

GERRARDS CROSS



BOWLING CLUB

Founded 1909

The Robert Brown Green
Maltmans Lane Gerrards Cross Bucks. SL9 8RS
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MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at the clubhouse on Sunday 21st November 2021

1. President David Hall welcomed everybody to the meeting. A total of 43 bowling members attended the meeting. As this is more than one third of the bowling members (126 adults), the meeting was quorate.

It was with sadness that David reminded the meeting of the deaths of four current and previous members of the club who had passed away during the year: Terry Webb, Jim Kennedy, Bob Burns and Ray Keen. Those present paid their respects by standing for a period of silence.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Michael Gomme, Anne Green, Margaret Poole, Patrick Johnson, Keith Patrick, Stephen McAlister, Gill Young, Duncan Gauld, Kevin Dwyer, Kirk Smith, Mary Smith, David Thomson. Pauline Knapp and George Reid.

3. The Minutes of the AGM held on 15th November 2020 were agreed unanimously and were duly signed by the President.

4. President's Speech

David then gave the President's report on the year as follows:

Not an easy year after the recovery from the COVID pandemic. However the club has made a great effort to get back to 'normal'. Gradually the reluctance to congregate with a large numbers of other people in confined spaces, the reluctance to attend and support club functions is disappearing and hopefully next year we will be fully functional. Social revenue was much down as a result. As always there are many 'Thanks You's' and I sincerely hope that I have not omitted anyone. In no particular order.

Secretarial – Giles Brisbourne for all his good efforts. A daunting and much under appreciated job.

Giles is also to be thanked for his toils in keeping the website up to date and to those members who maintained the club website booking system. Thank you to Giles for the weekly What's On Club emails.

Treasury - Many thanks to Steve Ridlington- White for all his quiet work in the back ground keeping the finances in order and his regular reports to the committee. To Peter Fountain who audits our Accounts every year.

Bar Function - The hub of the club and without the financial contribution from the bar the club would be in dire financial straits. Many thanks to Richard Reid and all his workers who give up so much valuable time. A vital function of the club. Also thanks for the procurement and installation of all the new club furniture and outside seating which was much needed.

Green Maintenance - The green has been in amazing condition. The best in the number of years I have been a member of the club. Many thanks to Kirk Smith and David Simpson, and our contractor Chris Buswell for all the effort, not forgetting all the workers who mow the grass every day during the summer and roll the green during the week. Thanks to those who sweep early morning dew off the green in the winter.

Club Maintenance – Chris Commons for taking on a much needed role after the neglect of the Covid period. A great deal of work ! To those members who turned up to help with our ‘Start of the Year’ maintenance day – many thanks.

Club Captains - Keith Patrick and Janice Welsh. Thanks for ensuring members selection for matches and the running of the club competitions. To Ernie Cochrane as overseer for the friendly matches and the Friendly Captains of the day. Thanks to David Grieve for his efforts on the Thames and Chiltern, Drew Briden for the Watford District and Chas Stapleton for the Over 55’s.

Club Coaches - A busy year with many of new members. To Chris Rowe our senior Coach and all our coaches who spent many hours on the green.

Sponsorship – John McGuinness generously gives time and effort to raise these funds. Such contributions are becoming increasingly important to the finances of the club.

Planning and Renovation Committee - a new innovation this year to assist in the preservation and future of the club. New accommodation, new storage, new toilets, new changing rooms are all being considered. A very difficult task with many different ideas and views on the way forward. Thank you for your perseverance.

Your Club Committee – Numerous meetings through the year to ensure the running of the club and try to solve some of the problems that arise. Lively, healthy debates and eventually consensus. Many thanks for all your efforts without which the club would cease to function.

In particular thanks to two new committee members - Gary Amer who organised the Fixtures schedule for the year and Ray Waite who undertook the task of Membership secretary with gusto and relish. Unfortunately Gary is unable to continue and Janice Welsh has agreed to perform this function.

Publicity – A task that has been sadly neglected in the past. Keith Young did a marvellous job in producing the necessary information, keeping us all informed of what, when, and where, and encouraging us to support important matches. Posters on the notice board, info on the website/WhatsApp etc. Unfortunately he has relinquished this task and a replacement is needed.

Club Draw - organised by David Thompson and **Flower Baskets** by David and Pauline Roff. Thank you.

Hugh Russell – one individual member whom I particularly want to mention this year. Hugh is a great supporter of this club and his observations and assistance is very valuable. What many of you do not know is that on many days of the week during the season Hugh turns up at the club in the early morning to move the rink pegs from black to blue to red etc. He also changes the rink from east to west and north to south in appropriate fashion to prevent the green from becoming worn out with too much play. It is a very valuable task which he does without fuss and comment. He also makes the coffee for the early morning mowers and sweepers and ensures that the club has a fresh supply of milk. Thank you Hugh!

Achievements - Congratulations to you all. As ever Gerrards Cross is in the forefront and we are fortunate to have so many good players, good teams and the necessary camaraderie. May it long continue. Instead of reading out a long list of outstanding achievements, Keith Young produced a pamphlet for me which has been distributed around the room. Well Done Gerrards Cross !!! Janice Welsh will talk some more about White Roses Day at Leamington so I will not steal her thunder.

I need to mention that John McGuinness, Stephen McAllister, Terri Keen and Kirk Smith have important roles at Bowls England.

John McGuinness has been appointed High Performance Director of Bowls England on a four year contract for the selection of a High Performance Squad from a team of recommended players and Kirk Smith is appointed Men's Senior International Team Manager and Men's Coach for the Commonwealth Games .

Stephen Mc McAlister has been appointed Bowls England Short Mat Manager. Terri Keen continues as Senior Vice President Of Bowls England.

Richard Reid for all his work with the UNDER 25's coaching and selection. In recognition of his sterling work he had been awarded a special commendation certificate by the County.

OPEN DAY – We had a very successful open day which attracted a lot of interest from the local vicinity.

The weather was good, strong support achieved and we gained many new members. The coaches have been hard at work teaching technique, bowls rules, club etiquette and we hope that we will have stimulated sufficient enthusiasm to keep the new members enthralled about the game. The OPEN DAY was hard work and many thanks for all the effort put in by the committee and club members that ensured its success.

CLUB SHIRTS - An illustration of the proposed new club shirt that has been accepted by the committee is circulated. Examples of the fabric on similar club shirts are on display. This is the only fabric used by this supplier. Comments are welcome. It is hoped to phase in the new shirts in the new season COVID shortages permitting.

Club Games Finals – A very successful Finals Day on Sunday 26th September with a morning, mid morning and afternoon session. Weather was good, an excellent members turn out, great matches and worthy winners. The names of the winners are on the Club Boards. Congratulations to all those in the finals. Thank you to the members for the excellent lunch and tea provided.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR - My motto for the year :

“ We need MORE members helping with TASKS in the club, NOT LESS members doing more TASKS!”

2021/2022: We will have serious problems within the club unless the Committee gets more support.

We need bar helpers, green helpers, captains and match co-ordinators. We will need members to help with catering functions if we are to make the club available for County matches. We will need helpers with Social Functions. The alternative is to set rotas which are very unpopular, or employ help which means the annual fees will increase.

5. Secretary's Report

Secretary Giles Brisbane reported as follows:

As usual I'm going to begin with the number of members that we have.

We have 126 full playing members (90 men and 36 ladies and 4 juniors).

There are a further 13 players who we expect to join at the start of next season - most have had some coaching and the others are experienced players.

This brings us back up to just over the 2019 level of playing members, after the inevitable drop in 2020.

We have 47 social members compared with 38 in 2019.

To achieve this we welcomed 33 new playing members and 10 new social members, which is the most we've ever taken on in any one year and put something of a strain on our resources. My apologies to those new members who didn't get the care that we'd have liked to give them.

My thanks to Chris Rowe and the other coaches for making this possible, to Ray Waite for organising it all, and to all those who helped at the Open day.

There's been quite a lot else going on this year, which is why we have such a long agenda today. Normally the committee meets 6 or 7 times each year, but because of the extra work we met 10 times this year, mostly quorate (not that we needed a quorum). My thanks to the committee for their dedication.

I also started issuing a weekly email.

We finally got the defibrillator installed. Sorry it took so long, and thanks again to Tony Holden for donating it. It is really very easy to use – foolproof in fact – you just follow the instructions it gives you.

Please provide me with any information that you have for the website – matches won, anything that might be of interest to the members. with the website. My thanks to Tim for his work on the news page and the Coaches page.

Finally, I'd like to remind you that the bar is still opening on Friday evenings from 5pm. There's no draft beer, but we have bottled beer and the usual range of wine & spirits. You don't have to play Short Mat to be welcome.

And for those who do play Short Mat or would like to try it, the mat is there for use at any time.

6. Captain's Report

Janice Welsh gave the Captain's report as follows:

I would like to thank all the ladies who participated in the Ladies Friendly matches this season and to also thank Joyce Ludford who wasn't able to play but turned up to do the teas for our home games. I am pleased to say that two of our new lady members, who joined after attending our open day, played in a couple of friendlies and enjoyed the experience, so I'm hoping that more of our newer members will put their names down to play in friendlies next season.

We played and won six out of the seven scheduled friendly matches, having to cancel one because the opposing team were unable to make up a team.

Our ladies have had another a brilliant season, winning the Vi Trundell Trophy again, on the same afternoon as the men winning the Bucks Cup. A great day for the Club. Our ladies also reached the semi-finals in the Burnham Plate.

Unfortunately, this year, our Ladies Top Club Squad lost to Iver Heath in the quarter finals of the Bucks section, but I am confident that we will be better prepared for their tactics if we face them in the competition again next year.

However, some of our ladies did get to compete at National level in Leamington, namely Anne Green, Katie Reid, Gill Young and Margaret Poole who got through by winning the County Ladies Fours. Katie Reid and Anne Green also played at Leamington with Michael Gomme and Drew Briden in the Mixed Fours.

In other ladies County Competitions, Julie Skelly was the runner up in the two wood singles; Anne Green, myself and Katie Reid made it to the semi-final of the triples; Gill Young was the winner of the Unbadged Singles; Anne and Katie got to the semi-final of the Pairs; Gill Young and Denise Newport were runners up in the Win Evett Pairs. A pretty successful season so well done all.

I would like to say a big thank you to Mary Price who provided coaching to some of us ladies this year. It really got us thinking more about how to play the game and was very worthwhile. No matter how long you have been playing, there is always something you can improve on. Well done to Terri Keen who is doing a fantastic job as Vice President of Bowls England, a role which takes her all over the country and keeps her very busy.

We had a great end-of season occasion with a Ladies Captains v Vice Captain match, although with smaller numbers playing than usual, but it was nice for new, existing and past lady members to get together. Thanks to the lovely "Christina" who very graciously stood in to make up the team numbers. Thanks to Maureen for standing in as Vice-Captain on the day and for her invaluable help and advice with the catering. Thanks to the ladies who brought deserts and drinks for the buffet and who helped in the kitchen. Thank you as always to Roger, Chris Commons and Hugh for serving our drinks and doing the washing up and also to Ernie Ricketts, a new member, who ended up in the kitchen washing up too!

I have enjoyed helping to coach new members this year, with Chris Rowe, Hugh Russell and David Hall, with help from Kevin Dwyer, Ray Waite and Chris Commons. We had a good influx from the Open Day, so well done to Ray and everyone who helped with this.

Thank you to everyone who helps with any aspect of running and upkeep of the club in whatever way. It is much appreciated.

And I would like to end on a very high note. Huge congratulations to Richard Reid and his under 25 Bucks team. Not only did they qualify to go to the Nationals at Leamington to compete in the White Rose Trophy for the first time in 19 years, but they also provided some superb bowling for spectators to watch and went on to win the competition! Three Gerrards Cross lads were in the team managed by Richard, namely George Reid, Tom McGuinness and Michael Gomme. They made us and Bucks very proud and it was fantastic day which I for one will remember for a very long time.

7. Presentation of Accounts and Treasurer's Report on the financial position of the Club

Treasurer Steve Ridlington-White distributed the year's accounts and reported the highest income since his records began in 1996, thanks to a council grant, recovered bar profits and re-established sponsorship income.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by David Grieve, seconded by Alan Price and carried unanimously.

8. Trustees

It was proposed Proposed by David Hall and seconded By Giles Brisbane that Janice Welsh and John McGuinness be appointed Trustees of Gerrards Cross Bowling Club, and agreed unanimously

9. Rule Changes

a) To allow money to be paid from the club accounts by bank transfer::

Insert "or bank transfer" after "cheque signed" in rule 19.1.

Proposed by Giles Brisbane, seconded by Steve Ridlington-White, carried unanimously

b) To allow one person on the committee to do two jobs:

Insert at the end of Para 11.1:

"The same person may seek to be elected to two of these roles, but if elected to both will have one vote on the committee and contribute one member to any quorum."

Proposed by Giles Brisbane, seconded by David Hall, carried unanimously

c) To allow the committee to co-opt members without giving them a specific job:

Insert at the end of Para 11.2:

" The management Committee may co-opt additional committee members as they feel necessary, up to a maximum committee size of 14 members."

Proposed by Giles Brisbane, seconded by David Hall, carried unanimously.

10. Proposal to change the fees structure for junior members:

Replace the current system (Under 16 £10, 17 – 20 £25, 21 and over £135) with the following: Under 18: £10; 18 – 21: £25; 22-25: £50; 26 and over £135.

Proposed by Ray Waite, seconded by Steve Ridlington-White

Keith Young suggested an annual fee of £150 for adults, to include friendly match fees; charging under 18s £25, over 18 and in full time education £50. Giles noted that some young adults who were not in full-time education did not receive a decent income.

An amendment was proposed as follows: Under 18: Free; 18-25: £25; Over 25: £135. This amendment was carried.

11. Proposal to reduce the quorum required at an AGM or EGM from one third of full members to one fifth.

Approval for capital spend to remain at 75% of full members present. Proposed by Giles Brisbane, seconded by David Hall. Carried unanimously.

12. Proposal to change the design of the club shirt

Proposed by David Hall, seconded by Giles Brisbane.

Keith Young felt the design should better relate to our club name.

It was agreed that we will change the shirt design, but the design proposed was rejected. A sub-committee was formed – John McGuinness, Katie Reid, Keith Young, Margery Kennedy – which will decide on the new shirt design.

13. Proposal to build equipment storage sheds and associated infrastructure between our green and the tennis club at an approximate cost of £25,000. Proposed by Chris Commons, seconded by Giles Brisbane.

Richard Reid said that the hedge can be expected to die, revealing the shed, so we will need a wooden shed, not a metal one.

Alan Price thought we should have a brick construction, which could be used as a changing room as well as storage.

Giles Brisbane noted that we already have the money to build the shed this winter as per the proposal, but we do not have the money to do any further building in future years, although we will be looking to replace the visitors' changing room soon. Most of the cash for that will have to come from the members. He noted that some of the committee members thought that would be difficult, but personally he believed it to be achievable.

John McGuinness proposed that a fund-raising sub-committee be formed.

The proposal was approved by 33 votes to 10. Thus 75% of playing members supported the proposal which was duly carried.

14. Election of the President

David Hall had been nominated by Giles Brisbane and seconded by Steve Ridlington-White and was unanimously appointed.

15. Election of Management Committee

Nominations had been properly made and received for eight of the thirteen remaining committee positions. These nominations were put to the meeting and unanimously approved. They were as follows:

Vice-President	Richard Reid	Secretary:	Giles Brisbane
Treasurer:	Steve Ridlington-White	Match Secretary	Janice Welsh
Bar manager	Richard Reid	Maintenance Manager	Chris Commons
Membership Secretary	Ray Waite	Vice-Captain	Patrick Johnson

Hugh Russell had been nominated for County Representative, and was unanimously approved. (County Representative is not a position on our committee, but in the past Hugh has been co-opted onto the committee).

Janice Welsh agreed to act as Ladies’ Captain in the absence of any other nomination.

Janice Welsh nominated Anne Green for Ladies’ Secretary, seconded by Katie Reid, unanimously elected.

12. Election of Hon. Auditor/Examiner.

David expressed his thanks to Peter Fountain for his work on the accounts in 2021. Peter has agreed to act as Auditor again in 2022. The motion that he do so was proposed by Steve Ridlington-White and seconded by David Hall and was carried unanimously.

13. Any Other Business

Keith Young asked if we could have a “GX Banter What’s App’ where these jokes and videos appear and keep the main GX Members App just related to bowling issues.

Simon Cobb asked if we could have sheets of members’ email addresses and telephone numbers available in the club.

Keith Young asked if the selectors for each team could advise the selection criteria for competitions. Giles said that at the start of next year the committee would put up sheets for all competitions inviting members to apply to play in them; each sheet to have a description at the top of the expected level of bowling ability. Keith said that also selectors should be responsible for teams that they are not playing in. Richard thought it would then be too difficult to recruit team managers.

There being no further business, David thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting.

Signed:

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Secretary

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President