type cigarettes in the bowls pavilion, the members agreed to the ban and to put a notice up to enforce his.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm and the Chairman invited all members for a pint in the bar.