

Club AGM Updates

Mon 23 Feb 2026 • 47min

Highlights from the Year

- Tony Hoffman (Chair) thanked the committee, staff and members for their support.
- The club had a strong year with increased membership, live music returning, more sports teams using the club, and refurbishment work completed in the cellar and bar.
- A brief note was made that there had been some issues during the year, but these were generally resolved.

Secretary's Report (Operations & Membership)

- Membership has virtually doubled, now around 470 members (up from roughly 250 last February).
- Staff job descriptions and contracts were introduced as they previously didn't exist.
- Health & safety documents and reports were produced.
- Bar and gaming licences were renewed and brought up to date.
- Monthly stock takes were introduced, leading to a major reduction in stock losses.
- Daily till cashing-up procedures were introduced, reducing cash losses to

under £1 most weeks (previously ~£100/week).

- An agreement was made with Greene King Brewery resulting in new cellar and bar equipment for both bars (main bar and skittle alley bar).
- The Greene King relationship also provides technical support plus marketing/point-of-sale support.
- Members received a complimentary drink (courtesy of Greene King).
- Live music now runs monthly and is generating additional revenue.
- Sports participation has grown from a pool team and a few skittle teams to: 1 pool team, 3 darts teams, and 7 skittle teams.
- One darts team is on track to become league champions in its first year (expected within ~6 weeks).
- The projector/screen setup is being replaced with a 65-inch monitor for improved display and usability.

Treasurer's Report (Financials)

- Total receipts in 2025 were £170,000 vs £143,000 in 2024 (19% increase), including bar takings, fruit machines and cottage rent.
- Total expenditure increased by ~5%, attributed partly to changing beer supplier and tighter expense management.
- Receipts rose by ~£27,000 while expenditure rose by ~£7,000.
- In 2024, expenses were nearly £14,000 higher than income (including ~£7,000 spent on phase one of the roof project).

- In 2025, receipts were ~£6,000 higher than expenses.
- Bank balance increased from ~£12,000 at the start of the year to nearly £20,000 at year end (up ~£7,500).
- A caution was noted: the annual surplus equates to roughly £150/month, so unexpected costs or lower revenue could remove the buffer.
- Based on the improved working balance, the club can consider commissioning phase two of the roof repair project.
- Graphs showed the 2024 balance dipping early (roof works), then softening over summer and stabilising late-year; in 2025 the balance improved, especially towards year end.
- Question answered on “rent” line: it relates to the cottage next door owned by the club; 2024 included arrears payments, while 2025 included a temporary rent reduction due to maintenance work.

Governance, Elections & Rule Changes

- The accounts were formally adopted following a vote (carried unanimously).
- Committee/officer elections had single nominations for all roles (no contested positions).
- Officers voted in for the next 12 months: Tony Hoffman (Chair), Steve Whitlock (Treasurer), Roger Knight (Secretary).
- Committee members voted in (unopposed) included: Marie Bennett, John Hodge, Lisa Van Niekirk , Peter Parsons, Marion Parsons, Steve Brennan, Mark Fry, Glenn Higgins, and Geoff Fisher (formally voted on after joining

part way through the year).

- It was reiterated that the rules require 12 committee members.
- The club discovered it was operating under a pub licence rather than a club premises licence, requiring a Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS).
- Roger confirmed he is the DPS as a personal licence holder.
- Rule/constitution updates were discussed to reflect that the club is now members-owned but allows general public admission (i.e., not a private members' club).
- Guest sign-in requirements are being removed; the updated rules are to be posted on the website.
- Membership cards and member/non-member pricing were introduced; members must bring/swipe their card to receive the discount.
- A question was raised about dissolution: it was confirmed that assets would still be split equally among remaining members (no change).
- The constitution changes were approved by a show of hands.

Forward Plans, Licensing Matters & Member Questions

- Membership fees proposal (to apply from next February): £15 for ordinary members and £7.50 for OAPs.
- The vote was framed as giving the committee authority to raise fees after an end-of-year review; this was carried unanimously.

- A member asked whether the prior fee increase caused a decline in membership; it was confirmed membership had increased significantly and the fee is rarely questioned due to competitive bar pricing.
- Roof repairs phase two will begin in spring (scaffolding expected; starting at the back/that side).
- Outdoor area/licensing concerns were raised: the area outside the front door is not licensed, and there were noise complaints.
- The back “beer garden” is licensed but has planning restrictions preventing use as a beer garden; the upstairs of the skittle alley is restricted to storage.
- The committee may explore changing planning permission, but it may require neighbour agreement and prospects were described as pessimistic.
- Roger has a meeting with the police licensing officer on 18 March and will raise the outdoor licence/smoking area topic; noise and disturbance are currently key enforcement concerns.
- An allegation of underage drinking triggered a meeting with council and police licensing officers; additional staff training was recommended.
- The club is implementing/has implemented measures including Ask Angela and Challenge 25, plus relevant posters.
- The club expects increased scrutiny and aims to be fully compliant.
- Discussion covered contingency if the DPS were unavailable: the club would need another personal licence holder; it was noted there are already other personal licence holders involved (including Glenn and Charlene), and the club would likely fund training for interested Staff.

- Soft drinks request: members asked for more diet/zero-sugar options; the club is working on it and considering swapping from Heineken 0.0 to Estrella 0% (bottles).
- The licence implications of Marie's pop-up shop were briefly raised; Marie already has permission to set up a pop-up shop, but selling cigarettes via another arrangement would need checking with the licensing officer.
- Cigarette vending machines were confirmed as illegal and no longer permitted.

Suggested Action Items

- Upload the revised club rules to the website (removing sign-in references and reflecting members-owned/public admission model).
- Proceed with installing the 65-inch monitor to replace the projector/screen.
- Plan and commence phase two of roof repairs in spring (including scaffolding and contractor scheduling).
- Roger to discuss outdoor area licensing/smoking area options with the police licensing officer at the 18 March meeting and report back to the committee.
- Arrange and complete the recommended staff training linked to licensing compliance (including child protection and related requirements).
- Review membership fee levels towards year-end and decide whether to implement the proposed increases for next February renewals.
- Expand/refresh the range of diet/zero-sugar soft drinks and trial alternative

zero-alcohol beer (e.g., Estrella 0%).

- Confirm with licensing whether any third-party/pop-up arrangement can sell cigarettes on site.