

# **2021 GBC AGM Agenda**

1. AGM minutes 2020

2. President's Report

3. Secretary's Report

4. Treasurer's Report

5. 2021 Fees

Committee proposes subscription to remain at £90

6. Election of Office Bearers

Committee propose Eric Thomson as President

Committee propose Bill Lowe as Secretary

Committee propose Caroline Hitchen as Treasurer

Committee propose Bob Cowper as Match Secretary

Kevin Thomson remains on committee for 2021 as past president

7. A O B

## Minutes of Gullane Bowling Club AGM held 4 March 2020 at GBC Clubhouse

Committee present:	Kevin Thomson (President), Caroline Hitchen (Sec), Lorna Scott (Treasurer), Davy Saunders (Match sec), John Gillies (Vice President), Dave Houlston (Convenor) Scott Douglas (Member).
Member Apologies:	Ian Brown, Jim Dixon
Members present:	Hazel Saunders, David George, Penny McKerrow, Carol MacLeod, Catriona Henderson, Lexi Foggo, Stan Shearer, Mary Pickard, John Pickard, Catherine Mackenzie, Hector Mackenzie, Gary Hltchen, Heather Murray, Roger Smith, Trevor Wood, Alex Calder, Muriel Calder, John Finlay, Heather McCutcheon, Pat Tuite, David Haycock, Paul Hay, Ian Black, Walter Rutherford, Liz Thomson, Eric Thomson, Martin Everett, Margot Mellors, Irene Cunningham, Alicia Irvine, Mary Lou Watkins, Keith Watkins, Lorna Thomson, Alison Johnstone, Elizabeth Shearer, Liz Duffy, Steve Roberts, Brian Thomson, Bruce Wallace, Fiona Alcock

### **PRESIDENTS WELCOME AND REPORT - Kevin Thomson**

Kevin Thomson welcomed all attendees and began by commenting that at last years Opening of the Green he'd expressed a hope that the membership would get fully involved in making the club a success, and they'd indeed embraced this during the last season - the club entered various EL leagues - the Ladies won their league (round of applause), the Snr men finished about middle and the Friday night league had mixed results but this was to be expected from an inexperienced team. We had some interclub competitions including Ladies and Men's Championship won by Lorna Thomson and Davy Saunders (more applause). The hat nights were well attended both on Saturday morning and Monday night.

The club remained open over the winter for the much enjoyed bingo sessions, the bridge Club, an Autumn Fair for our club and some good hires including use as a polling station and events such as the Xmas wreath making group. The hire admin has been a learning curve for the committee, but has provided income over winter and thanks to those who took part in the rota to facilitate.

Of key importance to the committee is succession planning and to this end there will be some rotation on the committee this year. If any member is interested in joining the committee or volunteering get in touch. John Gillies and Dave Houlston will stand down and we proposed two new members as detailed later in these minutes. Kevin thanked John and Dave for their support during their time on the committee (round of applause).

There has been good progress with the condition of the green this year. Thanks goes to Liam Nicholson for taking up the job and to Gullane Golf Club for lending machinery and helping with delivery of sand etc. It is feeling much smoother to play.

For the 21 brand new members we will hold a special welcome afternoon on 28 March.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT - Caroline Hitchen**

Last year's minutes were made available to all members on the website and a copy placed on the notice board at the club. These were approved at this meeting - proposed John Gillies and seconded Lorna Thomson.

**TREASURER'S REPORT - Lorna Scott**

Thanks to Jeff Aitken for recently auditing and signing off the 2019 accounts - the detailed accounts are available for anyone who wishes to see them.

Looking back to the beginning of 2019 the balance at 1 Jan 19 was £12,539.50 and the closing balance at year end was £15,140.00. The biggest forms of income during 2019 were from subs, donations and grants as well as the advertising boards (net £3,120). Not surprisingly most of our expenditure was on the clubhouse and the green itself which I'm sure you will agree, both look great as a result.

Hall hire during 2019 brought in just over £700 from the bridge and craft clubs and it would be lovely to be able to expand this income stream and at the same time allow more of the community to enjoy the facilities of the clubhouse. In January of this year we also brought in £220 by acting as the village polling station, a worthwhile PR exercise as it brought in many new visitors to the club.

Moving on to 2020, the current balance is just over £18,600 and we are delighted that current 2020 membership fees have so far brought in £10,190 - many thanks to those who took up the Early Bird Offer. We are delighted that we are already up to 167 members for the new season including 21 new members. The membership is made up of 134 full members, 29 social, 4 junior and the ratio male to female remains close to 50/50.

We will take money for lockers on the opening of the green. Income from the advertising board renewals has also raised £2K from 8/12 advertisers last year. If any of the remaining 3 do not renew we will look for new advertisers to take their place as this has been a very useful form of income and promoting local businesses.

I have also just checked the money raised so far by the Co-op Community Fund which is just under £200 so if anyone has not already got a Co-op card please sign up ASAP and allocate us as your chosen charity.

This concluded the treasurer's report.

**ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

Hazel Saunders (Member) - proposed by Mary Lou, seconded by Heather.

Eric Thomson (Vice President) - proposed by Gary Hitchen, seconded by Irene Cunningham.

**FEES FOR 2020 SEASON**

To stay at £90 for this season - proposed by Davy Saunders, seconded by Brian Thomson.

**OPENING OF THE GREEN**

This will be 18 April at 2 pm with an alcohol bar.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Gary Hitchen asked about previous plans to get an alcohol licence. Kevin said that this was work in progress, as the club would need to meet various additional standards. Meantime the club could use occasional licences (12 allowed per year) or it was okay for members to BYO.

Regarding hat nights, Hazel explained that going forward the charge would go up to £2 with half the money going to the club and the other half as prize money.

Stan Shearer offered thanks to the committee for a successful year which was applauded by the room.

**Meeting Closure**

Kevin Thomson thanked all for attending and the meeting was closed approx 7.20 pm

## **Presidents Review 2020**

This year has been a difficult one for Gullane Bowling Club as we have tried to adjust to the different situations that the covid pandemic has brought to us.

### **Members**

As a club we have been very fortunate in having the support of over 100 members who by taking up the early bird offer helped secure the financial stability that has allowed us to drive on and continue to develop the club as outlined when all invested in its future back in 2018/19. Whilst initially not being able to use our facilities in 2020 we were able to start bowling in a limited fashion when restrictions were lifted in June. This meant that the various groups that enjoyed casual bowling could return to bowl with social distanced arrangements. As the year progressed, hat nights returned on a Monday and Friday evening and towards the season end moved to a Sunday afternoon. These were well supported with a great mix of members and guests taking part. We also managed to run the club championship competitions and I would like to congratulate Gary Hitchen and Eilis Bradley who are the 2020 club champions.

### **Club Building and Green**

As will be outlined in the financial report we were successful in applying for covid business restriction grants which has enabled us to continue to ensure the structure and presentation of our facilities is of a standard to reflect our continued investment. We have used cash this year to repair the external wall, lay slabbing in the two areas around the green. There is UPVC cladding being attached around the building which will buy some time as we plan around clubhouse requirements moving forward. Painting of other external parts has also been organised. weather permitting this should all be completed before the scheduled start of the 2021 season in April. The green has been well looked after this year by Liam Nicholson supported by Gullane Golf Club and I would like to thank all for the efforts to help keep our green in the condition we now accept as the new normal. By the time the green is open it will have been spiked, over seeded, top dressed, rolled (a lot) and had around six tonne of sand added. Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped with this and the continued winter switching on the green. Thanks to Jeff and Isobel Aitken for the efforts throughout the year in tending the areas which have been planted and all the weeding around the green. I hope things will be less demanding this year with the laying of new slabs.

### **Planters**

Two years ago it was suggested we have some flower boxes around the Green which at the time I did not think was a great idea. People on the committee persuaded me differently, I am pleased to say these plants are a wonderful addition around the green. Recognition has to go to Maureen Hunter for the time she takes ordering and organising all the flowers and giving of her time to plant and maintain them in the boxes supplied by Gus. Thanks Maureen

### **Committee Rotation**

This year Lorna Scott, Caroline Hitchen and Davy Saunders finish their terms on committee. I would like to thank all of them for the input over the last two+ years, it has been a journey that all have risen to and we as a club would not be where we are now without the considerable input from all of them.

Thanks again and enjoy the bowls next year without having me on at you regarding committee stuff. Caroline will hopefully be staying on as treasurer as she is the committee proposal for this role moving forward.

### **Winter activities**

Unfortunately our activities planned for the clubhouse throughout the winter months could not go ahead. Fingers crossed 2021 will allow Bridge clubs, Autumn/winter fairs, craft activities, bingo and more to return as the bowls season comes to an end around October.

### **Funding**

Firstly I would like to thank All the sponsors who have supported what we have been working on throughout the past two years and continue to do so. Things would have been much tougher without their financial support. Please if you are in a position to use any of these businesses give them the opportunity to quote. We also introduced a 100+ club to help with finances. Once again the support we received from members has been fantastic. The draw takes place on the 1st of every month with the winners being announced on social media and on the club notice board. Given the club is closed we are looking at other ways of communicating this to members. Mary Lou Watkins has been the driving force behind this and communicating with the sponsors this year and has done a fantastic job in promoting and delivering the income attached to these activities. Thanks Mary.

### **Match Secretary Update**

Sadly it is not yet possible to plan competitions and events for the 2021 season. We are getting timely advice from Bowls Scotland. Please be assured the Committee will do everything to ensure we maximise opportunities to make full use of all the facilities GBC can offer in compliance with all regulations and guidelines.

As I look forward to the start of the new season and meeting with you all again it should be noted this is my final report as president. As I communicated earlier there has been a lot put in place to ensure steady progress over the last two+ years to assist in getting what is a fantastic number of members playing their part in the development of Gullane bowling club as a community hub. Please continue to support the club helping keep it as a focal point in our ever expanding village.

**Kevin Thomson**  
**President**  
**March 2021**

## **GBC SECRETARY REPORT - AGM March 2021**

Last year's minutes are attached to this pack - please contact me if you feel there should be any amendments. If there is no contact in the next week, we will consider them read and approved.

At last year's AGM we set the date for the opening of the green to be 18 April and were looking forward to a busy season enjoying the improvements made the previous year to the green, clubhouse, and also our bowling skills, for those of us new to the game.

Just a couple of weeks post AGM, we were being told to avoid social contact, followed of course by the first lockdown. We finally opened with a telephone booking system on 1 June and although we were unable to hold any formal games, the summer saw us running regular hat nights, a couple of mixed pairs and triples led by Jim Dixon as well as the men's and ladies club championship with finals in September. Congratulations to Eilis and Gary - sadly I wasn't able to watch on the day, but got regular updates down in Surrey and once home, a shot by shot account of Gary's success! Spring and summer were particularly busy for the secretary and committee members as we had to communicate all the Covid updates to members and get the right signage and paperwork in place but we are glad it turned out to be an enjoyable season, albeit not the one we planned.

Obviously we were not able to raise club funds in the way we normally would by holding competitions, selling alcohol and hosting events like the autumn fayre. Fortunately there have been various grants we were eligible to apply for, and as secretary I was involved in completing applications for these and I am pleased we were successful in our bids, which has enabled further improvement work whilst keeping a healthy bank balance.

Last year we had several new members join, and very late in the season we managed a coaching session for new members in August which hopefully introduced them to the game. We are pleased that our early bird offer was again well received this year and we currently have 139 members joined up for the coming season. Hopefully we can run some more coaching this year once restrictions allow.

It looks like some restrictions will continue during 2021 but we are most grateful for the tremendous support we've had from the club membership and their 'can bowl' attitude which I am sure will make for a great season with, we hope, an increased level of socialising. This brings my report to a close, so I wish my successor every success and hope to see you on the green soon.

CAROLINE HITCHEN 10/03/21