

MINUTES

Allithwaite Bowling Club AGM

Wednesday 16th October 2024

Item		Action(s)/action required by	Date
Welcome	David welcomed the members and thanked them for attending A minute's silence was held to remember those members from our club, Lyn Slater, Pat Banks and Gordon Roberts and all those who were near and dear to us that have sadly passed away over the past 12 months		
Present	A Balderstone, G Balderstone, B Bryan, K Bryan, B Burton, D Corp, P Donnelly, D Haddow, J Hawksford, J Hilton, C Jackson, J Jackson, N Jacobs, T Jeffries, P Jones, F Jordan, B Loader, K Loader, S Matthewman, T McBratney, T McIntosh, R Moorby, J Myatt, E Newman, J Nicholson, P Nicholson, B Schofield, L Schofield, A Scott, C Sinclair, J Sinclair, T Smith, A Sylvester, J Tattersall, R Tattersall, A Wilson, B Wilson, M Wilson, G Yates Total 39		
Apologies	B Lear, M Lear, P Watson, E Watson, Mike Kewley, M Kewley, A Athersmith, J Athersmith, J Thwaites, D Barton, S Barton, P Gaskin, K Gaskin		
Minutes of 2023 AGM	No Matters arising and the minutes were approved		
Club President - 2025	Proposal that Gillian Balderstone to be nominated as club President for 2025 season. Agreed		

Nominations for Club Charity 2025	BEEP Doctors remained nominated from 2024 and A Scott nominated MND Motor Neurone Disease It was agreed we would support both charities		
Annual Reports	See Below		

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024

INTRODUCTION

As always, an AGM is a key time in the life of any Club. It is an opportunity to note the achievements of the last year and to thank those Club members concerned. It is also an opportunity to reflect upon the year just gone and consider how things might have been done differently so that, looking forward, we might have better outcomes in the future.

You will have reports from the Treasurer, the Greenkeeper, the Competitions Secretary, the Maintenance Officer and from the captains of our league teams. I won't pre-empt what is said in their reports but I do wish to touch on a couple of areas.

OUR GREEN

Unfortunately, I do not think we have seen the full benefit of the work undertaken last September because of the appalling weather we experienced in the autumn and over the winter and early spring. Having said that I hope you will agree that there has been a substantial improvement in the quality of the green and its playability and this has been in large part down to the efforts of Alan Balderstone and Ron Tattershall and especially John Hilton who has given up a huge amount of time to ensure we have a green which is as good as it is. We owe all of them, and those members who have helped out from time to time, our grateful thanks.

Improvements to the green will be an ongoing priority and I am delighted that John has agreed, subject to the approval of the members, to be the main man going forward. However, he cannot do it all on his own so when John sends out a plea for help, please, please give your time generously. It will be time well spent and, who knows, afterwards you can reward yourselves with a well-earned drink in The Pheasant or The Engine.

FINANCE

It has been an expensive year with substantial sums being spent on machinery for the maintenance of the green and maintenance of the clubhouse. As a result, our reserves are less than they were this time last year and obviously we will need to try to increase them so we can continue to invest in the future of the Club.

This year we have received a legacy of £1000 from the estate of John Curtis and part of this has reimbursed the cost we incurred in creating the rockery garden which we have dedicated to John. We have sent photos of the garden to John's family who are delighted that the legacy has been used to such good purpose.

This has been the first year that Pauline, our Treasurer, has undertaken the task of keeping our finances recorded and in order and I'd like to thank her for her time and commitment in doing so.

COMPETITIONS & SOCIAL EVENTS

I'd like to thank Terry Jeffries for organising and running the various events we have held this year and also thanks go to Anne Scott for organising the raffles.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel some events due to lack of numbers and you will all have seen Julia's recent email informing everyone that the annual lunch had been cancelled because only 14 members had confirmed their attendance. This is an event which, in the past, has had 30-40 members attending where they could enjoy a 3-course lunch for a very reasonable price and also enjoy each other's company and some fun and games, so it is sad that there was so little interest this year.

There seems to be a general malaise affecting the Club which is causing there to be less interest shown in events than in previous years. I am not sure why this is but perhaps this is one area where we could do better and maybe you will have suggestions towards the end of this meeting which will reinvigorate everyone's interest for next year.

TEAMS

I'd like to thank the captains of the various teams for their commitment to ensuring that we were able to field teams in all the Leagues we entered. I will leave them to give you all the detail but listen out for Gillian Balderstone's report in particular! As outgoing Chair I'd like to wish all the teams success next season.

THE FUTURE

As you will have gathered, I am not standing to be a member of the Committee this year. I am not standing to be the Chair because I cannot commit the time, I think is needed to do a good job. I am not standing to be on the Committee because I think we should have new blood on the Committee. Whilst I think it is good to have some experienced members on the Committee, I believe it is vital to the longevity of any club to have new members on any governing committee so that the club can benefit

from new ideas and a different way of looking at what the club should be doing, why it should be doing it and how it should go about achieving that aim.

I am sure that some members have had grumbles about decisions made by the Committee this year. However, I am equally sure that no one has come to me or, as far as I am aware, any other Committee member to voice their concerns and really that is not good enough. If you have concerns voice them to the Committee but better still, become a member of the Committee so that it has the benefit of your ideas. You will see that there are vacancies for committee members and it is not too late to put yourselves forward at this meeting!

Before I finish, I would like to thank the current members of the Committee for their commitment to the Club and the time they give to it but, above all, I would like to thank our Secretary, Julia, for the huge amount of work she does on behalf of the Club and for maintaining our excellent website.

FINANCE REPORT

See attached Excell Spreadsheet

GREEN KEEPERS REPORT

The green has been plagued with worm casts like never before which have prevented mowing and have needed removing before playing on the green. We have desperately needed the help of our members in the task of swishing and brushing. We are aware this is not ideal, but thank those members who have given their time and support.

We have been applying the appropriate treatments as per the recommended application rates. The issue with worm casts has been somewhat a national problem this year brought on by the excessive amount of rain.

Throughout the season we applied moss killer, wetting agents, liquid sea weed, liquid iron, summer granular fertiliser and liquid fertiliser. The treatments are ALL weather dependent upon the correct conditions which means planning to do the work is short notice. The green has been cut regularly approximately every 2nd day.

The green did slowly improve as the season progressed, but was still lacking and required renovation work different from the previous year and in house drainage work has been done in the corner by Syd's shed. The green has been scarified, aerated and seeded on the 17th September

We are determined to manage the green through winter in a bid to have an improved surface for next season

Machinery

The repairs of our original Paladin mower have been completed after a considerable outage. The cost of which far exceeded the expected estimate. Negotiations have resulted via our current Chairman with a saving for the club of £310. This will make it a very useful secondary/winter mower.

The amount of time that has gone into the green this year by myself and Ron has been more than we wanted. Thankfully John Hilton has been keen to carry out work and become our Greenkeeper. Myself and I'm sure Ron, will continue to assist John going forward, however we must have more volunteers to assist John please.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

As we have not got a maintenance person it has fallen on me to do the report as Ron being a shy wee laddie, he asked me to do it.

Ron has done a lot of work on the cabin roofs.

The corrugated back of the roof between the two cabins has been replaced with strong carbonate which should last for a good few years, the bike shed roof has also been redone with metal corrugated material.

The old cabin has also been re-felted on one side as the storms ripped the old stuff off.

The front of the roof between the cabins has yet to be done but is in hand.

The gutter on Syd's shed has been repaired and the outside score board and the entrance to the green sign have both been given new facia's

Robinsons are coming on Tuesday to do this years Pat Testing.

The bike shed has been sanded down and a new coat of preservative been painted on.

Ron's friend Bernard Keeley has helped Ron with the roofs and did the work for free as a favour to him.

Up to now all the work has been carried out at no cost to the club except for materials.

The end side of the cabin facing the gate as you come in had got a lot of rotting wood especially round the windows and needed to be repaired so it was decided to cover all that side in a plastic cladding to protect it from the weather which really batters that side.

Bernard and Ron have nearly finished with just a few bits to complete the job, they have been two full days up to now

The materials cost £510 and Bernard's bill is £100 which is extremely good for a really first-class job.

Going forward I think we need to bite the bullet and try for a major grant to replace all the existing cabins and sheds as they will all need a lot of work, money and time spending on them to keep them weather proof and fit for purpose.

COMPETITIONS SECRETARY

The Social and Club Competition events over the past year were in some cases hampered by the inclement and unpredictable weather conditions throughout the Summer.

It was hoped that our social year would begin with both a '**Friendly**' fixture with Lindale – as a return gesture for us having visited their Club the previous season –

and a **Club gathering** based around a Jacob's Join lunch. However, both these events did not materialise due to the exceptionally cold and wet weather we experienced during April – unfortunately rendering our own green unfit.

Our first Social Event took place on 12th May with the encouraging theme of '**Team Spirit**'! Four teams – Gin, Vodka, Whiskey and Rum -each of 4 Bowlers organised into two pairs, played two ends in each individual game. The scores for each team pair were added together and totalled over a series of inter-spirit matches. The overall winner was the 'Whiskey' team, made up of Pauline Jones, Terry Jeffries, Joyce Hawksford and Margaret Wilson.

June – unfortunately not bringing any better weather – came into view with two events: The '**Jack and Eileen Holden Trophy**' – the competition where those entered are assigned a helpful handicap value, designed to give each player the same realistic opportunity of winning through to the final. The successful finalists were Jeanne Tattersall and Alan Balderstone, with Alan becoming the overall winner of the Trophy.

Thanks to an upturn in the weather, we were able to host a very enjoyable '**Invitation Day**' on the 23rd. The competition consisted of Club members - playing with an invited guest – being arranged into colour groups. Each pair played every other pair -over 9 ends- to produce a '*colour group winning pair*'. These four pairs played off to produce the overall winning pair – Marysia Lear and her guest, Mercedes.

Owing to a number of factors, the **Charity Day** event – scheduled for Sunday, 7th July of this year, did not go ahead.

However, July was a busy month hosting a '**Friendly**' fixture with **Heversham Bowling Club** – in return for us being invited to their Club last year. The afternoon was split into two sessions – one before **tea**, and one after **tea**. Before tea, pairs were drawn from our own Club to play against pairs from Heversham Club. After tea, pairs were re-drawn to have one player from each Club. All games were doubles played to nine ends. The competition was brisk, yet very friendly, with the visiting Club claiming victory in the first session by 47 points to 46! A very enjoyable day was had by all who took part.

'**The Club Doubles Competition**' took place on Sunday July 23rd. Fourteen pairs, drawn at random, took part. After a straight knock-out competition played to C.G.B. rules, the Semi-finalists emerged as: Jeanne Tattersall and June Myatt, Rob Keegan and Margaret Wilson, with Rob and Margaret going forward to win the overall title.

'**The Club Singles Competition**', took place on Saturday 10th August.

There were 24 entries. Again, as a 'knock-out' competition, semi-finalists were: **Lee Storey** and **Kim Bryan**, with **Lee** emerging as our Singles Champion for 2024.

'**The Jack Johnson Club Open Competition**': It became clear that the number of entries for this competition was significantly lower than last year. Enquiries to other Clubs holding similar 'mixed pair' events showed a similar pattern. Unfortunately, as a committee, we had to take the sad decision to cancel this event. It is hoped to

re-vamp the format for next year in order to re-establish this valuable competition in our annual schedule.

‘President’s Day’: The day was arranged around a number of ‘mini-matches’ between evenly balanced pairs drawn at random. Four rounds allowed each pair to play all others – eleven ends per game – to produce an overall pair with the greatest **‘aggregate’** - this pair emerged **as *Thelma McBratney and Gillian Yates***.

Personally, I would like to thank Ann Scott who very ably organised raffles and tombola stands at a number of events, and Julia Nicholson who was able to record our events with some memorable photographs. Thanks, are also due to those members who were willing to act as scorers/measurers, or who came along just to support. In particular, Jeanne Tattersall, Joyce Hawksford, Pauline Jones - who provided assistance in the kitchen to lay on some notable ‘spreads’, and help to organise collections.

It is hoped to encourage as many members as possible to enlist and enjoy another round of Club Competitions and Events in the forthcoming season.

T. Jeffries,

Competition and Events Secretary.

October, 2024.

CAPTAINS’ REPORTS

RURAL LEAGUE

Team Members: Patrick Donnelly; Delia Haddow; Joyce Hawksford; John Hilton; Frank Jordan; June Myatt; Carol Naylor; Elaine Newman; Alan Wilson; Margaret Wilson; Terry Jeffries, (Captain). Reserve Players: Richard Moorby; Jane Thwaites.

Matches: As a result of new entrants to the Leagues from other Clubs, the team played an increased number of matches over this season, totally 22.

Won 7: Lost 12: Drew 3: Total points for season: 63, Position in League: 11/12.

Overview: The team played, as usual, with real enthusiasm and with a genuine keenness to achieve their best throughout the season. A weekly practice session was held and was well attended, improving overall standards of technique and skill, so as the season progressed - as a team - we showed a steady, noticeable rise in achievements on the green.

There were some occasions when reserve players were drawn upon to complete a team, (Frank had to contend with medical issues which prevented him from taking part in the full spectrum of match play), needed for League matches.

The overall camaraderie of the Allithwaite Rural team throughout the season, once again, was exemplary. Despite some inclement and unpredictable weather conditions we put forward a keen and determined team for each fixture – enjoying the game and each other’s company.

The background ethos to the Cumbria Rural League also proved to be equally congenial with Charles Ellis the General Secretary doing a great job. There has been an overall acceptance, amongst participating Clubs, that although the main Rural directive remains focused upon bringing beginners into the game, the need to field teams each Friday evening often results in the inclusion of more experienced players. The underlying problem being the realisation that fewer younger potential players are taking up Bowling.

Having completed our League match commitments, the Team was entered for The David Skidmore Memorial Trophy Competition. This knockout event was being held at several League Clubs sporting Floodlit facilities, the first matches taking place in early September. We very narrowly lost our first fixture against Subscription and so, this year, did not progress further in the Competition.,

Could I take this opportunity to extend my personal thanks to each and every team member, including our stalwart reserve players, who supported our Rural team over what proved to be a very enjoyable and rewarding bowling season.

Terry Jeffries, (Captain). *Allithwaite Rural League Team, October, 2024.*

ROTHAY

Well, it feels like the season had just got started and in the blink of an eye it was all over.

The Rothay league 2nd division only had 8 teams so it was quite a short season but never the less there were some very good players in the teams so we had some really hard games.

The team finished in a very creditable 4th place, winning 6 at home and losing 8 away matches.

The top two players were Kim and Alan who went on to represent the team in the end of season Merits Competition at Burneside.

Kim had a great game but lost to 21-20 against Graham Malloy from Windermere B.

Alan played Steve Lord from Windermere and trounced him 21-3, his next game was against

Graham Malloy but unfortunately lost 21-18.

Kim and Alan played well, so thanks to them both.

I have enjoyed captaining the team this year and would like to thank them all for their support and commitment to me and the team. Thanks to Gillian Yates who helped me out on several occasions to cover holidays and for players unavailable.

A quick thanks to the green keeping team of John, Alan and Ron for all their hard work.

I have ordered an industrial size bag of birth control pills which we can crush up and scatter over the green hoping to stop the little sods multiplying.

Lastly, I am sure all the captains will agree with me that the hardest part of the job is trying to juggle all the tasks at home matches.

In a team of eight, 4 are on the green playing, the other 4 are marking a game unless you can get some of the away team players to help out. There is also the measuring and making tea as well as sorting out the next games to go on and playing yourself.

This year has seen a marked decrease in the number of people coming along to help out, so please if you can come along to support and help that would be great.

Thanks to the people that did we really appreciate it.

Next season we should be aiming for promotion to the 1st division, so bring it on.

Jeanne Tattersall

SENIORS A

Our Senior's A team have had a very good season, resulting in our Promotion up to Division 1 for next season. Yes, it will be tough but the team have played well throughout the season to get there, and in the last few weeks were probably watching results elsewhere as much as I was.

We won 15 of our 22 games and finished in 2nd place 5 points ahead of Milnthorpe A, but considerably behind top placed Carnforth A.

The season wasn't without some difficulties, as the season developed and the B Team struggled, I used the 'player playing twice option' rather than call on anyone from the B Team. My players who went out playing twice doing a brilliant job, thank you.

Not actually down as playing in the Senior's League at all our Ulverston ladies Audrey and Thelma helped us enormously, thank you both.

The last 4 weeks I thought were going to be a struggle as 2 of our team unfortunately had other commitments and were unavailable and Alan and myself were going away for 2 of those weeks. However, with the season finishing earlier for the B and C teams I was able to call on their players.

Without the help of all those that filled in we certainly couldn't have got this promotion; it is more than just the A Team's effort.

Huge thanks to:

Audrey
Thelma
Tina
Phil
Peter
Marysia
Bob
Linda

Thank you too to my superb team Alan, Jeanne, Ron, Kim, David C, Jim and Carole for your help on match days and of course for your fabulous playing ability!
Congratulations.

Gillian Balderstone

SENIORS B

I think it's fair to say 2024 season for the B team was a challenge. We started with a squad of 10 but for the first 9 matches we were short of players due to injury, illness, playing up and holidays for 7 of those 9 matches.

Fortunately, there were sufficient players drawn from the C team to cover us, however, we just didn't get the wins just 2 in the first half of the season leaving us in relegation position.

At this time as captain I had the opportunity, with the backing of the other captains to change my team, however, I decided not to make any changes but keep the original squad.

The second half was better for availability actually no shortages at all, however, we still didn't perform well enough, despite 3 wins to keep us out of the relegation zone so although the decision was unpopular, I decided, with the support of most other captains, to strengthen the team for the final two matches with an aim to prevent relegation and keep an Allithwaite team in division 4. The 2 final matches were against Crosthwaite B and Victoria who incidentally finished 1st and 2nd in the division and with the strengthened team we won both games so avoided relegation.

My thanks of course go to the B team original squad and everyone who played for us during the season. Special thanks to Gillian Yates for acting as Vice-Captain, she was always there when I needed her. Thanks Gill. Thanks to the few loyal supporters that watched, marked and made tea and finally where would we be without our green keeping team of John, Alan and Ron and all their hard work, huge thanks to you.

Julia Nicholson

SENIORS C

After a shaky start with 18 players, we settled down and it worked out quite well. We finished 8 from 10 so not quite the bottom. We all enjoyed the season that's all that matters.

Cheers, Joyce

KENDAL AND DISTRICT A TEAM

The Super 32 Knockout competition

31st March 2024 was the start of the season with Gilly B taking place as the Division 3 champion in 2023

The League

We are safe in the League (Div 3) finishing 4th out of 11. Only 6 points from a promotion place. We were in the unusual position of having 3 new and experienced players join the A Team this season with a 4th filling in for us towards the end of the season.

Knock Out Cup

In the KO Cup we lost our first round against Windermere A who are a Division 1 team by 11 chinks. They went on to win the competition

Div 3 championship

The names of our 4 highest merited players went forward to represent the club and were selected to play in the KO Cup. Gilly, Angela, Lee & Jeanne

Thanks to everyone that turned out to support us during the season it was very much appreciated and many thanks too to all the team and those who stepped in to help out.

Alan Balderstone

KENDAL AND DISTRICT B TEAM

We had a squad of ten players, but unfortunately Bill Wilson was unfit to play for the majority of the season, though he came along to support the team at all of our matches.

The team played consistently throughout the season, and worked together well, with each player contributing to the overall performance that enabled us to finish just below halfway in Division 4.

Thelma finished top of the 'Merits Table' with 28 points, whilst Marysia was top of the 'Team Averages' and Richard played all 18 matches.

A very enjoyable season, I believe, was had by all, and it was a pleasure to be their captain. The only disappointment being our last match of the season away to Holker, when the Holker team captain used the 'Team Averages' instead of the 'Merit Positions' for his team and we subsequently discovered for our team as well!

Finally, a thank you to both Brian L and Patrick who stepped in to help the team during the season and ALL the team whose support and assistance made my role as team captain so enjoyable.

I am certain that we are all looking forward to next season.

Bob Lear

KENDAL AND DISTRICT C TEAM

The team started the season with 13 players and 5 reserves. Unfortunately, two players had operations which prevented them from playing for most of the season. However, despite losing some of our team when called to play for a higher division, a core group remained as the team throughout the season.

As you might expect we had our best results at our home matches. The best result being our last home match when we won 7 games against Abbot Hall and our worst match was away against Endmoor when we only won 1 game! Our team went out to win and matches were always played with good team spirit and plenty of support towards other team members. We were grateful for the supporters who turned up at home and away matches to encourage us and to help out with the organisation of home matches. As a new captain I appreciated the invaluable help, advice and support from my Vice Captain Carole Jackson and the other team members. Despite coming 2nd to the bottom of our division the team had 4 members who played in the Divisional Championship and Carole got through to the last eight players. A good season: but we aim for a better one next year!

Tina McIntosh

Item		Action(s)/action required by	Date
Members suggestions	Gillian Yates suggested that we should hold a social event every third Sunday through the season. This was received very positively by the majority of those present. David Corp suggested we started using a suggestion box to encourage members to contribute ideas. Tina McIntosh stressed that it was important for members reporting issues/ concerns that they also try to provide a solution.		
Election of Officers	The following executive positions were proposed, seconded and carried with majority votes: Chairperson T Jeffries Hon. Secretary J Nicholson Hon. Treasurer & Membership Secretary P Jones Competitions Secretary G Yates Welfare Officer B Loader Club Member 1 T McIntosh Club Member 2 R Moorby Club Member 3 M Wilson During the election of officers there was concerned raised by two members S Matthewman and L Schofield about how many executive positions any one individual should hold. It was identified that our constitution does not currently prohibit multiple roles, however, our constitution is		

Election of Officers cont.	under review therefore this could potentially change.		
AOB	Ann Scott proposed the idea of having a Christmas Jacobs Join in early December using the community hall as a venue. This suggestion was received favourably by the majority of the members present. Ann will confirm the date and arrange for a poster to be circulated to all members and be involved in the onward arrangements. Alan Balderstone offered thanks on behalf of the club for David Corps contribution as Chairman over the past two years with particular reference of a temporary loan that without would have prevented the purchase of the new mower.	Ann to plan the event	Dec. 2024
Date AGM 2025	To be confirmed		