



Gullane Bowling Club

Bowling in the heart of our community since 1901.

2024 GBC AGM Agenda

Venue, Date and Time – The Village Hall. Saturday 03rd Feb 2024 @10.00

1. AGM minutes 2023

2. President's Report

3. Secretary's Report

➤ Including New Clubhouse proposal

4. Treasurer's Report

5. Subscription fees

➤ Full and Social* membership

6. Election of Committee Members

The Committee propose Gail Mellors-Douglas as Vice-President

Nominations are required for the retiring Club Treasurer

Nominations are required for the retiring Club Secretary

7. GBC Constitution

8. A O B

➤ Points raised by the membership*



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Minutes of Gullane Bowling Club AGM held 4th February 2023

Committee present:	Trevor Wood (President), Eric Thomson (Past President), Caroline Hitchen (Treasurer), Bill Lowe (Treasurer), Colleen Bonar (Committee Member), Kevin Omand (Member and Match Sec.) and Paul Hay (Member and Greens Convener).
Member Apologies:	Apologies were received from: - Steve Roberts, Graeme Brown, Hector and Catherine MacKenzie, David Haycock, Scott Douglas and Mary Gunning
Members present:	Please see attached register of attendees – 39 members total

1. AGM Minutes 2023

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were approved as a true record.

[Proposed by Gary Hitchen and seconded by Liz Thomson]

2. PRESIDENTS WELCOME AND REPORT – Trevor Wood

Welcome to you all and thank you for attending the 2024 AGM of Gullane Bowling Club and also a thanks to our Committee Members.

Thank you to all members for their continued support over the last year. Thanks to committee members for their ongoing work on behalf of the club. Thanks to the many volunteers who help in the background: You all know who you are, from tending the garden the green and surrounds looking after the flower containers, keeping refreshments and snacks well stocked, running the bar, running the Bingo, etc etc.

Many thanks to Mary Lou Watkins, who looked after the Hundred Club and the Sponsorship Boards and is now taking a well-earned rest from those activities and thanks for a comprehensive handover. Thanks go to John Barrett for taking on the sponsors boards and to Gail Douglas for the 100 club. Thanks again to Gary Eaton for his continued role as our greenkeeper and the continued improvement and health of the green.

Thanks to Jim Dickson for organising several fun competitions throughout 2023. I hope he intends to do more of the same in 2024.

Thanks to Murray Saunders for putting in a lot of hard work to ensure our Paris Steele sponsored 1st Invitational pairs day was a huge success and to all those that helped make the day a huge success. Thanks to all our sponsors for their continued support of the club. It's vital as we move forward. And not forgetting Alice Jacks home baking and Kelly Hoddinott's catering!! If I've missed anyone, apologies.

Congratulations to Pauline Givvons and Kevin Thomson for their successes in winning the Womens and Mens championships respectively. Also to Gary Hitchen Seniors & 2 bowl champ and Jeff Aitken our 3 bowl champ and all the runners up that played their part in providing very some very entertaining and competitive finals.....



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What a season, a second league side launched successfully, lots of new club competitions started and our Invitational pairs comp, all this with tremendous backing from you the membership. The green has never been busier I suspect. It was wonderful to see all the ties being played and the exceptionally high participation levels from the membership was heartening, and showed the health of the club. This was down to no small part played by our Match Sec'y, Kevin Omand, who has made it his personal mission to increase the participation levels within the club and let people know YOU ARE GOOD ENOUGH...GET STUCK IN! Thank you Kevin.

Congratulations to all our league teams for competing well over 2023 and to our seniors who just missed out on back-to-back promotion. The year was not without its sad moments, none more so than the passing of Irene Cunningham, Alex Lafferty, David Dunlop and other former members.

The next few years will be busy and the new clubhouse development will be a top priority. Thanks to those on the Club development committee, which will act alongside the main committee but will lead on the Club & Clubhouse development. Can I personally encourage any member who wishes to get more involved in the running and development of the club or have skill sets they think may help to please get in contact with me or any of the committee. Major Fund raising will be a huge element of what we need to do going forward.

Thanks to you all for your personal support and your kind messages to me as your President and I couldn't be happier with the current overall health of Gullane Bowling Club and here's to a fantastic 2024.

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT – Bill Lowe

Bill thanked Trevor for his report and service as President in his first year providing huge effort, energy, thought and encouragement throughout the year including doing so much 'behind the scenes'.

GBC Clubhouse

The clubhouse continues to be hired and available for member and non-member functions.

- Hire for GBC members is free with a voluntary contribution.
- Hire for Charities and non-profit organisations is £15/hour
- Hire for Commercial let is £20/hour.

This year - the clubhouse has been used for bridge clubs, dominoes, bingo, coffee mornings, craft evenings, carpet sales, etc. Please contact any Committee member for hire enquires.

The Committee would request that anyone using the clubhouse ensure the heating is off or return to frost setting when leaving.

New Clubhouse Proposals

Proposals for our new clubhouse have progressed.

The Process, originally instigated by Kevin Thomson, has involved development of a Schedule/scope of works, appointment of an Architect (CDC Ltd). Drawings have been developed through an initial sub-committee of Hazel Saunders, Gary Hitchen and myself.

The development is now are now in the hands of our new Development Sub-committee.

The current drawing proposals will be posted in the clubhouse later this month so all members all members can view and add their comments.

After this member review process - the 'approved plans' will then be used to obtain sponsorship and funding.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT – Caroline Hitchen

TREASURERS REPORT FOR AGM 2024

GULLANE BOWLING CLUB

FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2023

LAST YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2022

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Subscriptions 2022	£5,295.00	Clubhouse	£4,135.49
Subscriptions 2023	£6,045.00	Greenkeeper	£3,841.63
Donations/Grants/Advertising Boards	£5,608.00	Green and Hedge	£11,729.91
ELC Grants	Nil	Meetings/Events	£594.91
Ad Boards + sponsorship	£4,400.00	Utilities	£3,323.63
Donations	£1208.00	Food drink supplies	£300.28
Fundraising and Refreshments	£3406.53	Affiliation fees	£870.00
Events + Visitors	£2466.25	Misc	£295.67
Lockers, Shirts + Jackets	£630.00	Insurance	£747.47
Bank Interest	£15.95	Club Jackets	£Nil
TOTAL	£23,466.72	TOTAL	£25,838.99

THIS YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2023

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Subscriptions 2023	£4,925.00	Clubhouse	£2,467.30
Subscriptions 2024	£3,400.00	Greenkeeper	£4199.96
Donations/Grants/Advertising Boards	£7475.00	Green and Hedge	£5,382.99
ELC Grants	£2,000.00	Meetings/Events	£1,104.15
Ad Boards + sponsorship	£4,350.00	Utilities	£3,601.58
Donations	£1,125.00	Food drink supplies	£703.00
Fundraising and Refreshments	£6,801.50	Affiliation fees	£1505.00
Events + Visitors	£3,684.00	Misc	£248.02
Lockers, Shirts + Jackets	£1,136.00	Insurance	£971.68
Bank Interest	£288.64	Club Jackets	£1350.00
TOTAL	£27,701.14	TOTAL	£21,533.68

The closing balance on 31 December 2023 was £49,358.79 vs £43,182.33 last year

Money divided in the accounts as follows (as of 31 Dec 23)

Current Account - £14,054.21

Savings Account - £10,304.58

Fixed Term Deposit - £25,000.00

Introduction

Firstly, many thanks to Jeff Aitken for auditing the accounts for – his input is much appreciated. Also thanks for all everyone who helps with our fundraising efforts throughout the year – much of our income is raised this way, so the organisation of fundraising activities is crucial and our members participation is also vital to raise the funds to run the club. So please keep supporting the 100 club, buying raffle tickets, getting friends to visit the club and even have a guilt free drink at the bar!

Income

Our income in 2023 was £27,701.14, an increase of over 4K. The club was given a grant of £2K in April from ELC to be used for the preparation of plans for the new clubhouse. As we have yet to be billed by the architect there will be a corresponding expense next year. The ad boards have produced regular income, and we are grateful to Revive and Paris Steele for providing sponsorship during last season.

The income for fundraising and refreshments is significantly higher – the 100 club raised £1,408 during 22/23 and we are most grateful to Hazel Saunders and Mary Lou Watkins who ran this successfully for several years. Gail Douglas took over in September and has been paying in the proceeds monthly since then rather than by annual transfer, hence the sum represents more than one year. We have received donations from long-term supporters whose generosity is much appreciated.

There was also a significant increase in the amount of bar sales this season. Scott Douglas took the initiative by setting up taking card payments, and with our popular internal and external competitions, a significant profit was made in drinks sales and the purchase of raffle tickets. Football cards have also been a useful source of hassle-free fundraising.

Income for Events/Visitors was also up – we had a successful Open Pairs Competition in the summer and the entry fees and spectators brought in valuable income. Hat games were well attended, and we had regular hires from the two Bridge Clubs and other ad hoc events held in the Clubhouse as well as the ever-popular winter Bingo afternoons hosted by Gail Douglas.

EXPENDITURE

This was £21,533.68 which was down on last year as in 2022 we had the exceptional expense of repairing the edge of the green and replacing the irrigation system.

Thankfully, this year has been a more typical year - greenkeeping shows an inflation-based rise, and meetings/events and food/drink cost more as we hosted various new events, but this was worth it for the income gained in bar sales etc. As predicted the utility costs rose but on the bright side, we are now receiving free broadband via Lothian Broadband. Affiliation fees are up as Bowls Scotland asked for 2024 subs to be paid before the end of 2023. As expected, our insurance premium was up from last year.

Regarding the 2024 season we are pleased to have more than 100 members who have paid subs for this season to date, and with more players participating in league games we are sure to have a busy season ahead of us.

If anyone wishes to examine the detailed accounts, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Caroline Hitchen, Treasurer – 1 Feb 2024



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5. SUBSCRIPTION FEES

The Committee was asked to review the Social Membership fees via a variety of verbal requests and a written request from a member.

On review the Committee proposed an increase of 20% in line with the percentage increase of Full Membership fees agreed for 2023.

It was also proposed and agreed that future Social Membership fees will be considered at the same time as future Full Membership fees.

The motion was proposed by Caroline Hitchen and seconded by John Barratt

6. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE and OFFICE BEARERS

- The Committee - proposed Gail Mellors-Douglas as Vice President and was seconded by Alex Calder
- The Committee - proposed Gary Hitchen as Club Treasurer and was seconded by Jeff Aitken.
- The Committee has not received any proposals for Club Secretary as Bill Lowe has completed his 3-year term. Bill has agreed to continue in the post in the short term until a new proposal if forthcoming.

[Post Meeting Note – Kelly Hodinott is considering taking on the role of Secretary and will attend the next committee meeting to assist her in that decision]

7 GBC CONSTITUTION

The Committee confirmed they have completed a review of the Club Constitution to ensure they are compliant with the management of club affairs and also to consider any relevant changes.

The Committee issued an email on 5th Jan 2024 proposing the following three small constitutional changes: -

SECTION 15

- Section 15 states – ‘The Annual General Meeting shall be held in March in order to elect members to the Executive Committee, receive reports from the President, Secretary and Treasurer and transact any other business.’
- Proposed amendment to Section 15 – delete ‘March’ and addin ‘the first quarter of the year’ in order to elect....
- Reason for amendment – To allow the Executive Committee flexibility in organising the AGM meeting earlier in the year of the year. This will allow new officers to ‘bed in’ before the Green opening in early April and league matches commencing late April.

It was agreed to accept this amendment by a vote of 34 for and 0 against

SECTION 16

- Section 16 first sentence states – ‘An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called by an application in writing to the Secretary supported by at least 15% of the members of the Club’
- Proposed amendment to Section 16 – add ...at least 15% of the ‘full and life’ members of the Club.’

- Reason for amendment – To clarify who has voting rights within the club.

It was agreed to accept this amendment by a vote of 34 for and 0 against

Section 27

- Section 27 states – ‘All cheques drawn against the Club’s funds shall be signed by the Treasurer and one other nominated member of the Executive Committee.’
- Proposed amendment/addition to Section 27 – add new paragraph. ‘The Treasurer can authorise electronic (BACS) club payments up £500 reporting these payments at the Executive Committee meetings. Payments over £500 will require prior authorisation from the Executive Committee.’

Reason for amendment – To permit the Treasurer to reasonably manage the club finances electronically

A member has suggested by email that we should limit the maximum payment at £250. This was considered at the meeting

It was agreed to accept this amendment (including £500 payments) by a vote of 34 for and 0 against

The club has also received email acceptance of the 3 proposed constitution changes from Steve Roberts, Scott Dunlop, Penny McKerrow, Alice Jack, Robert Jack and Mark Cubitt.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Points Raised by Membership
 - a. The issue of Social Membership is covered in Section 5 above
 - b. The issue for Maximum Treasurer spend is covered in Section 7 above.
2. The Committee confirmed that the Club Competition entry lists are now posted on the club notice boards. Please add your names.
3. The Committee was asked why there were two friendly fixtures after the Closing of the Green. Trevor confirmed that timing of end of season friendly games will be reviewed to avoid this in future.
Trevor also confirmed that the dates for the Club Championship will be earlier this year – this will also allow more time to enter the East Lothian Champion of Champions event.
4. The committee was asked if we have maintained a good relationship with Gullane Golf Club
Trevor confirmed he has been in contact with both the captain and the new Head Greenkeeper. We continue to enjoy a strong and good relationship with GGC – this will continue.
5. Trevor asked the floor for any further comments, or, if they wish to make comments to Trevor personally after the meeting. Jeff Aitken approached the Committee and thanked them for their time and commitment over the year – he felt the club was ‘in a good place’.
6. Trevor thanked Eric for his two-year service as Vice President, President and him committee membership as Past President.

Meeting Closure

The Committee would grateful if members could return comments on these meeting notes by 25th March 2024

Register of Attendances

Gullane Bowling Club			
AGM 03 February 2024 – Register of Attendees			
Name	Signature	Name	Signature
1 Bill Love	W.L.	G. HITCHEN	G. Hitchen
2 C. Bonner	C. Bonner	3. BAKER	3. Baker
3 E. THOMSON	E. Thomson	MARGIE COXON	Margie Coxon
4 P. M.	P. M.	PIONA BROWN	Piona Brown
5 T. WOOD	T. Wood	JIM DICKSON	Jim Dickson
6 C. HICKEN	C. Hicken	D. NICOL	D. Nicol
7 K. ANN.	K. Ann.	G. MORRISON	G. Morrison
8 ALISON S.	Alison S.	PAULINE CONNELL	Pauline Connell
9 J. S. MCNAUL	J. S. McNaul	JOHN GARCET	John Garcet
10 DAVID DONALSON	David Donalson	M. MCNAUL	M. McNaul
11 STEWART SHEARER	Stewart Shearer	PAUL DOUGLAS	Paul Douglas
12 LORNA THOMSON	L. Thomson		
13 MARYLOU WATKINS	M. Watkins		
14 LOUISE KOSTAN	L. Kostan		
15 MURRAY SANDERS	M. Sanders		
16 DAISY SANDERS	D. Sanders		
17 H. STUMMERS	H. Stummers		
18 ALICE DUNN	Alice Dunn		
19 ISOBELLE STUMMERS	Isobelle Stummers		
20 E. L. GIBB THOMSON	E. L. Gibb Thomson		
21 D. L. DUNN	D. L. Dunn		
22 R. MCNAUL	R. McNaul		
23 KELVIN HODGSON	Kelvin Hodgson		
24 JEFF ANNET	Jeff Annet		
25 JUNE RUTHERFORD	June Rutherford		
26 BRUNA THOMSON	Bruna Thomson		
27 J. G. DUNN	J. G. Dunn		
28 T. M. MCNAUL	T. M. McNaul		