

Prees Cricket and Recreation Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 14th of February 2018

1. Welcome

Mr Ray Grocott, Club President, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the 86th AGM and our 12th year in this clubhouse.

There were 17 members present with 7 apologies received.

Ray reported that the Club had another successful year in 2017 within the club and with the sports activities. The Club was continually being improved and maintained to a high level with money being reinvested. This was due to the great team we have. Gary and Jan and their team Wanda, Joanna, Dave, Andy doing a great job with the bar and activities. Phil, Duncan, and John doing all the outside work and Mark and his team with the junior football. Ian on membership, 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.

2. Members Remembrance.

A period of silence was held to remember Eric Neville and David Davies who had sadly died during the year.

Also, our best wishes go out to the Chris Green on the death of his father today.

3. Presentation of the Simon Lines Shield

For the first time the Simon Lines award has been awarded jointly.

The Junior Football section has gone from strength to strength in recent years. It not only provides excellent sporting opportunity for a host of young people but with it's hugely successful summer tournament it contributes greatly towards the Club which in turn helps to maintain and improve our facilities. This involves a huge amount of work and organisation and in recognition of this, this years award goes to Mark Perkins and Kris Morris for the enormous contribution they make. The Chairman thanked them and all the people who support them and presented the shield to Mark.

4. Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 8th February 2017 were confirmed as a correct record, with one change to correct the date the AGM took place, and signed by the chair.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending on such wintry evening particularly on Valentine's day. He reported that 2017 had been another good year with membership numbers remaining good. The Club facilities and appearance remain excellent with monies continually being reinvested and we are the envy of many bigger towns. He expressed his thanks to all the team captains and a particular thanks to young Dan Whelan who has volunteered to captain a bowls team which has brought our strength up to that of last year. 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.

Vinny 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 presented the 2017 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 £174.3k and was up 2% on 2016 with a healthy margin of 57.55%. Paul thanked Gary and all his staff for a tremendous effort
- Membership at £3,775 was down but this was due to the change in the membership year for the football section and there is no actual decline in membership. There is a small discrepancy between Paul's figures and Ian's figures which is probably due to an admin error but is too small to justify lengthy investigation.

- Sports sections income was £9,343 which came from match fees for football, bowls cricket etc.
- Income from the hire of facilities for sports and football plus room hire at £17,367 was up £1.3k on 2016.
- Wages at £75,266 were £3k down on 2016 and Paul thanked Gary for his management in achieving this.
- 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 £10,877 which includes the SKY TV costs, the PPL licence and artists fees. This figure does not reflect the increased bar takings as a result of these events.
- Maintenance costs were £22,823 which covered improvement of the grounds and the clubhouse.
- There was an excess of income over expenditure of £1,052 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 stands at £777,384 which is the net worth of the Club.
- We have changed banks to Barclays and now have on line banking facilities with 6 months free banking. This make life very much easier for us.
- Experience shows that if bar profit covers wages and club maintenance then we should be ok.

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

7. Sporting Section Reports

BOWLS

Sarah Stevenson provided the following report:

I would like to first thank everyone, particularly Vinny Lines Club Chairman, and Captains for their support, in my first season as Secretary. It was a challenging year as we were forced to withdraw 3 teams at the beginning of the season due to lack of players. Unfortunately, we were charged for one of these teams, as the decision was not made early enough. I would also like to thank Kevin Moulton for maintaining the greens to such a high standard, and for cutting them, often at short notice. Gary and his team have been very supportive also, making sure that when we pay our subscriptions and match fees, they get recorded appropriately, making my job (in the absence of a Bowls Treasurer) easier.

We have had a successful 2017 as follows:

In the Whitchurch League:

- The A team held their own in Division 1
- The B team came top of Division 3 and will go up to Division 2
- It is likely that Prees D will move to Division 6
- The Barlows team played well and will retain their position in Division 2

In the Market Drayton League:

- The B team came 2nd in Division 2 and will be promoted to Division 1
- The C team held their own in Division 3
- It is likely that Prees E will move to Division 6
- The D team came top of Division 6 and will move up to Division 5
- The Seniors team held their own and will remain in Division 1

Our youngsters have again played exceptionally well.

In the Whitchurch League:

- Shropshire Star Cup: Prees A got to ¼ finals
- Jubilee Doubles: Prees A got to 2nd round
- Norman Ford Classic: Josh Warner and Geoff Warner got to ¼ finals, Louise Allmark got to 2nd round
- Under 21s: Josh Warner got to semi-finals
- Under 25s: Edward Proudlove got to ¼ finals

In the Market Drayton League:

- Jim Swire Cup: Prees B got to ¼ finals
- Junior Individual Merit: Josh Warner won! Edward Proudlove got to semis
- Junior Doubles: Edward Proudlove and Josh Warner won!
- Men's Doubles: Geoff Warner and Richard Proudlove got to 2nd round

Income/Expenditure:

Figures are as follows:

Income £6025

Expenditure £9380 (Greens Maintenance £8193; League/Association Fees £1187)

This net deficit of £3355 is slightly reduced by the Floodlit Competition generating a surplus of £132.

We therefore ended the season with a **net deficit of £3223**. This is against a net deficit 12 months ago of £1308. However, we recognise that:

- a) We dropped teams, so the income was reduced
- b) The greens were still cut almost as often
- c) We were fined by the league for pulling a team out after the deadline

At the bowls AGM on 15 January everyone was reminded that to bowl at Prees Club, you must:

- Be a member of the Club
- Pay the annual subscription fee

Moving forward for the coming season, the teams have been submitted to the relevant leagues and the season commences on 3 April. At the Bowls AGM Phil Hodges was voted in as Bowls Treasurer which will ease things considerably. We are looking forward to a good season and hope that the weather is kind to us.

The Chairman thanked Sarah for her work with the bowls section which he knows is not easy. He also congratulated those individuals who have done well.

FOOTBALL

Prees Senior's Football:

There was no representation from the Senior Football management team.

Prees Junior Football Report – Mark Perkins (Chairman)

- First of all, Mark 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 and are continuing to do.
- Junior football section has grown slightly over the last year and we currently have 14 teams from under 7s to under 16s with the girl's section increased to 4 teams. Next season we hope to have another girls age and introduce an under 15s team.
- We still do have a capacity problem which continues to be an issue. Prees pitches are used more than any other in the county of Shropshire and we have to thank Duncan for all his hard work during the past year and we will continue to support him in any way we can.
- We have invested heavily in our facility to accommodate all training requirements but feel we need another option for the winter months to protect the grass playing fields and are looking at other options.
- We have received a few grants from the top club, donation from the trustees of Whitchurch football and gift aid as well as proceeds from the last tournament. This allows us to heavily reinvest in the Club which benefits not just junior football but anyone else who play here regularly. Part of our investment was the purchase and installation of temporary lights, 11 x 11 goals, replacement nets etc. to the value of £10k. We will continue to invest when further requirements are identified.
- Last season the tournament ran over two weekends and we entertained 84 teams and around 800 children playing football. We hope to increase this to over 90 teams this year.
- Our girl's tournament raised around £700 for charity which was donated to the Air Ambulance and the Birmingham Children's Hospital which has recently been used by local members.
- We recently ran a youth referees course which 11 of our young players attended and we are planning to hold a level1 course in Prees.
- The crèche is now run by Jonny Hughes and, so far, has been very successful. We heavily subsidise this in order to ensure we have children coming through to keep the continuity for the club teams.
- This will be my last year as Chairman of the junior football since I have taken a lot of flak on how the section is run.

- After last year's tournament, a couple of individuals used social media to twist what we were trying to achieve, came very close to causing our section to collapse. We have a core of junior football committee members who put in a lot of work in, without recognition, and without whom we would not be able to continue and who were on the verge of resigning. I have concerns that some relationships are being tested and believe a new chairman is needed to take it to the next stage. I do expect the number of teams to decrease over the next few years due to the issue around training and pitch availability. If we are to continue to grow the need for an extra pitch must become a priority to keep us as one of the best clubs in the country.
- Although I am standing down as chairman I shall still be involved and will support the next chairman.

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

CRICKET

Peter Richards provided a report:

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- Following the disappointing relegation last year, we have met several times and are clear that our focus this year will be on development. We have taken the decision to enter an U-13 side into the league being organised by Graham Furber, and we are also looking to organise a 20 over tournament over a six week period with local village sides, including Calverhall, Coton and Fenns Bank. The focus of this tournament will be full inclusion. The teams will need to include a number of junior players, and will be accompanied with coloured T-shirts and music etc.
- We have secured a slot for winter coaching between 5-7pm on Sunday evenings at Wem Sports Hall, and we're looking to get some coaches along.
- We have taken the decision not to pursue the ECB's All Star Cricket Programme which is targeted for 7-9 year olds, as we feel we do not have enough people involved at this stage to dedicate the time required.
- I'd like to thank the Club for their continued support, and also Duncan for his excellent work on the grounds and Brian for his continued hard work on the administration side of things.
- A successful year next year would see a number of new younger players enjoying competitive cricket."

DARTS AND DOMINOES

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

- We play in the Wem Tuesday night league.
- In 2016/17 the darts team finished 7th in the league and lost in the semi-final of the consolation cup.
- To date in the 2017/18 season the darts team have played 15, won 4 are lying 8th in the league and are in the semi-final of the consolation cup.
- In 2015/16 the dominoes team finished 9th in the league and lost in the semi-final of the consolation cup.
- To date in 2017/18 the dominoes team have played 15 games, won 9 are 4th in the league and are in the quarter final of the consolation cup.

ANGLING

Duncan Austin presented the report for the Angling Section. The following points were noted:

- Angling Section is has now merged with the angling section from the top club which has worked well and membership now stands at 51.
- Three competitions were held: the Sunday Competition won by Duncan Austin, the Friday competition also won by Duncan and the mid-week competition won Andy Peat.
- A charity competition in memory of Dave Fowles was held which was won by Mark Clutton and raised £500 for cancer research.
- We received a grant from the top club to provide better access platforms to our water.

WEIGHTLIFTING

Lawrence Allen reported on behalf of Chris Green:

- The Weightlifting is going well but we need new members,
- Chris is planning to form links with another local club
- The youngsters are doing very well.
- We need to do a publicity push to help recruit as we have not done one yet.

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, Mr M Walmsley	Vinny Lines	Jo Whelan

10. Election of Officers and Committee

All existing committee members were happy to. A new nomination has been received for Amber Noss to become a general representative.

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	Joe Whelan
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	Mrs Sarah Stevenson	Alan Smith	Mike McGee
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:

Ex Officio Member	Role
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 Sarah Stevenson	Bowls Section Secretary
Mr Peter Richards	Cricket Section
Mr Dave Price	Darts and Dominoes Section
Mr Mark Perkins	Football - Junior Section
Mr Ray Williams	Football - Adult Men's Section
Mr Duncan Austin	Angling Section.

9. Subscriptions and Membership

Ian Stevenson reported:

- The figures show a drop in total individual membership of 174 to 520 from 2016 (694) but this is largely due to the change of payment date for junior footballers from August to Jan (145) resulting in an effective reduction of 29 members over the year. (5.6%)
- The receipts shown in my figures differ from the treasurers by £220 (£3775). This anomaly appeared in August and Paul and I have been unable to resolve this. There is no suspicion that any funds have gone missing merely that there must have been an error in entry into the till. i.e. the money has been received by the club but not entered as memberships.

I would like to thank everyone for their support during the year for chasing memberships and particularly Gary and his team for collecting the fees.

Families + Individuals					All Individuals Count		
	Registered	paid 2017	fee	paid total		registered	paid 2017
family	98	67	£25.00	£1,675.00			
adult	292	193	£10.00	£1,930.00	adult	473	308
sc	92	68	£5.00	£340.00	sc	92	68
juniors	112	37	£5.00	£185.00	juniors	283	144
Totals	594	365		£4,130.00	Total	848	520
Prepay for 2017 December			£135.00	£3,995.00			
Membership Analysis							
total individual members registered					848		
total paid					520		
2017 new members					0		
total due not paid					328		
percentage due and not paid					38.68		

To date we have 375 members in 2018

The committee, at a previous committee meeting, had recommended that the annual membership fees for 2019 should remain unchanged. This was accepted after being proposed by Joe Whelan and seconded by Mike McGee.

10. Any Other Business

Derek Smout commented that it was great to see the fields mainly free of rubbish and that the footballers did well to clear up after them.

Mark Perkins reminded that we will be claiming grant aid on the membership subscriptions.

Neale Sadler reported that the data protection laws change on 25th May and we will need consent before storing and using members email addresses after that.

The next AGM was scheduled for Wednesday the 13th February 2019 starting at 1930 hrs.

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