

Agenda:

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. Roll Call
3. Apologies
4. Minutes of the previous meeting (2022)
5. Matters Arising

Reports from:-

6. Vets Secretary
7. Secretary / Assistant
8. Treasurer / Assistant
9. Tai Chi Organiser
10. I.T. Specialist
11. Catering Director Report
12. Other Trustees
13. Election / Re-election of Trustees
14. Change of league format. Cup Entries. Possible Ladies league entry.
15. Any Other Competent Business

The Meeting was held at Pelaw Social Club on Wednesday 28th November at 19:00.

1. Chairman's Remarks

Mr Geoff Dunkley (GD) opened the meeting by welcoming everybody, thanking them for coming out on a cold night.

2. Roll Call

Those present were:

Mr. E. Noble (EN)- President)	Mr J. Sutherland (JS) - Secretary/Treasurer
Mr G. Dunkley (GD) - Chairman	Mrs M. Morton - Trustee
Mr N. Fletcher - Trustee	Mr D. McAffery (DMc) - Veteran's Secretary

Mr W. Hudson	Mr D. Robinson	Mr J. Fish	Mr S. Conroy
Mrs A. Urwin	Mr. A. McClelland (AM)		Mr R. Morris
Mr B. Liddle	Mr D. Blanchard	Mrs M. Dunkley	Mr G. McAllister
Mrs J. Hutchinson	Mr A. Westrop (TW)		

3. Apologies

Mr J. Futers	Mr Jim Williamson	Mrs S. Williamson	Mrs V Davidson
Mrs A. McMeiken	Mr J. Liddle	Mrs S. Brewis	Mr R. Brewis
Mr I. Armstrong	Mr D. Johnson	Mr S. Hollis	Mrs C. Evans
Mrs A. Harrison	Mr M. O'Callaghan	Mr B. Warden	

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting had been posted in the clubhouse from November 2022. Copies were also available for members to review and comment.

5. Matters Arising

Mr Sutherland (JS) asked if there were any comments regarding the previous minutes.

JS raised the issue regarding the number of teams entered in the Cowan, Wednesday and Northumberland & Durham, Monday Leagues. He suggested that this should be a matter for discussion later in the meeting.

As there were no other issues raised he proposed that they were accepted as read. Mr Noble (EN) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

6. Vets Report

The secretary of the vets Mr Dave McCaffery (Dmc) gave a summary of the season.

Pelaw entered teams in the Tuesday and Thursday leagues. The teams had finished mid table in both.

Following the end of season regional meeting the following had been proposed:

- Tuesday afternoon games to start at 13:00 in line with the Thursday start time.
- Tuesday and Thursday game to change to 3 woods and 16 ends.
- Tuesday game scoring to change to 2 points per rink and 2 point for the overall score.
- No trial ends, but a score of 1 point for the first two ends.
- Thursday League to change to 3 rinks 3 woods, 16 ends.
- Thursday league:
 - If bad weather and the match is called off then the points to be shared.
 - If the game is started then 12 ends to be played.
 - Substitutes can be made during the game. However this needs clarification.

7. a. Secretary's Report

JS gave a summary of the Northumberland and Durham (**N&D**) Tens and Cowan Leagues.

JS said that the responsibility for one team having to withdraw from the Tens League was the fault of the Trustees.

The remaining team had done well and was only prevented from finishing higher due to the last game not being played and a points share given.

JS asked whether we should enter two teams on the Monday Night Tens League. As there were a number of members missing from the meeting, some due to the inclement weather, it was decided to discuss this at the spring meeting.

He asked whether the membership wanted to continue with two teams in the Cowan League? This item was approved by general consent.

JS said that he had no problem reporting the results of the games to the N&D Secretary, but would hand over this duty to anyone who wanted to benefit from the experience. No one indicated a preference.

JS detailed the various competitions and Leagues that were available for 2024. It was agreed that the club would enter the Sinclair and Charity Cups. A new competition

which started in 2023 involved entry by any individual playing a 3 wood game. One person, **GD**, indicated that he would like to enter this competition.

Postscript - At the N&D AGM on 30th November it was proposed and accepted that this competition would change to a pairs competition. Geoff Dunkley & John Sutherland will enter as a pair.

JS informed the meeting that the Northumberland and Durham meeting was scheduled for the 30th November. **JS** and **GD** would attend this meeting.

JS then finished by informing the meeting of a possible trip in September 2024 to play a team in Newark. This would be organised by Mrs Jan Dowie should sufficient players be interested. Mr Tony Westrop (**AW**) then gave a summary of what was on offer for the trip and what was available outside of the bowling for people to see in the area.

b. Assistant's Report

GD informed the meeting that the two open competitions would be held on the first Saturdays in July and August. Due to the high demand by external players the sheets for these competitions were handed around so members could enter teams.

Forms were also handed out to each player so that they could indicate which league and club cup competitions they would enter. Included on the form was a question asking the ladies if they wanted to play in a ladies league on Wednesday afternoons. These forms were completed and returned to the Chairman.

a. Competitions

Diary Dates for 2024

6th July - Pelaw Pairs Open Competition

3rd August - Pelaw Triples Open Competition

18th August - Pride Radio Event

8. a. Treasurer's Report

JS said that the annual accounts had been presented to the accountant in keeping with our annual financial year. To date these have not been completed and returned.

JS then gave a breakdown of the current income and expenditure:

- We will be overspent by £2500 in 2024. Electricity to date is £1196, Water £582 and Insurance £711. Green Maintenance will be £5200 giving a total of £7689
- If we continue at this rate we will not have a club in 5 years.
- Every little helps, Tai Chi £1200, Open Competitions £600, Membership fees £1800 and advertising £400 gives £4000.
- These figures represent main income / expenditure not the totals, but at the moment we are running at a loss.

JS informed the meeting that whilst he would continue as Secretary, he would be standing down as Treasurer at the end of the 2024 season.

He finished by saying that the membership fees would remain at their current rate of £60, before handing over to Geoff Dunkley to explain some of the other major expenditure.

b. Assistants Report

GD reiterated that the membership that our fees do not cover the cost of running the club. Increasing the membership fee by £10 would have little impact and so was not something that would be proposed. However we do raise an income by applying for grants.

We can, however, only apply for grants if we provide a service for the community.

During the winter months the premises have been opened up again as a 'warm space'. It is now attended by a group of people who are brought by their carer who is an employee of Mencap. Additionally members of the public come along and a small number of bowlers have supported this venture.

In 2024 we will host the two open competitions; we will organise another 'picnic in the park with Felling Brass Band'; we will offer the facilities for the use of the elderly and infirm on Friday afternoons, which will include those from Mencap, and patients from a local hospital who suffer from early onset dementia on Wednesday afternoons.

For the past two years we have coached the children from Bill Quay and St Albans Primary schools. We intend to do this again in 2024. Notably this has been picked up by a club from South Shields who intend to replicate what we do. If this works then perhaps the final competition can become something much bigger, with Hugh potential for introducing the game to the next generation.

After discussion with Pride Radio we will be opening our space for them to run an event on the 18th August for which we will be responsible for organising the competition. This has the potential for bringing in a significant income.

GD then said that the bottom line is that everything that we do requires that our bowlers volunteer and help. A small number have always done this, but it is the greater number that we need to come and help. Without this we cannot open our facility for the community and the club will have insufficient funds within four years.

9. Tai Chi Organiser

EN said that he had been running the Tai Chi for the past 5 years. On average (given the fall in number during the colder months of the winter) the attendance was between 12 to 15. The income for this year had been £1510.45p.

If the attendance increased to 20 then the revenue would double. **EN** suggested our members may wish to consider this activity.

10. IT Specialist

JS stated that Michael O'Callaghan had been unable to attend due to child care issues. He mentioned the benefits of our website and asked if any of the members had actually looked at it. **GD** told the members that all the Activities, League Fixtures and Results could be found on the site. **JS** suggested that members may wish to use this site more as there was so much valuable information available.

JS also said that our CCTV was available for any member should they wish to download the App.

11. Catering Director Report

As the Catering Director was unable to attend due to a family celebration. **JS** said that she should be applauded for all her hard work during the past year, especially in relation to the open competitions and the children's coaching and final event.

12. Other Trustees

Nothing to report.

13. Election of Trustees

In keeping with our CIO, three trustees are required to step down each year, but can be re-elected should the membership agree.

Mr Eric Noble, Mr John Sutherland and Mr Maureen Morton opted to offer themselves for re-election, and duly stepped down.

GD asked the membership if anyone wanted to propose themselves for a position as Trustee. No members offered to take on these roles. **GD** proposed that Mr Eric

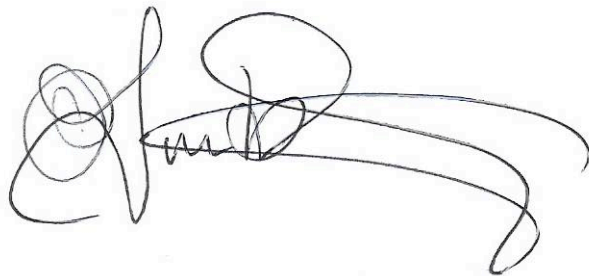
Noble, Mr John Sutherland and Mrs Maureen Morton be re-elected. **DMc** seconded the motion. By show of hands the motion was carried unanimously.

14. Any Other Competent Business

Mr Alan McClelland (AM) raised the point of a ladies trophy. He believed that it was not right that we did not have a competition for the ladies alone. After an interesting discussion it was proposed that there would be a new competition, starting in 2024, for a Ladies Trophy. The motion was seconded by Mrs Jean Harrison and carried by a unanimous vote.

AM felt that it was not fair that, as the final match of the Northumberland and Durham Tens League was not played, the points were shared. This affected the final league position of Pelaw Community Bowling Club. There was general agreement with this view point. **JS** said that we accepted the situation because time prevented the game from being played (as the indoor season started at the beginning of September) and the league position did not affect who won or came second. It was agreed that, whilst not ideal, the points share was the only option.

With no further business, **GD** called the meeting to a close at 20:08.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G.R. Dunkley', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

G.R. Dunkley
Chairman
2nd December 2023