Committee Meeting held on Friday 2nd October,2026

Present: T Kneale, R Stewart, W Heywood, T Kaighan, J Lavender, R Parkinson & J Cairns.

Apologies: J Bawden, N Heffernan, B Kaighan, S Liddicott.

The Chairman opened the meeting, asked if everyone had seen the minutes from the July meeting, and whether there were any matters arising. None were reported.

In correspondence, the Secretary confirmed receipt of the AGM notices from the three leagues and an email from Hannah Prentice asking to have Kenny Judge's memorial plaque attached to a bench seat around the green.

In the absence of the Treasurer, Steve had supplied a copy of the season's accounts, which indicated a £4k increase in expenditure on the previous season and a loss of £2.5k; still leaving a healthy balance in cash and bank. Machinery, a new shed and greens and ground maintenance had cost £8.3k; but this had partly been offset through an improvement in income from the 'open' competitions, beverage sales and catering activities provided by the ladies section. The meeting had considered an increase in tea and coffee prices due to the projected loss of beer sales; and the removal of prize money subsidies made to the winter bowling activities. However, both were voted to stay the same as previous seasons. It had also been suggested that the Club could continue with the 59ers lottery throughout the winter, which Brian thought to be a good idea for next season but which was too late to implement during the current winter.

Tony Kaighan proceeded to give an in depth summary of the HP 'open' competitions and the outputs from the various league meetings attended by the delegates.

1) 'Open' Comps: The equivalent dates have been agreed for next season, however an approach had been made to the Club in running a pairs competition as part of the 'Big Bash' Spring Bank Holiday weekend. Details of which were awaited.
2) F&DBL: a) The Club was thanked by Dave Whitehead for running the Furness league handicap during the 2026 season.b) Amendment to the

league mandate to be submitted concerning the possible problem of players bringing additional games down from higher divisions which are added to their lower team and divisional aggregates for merit purposes

3) U&DBL: The league will not have fixture books printed next season, but will supply clubs with a sheet covering all fixtures. b) Mandate to move to 3 leagues, which would mean teams playing a maximum of 18 league matches with the season ending in August and a knockout competition similar to the Seniors league taking up the unused Wednesday dates. The 'HP' committee voted on 'no change' as it was felt that players valued league matches over KO games. d) A proposal was also made to change match blowout times to 7.30 irrespective of match start time. The committee voted against this change, as it could mean players turning up for a 5.30 pm start; waiting around 2 hours to play their game, and possibly being the only game left to play in the match.
4) Seniors League: A discussion around the excessive use of ladies playing in league matches had been raised at the delegates meeting, which had originally been voted in to cover absenteeism and minimise the number of walkovers, but which had resulted in ladies being selected on aggregate rather than on a 'standby' basis at the expense of men bowlers. It was agreed by the committee to submit a mandate to cover this issue, by restricting teams to 10 lady replacements per season.
5) The respective league AGM dates were advised, and those who were to attend from the Club, agreed.

An item had been omitted from the agenda involving a change to rule 17a of our 'constitution', this would be discussed at the Club's AGM where agreement sought to the change.

The Sports Club had recently held a sections meeting, which representatives from the committee had attended. Items included a) the setting up of an 'events group'. b) A more formal 3 year contract to be agreed with BAE over the use of the Club's facilities. c) Clare, the new bar manager was now in place and settling in well. d) 2 new robot mowers were now being used by the groundwork team on the playing pitches (not suitable for bowling greens, due to their inability to cut the grass to the required length). e) The website is being updated to hold the sections sporting fixtures. f) Following

recent sad events, the rugby section are looking to set up a suicide action group. g) K2B leaders are to look at ways of utilising the marque for events on the Sunday and have also requested the use of the our viewing hut as a control room on the day of the main event. h) Volunteers are needed for bonfire night, anyone available to help should report for 5.30 pm on the night. i) The Club is looking to increase sponsorship, and are considering a local Company who specialise in seeking sponsorship on a commission basis.

In AOB: The following was raised. a) The Bowls AGM – Friday 13th November at 7.00 pm. b) Xmas Social Evening – Friday 4th December (those attending should add their names/numbers to the list by the night of the AGM at the latest. c) Winter bowling – date to be confirmed and those able to run the events on the day are required. d) Seniors team pictures for those attaining league and ko honours to be presented.

The Committee meeting closed at 12.40 pm with the next scheduled for Friday 29th January at 11.00 am in the bowls pavilion.