



BOWLING COMMITTEE AGM

19th March 2026

MINUTES

Apologies: Bernard Buss, Paul Gent, David Burgess, Time Byles, Matt Sellen, Howard Dickson, Peter Harris, Joan Harris, Gill King, Monica Dennington, Roger Dennington, Dave Benn, Diana Morgans, Jane Jordan.

Chairperson – Opening Remarks

Paul Obey opened the meeting at 19:30 by welcoming everyone and thanked the Bowling Committee for all they have done to date. He then asked for a minute's silence for those we have lost in the last year.

Paul Obey called for acceptance of the previous minutes. Keith Elliment said at the previous AGM an issue was raised about an error and that he was at a loss as to why it took 9 months to receive the minutes. Babs Tomlin also said that she did not know that the committee had approved the minutes. Elise Goldstone said that after discussion with Bernard Buss and an adjustment to the minutes, they were. EG also replied to an objection raised re the previous AGM that the current committee could not comment as we were not part of the previous committee. It was agreed that the current minutes would be posted on the website in a timeous manner and members would be notified of the same via Newsletter and other social media. After another question regarding the signing off of the minutes, Alison Andrews explained that in her outdoor club should an issue with the minutes arise, that this should be done at time of publication only and not a year later. Resulting from a question of visibility it was agreed that a copy of the current AGM minutes, would be put behind the bar for anyone to read if they so wished.

Paul Obey then went on to explain why ballot voting will no longer be taking place. All positions for tonight's AGM are now uncontested. The reason being is there have been three changes in the last day or so in terms of the competition Secretary position, David Young has removed his name for consideration. And in terms of the membership representative, there were three names put forward. Russell Hooper has taken his name out which leaves John Williams and Barry Tomlin for the two positions and for the men's selector's there four names David Young, Russell Hooper, Trevor London and Gary Mack. David Young and Russell Hooper both removed, which leaves Trevor London and Gary Mack, which means that all positions are now uncontested.

Ian Corke posed the question of what the job descriptions of the various Committee members are as he did not understand what the titles meant. Stuart Ingram replied that we would arrange a bullet point list of each job tile with what they do. This will be put onto the website.



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Treasurers Report

Malcom Yates introduced himself and advised that copies of the accounts were on the tables and the loss shown was incurred due to the increase in the cost of match meals and the loss of funds due to the cancellation of a match. Currently there is no work around the loss as we are obliged to provide a match meal under the Kent League rules. Of the £15.00 for the game cost £13.00 went to the caterers and £2.00 to the club for rink fees. A question from the floor as to if this continued loss was sustainable, Malcolm Yates replied that there is approximately £10,00.00 in the fund which can sustain the losses for a while. It is however the target to break even on each game in the future. It must be borne in mind that the Bowling Committee funds are a not-for-profit entity. Another question on the caterers was will the cost continue to increase, and do the directors agree the fee. The answer was it is up to the bowling committee to agree the fee with the caterers, and it is inevitable that this will increase annually. This issue is experienced by both the men and ladies' teams and currently there does not seem to be a solution, and while the current fund holding can subsidise any loss there is no simple solution other than increasing the cost of the match fee to offset the meal cost. This will no doubt indicate the end of the Kent League.

Men's Captain Report

Stuart Ingram introduced himself and began by mentioning the success that our members have had in various County/ National competitions. He wished all involved the best of luck.

This season the Club has seen a lot more players getting involved in the Counties / Nationals, with some members giving it a go for the first time. Neil Ramage and Trevor London were praised in qualifying for their county badge in the triples and AGM attendees wished Nick London all the best in the semi-finals of the Unbadged.

County finals are at Bromley on Sunday 19th April. Members were encouraged to come along. Entry forms for next winter season need to be submitted in the black box by the shop, before County Finals. As for winter National entries, members were encouraged to check the EIBA website.

Fellow committee members were thanked for their hard work.

Men's Selectors David Young and Trevor London were thanked. Our team did not last as long in the Denny as last year, but we did get to the semi-finals of the Dudley Hoile last week. Stuart noted the key point is that it is not always about how far we get in certain competitions as there are some extremely tough teams out there from the likes of Oyster, Bromley, Swale and Folkestone. What is key is that we build groups of players who



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are comfortable playing with each other, know each other's game and understand their playing positions.

Kent League – it was noted as a good year as we currently sit $\frac{3}{4}$ in the league, only losing once at home all season. Many new players have signed up this year and appear to have enjoyed the games – thank you to them. However, special praise was given to the players who sign up for most weeks, forming the backbone of the team.

Carl and Sam were thanked as the feedback we have had the year about the food has been excellent.

James Wharton was praised as one of the most improved players at the Club given his performances in the Kent League and reaching the semi-finals of two internal club competitions.

Paul Obey: Thank you very much. I think what was really valuable is emphasizing the kind of point, positive development on the men's side and the representation in all the finals. And also, congratulations on your driving license. So let me pass to Alison who can now give her Ladies Captains report.

Ladies Captain Report

Alison Andrews introduced herself and started by saying that after that slick performance, I feel like I'm on Britain's Got Talent. Basically, what Stuart said about the league, meals, everything, it's a big problem and I agree with it all. Alison remarked that for the money that our caterers charge, the food is very good. Apart from that, my first year as ladies captain at the Angel, what can I say apart from, I now know why it's an uncontested position. In competitions we did have some joy. We got reasonably good results in quite a few matches. We were losing only by one shot, which didn't go in our favour. And the 4, 3, 2. We are bottom of the league. Just holding everybody else up.

Now the Ladies Kent League, well we're not last yet but we've still got one match to go. I'll just say we're giving everybody else a confidence-boost this season. Suffice to say we won't have a problem finding what to do with any prize money this year. But next year we are looking for a big improvement. Our ladies have excelled in individual county and national comps this season.

Babs is still in the senior Ladies singles.

Jane and I met the lovely Sian honour in the National Pairs Final, and lost by one shot. Not all of our matches have been tight, and it's been small margins that have decided the ladies' season and in the words of Yaz, the only way is up for next year. I'm confident that the Angel Ladies can improve and go a lot further next season with a few adjustments to our



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tactics. But we've got good team spirit and I'm looking forward to better results. We've had a lot of newer ladies joining this year and I'm hoping they enjoyed the experience. It's a bit more competitive than just the roll ups and the leagues and I think hopefully you'll all join in again next season. On that note a few thanks. Thanks to Babs for being my vice-captain and to Gwen and Jackie on selection, they have been a big help, and I'd like to say thank you to every angel lady and some of the angel guys that have given me some support and encouragement this season. I'm very grateful for that. Here's to building on what we've learned. Bring on next season. I too am going out same as Stuart but good luck to everybody in the summer.

Paul Obey: Thank you very much Alison for all your great work. Let me now pass to Babs who's going to give her summer captain's report.

Summer Captains Report

For those that don't know me, I'm Babs Tomlin and for the last two years I have been the summer captain. I'd like to apologise if my speech is a little bit strange because I'm giving it as in last year rather than just through the season.

I'd like to thank all the players who supported me in summer last year without you we couldn't have got the matches done. There was a mix of wins and losses. Probably a few more losses last year than wins but never mind. We did unfortunately have one match cancelled by Whiteoak, because they couldn't get enough players out and that was very last minute. This year we are going to be looking at some of the longer matches like Oyster, as to whether we do them in 2027 or whether we approach Mote Park, who have already approached us this year and arranged a match with them instead. Again, travel and getting people down to Oyster has been an issue. I'd like to say a big shout out to Jim. Normally I go on holiday the end of September. Last year we went away July/August and Jim very, very kindly stepped in with his glamorous assistant Bernadette to run the matches. So big thank you, Jim, for that. The fantastic fives. Last year we didn't do so well. My team missed out on very last game going through to the knockouts, I think Luke's did as well. So, we're going to revisit that this year. We've got, as Stuart and Alison said, we've got a lot of good up and coming players and I think if we do what we did in winter this year and mix that new talent with some of the older talent that's got the experience, hopefully we'll get out some really good teams next year and maybe progress to the finals. But that's my hope. Babs thanked Lisa for organising all the fixtures, as without Lisa, none of the winter matches or the summer matches would take place. Lastly, I'd just like to wish everybody a great summer season. Unlike this pair, I don't go out, obviously I stay in. But whether you're bowling



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outdoors or indoors, have a super summer. Best of luck in any competitions that you do and hope you all win.

Paul Obey: Thank you very much for that, Babs. Now let me pass to Luke who can give an update as on the competition secretary.

Competition Secretary Report

My name is Luke Cheetham, and this is the first time I've done this. So, this first six months, being a comp secretary, it's been a real roller coaster, but we are getting towards the end of the winter so we've got a few more semi-finals to do and then we will be into the finals. They will take place on the 10th, 11th and 12th as much as I can, if there's not too many. It will just be held on the Saturday and Sunday because that keeps it a bit more competitive. I'm hoping as well to. I know we did it last year, I need to. I think it's the directors that need to clear the buffet again. They did it last year. That would be great if we could do that again. It really went down well. So, if that can Come off. That'd be great.

Chris Parker mentioned - It's in hand.

Luke resumed - and as far as I'm aware, the bar will be open as well. Is that something that can be agreed?

Chris Parker responded - Only if people promise to drink lots.

Luke continued: The awards were all done on the last day at the end of the season, and we're going to bring that back because it makes it a bit more special. So, we'll be out there, everyone will collect their awards. Now, I do know there's one person that's going to be on a cruise at the time who's in the final. So, I'm going to speak to the directors and see if we can get a helicopter to obviously fly out this award and give it to him. He did ask, so I will have a word. In terms of the September triples that happened last year, I was really pleased that it went down really well. I thought the idea with the chocolates, everyone winning a chocolate depending on where you finished, that seemed to be quite fun. It felt like everyone got involved. So, I'm hoping a lot of names sign up again for the September triples. What I'd like to do, as obviously it's normally a team thing, so if anyone does not have a team, what I'm going to do is put an extra sheet for individuals without a team to sign up, then I will try and help them get a team together. I'm really pleased to get some new bowlers involved so that if you are playing what they call the better player or the more experienced player, it makes it a bit more of a level playing field if there's a bit of a handicap in there. So that's been quite good. The other thing I'm really pleased about was reintroducing the assisted bowling versus the juniors. That's gone down really well. So much so now that that's going to be twice a year and I've managed to tie it in. So that's on the Friday morning before we do the other comps on the Saturday and



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Sunday and they'll be the same in the winter and the summer so they are completely involved now they are tied in so that they can feel part of the club as well in terms of the juniors the juniors are now involved for me personally my daughter's been involved and little tear to the eye she's actually made a final with two of the ladies so it's been absolutely. And every one of the ladies, whether the ones that played with her who were against look absolutely brilliant with her. I couldn't have asked more from them, but we want to still try and keep introducing these juniors in and they will be on show having their junior singles on the finals weekend as well so that they're part of it as well. So, they are the future of the club. Apart from that, I'm just looking to continue keeping everyone involved as much as I can. I want everyone enjoying it from the top bowlers to the not so top bowlers to the newest bowlers to the oldest bowlers to the young. I want you all to enjoy the comps.

Election of Officers 2026/27

Paul Obey: Thank you very much Luke. So, what I'm going to do now is just run through the positions for the committee. But as I mentioned they're all uncontested positions so I'm just going to mention what the position is and who's been put forward with their name and also thank you to all the proposers and seconders for doing what they've done for each of the positions,

- Chairperson, Paul Obey willing to do that for next year.
- Secretary is Elise Goldstone
- Treasurer Malcolm Yates is standing down now and we will update the next couple of weeks about out a new treasurer, but what I do want to do is I do want to say thank you to Malcolm for such sterling service.
- Men's Captain is Stuart Ingram
- Ladies Captain is Alison Andrews
- Ladies Vice Captain is Babs Tomlin
- Fixture secretary is Lisa Hounslow
- Competition Secretary is Luke Cheetham
- League Secretary is Luke Cheetham
- Members Representatives are John Williams and Barry Tomlin
- Summer Captain is Babs Tomlin
- Men's Vice Captain is Russell Hooper – who mentioned that his name is not on the front board – apologies – this will be done.

I wanted to say thank you to everyone for putting the names forward and for the proposers and seconders so thank you very much.

Stuart Ingram - Just a quick point about the selection committee they're not officers but as we're going to vote through positions now as I mentioned earlier, if the people at the end couldn't hear it earlier, we did



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originally have four people put their name down for the men's selection. So, it's basically the captain plus two. The two positions were David Young, Trevor London, Russell Hooper, Gary Mack. David and Russell have taken their names out of contention so Trevor and Gary they were uncontested to join the selection committee for next year. Thank you chaps. Had a quick word with Alison beforehand in terms of the latest selection no names have been put forward yet. Any interested parties could contact Alison either now or after the meeting or over the next few weeks just so that can be put in place for the next winter season ahead.

Any Other Business

Paul Obey - Thank you very much. So, having gone through all of the agenda points we're just left really with any other business so if there's anyone who wants to raise any other business then feel free and we can go through that.

1. Good evening, I'm Les Herbert, one of the coaches at the club. Two things for my first couple of weeks ago there was a national game and a club quarter final game. The National team decided to take the rink booked by the Club team. Both rinks been booked for a couple of weeks. I believe, within half an hour of the game starting the national players took the Club Competition rink. I know nationals have preference, but it is unacceptable for nationals take liberties. It meant that the quarter finals cancelled short notice. In fact the people involved who booked the week for the quarter final weren't even informed so I'd like to put a proposal forward that I agree nationals do take preference over everybody although we feel that there should be a time limit 24 hours minimum prior to a game starting that Nationals can take a pre booked rank from another member or team, and that member/team who booked the rink should be asked if they are happy to change rinks. If it's a club competition then the team should be contacted, as they may have practiced as a team on that rink and taken away from it. Short notice is unfair and they put the competition secretary in a very, very awkward situation. My proposal is 24 hours minimum notice that a national can take a rink away but with club team approval. Stuart Ingram responded: I'm aware of the situation. I think what we can do when the new committee forms and whether it is 24 hours or some time essentially, there should be some kind of guidance.

2. Les Herbert: I have been coaching a gentleman in his 90's who wants to join the club. I have prevented him from doing this up to now, as he will not be able to play a full game. He is too self-sufficient to join the assisted bowlers, and the start of 9 am is too early for him as he has a medicine regime at that time. I would like to propose that we set up a "Turn up and Coffee" session for other members that feel they are not able to complete a full bowling session. There could be more social side of



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it then they can book a rink themselves for an hour. So, if we could perhaps discuss it, if I'm allowed to come to the committee meetings. Last year the coaches were allowed to come to committee meetings. If we're allowed to do that again this year and we could enlarge on that.

Stuart Ingram suggested that Les has a very valuable point, I think because I think what we underestimate, is the kind of social benefit of being at the bowls club can offer. Now you make a very valid point that there may be some people for whom two hours is too long but it's a real shame if they miss out on this kind of social benefit of being at the club. So, I think it's a very valuable suggestion. It's definitely something we should talk about our next bowling committee meeting. I think this whole idea about a coffee morning where you can play a couple of ends of bowls etc is really quite valuable.

3. Les Herbert responded that he coaches on a Thursday afternoon, and he was willing to amend the times so that the coffee group and new bowlers could be supervised and helped wherever needed.

4. Ian Corke: This question follows on from what Stuart spoke about earlier in terms of the member representatives to put in some bullet points down on what they actually do. Ian explained that he had been a member since childhood and was still confused as to what the different roles did. He felt that with the volume of new members we have – it would be incumbent on us to explain the different roles on the committee. He suggested that the bowling committee and board get together and look at how the club operates and volunteered himself to assist with this.

Chris Parker mentioned that the website has the roles and responsibilities of the Board Members.

5. Ian Corke mentioned that he had checked the website and that on checking the policies and procedures – he found a policy that was “owned” by someone who is no longer a director.

6. Chris Parker enquired as to which policy and was advised it is the Inclusion and Diversity Policy. This will be amended if found to be incorrect.

Paul Obey closed the meeting at 20:03 and thanked all the members that attended.