



## CHIPPING NORTON BOWLS CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

### Minutes of the Indoor Annual Meeting being held on 4 April 2024 at 19.00 hrs

Attending: 19 Members

John Hurren welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone had signed in.

#### 1. Attendance/Apologies

Apologies received from Bill and Roberta Jarvie, Ness and Steve Aldrich, David Lattimore, Steve Gould, John and Elaine Cook

#### 2. Minutes of a Meeting held on 6 April 2023

They reflected what was discussed last year. They were proposed by Martin Shepherd and seconded by Julie Singer and signed by the Chairman.

#### 3. Matters arising

Last year we proposed a few changes to the leagues. There are none this year.

The planned 100 club was replaced by the 50 club. This needs to be better promoted as most members are unaware of it. There are 50 brown envelopes numbered from 1 to 50 located on the table by the rink booking fee binder. Anyone wanting to take part in the 50 club should select one of the numbers and place a £1 coin inside the envelope, write their name on it and place the envelope in the appropriate box. Each month one of the envelopes is drawn out of the box and the "owner" wins half the takings. The other half goes to the bowls club. David Freeman won it on the first month.

#### 4. Chairmans Report

The last season has seen the mildest and wettest weather for many years, with very few evenings getting below freezing point. This has encouraged many of our members to make the most of their membership and as a result our internal leagues and fixtures have thrived. We finished the season with 156 members, which is similar to last year, having lost some and gained new members between seasons. Feedback has generally been very positive and many friends have been made.

In addition to our 8 internal leagues, we have competed in The North Oxfordshire League, the Wessex League and the Tens league at Oxford, so those wanting competitive games have enjoyed themselves. In addition a full programme of internal and external competitions have added variety in the formats played. I thank John Cook, Dave Freeman, Percy Hickman, Martin Acock and David Lattimore for organising these events on behalf of all members.

A number of our male bowlers have been regulars in the County side, with David Lattimore leading by example and doing a good job as the County President during the season. It is hoped that there may be better opportunities next season for our very good lady bowlers to engage with the county ladies, who are under a different management team.

This year we finished fourth in the Wessex league, one position short of last year, but I believe we might have done better if some of our better bowlers had been available more frequently. The Liberty Cup this year was also disappointing, with a very average county team being well beaten by Wiltshire. In the county knock-outs, Carterton won everything this year, but we hope to challenge them very positively next season.

It is very disappointing to me that we are losing three more of our committee members who have chosen to step down, Cathy Sparks as our Indoor secretary and joint safeguarding officer, John Cook as our fixture secretary and Martin Sparks as joint safeguarding officer and elected member. I'd like to thank them for doing a great job last season and hope we can persuade others to take on these roles, otherwise we are likely to have some big problems next season, as things don't happen without willing organisers.

I would also like to add my thanks to the rest of the indoor committee for their competent management of events over the year which have allowed the members to have hassle-free bowling to suit their personal needs. I must also thank the other volunteers who have done cleaning, vacuumed the green, provide meals or snacks after games and taken a turn behind the bar. Also a big thank you to all those that contributed to the large Christmas raffle and supported the social events that were arranged. Finally may I thank all those people who took on the roles of League Secretaries and Team Captains to ensure the league programme was enjoyed by all.

I'm pleased to say, our new heating system has been great this year, with no lost days due to defects. I'm personally very pleased with the environmentally friendly, quiet operation of the heating, which appears to be significantly lower in cost, compared with the antiquated system that went before. The only grizzles we have received are about automated on/off timings which we will alter for next season. Whilst on the subject of being economical, after a few suggestions that the heating should be left on to save money, we checked with the installers and they confirmed in our case that the most economical solution is to use time clocks for the known periods of bowling activities, so that is what we will do.

The indoor committee met recently and recommended that members costs should remain the same next year and this was agreed by the Management Committee earlier this week, so membership will remain at £75, green fees will stay at £3 per 2 hour session and match fees will remain at £5, which include tea and biscuits after the game.

The club is currently rebuilding a new website which will be simpler to use and more informative. I will play my part in ensuring communications work well for indoor bowlers and the website will be current and relevant throughout the winter season.

Finally may I wish Rob Kemp good luck with his efforts to provide indoor opportunities for those that wish to participate throughout the summer, albeit on Wednesdays only and to everyone else returning to outdoor bowling, may the sun shine brightly and the rain disappear, so that we can all have an enjoyable season.

## **5. Committee reports**

### Membership secretary (Keith Field)

We had 156 members: 110 men, 45 ladies 1 junior. We had 28 new member bowlers. We should always try and recruit more members.

### Fixture Secretary (John Cook)

The programme for the fixtures for next season has been drafted.

The results for friendlies are

We played 18 games : won 11 and lost 3, 2 were cancelled and for 2 we have no cards

Ladies games: we lost 1, drew 1 and have no cards for 2

Some clubs have put their fees up because they employ contractors.

It is essential that captains are appointed as the lack of them for some months was an issue for JC. The ideal would be to have a captain for the whole season but this will prove difficult to achieve. We will aim at appointing monthly captains.

Although JC is leaving the role next season, he has secured a full programme for next season.

Friendly fixtures are an excellent way to introduce new or insecure players to games. They will learn more than if they continue to play in roll ups.

### League Organiser (John Hurren)

This year we had eight internal leagues with a total of 55 teams participating. Next year I hope to welcome at least two more teams, which is great as the league programme is a very big part of providing games for keen bowlers to enjoy. All leagues were completed satisfactorily and there were low margins between the teams playing each other, when the points were added up.

You may recall that at the annual meeting last year it was agreed to trial the application of individual handicaps for all leagues with the exception of Tuesday & Thursday mornings, which are well balanced already. I believe this trial year was successful, as it gave everyone a better chance of competing and better players needed to be on their game to secure the wins they wanted. In comparison, many of the games were much closer and points difference showed lower margins, which kept everyone interested and feeling they had a chance to do well. Even our top teams lost occasional matches when their form was lower than usual. For this reason I will asking you later to agree to the continuation of handicapping those same leagues in the future.

Next year, I want to provide more variety within the Monday evening open pairs league, by introducing a combination of straight pairs matches and Australian pairs matches and hope to persuade others to participate in this particular league.

I would like to thank the 5 League Secretaries for collecting green fees before games, producing league tables after scores have been recorded and for dealing effectively with issues, as they arose, during the season. I'd also like to congratulate the league winners and runners up within each league and the individual team members will receive recognition at the presentation evening next week.

The League winners, the name of the Team captain and the runners up are shown in the following table:

League:	Winners in 2023/24	Team Captain	Runners up
Monday Ladies Triples	Marigolds	Val Harris	M & M's
Monday Open Pairs	Tristars	Kevin Alder	GLF
Tues AM Rinks	Bumpkins	John Benfield	Tigers
Tues Men's rinks	Badgers	Alec Shepherd	Mavericks
Wed AM Triples	Venturers	Paul Killackey	SOS
Thurs AM rinks	Modpeckers	Paul Killackey	Modests
Friday triples	Misfits	John Hurren	Swifts
Friday Men's triples	Barmen	Martin Shepherd	Robins

Finally, I continued to take the temporary role of League Organiser in the absence of volunteers for the second year, but would like someone else to take this on, as I have a very busy 18 months ahead, working towards Unification of the county by April 2025 and redesigning the county website which I manage, plus other bowls related tasks, which all need my full attention. Of course, I would assist and support any new person taking this role, until they have gained confidence.

John Benfield stated that too many games had been cancelled due to members not being able to play and not finding substitutes. On some occasions, the opposing teams had not been notified that the game would not go ahead.

A discussion followed on substitutes. It was confirmed that for example in rinks, it was possible to have up to 3 substitutes. Substitutes are not allowed to skip and must not be members of another team in the same league. Members were reminded that games can be rearranged within 28 days. There is also the issue of getting paid by the players who have not turned up.

The question was raised as to what are the rules about substitutes for competitions. JH and DF did not know the rules. This year there was an instance when 2 substitutes had to be used in a pairs match and ended up winning the competition. The game could have been conceded but it would have resulted in the other team winning the competition without having to play. It was felt that as this was an internal competition, substituting the players in the pairs team was acceptable. We can't legislate for everything.

#### Competition Secretary (Dave Freeman)

Thanks to those who entered. There was disappointment that entries from our lady players were low. We have some talented lady players and they need to be encouraged to enter.

We had most of the finals on the 30 March. It was a juggling act as some players were in more than one final. Food was provided and this went well.

There is a proposal for next season for the triples and rinks.

Play by dates for games next season will be more flexible at the beginning of the season as players are busier with other matches and competitions. The dates will be tighter towards the end of the season to get them in before finals.

The winners are

- Rinks : Paul Robins, Graham Maul, John Cox and Dave Freeman
- Triples : Fiona Myatt, Roger Hopkins and Dave Freeman
- Drawn pairs: David Leighfield and Lynda Boyd
- Men's pairs: Percy Hickman and Dave Freeman
- Over 60's: Dave Freeman
- Men's 2 woods: Martin Shepherd
- Men's singles: Martin Shepherd
- Ladies singles: Anna Underson

We did not have marrieds or ladies pairs and members who had entered them got a refund.

Last evening's men's singles competition between Martin Shepherd and David Leighfield was of a high standard. Congratulations to Martin for winning it.

#### County Competitions (Dave Lattimore)

All the comps are now completed. Carterton won all the competitions despite some very close games in particular the Pairs final between Will Parker and Andy Macintyre against Dave Leighfield and Martin Shepherd which was decided on a very exciting last end. Will and Andy won 15-14

Other members in the finals included Mick Boobyer and Chris Charles in the Australian Pairs and Dave Lattimore in the Over 60's singles. Full reports are available from the OIBA website with photographs. I would like to thank all Chipping Norton members that played in the County competitions and also all those who supported the players. Chippy was the only Club that turned up and supported its players at the various venues.

DL has been the President for County Indoor Section this year and has done a good job.

#### Ladies Captain

Nothing to report

#### OIBA delegate (David Lattimore)

County games have been well supported by members of Chipping Norton Indoor Bowls Club. We had 18 members of the club play for the county during the season playing the majority of the games if not all. Thanks to all those members that have supported the club in 2023/2023.

#### Wessex selector (Percy Hickman)

We finished 4<sup>th</sup>: lost 3 won 3. It was a good season and hope to do better next year

#### OWIBA (Ann Lattimore)

This has been in the doldrums since Covid. Some work has been done to resurrect it. Games have taken place this season: one against the men, 4 Presidents' game and county matches and we participated in the games against Bedfordshire and Leicestershire. As we have 45 indoor lady players, it is hoped that a few more ladies will participate in next year's indoor county matches. The group is trying to get more games against other counties but some counties have folded.

#### Catering (Julie Singer)

RJ over the year has provided a lot of catering very successfully. She is keen to do less.

We provide few meals these days. JH thanked the members who stepped up to provide food for matches. This results in costs being reduced and lower charges for players. There has been no deterioration in the quality of food provided. It was pointed out that we need more volunteers to assist with providing food, including male members.

## 6. Election of Officers

Chairman                      John Hurren -KF proposed and JB seconded - carried

Secretary	vacant
Membership secretary	Keith Field - MS proposed and CS seconded - carried
Fixture secretary	vacant
League secretary	John Hurren (ad interim) - AL proposed and MS seconded - carried
Competition secretary	Dave Freeman - PH proposed and JB seconded - carried
Captain	JS will do October, JB November and DF December. 3 more needed for 2025
OIBA Delegate	Dave Lattimore - carried
OWIBA Delegate	Ann Lattimore - carried
Wessex selector	Percy Hickman - DF proposed and PK seconded - carried
Elected members	Julie Singer - RJ proposed, JC seconded - carried
	Paul Killackey - carried
	vacant
Recruitment Officer	vacant

All nominees were proposed and seconded and elected to the committee. The vacant places need to be filled, otherwise we will have difficulties and it is wrong to expect the few willing committee members to take on more work.

#### League secretaries

Monday afternoons – RJ

Monday evenings – JH

Tuesday mornings – PK

Tuesday evenings – Martin Shepherd

Wednesday mornings -JH

Thursday mornings – JS

Friday mornings – RJ

Friday evenings – Martin Shepherd

## 7. Propositions

### From John Hurren

Handicapping some of the leagues proved successful and it is proposed to continue this methodology in future years. Tuesday and Thursday mornings will not be handicapped. The proposal was carried.

### From Dave Freeman

To handicap the indoor rinks and triples competitions next season (with set dates). This will hopefully encourage more to enter as it will make the games fairer. The handicap ratings used for the leagues will be applied.

Some players did not turn up to play on the dates that had been fixed when the competitions were advertised. There is no point entering rinks or triples if members are not available on the dates chosen for the competitions.

Proposal carried.

It was confirmed that the handicap ratings would be reviewed twice a year and before the indoor season starts. The 0 to 8 worked well.

#### **8. Any other business of a minor nature**

From RJ. Next Thursday we have the presentation night. The bridge club will be using the room and the green is in use in the afternoon. We need 3 or 4 volunteers to set the room up after 4.30 p.m. and JS needs help with food. Quite a few volunteers offered to do that. Presentation evening starts at 7 pm.

JB- As we seem to struggle to find volunteers to take on committee roles, should we not consider restructuring the club with a management committee and a bowling committee that would cover indoors and outdoors. It works very well for some clubs. It is worth thinking about. One particular club took on a salaried professional bowler but this has since stopped. City and County have also gone to a 2 committee system. JH was not sure this would work, as some indoor committee people don't play at CNBC in the summer.

We still have a lot of bags left in the changing rooms. Some players don't want to pay £5 for a locker when they can leave their bags in the changing rooms for nothing. Signs should be displayed forbidding the bags from being left under the benches. Lockers should be provided but space is an issue. Bags left in changing rooms will have to be removed. It also needs policing. We have new lockers at the end of rink 4. They are currently not in use.

JH informed the members that plans for an extension of the building are at a very early stage. Any modification to the building should include the provision of storage space.

JH wished everyone an enjoyable summer bowls.

Meeting ended at 20.17 hrs.