

WORTHING PAVILION BOWLING CLUB LTD.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Chairman's Report 2020-2021

"May you live in interesting times"

No one is sure who introduced the term but the person who did most to bring it to the public's attention was Robert Kennedy. In a speech in Cape Town in June 1966, Kennedy said:

There is a Chinese curse which says 'May he live in interesting times.' Like it or not we live in interesting times. They are times of danger and uncertainty; but they are also more open to the creative energy of men than any other time in history.

I think we can all agree that since March 2020 we have been living in "Interesting Times".

I was approached to join the Board in October 2020 by the then current Chairperson, Ian Lay, to take over as the Director in charge of membership and communications. You may remember that the Board attempted to keep the club open for those first few months attempting to meet government restrictions and regulations as to what we could and could not do. There were problems with the heating system and the new ventilation system that had to be resolved. Booking systems had to be implemented and hygiene codes of conduct introduced. Eventually, the government decided that the club had to close. The Directors were faced with a situation where the club had low income and expenses that still had to be paid. We worried how the club would survive.

In January, Ian Lay, became seriously ill and I took over as temporary chairperson. Unfortunately, Ian's illness was so grave that he could not continue as a Director and had to resign from the Board. Ian had been Chairperson of the Board for just over two years and I would like to thank him for all his hard work for the club in that time and the advice he has very kindly offered me since I was voted by the Board to become full-time Chairperson at the beginning of April 2021.

At this time, the club was closed and all Board meetings were conducted via zoom. (I would like to state that all our Board meetings were held in an amicable manner, unlike the infamous Handworth Parish Council zoom

meeting which shot Jackie Weaver to National prominence). We had placed our two remaining bar staff on furlough, but our main problem was finding money to keep the club afloat. The Board kept searching for more sources of finance and applied for every government grant we were able to. I would like to thank the work of Peter Tomley, our Treasurer, in securing these grants for us.

The issue of repayment of membership fees needed to be addressed and resolved. The Board calculated that if every member demanded the repayment of their membership fees, the club would be £30,000 in debt. Members were then given a choice as to whether they would wish to have the fees returned, put their fees towards their next membership fees or gift the fees as a donation to the club. Many members were very generous in donating those fees to the club which considerably helped the financial situation of the club at that time.

The fees for the 2021-2022 season caused considerable debate for the Board. On the one hand, the financial situation looked grave and one point of view argued that fees should be increased to ease and improve the club finances. On the other hand, the argument was to keep prices low to encourage existing members to rejoin and to entice new members to the club. After much debate, the Board decided to keep fees at 2019 levels to encourage people to rejoin/join the club.

At the end of April, we were able to re-open the club for the summer season, subject to the government restrictions in place at the time. I would particularly like to mention the incredible amount of work the two Playing Directors, Ray Leggett and Sharon Pratt did at this time in drawing up the outdoor and indoor Covid protocols to enable us to open the club and play bowls at this time. I don't think that it is widely known that we were inspected by the Covid inspector for Adur & Worthing Council to ensure that we were Covid compliant. I would emphasise that if we had not had those protocols in place at the time, the club would not have been allowed to stay open and I would like to give due recognition and thanks to Ray & Sharon for all their hard work at this time.

The club held an Open Day on the 29th May that was quite successful and resulted in new members joining the club.

Catering was the next issue that had to be resolved by the Board. The previous caterers, Highdown Tea Gardens, were reluctant to return to the club until June. Eventually, they decided that our membership figures were too low for them to consider their contract with us as a viable venture and decided that the club would need to seek new caterers. Accordingly, the Board began to quickly look for new caterers. We initially had two groups interested but one of those groups later withdrew. The Board then awarded the catering contract to Phoenix Frozen Foods Ltd after Andrew Clarke (Aka "Clunky") explained what his company would bring to the club. I would like members to recognise the sterling work that Linda Patten, our Catering & Social Director, did during this time contacting people and drawing up a new contract for Phoenix Frozen Foods Ltd. to sign. I hope members will agree that it has been a good choice and have seen the benefits since they have taken over the contract.

In our discussions with Phoenix Frozen Foods Ltd, they declared an interest in not only running the Catering Services of the club but also taking over the running of the Bar. Members should be aware that the Bar has made a loss each year for several years of over £10,000. In previous years, when membership figures were higher, the club could afford to absorb these losses. With the membership figures being low and the financial situation looking poor, the opportunity to outsource the Bar to Phoenix Frozen Foods Ltd. was too good to be refused. Therefore, our Bar Staff were duly informed that we would be cancelling their contracts of employment and paying their redundancies. Phoenix Frozen Foods Ltd. would be offering them new contracts of employment if they wished to take those up. Therefore, Phoenix Frozen Foods Ltd. are now responsible for providing both our Catering Services and the supply of alcohol in the club.

Simon Warr joined the Board in May taking on the role I had previously held as Membership and Communication Director. I changed roles to become the Bar Director. At the time of writing, I have now changed roles again to become Director in charge of ICT.

The Board has been working to resolve the issue of replacing the Honours Boards in the club that were removed when the renovation and redecoration of the Lounge took place. This has been a contentious issue that the members of this Board has inherited. Members of the Board have talked to the membership and put up samples of the new Honours Boards in the Dining Rooms to gather members opinions on the matter. Different views have been expressed over the siting of the Honours Boards in the Dining Room but the majority of views expressed to the Board have been in favour of them being placed in there. Work will commence to update all Honours Boards and place them in the Dining Room after the outstanding competitions from the winter indoor season 2019-2020 have been played.

To update the administration of the club, a new computer has been purchased to run a bespoke piece of management software specifically written and designed for Bowls Clubs. The software will, amongst many other things, enable us to produce a redesigned and interactive website for the club and will address the problem the Secretary has had with sending out large amount of emails to the membership which we know do not always get through. The Board has felt that the Secretary's office needs to be redesigned to enable the club to have a reception point when visitors arrive at the club. Accordingly, a window from the Secretary's office looking into the Lounge will be made and the Secretary's desk and computer will be moved so that the Secretary can work and also see any new arrivals entering the club and be an immediate source of help for them. The cabling in the secretary's office is to put it politely a mess. As part of the renovations, a network switch, cabinet and new cable runs (clearly labelled) will be installed to tidy everything up and make it more easily understandable. It is hoped that by the time of the AGM and members reading this report, the new computer and software will be in use.

Another long standing problem the Board has given approval for is the long deferred renovation of the Ladies Toilets in their changing rooms. Again, it is hoped that by the time of the AGM, work will be started and progress can be seen.

I have not yet mentioned the work done by David Elliot, our House Director, who has been busily working in the background of the club. The work of the House Director in maintaining the fabric of the club and project managing improvements to the club is, I feel, often underrated by the members. David this year has worked on solving issues with the new ventilation system, organising the replacement of an ageing fire control system, putting up the samples of the Honours Boards in the Dining Room, the alterations and renovations to the Secretary's office and the renovation of the Ladies Toilet facilities.

It has been an "interesting" 12 months. I hope members can understand the problems your Board of Directors have faced and approve the decisions made over these last 12 months

Bill Murphy

Chairperson

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A.G.M. 2021

It has been a turbulent 18 months in the office.

Since the last Annual General Meeting, which was held by video link, the Club had been closed due to Covid, but Board Meetings continued also via video link.

I am pleased to report that as the Club was able to gradually re-open in stages since May, we have seen many Members returning to play. Some, due to circumstances feel that they cannot return, but the installation of a new ventilation system and other measures to ensure a safe environment has encouraged many to return. At the time of writing, we now have some 234 Members, being a mix of Full, Summer, Winter, Social and Junior among which are several new members, both experienced bowlers and those new to the sport.

Once again, I would appeal to all Members to ensure that I have their correct details, especially email addresses as this is the best and quickest method of circulating information.

The Club is investing in new technology which will help eliminate the masses of notices all over the Club. It will help with the day to day organization, competitions and leagues, rink bookings and finances.

I would like to thank my fellow Directors and Club Officials for their support over the past 12 months, some of whom are retiring from their posts. Also, would like to thank our Match and Competition Secretaries for their work in keeping the competitive spirit alive during these

difficult times and to our Greenkeeper who once again provided good playing surfaces (despite the leatherjacket problem). Finally, my thanks go to our gardening team who have provided a colourful display to once again cheer the view from my window.

Graham French

Club Secretary

October 2021

Treasurers report 2021

My report into the accounting year ended 30th April 2021 begins with my grateful thanks to John Winkley for carrying out his role

even though there were co-vid restrictions throughout the whole year.

I would not have been able to prepare the monthly management accounts without his detailed spreadsheets and banking duties .

Graham French also promptly forwarded the financial mail and relevant information to me.

The accounts show the following reductions, as compared to the year ended 30th April 2020 :

	£
Turnover	105,659
Cost of sales	20,493
Administrative expenses	36,293
Interest and commissions received	126
Net reduction in income	48,999

This should have produced a loss for the year of £57,029 as compared to a loss of £8,030 for the year ended 30th April 2020.

The reason it did not was that we were able to claim direct government grants of £39,857 and furloughing claims in respect of bar wages of £18,256.

These totalled £58,113 and as a result, the accounts show a profit of £1,084 for the year .

The Balance Sheet at 30th April 2021 shows the company has net assets of £518,704 as compared to £517,620 at 30th April 2020

The difference being the net profit for the year.

The additions to plant and equipment of £13,944 are related to the cost of supplying and installing the fresh air ventilation system in the indoor rinks .

Peter Tomley

11th September 2021

Ladies' Playing Director's Report, October 2021

2020/21 has continued to be a strange and unsettling year for our club due to the air conditioning being updated, the indoor season started in November with restricted general play in place then the country was placed in another lockdown from December to April so no indoor competitions were played. We were very pleased to be able to open the club up in April for limited play outdoors. And then in May for limited play indoors. From July more restrictions were lifted so the club was able to use all rinks outdoors with all types of play and indoors for all types of play. Many hours were put in by the Board to ensure the club opened up safely and involved reading much guidance from EIBA, Bowls England and Sports England. With the protocols this ensured all our members remained safe whilst on our premises. Unfortunately, the numbers of ladies choosing to play outdoors has not been as many as in previous years so there was insufficient interest to run any club outdoor competitions this year.

The Ladies had success in the National Top Club reaching the Sussex final against Gildredge Park. Playing at Newick we won 2 out of the 4 disciplines however lost overall by 3 shots. Sharon Pratt reached the County Champion of Champions final playing Rachel Mackreill losing 12-21. The Ladies came 2nd in Game, Set & Match Division 1 League. The friendlies results were 4 wins and 2 losses. I would like to thank Lynn Down who organised a 3 Wood Yardstick Day on 12 August which was won by Pat Edmonds.

Thank you for all the work the Ladies Committee have done over the last year. New Officers will be appointed at the Ladies meeting on Tuesday, 5 October and I would like to wish them well in their roles.

I would like to thank Vince for all his hard work in keeping the greens in such good condition this year. I would also like to thank Kevin Batchelor, our Greenranger, who designed an online rink booking system so that our

members could book rinks and sign up for matches as per the COVID Guidelines. Finally, I would like to thank Ray as Men's Playing Director for his support and wish him all the best in the future.

Sharon Pratt

House Directors Annual Report 2021

This last year has been relatively quiet as the club was closed for a considerable time.

Refurbishment of the Ladies toilet will commence in the near future having been delayed from 2020.

The gutter along the length of the covered walkway has over the course of time continued to leak, this has now been sealed internally and this appears to have rectified the problem.

The ventilation system to both rinks installed to comply with Covid-19 was as mentioned in the previous report operated by time switches. Regrettably this did not prove satisfactory due to the problems with staggered opening hours during Covid. It was therefore decided to omit the time switches and replace with remote switches but these proved to only work intermittently. Therefore these will now be replaced with simple on/off switches.

The new style of Honours Boards have met with approval and will be installed over the next few months in the dining room surrounding and opposite the trophy cabinet.

Various minor works have been carried out during the year. E.g lining the car park, new signs etc with the assistance of Denis Allen.