



# HIGHWOODS CARPET BOWLS CLUB



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of Meeting held at Highwood's Sports Centre – Activity Hall  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019

### 1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence:

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 7-35 p.m. and welcomed 37 other members to the Annual General Meeting of the Club.

Apologies for absence were received from Colin & Sue Miller, Keith & Brenda Casey-Wyatt, Keith & Daphne Parsons, Fred & Margaret Brown, Liz Millard, Irene Rule, Pam Smith & Pearl Rodgers

### 2. Minutes of Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018:

Copies of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2018 were distributed to Members, the majority by E Mail in advance, and confirmed by a show of hands to be a true representation of what took place

### 3. Matters Arising:

There was one query regarding the £5 Club Entry fee mentioned in the minutes and the query was answered

### 4. Chairperson's Report:

The Chairperson initially referred to the disruption to the Activity Hall during the 2018 School Summer break. She highlighted the issues which arose whilst having to use the adjoining Small Hall or the Gymnasium during that time and thanked everybody for their co-operation and help. She especially mentioned the adaptability of the Kitchen team during this period and the support received from the Duty Manager - Jon Pritchard

Diane said that the result was a vast improvement with a brighter Hall and a lovely floor to bowl on. However it still threw up a few problems with extra need to transport chairs & tables from the adjoining Hall, only one Stairs and nowhere for Coats etc. She then referred to and thanked those who provided Coat Stands and Coat Hangers to overcome this particular issue

Diane then went on to thank Joan Silversword, Linda Spinks, Diane & Terry Reeves for providing our Teas & Coffees on our Club nights and gifts were presented in recognition

Diane also thanked those who provided the teas & coffees and the raffle on our Tuesday match nights

She thanked all members of the Committee for their hard work throughout the year and thanked Members, on behalf of the committee, for their Christmas gifts. Her final thanks were to those who share their birthdays with us on a Thursday evening

The Chairperson went on to mention the wedding of Keith & Brenda during the year and the four members who have joined us – Ray Spencer, Julie Mitchell, John Ames & Dennis Newman. She advised that we have lost five members during this time and our numbers are now down to 51

She referred to the health issues that had hit some members recently (including a visit by the Paramedics) and wished everyone well for the future

Diane initially mentioned the difficulty in recruiting members especially the younger generation nowadays with a different lifestyle. She then referred to the forthcoming 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club later in the year and that the Committee was working on plans for a 'special' evening to celebrate this milestone

The Chairperson finished with a wish for everyone to enjoy their bowling with a hope that this will continue well into the future

#### 5. Treasurer's Report:

Copies of the Income & Expenditure statement had been sent to all Members by E Mail, in advance, with copies provided on the day to those without this facility  
The Treasurer thanked everyone for paying promptly and encouraged those who can to use Internet Banking

He added his thanks to the Committee and those who provide the teas & coffees on the Tuesday match days and Thursday club nights

There were no matters arising from the Accounts and they were adopted

#### 6. Club Captain & Secretary's Report:

Peter started his report by referring to the New Hall and the vast improvement seen as relayed by the Chairperson. He mentioned the problem which could not be resolved in a positive manner, which was the inability to hire a proportion of the Hall on a Tuesday evening. This meant that the Summer Singles could no longer take place and additionally the costs for the winter league matches will now be more in the future.

He then referred to the Club nights with the plan to continue to do something different when possible. Mention was made of the current imbalance of Ladies & Gents with 29 Ladies and only 22 Gents but he would carry this challenge on whenever possible. He also advised the plan to change the format of the evening, with suitable notice, for a few special occasions during the year, using the format adopted for our recent Easter evening

Peter mentioned that average weekly attendance was down from just above 40 to now below 40. He additionally asked members to let him or Martin know when they wanted to sit out a game and to give more attention to the weekly departure plan sheets

He was pleased to Report that attendance numbers were up for both the Summer Tea and Friends Trophy Sunday events and that the reduced playing time suited most members. He referred to the winners of these competitions with special mention of Diane Reeves whose name featured as a winner in every competition in the last twelve months

A brief mention was made of the weekend competitions around the County with participation from the club still low but that those who take part always putting up a good challenge.

He went onto mention the Black team who finished 6<sup>th</sup> in their Winter league and the Red team who were runners up in their league. He expressed his delight with the Red team taking part in the Essex League finals (in place of the league winners who were unable to field a team on the day) and coming second overall against the strongest teams in the County.

His final mention was of Potters, with Martin & himself still running these competitions, and thanked those who attended.

Peter thanked all Members, who help in all capacities on a Thursday evening, especially those who get out and put away equipment and the added task with the Chairs and Tables. He mentioned the problems with the correct position for the disc table when six carpets were needed and the need to spread those with the bags to avoid congestion

Peter finished by suggesting the future would involve much of the same and the request that if anyone had an idea to speak with him or Martin

He thanked all for the support given to him and wished everybody the best for another great year of bowls

#### 7. Competition's Report:

John Woodrow advised that the 2018 Summer Pairs started in late May with 32 members taking part. The Final was held on 6<sup>th</sup> September with Diane Reeves & Gary Owen winning against David Rule & Sheila Near

He then mentioned the 2018/19 Winter Fours with 11 teams taking part. The competition started in late November with the final played on 28<sup>th</sup> March. He advised the winners were Sue Miller, Diane Reeves, David Rule & Gary Owen  
John finished with reference to the Web Site and advised that increasing number of hits were being seen. He is to continue with this and encouraged members to refer on a regular basis especially with the updates on club competitions and events and the report on league matches

#### 8. Equipment & Storage Report:

Terry Reeves started his Report by suggesting that the storage cupboard was still a challenge with space at a premium with the extra storage needs of the Coat hangers. He added his thanks to those who donated these to the club. He mentioned that he is looking to trial an alternative which may help the situation in the future.

He referred to a few purchases made which included new pouches for the measuring equipment, batteries for torches, a Velcro roll to give cover when needed to the carpet covers and plastic heat shrink sleeving for the centre pole ends

Terry finally referred to a few running repairs needed during the year with attention required to some blocks

#### 9. Rule Changes:

The Chairperson read out to members the proposal to increase the weekly subscriptions from £1-75 to £2-00 and the winter league match night fee from £1-25 to £1-50 with effect from the next payment date. She advised that the need was brought about by increased hall hire charges and lower income from the reduced number of members. (The weekly draw fee was to be unchanged at £1-00 with the weekly prize money to remain at £30.)

Diane also referred to the club records which showed that when the Club started some 25 years ago, the cost was then £1-00 per week

After some discussion a vote was taken, with all, except two who abstained, in favour of the proposal. David advised that the increase would take effect from the next payment date in June

#### 10. Election of Officers:

The Chairperson confirmed that the nominees for our committee for the year 2019/20 were as at present unopposed, all confirmed by a show of hands

Chairperson - Diane Orrin

Treasurer - David Rule

Secretary - Peter Orrin

Club Captain - Peter Orrin

Vice Captain - Martin Bennet

Other Committee Members:

Marilyn Bennet, Keith Wyatt , Terry Reeves and John Woodrow

#### 11. Any Other Business:

Liz Millard put forward a suggestion that the Club looks to introduce a Charity Box and that the losing team after each game played puts in a nominal contribution of 10p. This was discussed but the majority decided not to take this forward, with the suggestion that members charity donation is best saved until nearer Christmas when in the past we have donated to the local Hospice. The other suggestion was put forward by Diane Reeves following comments made by other members. The suggestion followed the success of the Easter competition format and was that we should adopt this for all club nights playing 3 games of 5 or 6 ends with tea to follow and departure thereafter. The idea would also save costs.

Again discussion took place with comments made by John Ames suggesting that this would take longer with two gaps to wait and distribute discs, by Peter Orrin suggesting that this would prohibit any future Summer Pairs competition with insufficient carpets available and by Martin Bennet who suggested the current format gave people the choice to go home without depriving those who wish to stay the ability to play more ends.

A display of hands showed that the majority favour the existing format and it was agreed that this would continue.

With no further business the Chairperson closed the meeting at 8-15 p.m.