



Shepton Mallet Sports and Community Group

**Minutes for the Annual General Meeting to be held
Monday 6th October at 6:30 pm in the Clubhouse.**

1) Chairman's welcome and report.

PS opened the meeting. He clarified this was the AGM for the umbrella group consistent of Bowls, Tennis and Allotments

2) Reports were received from

- a) **Bowls** deferred to the AGM immediately following
- b) **Tennis** presented by Club Secretary RG

RG gave a brief summary of the history of the Tennis Club. It was founded on 18Apr1921, two years after the Bowls Club was founded. Members invested £40 in shares for facilities (around £2500 in value today). From 1921 to 1978 there was clearly one Bowls and Tennis Club. In 1978 the history records “they parted ways” but clearly the Tennis continued to pay fees covering lease and continued to share the Clubhouse. In 2012 this enterprise folded and Tennis handed over £5291.50 to the Bowls Club. This sum was red-ringed and formally allocated to the redevelopment of the Clubhouse post covid. It is unclear exactly where this income came from and may have included allotment fees. However Bowls never changed the name on the accounts which to this day say “Bowls and Tennis Club”. This needs to be amended to the new group name.

A new Tennis2 Club was resurrected in 2016/2017. After a positive start we “parted ways” with the then Group officer in July 2018 who retained all records and Tennis2 had to be rebuilt from scratch. The Club staggered along thereafter with falling membership and revenue. The decision was then taken this year to reduce membership fee to £20 single £30 membership. Membership has now reached 42 – the highest ever and revenue £595 – the highest since 2017. The Club is administered entirely online and the Secretary only meets some of the new members. A plea was made for a Tennis Coordinator to take the Club forward.

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c) **Allotments.** Presented by the Club Secretary RG.

In 2015 the Allotments were in a dire state. A new Group Club Officer was appointed in 2017. After some initial focus the Group Club Officer leading was suspended in 2019 and ultimately left the Club. Two Bowls Club members Paull Curtice and Frank Booth took up the challenge to raise standards and made considerable progress. The work was continued by allotment member Jen Coles who has decided to retire as a Group Officer this year. However the committee has been strengthened with two new members, Thye Wareham and Jackie Hamblen with Adam Seymour continuing.

For the record we have 19 small, 17 standard, 7 large and one family plot rented at £0, £0, £40 and £50 respectively totalling £1220. On the miniplots side we have 11 small, 5 standard, 23 large and 2 family plots rented at £4, £6, £8 and £12/£14 respectively totalling £284. Total revenue is theoretically £1596 but usually exceeds after adjustments - £1607 for 2025. There is a waiting list.

The allotments are actively managed and a minimum standard of cultivation is expected. Licences do not run consecutively – there is a one day reversion on 28th Feb and allotment holders have to reapply each year. Issues are usually resolved by agreement, sometimes allotment holders accepting that to downsize would be the best course of action.

The allotments have had a very successful year again with high standards maintained. Allotments contribute to the running of the whole Group but usually have up to £800 or more each year to reinvest. There is a program to reinvest in new sheds throughout which are then rented back to allotment holders for a small sum - £5 - £10.

3) **Presentation of accounts 01 Oct24 to 30 Sep25**

RG first summarised the legal basis of the Club. There was a written constitution which had been refined over several years but was now considered to be in a final and fully satisfactory form. It was broad based and non-specific giving full flexibility

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Shepton Mallet Sports and Community Group for changing circumstances. The AGM could appoint as many Group officers as it saw fit who then met to allocate the named roles among themselves – this avoiding unnecessary voting at the AGM. The constitution was supported seven policy documents – Officer duties, Child Protection, Equal Opportunities, Vulnerable Adults, Data Protection, Financial Controls and Licensing Rules.

RG then covered the financial report – see appendix.

A written report and 4 year summary had been distributed. By giving a four year summary, members had a benchmark to make comparisons. Primarily this had been a year for capital investment totalling nearly £14 000. However the bulk of this had been funded from revenue and our total liquidity had dropped by just £2500.

On the income side the bar had had its best performance ever – primarily down to very shrewd purchasing from the local supermarkets despite a 20% rise in “cost of sales” items. The other income streams were not primarily driven by a fund-raising focus but it was useful to look at trends. Three matches were rained off and that affects several activities like bar sales, raffles, green fees etc. Overall revenue was up 12%.

On Group overheads water and electricity were the key utilities and electricity usage needed further investigation.

RGs focus for the winter season was to complete a transfer of accounts to a commercial system – Xero – which would greatly simplify matters – automating cost code allocation, automatic reports and HMRC submissions.

It was proposed by Dave and seconded by Nick that the report and financial figures be accepted and this was passed unanimously.

4) **To appoint an accounts examiner for 2025**

One nomination had been received for Phil Stevens. It was proposed by Chris and seconded by Jane that he be appointed and this was passed unanimously.

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PS reiterated that all financial figures down to individual receipted transactions were available for inspection and published on the website.

5) **Election of Club Officers**

Six names had been received – Phil Stevens, Chris Arnold, Joy Arnold, Tony Christensen, Robert Goodhand and Jackie Hamblen (for allotments). It was proposed by Maureen and seconded by Margaret that these be accepted and was passed unanimously. Those elected would now appoint among themselves the roles of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

6) **Questions to Chair**

Questions were invited from the floor.

- 1) Had the Group looked at solar panels? Yes one quote had been received which would be reviewed now the season had been completed and possibly further quotes obtained if the investment looked viable.
- 2) Were there protections on lease costs from the Duchy?
PS briefed the meeting. The Duchy had come in for criticism for making excessive profits. Instead of applying overall rent reductions it had identified charities and community groups for a full abatement. RG clarified in response to a query that this sum was actually declared in the Group section of the accounts. It remained to be seen if this was to be a permanent feature of the accounts.
- 3) There were further clarifications on securing group accounts and receipts on the transition to Xero.

There being no other matters the Chair closed the meeting and clarified the meeting would resume in 20 minutes for the Bowls AGM.

XO rg

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