



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on

MONDAY 27 OCTOBER 2015 at 1900 hrs

in the CLUBHOUSE, CORAMS LANE, WELLINGTON

A G E N D A

- 1 Chairperson will declare the meeting open
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 President's address
- 4 Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
(including Secretary and Treasurer's reports)
- 5 Matters arising
- 6 Hon Secretary's report
- 7 Hon Treasurer's report
- 8 Proposals: (*see attached sheet*)
- 9 Election of Officers and Post Holders for the year
2015/16
- 10 Chairperson will close the meeting

WELLINGTON (Som)

BOWLING CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 27 OCTOBER 2014 at 1900 hrs IN THE CLUBHOUSE, CORAMS LANE, WELLINGTON

Before the meeting opened all members present observed one minute's silence held in memory of Tony Byrne who had sadly passed away since the last AGM.

1 Opening address

Chairperson Allan Bell opened the meeting at 1910 and welcomed all those present.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mike Worden, David Winteridge, Monica and Simon Spalding, Roland Bath, Derek Vile and Tony Jennings.

3 President's address

Although the President was present he declined to address the meeting due to a sore throat.

4 Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

These had been issued two weeks prior to the meeting to all members eligible to vote. Spare copies were made available at the meeting to other attendees.

5 Matters arising

It was pointed out that the minute's silence should have referred to Coleen Saunders rather than Betty Saunders.

6 Hon Secretary's report

This had been issued two weeks prior to the meeting to all members eligible to vote and spare copies were made available at the meeting to other attendees. There were no questions and the Secretary was thanked by those present for his comprehensive report; in his response he particularly thanked those members who had been involved in maintaining the outdoor green.

7 Hon Treasurer's report

This had been issued two weeks prior to the meeting to all members eligible to vote and spare copies were made available at the meeting to other attendees. The Treasurer informed members the annual accounts had not yet been finalised by the examiner but would be published when they had been received. Derek Lane asked about money with the Social Secretary, other members asked as to why the accounts weren't available and other members wanted a breakdown of Clubhouse expenses and capital expenditure.

8 Proposals:

Proposal by the Executive Committee

that changes to the Constitutions and Rules of both Bowls England and the Somerset Bowls Association that effect the Club's Constitution and Rules are made (and published) by the Executive Committee without recourse to either the Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting.

In the vote that followed there was a unanimous vote in favour of the proposal.

9 Proposal by the General Committee

that a new post entitled "Assistant Secretary" is created. The Secretary would ensure the Assistant Secretary is fully involved with all matters within his/her remit. This does not necessarily mean he/she would succeed the Secretary but would ensure there is someone a new Secretary could turn to for advice and help. This would not be a General Committee Post and thus there would be no requirement to attend their meetings.

In the vote that followed there was a unanimous vote in favour of the proposal and Brian Wombwell successfully put his name forward for the post.

Proposal by the General Committee

that any issues concerning teas can be dealt with by the General Committee rather than having to go to an AGM or an EGM.

In the vote that followed there was a majority vote in favour of the proposal.

Proposal by the General Committee

that the posts of Indoor Secretary, Catering Officer and Social Secretary need not be held by full members. This would entail minor changes being made to the Constitution and Rules of the Club.

Proposal by the General Committee

that if not a full member, the Indoor Secretary's post switches from the General Committee to "posts reporting to the General Committee". This would entail minor changes being made to the Constitution and Rules of the Club.

Proposal by the General Committee

*that the existing coloured shirts **must** be worn at all league and friendly outdoor representative games wef the beginning of the outdoor season in 2015.*

In the vote that followed there was a majority vote against the proposal.

Proposal by the General Committee

*that a new unisex "Club" shirt replaces the existing "league" shirt and **must** be worn at all outdoor friendly and league matches wef the beginning of the outdoor season in 2016.*

In the vote that followed there was a majority vote in favour of the proposal.

• **Proposal by the General Committee**

that the Club seeks sponsors for the new shirts, with a view to advertising on them. Together with designing a new shirt perhaps this is something that the think tank would like to run with.

In the vote that followed there was a majority vote in favour of the proposal.

Proposal by the General Committee

that the Club looks into the benefits, or otherwise, of installing solar panels on the Clubhouse roof and if found to be cost effective, has members permission to proceed accordingly.

In the vote that followed there was a unanimous vote in favour of the proposal.

Proposal by the Ladies Selection Committee

that whenever possible the Mixed Games Selection Committee comprises of both male and female members.

In the vote that followed there was a unanimous vote in favour of the proposal.

Proposal by Gordon Wedlake

that "the afternoon mixed rinks and the weekend mixed triples games are renamed the afternoon rinks and the weekend triples games respectively". Whilst the Club would prefer to have mixed teams, there would thus no longer be any requirement to have a minimum number of players of both sexes in each team.

In the vote that followed there was a unanimous vote in favour of the proposal.

Proposal by Richard Manning and Keith Hawkins

that a new post entitled "new member co-ordinator" is created to both welcome and oversee new members joining the Club.

In the vote that followed there was a unanimous vote in favour of the proposal and Richard Manning agreed to take up the post.

9 Election of Officers and Post Holders

From nominations already posted Lewin Stanton remained as the Treasurer and Julia Stanton remained as the Ladies Administrator.

From nominations already posted Ann Cowling was the new Ladies Captain and Gill Groves the new Ladies Vice-Captain, Roland Bath remained as the Bar Steward, Jay Merrell was the new Fixtures Secretary, Bob Clarke remained as the Competition Secretary, Bill Heard remained as the Green Representative and Ernie Windsor remained as the Building Representative. Bob Clarke remained on the Men's Selection Committee together with the Men's Captain and Vice Captain, Thelma Helps was the new member of the Mixed Games Selection Committee in addition to the Mixed Games Captain and Vice Captain, Ann Gill was the new Ladies Fixtures Secretary and Sally Cole joined the Bar Committee. Julia Stanton remained as the Assistant Treasurer, Mike Groves remained as the

County Delegate for both men and women and Martin Speakman remained as the Publicity Officer.

At the meeting Allan Bell agreed to remain as the Chairperson and Roger Peddle agreed to remain as the Secretary but made it clear he would not stand again next year.

At the meeting Paul Kelly agreed to stand as the Men's Captain but stated he would relinquish his bar duties in the summer, Geoff Stamp agreed to stand as the Mixed Games Captain and Gordon Wedlake agreed to remain as the Indoor Secretary but made it clear he would be looking for a successor next year. Mike Groves agreed to stand as the Men's Vice Captain, Dai Helps agreed to stand as the Mixed Games Vice Captain and Wyn Courtney agreed to join the Ladies Selection Committee in addition to the Ladies Captain and Vice Captain. John Cherry agreed to remain as the Men's Welfare Officer, Esther Twose agreed to remain as the Ladies Welfare Officer and Martin Speakman agreed to remain as the Safeguarding/Welfare Officer. Ann Cowling agreed to remain as Social Secretary until April 2015 when a Social Committee will replace her. The Catering Officer Post still remains unfilled.

10 Any other business

The Secretary outlined the forthcoming issues regarding fire prevention and safety mentioned earlier in his report.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 2145.

Hon Secretary's report

This is my second report as Secretary. The first year was a steep learning curve but the role undoubtedly gives you a far better insight as to how the Club is run together with how county and national competitions are run. It can be frustrating but it is also rewarding and I commend it to anyone wishing to take more interest in the Club.

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Amongst other things the Club made the following changes over the past year:

1. The money saved by disaffiliating from the EIBA, the SCIBA, and the SCWIBA will help towards other expenses that the Club will soon have to face.
2. The front door lock was changed, new keys issued and alarm codes changed.
3. The tree just inside the fence was chopped down and despite some people's reservations the general consensus is that the green has benefited from its removal.
4. The contracts for waste disposal, gas and electricity were all changed.
5. The website is up and running and we have an ever growing number of followers on Twitter.
6. The phone number was changed but this in itself has created a lot of work as there were 22 pages on Google with the old telephone number!!!

Issues that the Club will hope to resolve over the next year include:

1. Ensuring a proper fire risk assessment is carried out and any deficiencies rectified. In 2006 the responsibility for ensuring fire regulations were met was moved from the fire brigade to the Club and it's painfully obvious that a proper risk assessment has not been carried out with the result that a spot inspection by the fire brigade could result in a £5000 fine for each and every defect noted.
2. Inspection and possible replacement of the lighting in the indoor green.

3. The continuing saga of the wall and hedge opposite the Clubhouse needs to be resolved once and for all, and the Rugby Club may have to be consulted over this.
4. The brickwork around the back gate really needs somebody to have a look at it as cracks are appearing.

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Due to a number of factors the Club has managed to increase its playing membership. Male membership increased by 7 whilst female membership remained the same. At the end of the season we had 70 male members, 4 life members and 18 lady members eligible to play. We also have one junior member, which is encouraging, and we can only hope he remains with us and hopefully brings other youngsters along too.

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With only two weeks to go to the AGM there are many blank spaces on the post holder nominations sheet for 2014/2015 and unless they are filled **the Club will find it difficult to function.** I urge you all to volunteer for any post because we cannot expect the same people to carry on year after year.

Away from post holders and volunteers, far too many people just turn up expecting the doors to be open and the green to have been cut and that's the limit of their involvement with the Club. We still need more people prepared to help behind the bar, in the kitchen, on and around the green, and lock/unlock the Club and once again we cannot expect the same people to carry on year after year. You can also help by playing matches and attending social events where buying raffle tickets and drinks all help our finances. Introducing a new member is a great way to help the Club, especially if they lower the average age of the membership and bolster the ladies ranks.

I publish notices regarding competitions, meetings, events et al but it is very frustrating when people either don't bother to attend or worse still come and ask me about things that have been on the noticeboards for weeks. Having people's email addresses has helped but I would ask if anybody has a new one or changed their old one please let me know as it saves both time and money when trying to contact members.

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Bob Codd, our President, opened the green on a cold, wet and windy April 13th and a fortnight later the first home competitive match was played outdoors. Bob will remain as President for another year and I would like to thank him for the wonderful job he has done. Apart from opening the green he has welcomed teams taking part in our open tournaments, attended many of our social evenings and helped new members recently joining the Club.

The first mixed friendly was played on 28th April and since then there have been 28 games played of which 12 were won, 11 were lost and 5 were drawn. In addition 5 games were cancelled, although only one by us, due to adverse weather and/or insufficient numbers.

Some had to be reduced in size and whilst some league players turned out for these games, we need more as having to reduce the number of rinks means a financial loss that the Club can ill afford. Above all else many thanks are due to Roland and Geoff as Mixed Games Captain and Vice Captains who managed, despite some problems, to put out teams for all bar one of the fixtures.

Our men's league teams have seen contrasting fortunes over the season. In the Somerset County League SW Division 1 the "A" team were very competitive only losing several games by one or two shots overall, finally ending up in mid table, but beating Williton, the champions, along the way. In Division 2 the "B" team fared less well, propping up the table having recorded only one win. However, it is encouraging to see the crop of new bowlers finding their feet in league bowls.

In the Thursday night West Somerset Triples League Division 1 the "A" team were able to field a strong team as 5 players who normally play on Saturdays were available for selection. The Captain felt he had to field his strongest possible team against Bridgwater and Taunton teams who play in higher divisions as otherwise the "A" team could have been relegated to Division 2 to play alongside our "B" team. As it turned out, the "A" team ended up in mid table whilst the "B" team did not record a win but involved newer bowlers who benefited from playing in league matches.

The selection policy was not universally popular and next season's captain will need to understand the problems and decide how he and his selection committee will address them.

Many thanks are due to Mike Groves as Captain, who in turn would like to thank Paul Kelly and Bob Clarke for their input and help, as finding the best combinations for teams is not easy.

The ladies have had quite a difficult year with illnesses and operations etc. but still fielded a team for all their league matches. They didn't start very well but got better as the season went on but still unfortunately ended up bottom. They hope next year to have more friendly games arranged as this is a good way to bring in new bowlers. A request will be passed to the Fixtures Secretary that no league games should be arranged on a Friday which involve travelling along the A303 – journeys to and from Yeovil, Westlands, Ilminster etc have tended to be both long and arduous.

Many thanks are due to Gill Groves as Captain together with Ann Cowling and Win Courtney who helped Gill in the selection process.

For next year can I once again remind all players to complete the availability sheet and also look at the noticeboards in the changing rooms to see whether you have been selected to play. If you are selected can you please make sure you put a tick by your name.

In our domestic competitions, Mike Groves won the Club Championship, Nick Channon won the Open Singles, Mike Connor won the Men's Handicap Singles, Bob Codd and Nick Channon won the Men's Pairs and Mike Connor won the Men's 2 Wood Singles. The Amy Stanton Trophy was won by Vic Horne and Stuart Troake.

Many thanks are due to Bob Clarke in his role as Competitions Secretary but he will be the first to tell you at his disappointment in the number of people who took part, especially amongst the ladies.

President's Day was a mixture of bowls, dancing and singing, and good food with a reasonable turnout, but we could really have done with more people there to support Bob. I realise many people were away on holiday but the absence of league players was quite noticeable and commented on. Many thanks go to Derek Lane, and the ladies for the teas, for organising the event.

For those of you interested in indoor results Martin Speakman won the Men's Singles, Courtney Bowden won the Open Singles, Helen Lancaster and Bob Clarke won the Mixed Pairs, Wellington 2 won the Men's League, Team 4 won the Ladies League, the Badgers won the Afternoon Mixed League, and the Beavers won the Weekend Mixed Triples League.

Many thanks are due to Gordon Wedlake for organising all the fixtures.

Thanks also to Martin, Fran and Dick, our coaches, who have nurtured along the new bowlers to the extent that some are now playing in both friendly and league matches.

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Ann Cowling, our Social Secretary, organised a variety of entertainers – Pete Allen (Clarinetist) & Sean Moyses (Banjo player) two brilliant musicians started off the social season. For the Christmas party it was decided to have a 2 course meal, which was prepared and served by Amanda Moysey & Sharon Frost, this was a success – Ray

Denning entertained us but this proved to be his last party for us. Shaun Michael (guitarist) & Peter Arris (keyboard) – Country & Western theme have been booked for the 2014 Christmas party. Clinton & Stan Rogers aka the “Cleverly Everly’s” were a sell-out. The Club was full to capacity and could have sold more tickets if space had been available and because of this they will return in February. Nigel ‘Boy’ Syer (musician & comedian) proved to be an excellent entertainer with lots of laughter too! In between the above events two quizzes were held.

In May an afternoon “Ladies Only” tea (together with sandwiches & cupcakes) was organised, together with the opportunity to give the game of bowls a try. The perfect weather resulted in 2 people joining together with new social members. Ann wishes to thank Win Courtney, Ann Gill, Thelma Helps & Brenda Wilson for their help.

It seems likely that there will be a dinner at the Oake Manor Golf Club in April 2015 and that will mark the end of Anne’s tenure as Social Secretary and her organisation of the Club’s social events.

Many thanks are especially due to Ann for all her efforts over the last 5 years and also all her “supporters” and “helpers” and not forgetting, of course, the fantastic acts that have entertained us. She will be sorely missed and a hard act to follow but I urge you all to continue to support the social side of the Club by making sure you check notice boards for forthcoming events and try to attend.

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Many thanks also go to the following:

1. Bill Heard, Paul Kelly, Nick Channon and others for all their hard work to maintain and improve the green. I know they are still on a learning curve but I have to say I think the green looks really good.
2. The bar staff, but especially Roland, for all their help and service with a smile over the past year.
3. The ladies (and gents) who did the lunches and teas.
4. Vernon and his helpers (but especially John Mullen) for all their efforts in relaying the slabs around the green.
5. Mike Lockyer for making the security gates for the mower store.
6. Courtney Bowden for agreeing to become a Vice President.
7. The think tank, but especially Mike Connor, for organising the Christmas Draw which provided both an additional social evening, more money over the bar and a sizeable amount to add to Club funds.
8. Other committee members, but especially those on the Executive Committee, who deserve praise as they put in a lot of time and effort trying to make the Club a better place to come and play in.
9. The unsung people (not always full members) who so generously donate to Club funds.
10. Anybody else who has helped out but whose efforts have been inadvertently unacknowledged.

Roger Peddle
Hon Secretary
13th October 2014

Hon Treasurer's report - AGM 2014

Another year has gone by, a good year for the Club. I have drawn up this year's figures for income and expenditure, only as a rough guide, as the full accounts will not be completed until after the AGM.

We started the year by paying for the new boiler in the indoor rink, £3024.00, which also heats the hot water in the main kitchen and in the indoor green.

We negotiated a very good price with a new company for the Club insurance, saving £100.00 on the previous price and this is set for two years. It also included increased cover for the indoor green. Previously the cover was for £7000.00, to cover everything including a carpet which cost £17.000.00.

A television licence was obtained, as we now have a television!

The BT phone was replaced by a mobile one, saving the Club £360.00 a year. The cost of the phone was £47.00, and during the year we have spent £18.00 on top-up vouchers for it. As it looks like an ordinary phone, it has caused some people confusion, but everyone seems to be getting the hang of it now.

The website is now up and running at a cost of £250.00, and immediately we had an email from a touring side from the Isle of Wight, and one from a new member moving to Wellington. The new technology does have advantages!

The green maintenance does have some costs, which we expected, and budgeted for. The mowers we purchased last year, thanks to generous donations from two Club members, are doing their job, and the people operating them are working hard. Paul Kelly attended a workshop at Culm Vale Bowling Club to learn more about it all. This was supported and partially funded by Bowls England. We are also very grateful to Bob Codd for purchasing a liquid sprayer for £750.00 and for his sponsorship of the open triples tournament.

The waste collections have changed to a new company, which is saving the Club £50.00 a month.

The electricians within the building continue to give us problems, as some of the wiring is on strange circuits, this has now been rectified with some work and a new fuse board, and re-wiring the alarm system. The PAT testing was completed by a new firm, saving £120.00.

The lighting in the indoor green is work in progress.

The bar takings are the highest since 1992, so we must put that down to all our new members, or the old members are drinking more!!! Well done to all the bar staff for maintaining it. The social nights have been very popular, bringing in some new social members and have helped to boost the bar takings. The Christmas draw raised an extra £500.00, thanks to Mike Connor and team.

The formal accounts will be ready as soon as possible, and until then, I am unable to say if we have made a small profit. Until the loans are paid back finances will be tight, with very little left for future projects, but the Committees are working hard to take the Club forward.

2014 INCOME AND EXPENSES FROM 1/10/13 to 28/9/14				
INCOME			EXPENDITURE	
indoor subs	2,114.00		wages	1,543.50
indoor green fees	6,854.00		bar supplies	7,751.49
indoor comp fees	52.00		Clubhouse exps	10,640.30
bar takings	11,972.39		green maintence	2,178.76
locker rents	290.00		admin/print etc	544.75
outdoor comp fees	631.60		comp refunds	5.60
vending machine	272.60		catering	431.47
donations	997.00		trophies	68.10
social fees	165.00		ladies petty cash	463.00
s/h items	167.09		vending machine	312.51
catering	901.50		insurance	737.33
draws/raffles	1,784.76		licence	258.88
phone box	20.05		somerset bowls	118.00
outdoor subs	6,525.80		environment	744.39
new shirts	172.90		loan repayments	1,852.00
bowls stickers	13.16		capital expenditure	3,543.27
bowls england	57.00		cleaning	157.96
refunds	85.94		phone top up	18.00
misc	44.51		somerset bowls	5.00
Club badges	2.20		new shirts	313.32
			tournament prizes	430.00
			misc	34.00
			affiliation fees	579.00
TOTAL	33,123.50		TOTAL	32,730.63

Secretary's Report

AGM 26th September 2015

I took over the role as Acting Secretary only a few weeks ago due to the resignation of **Roger Peddle**. Despite his early resignation Roger has been extremely helpful in getting me started in this role but it has been a very difficult process and I am conscious that I may be making mistakes in the future. I hope that members will be tolerant and helpful by "putting me straight" in a kindly manner.

I would first of all like to welcome all the new members to our club. In the short time I have been a member here I have noticed that there is a new dynamic in the club. The new members have brought with them a breath of fresh air which is engendering a feeling of optimism and ambition within the club. In May this year it looked as if the membership was going into sharp decline but **Richard Manning**, in his newly created post of New Member Co ordinator, has taken the task very seriously and together with his team have managed to recruit over 40 new members. The recruiting team has attended five local events over the summer and their hard work can only be described as a resounding success. Richard and myself we were assisted by **Diane and Rod Troake, John Cherry, Tony Donald and Mike Connor**.

Our coaches **Fran Hughes, Martin Speakman, Richard Manning and Mike Groves** have been extremely busy during the summer season and it is to their credit that the great majority of new recruits have joined us as playing members. The Team Captains have also played their part in ensuring that new members have had an opportunity to play in friendly games. It is also very pleasing to note that the organisers of the "roll ups" and winter leagues have also involved the new members in the activities in the indoor rink over the winter.

I would like to give **Bob Codd** a very special mention as our outgoing President. Not only has he done a fine job but he has also been very generous in making some very generous gifts to the club. Bob is a very unique character much liked by all members and will always be an asset to the club.

On behalf of members I would also like to thank **Alan Bell** who is retiring as Chairman of the club after being in this important role for 5 years. The job of Chairman can be very demanding and Alan has always conducted meetings in a fair, friendly and conciliatory manner.

I am sure that everyone will join with me in thanking **Jay Merrell** our Fixture Secretary for a job very well done. At the start of the summer some members were very doubtful that we would be able to fulfil all the additional new fixtures on the calendar for the outdoor season. In fact not only did we fulfil all the fixtures but most of these were over subscribed which presented the selectors with many a headache. The Skips and the Team Captains have helped and encouraged new members to participate in the Friendly matches which has introduced them to the sport of competitive Lawn Bowls. My impression is that all the participating playing members have really enjoyed the whole summer season. I certainly have and I am looking forward to next year. Jay has also been busy keeping our website up to date and has now brought us into the 20th century and involved us in the world of social media with twitter and facebook accounts.

The Team Captains, **Paul Kelly, Ann Cowling, and Geoff Stamp** have requested the opportunity to thank members for their efforts and cooperation over what has been a very successful season. Geoff Stamp asked that **Dai Helps** should get a special mention because he stood in as Vice Captain many times when Geoff was not

available. Our thanks go to them and the other Vice Captains for an excellent job, well done. Their reports are attached to these minutes.

The outside green has played well throughout the season despite some punishing sunshine in May/June and a lot of rain in August September.

Many of the visiting teams have commented on the exceptional standard of the green and our thanks must go to **Bill Heard, Paul Kelly, Nick Channon** and the outside team for all their work over the past year.

The outdoor club competitions, which were very ably organised by **Bob Clarke** have gone extremely well and congratulations go to all the winners.

Nick Channon won the Mixed Open and the Men's Handicap, **Courtney Bowden** won the Men's Club Championship, **Mike Groves** won the Two Wood Competition, the Men's Pairs was won by **Paul Kelly and Lew Stanton**, Mixed Pairs was won **Brenda Wilson** and **Mike Connor**, and the Amy Stanton Trophy was won by **Monica and Simon Spalding**. **Brenda and Don Wilson** reached the semi finals of the mixed triples but unfortunately due to Don becoming seriously ill the final was not played. **Bob Clarke** has resigned as Competitions Secretary and we hope that someone will volunteer to do this job or there will be no competitions next year.

Bob Codd, our President, conducted the 'Opening of the Green" accompanied by Dave Mitton, The Mayor of Wellington, and his Lady. It was a fine but cold day and everyone enjoyed the event. The opening of the green is an occasion filled with optimism because it is the start of the summer season and everyone looks forward to playing outdoors.

The optimism was well founded because it really has been a successful summer for the members and the club as a whole.

Everyone who attended the Closing of the Green had a great time with a final roll up and fun games. The event was made even more enjoyable with roast pork rolls provided by **Julia Stanton, Brenda Manning, Theresa Hawkins, and Wyn Courtney** plus the home made cakes provided by lady members.

In May we had a very successful Open Day that contributed to our target of recruiting new members. The event was helped to be successful by enthusiastic members who helped with registration, coaching, demonstrations, and refreshments.

During the season we hosted two County matches, Worcester beat Cornwall and a Walker Cup Double Rink when Worcester again beat Cornwall. We also hosted a Junior Under 25's boys County League Game Somerset vs. Cornwall and under 25's Girls Friendly between Somerset and Cornwall. We played a friendly against a touring team from Tavistock. All of these games were professionally organised and very successful thanks mainly to **Julia Stanton** who provided the food and was assisted by a team of very hardworking members.

The teas for the home matches have been all been prepared and served on a rota basis by members and we have always had positive feedback from our visitors who have been well pleased by our hospitality. Well done to all the people who helped out.

Last year it was reported that we must take action regarding our Fire Safety Precautions as we could face some very significant fines and possible closure. The Fire Officer carried out a thorough inspection and issued us with a list of things that we had to do in order to comply with current regulations. He also gave us a time limit in which we had to get the work done. In consequence, we have installed new fire doors, fire alarm system, warning signs and indicators that were the items marked urgent on the report. There is one outstanding item which is to provide a fire access from the Green onto Corams Lane. We have had discussions with a builder and formulated a design which would be secure and which would double up as an Emergency Fire Exit and wheelchair access.

At the AGM last year it was unanimously agreed that the club should proceed with the installation of solar panels if the cost is effective and of benefit to the club. The Executive Committee secured a contract with Brendon Energy who has installed Light Sensitive Panels on the roof of the clubhouse **at no cost to the club**. The club will receive £30 per annum that is index linked and free electricity when the panels are producing. Brendon Energy benefits by receiving the Input Tariff for all the surplus electricity not used by the club.

Unfortunately the glass washer in the bar developed a fault in July and the company who had maintained it quoted an exorbitant amount to carry out repairs. The Executive Committee decided to take immediate action and taking into consideration the age of the machine it was decided that it would be more prudent to buy a new machine. This was delivered and installed in August.

Richard Manning and myself have been working hard to investigate the possibility of obtaining suitable grant funding to carry out works that have been identified for maintenance and improvement of the club premises. To date we have established costs and applied for funding, with approval of the Executive Committee, as follows:

- Completely refurbish the disabled toilet to current Building Regulations.
- To replace the old wooden gates in the corner of the green with an improved access which would act as a wheelchair access and fire escape.
- Remove the asbestos cement roof and replace with a new roof.
- Take out the lighting and wiring to the indoor rink and replace with a bespoke lighting system. Completely re wire the lighting with a designated independent supply with all the switches located in the rink.

I am pleased to report that we have received confirmation from Taunton Deane Borough Council that they have awarded us the full cost £16,780 for the first two items on this list. We have also applied for grant funding for the new roof and lighting system for the Indoor Rink which will cost a total of £51,000. We are hoping to learn whether we have been successful before Christmas so that we can arrange for the work to start in April. Seeking grant Funding is a very time consuming and arduous process and we will keep members informed of our progress when we have news. When we have some positive information a Special Meeting will be called and everyone will be made aware of exactly what is proposed and where the money is coming from. I can also report that Richard has been successful in finding us a new sponsor in Wellington Motors, the Nissan Dealership at Chelston. They have already given us a cheque for £200 and indicated that more money may be available in the future. The Executive Committee have agreed that this money is set aside to start a Building Fund which may be used for match funding when applying for grants.

Ann Cowling and myself have been investigating the problem of club shirts. We have no ladies shirts in stock and very few men's shirts. A decision has to be made whether we re-order a stock of the old shirts or order a new club shirt that can be registered with Bowls England and the SBA as the **Wellington Club Shirt**. It was agreed at the last AGM that the club should have a "unisex shirt" to replace the existing men's and ladies shirts which are different. We have found a supplier and the shirts would retail at about £20 each including VAT. The actual colour design will be presented to members when we have samples. If the design is changed it will not affect the price. It is hoped that if members find the price acceptable we can proceed with the registration procedure. When this is confirmed we shall take orders from members so that the shirts will be available for the next outdoor season in April 2016. Efforts have been made to secure a sponsor to subsidise the shirts but so far this has been unsuccessful.

I would remind members that a majority vote at the last AGM decided that club/league shirts **must** be worn at all friendly and league matches by **all our players**. It is very

disappointing that this rule has not been adhered to and I hope that members who want to represent the club next season will buy and wear the club shirt. Other teams do why not us? Failure to do so may result in some embarrassing situations where members are not selected to play in our teams because they will not comply with the rules.

Many of us enjoyed some great evenings out at the club over the winter period thanks to the efforts of our Social Secretary **ANNE Cowling**. Anne has written a short report that is attached to these minutes.

Following a proposal in 2012 a Think Tank was formed to come up with and investigate ideas which would benefit the club. Consequently **Sylvia Lane, Brenda Wilson, John Cherry, Mike Connor, Bob Cowling, and Don Wilson** have all met regularly and their success is the subject of a report attached to these minutes. I am sure that we all offer our thanks for their efforts as they disband after the Grand Prize Draw evening.

On behalf of the club I would like to thank other club members, not mentioned in this report, who have served the club over the past year:

Lew Stanton our Club Treasurer. Lew does a tremendous amount of very important work behind the scenes that goes unnoticed by most members. We desperately need to find an Assistant Treasurer who can help by taking some of the load off Lew's shoulders.

Martin Speakman our Press Secretary who has done an invaluable job in raising the profile of our club by getting regular coverage in the local newspapers of our progress in league competitions and friendly games. Martin has also been successful in getting photographs and reports of club activities published.

Roland Bath who has done a sterling job as Bar Steward in spite of an increase in work load. The members who have served behind the bar including **Paul Kelly, Don Wilson, Dennis and Wynn Courtney, and Mike Twyford**.

Julia Stanton, Roger Peddle and Bob Cowling who have all helped me with advice on getting the AGM organised.

All the **ladies and gents** who have helped with the lunches and teas over the summer.

If I have missed anyone please accept my apologies.

Report by Brian Wombwell

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU !

We are a members club and members do **all** of the organising of teams, fixtures, competitions, administration, events, coaching, social evenings, maintenance of the green, minor works in the building, bar staff, food ordering, preparation of teas for home matches, etc. etc. We also have a President, Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.

These duties are all carried out by volunteers who do not get paid.

There are still some empty spaces on the post holder nominations sheet and we need people to step forward and volunteer for these posts.

Vacancies

Assistant to the Secretary

Assistant to the Treasurer

Bar Steward and Bar Staff.

Competition Secretary

Catering organiser and a catering team for special events

Ladies Welfare Officer
Men's Welfare Officer.

The club cannot function if members do not get involved and do their bit.
A few people do the lion's share of the work and this is not fair.

Everyone is capable of doing something.

To volunteer for any of the above vacancies contact Brian Wombwell before 21st of October.
New members are encouraged to apply and will be given assistance in learning these jobs.

TREASURER'S REPORT AGM 2015

Another busy and exhausting year at Wellington Bowling Club, but the financial position is healthier than twelve months ago. First of all a big thank you for the bar staff, as takings are up dramatically, in fact we took more money in ten months than the previous twelve months, and this would not be possible without the bar being manned and fully stocked. Also thanks must go to the recruitment team, as without the new members, the club was in a serious state. We had lost twenty playing members from the previous season, and with the help of SASP, the open day was a great success. We received £290.00 from SASP which helped to fund this. The new members have joined in all the club activities, including social events and many have been involved in the food preparation for the tournament's and county games. It is good to see the green being used much more this year. The Friday fling also generates a good income, and is enjoyed by all.

Thanks to Mike Connor for organising the annual raffle, last year's profit was £900.00! Also a big thank you, to Mike for bringing in money from local firms. We had planned just to renew the emergency lighting this year but the fire and safety inspection resulted in the need for more work to be completed, to meet the requirements. The new fire alarm system, emergency lighting, and emergency door exits resulted in a bill of £4000.00, but at least the building is a lot safer now. The solar panel's installed by Brendon Energy at no cost to the club, will generate a little income and reduce our electric bills.

Thanks must go to Jay Merrell for arranging all those fixtures, as it brings much needed income into the club and helps it to thrive. The two county games and the Somerset under 25s game generated an income £800.00, and thanks go to all the people who made this happen. It takes a lot of organisation to feed and refuel all the competitors. The club really needs a catering representative or team, if this is to happen in the future, as it is too much work for too few people. The open tournaments were successful, and thanks go to our sponsors, Co-op Funeral Care and B and H Midland insurance for providing the prize money.

The green has bowled well all summer, thanks to all the greenkeepers and assistant's, and thanks to Ernie Windsor for all his efforts doing odd jobs, always with a smile on his face.

Many thanks also go to Clive the cleaner, for his hard work and dedication.

The clubs finances are always going to be tight; we still owe £5000.00 to the two members who loaned the club the money for the mowers, after this year's instalments have been paid as agreed, but the boost to the membership has helped ease the pressure a little, and because of this the membership costs will remain the same for the next outdoor season.

I personally must say a big thank you to Roger Peddle for his tireless work on the executive committee, and I was sorry to see him leave the club.

The accounts for ten months will be accompanying this, and the accountant Robin Dickenson will be attending the AGM to answer any questions..

The Accountant's report will be circulated separately in a few days time.

Lew Stanton

Proposals

- 1) From **Ladies Committee** - *All members who play in the League and friendly matches in the outdoor season will be included in the tea rota from 2016.*
- 2) From **Brian Wombwell** - *the new post created last year New Member Co-ordinator should be changed to Development Officer with responsibilities for recruiting new members and retention of existing members. This post should be added to the list of members on the General Committee. This year has highlighted the importance of annual recruiting to ensure that our membership is maintained at a viable level. Should it be recognised that the number of playing members is putting a strain on the club facilities the General Committee can decide to put a cap on the number of members admitted to membership of the club. The Development Officer would also be able to represent and discuss the needs of new and existing members at meetings*
- 3) From **Brian Wombwell** on behalf of many club members. *Some members have not complied with the rule established at the AGM last year that "playing members **must** wear the league/club shirt at all league and friendly matches". This rule should be re-enforced by an additional clause "members who do not wear league/club shirts will not be allowed to represent the club in any matches. Without any rule of discipline the selectors and captains do not have any course of action against infringements of the rule.*
- 4) From **Jay Merrell** - *the Fixture Secretary's role to combine all Men's, Lady's, and Mixed friendly matches.*
- 5) From **Brian Wombwell** - *In order that the Assistant Secretary can be aware of what is happening in the club the post allows ex officio attendance at Executive and General Committee meetings but is not allowed to vote.*
- 6) **Bob Clarke** - *In order to encourage more people to use the indoor rink in the summer the indoor rink fee of £16 should cover the whole year not just the indoor season. The fee will be due on 1st September each year and to remain the same regardless of the date of joining. The indoor rink is very rarely used during the summer months. The various committees should be encouraged to think up ways to increase use of the rink during the outdoor season and bring much needed income to the club.*
- 7) **Jay Merrell** - *We create a new post of Member Secretary who will maintain the list of members and collect membership fees. This position will alleviate the workload of the Secretary and the Treasurer. The post to report to the Executive and General Committee but not to vote.*

Members recommended to the AGM for positions

President	Sylvia Lane
Vice President Male	Vacant
Vice President Female	Vacant

Members who have been proposed and Seconded for positions on the Executive Committee and have accepted the position.

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Second
Chairperson	Geoff Stamp	Jay Merrell	Signature not legible
Secretary	Brian Wombwell	Robert Clarke	L. Greaves
Treasurer	Lew Stamp	Roland Bath	Alan Bell
Ladies Administrator	Gill Groves	Brenda Wilson	Thelma Helps

Members who have been proposed and Seconded for positions on the General Committee and have accepted the position.

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Second
Men's Captain	Paul Kelly	Mark Philips	Nick Channon
Lady's Captain	Anne Cowling	Brenda Wilson	Sylvia Lane
Fixtures Secretary	Jay Merrell	Brian Wombwell	Richard Manning
Bar Steward	Vacant		
Competitions Secretary	Vacant		
Indoor Secretary	John Cherry	Jay Merrell	Martin Speakman
Vote required for Mixed Games Captain			
	Dai Helps	John Mullen	Mike Lockyer
	John Lister	Dennis Fulstone	Brian Wombwell

Post holders who can attend General Committee meetings but not to Vote

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Second
Green Representative Winter Summer	Bill Heard Paul Kelly	Brian Wombwell Brian Wombwell	Richard Manning Richard Manning
Building Representative	Earnie Windsor	Dennis Fulstone	Roland Bath
Catering Officer	Vacant		
Social Team Representative.	Social Team		

Other Posts

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Men's Vice Captain	Mike Groves	Ian Thomsen	Brian Wombwell
Lady's Vice Captain	Gill Groves	Gill Groves	Win Courtney
Mixed Games Vice Captain	Laurie Greaves	Bob Clarke	John Lister
Selection Committee (Lady's)	Win Courtney	Gill Groves	Brenda Wilson
Selection Committee Mixed	Bob Clarke	Rod Corkett	Rod Troake
Ladies Fixture Secretary	Jay Merrell		
Bar Committee	Mike Twyford	Roland Bath	Martin Speakman
Bar Committee	Vacant		
Bar Committee	Vacant		
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant		
Assistant Secretary	Vacant		

Vote for Selection Committee Mixed

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
	Bob Clarke	Rod Corkett	Rod Troake
	Thelma Helps	Julia Stanton	Brian Wombwell

Vote required for Selection Committee (Men's)

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
	Bob Clarke	Brian Wombwell	Earnie Windsor
	Courtney Bowden	Don Wilson	Nick Channon

Other Posts

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Men's Welfare Officer	Vacant		
Ladies Welfare officer	Vacant		
Publicity Officer	Vacant		
Child Protection Officer	Martin Speakman	Brian Wombwell	Geoff Stamp