

## **Norfolk Bowling Club Ladies AGM 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

### **Presidents welcome:**

Judith Phillips welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. 16 members attended.

### **Apologies:**

Val Whitehead, Carol Bardwell, Jill Carr, Margaret Coleman, Judy Hipperson & Liz Dickerson.

### **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes had been available prior to the meeting and circulated to all at the meeting. Proposed as a true record by Val Gibson, and seconded by Carole Slaughter.

### **Matters Arising**

The issue of donating old bowls shirts is still to be sorted out.

### **Welfare**

Rachel Stevenson reported to the meeting that the past year has again been very busy and demanding with many club members suffering ill health and injuries. 28 Get Well cards and 6 Sympathy cards have been sent out, and Rachel has made many phone calls to check on the welfare of club members, especially those who have ongoing or long term health conditions. Rachel thanked the Management Committee for the flowers that she was given recently as a gesture of appreciation for her welfare work.

Judith Phillips thanked Rachel for the superb job that she is doing, and asked for this to be officially noted in the minutes.

### **Captains' reports**

Jackie Devitt, the A team captain reported that despite suffering what has become a regular defeat at Roundwood at the beginning of the season, the 'A' team went on to achieve a tremendous run of results and only lost twice more all season. It was a nail biting end to the season, with the team needing just half a point from our game against Acle A to win, and after a very tense game we managed at the death to get 2 points which was enough to secure the title. My thanks to all the ladies who played this season – a real team effort.

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Elsie Elvin and Mary Johnson who are retiring from indoor bowls due to health and travelling. They have been an integral part of NBC ladies for 10 years and we wish them well for the future. We will be welcoming Carole Slaughter and Suzanne Edwards to the A team for next season.

Carole Slaughter, outgoing captain of the Ladies' B' team reported that 'the B team enjoyed their season in the Premier division but in the end we were unable to retain our position and will play in Div 1 next season. I am proud of all the members of the squad and of the 4 new players who joined us at the beginning of the season. We were unfortunately hit at both the beginning and the end of the season by a series of illnesses, injuries and surgeries. The impact this had meant that we struggled all season to get any continuity into the blocks. However, everyone played their best and our score lines did not always reflect the quality of the games we played. We also enjoyed playing against the different teams. So, thanks to everyone – especially those playing up into new positions within the team.

I'm also pleased to say that most players have recovered or are on the road to recovery and send my best wishes to them all.

I am stepping down as captain now and so I also send my best wishes and support to the whole squad for next season & I fully expect they will use the experience they gained this year and will have some really good results in Division 1.'

## **Competitions**

### National Team

Congratulations to Rebecca Willgress and Katherine Rednall who represented England in the international series last month which England won.

Congratulations also to Ellie Johnson who was picked for the England squad for British Isles U25 series which England also won. Ellie was named as Player of the Series.

Congratulations to Katherine who won the National singles title last year, and then went on to represent England in the BIIBC Singles, which she also won.

### National Team Competitions

Unfortunately this year we did not do so well in the Yetton and Mason competitions, losing out to Acle in the Yetton, and Galloway in the Mason. We have had a good run for a few years, and it is only to be expected that we cannot keep doing it every year. The ladies have continued to put in a good deal of commitment and effort and we will go again next year.

In the Egham mixed competition we had a good run and narrowly lost in the last 16 against Hartlepool who went on to win the title.

In the Top Club mixed event, we lost to Acle in the first round.

The Vivienne Trophy was played by the B team squad, but they unfortunately lost in the first round to a strong County Arts side.

We had 9 ladies from the club representing Norfolk in the Atherley trophy final which will be played on 12<sup>th</sup> April. Well done to all those who represented the county in this

### National Competitions

2 wood singles - Rebecca Willgress (lost in the semi-final)

4 wood singles - Nicola Segolo (lost in last 16)

Fours - Jenna O'Hagan, Katherine Rednall, Christine Rednall and Louise Knights (play on 13/4)

U25 Singles - Ellie Johnson (runner up)

Champion of Champions - Katherine Rednall (lost in quarter final)

Mixed Pairs - Ellie Johnson (lost in last 16)

Mixed Fours - Ellie Johnson & Sophie Blanche (lost in quarter final)

### Club Competitions

There were fewer entries for this year's competitions than in previous years.

In the ladies competitions, Rebecca Willgress & Ellie Johnson will play in the ladies singles final, Ellie, Bernadette and Nicola will be playing Carole, Jenna & Sophie in the Ladies Triples final, and the Pairs final will be between Nicola & Bernadette, and Annette & Rachel. We are hoping that there will be more entries for the ladies competitions in the 25-26 season. Jackie suggested that a new Ladies knockout singles competition which will only be open to ladies who are not playing in the National singles, pairs, triples or fours may encourage more ladies to enter, and there was broad support for this.

## **N.C.W.I.B.A.**

The NCWIBA Annual General Meeting will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 10.00 at County Arts. Anyone may attend this meeting, however only the club representatives may vote.

Kay Carrick reported that the Association has reached a critical point, and may collapse unless people are willing to come forward to take up positions on the committee. There are vacancies for the positions of President, Chairperson, Treasurer and Match Secretary. The position of Competition Secretary has been vacant for several years which is why there have been no County singles, pairs, triples or fours played for some time. We have received a nomination for Match Secretary (who will be responsible for organising the County Friendly matches) but as yet no nominations have been received for any other positions.

The current Secretary, Lilian Barber, and League Secretary, Denise Eves are both willing to continue but it is essential that a new Treasurer is found otherwise the Association will cease to exist, and there will be no county league,

Atherley team or county friendly matches. Kay explained that she has been the Treasurer for several years, and had wanted to resign last year but agreed to continue for a further year.

If anyone is willing, or knows someone who may be willing to take on and 'modernise' this role, please let Kay or one of the other committee members know.

On a more positive note, this year's County friendly matches played with the men have proved very popular, and quite a few NBC members have supported these matches. It has been good to get some of the newer players involved and good for them to meet other players and play at other clubs. Players in these matches do not have to be 'county standard' players, and it is a good way to play at and meet players from other clubs.

The County Atherley team have been very successful this year, reaching the national final which will be played against Dorset on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April in Nottingham. NBC has 10 players in the Atherley team, and a list will be going up shortly for anyone interested in attending trials for next year's team.

### **E.I.B.A .**

Nothing to report

### **Rule changes**

Following a successful first season of the Sets Pairs league on a Monday evening, it is proposed that the number of ends per set should be increased from 7 to 8. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Following previous discussions at committee level and a discussion at the club AGM, approval was sought from the meeting to further pursue the possibility of forming a new Indoor committee for both men and women instead of the two separate committees that we have now. A brief discussion was held and Annette explained that there was still a good deal of work to be done, but provided the men's AGM were in favour, a small working party would meet during the summer with representatives from the men's committee to move this forward. A vote was taken and was passed unanimously.

### **Charity Donations**

Donations this year were given to Deaf Bowls England.

Suggestions for next season's charity donations were invited, and several put forward at the meeting: Finbar's Force, which supports children with cancer, and Boodica, which supports women with breast cancer. Any further suggestions should be given to the Secretary.

### **Secretary's Update**

As in previous years, the Ladies committee produced a Christmas hamper to raise money for the club Thanks to all of the committee members, and other ladies from the club for providing items for the hamper. As always, donations for this year's hamper will be very much appreciated.

Proceeds from the sale of books and jigsaws were £150.

Entries have been submitted for next season's County Leagues, and I have almost completed the fixture list for next season. Completed fixture lists will be emailed to all A and B team players a bit nearer to the start of the season and will also be on the notice board. Entries for the National competitions, the Yetton, Vivienne and Mason trophies will be submitted once entry forms have been received.

### **Election of Officers**

No advance nominations have been received for positions on the committee, and therefore the committee were re-elected en-bloc. It was suggested that the committee needed another representative who has regular contact with newer players and B team members, as the current committee was largely made up of A team players, and Pat Headland agreed to join the committee in this role.

The committee is now made up as follows:

**President:** Judith Phillips

**Welfare:** Rachel Stevenson

**Captains:** Jackie Devitt A team and Rachel Stevenson B team

**Secretary:** Annette Hazell

**Committee:** Valerie Gibson, Kay Carrick, Carole Slaughter & Pat Headland

### **Outdoor Update**

Brenda Whitehead gave a brief update as there has been no outdoor AGM. All details for the forthcoming Outdoor season are available in the Outdoor handbook. There will be a Pairs tournament on 15<sup>th</sup> May with a cake stall, books and raffle. Brenda thanked Margaret Davis for her work in looking after the plants adjacent to the outdoor green, and thanked the current committee for their work.

### **Any Other Business**

Following the departure of Carole Slaughter as B team captain, the ladies from the B team met on 8<sup>th</sup> April. Rachel Stevenson has been confirmed as the new B team captain, and all the ladies at the meeting confirmed their willingness to play next season. Pat Headland and Mary Willoughby will act as Vice Captains and will learn the duties of the team captain. Carol Bardwell will be kept involved even if she is unable to play. Rachel thanked Carole Slaughter for her work as B team captain.

A question was asked regarding the proceeds from book sales, and what was done with that money, and Carole agreed to find out at the next Management meeting.

### **Date for next AGM**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 10.30am Norfolk Bowling Club