

Yealmpton Bowling Club

Minutes of the Spring Meeting held at the Clubhouse on 18th March 2025 at 2pm

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Andy Lugg, who announced that the meeting was being recorded and read out the required GDPR statement.

1. Apologies

From Graham & Joey Walker, Mel Eglinton, Ray Moorhouse, Yvette Steward, Adrian Stearnes, Carrie & Nigel Dixon, Jan & Pete Harrison-Jones, Tony Benham, Alan Lowe, Mary Yalland, Mandy Holland, Steve Taylor, Tony Thomas.

Yvonne announced that due to Tony Thomas's declining health, he was resigning from the Club. He thanked everyone for their support and hopes that the club continues to thrive in the coming years.

2. Minutes of 2024 Spring Meeting

These were accepted by the meeting and were proposed by Derek Andrews and seconded by Roseann Burridge.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

Andy presented Bob Smith with his Honorary Membership Certificate.

Andy thanked Roy Holland for holding the position of Chairman for the past 2 years and welcomed our newest member, Maxine Beesley to the Club.

Andy reminded the members that the Club was operating without a Club Captain and informed them that since the AGM the post of Estate Manager had become vacant. Management Committee members were currently undertaking the duties of the Estate Manager and Andy noted that this could not continue.

Andy informed the meeting that Club Roll-Ups would take place on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons but there would be no coaching provided on Tuesday morning or Friday evenings.

5. Secretary's Report

Yvonne thanked the current and past Committee members for their hard work with special thanks to Andy for the recent cladding works which he undertook in the Clubhouse.

Yvonne noted that the Management Blog would be used extensively this season and asked members to keep an eye on it.

Yvonne informed the meeting that affiliation fees for 2025 were £7.10 BE, £4 BD, £0.50 S8 and £1 per player registered with the P&D Leagues.

Items to note from the S8 Spring Meeting were:

- 100% of Sections 7 & 8 Clubs had a Safeguarding Officer in place;
- Membership forms may need to be amended to include the capture of additional information, including verification of ID;
- 65 ladies have entered County Competitions this year and up-to-date County Points for players will be issued soon;
- Schedules 5 (competition rules) and 9 (dress code) have been updated and anyone playing County matches is asked to read the updated schedules, found on the BD website;
- Any Club paying S8 by cheque will incur a £0.50 levy to cover new bank charges;
- Yealmpton will host the S8 vs County President match on 7th August. Yealmpton, City of Plymouth, Oreston, Lee Moor and Ivybridge will be asked to provide a team.

6. Treasurer's Report

Ian informed the meeting that at the end of last season the Club had a bank balance of £11,544 which had reduced to £7,091 at the date of the meeting. Ian noted that the major expenditure this year relates to the greens contract,

Ian noted that £450 had been granted by YPC for refurbishment works and bids had been, or would be, submitted to Revelstoke for assistance with greens works and YCE for energy efficiency upgrades.

Bob Smith noted that the negative financial impact of the green contractors work and the purchase of the electric mower have resulted in a much improved bowling green.

7. Men's Team Captain's Report

Mark thanked his predecessor, Colin George for his hard work and assistance during the hand-over period.

Mark noted that this year may be a difficult year but he hopes that members will rally around and put their names down to play in the Men's league matches as well as the Club's mixed friendly matches.

8. Ladies Team Captain's Report

Annette confirmed that the Ladies would be playing in the P&D this season and the format would be triples. She noted that some clubs were struggling for ladies.

Annette informed the meeting that the Ladies team selection sheets would be placed on the Ladies noticeboard and issued by email. Selections would be made at least a week in advance and players informed by email as well as a sheet on the Ladies noticeboard.

9. Fixture Secretary's Report

Colin informed the meeting that all fixtures for 2025 had been agreed and Bob had posted them on the website. Whilst Colin is the contact for fixtures, the Captain of the Day for Mixed Friendlies will become the point of contact once the team is selected. The selection sheet will show who the nominated captain will be so that all players are aware of who they need to contact.

10. Green Keeper's Report

Mark recorded his thanks to James Collins, Bob Smith and the Green Team for their hard work over the winter months. The green is looking fantastic and Mark wishes everyone a good season on the green.

Bob informed the meeting that during the playing season, James would be on-site between noon and 2pm on the 1st Monday of every month. On occasions, spraying would be undertaken. Bob will ask James to display the notice when spraying has been undertaken. He also thanked Mark and the green team for their hard work.

11. Coaching Report

Yvonne read out a note received via Section 8 following the 2024 Counties Conference relating to the performing of coaching by people who do not hold an up-to-date Coach Bowls Certificate. Yvonne informed the meeting that she had sought clarification of the note from Section 8, Bowls Devon, Bowls England and the Club's insurers. It is important that the Management Committee fully understand the boundaries between giving advice / training / coaching and it is hoped that further clarity can be gained at the upcoming BD executive meeting in April. In the meantime, the Club will not be offering 'Coaching' but will offer advice to anyone who needs it. This advice will be given by unqualified people.

Yvonne informed the meeting that the Club is seeking a member to undertake the Coaching course and asked interested parties to talk to her. All costs of acquiring the Certificate would be met by the Club.

Andy noted that for the time being we would be carrying on as normal providing 'training' in common with many other clubs around Plymouth. It was agreed that Bob would form the new "Training Sub Committee" as previously agreed by the Management Committee to cater for any new members arriving at the Club. (The Coaching & Induction Strategy for New Players contained in Appendix 4 of the Club Rules would be temporarily suspended until further clarification was acquired).

12. Safeguarding Officer's Report

Annette informed the meeting that the visitors book would be reinstated. All members bringing anyone on site who isn't a member or who isn't part of an opposing bowling team, must be signed in. To comply with insurance requirements a list will also be placed with the visitors book showing tasks which a visitor must not undertake.

Bob Horne asked if individual bowlers from other clubs could play on the green with a Club member. He was informed that they could, but that they must be signed in and pay the visitors fee of £5 (unless they are part of an opposing team). A visitor fee is not payable non-bowlers.

13. Competitions Committee Report

In response to comments from players that there were too many competitions, the Competition Committee suggest trialling a reduced number of competitions this season, these being the Ladies & Men's Championship, Club Two Wood, Chairman's Cup, Mixed Pairs, Club Triples and Club Pairs. The Club Pairs would be played for the Ashcroft Shield, following the Ashcroft rules but without the cash prize for the winners and runners-up.

Entry fees will be £1. Viv Marsden will collect the money from players.

14. Website

Bob informed the meeting that the website was ready for the 2025 season. Rink booking sheets would be available from the first week of May. The access code to the members area would be changed on 18/19th April, at the same time the gate code was changed.

15. Subscriptions

Andy informed the meeting that following discussions at the recent Management Meeting the Committee unanimously agreed to increase the membership fees. There are many unknowns making it difficult to set a budget for the coming year. It is hoped that there will be no increase in 2026 and if there is, it will be small.

16. Redrafted Club Rules & Guidance

A document had been circulated prior to the meeting with changes agreed at the recent Management Meeting shown in red type. Yvonne informed the meeting that references to Club Captain, Competitions and Coaching would not be changed at this point in time. There were no questions and Yvonne will update the document and post on the Clubhouse Notice Board prior to the start of the season.

17. AOB

- Annette prepared a list of cleaning tasks which need to be undertaken prior to the start of the season. Tuesday 15th April is the suggested day but members can carry out duties identified at any time during that week.
- Andy asked for volunteers to paint the internal and external Clubhouse walls.
- Bob informed the meeting that the new lease is progressing with no known issues. He reminded members that a Trustee would be required to satisfy the requirements of the new lease. The athletics club have received a quote of just under £5k for re-surfacing the entrance and are also seeking grant funding for this and a safety mirror.
- Yvonne informed the meeting that the new round of Green 100 was open. The next draw would be in April and only paid numbers would be entered.

- Andy asked members if they wished for a change of venue for the annual Post Christmas meal. The majority of those present felt that Staddon Heights was a good venue who had served the club well and there was no need for change.

There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed at 3:30pm