

Draft Minutes of Gullane Bowling Club AGM held 4 March 2019 at GBC Clubhouse

Committee present:	Kevin Thomson (President), Caroline Hitchen (Sec), Lorna Scott (Treasurer), Davy Saunders (Match sec), John Gillies (Vice president), Dave Houlston (Convenor).
Member Apologies:	Steve Roberts, Michael and Nicky Black, Joyce Hunnam, Ken and Maisie Christie, Colleen Bonar, Martin and Fiona Everett
Members present:	Scott Douglas, Paul Anderson, Hazel Saunders, Catherine MacKenzie, Stan Shearer, Elizabeth Shearer, Walter Rutherford, June Rutherford, Penny McKerrow, Irene Cunningham, Lexie Foggo, Careen Patrick, David Haycock, Ian Black, Robert Young, Brian Thomson, Jim Dickson, Stewart Menzies, David Dunlop, Caitriona Smith, Alicia Irvine, Alison Johnstone, Anne Lafferty, Alex Lafferty, Jeffrey Aitken, Isobel Barrie, Mary Lou Watkins, Keith Watkins, Lorna Thomson, Sally Dunlop, David Dunlop, Ian Armstrong, Nicky Black, Michael Black, Roger Smith, Isobel Aitken, Liz Mcllelland, Primrose Barr, Catriona Henderson, Marie Wilson, Duncan B McWilliam, Hilary Williams, Philip Williams, Ann Marr, Murray Marr, Stewart Maxwell, Bridget Watson, Glen Watson, Trevor Wood

PRESIDENTS WELCOME AND REPORT - Kevin Thomson

Kevin Thomson welcomed a packed room to the meeting and introduced the committee to the room. There were some apologies which are noted above. There was a pause to remember the passing of former club secretary Mike Baxter and member Mr Richardson.

Kevin explained he became president on 22 Oct 18 when the former committee resigned and the new committee took over. He thanked the members of this committee who ran the Bowls for Gullane campaign and in particular Catherine Mackenzie and Hazel Saunders who have been central to supporting the new committee and keeping the refurbishment of the clubhouse on track.

There are now 100+ members and this has enabled the committee to go ahead with renovation work which is being funded from donations with the subs used for the greenkeeping and overheads. The refurbishment was needed to bring the club up to current safety standards and includes fire escapes, electrical work including smoke detectors, new sanitary wear, painting, carpets and hopefully in time repair of the wall at the front. There will be new tables and chairs and lockers being ordered.

This season will see some intensive work on the green to bring it back up to standard and Kevin gave thanks to Greenkeeper for his efforts in this regard. There will be 12 advertising boards around the green and we have commitments from 10 local businesses so far so there's two available at the current time. Kevin explained his vision for the club is for all ages to join in regardless of talent and for it to become a hub in the community for social events and availability year round with heating in place.

There are no match reports at this meeting but for the coming season the club has entered the various EL leagues including mens, ladies and seniors.

Kevin Thomas thanked the previous committee for ensuring that the constitution was changed latterly with regards to securing the site of the bowling club. The constitution has now been further updated in line with the 'Bowls Scotland' template and clearly states that the club is non profit making and should there be a dissolution in the future the objects of the club would be transferred for the benefit of the community of Gullane. Copies of the new constitution were available at the AGM and Kevin Thomas asked if there were any questions on this aspect and none were raised.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Caroline Hitchen

The minutes of the last AGM were not reviewed with the new committee having taken over 22 Oct 18. The secretary has been busy, mainly with membership administration and answering some 500 emails. We have a Facebook page which is updated regularly and a website is in the process of development. There has been an article in the Courier this week giving an update on progress and our next event is the 'Come and Try' day on Sunday.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Lorna Scott

Back to the financial handover last year on 22 Oct there was a balance both bank and petty cash of just over £6,000 with over £1,000 in outstanding bills including the solicitors. By the end of the financial year (end Dec 18) the bank balance was just over £12,500 which included a legacy payment, upfront membership fees from 43 new members and generous donations from the community. This amount enabled us to seriously plan and undertake the clubhouse refurbishment work which you have now seen for yourselves. Where possible we have used local tradesmen, some of whom have given up the last few weekends in order to get where we are today.

Remaining expenses include new lockers and locker room seating, completion of ladies and gents toilets, fridge freezer for kitchen, tables and chairs and health and safety equipment and checks to name but a few. Exterior painting will be undertaken during warmer weather and repairing the boundary wall is being investigated as well. Additional income will come from promotional boards placed around the green which are to be charged at £350 for the first year and £250 thereafter and we have commitment for 10 so far. We have focussed on local businesses in particular those who have been involved in providing services for the refurb. We have received a grant from the Gullane Area Community Council and will be pursuing further options for funding now that we are firmly re-established.

Our aim is to use membership fees to meet the season's running costs - things such as power, water, insurance and greenkeeping. Greenkeeping will be much higher than previous years with investment in a new mower and programme of work which will bring the green back up to a good standard going forward.

We now have reached the amazing 100+ members forecast by Kevin at our first committee meeting - incredible! 106 members are now signed up for the 2019 season with more to come we hope after the Come and Try event on Sunday 10 March. Looking at the membership split the ratio is 54 women and 52 men and we have 22 social members with the rest being full members. Membership has generated £4,500 so far with a balance of £770 to be received before the opening day on 13 April taking us to just over £5,200.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

It was proposed that Scott Douglas join the committee and this was accepted by the membership.

OPENING OF THE GREEN

This will be 13 April at 2 pm

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Stan Shearer offered thanks to the new committee for their actions in saving and growing the membership since their appointment in October which was applauded by the room. Another member asked re uniform for the opening day and Kevin said there were plans for a club polo or tee

shirt under investigation. There was a further question about the age for seniors which we believe to be 50 years old.

Meeting Closure

Kevin Thomson thanked all for attending and the meeting was closed approx 7.30 pm