



BOWLING CLUB DE ZURGENA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at The Heathers on Tuesday 16th January 2024 following roll up

Start time 13.10pm

Attendance: Committee Members: Cliff Smith, Carole Thomas, Ian Mason, Paul Day, Maureen Hanratty, Charles Hayes t
+41 club members

Apologies Stuart Stansfield, Ade Leitch, Donald Garden, Les Hall, Tony Kettle

Minutes of the previous meeting Unfortunately due to the previous club Secretary's computer failure, we are unable to produce last year's AGM minutes. The hard copy is not where it ought to be in the office either.

President's Report

1. As you all know I am standing down from my Role as president today. I have been involved with the club in various roles over the years, Vice Captain and Captain, also Club Captain and then your President. It has been an honour and a pleasure (most of the time) to serve in these roles. I have seen the club rise from when we took over from the Town Hall with the one little cream hut with the equipment in. At that time we didn't have any league teams and we didn't even roll up on the same days as we do today. This I believe was to encourage bowlers from other clubs to attend outside their roll up days. Eventually it was agreed that going forward we would like to join the league and this meant changing roll up days in line with the other clubs. We entered the league with varied success. We were considered a joke team but how things have changed now with both the Spitfires and the Hurricanes doing extremely well in the league!

2. When I took over as president my goal was to provide toilet facilities and refreshment facilities on the site. This was achieved after negotiations with the Town Hall and members of the committee both past and present.

3. I would like to thank all of the other committee members that I have had the pleasure serving alongside over the past years although I'm sure some will not feel the same.

4. How different it has been over the last couple of years at the cluniversity. At one time we could get very little interest in FAB events but this has now changed significantly. This year has seen record entries and a fantastic success rate. Well done guys!

5. It is good to see that the new committee is full of enthusiasm and there is some young blood on it. I'm sure we will see a few changes over the coming year.

Vice President's Report This is my last report as Vice President. (who said thank goodness?!) Joking apart I've enjoyed it. Cliff has been so efficient as president, that I haven't had much to do.

I must say a big thank you to Caroline (and Jim's help I'm sure) for organising the Christmas presentation dinner. All that attended, I feel, enjoyed the food and the music by The Ramblers.

The raffle made 150 euros.

We're now in our 9th year, and we're going from strength to strength. We're still a friendly club with lovely people in it.

As I pass my badge to Shootsie I wish him all the best and good luck with finding any Vice in the club, I couldn't.

Oh and you won't get rid of me completely as I'll still be after your money for the Lottery.

Treasurer's Report The This report covers the financial year 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

My thanks go to the committee for their support and to all who have assisted in many ways to help generate income for the club. The accounts were Audited and certified correct on 04th January 2024

Financial Report - Income

Total from all income sources FY2023 amounted to €20527.76

Membership at the start of the year was 57 but increased to 80 by the years end.

Membership subscriptions totalled €8560

Visitors fees raised €695

Fundraising totalled €7700.76 with The Sale of refreshments raising €5902.56, Bonus ball lottery €497.10 and the remaining €1301.10 coming from the various fundraising events. Many thanks for all the support.

Renewal of and New sponsorships raised €2650

Financial Report - expenditure

Total from all sources FY2023 €3475.76

The expenditure for the year was below budget with Affiliation fees accounting for €1459.31

The Original Buisness Plan states that for the FY ending 2023 the club should have set aside €40000

Total Funds at the end of FY2023 stand at €60605.92 more than €20000 above the target. This is all down to the support of the members. Taking into account inflation and price increases over the recent years I believe that as they stand the club finances are in a very health condition.

Financial Forecast FY2024

Income

Based on Membership numbers following a similar pattern as the past 2 years expected income is €10,000

Assuming continuation of present sponsorships €2,000

Fundraising events are forecast to raise € 1500

Based on current levels of usage the sale of refreshments should raise €5,500

I thereby forecast income for FY2024 to be €19,000

Expenditure

Routine running costs are Forecast to be similar to last year therefore a budget of €3500 should meet all predicted requirements.

Based on predicted Membership FAB affiliations fees are expected to be €1400

I am unable to predict the Investment in capital equipment. As you are all aware the club has applied for funding through the Town Hall and are still awaiting the decision, regardless of the outcome it is planned to spend a considerable amount on the upkeep of the green and additional shading at the far end of the green. I hope you will all agree that this will be money well spent as without the green the club would not exist.

Club Assets

The value of Club assets is reduced by 15% annually. This is to reflect their true worth. The current value of Assets stands at €14680.32

The asset register is part of the annual accounts.

Recommendations.

My recommendation is that membership rates be raised to €140 per person which will include the FAB fee which has also increased. Membership fees have not been increased since 2019 and will remain the most affordable in the area. This increase equates to €1.5 a month. Daily visitors Fees will remain the same.

Conclusion

In my opinion the clubs Finances are in a very robust condition. This is all down to the support and help of you the members. I hope that all of you will continue to provide this level of support through all future endeavours.

If any Member requires full details of the Accounts for FY2023, please ask to see the account spreadsheet and the financial summary linked to this report.

Secretary's Report Before I begin I would like to say how delighted Shootsie and I are to be part of this lovely little club. We like it so much we've bought a house across the road so we can be nearer than the 25 minute drive we had before. Is that dedication or madness? You decide

It has been a challenging year with many changes, some expected and some unexpected. Paul Day took over from Alan Drummond (a planned change) and myself and Ade Leitch found ourselves stepping into the breach as Secretary and Competition Secretary when Ann and Phil Miles left. It was a bit of a scramble, for me anyway as I'd never been on a committee before, but I hope you're happy enough with how we've coped. At this point I'd like to say my first thank you to Ade who has done, and continues to do, a fantastic job of running the internal competitions and coordinating the club members' participation in FAB events. Well done Ade

My next thank you goes to Cliff who after 4 years has decided to step down as President. There have been comments made about how the President is just a figurehead and does very little. It simply isn't true. It's the perfect example of a duck swimming across a pond. All you see is the duck gliding along, and not the legs pedaling like mad underneath. Aside from the regular stuff Cliff does, particularly well I might add, he and I have had to go through the torturous task of completing various complex documents, including the new Code of Conduct and Governance tomes, all of which had to be uploaded onto an official site and digitally signed. This was required by the Junta de Andalucía for ALL sports clubs. Failure to meet the requirements would mean the club's closure. So, a big thank you to Cliff for the years he has dedicated to the club!

Next I'd like to thank Carole who is also stepping down as Vice President. She thought she could escape quietly but since Caroline has resigned as fund raising and entertainments coordinator and there have been no nominations for the role, we're going to press gang her into doing it. She's done it before so who better to step in?

Thank you to Ian, our esteemed Club Captain who has had a tough time since losing his beloved Sue. I believe that this club has been a great mainstay for Ian, not only by giving him a focus to keep a routine, but also by the way everyone has rallied round and supported him. Our new Sue Mason Memorial Day in January was a fun testament to a fun lady who was always smiling. Well Sue, your Memorial Day raised 520€ - half for the Spanish Heart Foundation who 7 years ago gave you a new heart and an extra 7 years with Ian! Thanks also goes to Charles and Shootsie for coming up with this lovely idea and for making it happen

Thank you to club members for supporting our club, for the fantastic turnout on roll up days, for supporting each other on and off the rinks. When Del's wife passed last year everyone was there with a kind word, a hug and an offer to simply "be there". You have turned out in support of those members who have taken part in FAB competitions and hasn't our club done well? Only yesterday a comment was made that nowadays whatever the competition is, Zurgena always seems to be there in the last few standing, often emerging victorious! I won't steal Ade's thunder by mentioning the titles our club has won but yesterday saw three out of four Zurgena teams in the semi finals of the FAB Mixed Pairs. We certainly seem to be achieving our goal which has always been to be a HAPPY and successful club.

Thank you to Caroline for doing one of the most thankless jobs - fundraising and entertainment. Having worked in events coordinating myself I know that if something goes wrong you get nothing but criticism but if everything goes well, well you've just done your job. Well done Caroline and thank you for all your hard work!

Thank you to Charles who does a fantastic job of keeping the club from physically falling to pieces, to Paul who guards our purse strings and ensures we keep solvent, and to the grounds people who keep our lovely surface in tip top condition.

This brings me to my final topic - that of the grant that the Town Hall have applied for from the European Fund.. I last spoke to Ana, Deputy Mayor, on Friday who checked with the responsible department and unfortunately there has been no answer yet regarding our money. There was never a timescale given by the European Fund on when we should expect to hear so the Town Hall said they hoped we'd know by Christmas, it was really their best guess. We will just have to work on the basis that no news is possibly good news. We WILL get our surface sorted one way or another but we need to await the outcome of this grant or no grant situation before proceeding..

To wrap up, we believe we have a good relationship with the Town Hall and they seem very supportive of us. In a meeting myself, Cliff and Ian had with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, they assured us that when our lease is up for renewal they fully intend to grant it. They follow our Facebook page and I frequently tag the Major on posts so that he sees what we're up to. He ALWAYS sends a like so we know he sees it.

All in all, despite a few hiccups along the way since last year's AGM, I believe that Y(OUR) club is going from strength to strength in the right direction and I personally feel privileged to be a part of it.

Captain's Report The Firstly, as always, a big thanks to everyone for all their help and support over the last year and looking forward to another great year.

We have a good year on picking up new members and we are above the 80 members mark. Unfortunately, as we know we will lose some members this year.

Congratulations to Paul Day for qualifying as a Bronze Coach. I know he has already had success with new members. Hopefully with both of us coaching we will be able to pick up more members.

Last year winter league saw the Spitfires getting 3rd place and hurricanes 8th place. Hopefully both teams will improve on this when the league finishes this year.

In June we launched our Facebook page which is going well and putting the word out about our club.

In December we had great results in the FAB men's pairs and men's singles, winning both disciplines.

We also had winners in the Andalusians open last year, winning 7 out of 10 available medals. Well done to them!

Now we must focus on a new year and hopefully more success both on the green and off the green.

System Administrator's Report Nothing to report

Competition Secretary's Report Firstly, can I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me to settle into the role over the last 3 months.

We have a busy year ahead with two UK visiting clubs, one in May the other in October and a full programme of club competitions as well as the Zurgena Open Trips.

I can only comment on the events last year that I was involved in. The first event was the Zurgena Open Trips which went ahead without any major issues, however, did result in a financial loss, primarily down to the disappointing number of entries. I have put procedures in place to ensure this cannot happen again. All club competitions need to be self-financing.

The fancy dress charity event was a great success with 520 euros raised for two separate charities. Thank you to everyone who attended or donated it is much appreciated.

Another innovation is the Monday Singles League. It has taken a while to bed in, but I believe all involved are enjoying the event and it can only enhance the players skills. I would like to thank the greenkeepers for their flexibility in enabling this event to go ahead.

One of the things I have introduced is the requirement for members to pay their competition entrance fees before they are entered onto the official entry sheet. I was spending too much time and effort chasing entrance fees. I hope you can understand the reason for the change.

I am also monitoring future competitions to gauge their popularity and will decide if a change of format is required for some of them. I have started talking to members about this to gain their views.

Our two FAB league teams are doing the club proud with the Spitfires currently in second place and the Hurricanes in mid table (a great achievement considering at least 50% of the team are new bowlers).

On a final note, we have two competitions coming up, the first the Gents and Ladies singles, and for this event to go ahead markers are required. If you can help with marking on the 18th 19th or 20th of this month, please contact me asap.

We have the Seeded Drawn Trips starting on the 10th of February and ask that we try to support this. We had to cancel this event last year due to a disappointing number of entries.

Any Other Business

Any questions that were asked after each report will be detailed here, together with any other business:

Roy Keningale asked how long we wait to see whether the EU grant is forthcoming. It was pointed out that we do not know when we are likely to hear but that as it is a sizeable amount, and we are not at an optimum time of year to carry out works to the base anyway, there is nothing to be gained by rushing into spending our own club funds.

Derek Strong asked if we are not going to do anything to the green until our contract with the Council is extended. It was pointed out that we have no reason to believe that the Council will not renew our contract (we have been given verbal assurances to that effect) and in any case before the renewal date talks will be had.

Ray Malt pointed out that whilst we all agree that the green needs to be sorted, club members are not likely to leave in droves if work did not get carried out, for whatever reason.

Alan Drummond pointed out that things progress slowly with the Council but that invariably we always get what we want in the end.

Charles Hayes noted that the greens seemed to run better after we got a roller in previously and asked if we might consider doing that again. Ian Mason said that this will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Derek Strong suggested that due diligence is necessary prior to a decision on the green is reached and asked if the club members would be consulted. Jan Dando pointed out that a Management Committee can spend up to 3000€ without conferring but after that members must vote on expenditure. Steve Marshall suggested that social members should be able to vote – a moot point as we do not have any social members.

The issue of social members was raised, but that will be discussed at another time as currently friends and family are allowed to join in our social events anyway, so what would be the benefit to social membership ? To be discussed further.

Stephen Marshall asked what the justification in raising the yearly membership fee by 20€ was. Paul Day pointed out that everything now costs more and fees have not been raised in the past 4 years. A vote was taken to ask members if they were happy with the 1.50€ a month increase and a large majority voted for it.

Mike Philpott touched on the subject of the tea hut prices and suggested all drinks be charged at 1€. This will be discussed at a committee meeting (again!)

Jan Dando pointed out that neither Lin Lyons nor Pauline Hayes are insured whilst helping out in the tea hut, on the grill. They need to be given free membership or insured by any other means in case of an accident.

Derek Strong asked if there is a protocol for First Aid situations and suggested the list of First Aiders be updated.

Linda Brimble suggested that we have some First Aiders in the club. We should check if they are recognised in Spain or whether a Spanish First Aid course is required.

The question of whether or not a defibrillator should be made available on the premises. Cliff answered that this has been explored in the past and under Andalusian law, whoever uses it on a person in need, would be liable should anything go wrong.

Shootsie asked whether the current surface could be rolled back, the base fixed, and the surface re-laid. He was told that Smart Grass Spain has already given us a quote to do this.

Carol Way asked if in order to curry favor with the Town Hall we ought to support a local charity. Cliff explained that we already do and we have donated to the Zurgena food bank.

Proposals:

1. That club fees be increased to 140€ per year – **passed**
2. That the Committee reserve the right to increase the annual club fees by UP TO 20% without this having to go to the vote – **not passed**
3. That the club be opened up on Summer evenings when it is cooler to play – **passed**

The President and Vice President stood down. Ian Mason took up the President's role in Cliff Smith's place and Tony Mason replaced Ian Mason as Club Captain. Graham 'Shootsie' Shoots took over the role of Vice Captain from Carole Thomas. All other roles remain as previously with the exception of Entertainment and Social, a role which will be shared out among club members.

A presentation was made to Cliff Smith and Carole Thomas with a heartfelt thank you to both for their dedication to the club over the years

Charles Hayes said a few words of thanks to club members who had made the effort to dress up at the Sue Mason Memorial Day at which 520€ was raised for charity – 260€ each to the Spanish Heart Foundation and to Prostate Cancer. Also huge thanks to Carol and Lin for the delicious cakes.

The meeting was officially closed at 14.25pm