

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Sunday 4th February 2024 at 2pm

President Lee Simpson welcomed and thanked those who came to the meeting.

Thirty-five (35) members were in attendance.

Apologies came from Ian Cruikshank, Liz Groat, Mike Barron, Les Stuart, Linda Keith and Alan Rough.

2023 SGM and matters arising:

None.

2023 SGM minutes were accepted by Fergus Muat and seconded by Bruce Stewart.

Presidents Report

Lee Simpson the President welcomed attendees to this year's AGM for season 2024. I'd like to say thank you to every one of you for turning up today, it is imperative that we got a quorum so that we could go ahead with the AGM and your attendance has made this possible.

I would now like to thank this season's committee who have done a power of work in running this club on behalf of all members. You as members directly or indirectly voted for this committee, so I thank you for that. I knew this season would be too much for me as President due to work commitments & other factors but this committee has stood by me and have supported me gratefully and I am truly thankful to each and every one of them.

Throughout the season your committee I'm not just planning for the season ahead but have been working tirelessly on planning for the future of this great club.

There has been lots of work that has been done regarding improving this club for seasons to come. At our monthly committee meetings, I development plan has been discussed and worked on. As members of this club, you have the right to have your say and the best time to do this is it at this AGM, so please feel free to let the committee know of any queries you have.

This past season's bowling & events have been so well supported by everyone involved.

And to our hard-working committee I'd like to say a few words.

In no particular order I'd like to thank the following.

John Murray.... what an organiser!! Our secretary who goes above & beyond to help this club run smoothly.

Fiona Murray our treasurer and child, welfare, protection officer, who apart from keeping John right, is the calming influence on us all and a meticulous planner. There is nothing she won't tackle.

Our past president Fergus Muat, who has been there to support Fiona in her Treasury duties, but also a fantastic support to us all with his abundance of experience.

Dougie Fraser are our gents, match secretary for his fantastic work & organisation. Most nights during the season he's been here, keeping in touch with everything that goes on in the club.

Lucy Willox our ladies match secretary for her commitment and work to keep the ladies' side of things ticking along.

The match secretaries don't just pick teams, they run club competitions, they contact the different associations that we all play in, they make sure that entries for club competitions are entered in good time and most importantly, they are there to sort out any queries regarding matches. Now and then Dougie & Lucy will have assistance from committee members, but both do a power of work on their own initiative.

Green warden Bob Waiter. Lots of hard work has gone into our green this season as always and what a fantastic green we have, I'm sure you will all agree. We have Dennis & Chris our outside contractors who cut our green and advise on its upkeep but without the hard work from Bob and other members, volunteering the time to do that bit extra on keeping the green & surroundings looking fantastic all year round.

With regard to volunteering their time to upkeep the green and the surroundings, I'd also like to thank George, Bob, Ali, Chris, John, Doug and Kenny.

Bar convener Suz Pirie. Suz wasn't going to take on this position this season, but laterally decided to accept our offer of the title as she done so much work this season in the smooth running of a very successful wee bar. Lots of work and effort has gone into running a bar, so I'd like to thank Suz and all the helpers throughout the season.

The other members of your committee of the season are Billy Allan, Liz, Groat, Alan, McRitchie, Cheryl, North and Lesley chapman.

I'd like to give a special mention to Carol Johnstone, who comes down every morning and cleans a clubhouse. Thank you very much, Carol it's well appreciated.

Throughout the season, we've had many events, social and Bowling events and often we have needed catering, so I'd like to thank everyone that helped out in the kitchen, providing food to everyone. A wee mention to Judy Stuart, Aileen Binnie, Keith Rose, and everyone else who helps during these occasions. I'm sorry if I have missed any names but thank you from the bottom of my heart.

About our successes on the green last year I'd like to thank everyone who represented Harlaw last season. We had wins and we had near misses, overall, you should be proud of everything you have achieved whether it's in bowling association tournaments, open tournaments, or our own club competitions. Enjoy your bowls and enjoy being a part of Harlaw Bowling Club.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer, Fiona Murray presented the general and bar accounts as follows:

General Account

We began the year 01/01/2023 with a bank balance total of £6,777.18, Income for 2023 - £28,292.97, expenditure for 2023 - £29,268.64 and closing balance of £5,901.51.

Increased energy and catering costs resulted in a small increase in membership fees in 2023, however the proposal is that these fees will remain as is for 2024.

Clubhouse expenses increased this year due to a number of activities, firstly the extension of our trophy cabinet including LED lighting and new storage in the lounge, replacement of lounge window, replacement of CCTV Unit and replacement of all front door, bar / storage door locks and new keys.

Miscellaneous expenses increased in 2023 with the purchase of a replacement Umpires Measuring Kit at £225 and travel/accommodation expenses for our talented players at £600, however this was offset with funding / sponsorship of £200 from Aberdeenshire Clubsport and £300 from the Blackbull Inverurie in support of our players attending the Scottish Championships.

All our Club Sponsors are a valuable asset to the club, supporting events, advertising boards and scorecards. Special thanks to Ian Gauld - Super Sixes, Mike Stuart, Whisky Shop – Invitational Pairs and the Lumsden Family – Club Triples, Booths – Scorecards and Nicky Littlejohn – Wednesday league Trophy.

Thanks also to those members who made donations in kind to the club, very much appreciated.

We had a very busy year with bowling and social events. Fund raising income shows a significant increase this year and is all attributed to all our members whether attending or volunteering and is hugely appreciated and significant in the prosperity of our Club. Fund raising expenses also increased due to the increased activity which include entertainment, catering, equipment and decorations. Our Ladies Day was another sell out event and we again made a donation to our chosen charity Friends of Anchor of £500.

Wednesday League was a huge success this year with around 30+ turning up most weeks during the summer months. A huge thank you to Covey and his team for organising us all and raising £1,496 for the club.

We have been very fortunate to secure funding from Awards for All National Lottery funding of £3,396 to purchase equipment and run a Try Bowls event for the youngsters in our community in April / May 2024. Thank you also goes to Ian Gauld for donating £240 towards our Junior Development Programme.

The members agreed to continue the contract with our Green Keepers, Dennis & Chris, for 2023 and we were delighted with the condition of the Green. Thanks also to Bob Waiter, George Simpson and all the volunteers who help to keep the green and outside areas of the club in great condition.

With the implementation of our Club Development Plan 2023-2027, we identified and implemented a number of high priority projects as a committee i.e. extension of the trophy cabinet & storage in main lounge, replacement of perimeter wall, assessment of kitchen – fit for purpose, honour boards, cabin and installation of WIFI. The development plan gives the Committee a structure to meetings and guides strategic direction for the future decisions of our Club, continually reviewed and evolving.

Bar Account

The closing balance in the bar account at 31st December 2023 is £31,284.99

Bar takings totalled £16,741.00 also £ 2,263.37 was banked in 2023 relating to sum up sales made over the bar (noted under Miscellaneous income in the General Account)

Bar stock was purchased totalling £9,203.62.

Cost of stock held in club at 31st December £3,000 approx

Thank you to Suz Pirie as our Bar Convenor for 2023 and all the volunteers who gave up their time to work behind the bar.

Finally, I would like to thank Bruce Stewart and Ian Cruickshank for checking and signing of the accounts for 2023.

No questions came from the floor regarding the Treasurers report and were accepted by Ron Falkiner and seconded by Bob Waiter.

Bruce Stewart and Ian Cruikshank were elected as the auditors for 2024 Accounts proposed by George Forsyth and seconded by Bill Allan.

Club Development

Secretary, John Murray presented the club development plan 2023-2027 which the 2023 committee had initiated and highlighted the achievements made on the plan during 2023 as detailed in the below table.

Achievements 2023					
Action	Lead	Supported by	Start Date	Completion Date	Progress / Comments
Replace perimeter wall rear of club - Autoparts boundary	B Waiter/ B Allan	Committee	06/07/2023	01/12/2023	Complete
Extend Trophy Cabinet/ add Lighting & address storage in lounge	F Murray	Committee	01/08/2023	30/12/2023	Complete
Junior Development – Awards for All Funding (To purchase bowls and Try bowls equipment & run Try bowls event)	F Murray	Committee	01/06/2023	01/09/2023	Awarded 60% grant £3,396
Create new flower beds to improve areas around clubhouse	B Waiter	Greens Volunteers	01/05/2023	30/12/2023	Complete
Replace Front Clubhouse Window – Glass shot	B Allan	Committee	01/04/2023	30/04/2023	Complete
Installation of Club WIFI	J Murray	Committee	01/07/2023	30/07/2023	Complete
Maintenance of Log Cabin – paint/ varnish	B Waiter	Committee	09/09/2023	Spring 2024	In progress
Replacement of Front Door, bar and bar store Locks and Keys, Create Key Register (Club laptop)	B Allan/ J Murray	Colin Tough Joinery	01/05/2023	01/06/2023	Complete
Club Honour Boards - Addition	F Maut	Committee	30/07/2023	01/03/2024	Ordered in progress
Club Sponsorship - Review existing & explore new opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club Kit, Event Sponsorship, Signage Boards, Match Boards, Junior Development Programme 	B Allan/ J Murray/ L Simpson	Committee	01/10/2023	31/12/2024	Ongoing
Try Bowls Event for Community	F Murray	Committee/ Stuart Bell SDO BS/ Volunteers	21/05/2023	21/05/2023	Complete
Recruitment & training of new volunteer bar staff	S Pirie	Committee	01/04/2023	01/09/2023	Complete Necessary for the clubhouse bar to operate
Replacement of CCTV System	J Murray	Committee	01/08/202	01/11/2023	Complete
Create Bowl Loan Area	F Murray	Committee	01/04/2023	01/09/2023	Encourage new members

John thanked Gordon Harper for his work maintaining the defibrillator and that Gordon would continue for 2024. John then stated that the Club will hold a defibrillator training session and asked for volunteers to attend and place their name on a participation list at the end of the AGM.

A key point in the club development plan is a review of the layout of the clubhouse with the committee asking members to vote to engage an architect to look to improve the space we occupy, particularly the lounge and kitchen area. It was explained even though we go ahead with the architect, the committee will still come back to the members to vote on the possible design solutions. All comments from the floor was supportive of this action with the proposal being carried forward 34 votes in favour and 1 against.

Honorarium 2024

The proposal for keeping the honorarium for Secretary and Treasurer at £200 and Bar Convenor to £250 was unanimously passed.

Fiona Murray, John Murray and Suz Pirie expressed their gratitude.

Proposals for 2024:

Secretary, John Murray introduced the proposals:

- a) Continue contract with Newmachar Golf Club Greenkeepers.

Continuation with Greenkeepers was unanimously accepted.

- b) Season 2024 Fees

Full Member	£70
Senior (60 and over at 1/4/24)	£55
Beginner	£50
Junior (under 18 as at 1/4/24)	£1
Non-playing (Not allowed to enter club competitions)	£15
Non-playing member game of bowls	£1
Visitor	£2
Locker	£5
Wednesday League (per game)	
Member	£2
Non-playing member	£3

All proposed fees were unanimously accepted.

AOCB:

It was announced that opening day of season 2024 would be Sunday 14th April.

A reminder of requesting participants to attend defibrillator training and to add your name to the training list after the AGM.

The friendly against Auchterarder was announced requesting people to get their names down as soon as possible to get transportation booked. There will be a reminder e-mail and post to Facebook. Bruce Stewart will manage the Harlaw participation for the Auchterarder match.

George Simpson asked about what was happening with the Andrew Hamilton Trophy and if Harlaw would be holding a tie. Fergus Muat explained the situation that Andrew Hamilton Trophy is being replaced by Scottish Cities and Counties Bowling Association event which will be of similar format to what the AHT was. Harlaw will hold a Aberdeenshire and Kincardine Trial on Sunday 28th April from 12:30 and we would also hold a tie against Angus on Saturday 18th May.

Cheryl North proposed the cleaner being added to the Honorariums for 2025. This was discussed and a proposal from George Forsyth and seconded by Bruce Stewart of free membership and £150 should be awarded. This was unanimously carried.

Cheryl North brought up the topic about the club becoming more environmentally friendly. This item is included in the club development plan but was acknowledged that we can improve on what we do just now.

Election of Committee for season 2024

The 2023 committee all stood down and Fergus Muat as past president, thanked all the committee on the tremendous work they had done and asked for proposals for the President.

The 2024 committee was voted in as:

President – Lee Simpson	Proposed: Aileen Binnie	Seconded: Raymond Stewart
Vice President – Vacant	Not filled but can be co-opted by committee.	
Secretary – John Murray	Proposed: Lee Simpson	Seconded: Garry Horne
Treasurer – Fiona Murray	Proposed: Fergus Muat	Seconded: Allan McRitchie
Match Gent's – Bruce Stewart	Proposed: Garry Horne	Seconded: Bill Allan
Ladies – Cheryl North	Proposed: Linda Waiter	Seconded: Suz Pirie
Bar Convenor – Suz Pirie	Proposed: Lee Simpson	Seconded: John Murray
Greens Convenor – Bob Waiter	Proposed: Fergus Muat	Seconded: Allan McRitchie

Additional Committee members:

Allan McRitchie
Liz Groat
Bill Allan
George Forsyth
Viv Humble
Charlie Reid

Carol Johnson accepted the cleaner role after being proposed by Cheryl North and seconded by Fiona Murray.

A vote of thanks went to the outgoing committee members Fergus Muat, Doug Fraser, Lucy Willox and Lesley Chapman.

Meeting closed at 3:20pm