

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Sunday 2nd February 2025 at 2pm

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

Thirty (30) members were in attendance.

Apologies came from Bill Allan, Bill Smith, Jennifer Ingram, Joyce Lawson, Ian Gauld, Sandra Gauld, Bruce Stewart.

2024 SGM and matters arising:

None.

2024 SGM minutes were accepted by Bob Waiter and seconded by Geoge Forsyth.

Presidents Report

Lee Simpson the President welcomed attendees to this year's AGM for season 2025.

Last season was another great season for Harlaw, well supported on the green, playing and maintaining, in the kitchen, bar and helping with social & fundraising events so well done to everyone involved. But before we get going I just want to mention members past & present that have sadly passed in the last year. Past members John Edmiston, Mary Reilly & Bill Cobban, life member Johnny McKay & member Ian Jaff Jaffray sadly were taken from us last year. Also a wee mention about the sad passing of John Nicol too, a member of Rothienorman and past member of House of Daviot BC & Harlaw BC!

Can I ask everyone to show their respect to those no longer with us.

On a better note I'd like

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.

Throughout the season your committee is 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 with regard to improving this club for seasons to come. At our monthly committee meetings there is still a development plan has been discussed and worked on. As members of this club, you have the right to have your say and the this is your best time to do that.

Anyway, In no particular order I'd like to thank the following;

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

Fiona Murray our treasurer and child, welfare, protection officer, a fantastic support to everyone, much appreciated.

Bruce Stewart & Dougie Fraser our gents, match secretary for his fantastic work & organisation.

Cheryl North 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.

Green warden Bob Waiter. Lots of hard work has went 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. Bar convener Suz Pirie with Coveys help, Suz works tirelessly throughout the year behind the bar. 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, covey, Liz Groat, Alan, McRitchie, Viv Humble & Charlie Reid.

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, Eileen Mitchell, Madge Mathers, Aileen Binnie, 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.

ADBLA Champion of Champions:

Linda Harper defeated in the final

Craigie Ladies

Lucy & Cheryl won pairs

2024 achievements;

A&K:

Top 5 beat Inverurie in the final at Pitmedden

Bowls Scotland

Fours team consisting of Bill Smith, Gordon Harper, Fraser Ross and Finlay Ross have qualified for the National Finals at Ayr. Liam Willox has again qualified for Ayr in the under 25's.

Linda Harper has qualified for finals of senior ladies and Lucy Willox has qualified for under 25's and Ladies.

Well done to everyone who has represented Harlaw in every way, and here's to another very successful season.

I will be stepping down as President and I wish the new committee every success. I know that every member will do their best to support you.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer, Fiona Murray presented the general account as follows:

Summary Sheet only provided. Accounts have been checked and verified by Bruce Stewart and Ian Cruickshank.

We ended the year with a healthy bank balance of £32,352.55.

In April 24 with the agreement of the Committee I merged the Bar Account and General Account into one bank account. The reasons primarily for better understanding of income and expenditure across departments and to reduce administration processes. This explains the large rise in Income total for 2024 against Income total 2023.

2024 Harlaw welcomed several new members to the club which now stands at a health 154 including playing and non-playing members resulting in an increase in fee/locker income. Furthermore, we are ever grateful to those who gave the club donations this year. A huge thank you to our Wednesday League Team and attendees for raising an amazing £1,500.

Fund raising and events brought in an amazing £11,951 in 2024 between bowling and social events. This income makes a huge difference to our club funds and the committee cannot thank everyone who supports and runs these events enough for their continued support.

Our Sponsorship Team worked hard increasing our profile in Inverurie and recruited several new sponsors to the club this year as you will see from the new boards appearing around the perimeter of the green increasing our annual sponsorship income. In addition, the club secured a further 3-year sponsorship deal from Specsavers to the value of £3k.

Large expenditure items for 2024 include the perimeter wall, which was completed at the start of the year at a cost of £4,071, our Greens Maintenance Contract continued at a cost of £4,400 and we purchased bowls, storage and equipment for our Junior Development Programme at a cost of £3,401 (funding provided in 2023 from Lottery Fund).

Association & Competition costs saw an increase due to the £1,600 provided to funding of 7 talented players who represent Harlaw at the Scottish Championships in Ayr. The club was very proud to have so many representatives qualified to represent our club.

Other expenditure Highlights are listed below 2024

- New Honor Boards - £631 – Annual Trophies & Engraving
- Removal Dead Tree £450 - Greens
- Maintenance of Cabin £430 (Paint) – Pavilion / Shed
- Coach hire Auchterarder Visit - £760 – Administration
- Clubhouse Electrics Upgrade £616 – Clubhouse
- New Provision of Broadband - £504 – Tv/Mobile/Broadband
- New Cabin Door £828 - Clubhouse

As at 31st December 2024	As at 31st December 2023
Bar Account £ 0	Bar Account £31,284.99
General Account £32,352.55	General Account £ 5,901.51
Total £32,352.55	Total £37,186.50

Total assets	Total assets
31st Dec 2024	31st Dec 2023
Bar £ 0	Bar £ 31,284.99
General £ 32,352.55	General £ 5,901.51
Cash in hand £ 861.00	Cash in hand £ 681.00
Stock £ 2,699.60	Bar stock £ 3,022.00
Total £ 35,913.15	Total £40,889.50

No questions came from the floor regarding

The Treasurers report and accounts were accepted by Fergus Muat and seconded by Cheryl North.

Bruce Stewart and Ian Cruikshank were elected as the auditors for 2025 Accounts.

Club Development

Update of plan – get agreement for groundworks

Fiona Murray Overall Development Plan Achievements for 2024. The Committee has worked very hard to achieve them and huge thanks to all involved.

I won't go through each one you can read them at your leisure, but they all have impacted on how we operate as a club going forward from building club capacity for the future and engaging with the wider Inverurie Community.

As part of our Club House Development programme as discussed at the last AGM, we asked for approval to seek advice from a local architect, which it still in the programme. However, before we did this, we felt there were other issues to discuss first.

So, in June 24 we set up a Working Group to primarily work on the Clubhouse Development programme with Bruce Stewart as Lead along with myself, John Murray, Charlie Reid, George Forsyth and Bill Allan.

We initially identified the following

- Address Disabled Access to the Cabin – which was a prerequisite when it was erected
- Better utilisation of the Cabin – used as a storage area and occasionally visitor changing
- Investigate opportunities to increase size of main lounge
- Investigate opportunities to increase size of kitchen – convert to a commercial standard kitchen
- Address Storage issues

Progress to date

- Addressing the Disabled Access to the Cabin - A new door has been installed on the left side of the Cabin – this will give us the opportunity to place a ramp down.
- Better utilisation of the Cabin – The Group discussed how the Cabin could be better used and free up space in the Clubhouse. A staged approach was suggested which will make better use of the Cabin, address the storage issues and give opportunities for expansion of the lounge and / or kitchen.

The committee proposes for Stage 1:

- To tar a large area of ground to the rear of the clubhouse/cabin to the back gate – picture attached
- To erect a large storage shed – for all bowls/events equipment
- To relocate the Locker Room to the Cabin - using existing lockers and benches plus additional benches
- Engage with a local architect to investigate reconfiguration of lounge/kitchen/gents & ladies toilets
-

STAGE 2 - Dependant of architect advice

- Reconfiguration of toilet facilities into existing locker room area (estimated 2026)

STAGE 3

- Increase kitchen size by 100% - to a commercial kitchen (estimated 2027)

Today we are seeking approval to move forward with the Stage 1, the proposal to tar the area to the rear of the cabin

Tarring area per Plan – we received quotes from 2 companies the 1st Quote being £8,125 and the 2nd Quote of £14,022.88

We would like to ask the Members to give their approval for Quote 1 £8,125

Other costs involved in the project include:

- Galvanised Storage Shed 10 x 13 ft £ 1,000
- Additional Shelving for Shed - storage £ 300
- Lighting for Shed £ 200
- Additional Benches for Seating in Cabin £1,082
- £2,582
- Architect costs £2,000 estimate as have no idea of costs

The proposal was unanimously accepted, and Fiona will contact the Company providing quote 1 to get the work scheduled as soon as possible, aiming to be completed for the start of the season.

Honorarium 2025

The proposal for keeping the honorarium for cleaner at £150, the Secretary and Treasurer at £200 and Bar Convenor to £250 was proposed and adjusted to keep the cleaner at £150, the Secretary and Treasurer at £200 and increase the Bar Convenor to £300. This unanimously passed.

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

Proposals for 2025:

President, Lee Simpson, introduced the proposals:

- a. Constitution updates
 - i. Rewording of clause 2.4 from
“The Committee shall have the powers to fill any vacancy occurring in either Committee during the year.”
To
“The Committee shall have the powers to fill any vacancy occurring in any Club Committee during the year.”

Unanimously accepted.
 - ii. Amend clause 5.1.5 to remove Junior membership from Ordinary category and add new clause for Junior category to be consistent with clause 5.1.3 from
“Ordinary Members – Full, Senior, Beginner and Junior members who have paid their Annual Club Subscriptions shall be ordinary members of the Club. Junior members shall be persons under 18 years of age on April 1st of the playing year. Senior Members shall be persons over 60 years of age on April 1st of the year. A minimum number of 30 Ordinary Members shall be required to constitute the Club”
To

“Ordinary Members – Full, Senior and Beginner members who have paid their Annual Club Subscriptions shall be ordinary members of the Club. Senior Members shall be persons over 60 years of age on April 1st of the year. A minimum number of 30 Ordinary Members shall be required to constitute the Club”

AND ADD

“Junior Members – Junior members shall be persons under 18 years of age on April 1st of the playing year who have paid their Annual Club Subscriptions.”

Unanimously accepted.

- iii. Amend Clause 5.1.7 to remove limit on non-playing members from

“Non-playing Members – Men and women over the age of 18 may be admitted as non-playing members of the Club up to a number not exceeding fifty-five on payment of the appropriate subscription. Non-playing members shall be admitted for social activities only, shall have no voice on the Management of the Club, but they shall be permitted to introduce visitors up to a maximum of three”

To

“Non-playing Members – Men and women over the age of 18 may be admitted as non-playing members of the Club upon payment of the appropriate subscription. Non-playing members shall be admitted for social activities only, shall have no voice on the Management of the Club, but they shall be permitted to introduce visitors up to a maximum of three”

Unanimously accepted.

- iv. Remove Clause 6.4

“An individual who makes application and duly becomes a playing member of Harlaw Bowling Club for the ensuing season is deemed to be a member of Harlaw Bowling Club only and cannot during this period, become a playing member of any other outdoor bowling club.”

Discussion took place regarding the history behind this clause but after agreeing that the trustees will meet prior to Opening day and create a new bye-law to provide clarity of the responsibility of any member that has joined more than one outdoor bowling club this was unanimously accepted.

- v. Amend Clause 8.1 from

“The Bar Convenor shall be responsible for ensuring the sale of alcoholic liquor is carried out in accordance with the Club Licence & Operating Plan, as required by the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. He/she shall prepare an annual statement of audited accounts for presentation to the AGM.”

To

“The Bar Convenor shall be responsible for ensuring the sale of alcoholic liquor is carried out in accordance with the Club Licence & Operating Plan, as required by the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.”

Unanimously accepted.

b) Continue contract with Newmachar Golf Club Greenkeepers.

Continuation with Greenkeepers was unanimously accepted.

c) Season 2025 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:

Lee shared that we are once again against holding an A&K match on Saturday May 10th for which we need many volunteers, especially ones to do the scoring which we were short of last year.

It was announced that we will be holding two Bowls Scotland courses, Introduction to Bowls on Sunday May 4th from noon-2pm and Level 1 coaching on June 1st from 9am – 4pm.

It was announced that opening day of season 2025 would be Sunday 13th April and Closing Day Sunday September 14th.

George Simpson thanked the committee for the work on the club development and wished to ask for the defibrillator training to be an annual event. Fiona will check into this and scheduled.

Election of Committee for season 2025

The 2024 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 2025 committee was elected:

President – George Forsyth

Vice President – Vacant

Not filled but can be co-opted by committee.

Secretary – John Murray

Treasurer – Fiona Murray

Match Gent's – Bruce Stewart

Ladies – Cheryl North

Bar Convenor – Suz Pirie

Greens Convenor – Bob Waiter

Additional Committee members:

Doug Fraser

Allan McRitchie

Liz Groat

Bill Allan

Viv Humble

Charlie Reid

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

A vote of thanks went to the outgoing President Lee Simpson.

Meeting closed at 3:15pm