Club Officers Reports for 2026 AGM

A1. Secretary's Report (Peter Jones)

Both elected and nominated Club Officers worked diligently throughout the year to ensure that the Club ran smoothly in all respects. Two newly appointed Officers namely Henry Holland and Glynne Jones took over their areas of responsibility (namely Safeguarding & Welfare Officer and Competition Secretary respectively) and proved highly effective in their new roles. On the Management Committee I would particularly highlight the tenacity of Captain Toby in pursuing and obtaining significant grants towards our planned new toilet block. I would also commend the diligence of Treasurer Myf in ensuring that the Club is adequately insured. Ladies Captain Lynn is standing down after numerous years of service in this role. Her contribution to the Club over these years has been immense and is much appreciated. I am delighted that she has agreed to be nominated to stay on the Committee as an extra member next year.

The Management Committee met the statutory four times during the year and an additional extraordinary meeting was convened to sort out the logistics of ensuring we had the correct insurance values in place. Recurring topics discussed at meetings included recruitment of new members, fund raising and sponsorship, the toilet block extension, bowls wear and several logistical issues.

There was a significant decline in Club membership this year with 49 members being registered with the Somerset Bowls Association. The corresponding number in 2025 was 58. This was due to 12 of last year's members not renewing their subscriptions and our inability to attract new members. The latter was not for the want of trying. We had numerous visitors attending roll-up sessions and a well-attended open day in June. It is felt that the cold, wet start to the 2025 season and the extreme heat of the summer were contributing factors. We were not alone since at the SBA AGM I learned that 17 of the County affiliated Clubs had not recruited any new members. As some compensation, we have already signed up 5 new bowlers for the 2027 season. Given the friendly nature of our Club, we should be doing better at attracting new members Plans are in hand to achieve this.

Otherwise, the Club website was maintained and all necessary administrative and secretarial tasks were completed.

A2. Treasurer's Report (Myf Ashton)

I have prepared the Accounts (see Appendix) in the same way as last year.
Various members of the Club have worked very hard to increase Income
Ann and Ray deserve thanks for the large funding sums they have raised during the year from the Whist Drive and the Coffee Mornings. As does Dave Hardy, who obtained sponsorship from Forsey and Sons as well as running the Bonus Ball.

I should like to thank Toby for all the work he puts into the matches and the collection of the fees which he banks on my behalf. He then spends time sending me the necessary paperwork. This makes my life much easier He also runs the Grand Draw that makes a significant

contribution to Club funds. We should also be appreciative of Mary and David for their various fundraising activities which together with Jane's help raised a further £250.

Using the “Easyfundraising” website offers the opportunity for members to make a financial contribution to the Club from on-line purchases, at no cost to themselves. It would be good if more members registered on the website and used this facility.

Further thanks to Dave Forsyth and Ian who are part of my life nowadays — knowing that every time they are on the phone or e-mailing me, they need money!!! Peter has also been a great help to me as he is very knowledgeable about the actual running of the Club. Thanks also go to Marlene and Lynn for dealing with the raffle prizes and the biscuits for Club matches.

I am also appreciative of Graham Load for examining the accounts for the Club.

Finally, a general 'thank you’ to all of you for helping to make the Club run so successfully. I hope next year will be as busy and as interesting

A.3 Men’s Captain’s Report (Toby Strang)

“Well, 2026” we have had abundant volumes of hot sunny weather for much of the season, we have also been hit with multitude of crows attacking the greens thus giving the greenkeepers and working party much increased workload in preparation for matches.

We have lost members during the season, and other members have suffered various injuries and ill health that has unfortunately stopped them playing for periods of the season.

It certainly continues to be an honour captaining the Bowls Club, however, selecting respective teams along with the Ladies Captain, Lynn has sometimes proved challenging. This is a consequence of shortage of names on the availability lists. Men’s friendly matches have proved especially problematic and regrettably some games have been cancelled.

Generally, as in many other sports, teams selected are not always agreed by observers. However, one can only select from those making themselves available, so members are **very much encouraged** to put their names on lists and of course tick them off after selection.

I very much enjoy listening to great classical music such as Vivaldi’s Four Seasons, Elgar’s “Nimrod”, Land of Hope and Glory, Jerusalem just to mention a few. I imagine, in a dream that I have baton in hand, conducting an orchestra of club members rattling out a sound. Alas, something does not seem right. Then I realise there are many spaces in the orchestra. A scenario such as not having enough playing players in Bowls.

As for the season itself we have struggled overall with availabilities, and certainly need for more to come forward for Men’s County League Saturday matches ensuring teams can be selected without the usual struggle to fulfil the 12 members needed. We were regrettably relegated to SW2 Division for 2027. Is it time to consider an alternative, such as a move to a different type of league to suit the playing resources we have at our disposal?

In the Wessex Mixed Friendly League we played more matches because of the increase in number of teams this year. This league is our Club bread and butter offering matches for both ladies and gents to play in. This season we have amassed 129 points winning 12 &

losing 12 matches finishing mid-table. In the WFML KO Cup 2nd round we lost to Ilminster by just 1 shot. In the Turnbull Cup we were unable to raise team to play the first round and had to cancel. As a result, we were not eligible to play in the Wedmore Plate. In the National Club competitions, we lost to Yeovil BC in the first round by 56 – 109 (1 – 4).

I have very much enjoyed the role as Club or Team Captain, despite all the various challenges it beholds, hopefully in the interest of the club have managed to fulfil my role, and very much look forward to continuing in this role.

Finally, many congratulations to Ladies team who achieved a very good season.

Latest news on the grant funding applications to various sources for the New project of upgrading the Club Toilet facilities, I'm pleased to advise that we have obtained awards from Sport England £15,000, Clarks Foundation Trust £5,000, Somerton Town Council £4500 and Fairtrade Charity Trust £2,500. We now eagerly await hopeful funds from Rotary clubs of Langport & Somerton and others to take us to the required funds required to complete the project.

A4 Ladies Captain Report (Lynn Smalldon)

Overall, the ladies have had a very good season. We finished just over half-way up the table in the south-west Somerset ladies league with some good results, all be it played in very hot conditions on some days.

The pinnacle of our season was however reaching the final of the County Fear Plate Competition. We beat Minehead BC in the semi-final but unfortunately were narrowly beaten by Bloomfield BC in the final.

I would like to say it's been my privilege to have been Captain of this wonderful group of ladies, and I know we will be in good hands with Nikki and Janet at the helm. I know they will have good support. Onwards and upwards!

A5 Fixture Secretary (Sue Withers)

I think most of the prearranged matches during the summer were completed, despite the heat, and hopefully they were enjoyed by all. I'd like to thank the 'working party' who look after the green which enables our matches to be played. Thanks also to Competition Secretary, Glynne who managed to slot all of our club competitions into my original list.

Over the last few weeks, I've been working on next year's programme, and arrangements for only 4 matches remain to be confirmed.

A6 Competition Secretary (Glynne Jones)

140 entries were made into the individual competitions. This number had been increased after I wiped out the need to play the first round of the Triples on a set day. Initially we only had enough entries to form 5 teams --- too few to give a meaningful competition. We ended up with 8 teams of triples which at least gave us a quarter and a semi-final. However, because of illness and/or injuries there was some delay in playing some other competitions, notably the semi-final of the 4 wood pairs only being played in the morning of the first Finals Day. The finals weekend had to be rescheduled as the Ladies had succeeded in reaching the

semi-final of the Fear Plate This had to be played on the Saturday followed by the final. Sadly the ladies lost the final by a few shots. Well-done to all.

In the end, all the individual competitions were completed by the end of the prearranged Finals weekend in September.

One day competitions also took place but it was disappointing that the Heather Lucas Rose Bowl competition for the Ladies and the Australian Pairs were not supported

Prior to the presentation evening, the perpetual trophies were cleaned and polished with the help of Toby Strang and Peter Jones. These were then taken for engraving by Marlene Gibbs. Thank you for your help. There is now the hope that some shelves are going to be constructed within the main clubhouse so that these trophies can be displayed, rather than hidden in the equipment shed.

Individual gold and silver medals were purchased for the winners and runner ups of all the competitions. I hope to see some of these being used as name tags on bowls bags in the next season.

A7. Greenkeeper & Maintenance Officer (Ian Badman)

Once again, I want to thank all of you who turn up on a Monday to do their bit to keep the green and the whole site looking good.
It has been a struggle with the green this year, The very hot summer took its toll leaving a considerable amount of dry patch areas. We were also plagued with damage from the crows.
The autumn renovation was carried out but there are still a lot of bare areas visible., We are currently trying to rectify this with wetting agent and further seeding. However, with the colder weather upon us, there is little more that can be done until Spring.

On the maintenance side, the hedges are regularly maintained by Harry and helpers and the garden areas are well-tended by Peter King and Steve. The gate by the bungalows has been expertly repaired by Dave Dowden. He is now in the process of repairing the main gate.
There is still plenty of maintenance work to keep us busy for the coming months.
Thanks again to everyone involved and for the kind donations of cakes to sustain us.

A8. Safeguarding & Welfare Officer (Henry Holland)

This was my first year in this role having taken over from Brian Pearson. I contacted Bowls England and registered all the necessary paperwork required for this role. Consequently, I have the Disclosure and Barring Certificate (DBS) from Bowls England, issued in March 2026. There have been no safeguarding issues during the season. I would remind all members that Safeguarding is the responsibility of us all.

On the Welfare side, several members have suffered injuries and some have had operations. If you are aware of anyone that has a medical problem or needs help, please do inform me.

A9. The ‘Club at Somerton’ (CAS) Representative (Dave Hardy)

I have regularly attended the monthly meetings of the CAS committee. It is pleasing to report that with the infusion of new members onto the committee, as reported last year, there has been somewhat of a renaissance. The revitalised committee have launched several new events to the Club’s agenda, that have been well received and attended. These include film nights, live music events and a revamped quiz night These have brought in much needed revenue.

Good progress was made this season in implementing the revised communication system between the bowls club and CAS regarding post-match bar requirements. There were only a couple of hiccups and presently there is a good rapport with Elaine and Shelley that I will am to maintain.

We have been advised that annual membership of the CAS will increase from £2 to £4 next year to be applied to all Sports Clubs.

A10 Somerset Bowls Association Representative (Peter Jones)

I recently represented the Club at the AGM of the SBA. The AGM was preceded by an EGM to vote in the amended Constitution of the Association. This is designed to revise the SBA procedures in the light of updating its modus operandi for the benefits of its members. The new document was universally adopted and is available to view on their website.

At the AGM all Officers reports, having been published on their website, were taken as read. Noted points of interest were:

- Club affiliation fees will increase from £12.60 to £14 next year, the higher proportion going to Bowls England. If Bowls England do not receive their payment by specified dates, they fine County Associations. This is an issue since a number of Clubs miss deadline dates for payment. In future Clubs missing these dates will be fined.
- Plans to amalgamate outdoor and indoor Bowls Associations are progressing at a slow pace with a number of issues creating sticking points.
- The SBA Accounts were said to be healthy with Competitions, Matches and Central Administration showing a profit. The generosity of a number of individual sponsors in making donations to the Association was mentioned. Without these Club affiliation fees would have to rise substantially.
- The Patrons had a successful year. On average they had 36 applications to play in every match. To accommodate this level of interest it is hoped to increase the number of matches next year. Patrons match fees will increase next year to £14, due to the increased costs of provided meals that accompany these matches.
  Copies of the County Officers reports are available on the SBA website

A12 Recreation Ground Trust Representative (Brian Pearson)

I attended meetings of the Trustees as our Club representative alongside Henry Holland who is present as the Club at Somerton representative.

Much of the meeting time has been focused on the maintenance and development of the ground, its boundaries and premises particularly those used by soccer and rugby clubs. This includes clubs located outside Somerton who provide much needed income from their hiring of the facilities.

The matter of providing sufficient water to counter the drought conditions has been an issue that must be assumed will continue in future years. There is a proposal to create of a bore hole and pumping facility to ensure grass is kept in reasonable health during future droughts.

The other main topic covered has been the planning of a new Clubhouse for which permission to proceed is being sought. That is a work in progress within the bureaucratic machinery!