

# Hawcoat Park Bowling Club Senior Section AGM 2025

**Held:** 14<sup>th</sup> March at 11:00am

**Attendees:**

P Cain	J Bawden	B Kaighan	S Sloan	A Pike
J Lavender	R Stewart	A Artis	G Maudsley	D Hodgson
W Heywood				

**Apologies:**

S Liddicott	J Curphey	D Hird	J Gill	
-------------	-----------	--------	--------	--

The Chairman opened the meeting and asked all those present to stand in memory of all those that have passed since the last meeting.

The Chairman remarks:

Once again 2024 was a very successful season with primary targets achieved.

These were.....

- 1 First team to win division one.
2. A team to achieve promotion back to division one.
3. And to my mind most important, B team to survive in division two. We wouldn't want to have two teams in divisions 1 and 3 with no team in division 2.

Congratulations to the first team as they did what they usually do. Under the expert guidance of captain Wilf Heywood, (or despite that), finishing top of division one. Though this year the winning margin was reduced to just 4 points ahead of a capable Askam team, who were the closest of the chasing pack.

This was accomplished in spite of losing John Gill who was 100% winner until his enforced absence due to illness. For the remainder of the season Gilly's void was ably filled by the evergreen, young Jack Curphey. Well done Jack.

Unusually though, for the second year running, the league merit leader trophy escaped us, as Tony Kneale was our best, finishing one game short of the merit prize. Long may it continue guys.

The A team, after finishing third in 2023, succeeded in regaining first division status, finishing runner up to an experienced West Shore side. a good, strong finish to the campaign saw us overtake an overly optimistic, and now disappointed Roose outfit. Much credit for this goes to Dave Hird, who after missing the start of the season, soon fought his way to top man. Dave was well supported throughout by Kev Robinson, Tony Lashmar and Nige Heffernan who took their opportunities after being drafted into the side from the B team. Well done lads.

The B team, also in Division two, we're not as successful as in 2023. They of course, and as usual, we're weakened by having to provide players to the first and A teams as required through illness, holidays, etc. This obviously has a bigger effect as you go down through the teams. A nail-biting finale to the season ensued, which resulted in division two survival by just one point. A few players took their turn at the top, these included Alan Artis, Dave Hodgson, Keith Mallinson and Jim Tongue.

The C team, as expected, struggled to win many games due to fielding several new, novice players throughout the season, and like the B team suffered even more so by being robbed of players by the other teams. Hopefully these guys will benefit from the experience this year. A measure of success for this side was by conceding only one walkover all season. Steve Liddicott and Alan Pike finished in the top spots to qualify for the league individual play-offs.

In these play-offs at the West Shore club in September, we had success in the form of Roger Barrow winning the first division prize and the much improved Alan Pike being runner-up in the third division. Congratulations to both.

Now for a little moan.

While playing our individual game it can be helpful to have a colleague near our end, in order to encourage and offer advice as to who is in, or return wayward bowls and jacks as required. Many of us don't seem interested in our team mates games and are still crap at getting around the green while our colleagues are playing.

Remember in 8 man teams, while there are 4 playing, there are only 4 markers. Therefore, we all need to mark a card, and there's 4 sides to each green. So, after buying your victim a brew (when at home that is) let's get one on each side of green in position to support our colleagues. This is even more important when on away greens.

Newer players may be excused this bollocking (but please take note) but more experienced guys please try to improve, and set an example. We all like or need a little support at times.

Remember each captain is chosen by the players of each team at the start of the season. Last year we struggled to get people to fill this role. Don't be afraid to have a go at being skipper, it's not rocket science, even Wilf can do it. There's always someone to offer help and advice. If anyone needs advice regarding rules, captaining, measuring, etc. please ask one of the more experienced players.

On that note, here's looking forward to an enjoyable and successful 2025 season.

### **Matters Arising:**

The Chairman confirmed that there will be 2 additional teams this year, Askam B and Barrow Island A

Dave Hodgson requested the holiday chart be put up as soon as possible

Paul Cain suggested we should have a role of Vice Chairman, which was agreed in principle, but nobody has agreed to take this on yet

Bob Stewart reminded us that we need a Welfare Officer for the club, this will be raised at the main committee meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April

**Election of officers:**

Jim Bawden – Chairman

Brian Kaighan – Secretary

FSCBL Delegate – position vacant

Other Committee members: Paul Cain, Frank Ratcliffe & Wilf Heywood

**Delegates report:**

A minor amendment to the rules has been made by the BCGBA which states that if any Wood or Jack touched or rolls over a footer (mat) it must be returned.

Post meeting note – The Seniors League will now be sponsored by Provincial Funding

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 11:25