

# The Edinburgh Bowling League



## 22nd Annual General Meeting

2017

Venue: [Craigtinny Bowling Club](#)

Date: [Sunday 3rd December 2017 @ 13:00hrs](#)

President Brian Jempson opened the 22nd Annual General Meeting by welcoming all those who had taken the time to attend. Before starting the meeting, the President asked for all mobile phones to be switched off.

### 1 Attendance:

Name	Office	Name	Office
Brian Jempson	President	Steve Kirk	Committee
Kenny Watling	Vice President	Neil McRae	Committee
Robert White	Secretary	Darren Hush	Committee
John Newall	Treasurer	Garry Harrison	Committee
Graeme Swan	IPP		

Name	Office	Name	Office
Stuart McFarlane	Past President, 1999	Bobby Lee	Past President, 2007
Ricky Rutherford	Past President, 2001	John Cossar	Past President, 2011
Gordon Taylor	Past President, 2004		
David Dewar	Past President, 2005		

Club	Club	Club	Club
Ardmillan	Dudley	Merchiston	Wardie
Bainfield	Edinburgh West End	Northern	Whitehouse & Grange
Balerno	Gorgie Mills	Parkside	Willowbrae
Blackhall	Juniper Green	Pilrig	
Braid	Hillside	Postal	
Brunstane	Jessfield	Queensberry	
Carrick Knowe	Leith	Seafield	
Colinton	Liberton	Sighthill	
Coltbridge	London Road Foundry	Summerside	
Corstorphine	Maitland	Tanfield	
Craigtinny	Mayfield	Slateford	

Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies
Alan Poole	Past President, 1998	Dean	Alan Hartman
Gus McKenzie	Past President, 2000	Lutton Place	Alan Wood
Brian Irving	Past President, 2002	Portobello	
Sam Whitton	Past President, 2003	Beechwood	
Robert Wood	Past President, 2008	Goldenacre	
Alan Muir	Past President, 2005	Currie	
Roddy Watson	Past President, 2010	Ferranti	
Robert Donaldson	Past President, 2014	Tramways	
Brian Higgins	Past President, 2012	Trinity	

## **2 Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of last year's AGM, having been sent to all member clubs, were approved with no matters arising.

Proposed: Bobby Lee  
(Northern BC)

Seconded: Gordon Taylor  
(Willowbrae BC)

## **3 Secretary's Report**

Secretary Robert White presented his report thanking all member clubs for their support and assistance during the season.

## **4 Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer John Newall presented the financial statement for the year which had been sent to all member clubs and explained the income & expenditure in more detail.

Auditors Laurence Healy (Parkside BC) and Alan Muir (Goldenacre BC) confirmed that they were satisfied with the good state of the accounts presented to them and that the financial records kept by the Treasurer were found to be a true account.

Proposed: Alan Mitchell  
(Northern BC)

Seconded: John Cossar  
(Mayfield BC)

## 5 President's Report

President Brian Jempson delivered his closing speech to the body of the hall, which read "Ladies, Gentlemen fellow bowlers given that this is one of my final duties as President of The Edinburgh Bowling League I'd like a few minutes of your time:

Firstly, I'd like to thank my club Queensberry Bowling Club and Brother Tam for supporting me over my term not just in the year of my presidency but the whole time I've been on the EBL committee. I'd also like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity of being President of The Edinburgh Bowling League for 2017.

Looking back now when I was voted onto committee 6 years ago at Maitland Bowling Club I must say I've thoroughly enjoy these years, working with a bunch of guys that just want to do the best for bowls, certainly within Edinburgh.

During my election in 2011 Kenny Watling and Garry Harrison also put their names forward for election but the body of the hall elected the correct guy in 2011, yours truly! However, joking aside now shortly to be a past president if Kenny, Garry or EBL need any assistance in the years to come I'll always be available to help.

2017 became a special year with the bowls in Edinburgh, where 46 clubs joined one organization, to be President during this time is really an honour.

So, before I finally hand over I'd like to mention a few thanks: to the current committee of Stevie Kirk, Neil McRae, Darren Hush, Garry Harrison and my Vice President Kenny Watling. With a special thanks to IPP Graeme Swan for the hard work that he has put in over all the years whilst on the committee and the sound advice he has given over his term in office. Graeme you can shortly retire to the Past Presidents table where I'm sure you'll still give sound advice if required.

Thanks to our Treasurer John Newall who I can tell you run's a tight ship,

Thanks to all our Past Presidents given their support in any matters that arise

And a big hearty thanks to wee Bob for the sterling job he has done as Secretary whilst being president of Tanfield BC, as usual he has gone way and beyond the call of duty and is a fantastic Secretary in every way.

And a special thank you to all the sponsors of Edinburgh Bowling League over 2017

- Alan Hartman of Alpha trophies. Edinburgh bowling league leagues
- Specsavers (Edinburgh Cup)
- Gifted of Stockbridge – Roddy Watson (Ladies leagues)
- Penplaid – Neil Nesbit – (Edinburgh plate)
- Buy rite bathrooms – Steven Derighetti (EBL Knockouts)
- Big thank you to all the umpires John Thorburn, Ian Banyard, Jackie McFarlane & Margaret Caldwell for their help on all our finals days.

On the bowling front during the season I was over the moon when my club Queensberry won the 1<sup>st</sup> sixteens 2nd division and go straight back up to the 1<sup>st</sup> division congratulations to them and a big congratulation to all winners off all leagues

Edinburgh Cup Final day at Queensberry was different for several reasons' which are first of all the piper, the draw called out on the green and not forgetting the camaraderie between the two teams. The cup final itself between Craigentenny & Northern was as exciting as you could get. With all rinks being very close.

The Ladies final between Goldenacre & Carrick Knowe was also a very close game with Goldenacre coming out on top.

The Edinburgh plate between Edinburgh West End & Currie bowling club. This was a real nail biting game and credit to both sets of players for their conduct a superb advert for the EBL congratulations to Currie who edged out the west end 4-2.

Final's day its self was another great spectacle for the EBL with a range of exiting games.

However, over the year congratulations not only goes to the winners of all these competitions over 2017 but to all those who were runner-up or losers in the 1st round, congratulations go to everybody that competed in all completions during 2017. Not forgetting the umpires on all semi /finals & finals days a big thank you to them also.

Finally, I would also like to thank all member clubs for the support and contributing to the charity I selected "The Teenage Cancer Trust" and together we raised a staggering £6,700, so thank you all. Ladies and Gents, I must say I've thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience from being a committee member to becoming EBL president I have loved every minute of it I'll never forget my truly wonderful year".

## 6 Election of Office Bearers

President Brian Jempson declared all offices of committee to be vacant and proposed Kenny Watling (Craigentenny BC) The Edinburgh Bowling League President for 2018.

Robert Stewart (Craigentenny BC) seconded that Kenny Watling be elected President of The Edinburgh Bowling League for season 2018.

Robert gave a glowing reference of Kenny listing his many attributes such as his commitment to his fellow bowlers, his great personality, and his dedication to his club and his desire to continue the excellent work of the Edinburgh Bowling League. Robert stated that he was confident that Kenny would cope with everything required and expected of him in his role and that Craigentenny Bowling Club would fully support Kenny in his year as President.

Office	Name	Club	Proposer	Second
President	Kenny Watling	Craigentenny	Brian Jempson President	Robert Stewart Craigentenny

President Kenny Watling then proposed Steve Kirk as Vice President

John Cameron (Whitehouse & Grange BC) seconded Steve Kirk as Vice President of The Edinburgh League for 2018, which came with the full backing of Whitehouse & Grange Bowling Club.

Office	Name	Club	Proposer	Second
Vice President	Steve Kirk	Whitehouse & Grange	Kenny Watling President	John Cameron Whitehouse & Grange

Office	Name	Club	Proposer	Second
Secretary	Robert White	Tanfield	Kenny Watling President	Graeme Swan Tanfield

With only one other vacancy for committee President Kenny Watling proposed that the current committee are re-elected for 2018 and notified the members of an application from Tom Gallagher (Brunstane BC) to fill the vacant position on committee with no other nominations from member clubs.

Office	Name	Club	Proposer	Second
Treasurer	John Newall	Northern	Kenny Watling President	Graeme Swan Tanfield
Committee	Neil McRae	Edinburgh West End	Kenny Watling President	Graeme Swan Tanfield
Committee	Darren Hush	Carrick Knowe	Kenny Watling President	Graeme Swan Tanfield
Committee	Garry Harrison	Northern	Kenny Watling President	Graeme Swan Tanfield

Allan Hay (Brunstane BC) Proposed that Tom Gallagher (Brunstane BC) should fill the vacancy on committee. Allan stated to the body of the hall that Tom, with all his experience throughout the years of being involved in bowling, would be a great acquisition to The Edinburgh Bowling League Committee.

Rab Trainer (Edinburgh West End BC) stated that Edinburgh West End were delighted to second Tom Gallagher's nomination for the Edinburgh Bowling League Committee and was sure Tom would be a great attribute to the Committee.

Office	Name	Club	Proposer	Second
Vacancy on Committee	Tom Gallagher	Brunstane	Allan Hay Brunstane	Rab Trainer Edin West End

Tom Gallagher was then elected as a Committee Member for 2018.

## 7 Election of Auditors

Status Quo as both auditors are prepared to stand, no objections from body of hall.

Position	Name	Club	Proposer	Seconder
Auditor	Lawrence Healy	Parkside	Kenny Watling President	Bobby Lee Northern
Auditor	Alan Muir	Goldenacre	Kenny Watling President	Bobby Lee Northern

## 9 Annual subscriptions

The Committee recommended that the subscription due to be paid in December 2017 should remain at the current level of £100.00.

Proposer: John Newall (Hillside BC)                      Seconded by: Kenny Watling (Craigentenny BC)

No other proposals were made so the annual subscription will remain at £100.

## 10 Honoraria

The Secretary and Treasurer were asked to leave the meeting while this item was discussed. The committee proposal was status quo: Secretary £750.00, Treasurer £550.00.

Proposer: Kenny Watling (EBL President)                      Seconded by: Alan Mitchell (Northern BC)

This was agreed by all member clubs and the Secretary and Treasurer were invited back into the meeting.

## 11 Any other competent business

**John Newall (Treasurer)** informed the meeting that he had held several discussions with our main sponsor Alan Hartman, due to the concerns Alan had raised to the committee regarding the Charity Triples. Alan felt that 17 clubs not attending this year was unacceptable, and that this showed a lack of respect to the event overall and the organisation of the day. For those not aware, the Charity Day is named after Alan's late wife Pat, who was a great supporter of the EBL. John then went on to explain that it could be a mixed triple, junior triple, and ladies triple, etc. and he passionately encouraged all member clubs to support the event in 2018.

John then informed the body of the hall of the arrangements for the 2018 annual dinner scheduled to take place on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2018 at Bainfield BC. John explained that the Clubs will be able to purchase tickets from him after the meeting and that they would be sold on a first come first serve basis.

**Ian Fleming (Parkside BC)** then presented the following statement for thought to the committee and member clubs

"On behalf of Parkside BC I would like to make a point our members brought up at our bowling AGM with regards to the EBL. Since 1998 you have provided us with exciting leagues and meaningful bowls but our worry is that all your good work could come undone if a potential situation arises that ends up in the local press making a mockery of our sport. The current point scoring of playing for 9 points means that any win from 5-4 to 9-0 is shown as a win on the league table and the points are shown at the end. This could create the situation whereby a team could win 14 out of 14 games and not win their league. In fact they could lose the league title to a team that only wins 3 games. Let me explain 14 5-4 wins highly unlikely but possible. 14 wins 70 points. 3 9-0 wins and 11 4-5 defeats 3 wins 11 defeats and 71 points. Can you imagine the laughing stock we could potentially become? The same scenario also works at the opposite end of the table. A team can play 14 and lose 14 and still finish middle table because they keep getting beat 5-4.

The Ironic thing is we as a club already think you the committee have realised there is a problem. In the recently formed EBL winter pool league we are playing for 9 points 6 singles and 3 doubles games. If you win 5-4, 6-3, 7-2, 8-1 or 9-0 you are awarded 2 points for a win and the score line is your shot difference. Is this idea any different from other sports? Not really because it doesn't matter whether you win 1-0 or 7-0 you are still awarded 3 points and the score line goes towards your goal difference.

We as a club are asking the EBL to think about the possible embarrassment before it happens and come up with a solution to a potential problem. It has happened in another area where the local press got a hold of the story and ridiculed the sport of bowls. We don't want that to happen to the Edinburgh Bowling League.

**Graeme Swan (Tanfield BC)** Asked when this had happened and Ian Fleming replied it had happened to Parkside many years back in the Midlothian Leagues.

**John Thorburn (Liberton BC)** Stated he felt that the structure at present was more than suitable.

**President Kenny Watling** stated that the committee would look at this proposal in more detail at their next meeting and then make a decision to change the scoring structure if they felt this was necessary.

**Ian Banyard and John Thorburn** Spoke to the meeting highlighting the urgent need for new umpires in district 14 & 15. They stated that this is now at the critical stage and all games that require umpires may have to do without. Ian passionately asked the representatives of the member clubs to return to their clubs and push the need for new umpires. John then stated that anybody interested to contact himself or Ian ASAP. He informed the member clubs that the training was a 10 week course comprising of two hours every Sunday for the duration.

**John McDermott (Sighthill BC)** asked the committee for clarification on the ban given to Scott Noble as he had now re-joined Sighthill and has been no problem so far. Secretary Robert informed John that Scott would be able to play in all competitions from the start of April 2018.

John thanked Robert for his reply and requested that any club with an issue or have banned Scott contact Sighthill BC.

**Allan Mitchell (Northern BC)** Asked if clubs felt trial ends were still required at the start of each game as his club Northern felt it was better to start straight off to help with timing and lighting issues etc., After long discussion involving many clubs stating their views, it was decided to leave this issue until next year to allow clubs to gauge views from all their members and if Northern wished they could put this in a motion with a further club as a seconder.

**John Thorburn (Liberton BC)** Confirmed that that there was nothing in the Bowls Scotland rules to say that trial ends had to be played and clubs could use the gentlemen's agreement when playing their matches to have or not have a trial end. The Committee had no problem with this.

**Graeme Walker (Braid BC)** Stated that as the Edinburgh Cup was the EBL's most prestigious competition and asked if the committee would consider dropping the number of rinks from 6 to 4 as this may allow more teams to enter. President Kenny stated that he felt the 6 rinks were still the way forward for the competition but informed Graeme that the committee would be happy to look at any proposals the Braid wish to put forward regarding the matter or any other concerns they may have.

**Dean Thomson (Gorgie Mills BC)** Asked if it was possible to move the knockout competitions to August as there was a lot of things on in July. Secretary Robert informed Dean that this was not possible due to the lighting issues in the Middle of August as darkness fall around 7.30pm

**President Kenny Watling** stated that his charity for this year was Richmond Hope

**Secretary Robert White** presented some key dates for 2018 and confirmed that all league games will start the week commencing the 30<sup>th</sup> of April.

The Charity Triples is on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> of June.

The EBL Finals and League presentations will take place on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of September

### **President's closing remarks**

**President Kenny Watling** concluded by thanking the member clubs for the good representation at the meeting. He wished them a safe journey home, to enjoy the festive period and to prepare for the forthcoming season.

**Vice President Steve Kirk** thanked Brian Jempson and Kenny Watling for their chairmanship of the meeting.

The Annual General Meeting was then closed at 14:10hrs.