



Hilton Park Bowling & Recreation Club (Inc.)

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday, 25th May 2025 at 11.00am**

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Welcome

Attendance as per the Register and given a quorum was present the President commenced the meeting.

The President welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance

2. Apologies

The President tabled the following apologies:

Glen Dwyer, Bobi Ward, Gary Melville, Kevin Grant, Ellen Grant, Doug McKay, Nola McKay, John Jenkinson, Janice Frater, John Townsend, Andrew Ryder, Vic Philpott, Anne Mauri

3. Minutes silence for past Members

The President called for a minute's silence for members, Tom James and Roy Rowe who have passed away.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes from the Annual General Meeting held on 26th May 2024 and SGM 9th June 2024 were presented for confirmation.

Craig Standley confirmed that he had read the minutes of the previous meetings and endorsed them as a true and accurate record.

Motion:

That the minutes of the AGM held on 26th May 2024 and SGM 9th June 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

No business arising was noted.

6. Presentation of Reports

President's Report

The President, Michael Broadbridge, delivered their report, offering reflections on the past year and the direction of the club:

- The President assumed the role in October 2024 and expressed appreciation for the dedication and diverse personalities within the club, despite ongoing financial challenges.
- Financial concerns were noted as a consistent theme throughout the year, with regular discussions at committee meetings.
- The President emphasised that, while the financial pressures are real, the club has achieved significant success in events, community impact, and member engagement:
 - The Hilton Classic drew participants from beyond the local area.
 - Live music nights, fundraisers, and various social events enhanced the club's profile and community presence.
- The report focused on celebrating the club's cultural and social contributions, rather than detailed financial analysis, which would be addressed in the Treasurer's report.

Strategic Developments:

The President outlined key long-term strategic initiatives aimed at ensuring the club's financial sustainability:

- Exploration of a second synthetic green, considering long-term costs and viability.
- Proposal for paddle court development on a disused green to generate rental income and increase foot traffic to the club.
- Reticulation system upgrades currently underway.
- Lease renewal: The current lease expires June 2025; a new lease is being finalised and is expected to be signed within the week. This will enable further subleasing arrangements to proceed.

The President also discussed:

- The importance of diversifying income streams beyond bar sales.
- Efforts to reduce fixed staffing costs, including a reduction in greenkeeping hours.
- Productive engagement with City of Fremantle representatives, including securing verbal support for a future loan-funded synthetic green, rather than member-funded as was done previously.

Comments from Members:

- Scott Cargill raised a preference for maintaining grass greens, citing playing enjoyment. The President acknowledged the sentiment and clarified that synthetic development was an economic consideration, not a preference, and that maintaining a grass green remains plausible depending on future financial performance.
 - City of Fremantle: Has indicated any new synthetic green project would require future budget inclusion, likely within the next two years.
 - The President confirmed any synthetic development would rely on a loan-based funding model, not out-of-pocket member contributions.
- Deb Beesley raised the need to start budgeting for the future replacement of the current synthetic surface.
 - The President confirmed this has been considered, with an ideal sinking fund target of \$10,000 per year toward the eventual ~\$100,000 replacement cost. Currently, these contributions are not being met due to financial constraints but will be factored into future planning.

Closing Remarks:

- The President chose not to name individuals in the written report, instead expressing appreciation for all contributions equally and avoiding the risk of omission.

- Acknowledged mistakes and learnings in communication and decision-making but emphasised commitment to ongoing improvement.
- President thanked members for their support and ongoing contributions.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Graeme Kibell, presented the financial report for the year ending 30th April 2025.

Key points included:

- Operating income was \$84,700, only 4% down on the previous year.
- Major revenue sources included the Hilton Classic, 100 Club, Community Shield, and sponsorships totaling \$13,327.
- A noted decline in social membership income, down 38% to \$4,850, despite 520 social members in the data system.
- Operating loss of \$43,547, down from a profit of \$13,661 last year (a 420% downturn).
- Missed opportunities from cancelled social events (e.g. New Year's Eve, Christmas in July) were acknowledged as key contributors to reduced income.
- The Hilton Classic (post-reporting period) delivered \$28,000 revenue and \$12,000 profit, improving the current cash flow but not yet offsetting overall losses.
- Current cash reserves are limited: \$14,800 in club reserves plus working account, with employee entitlements locked away in a separate untouchable account.

A question was raised about the discrepancies between reported loss and actual cash position. This will be reviewed outside the meeting, and clarification will be provided to members if required.

Thanks were given to Deb Beesley and Graham Harvey for their assistance with financial reconciliation and docket sorting.

Men's Captain Report

The Men's Captain, Dave van de Ven, acknowledged the importance of competitive and social bowls events in contributing to the Club's revenue and culture.

Key Points:

- Hilton Classic: A successful event with solid profit margins, contributing meaningfully to club funds.
- Community Shield: Despite the event not being allocated to Hilton Park originally, Dave secured it again for the past year and intends to pursue it for the coming season due to its strong revenue generation.
- Country Week Fours: The Club has missed hosting this significant event in recent years. To restore it, Dave proposed nominating Hilton Park to run State events, even if some (e.g. singles) do not generate much income. He noted this would require substantial volunteer support and thanked those who have already assisted when asked.
- Championship Events: Participation improved compared to previous years, a positive trend that he hopes to see continue.

Bowler of the Year Points System:

- Dave addressed fairness concerns around the Bowler of the Year points allocation:
 - Mixed events will no longer contribute points toward the award, as limited female participation affects pairing opportunities and restricts some members from earning points.
 - The current system is disadvantageous to women, given there are only 16 female players and

- shorter knockout rounds in their events compared to men's.
 - While the men and women have separate Bowler of the Year awards, the overall point structure needs review.
 - He congratulated Denise Hughes, who was absent last week, on winning the Women's Bowler of the Year.
- Dave welcomed suggestions from members on how to improve the fairness and clarity of the points system. It was agreed that a member email will be circulated, inviting input, with responses to be sent to Dorraine Stone. These will be compiled, reviewed, and used to develop a revised model for consideration.

He closed by thanking all members and volunteers for their support and participation throughout the year and expressed pride in the Club's spirit and strength.

7. Club Volunteer of the Year

In previous years, the Volunteer of the Year was chosen solely by the committee, often without clear criteria or broader member involvement.

This year, the committee agreed to adopt a more inclusive process, allowing all members to nominate and vote for the Volunteer of the Year. An initial email was sent out by Dorraine Stone inviting nominations and votes from club members. While there were some minor misunderstandings in the early stages of the voting process, the initiative was considered a positive step toward greater member engagement and will be refined for future years.

Process overview:

- Members were asked to nominate volunteers they felt had made significant contributions during the year.
- A shortlist of nominees was created based on the nominations.
- Members then voted on this shortlist.

The voting was very close, demonstrating strong appreciation for many volunteers.

Award Announcement:

Dave van de Ven announced the winner:

- The Volunteer of the Year is Graeme McKenzie (Macca)
- Macca has been a long-standing, dedicated volunteer, often working behind the scenes on raffles, barbecues, and Sunday bar operations.
- In recent years, Macca obtained his RSA and approved manager certification, which has greatly enhanced the club's Sunday bar experience.
- His contribution has been described as invaluable in creating a vibrant social atmosphere on Sundays.

Macca humbly accepted the award and thanked all the volunteers for their efforts, emphasizing that the club's success is a collective achievement.

Additional Notes:

- The bar is seeking approximately three more volunteers to complete their RSA certification to assist with bar duties. Those interested can contact the bar, with study materials available for support.

The President congratulated Macca and thanked all volunteers for their contributions to a successful year.

8. 100 Club Living Legends

The 100 Club continues to be a successful and well-supported initiative within the club. This year, the club is celebrating the concept of "Living Legends," recognizing long-standing and dedicated members.

- The previous year's Living Legends were Val Evans and Vic Philpott.
- This year's Living Legends are Val Turner and George Annandale.

A photo was taken on the night to commemorate the occasion. The club plans to establish a Living Legends Wall to honor all members of the 100 Club who have achieved this status. This initiative will create a lasting tribute to their dedication and support.

Shaun Farrell was thanked for driving this great initiative, which helps strengthen the club's community spirit.

9. General Business

Reticulation Upgrades

The club is exploring the installation of an automated reticulation system for the entire facility. Currently, the maintenance crew manually waters the grounds, which is time-consuming and costly in terms of water usage. Recent discussions with the Council indicate they are considering installing a new bore and upgrading the irrigation infrastructure around the club grounds. This initiative promises a significant improvement in water management and operational efficiency.

Point of Sales System Update

The current point of sales (POS) system is outdated and inefficient, placing an unnecessary burden on the Treasurer's role due to manual processing of dockets and transactions. The club is investigating options to replace the system with a modern, fully automated POS solution.

The estimated cost for this upgrade is between \$5,000 and \$10,000. The club will need to consider funding options, but it is recognised as a necessary investment to streamline financial operations and reduce the workload.

Proposal to Display Aboriginal Flag

Andrea Cartright raised a proposal regarding the Hilton Park Bowling Club displaying the Aboriginal flag on occasion, particularly on Australia Day and other culturally significant dates. Andrea spoke in support of this initiative, emphasizing the importance of acknowledging that Aboriginal people are the original custodians of the land.

The proposal aligns with the club's policy on inclusion and recognition and supports reconciliation efforts. It also recognises that the club has Aboriginal members and promotes a welcoming environment for all.

Displaying the flag could also serve to attract new and younger members who identify with or respect this cultural recognition, thereby encouraging broader community engagement.

Andrea has initiated contact with the Council to identify appropriate protocols and potential partnerships for this initiative, including the possibility of hosting a ceremony around the flag raising.

The club acknowledges the importance of following culturally appropriate protocols and engaging traditional owners in the process. There was broad support for the proposal in principle.

Additionally, this initiative may open opportunities for funding from the local Council and federal government.

The club looks forward to further investigation and implementation following proper cultural guidance.

Men's Shed and Hidden Treasures Festival

While initial hopes for a broader partnership with the Men's Shed have not materialised, there is now some active engagement. The Men's Shed facility will serve as a venue for the upcoming Hidden Treasures live music night, providing mutual benefit to both the Shed and the club.

As part of the event, the club will operate a can bar at the Men's Shed. The adjacent car park will also be utilised, featuring fire pits and seating to create a welcoming atmosphere. The event will commence at 6:30 pm, with the bar open until midnight.

Noise Concerns

Concerns were raised about music volume during daytime and event hours, particularly noise complaints from neighbours.

- It was acknowledged that sound levels outside the venue can sometimes be too loud.
- A suggestion was made to restrict volume control to the bar staff to avoid multiple people adjusting the sound system.
- There was agreement that daytime noise complaints should not generally occur, but complaints can happen at any time.
- The possibility of using phone apps to log decibel levels during events was proposed to provide evidence that noise levels comply with City of Fremantle regulations.

10. Declaration of Ballot

The President opened the declaration of ballot for committee positions. Each position was reviewed in turn with nominations sought from the floor.

Committee Positions

President

The current President nominated himself to continue in the role. No other nominations were received. The President noted his enthusiasm and commitment to continue serving, humorously stating it might be "a fight" to keep the role. The meeting agreed unanimously to re-elect him.

Secretary

Doraine Stone was nominated to continue in the role of Secretary. As there were no further nominations, Doraine Stone was declared elected unopposed. The membership confirmed the appointment by unanimous agreement.

Treasurer

The President announced that Graham Kibell, the current Treasurer, had decided to resign. Graham was publicly thanked for his dedication, stating that he had contributed "heart and soul" and many unseen hours that have been vital for club operations. Graham has kindly offered to assist with the transition.

One nomination was received for Treasurer: Andrew Ryder. Andrew accepted the nomination on the condition that the club upgrades the bar's point of sale system to reduce the administrative burden, particularly related to chasing up dockets—a task Graham had been managing extensively. The President assured the club that this would be pursued to support Andrew.

The membership confirmed the appointment by unanimous agreement.

Ladies Captain

Val Turner announced her resignation from the Ladies Captain position. No formal written nominations had been received prior. However, one nomination, Judy Dean, came from the floor, which was accepted. Judy acknowledged the role's challenges but expressed willingness to take it on.

Men's Captain

Dave van de Ven indicated a desire to continue as Men's Captain. The meeting accepted this without opposition.

House Chair

The House Chair role has been vacant for some time, including throughout the President's tenure. No nominations were forthcoming. The President acknowledged this is a significant gap, especially regarding maintenance issues and the day-to-day upkeep of club facilities.

Maintenance of the building facility needs a central point of accountability, a person who can coordinate maintenance tasks. Any member who feels that they may be able to assist with this role is encouraged to volunteer.

Social Chair

The Social Chair position became vacant following Doug Watson's resignation. One nomination was received for Glenn Dwyer, who expressed enthusiasm to take on the role. The nomination was welcomed and accepted.

Greens Chair

Rob Fortini confirmed he would continue his role managing the greens, supported by volunteer helpers. The meeting accepted this without opposition.

Bar Chair

Kevin Willis had recently stepped down as Bar Chair due to changing personal circumstances. No nominations were received at the meeting, leaving the role vacant.

The President stressed the importance of this position, describing it as the "financial life blood" of the club.

Currently, an employed bar supervisor manages daily operations, but the club requires someone to link the bar team with the committee for oversight of rostering, stock management, and revenue.

Members were encouraged to give the role serious consideration. The President added that flexibility regarding the level of formal commitment could be discussed if someone were to volunteer.

11. Appointment of Banking Authorities

The President raised a new agenda item regarding the formal appointment of banking authorities—a process that had not been formally documented in previous years.

It was proposed that the President – Michael Broadbridge, Treasurer – Andrew Ryder, and Secretary – Dorraine Stone be officially authorised signatories on the club's bank accounts to formalise existing practice.

The motion was unanimously accepted.

12. Meeting Closure

The President thanked all attendees for their participation and ongoing support of the club. He acknowledged that the attendees were the familiar faces actively contributing to club life, emphasising their importance to the club's success.

The meeting was closed at 12:05pm.

Summary of Actions and Follow-ups

- Andrew Ryder to be supported with the upgrade of the bar's point of sale system.
- Continued search for volunteers for House Chair and Bar Chair roles.
- Formalise banking signatories as President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- Maintenance needs to be better coordinated; members encouraged to volunteer.