



Ashtead Bowls Club

**Men's
Section**

Minutes of the Autumn AGM

7:30pm, Thursday, 17 Oct 2019

1.0	WELCOME	
1.1	John Willmer opened the meeting by welcoming all attending.	
2.0	MEETING PROTOCOLS	
2.1	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Brian Riddle, Kelvin King, Richard Norton, Bryan Shepherd, Keith Merrett, Alan Huxtable, Richard Galpin, Ian Thain, David Crook, Mike Vigus, Bryan Davis, John Rook, Mike Bradford, John Crowley, Paul King, Alan Morris, Alun Davies.</p> <p>There were 30 out of 69 members in attendance.</p>	
2.2	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>Graham Law confirmed that as there being no matters of accuracy or correction the minutes of the Men's Section Spring meeting held on Thursday 18 April 2019 were approved by the meeting and signed by the Men's Captain.</p>	
2.3	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>Any matters arising had either been actioned and closed out or were contained within the meeting Agenda.</p> <p>It was noted by GL that Agenda item 6.3 Centenary 2021 would be dealt with by the Club Secretary at the Club AGM in November 2019 and not in this meeting.</p>	
3.0	BOWLING IN THE 2017 SEASON – CAPTAINS REVIEW	
3.1	<p>Mixed Bowling</p> <p>PB thanked the meeting for the opportunity to attend.</p> <p>PB thanked the meeting for the improved support offered to mixed bowling in the season. By way of example the results in the NDL showed that the Club was no longer at the base of the table but was now playing more successfully at the mid zone.</p> <p>Players to note and make themselves available in 2020 please.</p> <p>PB indicated that she was happy to continue into 2020 as the Mixed Captain and indicated to the meeting that Sheila Wadsworth would be happy to assist in the role as Vice-Captain of Mixed bowling.</p> <p>GL asked that the meeting indicate that it was content with these proposals which were immediately agreed upon with acclaim.</p> <p>The meeting thanked PB for her continuing good efforts in supporting the Club.</p>	All men playing members to note
3.2	<p>West Surrey League (WSL)</p> <p>On behalf of Keith Merrett, GL reported that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We entered 2 teams for the second year running • We used 16 players in two squads of 8 • Both teams got through to the round of 16 having both finished in the top 4 of their table • Both teams lost in that first knock out round. • We will enter two teams in 2020 and will aim to progress further next season. <p>The meeting noted KM efforts and the Club achievements in WSL.</p>	



Ashtead Bowls Club

**Men's
Section**

Minutes of the Autumn AGM

7:30pm, Thursday, 17 Oct 2019

	[Post meeting note included by GL. The Club had tried to enter WSL individuals open competitions but due to clerical error in WSL this had not happened. We will look at this again in JPC for Season 2020.]	
3.3	<p>East Surrey League (ESL)</p> <p>JW reported on Ashtead BC in the ESL:-</p> <p>The last three years had shown Ashtead BC move from the base of Division 2 in 2017, up to second in Season 2018 and therefore gain promotion to Division 1 only to bounce down again to Division 2 in Season 2019.</p> <p>JW noted that this was perplexing and disappointing particularly as half-way through this season (after 8 matches) ABC had 41 points – and on track to finish two or three places above the drop zone, but only gained 10 out of an available 96 in the second half although more matches against the most difficult opponents were at home in the second half.</p> <p>He also noted that the level of consistent rink player makeup from week to week had reduced to only 16.5% stability as against around 60% in season 2018. One rink had managed the same personnel 7 out of 16 times; at the other end of the scale, another rink just 3.</p> <p>While there are of course other leagues, and notably WSL, the ESL is a real test of the bowling health of a club, requiring as it does 64 performing rinks across three and a half months.</p> <p>In looking forward to next year JW commended members to commit and support our new captain in his support of success in the ESL.</p> <p>Being realistic, the experience of the past three years, and observation before that, led JW to believe that the ESL was really two divisions made up from three elements: the top two or three in Division 1 who stayed there largely on the basis of attracting the best bowlers to them (risking club ethos for personal success), a bottom half of Division 2 who would never be strong enough to be promoted and then the middle chunk: yo-yos, and we were in that category. Great experiences in the years getting to the top of Division 2; less sustaining in Division 1!</p>	
3.4	<p>JW Observations</p> <p>JW took the opportunity to reflect on a number of changes in the club and in the Men's game particularly over the last three years:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The formalisation of Mixed bowling and the instatement of a Mixed Captain – to JW's mind this is where the future of the game lays. • A number of administrative simplifications – again, essential if the game is to survive – including abolition of collection of match fees. • Food provision after matches had been simplified and our policy to do so shared with opposition. This now seemed to be gaining broader support in the bowls community. Both the food itself and the time taken to have it – key again to the future of the game is to reduce the amount of time attending a match takes, maximising actual bowling time, and while retaining a social element after the game, minimising the longer-drawn-out traditions of the past • The Joint Playing Committee (JPC) is now in place to bring together matters of common interest to all ABC bowling and to ensure communication between the historic sections in the Club. 	



Ashtead Bowls Club

**Men's
Section**

Minutes of the Autumn AGM

7:30pm, Thursday, 17 Oct 2019

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The suite of guidance documents had been created in winter 2018/2019 for dissemination for the Season 2019. These are now ongoing. <p>JW also reflected on the ongoing need for change in the sport of bowling, plus the need for support within the club in the fulfilling of roles such as Vice-Captain and other support to the provision activities in support of the clubs aims and objectives.</p> <p>JW said that it had been a pleasure to Captain for the last three years and wished the club well in its bowling. He looked forward to his own bowling contribution both for and in the Club next year.</p> <p>John emphasised that he wouldn't have been able to undertake the duties of Captain especially in the last year without the excellent support he'd had particularly from Graham as Secretary and Stewart and Keith fronting friendlies and WSL.</p>	
3.5	<p>Friendly matches</p> <p>Stewart Glover noted that he had enjoyed the bowling in friendly matches and was happy to contribute as a Deputy Captain. The meeting acclaimed Stuart's efforts over the last three years.</p>	All to note
3.6	<p>Men's Evening (Thursday)</p> <p>Alan Goulder reported that the good fun of men's evening did also include good bowling. He thanked those who support the evening and made special mention of Stewart Glovers contribution for food provision and also Alan Huxtable for manning the bar.</p>	
3.7	<p>Club Night (Monday)</p> <p>The meeting noted the ongoing efforts of John Rook for his support of Club Night on Mondays.</p>	
3.8	<p>Ballots (Tuesday and Friday)</p> <p>JW observed that the Tuesday and Friday ballot session run by John Crowley and Geoff Lawrence continued to be a source of support for new bowlers, plus coaching and development for all Club members.</p> <p>The meeting offered its thanks to John Crowley who has indicated his wish to step back from running the ballots.</p>	
3.9	<p>Report on External Competitions – Club entries</p> <p>ESL Top 11 Competition</p> <p>The Club had given a bye to their selected opposition on policy grounds.</p> <p>Sutton and District BA– items of note were:-</p> <p>The Club made 3 entries into the 'Suttons' this year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yonwin Cup - Lost to Epsom Park 68 – 37. Arthur Hughes Triples - Lost to Epsom Court in first round 28 – 17. Paston Cup - Mike Brent lost at Ewell Village 21 – 14. 	
3.10	<p>Report on External Competitions – individual entrants</p> <p>Report of individual club members entries and results to Bowls Surrey and Sutton & District BA competitions are reported elsewhere and displayed on the notice board.</p>	



Ashtead Bowls Club

**Men's
Section**

Minutes of the Autumn AGM

7:30pm, Thursday, 17 Oct 2019

<p>3.11</p>	<p>Indoor Bowling 2019 – 2020</p> <p>GL reported that the Club has entered The Mole Valley Cup at MVIBC and the Colin Hibbs League at Donyings over the winter both run by Pam Bennett.</p> <p>GL also mention the Spitfire league entry at Donyings run by John Rook and the need for support as our entry is just about viable. Members were asked to consider supporting this entry and to contact John Rook.</p>	<p>All to note</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>ELECTION OF OFFICERS</p>	
<p>4.1</p>	<p>The Nominations Form had been displayed in the Clubhouse during September 2019 and nominations were as follows:-</p> <p>Captain – Mike Brent Vice Captain – (no candidate) Deputy Captain (WSL) – Keith Merrett Deputy Captain (Friendlies) – (no candidate) Men's Section Secretary – Graham Law Match Secretary – Stephen Brett</p> <p>As there was only one candidate for each of the nominated posts as listed above and those had proposers and seconders, GL proposed to the meeting that they be adopted en-bloc. The meeting concurred by show of hands.</p> <p>The Officers as set out above were thereby duly appointed.</p> <p>The meeting applauded JW for his time in office. Two years as Treasurer and three as Captain during which time a number of changes had taken place. Well done.</p>	<p>All to note.</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>LOOKING TO THE FUTURE</p>	
<p>5.1</p>	<p>The meeting welcomed Mike Brent (MB) to his new position as Men's Captain and invited him to raise a few items.</p> <p>MB thanked JW for all his efforts and warned that his experience may well be drawn upon over the future into season 2020.</p> <p>He offered some subjects for members to consider over the next few months:-</p>	
<p>5.2</p>	<p>Winter Bowling:</p> <p>Short mat will be available one Wednesday evenings at the Club as both a beginning for new bowlers and a social bowling gathering.</p> <p>Consider Mole Valley Indoor Bowls Club. Benefits are to continue to gain consistent delivery and to play alongside experienced bowlers.</p>	
<p>5.3</p>	<p>Fixtures for 2020</p> <p>Our fixtures secretary (SB) has already started work; we plan to continue with our policies of 2pm starts wherever possible and to have a more appropriate post-match food offering (not plated hot meals) as a support to socialising with opponents.</p> <p>Arrangement of fixtures are already actively in hand and we have a few fixtures to consider and/or replace in 2020.</p> <p>JPC will be meeting shortly to focus on all these issues.</p>	



Ashtead Bowls Club

**Men's
Section**

Minutes of the Autumn AGM

7:30pm, Thursday, 17 Oct 2019

5.4	<p>Competitions</p> <p>MB indicated that Competitions Secretary (Ian Guthrie) will be issuing the entry forms in the new year.</p> <p>He recommended entry to internal competitions particularly for newer members to gain experience and to play alongside more experience players. Good examples were the 100-up and Australian Pairs competitions.</p> <p>External competitions he saw as important to keep Ashtead's name in the County and Area comps. They are competitive but worth entry.</p>	
5.5	<p>Playing positions:</p> <p>MB indicated that he would be emailing playing members to ascertain or confirm their preferred playing positions.</p> <p>His objective was to meet preference where possible or at the least to be aware when pressures require players to be asked to play out of position occasionally.</p>	
5.6	<p>Succession and Support:</p> <p>MB was concerned that the men's section needed a vice-captain plus a deputy-captain for friendlies. He felt it was a great opportunity for members to step in, dip your toe in the water and help establish succession.</p> <p>MB also noted that there was an ongoing need for more volunteers to take on some tasks in support of bowling activity and matches on a routine small task basis.</p>	
5.7	<p>New shirts:</p> <p>MB supported the aim to look like a team. On a practical level we have only 11 in stock. Orders to MB please.</p>	
5.8	<p>Other Matters:</p> <p>MB felt that a number of items would be best left until we were closer to playing bowls again and would come back to them in April. Matters such as Etiquette, Coaching and care of the green.</p> <p>MB also recommended a concise but valuable book by Peter Carter 'Bowls My Way'.</p> <p>If members have interest please contact MB for contact details.</p>	
5.9	<p>MB very kindly offered a 'big thank you' to GL in his role as Men's Secretary.</p> <p>GL was most grateful.</p>	
6.0	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
6.1	<p>Update on care for the Green</p> <p>Peter Webb (PW) informed the meeting that a newly appointed contractor had spent the previous afternoon with up to seven staff working on our green to complete, shallow and deep vertical mowing, scarification in multi directions, hollow tining, sweeping, seeding and top dressing. They had removed more than 30 barrows of arising out of the green.</p> <p>We look forward to watching the new growth arise.</p> <p>There will also be a spring treatment session and thereafter a monthly programme of works for in-season maintenance.</p> <p>Those members in the club who used to perform these tasks over at least a week of effort were most grateful!!</p>	



Ashtead Bowls Club

**Men's
Section**

Minutes of the Autumn AGM

7:30pm, Thursday, 17 Oct 2019

	PW will maintain supervision over the contractor and will submit reports and requests for future budgets to the Club exec as required.	
6.2	<p>Starting times for Bowling</p> <p>Peter Webb noted the growing demand for early start times on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays which are the green mowing days.</p> <p>This will be reviewed by the JPC and PW with a view to opening the green earlier subject to other timing or maintenance events.</p>	
6.3	<p>External Competitions for 2020</p> <p>The Listing of External Competitions (Sheet) identifying playing commitments and opportunities would be used again in 2020.</p> <p>Lists are available for:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Club competitions• Competitions open to individual club members.• Indoor bowling competitions <p>All three listings will continue to be used by the Joint Playing Committee (JPC) to assist in managing entry to competitions and will be displayed in the Clubhouse.</p>	All to note
7.0	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
7.1	<p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 16 April 2020 commencing at 7:30 pm at the Clubhouse.</p> <p>There being no more business the meeting closed at 8:20 pm.</p>	All to note