

Hook Bowling Club
32nd Annual General Meeting
Held at Hook Bowling Clubhouse, Hook
Saturday 22nd November 2025, at 2pm
Minutes

Apologies for absence: Bobo Fung; Liz and David Wilson; David Poulter; Sue Crabtree; Martin and Jackie Nurser; Chris Vickers.

There were 53 attendees.

General Committee Members: Tim Shenton-Taylor – Chairperson; Elaine Hill – Secretary; Albert Johnson – Treasurer; David Clark – Club Captain; Jane Tatnall – Ladies Captain.

The AGM meeting opened at 2.05pm and everyone was welcomed by Tim Shenton Taylor.

1. The minutes of the last AGM held on 30th November 2024 (published on the website) were proposed, seconded and adopted.

2. Changes in the Club Constitution

The changes are:

- a. There will be six designated General Committee posts plus two others. There is still the option to co-opt people including social members for specific roles.
- b. The Bar Manager and Fixtures Secretaries committee posts have been removed.
- c. The main change is that new members joining used to be following a General Committee Meeting, but this is not working. There is a new system which allows people to identify through Club Captain and Membership Secretary which is followed by a quick email process with the General Committee to confirm their membership.
- d. Taken out – there will not be a charge for people who bring people to play. There is no mechanism for collecting money and we want to encourage people to come. Every week would not be appropriate. The Hook Parish Council terms of lease say we must allow village people to play.
- e. There is now clarification on what happens if the club is dissolved: Monies will go to charities not back to members. We are not the owners of the club itself but just its assets and cash.
- f. For visitors there is no discrimination on age. Currently we do not have any junior members, and if young people want to come our members will be responsible for their guests.
- g. A vote was taken and the changes to the Constitution were adopted.

3. Presentation of the Chairman's Report

- a. Hook Bowling Club has had a successful year both on and off our playing surfaces.
- b. Sadly, we lost a number of members, and everyone observed a respectful minute of silence.
- c. It was a year when we have experienced strange weather conditions. However, despite everything we had the best green in the area. Visiting clubs were complimentary, we received a large number of requests for the green to be used for competitions so we should be grateful for this and strive to maintain and continue to improve our position.
- d. This year it is hoped that we can replace the oldest short mat for inside bowling.
- e. It has been good to see many new members joining in well and gaining lots of success in matches.
- f. Most clubs expect to lose 10-15% of members which is what has happened; where we have lost players new ones have come so numbers have been maintained.
- g. Hook Parish Council carried out a building survey because the facility is owned by them and we are obliged to maintain the building. Quite a lot of money has been spent on refurbishing the bar storeroom. Thanks were given to Campbell Williams and Bob Grout for their voluntary help on this project. Left to do is the clock tower which requires repainting and the clock needs to be repaired or replaced. This will require scaffolding and needs to be done when there is good weather, the flagpole will also be looked at the same time.
- h. Maintaining facilities is expensive and cannot be covered by our membership fees so we need social events to supplement because they generate lots of income. We continue to need volunteers to arrange and run them, thanks were given to the social team.
- i. We now have modern technology with a great website and now a new tablet in the bar. Thanks were given to Steve Potts, Web manager, and Macolm Gow, Bar Manager.
- j. We have received good coverage of our club in Hook Focus and other local magazines. Thanks was given to Jane Tatnall for her articles.
- k. The club functions on volunteers and thanks were given to the General Committee Members, our Club Captain, Dave Clark and everyone else who gives their time running matches and social events.
- l. We are recognised by other clubs as being a friendly yet competitive club with wonderful facilities.
- m. The Chairperson's report was proposed, seconded and adopted.

4. Presentation of the Treasurer's Report

- a. The Treasurer gave a short summary of the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2025 which are available to see in full on our website.
- b. Figures have reduced a little since publishing. The accounts were reviewed by Ken Hawkins who said they are exceptional. We ended with a small deficit after factoring in depreciation (non-financial). The club is in a better financial position than last year. Overheads have been cut and there has been quite a lot invested in much needed repairs.
- c. Members fees – more people have left since the report. So, October's figures have been affected.
- d. The running expenses of the club are more than the sum of the membership fees, and it is only because of the voluntary hard work done by people that costs have not spiralled. The bar contributes a significant amount to the club's income.
- e. We do not have any sponsors. Websters may give some money but less than they have before.
- f. Ron Walker raised a point that Websters are not good sponsors for our club because they are associated with St James' Place who, in his opinion, have a poor reputation. If we accept sponsorship from Websters then we are encouraging our players to indirectly invest with St James' Place. Others had the view that we are asking a local company to support a local club, and it is up to individuals if they decide to give them their business. It was agreed that this matter would be put forward to General Committee for more discussion.
- g. Hannah Goddard suggested the local supermarkets could be approached for sponsorship. In the past it appears Tesco have helped us with their blue coin charity appeal, and they helped with decorating and now they often given raffle prizes.
- h. Other ideas have been a 'One Hundred Club' but it was not taken up by members and also offering the club's facilities to local businesses to use for company events, but so far there has not been any success with this.
- i. All the advertising for old sponsors who no longer contribute is to be taken down.
- j. Ultimately, we need someone to take on the role of Fundraiser to find sponsors, but no-one came forward.
- k. The Treasurer's Report and Accounts were proposed, seconded and adopted.

5. Club Captain's Report

- a. The club had a very good summer season. Stan Godddard's team in the BDBA and Mike Draper's Hares team both won promotion. There will be an interesting summer ahead playing at a higher level. Alan Phillip's Sapphires had a notably good season and Brenda Grout got to the BDBA Area Semi Finals.
- b. Thanks were given to Brenda Walker for arranging all the games. It was a difficult task reducing 35 friendlies to 25, the gaps were filled with club events. Lastly, we won back the Ginger Nut cup from Marnell.

- c. The Captain's Report was proposed, seconded and adopted.

6. Ladies Captain's Report

- a. The Ladies had a positive time thanks to Lynne Voce and Claire Richardson. Match and event attendance has been good. It is lovely to see new members throwing themselves into the club. Thanks, was also given to Christine Poulter for arranging the matches.
- b. The North Hants league has been tricky this year because of a rigid system with dates. We have had to pull out because our teams could not meet the dates for play. There is going to be a new Ladies short mat league on Tuesday evenings.
- c. Lynne Voce is to become Vice Captain.
- d. Our ladies have been complimented by other clubs as being fun and a delight to play against.
- e. The Ladies Captain's Report was proposed, seconded and adopted.

7. The Trustees' Report

- a. Campbell Williams, Trustee, gave thanks to all those who do volunteer. It is a well run club. The key is to keep a check on expenditure – we are now breaking even, but we don't want to go into debt. Therefore, the Trustees ask that expenditure is put off as long as possible in order for funds to build up and create a buffer for future difficult periods.
- b. Eileen Johnson said that she sees the replacement of an indoor mat as unnecessary expenditure because the existing mats are adequate. It was agreed that the General Committee will take her view into consideration.
- c. The Trustee's Report was proposed, seconded and adopted.

8. Election of Officers and Members of the General Committee

Nominees were proposed, seconded and adopted:

- a) Election of Chairman – Tim Shenton-Taylor
- b) Election of Secretary – Elaine Hill
- c) Election of Treasurer – Albert Johnson
- d) Election of Club Captain – David Clark
- e) Election of Ladies Captain – Jane Tatnall
- f) Election of Green Supervisor – Steve Wintermeyer
- g) Election of Committee Members - Desiree Gow and Hannah Goddard

9. Election of Club President

Nominee proposed, seconded and adopted:

Club President - Pam Vivian

10. Election of Team captains

Nominees were proposed, seconded and adopted:

- a) BDBA Monday triples – Stan Goddard
- b) BDBA Friday Rinks – David Clark
- c) Whitchurch and District Wednesday triples – Hares (Division 2) – Mike Draper
- d) Whitchurch and District Wednesday triples – Foxes (Division 3) – Desiree Gow
- e) Stan Hardman League Thursday triples – Diamonds (Area 2) – Brenda Walker
- f) Stan Hardman League Thursday triples – Sapphires (Area 3) – Alan Phillips
- g) JAM Short Map league Thursday triples – Hawks – Tony Gepp
- h) JAM Short Map league Thursday triples – Ravens – Chris Vickers

11. Appointment of auditor for financial year 1st October 2025 to 30th September 2026

Nominee proposed, seconded and adopted:

Club Accounts Auditor – Ken Taylor

12. Annual Subscriptions

- a) Full Member – remained £140
- b) Social Member - £25
- c) Junior member – no juniors at the moment – a fee has not been necessary.

13. Additional fees

- a) League Matches £2
- b) Friendlies £2
- c) Roll-ups £1
- d) Internal competitions £2

14. Honorary Members

Nominees proposed, seconded and adopted:

Honorary Member - Bob Vivian

Honorary Member - David Poulter

15. Clubhouse cleaning

- a. This requires discussion because newer people expressed surprise that they would have to do the cleaning and a few members don't like cleaning. We could use an outside contractor and have looked at a couple. It is a two-hour job at £25 per hour = £50 per week or the same fortnightly. Members were asked to choose whether they want to stick with the rota or go with a contractor. Going with a contractor would mean a £25 per head contribution on top of subscription. Social members are not on the rota, but they could be asked to contribute to the cleaning. General discussion continued and opinions were:
 - I. The rota is fine because it is not a big deal to give up a couple of hours twice a year.
 - II. There are quite a number of times the third person does not turn up.
 - III. There are persistent offenders and those people who do not want to do it should pay more.
 - IV. Age and physical ability could be a problem. However, this could be sorted out with easier tasks for them to be agreed.
 - V. When there are outside cleaners there could be a loss of respect by the members where they are less tidy because someone is being paid to clean up. Cleaning brings people together.
 - VI. The Social Membership fee is £25 and is only a benefit to members who attend social events at a slight discount. For most it is more like a club donation. It is unfair to involve them in the cleaning.
- b. The Chairperson called for a vote about the rota. It was unanimously agreed to keep the rota and the General Committee to discuss an opt out fee for those who do not want to clean.

16. Opening times

Currently the key rota is for Mon-Sat. Those who want to play on Sunday must identify the key holder and get the club opened; however, the key holder could refuse. The Key Holder Rota is on the website and blackboard outside the door. This will be a 'winter rule'. During the summer access is not needed to the clubhouse. There were no objections.

17. Any Other Business

- a. A 'Loop system' was suggested to help people with hearing aids. Eillen Johnson said the Coffee Morning is raising money to pay for a new PA system so we could look at including this.

- b. The Christmas Party – members were encouraged to sign up so that the social committee know they are willing to support. It was expressed that new members were very much encouraged. Tesco are donating raffle prizes and there will be vouchers from other places.
- c. Codes for combination locks – a change of codes is required, but our security person was not present, therefore this will be dealt with later.
- d. Buddy mentoring system - could it be resurrected before the Open Day? There was a general opinion that it would be a good idea.
- e. There is a pallet with top dressing which is unsightly just outside the main entrance. This will be moved soon as it is for the edges of the lawn.
- f. Newsletter - Vicky Hodges thanked Elaine Hill for producing the newsletter for three years. It will now be done by Vicky and Frankie Wood. The new mailing address will be issued with next week's newsletter.
- g. The weather has changed in recent years, and Elaine Bennett shared that the NHWB have adjusted their rules so that during adverse weather, especially if the temperature rises, the game can be settled at 10 ends rather than playing 18 so long as everyone agrees.
- h. Roll-ups – Nigel Richardson reported that often people have large notes instead of £1 coins which is a problem. It was agreed that the club should use identifiable tokens, people could buy a set through the club and use those. Credit cards were deemed to be too expensive. It was agreed to investigate possibilities with a view to trialling the use of tokens.
- i. Lawn surrounds – Nigel Richardson thanked all of the volunteers who helped him to mow the surrounds. Now in one area there is more moss than grass, are we going to allow this to be a mossy bank? The path is also mossy and that is going to be treated and sealed. The bank will be monitored.

The AGM ended at 3.40pm

Next AGM 21st November 2026 at 2.00pm