



The Hungerford Club

3 The Croft, Hungerford, Berks, RG17 0HY, Tel: 01488 682357

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7th November 2024

Attendance

Trustees: Chris Ticehurst

Officers: Caroline Walker (Treasurer), Paul Ivinson (Secretary)

Committee: Rhian Barnett, Jennifer Bartter, David Broderick, Matt Bronson, Ian Doolan, Chris Scorey, Cliff Winckless

Including the above 24 members attended.

Meeting start

The meeting started at: 19:02

The meeting was chaired by Cliff Winckless

Welcome by Chairman of the A.G.M.

The Chairman called the meeting to order

Cliff explained that Denis Brown has been acting Chairman for much of the past year but is unable to attend today. Therefore he (Cliff) would be chairing the meeting. Thanks go to Denis for his huge contribution to the club for many, many years.

- It has been another good year for the club which has gone from strength to strength, building on the success of the previous year.
- Thanks to Debbie and Garry for the tremendous effort they put in.
 - The beer festival was a great success.
 - They have organised quizzes and music evenings which have been very well received and contribute greatly to the social life of the club.
 - Debbie has the Indoor Sports section under her wing.
- The club's good financial position allowed us to continue to make improvements to the club house.
 - The tiles and battens on the west wall of the clubhouse were beginning to fail. All were removed and replaced with new.
 - The porch was rebuilt with new columns, windows and roof. However the look of the porch was preserved so many people do not notice!
 - Overall, the work proceeded smoothly thanks to the oversight of the contracts by Graham Brown and the committee.

Remembrance of Members deceased

It is with sadness that we have to report the death of the following members and ex-members during the last year.

- John Morgan
- John Conn – a past president of the club.
- Sally McNaughton
- Mary Jenner
- Paul Frances

The Chairman asked if there were any other names that should be remembered? None mentioned.

He then asked all members to stand for a few moments silence in remembrance.

[About 30 seconds silence.]

Apologies for absence

The following send their apologies for not attending

- Denis Brown
- Claire Ward
- Micky Lambourn
- Roger Sandford
- Kevin & Maggie Gibb

Minutes of previous A.G.M. as circulated

The minutes of last year's A.G.M. were circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman asked if there were any questions about the minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda?

Approval of Minutes:

Proposed: Matt Bronson

Seconded: Vic Lardner

The Chairman requested a show of hands to approve the minutes and then asked if any did not approve. All were in favour. The minutes were approved.

Update to the Rules of The Hungerford Club

The rules of the club have not been updated since 2014. The committee asked Chris Scorey to review the rules.

- Chris Scorey pointed out that the meeting did not have enough attendees to approve any changes.
- The Chairman asked if there were any questions. There were none.
- The Chairman asked if any of the attending members had any objections to the changes. There were no objections.

Treasurer's Financial Report as circulated

The Chairman explained that the accounts made up to the 31st March 2024 were prepared by Jennifer Bartter. He thanked Jennifer.

The Chairman explained that the club's accounts are being moved to an online accountancy service run by Sage. This change will help reduce duplicate effort by the book-keeper. He thanked the treasurer, Caroline Walker, for the work managing the accounts since taking over from Jennifer.

The accounts and accompanying financial statement were circulated prior to the A.G.M.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions? No questions were asked.

Approval of Accounts:

Proposer: Rhian Barnet

Secunder: Chris Dodd

The Chairman asked for those who wished to approve the accounts to raise their hands. All hands raised.

The Chairman asked for those who wished to not approve the accounts to raise their hands. Nobody raised their hand.

The Financial Report was approved.

Subscriptions 2025

The Chairman stated that at the committee meeting of the 14th October it was agreed that the Indoor Sports subscription should be increased by £3. The subscription was unchanged last year. This gives the bowls and tennis sections the information they need when discussing their subscriptions.

He announced that the bowls section A.G.M. will be held next week on Thursday 14th November and that the tennis section A.G.M. will be held on Thursday 21st November.

Section Reports: Bowls, Tennis and Indoor Sports all as circulated

The reports from the Bowls, Tennis and Indoor Sports were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Chairman summarised the reports.

- The Bowls section has had another good year though they lost more trophies than they won!
 - The section continues to focus on encouraging new members and has been successful during the year.
 - They had a very successful fund raising day in aid of Royal County of Berkshire Bowling Association Benevolent Fund
- The focus of the Tennis section has been the refurbishment of Court 1. This is now complete.
 - Membership continues to be healthy, growing 15% over the year.
 - There have been more internal competitions as well as good participation in the local district leagues.
- The Indoor Sport section sees high usage of the snooker tables.
 - The Darts team has some new faces joining the core team.
 - Poker evenings are well attended and increasing numbers each week.
 - Ian Doolan asked to make some comments about the Indoor Sports section. These are included in Appendix 1.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions about the reports? No questions were asked.

Election of Officers and Committee to 2024/2025 Committee

The election of Officers and Committee was conducted by the Secretary.

Election of trustees

Last year Micky Lambourn and Chris Ticehurst were re-elected as trustees. They have two more years to serve.

There have been no nominations for the role of Trustee.

Election of President

Last year Rodger Sandford was elected to the role of President. He has said he is willing to serve again this year. No other candidates have been proposed.

- The Secretary asked all those in favour of electing Roger Sandford as President to raise their hands. All hands were raised.
- The Secretary asked those not in favour to raise their hands. No hands were raised.
- Roger Sandford was elected to the role of President.

Election of Chairman

The Secretary said that for a number of years we have not had an elected Chairman. We owe a very big “thank you” to Denis Brown for his work as Acting-Chairman for many years.

This year Cliff Winckless has said he is willing to be our Chairman. There are no other candidates.

- The Secretary asked all those in favour of electing Cliff Winkless as Chairman to raise their hands. All hands were raised.
- The Secretary asked those not in favour to raise their hands. No hands were raised.
- Cliff Winkless was elected to the role of Chairman.

Election of Treasurer

Last year Jennifer Bartter stood down as Treasurer and Caroline Walker volunteered.

Caroline Walker has agreed to be our Treasurer again this year. No other candidates have been proposed.

- The Secretary asked all those in favour of electing Caroline Walker as Treasurer to raise their hands. All hands were raised.
- The Secretary asked those not in favour to raise their hands. No hands were raised.
- Caroline Walker was elected to the role of Treasurer.

Election of Secretary

The Secretary announced that he (Paul Ivinson) has been secretary for three years and puts himself forward again. No other candidates have been proposed.

- The Secretary asked all those in favour of electing Paul Ivinson as Secretary to raise their hands. All hands were raised.
- The Secretary asked those not in favour to raise their hands. No hands were raised.
- Paul Ivinson was elected to the role of Secretary.

Election of members to the committee

There are eight places on the committee.

Current members who were elected last year and therefore have a second year in post are

- Rhian Barnett
- David Broderick
- Ian Doolan
- Chris Scorey
- Cliff Winckless

Graham Brown resigned from the committee during the year. Our thanks go to Graham for his work overseeing the new roof, the work on the gable wall and the new porch.

Two members retire after their two years of service and both have decided not to stand again.

- Matt Bronson
- Denis Brown

He thanked Matt Bronson for his service on the committee.

There are three vacancies but no candidates have been nominated.

Chris Scorey suggested that since we are reviewing the club's rules we could look to removing the need for a show of hands when there are no contested elections and appoint the sole candidate unopposed. He explained the requirement was known as the "Rex Knott" rule after a former Chairman who insisted it be added to the rules.

The suggestion was generally met with agreement but a comment was made that the A.G.M. should have the opportunity to reject a candidate. The matter was deferred for discussion by the committee and to be brought forward with the other changes to the rules next year.

Any other business

The Chairman asked if there was any other business that members wish to raise? Nothing was raised.

Meeting Closed

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19:35.

Appendix 1

Report read out to the A.G.M. by Ian Doolan.

Overview

Indoor Sports has enjoyed another successful year with increasing member attendance at the club with a current membership of 264 split between 182 gentlemen and 82 ladies. We have some data on age classification.

The Bar

The Club bar has provided a full range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks which are chosen to match the demands of the club members. It is worth noting that several draft beers were stocked and changed during the year and the club was awarded the CAMRA Club of the Year Award for 2024.

The Hungerford Beer Festival

This was held at the Club this year on all three days of the August bank holiday weekend. In spite of the weather, it was the most successful to be held, featuring 14 draft ales and 3 draft ciders, supported by a running barbecue. Hundreds of people attended this event being entertained by live music groups on the Croft Green

It is noted that the bar takings for this event was £9,708 and the food were £1,390 – a total of over £11,000. The previous year's takings was £9,000. Compare these figures to the pre-covid figures of around £4,000.

Catering

Lunches, suppers and snacks have been served to order but due to limited kitchen facilities these are limited. It is hoped to increase the catering choice to the members in the future by promoting “steak”, “curry” and “pizza nights”.

The Bar Area

A plan has been approved to modernise the bar area to make it more workable for the bar staff, allow drinks to be better displayed and make the bar more attractive to the members. It is hoped that this work can be carried out early next year.

It is also felt that the members lounge area could do with brightening up which would help to attract younger members to join the club.

Sporting Activities

Snooker

Since the Covid lock down when the snooker room was closed, there has been a gradual recovery of use of the tables and it has not been until this year that usage level has reached pre-covid levels with a significant number of new younger members joining the club. The installation of the new red carpet has significantly improved the look of the snooker room.

It is hoped that the “Spoons” competition can be relaunched and the club can enter a team in the Newbury Snooker League.

Indoor Bowls

A few members have been playing this fun game recently – an ideal winter sport!

Darts

A Darts Team has been established with much enthusiasm which has entered the Lambourn Darts League. Results this year have improved thanks to some new signings and a great time has had by all, win lose or draw.

Cards

You can forget about having a quiet drink at the club on a Monday night, as the place is buzzing with the sixteen card players in spite of high levels of concentration.

Quiz and Bingo

These popular events have been held on alternative monthly Friday nights when the club is packed out.

Wii is an electronic game which has been recently established in the club and is proving popular.

Draws and Raffles

The meat draws have been held weekly along with the Easter and Christmas raffles, the tickets for all are always sold out

A Meeting Place

This Club has become a popular place for other local organisations to meet including the Bell Ringers, the Hungerford Allotments Association, the Book Club and not forgetting the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes. The recently introduced “Ladies that Lunch” is proving to be increasingly popular with all tables booked in advance.

Members have also made use of the club for private celebrations at times when the club is normally closed.

It is worth noting that the original purpose of the Hungerford Club when it was established in the Croft Hall in 1901 was to provide a meeting place for the young men of the town.