

## **Three Mile Cross Bowling Club**

### **Minutes of the Club AGM held November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

#### **1. Introduction**

Claire Morrison (CM) chaired the meeting in Geoff Malham's (GM) absence. CM welcomed the twenty-five members in attendance and passed on GM apologies.

CM asked for a moment of reflection to remember members who have passed away this year - Malcolm Pearce, Marian Hall, and David Hearn.

#### **2. Apologies**

CM advised apologies received from - Geoff Malham, Daf Ashby, Margaret Argyle, Cleve Wicks, Andy Friend, Nesta Friend, Eileen Allen, David Allen, Kaz Clarke, Marilyn Legg, Keith Hall, Marilyn Wardle, and Gerry Clancy.

#### **3. The President**

Adrian Salmon (AS) thanked all the members in attendance for making the effort to attend. AS advised their attendance was much appreciated by all officers and committee members. AS went on to say that he was pleased with the support members had given the relevant captains and organisers of the many competitions that were held throughout the year. AS thanked captains Terry Wardle (TW) and Debbie Bissett (DB) for their excellent work over the last year. AS also thanked all captains of the ladies and men's leagues for their continued support. AS thanked DB and Pamela Prior (PP) for their organisation of various events to include Burns Night (with bagpiper), Hawaiian afternoon, and several race nights. In addition, short mat evenings were organised by Kaz Clarke (KC), with food prepared by Roger Gotobed (RG). All organised events have raised a considerable amount of much needed funds for the club and are a testament to the organisers and helpers hard work and commitment to the club.

Looking back over the last year we have had a lot of good times and a significant number of achievements. One major achievement was the levelling of the green edge. This ensured we maintained the standard required, to allow TMX to host county matches, which bring in much needed funds to the club. AS thanked all members who supported the maintenance of the green and surrounding areas, in particular Andy Friend (AF) and all members of the green team. AS finished by thanking all committee members and volunteers for their

support and tireless efforts organising events or serving on the committee, maintaining the green and maintaining the facilities; their contributions ensuring everything runs smoothly. Several members have given up their officer roles or are switching to a new role. AS thanked, everyone for their hard work and contributions, which is required to keep the club running.

Finally, AS thanked all members new and old for their support and pointed out that TMX has a well-deserved reputation as being one of the friendliest clubs in the area. Visiting county presidents over the last season have been very complimentary about how welcoming the club is, the standard of the green and the quality of the food. The reputation the club has achieved goes a long way in ensuring county teams return year after year.

#### **4. Accuracy of Minutes of the Previous Meeting, held November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

These were agreed as a correct record.

#### **5a. Treasurer Report**

AS referred to his report, previously circulated. Having taken over from David Hearn (DH) in July, who used different software, AS has produced a combined report. AS stressed the difficulties in combining the two and pointed out that there is an unreconciled difference of -£34.94 from a total expenditure of £34,023. Funds available at the year-end (September 30<sup>th</sup>) stood at £11,352, which is £690 down on last year's figure. AS added that as we had an excess of expenditure over income of £689, we have been looking at whether there is a need to increase fees for next season.

Members present thanked AS for stepping in to take over the role. It was recognised by several members on how difficult it had been and they congratulated him.

AS pointed out that there will be difficult times ahead with bills increasing. It was highlighted that our water bill for last year has increased to £2,500. This follows a five-year period where our total bill was only £1,000.

During the five-year period AS had been in contact with our water supplier advising them of a potential issue with the meter. The supplier ignored AS approaches and were convinced there was nothing wrong.

AS pointed out that the supplier was notified of our concern as if we had not notified them and they themselves had spotted the issue, TMX could have been back billed for tens of thousands, which would have resulted in the

closure of the club. OFWAT were involved in correspondence at the time and advised they would support TMX if the supplier tried to back bill. OFWAT backing was based on the fact we had taken all necessary actions to raise our concerns and they had been ignored.

The meter was finally changed last year resulting in increased billing.

AS turned to income, citing that annual fees form a large proportion plus monies raised from events organised by PP, KC and DB.

To realise revenue from non-members, by hiring out the clubhouse, sponsorship etc., we will need to change the way in which the club operates by introducing some non-mutual trading. Any monies generated under the non-mutual trading banner are subject to tax at approximately 20%. The committee are going to ask the incoming treasurer David Brown (DBr) to investigate this further with HMRC to understand the full implications.

To standardise and safeguard the work undertaken by the treasurer, it is the club's intention to purchase software and install on a laptop for the treasurers use. In doing so, if the treasurer is unwell or incapacitated in some way it will be easier for someone to step in and undertake the role temporarily. It will also ease transfer, when a new treasurer takes up the role.

AS thanked all the committee and members for their support and wished DBr the best of luck.

Vote taken and members accepted the financial report as being accurate.

### **5b. Proposed fees 2025/6**

AS proposed a small increase in annual subscriptions from £140 to £145 for playing members. This will go some way to address the deficit seen this year. Members during previous AGM's pointed out that they would rather have a small increase as opposed to a step change every four or five years. Rink fees for all games, social membership, and junior membership to remain unchanged.

Vote taken, the majority accepting the increase.

### **6. Appointment of Auditors (Accounts Inspection) 2025**

AS asked for volunteers to act as auditors for accounts inspection. Roger Bryant (RB) and Peter Welland (PW) said they would be happy to support.

Following a vote this was agreed.

## **7. Captains Report**

Terry Wardle (TW) reported the fixture list against other clubs consisted of forty-four matches. In these twenty-one lady members played, thirty-three men and two were loaned by Great Hollands.

Of the thirty-six mixed matches; we won thirteen, lost fourteen and nine were cancelled. Four were washed out before teams travelled. Three through lack of our players, one because both clubs lacked players. The home match against Henley was also cancelled by them, no further comment.

The remaining eight matches were men's of which we won two, lost four and both matches against Caversham were cancelled due to lack of numbers for the away team. In the home leg of the Trophy game vs Suttons, they arrived with one lady bowler due to a lack of reserves. Perhaps something we should note if future captains find themselves in the same situation.

In addition, there were seven internal club games. Of these the Mixed Triples was disappointing with only six teams playing. My special thanks to Adrian for his help in organising the President vs Captains game and to Bill for taking on the Top Club match.

We finished with a well-supported Candlelight game with dry weather and eighteen ends played. Thanks to Claire, Diane, Mark and Daf for after match catering and bar.

I would also like to pay special thanks to Neil. With Eileen being unable to play, many matches, due to injury he took on the captaincy when I did not play so a big thank you.

Finally, thanks to all who ran the bar, help maintain the green and put out equipment and to all those who played in these matches.

## **8. Fixtures Secretary Report**

Keith Hall (KH) apologised for not being at the meeting. BB read out KH report on fixtures and other games for the 2025 calendar for TMX BC.

The season will start with Open night on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April @ 6pm. Competition forms will be available and rollups etc can commence.

All friendly fixtures have been offered to other clubs and nearly all of them have been confirmed already.

Other games I have confirmed TMX BC will host:

- ✓ RCBBA v Dorset on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May @ 2.00pm.
- ✓ The county two wood singles, rounds 1&2 (There are four groups in this competition of which our club will host one, on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June @ 10.00am.
- ✓ Sussex v Gloucestershire on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June @ 2.00pm
- ✓ BCWBA v Hampshire on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July @ 2.00pm
- ✓ Presidents Day (President v Captain) Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July (TBC)
- ✓ KLV Division 1 semi-finals on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August @ 2.00pm
- ✓ Club Finals weekend Sat/Sun 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> September.

**Please note that the County games we host will require a sit-down meal after the games.**

There are no club friendly fixtures on any of these dates.

It is my intention to update the honours boards and correct any spelling mistakes that are already on them. I will also introduce a couple of slim versions of honours boards, to fit between the windows for our one-day competitions such as the Drawn 2 Wood Pairs (Ken Odell Cup) and Club Open Pairs (Bill Barfoot Cup). The existing photos will be put on display under the big honour's boards.

## **9. Green/Maintenance Report**

BB read out the report prepared by Andy Friend (AF), who could not attend. Firstly, I would like to give my thanks to the Green Team and the members who have helped with maintaining the club throughout the last year. I think it is worth mentioning these members by name as their contribution is often under appreciated. So, thanks to George Whittock, Terry Wardle, David Brown, Cleve Wicks, Nigel Lewis, John Robertson, Paul Lee, David Alan, Bob Leach, Neil Argyle and Derek Fagg. I would also like to thank Alan Prior, Paul Lee, Bill Bissett, Colin Jennings, Keith Hall, and all those who have helped with maintaining the site. I would also like to personally thank Adrian Salmon for stepping in to cover for me when I have not been able to be around over the last five years.

It was a difficult year, weather wise, for looking after the green with so much rain that the green was water logged a number of times over the last months of the season, this resulting in some cancellations. Also, for the first time in recent memory, competitions could not be completed on finals weekend. Having said this for the most part the green played well and members enjoyed a good season.

The major maintenance project last year was to raise the green edge at the clubhouse end. I would like to thank all members who helped with this time consuming and difficult task which has been a great success. This has resulted in the green passing a Royal Berkshire County Bowls green inspection meaning it is fit for all inter county and county competitions.

Lastly, I would like to thank Derek for agreeing to become the club's next Greenkeeper and wish him all the best. I would ask members to give Derek as much support as I have received.

## **10. Bowling Section Reports**

DB read out the report prepared by Linda Salmon (LS), who could not attend. I would like to thank everyone who played in the TVLL this year. We finished 3<sup>rd</sup>, one place better than last year, so well done all. We finished with 81 points, only 4 points behind 2<sup>nd</sup> placed Island Bohemian.

We played fourteen games, won eight and lost six.

Many thanks for all your help in setting up, making teas, and clearing up. Here's to next season.

DB reported on the Ladies' friendlies.

She thanked all ladies who supported the games. We had twenty scheduled games, one cancelled due to heat, two the opposition cancelled as they had insufficient players. One was rescheduled, but both clubs had insufficient players on the new date, so was cancelled.

Of the sixteen played ten were won, four lost and two drawn.

Thanks to Linda Fruen for taking games and supporting throughout the season.

Thanks to those ladies who arrived early to set up and to those who stayed behind to clear up. Also, thanks to those who stepped in on a couple of occasions when extra help was needed.

I look forward to being your captain again next year and us having another successful year.

TW reported on the Kennet League - Having played nine matches and with five remaining, having only won two, it looked like we were on course for relegation. However, we went to Desborough "B" repeated what we had in the home fixture, against them, by taking maximum points.

Although we lost two further games, both against sides promoted to Div 1, we won the other two and finished in 5th place out of eight.

We had more illness, injury, and holidays than in 2023 so compared with twenty-one playing then, twenty-seven played this year. Many thanks to all of you that helped to retain our division two status.

Next season's first match starts a week later on Tuesday 5th May and the format remains at four rinks with only seven clubs voting to reduce it to three.

Finally, special thanks to the two members that provided us with the best after match food and bar service ie Linda Salmon and Debbie Bissett.

AS reported on the KLVA – We had a good season finishing in the middle of the table, with Tilehurst, Prospect Park and Burghfield above us and Trentham, Caversham, Island Bohemian and Pangbourne below. Well done to all who supported the games. AS thanked the B team members who supported the team when needed. We had three games where we took all ten points available, another three eight points. There were a few games where we didn't do so well, but very pleased at the overall success and I look forward to the coming season to see if we can achieve more.

BB read out the KLVB report prepared by Cleve Wicks (CW), who could not attend. CW reported, of the twelve games played: four were won and eight lost, finishing seventh in the league.

It was an enjoyable season even though we did not set the league on fire. We were able to field a full team for every match including new bowlers which was good to see. I would like to thank those who covered for me as captain during my absence due to holidays.

## 11. BIAS Update

CM reported:

As you are aware we carried out a survey on match fee collection in August 2024. Thank you to those members that contributed. In summary:

The majority of playing members responding to the survey would prefer to pay match fees via BIAS. Those that responded indicated that they would be prepared to pay an amount between £20 - £50 in advance at the start of the season.

Those that responded generally recognised the benefits of a cashless match fee system. There were a few members that would prefer to pay match fees in cash on the day. It was also noted that if a new system of match fee collection is introduced there will need to be some clear instructions that answer queries raised by members in the survey.

In September Adrian and I met with the developer to evaluate what would be involved and how the BIAS module would work for TMX. It became apparent that the treasurer's workload would increase.

The club would also need to decide:

- ✓ how funds would be managed.
- ✓ how to trigger reminders to individuals to top up their account.
- ✓ how individuals could make payment to their BIAS account – cash, cheque, or BACS

The committee discussed the findings of the survey and the impact on workload. This discussion formed the basis of our recommendation to the AGM regarding cashless match fee collection for members.

It was decided that, as we will have a new treasurer in post and that more work is needed to assess and plan for the introduction of this system, the committee would postpone a recommendation to the AGM and reassess it during the 2025 season.

CM asked for any questions – Robin Hughes asked if Ad-hoc competitions such as the Bill Barfoot cup could be put on BIAS. CM advised it was a little complicated to do so as an internal game. However, are looking at incorporating such games in the future and we are in discussion with the developer.

## **12. Ratification of Club Officers**

CM read out the list of Officers for the following year, all of whom had been proposed and seconded -

President: Adrian Salmon

Deputy President: Bill Bissett

Chairperson: Geoff Malham

Vice Chairman: selected within the Management Committee

Secretary: Michele Vale

Membership Secretary: Daf Ashby

Treasurer: David Brown

Captain: Bill Bissett

Vice-Captain: Linda Fruen

Green/Maintenance Chair: Derek Fagg

Fixtures Secretary: Keith Hall

County Representative: Rod Fenner

Entertainments Manager: Diane Fagg, Pamela Prior

Bar Manager: Mark Holder

Head of Communications: Claire Morrison

Recruitment Chair: Peter Welland

Health and Safety Competent Person: Mark Holder

Safeguarding Officer: Marilyn Legg

All were agreed following a vote.

## **13. Ratification of Ladies' and Men's Officers.**

LS reported that the Ladies' Chair will be CM, Ladies' Captain DB, Ladies Vice Captain LF and Ladies' Secretary/TVLL Manager/Rota Secretary/County Delegate LS. Ladies club competitions Daf Ashby

CM reported that the Men's KL Manager would be TW, KLVA Manager AS and KLVB Manager CW.

All were agreed following a vote.

Prior to the final item, CM thanked all outgoing officers and committee members for their support during their terms. They include Terry Wardle, Debbie Bissett, Andy Friend, Eileen Allen, Michele Vale and Bill Bissett.

### **18. Handover of President's Badge**

Adrian Salmon retained this role.

There being no further business, CM closed the meeting at 11am.