

**South Westmorland Seniors Bowling League
2025 Annual General Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held at
Burneside Cricket Club - 1.30pm on Thursday 6th November 2025**

1. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed club representatives to the meeting.

2. Remembrance

1. A minutes silence was observed in remembrance of all those senior's bowlers who had sadly passed away since the 2024 AGM.

Robin Holliday-Bowness
Chris Dodd-Bowness
Keith Barrett-Heversham
Marjorie Wall-Heversham
Tony Lush-Kirkby Lonsdale
Mike Gregson-Kirkby Lonsdale
John Easton-Bolton Le Sands
Lesley Guise-Bolton Le Sands
Ian Mercer-Bolton Le Sands
Peter Craven-Sedbergh
Dennis Bell-Burton in Lonsdale
David Parkinson-Windermere
Teddy Thomas-Windermere

Norman Richardson-Crosthwaite
Patricia Banks-Allithwaite
Frank Jordan-Allithwaite
Derek Pilling-Silverdale
Peter Stainton-Subscription
Patricia Murphy-Subscription
Norma Morris-Milnthorpe
Ron Palmer-Ingleborough
John Lddon-Victoria
Harry Postlewaite-Victoria
Liz Farnill-Springfield
Christine Nelson-Staveley
Heather Turnough-Milnthorpe

3. Apologies for absence were received from Carnforth, Kevin O'Neil (Secretary).

Of the 29 clubs 26 were represented at the meeting.

4. Minutes of 2024 AGM held on 7th November 2024.

The minutes had been available online for some time. They were proposed for acceptance by Burneside and seconded by Warton and were carried unanimously by the meeting.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Secretary's report – The Secretary is recovering from knee operation so the Vice Chair gave a report on behalf of the Secretary.

Summary

Weather and Match Conditions:

The season started with great weather, a contrast to the bad weather at the start of last season.

Despite some rainy days, the weather was generally favourable, leading to competitive and enjoyable matches.

Player Participation:

94 players played twice, down from 109 last season.

17 walkovers occurred, compared to 8 last year, though this is still better than the 48 walkovers in 2022.

Total of 879 players registered, with 656 (75%) participating this year.

Email and Communication:

Last season saw over 200 emails and numerous phone calls; this year, only 25 emails were received regarding league issues.

Special mention of Division 5 playoffs: this led to an increase in emails, but Denise kindly handled the situation while the secretary was on holiday.

Thanks to Staveley Bowling Club for hosting the playoff and providing refreshments.

Fixtures and Scheduling:

The scheduling issue for the first 4 weeks was explained: with 10-team leagues wanting a delayed start, this was the only feasible way to fit the fixtures.

Suggestion to start 10-team leagues 2 weeks late and finish 2 weeks early for future seasons, which could be discussed at next year's AGM.

Club Secretary Updates:

Clubs are asked to email any changes to their secretary contact details.

Role of Secretary:

The secretary thanked clubs for their support, noting that year 2 has been smoother than the first year, thanks to better familiarity with the role and more personal connections made through competitions.

The secretary expressed willingness to continue the role if required next season.

The meeting thanked the Secretary for his work over the season.

6. Treasurer's report and balance sheet for 2025.

The 2025 accounts were prepared by Malcolm Booker and audited and signed off by Denise Noble.

As agreed at the 2024 AGM, no subscription fees were charged for the 2025 season due to a surplus of £866.84 carried forward from 2024.

An additional expense of £25 was incurred for a new stand for a cup, as the original had no remaining space for engravings.

After accounting for all 2025 season expenses, the closing balance stands at £269.01.

Normal team subscriptions (£12.50 per team) will resume for the 2026 season.

No other matters were reported.

The Accounts we accepted by the meeting they were proposed by Warton and seconded by Silverdale. The meeting voted unanimously to accept them.

7. Election of Officers: All the officers were prepared to carry on their roles as no one from the room came forward. The Officers were elected on block, proposed by Burneside and Seconded by Endmoor and voted on unanimously:

Chairman Maria Gilpin
Vice Chairman Denise Noble
Secretary Kevin O'Neil
Treasurer Malcolm Booker

8. Presentation to Divisional winners and runners-up for season 2025 was carried out by the Chairperson and the Treasurer:

Division 1-Winner-Warton A	Runners up-Holme A
Division 2-Winner-Milnthorpe A	Runners up-Abbot Hall A
Division 3-Winner-Levens	Runners-up-Endmoor A
Division 4-Winner-Ambleside	Runners-up-Burton in Lonsdale
Division 5-Winner-Lower Holker B	Runners-up-Hawkshead

9. Motions received from Management Committee-

1. To change play off ruling (R6) relating to teams being level on points and resulting in promotion or relegation. Should teams be level on points, the total aggregate would then come into play to decide the final league positions – proposed by Burneside and seconded by Heversham – the clubs voted unanimously for this proposal.
2. To move start date for leagues with 10 teams to two weeks later than the start date of teams with 11 and 12 teams rather than the current 4 weeks and therefore finish two weeks earlier This should allow for the fixtures in the second half of the season, to be a reverse of the first half of the season – proposed by Burton and seconded by Arnside, the clubs voted unanimously for this proposal.

10. New team requests and withdrawals for 2026 season – the meeting was asked if there were any changes to existing teams. There was no response from the meeting.

11. Promotions and relegations and make up or Division for 2026 season:

Current make up
Division 1=12
Division 2=12
Division 3=11
Division 4=10
Division 5=10

12. Any other Business:

The secretary has asked if the clubs wish the start of the league to be Easter Monday 5th April or Monday 13th April. The meeting took a vote on this. Votes were 5 April 0

votes 13 April 26 votes. So, the 2026 league would start on the 13 April for the leagues with 12/11 teams.

13. Date, time and place of 2026 AGM 5th November 2026

Thursday 5th November 2026 at 1:30pm at Burneside Cricket Club

14. The meeting ended at 2:15pm.