

# HOLWELL SPORTS BOWLS CLUB



Founded 1917

Minutes of AGM held at The Club, Asfordby Hill, Melton Mowbray on Friday October 10th, 2025, at 7.00pm.

**In attendance:** A & B Broadberry, G Butler, H Cramp, E Faulconbridge, S & S Hall, A Hardy, L Higgins, C Hollis, D & V Hopkinson, B & V James, M Jones, J Ladkin, R & S Lemon, G Marshall, S Moore, E Pearson, R & J Penny, J Reynolds, G Robertson, G & J Rudkin, M Simmons, A Spaulding, A Spencer, F & M Thorpe, K Tween, C & E Underwood, A Whittaker.

1. **President Sue Moore** opened the meeting thanking everyone for attending an important meeting allowing us to discuss the business of the club. It was good to see so many members attending.
2. **A Minutes Silence:** For friends and fellow bowlers, we have lost.
3. **Apologies:** C, J&M Cregan, R Faulconbridge, P & J Francis, A Grillo, P Lamb,
4. **Minutes of Meeting** held on the 18th of October 2024 were taken as read.
5. **Adoption of Minutes.** Proposed as a correct account by Byron James and seconded by Anne Spaulding and duly signed by President Sue Moore
6. **Matters Arising**
  1. It was agreed to have a plaque engraved for the Aussie Pairs Trophy "Presented by Clifford Thompson"
  2. Additionally agreed to have our Memorial Cup played for annually by club members or as a Gala inviting other clubs.
  3. It was suggested that we could explore attracting more clubs to join the Melton Triples League and Kings Cup League.

## **Outcomes**

1. The Aussie Pairs Trophy has been engraved as agreed
2. The Memorial Cup was played for and is being engraved.
3. Enquiries were made and will be discussed at the Melton Triples League AGM in March 2026 (held biannually)

## **7. President's Report Sue Moore**

I would like to thank the committee and members of the club for all their support during my year as president I felt really honoured to be president and a member of such a great club

We welcomed new members to the club this year who have joined in club events and I hope you have enjoyed your first season

My President Day went well and everyone who took part seemed to enjoy the Hawaiian theme and the game of bowls. we had spider which raised £26 which I donated to the Alzheimer's Society. My thanks to Arthur Broadberry for donating the whiskey as a prize.

My President tour to Scarborough was a success and I think a good time was had by all. Thank you, Arthur, for all your hard work organising it and for Bob Penny for doing the brochures and the sweepstake.

Presentation night was another good night congratulations to all the winners and the runners up and a big thank you to Pat for all the hard work she put in.

As my year ends, I would like to say once again what a great club we have and to thank the committee, members and volunteers who make it such a great club

I would like to wish Fred all the best as he takes over as president for 2026 and hope you have a great year.

#### **8. Secretary's Report** Sue Lemon.

It has been a much quieter year for me as secretary, and I have tried as far as possible to ensure the smooth running of the club. This included applying for a Food Hazard Certificate and working with the Borough Council to accept the club as a polling station. Happily, all went well. For the food hazard certification, we now need to keep records of our purchases and where they came from in case of a recall notice. Most of our food is eaten on the day, which makes life easier for us.

We have missed Janet Reynolds as a player and captain during the season as health reasons have made playing impossible. We wish her well when she receives new treatment which hopefully will allow her freedom of movement again.

It was with sadness that the committee had to accept the decision by Peter Orridge to step down from the club for personal reasons. Peter had been an active member of the club working on the committee and as JVP and President. He was also a willing helper to the greenkeeping team and he and Jenny are missed. We wish him well.

I would like to thank the members of the committee who stepped in and made sure that our Quiz Night and Presentation Night ran smoothly when I was unable to oversee this myself due to an unexpected time in hospital and in recovery. We are very lucky to have the team spirit we have within the club.

I would also like to mention the help and assistance Peter Karran has given the club, he has been able to help us understand situations we might have otherwise struggled with.

It has been a pleasure working with President Sue throughout the year. She has had to balance family demands and her commitment to the club and has succeeded in very difficult circumstances. Thank you Sue for all you have done. I am looking forward to working with our incoming President Fred and wish him a happy and successful Presidency.

Thank you all for your continuing amazing support, we really do appreciate it.

#### **9. The Treasurers Report:**

At the 2024 AGM I reported that Club funds were £6,724. As of 7th October 2025, total funds stand at £8,617.

Year to date income is £9,023. This is £350 higher than last year. Match day income from teas was significantly lower by £850. This was offset by a £400 increase in raffle takings and a £400 increase in bar profits. Total Bar profits exceeded the £2000 mark for the first time.

Year to date expenditure is £7,130. This is £2600 lower than last year. This was because of some high ad hoc expenditure in 2024 including a £900 sprayer, a £500 mower and a £750 bar license application. The only significant ad hoc expense this year was an £800 repair to the watering system. We also benefited from a renegotiated electricity tariff saving us £400 and £360 from hiring the clubhouse out as a polling station.

We finish the 2025 season with a strong balance and do not propose to make any changes to the membership fees in 2026.

See attached information.

#### **10. Fixture Secretary Report:**

**Ladies** -The Fixtures Secretary Anne Whittaker.

Just to let everyone know we are not going to be playing anymore ladies' friendly games, we only played one this year, so we won't be needing a ladies Fixtures Secretary anymore, so I am resigning. Anne said she had taken over the lady's fixtures in 2002 and had been doing them ever since, this was just five years after the first ladies team played in 1997. A long time.

I have cancelled with all the clubs we played against.

When we started, we played 16 other clubs and now when we finish there are just 7

The clubs we played were Quorn, Melton Park, Shepshed, Mowmacre, Belvoir Vale, Whissendine, Birstall, Langham, Syston, Loughborough Brush, Rothley, Mkt Overton, Grantham, Oakham Kegworth, Keyworth and Sileby.

**Men** -The Fixtures Secretary Sue Lemon's report read as follows: "

I would like to begin by thanking the captains for working so hard to ensure that matches were played, they did such a good job. I would also like to thank Bob Penny and Fred Thorpe for stepping up to ensure that the

Melton Triples and Kings Cup were played when our captain Peter Orridge decided he needed to step down from the club

We had 14 Friendly Fixtures, President's Day, the first Memorial Day and the Alec Whittaker Trophy played on a Saturday and 2 Sunday Friendlies and the Ladies v Gents game. We had 6 Melton Triples League Fixtures and 6 Kings Cup. We held our Open Weekend successfully. We also had the Aussie Pairs League, and the Monday Chummy. A full calendar when you add to competitions County, National and Club.

This season has thrown up some difficulties that we need to address as a club with our fixtures and how we move forward with them.

We overlap the football season at the end of our season; the beginning should not be a problem. To avoid the difficulties, we have with car parking we are suggesting that we approach the clubs we play at home at the end of the season to start play at 10/10.30am. We did this with our game against Oakham this year, and it worked well. There is also the suggestion that instead of tea and biscuits we do cobs or sandwiches for refreshments as everyone is hungry around midday. We have not approached clubs yet as we need to know we have your support to do this. We are aware that it is thought by some that we are doing the most to help our partnership with the FC work. We have flexibility to make changes, the FA dictates when matches are played. At the end of the day, it helps us all to look at how we can manage the change we need to make, and we hope we have your support.

The ladies' matches have been a disaster for us this season with all but one cancelled. We are suggesting that instead of a lady's game we approach the clubs we play with whom we do not have a mixed fixture and look at introducing a mixed triple game as an alternative. I have spoken to Keyworth, and they are looking at providing dates at the beginning of next year, as they feel it may work well for them too. Again, we would not go ahead without your support. Depending on the number of games we source we can introduce games for our ladies when there are no friendlies planned, these could take the form of a short pairs league depending on how many players are interested or for the ladies to take advantage of the ladder league which has been relatively ignored.

We do not want to lose Anne as our ladies Fixture Secretary after 25 years' service and although we may not need this role, we do need Anne on the committee as she helps us so much. I am hoping she can be seconded to help with Social Events as she and her helpers do so much to make the events we have a success.

The Aussie League would receive help from more players. If you do not play now, please consider putting your name forward. Everyone playing this season has incorporated the one Friday evening game during the season well. Thank you to everyone for making it possible for our workers to have an evening game.

The Melton Triples League may have a new club joining in the coming season. An application is under consideration from a club in Rutland.

I would like to thank Margaret Thorpe who catered for our Saturday Friendly games allowing our players to be on the green not in the kitchen and Rosemary Faulconbridge who prepared the suppers for the Melton Triples and Kings Cup games their contribution to the club is priceless as is Viv Hopkinson's making sure the bar is open.

We try to provide games for all our members. If you feel this could be improved, please do not hesitate to let us know and give us your suggestions and if you are interested you can take your idea forward.

#### **10. Competition Secretary Report: Pat Francis**

The Year started off well with the singles draws being completed with help of President Sue, and the pairs draws being completed on opening day, we did have difficulties getting games completed by play by dates through the season due to various circumstances including, ill health, planned surgeries, accidental injuries, personal circumstances of players holidays etc. However we still managed to complete all but two of the competitions on finals weekend, which with the help of our great members supporting me was a great success, we raised £48 from lunches. Unfortunately, we were unable to complete the 2 competitions by closing of the green and the plan is to play those on opening day next year - they are the lady's pairs, and ladies two wood singles.

Presentation night went very well, and pictures are on the club's web page, along with pictures from the finals

#### **11. Green Keeper Report: Bob Lemon**

It has been a difficult and disappointing year for green keepers everywhere. Thanks to everyone who has helped me this year with an amazing amount of work. Hopefully, the green will look better next year and still play well.

**Maintenance Report: Dennis Hopkinson**

This year the mower shed has been tidied up with old machinery being disposed of. The on-going maintenance of the site has been carried out, and the memorial benches have been varnished and will be stored away after Presentation Night.

Winter work is to sort out the equipment store keeping the bowls equipment separate from other items.

**14. Saturday Captain Report:** Arthur Broadberry

Arthur reported that we had a disastrous season. We won 4 games lost 8 and cancelled 1. Holwell 829 to 931 throughout the season. Arthur thanked all the players for taking part and supporting him.

**15. Club Captain. Melton Triples and Kings Cup League:** Sec. Sue

Having been so successful last season, we found winning far more difficult this year. In the Melton Triples the score line was 8pt to 2pt throughout the season unfortunately four games were lost 2pts to 8pts and two won. The King's Cup was a similar result with four loses and 2 wins.

The results were not through lack of effort, and we go into next season with players who have gained experience and with the determination to find a way to win. Thank you to everyone who supported the league, please continue to be available and ready to play

**16. Mid-Week Captain Report:** Fred Thorpe

We started the season well, with 2 wins in our first two games. However, things went down from there when we lost the next 4 games.

Many thanks to all players who put their names down this year.

Hoping for a better time next year.

**17. Ladies Captain Report:** Sue Moore

The ladies didn't get to play many games this season due to shortage of ladies we did manage 1 game against Shepshed on 18th June although only played 12 ends due to hot weather Shepshed won Shepshed 52 Holwell 19

The Mabel Lewis trophy was won by Viv James all the ladies involved had a good afternoon

**18. Sunday Captain Report:** Anne Whittaker

We played one Sunday fixture this season against Attenborough, Anne said that Fred had covered for her on the day. This was a new fixture and the first time our players had visited the club. The players found the green heavy but none the less enjoyed their afternoon. The final score was Attenborough 92 Holwell 77. The friendly fixture against Belvoir Vale was cancelled.

**19. Bar Manager's Report:** Viv Hopkinson.

After a slow start to the season the bar has made a profit of £1865 with Presentation Night and AGM sales not included.

More non-alcoholic drinks have been purchased with Doombar being overtaken by Guinness 00. Also, wine sales have increased.

**20. Social Committee Report:** Sue Lemon's report read:

Our social events have again been limited this year but those that were held were much enjoyed.

We had a Christmas social organised by President Bob, which proved to be really good fun. Viv James held a Christmas Flower arranging workshop in December with a lot of chat and coffee. We successfully had our own arrangements to take home.

Our signing on Night was held at the club for the first time.

The Ladies v Men game was postponed to the end of the season and was followed by tea and home bakes supplied by our members thanks to all who baked for us.

President's Sue Tour went well and was really enjoyed by all who went.

Tom and Janet put together a Quiz evening which was enjoyed by all and hopefully will stay as part of our social calendar.

Presentation last week was attended by 33 members. Sara Groome provided the catering, which as always was excellent. £109 was raised by the raffle organised so well by Anne, Jean and Glenise. Our Greenkeeper Bob proved himself to be a great master of ceremonies on the night, all in all a lovely way to end the season. Our congratulations go to our winners and runners up and all who played.

We hope next season will provide us with some more opportunities to enjoy each other's company on and off the green.

## 21. County Delegates Reports

### Mens Delegate Report Arthur

I have been able to represent the club on 14 occasions this year along with Bob Penny. I am delighted to be able to say that Chris Rodgers was runner up in the county singles and won the county pairs with Neil Hope. They both qualified to play at Leamington on the back of this. Our congratulations go to both players.

Chris & Neil were part of the Leicestershire's Balcomb winning team. Chris was team captain. It is wonderful to have players of this stature in the club.

Bob Penny and Mark Simmons entered the National Foundation Pairs; a pairs event encouraging experienced and newer bowlers to team up and play together.

### Ladies Delegate Report Sue

We did not enter any county competition this season as the finals clashed with our tour dates. Glenise represented the club at County Friendly and League games; Sue had a limited number of games too.

Anne Spaulding and Lara Higgins entered the Foundation Pairs and progressed to the second round, well done on their first attempt.

It is hoped we can enter some of the county competition next season as the competitive nature of the games is missed.

## 22. Recruitment Report:

Many thanks to those who came forward and helped in the setting up, prior to and on the Open days of 23rd and 25<sup>th</sup> May. Regardless of the membership drive this was a successful social event due to the number of members present and evidence of the membership's support of the club. Perhaps we can consider how, in the future, our Open Day can become a recognised social bowls event.

My thanks to Alan Tipper and Pete Orridge for their help in putting up the signs, banners and noticeboards in advance of the open days.

The Tuesday Market flier handout was well supported by club members although I'm not convinced how rewarding it is. Perhaps posters in retail outlets and supermarkets reach a wider audience? The Tuesday market is not what it was several years ago and a high proportion of visitors to the town on market day are from outside the area.

An item about the Open Day was included in the Melton Messenger brochure in their events diary section. There was also a radio interview with Eye Radio in advance of the Open Day to promote the many and varied benefits of playing bowls and making listeners to the station aware of the Open Day.

A huge thanks to those who made sure the Open Days helpers had food and drinks during the events which resulted in 8 attendees and some serious membership interest.

## 23. Propositions from Committee None

## 24. Life Membership Award: None

25. **Election of Officers:** President Sue presented incoming President Fred with his badge and the chain of office. President Fred assumed the chair.

26. **President Fred declared all seats vacant. All post were unopposed other than the three vacant positions.**

**Nominations were taken from the floor proposed and seconded by members and accepted by nominees.**

**The committee was voted in on bloc unanimously by a show of hands from members attending.**

| Position            | Nominee        | Proposed           | Seconded    |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| President           | Fred Thorpe    | Sue Moore          | Sue Lemon   |
| Vice President      | Anne Spaulding | Fred Thorpe        | Sue Lemon   |
| Secretary           | Sue Lemon      | Fred Thorpe        | Byron James |
| Financial Secretary | Simon Hall     | Eric Faulconbridge | Sue Lemon   |

|  |                                    |                  |                   |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Fixture Secretary Men and Mixed                | Sue Lemon                          | Sue Moore        | Bob Lemon         |
| Fixture Secretary Ladies                       | Anne Whittaker                     | NR               | NR                |
| Club Captain Saturday                          | Anne Spaulding                     | Fred Thorpe      | Arthur Broadberry |
| Club Vice Captain Melton Triples and Kings Cup | Bob Penny Nominated from the floor | Sue Lemon        | Dennis Hopkinson  |
| Ladies Captain                                 | NR                                 |                  |                   |
| Ladies Vice Captain                            | NR                                 |                  |                   |
| LCB Delegate Ladies                            | Sue Lemon                          |                  |                   |
| LCB Delegate Men                               | Arthur Broadberry                  | Fred Thorpe      | Dennis Hopkinson  |
| Mid-Week Captain                               | Fred Thorpe                        | Geoff Rudkin     | Ken Tween         |
| Sunday Captain                                 | Anne Whittaker                     | Sue Lemon        | Bob Lemon         |
| Competition Secretary                          | Eric Faulconbridge                 | Fred Thorpe      | Sue Lemon         |
| Green Keeper                                   | Bob Lemon                          | Fred Thorpe      | Viv Hopkinson     |
| Assistant Green Keeper                         | Dennis Hopkinson                   | Sue Lemon        | Bob Lemon         |
| Bar Manager                                    | Viv Hopkinson                      | Anne Spaulding   | Fred Thorpe       |
| Assistant Bar Manager                          | Cath Hollis                        | Anne Spaulding   | Fred Thorpe       |
| Recruitment                                    | Mark Simmons                       | Bob Lemon        | Sue Lemon         |
| Safeguarding Officer                           | Glenise Marshall                   | Dennis Hopkinson | Sue Lemon         |
| Safeguarding Officer                           | Mel Bass                           | Sue Lemon        | Bob Lemon         |
| IPP  | Sue Moore                          | NR               | NR                |

**27. Incoming President's Remarks:** (provided before installation of officers and committee)

First and foremost, I would like to thank Sue Moore for her commitment as president this year. I am sure we would all agree that she has done a fantastic job.

I am deeply honoured to accept the position of Holwell Sports Bowls Club for the year of 2026.

I would like to thank members for the confidence they have placed in me, and I will do my utmost to uphold the values, traditions and spirit of our club. I look forward to supporting all our members, encouraging participation and helping to promote the enjoyment and success of bowls, both within Holwell and in our wider sporting community.

With your support, I hope 2026 will be a year of continued progress, camaraderie and sporting achievement for our club.

The tour of Eastbourne in September next year is well underway and, at the moment, I have almost filled the bus.

**28. Honorarium:** Status Quo.

Please Note - Secretary Sue Lemon had proposed that AOCB be dropped from the AGM Agenda. Propositions to be put forward to the AGM by members in advance of the meeting. Seconded by Phil Hardy and agreed unanimously at the AGM 2021.

*Eric Faulconbridge introduced a set of agreed Competition Rules to members to be used in next year's Competitions.*

**Dates for Diary 2025.** (May be subject to change)

- Pre-Christmas social/party. Date 15th December.
- Social & Fee-Paying Night - Friday January 30th, 2026, at the Club. 6.30pm
- Tea Rota Meeting Friday 6th March 2026 10am– at the club. (if required)
- Cleaning Days - Wednesday 8th April 2026 at 9.00am
- Opening of the Green - Saturday 11th or 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 2pm. (Easter is early 3rd– 6th)
- Presentation Night Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2026 at the Club.
- AGM Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2026 at the Club.
- President's Tour to Eastbourne 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2026.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.15pm

A committee meeting to be held the last Tuesday in the month agreed.  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November at M&DIBC 10am.