

HARLAW BOWLING CLUB
Minutes of Committee Meeting
Monday, 10 February 2025 at 7 p.m.

Present: George Forsyth; Suz Pirie; Liz Groat; Vivian Humble; Fiona Murray; John Murray; Bruce Stewart; Raymond Warrender; Bob Waiter; Cheryl North; Doug Fraser

Apologies: Bill Allan; Charles Reid; Allan McRitchie; Lee Simpson

1. President's Welcome

George Forsyth, the new President, opened the meeting and thanked all the members of the new Committee for giving their time to the Club. He announced that Bruce Stewart had agreed to be Vice-President and welcomed Raymond Warrender who has been co-opted onto the Committee. He also gave his thanks to Lee Simpson, Past President, for the work he has done over the last two years acknowledging how difficult it is to balance home, work and Club commitments.

Review and acceptance of Minutes from 13 January 2025 meeting

Approved by Fiona Murray and Seconded by Liz Groat

2. Actions from Previous Meeting

Relating To	Who	What	By When	Status
Events	Lee, Fiona, John	Prepare AGM reports, agenda and communicate to members	2 Feb	Closed
Events	Fiona	Confirm dates and entertainment for 2025/26 events	Apr	
Dev Plan	Fiona	Contact Pete Young to work with Schools in 2025	Apr	
Dev Plan	John	Complete receipt of bar t-shirts	Feb	Closed
Dev Plan	Fiona/Bill	Order new club sign and car park sign	Apr	In progress
Dev Plan	Fiona/John	Establish and build a website	Apr	In progress
AOCB	John/Bruce	Reply to A&K	Feb	Closed
AOCB	Bill/John	Update sponsors' contact details	Apr	
AOCB	John/Fiona	Enter Bowls Scotland competitions	Feb	Closed

3. Treasurer's Report

Statement 31 December 2024	£32,352.55
Statement 31 January 2025	£34,596.05

Expenses January 2025

Colin Tough - Installation of Cabin door £504

Sponsorship from AM Shellfish, Brimmond and MGD still outstanding.

Costs for Website

Website, 3 years - £259.20

Domain Names plus security, 5 years - £108.62

Paid - January 2025

Events

Ladies' Day (23 August 2025) Alex and Neil providing entertainment costing £150 each (£300)

60s/70s Night (25 October 2025) Neil Mellis booked

Burns' Supper (24 January 2026) Neil Mellis booked

4. Bar Report

The Poker Night on Friday, 7 February 2025 was successful with 7 players and some customers in the bar. Bar takings were approximately £100. Next Poker Night will be on Friday, 14 March 2025.

5. Greens Report

A meeting will be arranged, within the next two weeks, to discuss with the green-keepers the contract and cost for the coming year. The President and Raymond Warrender to attend.

Weather permitting the green will be cut again soon. George Simpson has ordered the materials for fertilising the green. Bob to liaise with Suz on how best to pay for materials in the Treasurer's absence.

A&K Match - Saturday, 10 May 2025. It was agreed that a planner should be drawn up with all the requirements needed for the day, i.e. Volunteers, Refreshments/Food, Bar etc. Bruce Stewart to co-ordinate.

6. Match Report

Entries for Bowls Scotland have been done.

Friday Bon-Accord Mixed Triples League - there is an opportunity to enter 2 teams this year but this will clash with the A&K Open Triples League. Bruce and Cheryl to decide if 1 or 2 squads per League should be entered. Each squad should be responsible for its team selection. Entries by 14 February 2025.

Honours Board - Fergus is still waiting for new quotation. He has queried if the Top Five should also be recognised on the Honours Board.

The A&K AGM will be held on Tuesday, 18 February 2025.

7. New Club Kit

Lee is dealing with the ordering etc. Fiona will contact Lee regarding payment.

8. Club Development Programme

- a) Club Redesign: No further update since AGM
- b) Sponsorship: Sponsorship boards are still on-going and will be completed and positioned. Jacket sponsorship also on-going - hopefully a sponsor will be found
- c) Marketing:
 - i. New wall sign has been finalised and is ready for printing (cost £504 incl. VAT). The sign should be ready for pickup/delivery first week of April. Need to confirm a date with Colin Tough for erecting the sign. The Website will not go live until the sign is up
 - ii. A new A-frame pavement sign has been purchased and 2 A2 posters have been ordered. These will direct drivers to the parking area behind Autoparts. Cost of posters will be £15 each plus £20 set up (£50).
 - iii. Fiona is making good progress with the Website but she would like to hear from Members who have ideas about the content they would like to have included. She hopes to launch the website no later than Wednesday, 9 April 2025 and she would welcome any suggestions by at least Friday, 4 April 2025
- d) Junior Development:
 - i. Fiona reported that Harlaw cannot sign up to work with schools until we have Level 1 coaches in place to deliver sessions. The course is on 1 June 2025 so she will be in touch with Pete Young around that time. She will advertise the Intro to Bowls course around that time

9. Events 2025

Burns' Night. A very successful evening. Neil Mellis has been booked for this event in January 2026. Fiona suggested that the price of tickets for the social evenings needs to be looked at as the cost of ingredients for the meals has increased somewhat

- a) Opening Day. There have been a few suggestions as to who should be invited to open the green on Sunday, 13 April 2025. The names put forward are Colin Tough,

Bill Catto, Margaret McDonald and Michael Higgins (SpecSavers). It is up to the President as to who he chooses to open the green

- b) Try Bowls date. The date for this event has still to be agreed. President to liaise with Fiona
- c) It was suggested that the number of entrants could be increased for the Invitational Pairs on Sunday, 15 June 2025. Committee to discuss at next meeting
- d) Super Six date. This has been provisionally earmarked for Saturday, 9 August 2025 and will be discussed the next meeting
- e) Ladies' Day. This very popular event will take place on Saturday, 23 August 2025 with Neil Mellis providing the entertainment

Suz suggested that 10 round tables should be purchased for the club as it makes it easier to set up the room for events. These tables cost around £100 each and 10 would be required. The Committee unanimously agreed to the purchase of the tables and perhaps a fund raiser could be held to help defray the cost of the tables.

10. Correspondence

None

11. AOCB

a) The Committee will meet before the start of the season to decide on a form of words for a bye-law regarding the criteria for multiple bowling club memberships

- b) Fiona suggested setting up a Social/Events Group to consist of a Lead (link to main Committee and Match Committee); Bar Convenor; Kitchen Convenor (tbc); Club Cleaner and other Volunteers. The purpose of this Group would be to:
 - i. Plan annual social/events calendar- approved by Main Committee at the start of the year
 - ii. Refer to events folder- past events planning forms
 - iii. Liaise with Match Committee- bowls events
 - iv. Work with caterers to organise event catering
 - v. Liaise with club cleaner
 - vi. Purchase materials necessary for events
 - vii. Design of marketing materials
 - viii. Liaise with social media and website team to market events
 - ix. Sell tickets for events and set up process with Treasurer for payments
- c) Fiona also proposed setting up a Bowls Development Group consisting of Lead (link to Main Committee); Introduction to Bowls Coaches; Level 1 Coaches; Other Volunteers and the CWPO. The purpose of this Group would be to:
 - a. Organise annual Try Bowls events
 - b. Organise adult and child coaching sessions
 - c. Plan future training courses at HBC from Bowls Scotland
 - d. Liaise with CWPO - PVG Scheme
 - e. Liaise with Inverurie Schools Active Schools Officer - access to schools
 - f. Any other business to be discussed
- d) Raymond and Fiona to look into organising a defibrillator refresher course

- e) Covey will continue to run the Wednesday League which will run from 14 May to 10 September 2025 (17 weeks)
- f) The President thanked Viv for taking the minutes

12. Actions Required

Relating To	Who	What	By When	Status
Dev Plan	Fiona	Contact Pete Young to work with Schools in 2025	Apr	
Dev Plan	Fiona	Complete work on new website	Apr	
AOCB	Bill/John	Update sponsors' contact details	Apr	
Greens	Bob/Covey/Raymond	Meeting with green-keepers – contract and costs	Mar	
AOCB	Bruce	Draw up plan re requirements for A&K match on 10 May	Apr	
Match	Bruce/Cheryl	Entries for Friday Bon-Accord Mixed Triples League	Feb	
Club Dev	Lee	Order new Club shirts, etc	Mar	
Events	Covey	Invitation to Open Green on 13 April	Mar	
Events	Committee	Increase number of entries for Invitational Pairs on 15 June?	Mar/Apr	
Events	Committee	Date of Super Six competition – 9 August?	Mar/Apr	
AOCB	Committee	Bye-Law re criteria for multiple bowling club memberships	Apr	
AOCB	Committee	Set up Social/Events Group	Apr	
AOCB	Committee	Set up Bowls Development Group	Apr	
AOCB	Fiona/Raymond	Organise defibrillator refresher course	Apr	
Events	Fiona/Covey	Date for Try Bowls day	Mar	

Next Meeting: Monday, 3 March 2025 at 7 p.m.

Meeting Closed at 8.30 p.m.