



BOWDON CROQUET CLUB

St. Mary's Rd. Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire
WA14 2PL

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the committee has determined that the Annual General Meeting of the Bowdon Croquet Club shall be held on Saturday 12th November 2016 at 11:00am in the clubhouse.

The meeting will commence with a one minute silence in memory of all those members who have died since the last AGM.

Colin Wild, David Tunbridge, Pamela Sword, Roger McCall.

The business of the meeting is as follows.

1. ATTENDANCE.

All Members present are requested to ensure that they sign the attendance register. Multiple signing –in sheets will be available.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM.

These were circulated with the newsletter in February 2016 and the committee propose that they are taken as read. (See Appendix A).

4. MATTERS ARISING.

5. PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS. (See Appendix B).

6. HONORARY OFFICERS REPORTS.

Reports on the year's activities by the Hon. Secretary, Hon Treasurer, Ground Manager and Croquet Secretary, (See Appendix B).

7. ACCOUNTS.

Presentation and, if so resolved, adoption of the accounts for the year ending 30th September 2016. A set of accounts and the Hon Treasurer's projections for 2016/17 are enclosed. (See Appendix C).

Audited accounts will be available at the meeting.

8. APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITOR OR AUDITORS

9. ENTRY FEES/SUBSCRIPTIONS

The committee's recommendations for 2016/17 are as follows.

Full- playing:	Entry £90	Subscription £245.	From £235
Country:	Entry £35	Subscription £100.	From £93
Far Country:	Entry £25	Subscription £50.	From £42
Student:	Entry £22	Subscription £45.	From £42
Junior:	Entry £0	Subscription £0.	From £30
Non-playing:	Entry £12	Subscription £35.	From £34

A discount for full playing members of £5 will be given if payment is made in full by 1/1/17.

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following **Officers** retire in accordance with the rules.

President:	Colin Irwin (2012)(C)
Hon. Secretary:	Brian Storey (2015)(C)
Hon. Treasurer:	Barry McKenzie (2008)(A)
Hon. Croquet Secretary:	Ken Cooper (2011)(B)
Hon. Ground Manager:	Alan Mayne (2007)(A)

All Officers, except Barry McKenzie, have agreed to continue, if elected.

Leo Fletcher has been proposed by Barry McKenzie and seconded by Brian Storey to be the new Treasurer.

With the move to 3 year tenure and rotational elections the following will apply (Rule 9.10.5):

No nomination has been received for consideration of election of any other person to the above positions so their approval by election is required as follows:

Colin Irwin will be elected for 2 years
Brian Storey will be elected for 2 years
Leo Fletcher will be elected for 3 years
Ken Cooper will be elected for 1 year
Alan Mayne will be elected for 3 years

Note:

Dates in parentheses indicate the year the person was elected to their current position.
Letter in parentheses indicate the relevant group in accordance with Rule 9.10.5.1.

11. ELECTION OF 7 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following **Committee Members** retire in accordance with the rules: Lorna Frost (2005)(A), Charles Harding (2011)(B), Barry Keen (2008)(A), Carole Kelsall (2014)(C), Kay Martin (2011)(B), Steve Reynolds (2009)(B) and David Walters (2012)(C)
All, except Carole Kelsall, have agreed to continue, if elected.

With the move to 3 year tenure and rotational elections the following will apply (Rule 9.10.5):

No nomination has been received for consideration of election of any other person to the above positions so their approval by election is required as follows:

Lorna Frost will be elected for 3 years
Charles Harding will be elected for 1 year
Barry Keen will be elected for 3 years
Kay Martin will be elected for 1 year
Steve Reynolds will be elected for 1 year
David Walters will be elected for 2 years

Note: This leaves one vacancy on the Committee that will be filled as a "casual vacancy" by the Club Committee in due course.

Note:

Dates in parentheses indicate the year the person was elected to their current position.
Letter in parentheses indicate the relevant group in accordance with Rule 9.10.5.1.

12. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS.

Resolutions for the AGM that have been submitted in writing before the 1st Oct.
(Rule 9.5)

12.1 Change to Club Rule relating to Discipline

During the season a situation arose where a written complaint was made about a club member regarding behaviour.

Club Rule 8.3.1 refers only to a Complainant who is a club member themselves. The Rules do not cater for a person who is **NOT** a club member and as such may be considered deficient.

Note: Visiting players are classed as honorary members. (Club Rule 11.3)

The Committee proposes the following amendment:

Rule 8.3.1, delete, “any other member” and replace with, “any other person”.

12.2 Change to Club Rule relating to Country Membership – Distances of Home to Club

Proposed by Graham Good

Alteration to be made to rule 3.3.3:

Current wording: '....not less than 20 miles.....'

Proposed wording: '....not less than 15 miles....'

The Committee will be in a position at the AGM to outline the effect of such a change.

As proposed, this change does not in the first instance require a seconder, although one will be required before a vote can take place.

12.3 Proposal for the appointment of a Club Sub-Committee to examine whether the Club should become a “Community Amateur Sports Club” (CASC) plus an amendment to apply for this status without delay.

Proposed by Martin Granger-Brown, Seconded by Michael Sandler.

“That this Annual General Meeting authorises the setting up of a sub-committee to consider the circumstances in which it would be desirable for the Club to become a CASC and to present the membership with a recommendation one way or the other at an EGM to be called for the purpose of deciding the matter.”

Alternative amendment as follows:-

“That this Annual General Meeting authorises the Club Secretary to apply to become a CASC without delay”.

13. **SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE.**

AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING, THE CHAIRMAN WILL PRESENT THE CLUB TROPHIES FOR 2016.

At the conclusion of the meeting ALL members are invited to remain at the club for a while longer and participate in the 2016 Poppy Roquet competition with all proceeds to the Royal British Legion. A donation of £5 per head is recommended, but please give what you think is right for you.

Appendix A

Minutes of the last AGM held on 14th November 2015



Minutes of the Bowdon Croquet Club AGM

Saturday 14th November 2015

(Subject to the agreement of the 2016 AGM)

1. Attendance

Lorna Frost (chair); Barry McKenzie (Treasurer); Kay Martin (minutes); Brian Storey (Hon. Secretary) and 49 other members.

2. Apologies for Absence

Colin Irwin (President) and 11 other members.

3. Minutes of Previous AGM held on 22 November 2014

These were circulated with the newsletter in February 2015 and the committee proposed that they be taken as read.

Approval proposed by Martin Granger Brown and seconded by Rupert Webb.

Passed with no objections.

4. Matters Arising

Under item 12 it was recorded that club rules did not need amending to accommodate the rise in membership numbers as this had been for a trial period of five years. Whilst this was what was said at the meeting it was incorrect as the trial period agreed in 2010 was **not to exceed ten years**.

5. Presidential Remarks

These had been circulated along with the reports of the other Honorary Officers.

6. Honorary Officers' Reports

These had been circulated with the agenda.

There were no questions from the meeting. Martin Granger Brown put forward a special thank you and congratulations to the Ground Manager and his team for the splendid condition of the lawns – this was met with applause.

7. Accounts

- Barry McKenzie explained to the meeting the need for a change to the rules replacing “**audit**” with “**independent examination of accounts**”. Further, that there had been an error in the circulated papers – clause 9.2 had been addressed but **not** Clause 9.4.3 which referred to the appointment of an “auditor” this also needed to be changed to “appointment of an independent examiner of accounts”.
- Michelle Miller had completed her review and the committee had approved the balance sheet. There had been a slight change from the circulated accounts as she felt the **£231 float and cash** at the bottom of the sheet should be placed in the miscellaneous section – the balance remains the same. The accounts are available for members should they wish to view them.

- The main item Barry McKenzie needed to address was the decision in July to appoint two **consultants** regarding Trafford's planning application. The original estimate had been a cost of £4 - 5,000. Since the accounts were prepared additional bills had been received of £2,200 making an overall **total of £4,500**.
- The **bar surplus** for the year was disappointing but needed to be viewed along with the decision from May to account separately for Saturday afternoon tea profits – these amounted to £261. In addition, there was a higher level of stock than at last year's end – estimated at £300 approx. This still left a **deficit** of some **£600** but last year was a record high of £2,200 (previous years: - £1,800; £1,700; £1,500; £1,300). There were questions from the floor asking if a **cashless bar** would ensure that members did not forget to pay for their drinks. Barry McKenzie explained that we have a trust bar and do encourage use of cards rather than cash. It was also suggested that the provision of tea and coffee, at no charge, may have affected the purchase of drinks.
- The final item was the proposed **increase in subs of £10** for a full member. Other fees to be raised proportionally except that there would be a nil charge for junior members. This increase was in line with inflation over the past three years of 3.8% CPI and was considered adequate given that our surplus remained substantial, despite consultant fees and less bar profits.

Some members questioned the large expenditure on consultants. It was explained that their reports had been very detailed and the fee was not just for attendance at the Planning Meeting also that a quick decision to appoint experts had to be made by the committee.

Proposal that the accounts, as amended, be accepted: - Proposer – Margaret Moss.
Seconded Carol Steinberg – passed with no objections.

8. Appointment of an Auditor or Auditors

As a point of order Graham Good proposed that this agenda item be moved and dealt with **under item 12** and the proposed changes to the rules. This was seconded by Carol Sinclair and accepted by the meeting.

9. Entry Fees/Subscriptions

The committee recommended **fees for 2015/16** as follows:-

- Full Playing: Entry £90 Subscription £235 From £225
- Country: Entry £35 Subscription £93 From £89
- Far Country: Entry £25 Subscription £42 From £39
- Student: Entry £22 Subscription £42 From £40
- Junior: Entry £0 Subscription £0 From £30
- Non Playing: Entry £12 Subscription £34 From £32

A discount for full paying members of £5 will be given if payment is made in full before the 1st January 2016 also there is a 10% discount on the fees for family members of a full playing member.

Discussion followed in respect of the possibility of extending the **nil fee** recommended for **Juniors to also cover Students**. Some felt that there should at least be a nominal charge to ensure membership was valued. The meeting was assured that, even if there was no fee, membership application forms would still need to be completed and applications approved and recorded. Further, that Junior members would still need to be accompanied by an adult to comply with Child

Protection procedure. It was recognised that there would be a minimal financial impact upon the club from the change as the numbers involved were few.

Acceptance of Fees/subscriptions: - Proposed – Pauline Hennell; Seconded – John Wastell. Passed with 2 against and 2 abstentions.

10. Election of Officers

The following retired in accordance with the rules:-

- President Colin Irwin
- Hon. Secretary Brian Storey
- Hon. Treasurer Barry McKenzie
- Hon. Croquet Secretary Ken Cooper
- Hon. Ground Manager Alan Mayne

All Officers had agreed to continue if elected. In the absence of any other nominations (under rule 5.2 other candidates for these posts can be nominated at the AGM) their re-appointment was unanimously accepted.

11. Election of 7 Committee Members

The following retired in accordance with the rules: - Lorna Frost; Charles Harding; Barry Keen; Carole Kelsall; Kay Martin; Steve Reynolds and David Walters. All have agreed to continue if elected. There were no other nominations and the election of the seven committee members was unanimously agreed.

12. Proposed Resolutions

Resolutions for consideration by the AGM had been submitted in writing by 16th October in accordance with Rule 9.5. The following resolutions regarding changes to the **Club Rules** were proposed by the committee. Under rule 11.6 such changes require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

9.2 Audit/Financial Examination. As addressed earlier in the meeting, Barry McKenzie proposed that this amendment should now also **include 9.4.3**. Seconded by Martin Granger Brown and passed unanimously.

Item 8 from the agenda could now proceed. Michelle Miller to be appointed as an Independent examiner of the accounts. Proposed – Graham Good. Seconded – Chris Evans and passed unanimously.

3.3.6. Membership – the proposed change to be less restrictive deleting the “aged 12 years or more” meaning younger children could become members. Proposed – Gordon Hennell; Seconded – Carole Sinclair. All in favour with 2 abstentions.

4.2, 4.3, 5.2, 9.5 and 11.6 Elections of Honorary Officer, Committee members and notification dates.

This proposal dealt with limiting the retirement of committee members to one third each year based upon a **rotational three years service**. Further, that nominations for the vacancies be received by 1st October which would allow proper preparation of any ballot that was required. In addition, that any **resolution** a member wished to propose for consideration at the AGM should be notified in writing, including a seconder, to the Secretary before 1st October.

Discussion focused upon concern that replacements might not be forthcoming in the absence of nominations from the floor meaning there would be no means of replacement. Brian Storey explained that under such circumstances the committee could co-opt individuals also that transitional arrangements in the form of three groups, based upon when members joined the committee had been agreed and ensured that no more than two Honorary Officers went in any one year. Graham

Good proposed an amendment, seconded by David Walters, that under the new rule 9.10.1 be added "subject to 9.10.2 and 9.10.3". Likewise, that 9.10.2 reads "subject to 9.10.3 below". The meeting voted in favour of the amendment with 1 against and 7 abstentions.

A vote followed regarding **passing the amended resolutions** – Passed with 1 against and 3 abstentions.

13. Suggestions from Members for Consideration by the Committee

Rupert Webb asked that for future AGMs the committee consider having a **one minute silence** at the commencement of the meeting to remember members who had died during the previous year.

Sylvia Steer proposed a **vote of thanks** from everyone for the hard work of the committee- endorsed by applause from members.

Meeting Closed - After the close of the meeting the **Club Trophies for 2015** were presented by the Chairman.

Appendix B

Reports of Honorary Officers

Club President's address 2016

Welcome to the club AGM everyone, especially this year's new members who are present. As I am not actually reading this to you it means I have escaped to sunnier climes, so greetings from Florida. I will be thinking of you all as I play in the 70s F slathered with sun cream. Once again a successful year for the club overall. We did well in quite a lot of events, locally, nationally, individually, more from Ken on that later. We had an excellent recruitment drive, 22 new members, which ultimately led to an exciting novices tournament. There were an odd number of players which made life difficult for the manager (me) but we did get to a clear result, though this did mean games in the last round had to go the way I needed, otherwise we would have had a three way tie and I would have had to devise some sort of decider, so thanks everybody for cooperating.

As usual I have to thank the committee for an excellent job during the past year. The lawns are in fine condition, despite attacks from various natural destructors (leatherjackets, magpies digging for the leatherjackets, foxes, fusarium, croquet players), the clubhouse is in good repair, the finances are sound, overall the club is in very good health and we have to thank them for their hard work. Barry McKenzie is stepping down as treasurer and I want to thank him for all his work on our behalf.

Carol is also stepping down, she has done a great job with the catering for tournaments, but I have to say too often lacked support and had to do it all herself. Having said that, we have seen new volunteers helping Alan with the grounds, we have seen some new members join in with the tournament catering and Saturday teas, we have new faces in the club teams, it all helps. This is your club, we have built up a reputation over the years as a centre of excellence for croquet, it would be a shame to lose it. You can see from the accounts that tournaments, social events etc make a significant contribution to our finances, this helps keep the subs moderate, so I would urge you all to get involved, you might even enjoy it!

The issue of the car park remains unresolved, and will do for some time. These things do drag on. At the moment there is nothing to be gained and much to be lost by discussing it so please don't stir the pot.

I always struggle with this address because I don't want to duplicate what the Officers will report in due course so I will leave it there and let you get on with the

important stuff. I have made sure there is cash on my bar card and in order to encourage expedition in play if anyone would like to stay for a drink and a chat after the AGM, the first one is on me.
Colin Irwin

Report of Hon. Secretary

The Club continues to maintain a high membership and with that, considerable success on the croquet lawns from individual members and as teams of players as outlined in the report of the Hon. Croquet Secretary. The club membership must thank all those that have participated and especially those that have given their time to organise teams.

Do you want to design a camel and call it a horse.? One aspect of the club continues to be a problem and that is participation in its running. We have one vacancy for the Club Committee that will be filled by eventual co-option. In addition, the club is not alone in seeking willing persons to serve on a Committee. The North West Federation is actively looking for a Secretary and a Coaching Officer. Let me know if you are interested in any of these positions.

Our one big club asset is our lawns. Suffice to say that an enormous amount of work has been undertaken by Alan Mayne and his willing helpers to not only deal with regular maintenance but also tackle damage caused by, Foxes, Magpies, Leatherjackets and Fusarium. It seems this will be a battle against nature that will take as long as the building of a third London runway. But, it is one we must not lose.

The one big change is one that has been understated. CA membership. I have attached a sort of newsletter on this matter which does not form part of the AGM per se. but is important. Please read it.

On the AGM Agenda is a motion to make the club a "Community Amateur Sports Club" either, right away or, after deliberation of a specially organised sub-committee. I know for a fact that there are those that are passionately in favour and those that are equally passionate against this proposal. Those of you who have a mind to, please do your own research on this so that you can ask the difficult questions you have at the AGM. Either way, it is not something to be taken lightly. We must make the right decision as any application for such designation is irrevocable and will be with us for as long as the club exists.

So, the club goes from strength to strength, providing a first class venue for international, national, regional and club events, evidenced by the popularity of internal competition, so much so that it is doubtful you could find a croquet club anywhere else that has a higher regular participation rate as a percentage of membership.

This is your club, please muck in and do what you can for it.
Brian Storey

Report of Hon. Ground Manager

Lawn care during 2016 has proved to be both very challenging and rewarding.

Rewarding because lawns 3 and 4 have been in very good condition throughout the year; this is very satisfying and justifies the treatment with wetting agent and the over seeding with dwarf rye grass during last winter and early spring. The challenge has been lawns 1 and 2. Both have been below the expected standard, being uneven and lacking the pace of the upper lawns.

All the lawns have been infected with Leatherjackets - this has been managed with the only permitted treatment of Nematodes which is expensive and very difficult to monitor. It seems that the treatments this year have had some effect but it will be next year before we know if major progress is being made. The infestation of Leatherjackets provided a ready food source for crows and magpies and the lower lawns were regularly pecked at creating significant holes. A bird scaring kite was purchased with some limited success.

In addition to the above, lawns 1 and 2 were very badly affected with fusarium. Whilst this was quickly treated it has left deep scarring which will not naturally repair requiring over seeding of the patches – some progress has been made.

On a much brighter note, a very generous donation was given to the club for the express purpose of purchasing a new mower. This generosity is much appreciated and the club now has a new Allett cassette mower - this machine, as well as cutting, verticuts and tines. The club is now placed in a very secure position for the coming years with the new machine and our old Allett mower.

During the year Barry Keen and Colin Irwin have continued their support with help at tournaments. Frank and Janice Moir have provided plants and care of the tubs in front of the club house. I am very pleased to report that Mike Shelmerdine has become a regular member of the Ground Staff team during this year and that Tim McCoy has recently taken on the responsibility of caring for the lawn surroundings.

The club is again greatly indebted to the very hard work done by John Greatbanks and both of us are very happy with the appreciation we receive from club members. We will continue with our efforts to provide good lawns all year round for members to enjoy.

Alan Mayne

Report of Hon. Croquet Secretary

Bowdon Croquet Club continues to go from strength to strength, largely due to the ever-continuing conveyor belt of recruits to the club.

This year was no exception and we had a very successful recruitment drive, taking on a record 22 new members, mainly through our Taster Days and Beginners' Course. The lifeline of any club is based on the ability to replace those members it loses through longevity, or who just do not take to the game, with new blood capable of reaching a good standard through coaching and a keenness to learn.

The club held one of the most prestigious events in the C.A. calendar when we hosted the bi-annual Solomon Trophy, held alternatively in Great Britain and the U.S.A. David Walters & David Maugham were part of the 6-man G.B. team which

went on to record a 17-4 win over the U.S.A.

The club still attracts many good players to its C.A. tournaments and this year club members enjoyed some success on home soil:

- Adam Swinton won the September B-Level Weekend with good wins against higher ranked opponents.
- David Maugham narrowly lost out to James Hopgood in the final of the North of England Championship.
- Graham Abraham was beaten by Nathan Baker in the May Handicap Weekend, with Sue Cooper winning the Egyptian event.
- Ian Lines played Paddy Chapman in the final of the June Advanced Weekend but could not prevent Paddy recording his 6th consecutive win in the event.
- In Northern Week, the first half of the week was for Level & Advanced Play where Andrew Winn won the A-Class event and Sylvia Steer won the B-Level Egyptian without losing a game; in the Open Doubles, Colin Irwin partnered David Harrison-Wood to victory. The second half of the tournament consisted of Handicap Play: the Handicap Doubles was won by Sylvia Steer and Peter Taylor, while the Handicap Singles was won by Adam Swinton.

Bowdon was successful in its bid to host the Home Internationals in 2018.

The club provided 5 of the 7 players in the Cheshire Inter-Counties team which came 5th in Division 1, just one win short of winners Nottinghamshire; other club members played for Glamorgan, Lancashire & Warwickshire.

In the Inter-Club national tournaments, Bowdon reached the Finals Weekend of the Longman Cup, ending up beating Roehampton for third spot; a semi-final place was achieved by the Inter-Club A.C. team, while a quarter-final place was reached by the Mary Rose and Inter-Club G.C teams.

Within the region, the club had success in the North-West Federation leagues, winning the Advanced, B-Level, Short and Level-Play Golf Croquet Leagues. At the Festival of Croquet, Bowdon came second to Fylde, winning one of the four main events, the Short Croquet competition.

On an individual basis, club members enjoyed many successes:

- David Maugham won the President's Cup, the top event of Eights Week. He also got to the semi-final of the World Championship in Florida and won the Doubles title at the Open Championship with Paddy Chapman. He also won the Men's Championship and the Mixed Doubles Championship, the Plate event at the June Advanced Weekend, plus the Tyneside Advanced Weekend. He captained Great Britain against Ireland in the Maugham Salver and also captained the winning England team in the Home Internationals. David has been selected for England's MacRobertson Shield team at Mission Hills in the U.S.A. next April.
- David Walters got to the quarter-final of the Bowl at the World Championship, won the Peter Dowdall Cup at the John Beech Memorial Tournament at Pendle and played in the Welsh team that came third in the Home Internationals; David was also the winner of the Welsh Golf Croquet Championship and captained the Welsh team in the Golf Croquet World Team Championship.
- Ian Lines won the knockout Plate competition at the World Championship and finished joint second in the Chairman's Salver, the second Eights event; he also won the Newport Open Advanced Weekend.

- James Hawkins came third in the Treasurer's Tankard in Eights Week.
- Richard Smith won the Edinburgh Plate, the Swiss consolation event, at the Scottish Open.
- Sylvia Steer played for the C.A. Ladies Development Squad against an all-men's Lancashire team.
- Will Mellor came close to glory in the All-England National Handicap Championship at Hamptworth, effectively reaching the semi-final, losing to the eventual winner.
- At the Western Cape C.A. Tournament during the winter, Liz Webb won the Restricted Handicap singles with Carol Steinberg the runner-up, and Rupert Webb won the Veterans event with Carol again a runner-up; Carol also won the Plate for winning the most games and not winning a trophy.

Many internal club competition matches were played in the summer and some competitions are still to be completed; it was good to see some of the newer players winning games. The Wednesday Competition still proved very popular with 66 different players taking some part in it and it was won by Peter Taylor; the Solomon Grundy competition was also well attended this year after moving it to a Tuesday.

We held the usual Wild Wednesday and Alternative Counties competitions where Carol Sinclair and Cheshire NW won, respectively. Prior to that, over the winter months, many turned out for the Wednesday competition and Adrian Apps won the One-Ball event; the 14pt. competition was also won by Adrian Apps and Ken Cooper was the 18pt. event winner.

Our annual charity event was run in March, this year raising £240 for Myeloma UK, with Geoffrey Hunt beating 32 other competitors. The second Poppy Roquet competition, run in aid of the British Legion poppy appeal, raised £268 and was won by Ken Cooper.

The success of this year's recruitment drive has meant that we, again, have a basis of new players to bring on and coach to help the club maintain its high standards that are so admired by other clubs in the North-West. Seven of the beginners took part in the annual Novices' Tournament, which was won by John Lambie. Swinging Sundays again proved very popular, run by Nan Bowers, to help to bring on new recruits; high-bisquers should look to play in it next year.

This year's coaching course was a new course, named "The Next Step", aimed at fast improvers to help them with their break play. It was run as part of the North-West Federation Flying Circus series of courses and 14 Bowdon members attended. Suggestions for the level at which to aim next year's coaching course can sent to the Coaching Officer for consideration.

All of the information required to keep track of the news, events and competitions at Bowdon or involving Bowdon players can easily be found by visiting the club's website at <http://www.bowdoncroquet.co.uk>, which is often updated every day, and also the North-West Federation website at <http://croquetnw.co.uk>.

It should be remembered that the successful season described above is largely due to the efforts of many players, team captains, tournament organisers, hoop setters, caterers, committee members and all those unsung heroes who have worked hard to look after the lawns, grounds and club house throughout the year, all of whom have helped make 2016 another successful year for Bowdon.

Ken Cooper

Report of Hon. Treasurer

The Club recorded strong income in the year, including a donation of £5,000 which was used to buy a new lawn mowing machine.

Total receipts at £40,130 were more than £10,000 up on the previous year. Apart from spending £7,900 on the new mower, we increased spending on lawn maintenance, and total payments at £41,778 in the year exceeded receipts by £1,648. The Club's financial position remains sound, with a bank balance of £23,231 at the year end.

Subscription income and entrance fees exceeded £26,000, up nearly £4,000 on the prior year. This was the result of an outstanding recruitment season with 22 new playing members joining the Club. 12 players retired, and sadly 4 other members, Roger McCall, David Tunbridge, Pam Sword and Colin Wild, died during the year. Net income from other activities was also up this year at a total of £4,766 compared with £3,886 last year. The bar made a surplus of £1,356 on takings of £3,885. Saturday teas contributed £429, and the hot pot supper, barbeque, club wear sales, and raffle at the annual dinner all made useful surpluses totalling £1,023. The excellent surplus of £1,958 made on catering during Club tournaments was notable both for its contribution to funds, but also for the high praise earned for the quality and variety of food produced.

Our biggest expenditure is invariably on ground maintenance, and this year we spent £17,851, up more than £2,000 over the prior year. Our lawns seemed to face concerted attack this year from birds, insects, verminous animals and grass disorders, and our costs reflect this. We remain committed to the maintenance of high quality playing surfaces for croquet.

We are spending a little more than we used to on cleaning the Clubhouse, and our metered water cost more than the prior year because of a back-log of unread meters by the water company in 2015. Overall though, premises costs of £10,385 were similar to the prior year.

Other expenditure included invoices for £2,280 in professional fees relating to our Planning Objection submitted to Trafford Council in 2015, received too late for inclusion in last year's accounts.

Prior to last year we had held our subscription rates unchanged for 3 years. I propose that we increase our rates for next year by a further £10 for full-playing members, with broadly proportionate increases for other categories. If approved, the new rates will enable us to maintain the Club's strong finances. I am projecting a small surplus of £200 next year, with a closing bank balance of c. £24,000.

Barry McKenzie

Appendix C

Accounts

Receipts and Payments 2015/16

RECEIPTS	2015/2016		2014/2015	
	£	£	£	£
From croquet related sources				
Subscriptions	24,133		21,400	
Entrance fees	1,925		775	
Recruitment course	976		421	
Competition entry fees	2,018		2,002	
Corporate events/Green fees	1,313		920	
Donation	5,000		0	
Sale of lawn mower	0		720	
Miscellaneous receipts	0	35,364	0	26,238
Other Activities				
Bar/confectionery	1,356		1,129	
Saturday teas	429		261	
Catering	1,958		1,712	
Hot Pot Supper	275		328	
Annual Dinner	160		274	
Barbeque	400		151	
Sales of club wear/books etc	188	4,766	31	3,886
Total Receipts		40,130		30,124
PAYMENTS				
Clubhouse maintenance	401	401	2,166	2,166
Direct expenditure on grounds maintenance				
Lawn care and mowing	12,711		11,355	
Lawn treatments	3,208		2,175	
Ground maintenance	927		283	
Repairs/maint'nance to equipment	1,004	17,851	1,879	15,692
Other premises costs				
Rent/cleaning	4,240		3,788	
Gas/ electricity/ waste water	1,768		2,191	
Insurance	2,182		2,099	
Metered water	1,015		333	
Burglar alarm/ fire extinguisher	186		427	
Telephone	605		821	
Refuse collection/consumables	389	10,385	379	10,038
Equipment expenditure				
Lawn equipment	7,900		0	
Bar/kitchen equipment	299		0	
Other equipment	0	8,199	0	0
Other expenditure				
Registration,affiliation and tournament fees	1,531		1,416	
Printing, stationery and postage	418		566	
Recruitment advertising	173		170	
Cup engraving	249		248	
Planning objection	2,280		2,321	
Miscellaneous	293	4,943	743	5,464
Total payments		41,778		33,360
Net (Payments)/Receipts for Year		(1,648)		(3,236)
Opening bank balance		24,879		28,115
Closing bank balance		23,231		24,879

Assets and Liabilities

BOWDON CROQUET CLUB

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 30 September 2016

		30/9/16		30/9/15
Monetary Assets	£	£	£	£
Cash		0.00		0.00
Bank Balances:				
Santander- Current account	24,031.74		28,004.34	
<i>less</i> Cheques drawn but not yet presented	(900.49)		(3,150.05)	
<i>plus</i> Deposits not yet entered	100.00	23,231.25	25.00	24,879.29
Total monetary assets		23,231.25		24,879.29

I certify that the Receipts and Payment Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 30 September 2016 agree with the underlying records and explanations given to me.

Michelle Miller

Forecast 2016/17

Bowdon Croquet Club

Forecast for 2016/17

	2015/16 Actual		2016/17 Forecast	
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				NOTES
From subscriptions	24,133		23,400	see below
Other croquet sources	6,231		5,400	forecast includes £1000 in respect of intended sale of surplus lawn machinery
Other Activities	4,766		4,700	
Donation	5,000		0	
Total Receipts		40,130		33,500
PAYMENTS				
Clubhouse	401		1,000	2016/17 building maintenance provision
Direct expenditure on grounds maint.	17,851		18,800	
Other premises costs	10,385		10,100	
Equipment expenditure	8,199		500	2015/16 included new Allott mower at £7900
Other expenditure	4,942		2,900	2015/16 included £2280 exceptional cost of planning object
Total payments		41,778		33,300
NET RECEIPTS FOR YEAR		-1,648		200
Subscription Forecast	Forecast 2016/17			
actual 15/16	Number	Rate £	£	
				It is assumed that subscription rates increase by £10 for full-playing members with proportionate increases for other categories; that 8 prompt-payment discount members retire, and are replaced by 10 new members opting for 18 months membership. Additionally, 4 non-playing members retire and all other membership numbers remain unchanged.
Full playing:				
9 Pd. Prior year	21	0	0	
6 Full rate	6	245	1,470	
50 Prompt pay discount	51	240	12,240	
25 Family discount	25	220.50	5,510	
21 New, 18m. Rate	10	245	2,450	
111 Total full playing	113		21,670	
4 Country	4	100	400	
5 Far country	5	50	200	
2 Student	2	45	90	
8 Junior: no sub.	8	0	0	
34 Non playing	30	35	1050	