

DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS HOLDING BOTH OUTDOOR AND INDOOR PLAYING MEMBERSHIP HELD AT DESBOROUGH BOWLING CLUB, GREEN LANE, MAIDENHEAD. AT 7.00 PM ON FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2024

Attendance: 51 members attended.

1.0 Opening of meeting: The President, John Davis, welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting.

The President called upon those present to stand for a minute's silence and remember those members who had passed away during the previous year: - Paul Ripley, Markus Daudt, Mike Kingsbury, Nigel Wheeler, Barrie Taylor, Michael Miles, Alan Willia, Maggie Hopper, Hilary Hall, Emma Horner, and Pat Arnott.

2.0 Apologies for absence: Gemma Hanks, Lee Chamberlain, Roland Dreesden, Pamela Harrison-Smith, Richard Earl, Don Isaacs, Wayne Renouf, Gill O'Neill and Clare Buckley.

3.0 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10th November 2023 and Matters arising:

3.1 The minutes, which had been circulated previously, were adopted on the proposal of Phil Smith, and seconded by Michael White

3.2 There were no matters arising.

4.0 Questions to Presidential Candidates

Both presidential candidates identified themselves to the meeting and in response to a question from D Barklamb, gave a brief summary of their reasons for standing for the Presidency.

Angela Issac described how her commercial background would provide good experience for the role. She has 15 years of bowling experience, has been Ladies captain for 2 years, has been a member of the management Committee for 2 years and has experience of the Berkshire outdoor committee.

Tony Buckley described how he has been a member of the club for almost 20 years and has experience across almost all roles apart from general Secretary and President. He articulated how he has always had the best interests of the club at heart and believed he would be a good President.

5.0 President's Report

The President gave his report (attached).

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6.0 General Secretary's Report

The General Secretary gave his report (attached). No questions were raised by the membership.

M Hobson commented that he appreciated the regular updating of the Management Committee's meeting minutes and other updates on the club website.

7.0 Submission of Voting Papers

Some voting papers had been handed in during the early stages of the meeting. The remaining papers were submitted at this point of the meeting and passed to the Tellers.

8.0 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Jaz Notay reported on the Club's financial position, as outlined in the Treasurer's Report and Accounts for Year Ending 31.03.24. This Report had already been circulated (*See attached Report and Accounts for Y/E 31.03.24*)

Several queries were raised, and each will receive a written answer.

- M Hobson observed that £27k had been spent on building maintenance and £20k on match meals with no explanation. Was further detail available? There were also queries about the HMRC penalties included in the accounts and some more details regarding creditors were requested.

M Essex asked if commission should be paid to anyone who brings in Commercial Revenue or further staff resources dedicated to this. S McAlister responded that the revenue hasn't increased in line with budget and it's a priority to devise a plan.

8.1 Appointment of Independent Examiners

The Treasurer updated the meeting on the process of having sought quotes from several suppliers for the Independent Examination of the club's accounts. The cheapest quote came from the existing supplier Naresh Harman Accountancy. The Treasurer recommended the appointment of Naresh Harman, and this was accepted by the meeting.

9.0 Any other business

D Barklamb raised a question asking who does the general maintenance of the building. It was confirmed that Dave Smith carries out the maintenance tasks.

S Lane raised a point that she felt the lights above the rinks are too bright. R Wyatt update the meeting that the lighting arrangement had been designed by experts in line with best practice. Most of those present agreed that they prefer a bright, well-lit environment.

M Hobson pointed out that the Club's Constitution requires that a Welfare Officer be appointed at the AGM. It was pointed out that Marina Bignall is already a qualified safeguarding Officer having undertaken relevant courses. Marina indicated that she was happy to be appointed as Welfare officer to the general agreement of those present.

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N Jones questioned if the club had any plans for a youth program. S McAlister responded that this was very much the intention but that plans have yet to be developed. There will also be an opportunity to be part of the EIBA's upcoming youth initiative, when it is published

N Jones asked if we are using external resources such as Lucy Smith to improve the club's social media presence. S McAlister confirmed that we have used Lucy to help publicise the recent Open Day.

A question was asked if it would be possible to introduce Short Mat Bowls to the club. There was general agreement that this is desirable. S McAlister undertook an action to follow up.

R Wyatt suggested that it would now be appropriate to remove the Outdoor AGM and combine it with full Club AGM. M Hobson pointed out that it has been traditional to have two, separate AGMs (in addition to the Indoor AGM). It was agreed that the options should be investigated and presented at the next Full AGM. Action: S McAlister to follow up and work with Phil Smith.

10.0 Election of President and Members of management Committee

A vote was necessary between the two candidates for President, Angela Isaac and Tony Buckley.

The result was that **Angela Isaac was elected as president.**

A vote was necessary for membership of the Management Committee, with 10 persons having been nominated.

The vote resulted in the following 8 members being elected to the Management Committee for 2024/25: -

Kim Barao, Chris Bowler, Tony Buckley, Mark Essex, Brian Harris, Nicola Jones, Mark Loader and Wayne Renouf.

The General Secretary thanked John Davis for his year as President . John then passed the President's Chain of Office to Angela Isaac and wished her success for the upcoming year.

The meeting closed at 8:04 pm

Signed as a true record.....

Date.....2024

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APPENDIX "A"

President's Report

I am pleased to report that the club has enjoyed a successful season in terms of increasing membership. The recent Open Day held in September resulted in 40 new members which contributed to a total of 50 new members in September. And during October we acquired an additional 13 new members.

Following the success of the Family Open Day, further days will be arranged for later in the season. The first of which is the Christmas Fair and Family Fun Day on Sunday 24th November.

Despite some challenges in recruiting members to play in friendly matches we managed to fulfil all fixtures. And thanks to Steve Isaac we have a full program of friendlies planned for the indoor season. The outdoor program is in preparation, and I expect another busy summer.

The commercial revenue for the financial year ending in March 2024 remained at similar levels to that of the previous year.

The Social events continue to be well supported. These provide a valuable source of income to the club with revenue in the financial year ending March 2024 ahead of the previous year by 12%. Well done and thank you to Brian Harris and his team.

At a competitive level the club enjoyed a very successful Outdoor season with success in County and National competitions. The highlights included:

- For the first time in many years the Men won the Kennet league defeating Tilehurst in the final.
- And our KLV A team finished 2nd in Division 1 East.
- The club also won the county Double Fours with a 1 shot victory in the final against Tilehurst.

In national competitions, DBC had its best year for a long time with a number of players qualifying for the Finals at Leamington. These were:

- Keith Roper in the 2 wood singles
- Andrew Essex in the 4 wood singles
- Bob Forster, Paul Worthy & Kevin Scrace in the triples
- Andrew Essex, Keith Roper, Mark Essex & Kevin Scrace in the Fours.
- Andrew & Mark Essex in the senior pairs

The Ladies also enjoyed a successful season.

At a county level they:

- Won the TVLL Division 1
- Won the Ladies County Top Club
- Runner up in the County Double Rink Mixed Fours

And at national level Gina Braddock, Linda Harvey, Angela Issac & Kim Barao qualified for Finals at Leamington as runner up in the County Fours.

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There were also several players who made it to county semi-finals and quarter finals.

Thank you to all of our supporters and travelling reserves that went to Leamington.

During last Indoor season the club did not progress far in any of the national club competitions, but we have made a better start to this year's competitions-

However individually there were 4 notable successes last season:

- 1) Julie Skelly qualified for the national finals at Nottingham in the lady's singles losing out at the quarter final stage.
- 2) John McGuinness qualified for the national finals in the Champion of Champions held at Dolphin IBC, losing out in the semi-final.
- 3) Stephen McAlister qualified for the national finals held at Nottingham IBC in the over 60 singles and lost out at the semi-final stage.
- 4) Teresa Slark, Jacinta Monteiro, and Nicola Jones qualified for the national finals in the ladies over 50 Triples. (Linda Harvey also played some rounds as a reserve).

There were also a number of near misses in the Area Finals of the Men's 60+ pairs and Men's Singles and also in the area semi-finals of the Men's Pairs, Triples and Fours.

In the London & Southern Counties competitions, Desborough reached the semi-final of the Shield which features 2 home and 2 away men's rinks. We also had teams make the semi-finals of the Mixed Pairs and Men's fours.

Due to the success of our teams and our players, the profile of the club continues to rise. This will be further enhanced when we host the London & Southern Counties Indoor finals on March 15th, 2025

DESBOROUGH also successfully hosted an Open Singles Circuit event at the end of January, for the 3rd year and will do so again in January 2025. A big thanks to Brian Jones for sponsoring the event for the past 2 years.

I would like to express my thanks to all members who have served on all of the Committees over the year and those who have assisted with the running of the Club by helping with bar duties, selection committees, leagues, competitions, social events and the maintenance of the club.

A special note of thanks for their many years of service to Roger Wyatt who retired last month and Mark Peachey who is planning to leave at the end of the year. We wish them both well in their retirement and future endeavours. I am also pleased to welcome our new General Secretary, Stephen McAlister and our Bowls Operations manager, Bob Forster.

It is good to see members put themselves forward for election to the Management Committee as it's essential to the future of the club that we have members assisting with day-to-day activities and ongoing planning for the club. I wish them good luck with the election and for their time as committee members.

And finally, I would like to say that I have enjoyed my time as president of Desborough, and I wish the new president all of the best for the upcoming year.

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APPENDIX “B”

GENERAL SECRETARY’S REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to report that, over the last 12 months the club has continued to operate successfully. The management team continue to focus on maintaining and enhancing the service levels offered to members, commercial clients and charitable organisations. Throughout the year we have continued to acquire members and have been particularly pleased with the results of recent efforts, having recruited more than 60 new members since the start of September.

All the indoor leagues have continued to prosper with the recent addition of a beginners league, some new teams joining evening division 2 and a trial league in the Aussie Pairs format. The evening league was changed from a Men’s to an ‘Open’ league which has enabled ladies to participate. The weekday recreational roll-ups have also been very well supported throughout the summer and the winter with numbers continuing to grow during the summer season.

The Friendly match fixtures, for both Indoor and Outdoor went well throughout the year. A full schedule is in place for the upcoming winter and the 2025 outdoor friendly schedule is in preparation – thanks to Steve Isaac. Although, on occasion, it may be a slight struggle to raise a team, all matches have been well supported. There will be one ‘free’ weekend in March when it is planned to organise a Gala – details to be confirmed.

Over the year we enjoyed hosting several events ranging from the Open Singles Circuit in January to a Midleton Cup quarter final in July. We also hosted a series of county/regional finals in various national competitions including the Mixed pairs and Tony Allcock (mixed double rinks) events.

Our aim is to become a popular ‘neutral’ venue with great facilities, an excellent green and a welcoming environment. Later this year we will host the Ladies Johns team for the 1st time and several matches in the latter stages of county competitions. And, we have been selected to host the London & Southern Counties Finals on 15th March – a prestigious event.

Multiple Desborough members qualified for the National Indoor Finals at Nottingham in April and the National Outdoor Finals at Leamington in August.

We have worked closely with Jasbir (Jaz) Notay our Club Treasurer and her accountancy, practice Ellora Ltd, to manage the Club’s accounts.

I would like to pay special thanks to our President, John Davis and all members of the Management and Finance Committees for their wholehearted support of both Roger Wyatt and I over the past year. I would also like to thank our staff members, Mark Peachey, Club Manager, Ellie Walsh, Facilities Manager and Nicola Allen, Receptionist who have all worked tirelessly to provide the high level of service we aspire to within the Club. Also, a special thank you to Steve Isaac (Indoor & Outdoor Fixtures Secretary and Captain), Angie Isaac (Ladies Captain), Brian Harris (Social Chairman), Tony Buckley (Outdoor Secretary), Dave

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Smith & Keith Harvey (Greens & Maintenance). In addition, my thanks to all members who have served on various Committees over the year and those who have assisted with the running of the Club by helping with bar duties, selection committees, leagues, competitions, social events and the maintenance of the club.

There is always a need for more volunteers to ease the workload on those who provide a tremendous service to the club.

We also said “farewell” to Roger Wyatt , our long serving General Secretary. Roger was kind enough to return to the role earlier in the year when needed and he leaves us with a fantastic legacy of a great club with amazing facilities – envied by all. We wish him well in his retirement.

2.0 MEMBERSHIP

2.1 The retention of existing members and recruiting new members is a key issue with all bowling clubs. Open Days were held on the 11th May and the 28th September 2024. Both were followed by coaching courses. The recent courses following the September Open Day were well attended by 39 players. Many thanks to all our members who have actively supported both the Open Days and the coaching sessions.

2.2 The current membership totals by category are as follows: -

Category	No of Members October 2023	No of Members October 2024	Variance (+/-)
Total Full Members	121	113	-8
Total Outdoor Only	11	12	+1
Total Indoor Only	312	311	-1
12 Month Indoors	103	115	+12
Life	8	8	0
Social	119	141	+22
Grand Total	674	700	+26

PLEASE NOTE: The above schedule is based on the memberships registered in BowlR in October 2024. There may be slight variations as members who have yet to pay their annual membership subscriptions may not renew and will be removed from the October 2024 numbers.

2.3 We would pay our respects to those members who passed away over the last 12 months with our condolences to their friends and relatives, namely:

Paul Ripley, Markus Daudt, Mike Kingsbury, Nigel Wheeler, Barrie Taylor, Michael Miles, Alan Willis, Maggie Hopper, Hilary Hall, Emma Horner, and Pat Arnott.

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3.0 MAIN ISSUES DEALT WITH IN PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

3.1 Update on Club Management.

3.1.1 The new Management structure devised in early 2024 has been put in place with Ellie Walsh taking up to the position of Facilities Manager.

3.1.2 In September, Roger Wyatt retired from the role of General Secretary and was succeeded by Stephen McAlister who had already been a club member for a few years prior to taking up the role.

3.1.3 Mark Peachey will retire from the role of Bowls Operations Manager at the end of the year. He has been a mainstay of the club for many years, and we will mark his departure nearer the time. I'm pleased to announce that Bob Forster has recently agreed to replace Mark and has begun a handover. Bob is well known around the club.

3.1.4 We continue to address the recent financial inflationary pressures (utility, catering, and all supply costs rising) which has persisted over the last 12 months. In order to achieve a break even performance in the current financial the Finance and Management Committees agreed to increase Club Subscriptions. All members have been advised as to the increases and these were implemented on October 1st, 2024. – **See Appendix "C"**

3.1.5 Other priority areas for increased revenue are:

- Membership numbers. Recent weeks have seen satisfactory progress.
- Advertising/Sponsorship. This is an area which has yielded limited success to date.
- Commercial Lettings. This area continues to be a significant revenue stream but must be increased.
- Green Utilisation. There are times during the Indoor season when the green is not busy. Revenue can be increased by devising new offerings for members.

3.2 Catering and bar services currently provided

3.2.1 Catering

Anna's Kitchen has continued to run the club kitchen throughout the year. They have provided catering for all matches and events together with providing a daily service from 9am to 3pm. There is a generally held view among club members that the range and quality of food offered by the kitchen could be improved. This will be an area of focus over the coming months. The food offering is at the heart of making the club a thriving, active social hub.

3.2.2 Bar

Bar sales have increased over the year, and it continues to be a significant source of revenue. Social events also make a significant contribution to bar takings. Pricing has been kept at reasonable levels to reflect 'club' prices for Members with a separate, higher, price list for non-Members.

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3.3 Current Indoor league fixture and Competition arrangements

3.3.1 The fixtures for 2024/25 have been finalised and we are now playing in all leagues.

3.3.2 A new league targeted at beginners and inexperienced bowlers was recently launched on Wednesday 6th November.

3.3.3 The draw for this year's Club Competitions will take place at 6pm on Friday 29th November and matches will commence from late December/early January.

3.3.4 The first round of National Competitions commenced in the last 2 weeks. The club has entries in all the national team events and numerous entrants in the various individual competitions. Last season we had a number of players qualify for the National Finals in Nottingham in Ladies Singles & Triples and Men's Champion of Champions and Senior Singles.

3.4 Outdoor Season and Green Maintenance

3.4.1 The 2024 Outdoor Season was completed in full.

3.4.2 Kennet League, KLV, last Ditch and County Competitions all progressed as normal.

3.4.3 The club enjoyed a highly successful season with numerous achievements including:

- Winning the Kennet League (Men)
- Winning the TVL Division 1 (Ladies)
- Winning county Double Fours (Men)
- Winning the county Top Club (Ladies)
- Qualifying for the National Finals at Leamington in the Men's 2 wood singles, 4 wood singles, Triples, Fours & Senior Pairs and the Ladies' Fours

3.4.3 The green bowled well throughout the summer and is gaining a reputation as a top venue for neutral matches – in latter stages of county or national competitions. This will continue in 2025.

3.4.4 With the retirement of our site gardener 'Sarge' in September and the imminent departure of Mark Peachey, numerous green and grounds maintenance tasks were at risk. Dave Smith has assumed responsibility for managing these along with a group of volunteers. The green has already received significant treatment in preparation for next season and the car park surrounds have been properly maintained.

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4.0 FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS TO YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

4.1 A copy of the accounts for year 2023/24 have been distributed along with the Notice of the AGM.

4.2 A budget for 2024/2025 was approved by both the Finance and Management Committees in the summer and is included in the monthly accounts report.

4.3 All accounts have been finalised and will be externally reviewed by an Independent Examiner who will be selected by the Treasurer and approved by the Finance Committee. Their recommendation will be presented at the AGM.

Kind Regards
Stephen McAlister
General Secretary

Date: 6th November 2024

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APPENDIX "C"

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND GREEN FEES 2024/2025:

The Finance and Management Committees have agreed upon increases in subscriptions fees for 2024/25, to ensure our financial stability and that the services and facilities on offer are sustainable. We have also added new options for 1 hour and 1½ hour roll ups.

THE NEW ANNUAL FEES PAYABLE, EFFECTIVE AS FROM OCTOBER 1ST 2025.

CATEGORY	2023/24 ANNUAL SUBS/FEE	2024/25 ANNUAL SUBS/FEE	NOTES
FULL MEMBERSHIP	£340.00	£360.00	If paid in full October 1 st , 2024, a discount of £10.00 will be applied i.e., a one-off payment of £350.00. If paid in 2 instalments: October 1 st 2024- £180 May 1 st 2025 - £180
OUTDOOR MEMBERSHIP	£170.00	£180.00	+£10.00
INDOOR MEMBERSHIP	£170.00	£180.00	+£10.00
12 MONTH INDOOR MEMBERSHIP	£220.00	£230.00	+£10.00
SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP	£50.00	£50.00	No change
JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP	£40.00	£40.00	No change
GREEN FEES INDOORS	£4.00 – up to 2 hours	£3.00 for 1 hour £4.00 for 1 ½ hours £4.50 – up to 2 hours £5.00 for 3 hours	Triples match - £15.00 +£3.00 Rinks (4) - £20.00 +£4.00
MATCH FEES (INDOORS)	£13.00	£13.00	No change
MATCH FEES (OUTDOORS)	£8.00	£8.00	No change
NATIONAL COMPETITION FEES	£5.00	£5.00	No change
KENNET LEAGUE & KLV TEAMS	£3.00 - Ladies £4.00 - Men	£4.00	+£1.00 - Ladies No change - Men

(N.B. Locker rental of £12 per annum –NOT included in above fees. +£2)