

## **Prees Cricket and Recreation Club**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 13th of February 2019**

#### ***Welcome***

Mr Ray Grocott, Club President, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the 87th AGM and our 13<sup>th</sup> year in this clubhouse.

There were 25 members present with 7 apologies received.

Ray reported that the Club had another successful year in 2018. He said that we may have a brilliant place here but it was nothing without the people. He thanked Gary and Jan and all the bar staff for the great job they do. Also, Kevin, Duncan and Len for the way they keep the grounds in such good shape, Phil and John for keeping the Club well maintained and improved, Lawrence and Maggie with entertainment and functions, Paul keeping our books balanced and Vinny in the Chair. On behalf of the Club Ray expressed his thanks to all the volunteers and sports coaches who give their time to the club since without them we would not be where we are today. He said he was proud to be part of a great Club and please carry on.

#### ***2. Members Remembrance.***

**A period of silence was held to remember Ron Stuffins, Sandra Batkin, Mike Walmsley and Andy Peate who had sadly died during the year.**

#### ***3. Presentation of the Simon Lines Shield***

The Chairman presented the Simon Lines shield.

The 2018 winner is Joan Groom

Her nomination read:

She is a great captain, coaches the new bowlers, she is inspirational, always had a joke and nothing is too much trouble. She is always encouraging.

Joan is a stalwart of the bowling section, bowling in Division 1 for more years than can be remembered! She is also part of the North Shropshire Ladies County Team. When taking part in a County game she is also representing Prees Bowls Club. Joan carries out unseen tidying of the bowls huts. Our Jacks are always tested and in date, because Joan makes sure that they are. She carries out these tasks quietly and doesn't expect any thanks.

Vinny said that Simon would have been delighted with this award as he enjoyed partnering Joan when he bowled. He presented the shield to Alan Groom on Joan's behalf.

#### ***4. Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting.***

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 14th February 2018 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the chair.

#### ***5. Chairman's Report***

The Chairman said he wanted to reiterate the Presidents thanks for all the efforts of the members and volunteers and for the work they do for the Club. He reported that 2018 had been another good year with membership numbers remaining good.

The Bowls and Junior Football sections go from strength to strength and the Cricket section, although struggling, is hoping to recover. We are planning further investment in the Club in 2019 with installation of new tills in the bar and a new storage facility for all the equipment.

Vinny thanked Gary and Jan Dawson and their staff for the great job they do and for making the club so welcoming to all our visitors and members. He also thanked the Treasurer, Secretary and the committee for the work they do throughout the year for the club and Ray for the continued support he gives to the Club.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

Paul talked about his experience at the old Prees Club and how many of their Committee had seen this new club as the future and moved here. Compared with the old club this was a huge undertaking and there were concerns that it might be a white elephant. It was reckoned that we would need to take £3k – 4k on the bar to finance it which would be quite a challenge. However, the appointment of Gary and Jan proved to be the key to making this happen and to the success that we now have. Paul expressed his thanks for all they do and have done.

Paul presented the 2018 set of accounts and printed copies were circulated. He went through each line of the income and expenditure account and the balance. The following points were highlighted:

- Bar sales, which is the most important figure on income, stood at £181.3k and was up £7k on 2017 with a healthy margin of 57.47%. Gross profit was up £3.5k on last year.
- Membership very similar to 2017.
- Sports sections income was £7,968 which came from match fees for football, bowls cricket etc.
- Income from the hire of facilities for sports and football plus room hire at £19,497 was up £2.1k on 2017.
- Wages at £82,278 were £7k up on 2017.
- Entertainment and fundraising income was £8k and thanks go to Maggie Allen for this with the extra entertainment functions she has organised and the work of Lawrence. Costs were £10,578 which includes the SKY TV costs, the PPL licence, Spotify and artists fees. This figure does not reflect the increased bar takings as a result of these events.
- Grants and donations at £8.7k was mainly for the reseeded and tractor repairs donated by the President who Paul thanked.
- Electricity cost were up £1,300 on 2017 at £7.8k but we have received £5.7k for our solar panel generation.
- Maintenance costs were £27,052 which covered improvement of the grounds and the clubhouse and Paul thanked Kevin, Duncan and Phil for their efforts.
- There was an excess of income over expenditure of £4,812 but we are a non-profit club and all monies are reinvested in the club. Paul said that we are still in a healthy position and continue to improve our assets.
- The total capital and reserves stand at £782,197 which is the net worth of the Club.
- The figures do not include the Junior football section who have their own bank account but make a big contribution to the club in both monies and equipment.
- Our bank account shows a credit of £32k which is artificially high as most of it is committed to funding the new tills and storage facility.

In summary Paul stated that 2018 had been an excellent year but we still have a challenge for 2019

The President thanked the Treasurer, on behalf of the Members, for his professionalism and the work he does for the Club.

## 7. Sporting Section Reports

### BOWLS

**Sue Taylor provided the following report:**

- A new team of new bowlers, a promotion and no relegations signifies an excellent 2018 season for the Bowling Section.
- As usual a massive thank you to all the captains, Matt Blackhurst, John Taylor, Dan Whelan, Geoff Warner, Tony Pugh, Julia Davies, Audrey Richards, Dave Price and especially to Joan Groom for captaining our new team of mostly new bowlers. Also, a massive thank you to green keeper, Kevin Moulton, who cannot control the weather, although I'm sure he'd love to be able to!! It would make his job so much easier.
- I would like to mention Adrian Bromfield, who reached the final of the Norman Ford Trophy, beating quite a few of Shropshire's top bowlers along the way.
- Also, after 46 years a Prees team have finally won the Whitchurch League Jubilee Doubles, beating Audlem A in the final, held at Nantwich Park Road Bowls Club. Our team for the final, captained by Matt Blackhurst was: Matt and Dan Blackhurst, Ben and Luke Grocott, Grant and Brian Hickson, Chris Allmark and Tim Hocknell, Jason Davies and Joan Groom, Andrew Hayward and Tom Cooper.  
To get to the final, Prees A beat: Woore A, Hammer A, Chester Road C, AWC C, and Malpas Sports A. Team

members also included: Dave Bradbury, Vin Lines, Richard Wildigg, and John Smith. Well done to the lads, and one lass!

- Our AGM was held in January, attended by 41 bowlers – all teams have captains, who are busy contacting bowlers for the start of the 2019 season, which starts during the first week in April.
- An Open Afternoon is being held on 24<sup>th</sup> March, which will, hopefully, attract a few more bowlers and members to the club.

All bowlers plan to have a successful, enjoyable 2019 season, individually and for Prees Bowls Club.

## **FOOTBALL**

### **Prees Senior's Football:**

There was no representation from the Senior Football management team.

### **Prees Junior Football Report – Alan Groom (Chairman)**

- First of all, Alan thanked the main committee for all their support over the last 12 months and particularly Duncan and Phil for all the improvements they have done. Marking of the pitches with the various combinations is a difficult job.
- The pitches were reseeded in April thanks to Ray which was followed by a very dry summer and it was only due to the Club's water supply that the reseeding was successful.
- We attended an awards ceremony at the Lord Hill in June and were surprised to discover that we had won the Shropshire FA Respect award and also the Community Club of the year award.
- The summer tournament was a huge success with 144 teams attending over the two weekends and around 1500 youngsters. It was a great time with the world cup on the big screen and the BBQ.
- September is getting busy as we have 15 teams with 220 youngsters. There will be 9 boys and 5 girl's teams.
- We are looking at growing to 20 teams which logistically will be very difficult.
- We operate a pay to play system so all players must be members.
- In November a Photo Company came to do a photo shoot we had been awarded. They shot £1,000 worth of photos for free.
- Our crèche for 4 – 7 year olds is coached by Jonny Hughes. We heavily invest in this as we consider this important since these children are the Club's future.
- We have invested in new equipment- goal, pop up sprinklers, 2 temporary fold down floodlights etc. to the value of £10k.
- Alan thanked Gary and Jan for the hospitality they provide to the footballers it is recognised by all the teams as the best in Shropshire.
- On the 24<sup>th</sup> of March there will be a football comp involving around 12 teams.

The Chairman thanked all the coaches and volunteers for their efforts in making the football section so successful.

## **CRICKET**

Brian Hughes reported:

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- We have withdrawn from mid-week evening league for 2019. It is intended that we will have a local evening competition involving 3 other local sides in a round robin. Lawrence has agreed to provide some music and Gary to BBQ so that they will be fun evenings in an attempt to encourage more youngster to the Club.
- We continue to struggle to recruit new players which seems to be common to most Cricket Clubs. With no cricket exposure on terrestrial TV and the long Saturday afternoons commitment required throughout the summer the youngsters are not taking up cricket. Alan Groom suggested that we should put flyers out on a Friday when many youngsters are at the club for training.

## **DARTS AND DOMINOES**

Dave Price gave a report on the Darts and Dominoes teams:

We play in the Wem Tuesday night league.

## Darts

- At last year's AGM 2017/2018 season the darts team were lying 8th in the league and in the semi final of the consolation cup. At the end of the season we finished 7th in the league and lost in the final of the consolation cup.
- This season 2018/19, after 16 games, we are lying 8th in the league and lost in the quarter final of the consolation cup.

## Dominoes

- At last years AGM the dominoes team were lying 4th in the league and were in the quarter final of the consolation cup. At the end of the season we finished 2nd in the league and won the consolation cup.
- This season, after 16 games, we are lying 4th in the league and are in the semi-final of the cup.

## ANGLING

Duncan Austin presented the report for the Angling Section.

- It has been a strange year and we have lost around 10 members.
- The Sunday Competition was won by Andy Peate but there was no Friday Competition held.
- The waters are still fishing well.

## WEIGHTLIFTING

Chris Green provided a report:

- The weightlifting centre is standing its ground at the moment, albeit a bit of a struggle, but things are moving in the right direction.
- We are now competing at British level and we recently won 4 Silver medals at our first British competition with one of our 12-year-old girls just missing out on a Gold medal spot.
- I have arranged a meeting with British weightlifting here at the club on Friday the 29th of March with the Midlands Development Officer. I am hoping to get some help and advice from them on moving forward and funding.
- Also we are going to look at putting on competitions here in the future for Kids and Youth lifters with a view to putting on a British Championship eventually. Hopefully the club is still in favour of me going down this route so with this in mind I plan to have a British Champion produced from this club very soon.

### **8. Election of President, Vice Presidents and Trustees.**

Trustees: Paul Prince, Mike McGee, Phil Hodges,  
Brian Hughes, Vincent Lines, Mark Perkins  
Alan Groom, Neil Sadler,  
Rep from Prees Parish Council – Mr Joe Whelan

The following nominations were proposed and seconded and were approved by the Members.

Post	Nomination	Proposed by	Seconded by
President	Mr Ray Grocott	Vinny Lines	Brian Hughes
Vice Presidents	Mrs A Walmsley, Mr R Chambers, Mr J Gleave, Mr A Hocknell, Mr D Smout, Mr J Taylor,	Vinny Lines	Jo Whelan

### **10. Election of Officers and Committee**

All existing committee members were happy to stand with the exception of Sarah Stevenson who is stepping down.

Post	Nomination	Proposed By	Seconded by
Chairman	Mr Vinny Lines	Ray Grocott	Neale Sadler

Vice Chairman	Mr Neale Sadler	Phil Hodges	Ray Grocott
Treasurer	Mr Paul Prince	Vinny Lines	Mike McGee
Secretary	Mr Brian Hughes	Ray Grocott	Vinny Lines
Club Premises Chair	Mr Phil Hodges	Vinny Lines	Ray Grocott
Club Grounds Chair	Duncan Austin	Brian Hughes	Neale Sadler
Health and Safety Chair	Mr Joe Whelan	Alan Smith	Phil Hodges
General Representative	Mr Alan Smith	Vinny Lines	Ian Stevenson
General Representative	Mr John Gleave	Phil Hodges	Neale Sadler
General Representative	Mr Ian Stevenson	Brian Hughes	Paul Prince
General Representative	Mrs Amber Noss	Vinny Lines	Alan Smith

The secretary advised that the following ex officio members will also serve on the committee:

<b>Ex Officio Member</b>	<b>Role</b>
Mr Ian Stevenson	Membership Secretary
Mr Brian Hughes	Website
Mr Lawrence Allen	Function Support
Mr Joe Whelan	Prees Parish Council nominated representative
Mrs Maggie Allen	Entertainment
Mrs Sue Taylor	Bowls Section Secretary
Mr Peter Richards	Cricket Section
Mr Dave Price	Darts and Dominoes Section
Mr Alan Groom	Football - Junior Section Chairman
Mark Perkins	Junior Football
Kris Morris	Girls - Junior Football
Mr Ray Williams	Football - Adult Men's Section
Mr Duncan Austin	Angling Section.
Mr Chris Green	Weightlifting

## **9. Subscriptions and Membership**

There was no report on membership

The meeting discussed the membership fee for the year 2020 and it was unanimously agreed that it would remain unchanged.

Vinny informed the meeting that we are installing new tills which will have a membership card swipe capability.

All members will be issued with a swipe card which will be presented at the bar when purchasing drinks. Any non-member purchasing drink will be charged a surcharge for their drinks. This will be an incentive to encourage regular club users to pay their membership fees.

## **10. Any Other Business**

Brian Hughes circulated a proposed amendment to the Club Constitution rule 13 which replaced the club's disciplinary procedure.

This was agreed by the meeting.

Also, a change to rule 3 to move the AGM date from January to February to allow the Treasurer time to produce the end of year figures.

This too was agreed by the meeting

Jan Dawson thanked the Committee for all the support she and Gary receive during the year which makes their job easier.

Sue Taylor reported that the Midlands Masters tournament is being held here in September which is further testament to the quality of our facilities.

**The next AGM was scheduled for Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 starting at 1930 hrs.**

Minutes accepted as a true record.....Chair.....Date.