



Stafford Bowling Club

Established 1902

Minutes of Annual General Meeting: Thursday 24th April 2022: 8.00pm

Present: Mr PJ Atkin (President)

Officers Mr N.Bickley (Secretary), Mr K. Sproston (Treasurer),
Mrs Wendy Boulton (Safeguarding Officer)

Committee Members Mr D Barrett (Club Captain), Mr C Robinson (Green & Grounds),
Mr S. Hugill (Bar Manager), Mrs V. Allman, Mr H. Jones & Mr E Hultquist

Members- Mr P. Allman, Mr R Aspinall, Mrs I. Aspinall, Mr G. Blick, Mrs W. Blick,
Mr D. Boston, Mr J. Cussons, Mr T. Fellows, Mr N. Ireland, Mrs H. Lamond, Mr K. Lane,
Mr F. Meacock, Mr C. Morley, Mr R. Parsons, Mr D. Porter, Mrs M. Prescott, Mr P. Randall,
Mrs L. Randall, Mr S. Turner, Mrs H. Sammons, Mr J. Shearer, Mr M. Shenton, Mr K. Smith,
Mr J. Thornley, Mr A. Thrilling, Mrs D. Turner, Ms D. Williams, Mrs D. Halley and Mr D.
Halley.

Apologies given:

Mr J. Stuart, Mr F James (Chair), Mr K. Mellor, Mrs D. Aitchison, Mr R. Boulton, Mr B. Cooke,
Mrs M. Cooke, Mrs J. Dick, Mr N. Jarvis, Mr B. Lockyer, Mrs R Vance Cotsford,
Mr S. Davies, Mr M. Price, Mr K. Mellor, Mr R. Barker, Mrs A. Barker, Mrs S. Darby, Mr S.
Davies, Mr M. Deakin, Mr R. Jones, Mrs A. Jones, Mr D. Kelsall, Mrs D. Kelsall, Mr K.
Lancaster, Mr E. Mason, Mr P. Nowell, Mrs M. Parsons, Mrs B. Pelter, Mrs W. Robinson,
Mr A. Waddison and Mrs A. Dawson

Roll Call

The Secretary reported the following

Members Present	38
Apologies Received	27
Members Absent	70

The President opened the meeting explaining that the Chair was unable to attend as he was having an operation. This being so Mr K. Sproston (Treasurer) was taking the Chair for the meeting. All attending sent best wishes to the Chair.

President:

Mr PJ Atkin welcomed Members to the 120th Annual General Meeting of Stafford Bowling Club.

He reflected on how the club had developed from its origins to the present redeveloped facilities. The President highlighted how the club has depended on the hard work of volunteers to keep it running. This includes the members of the Committee. Following the appointment of a Bar Manager, Mr S. Hugill, the President asked for volunteers to come forward to go on a rota to help run the bar on Tuesday and Friday nights and when functions are being held.

The President informed the meeting about those members who passed since the last AGM:

Mr H. Harte who passed away on 11th November 2021 aged 90 and had been a member for 39 years.

Mr E. Smith passed away in January 2022 and was a member for 48 years and was made a Life Member in 2009 in recognition of his work at the club. He told the meeting that Eddie's ashes were to be scattered in the flower beds at the club at 11 a.m. on the 27th February 2022.

The President asked the members to keep them in their thoughts over the coming year.

He hoped that, after a year of almost non-existent bowling in 2020 and an improvement in 2021 with club competitions and league bowling taking place, things will return to normal this year and wished everyone a successful 2022 season.

Minutes:

The Minutes of the AGM of 28th April 2021 were unanimously approved by the those present as a true record.

Matters arising:- Mr N. Jarvis asked that the record should show that Mrs J. Dick attended the meeting.

Reports:

Chairman:

Mr Ken Sproston, in his position of acting Chair, welcomed members to the meeting, particularly new members. He informed the meeting that 35 new members joined the club in 2021 and that in 2022 there had already been 8 new members.

There was no report from the Chair.

Treasurer:

The Treasurer Mr Ken Sproston gave a report highlighting the following:

Income.

- Prior year adjustment had been made to the accounts for the 2019/2020 accounts as four cheques, with a total of £202, had not been accounted for
- Membership fees had decreased by nearly £1500 due to discount offered because of the impact of Covid19
- Donations had reduced as there was no grant from the Council
- Competitions had increased as we were able to hold competitions again
- 49 Club income had increased. He explained that this club was the second highest source of income and asked that if anyone wished to join the 49 Club they should talk to him as some numbers were available
- Solar feed income had decreased due to late payments

Expenditure.

- Club admin costs had decreased due to the club being closed
- Gas/Electricity had reduced as the bills had been presented after the accounts had closed. He noted that the amount set aside for the utilities would probably not cover the cost due to the price increases that had been forecast for 2022
- Waste collection had increased because of a new payment system

The Clubs fixed assets had increased to £41,000 due to the refurbishment.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

INCOME: £17371

EXPENDITURE: £19436

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021 FIXED ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Lloyds Bank Treasurer's account £3,841

Lloyds Savings Deposit account £15,038

The Club auditor, Mr Jim Stuart asked the Acting Chair to read out the following:

‘As usual the accounts have been presented in a professional manner, by the Treasurer, and both the income and expenditure accounts and balance sheet for the year ending 31st September 2021 represent a true and fair view at that date.’

The Treasurer asked the membership present to approve the clubs accounts, the motion was proposed by Mr J. Cussons and seconded by Mr E. Hultquist and was approved by those members present.

The Treasurer gave thanks to Mr Jim Stuart who audited the clubs accounts.

Mrs L. Randall asked the Treasurer if the Committee had thought about creating joint membership?

The Treasurer thanked her for her question and said that this matter would be considered by the Committee in the future.

Mr C. Robinson explained to the meeting that membership fees were important as they helped to pay for the cost of vital equipment needed to keep the club running. He cited the example of a new mower that had to be purchased for £6000 which will have a major impact on the clubs accounts.

The Green and Grounds:

Mr C. Robinson presented the following report:

First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest thanks to our ground's maintenance members who despite the problems associated with Covid have through dedication and hard work kept our green and grounds in excellent condition throughout these last twelve months. This enabled members albeit few to enjoy a game of bowls during last summer right through to the end of October. Special thanks must go to those members who turn out on nearly every Friday throughout the winter to ensure members are presented with a green and grounds that members hopefully can be proud of at the start of the season. The closed season is by no

means quiet and there are a myriad of jobs that are essential to sound green and grounds management.

I particularly wish to thank Jim Stuart, Stan Hugill, Tom Fellows and Phil Allman who joined me nearly every morning 50 weeks of the year unless weather during the winter dictates otherwise and during last year's bowling season and Roger Barker, Howard Jones, Ken Lancaster and Jim Thomas who made up the cutting teams on Mondays and Wednesdays during the bowling season. In addition, Roger and Ann Barker, Wendy Robinson Wendy Boulton and Peter Elliot have worked hard on keeping the gardens in good order and John Thornley and Helen Salmons have also followed up Roger Barkers excellent work on restoring the benches by re oiling several of them. John and Helen have offered to continue further re oiling of benches this year, but I would remind all members that we were hoping that members would be prepared to adopt a bench to ensure all benches are kept in good order. Each bench is numbered so please choose a bench and add your name against a number on the list on the notice board.

This year as usual the green will be cut on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. However, we are advocating that the starting time will be later in the morning commencing at 10:30. The reasoning behind this is that except for wet weather the grass should have dried out by then which as well by cutting dry producing a better sward will help to stop the cylinders on the mowers clogging causing the cutting teams a range of problems. Start times will not be set in stone as I have left it to the individual teams to set their own start times depending on the availability of team members. As such members could expect to find maintenance teams on site anywhere between 9am and 12:30am.

As members should be aware the green must be switched if dew or worm casts are present before commencement of play. Switches had been placed on the wall to the left of the club house for ease of access. Unfortunately, towards the end of last year all three were removed from the premises by persons unknown and new ones have had to be purchased. As such we have had to place them under lock and key in the bowls store. To gain access to the store you will need to deactivate the alarm system in the main clubhouse and as such will need to ensure you have to hand appropriate keys and obviously the alarm code. Our treasurer Ken Sproston can supply you with a set of keys for a small deposit.

Members need to be aware that we can be insufficient members on hand to carry out maintenance. I am looking to bolster the Wednesday and Friday teams and I am aware from responses to the club questionnaire that seven members indicated that they were willing to help.

Mondays: Phil Allman, Roger Barker, Tom Fellows, Jim Thomas and Peter Harris make up the team

Wednesdays: Howard Jones, Phil Allman and Ken Lancaster make up the team but as things stand Phil may be the only team member on hand which is untenable.

Fridays: Jim Stuart, Stan Hugill and myself but again I am not always available.

To ensure that the green is cut regularly throughout the bowling season it is imperative that we increase volunteers on Wednesdays and Fridays so please if you can help please contact me at your earliest convenience.

The green will open, weather permitting, on 27th March 2022 at 11 a.m. when the President will roll out the first wood of the season.

Motions:

The Secretary reminded the members present they had received the proposed motions and asked them to consider the following.

1. That the Club Rules be approved.

Mr K. Sproston reminded members that the rules had been changed to incorporate:

- The category of Social Membership
- The removal of the need for new members to attend an interview as this was felt it was no longer appropriate

**Proposed by: Mr P. Randall
and Seconded by: Mr S. Turner**

The motion was duly approved.

2. That the AGM be advised that the current appointed Trustees are Mr Peter J. Atkin, Mr Trevor J. Laws, Mr James C Stuart and Mr Kenneth B G Sproston

Mr P. Atkins explained that one of the duties of the Trustees was that if the club got into debt then the Trustees had to find a way to cover that debt.

The motion was duly approved.

Elections of Club Officers & Committee

Chairman

Mr Frank James, proposed by Mr Peter Atkin & Seconded by Mrs R. Vance Cotsford

The Chairman was re-elected

Treasurer

Mr K. Sproston for Treasurer, proposed by Mrs Wendy Boulton & seconded by Mr Nick Bickley.

Mr K. Sproston was re-elected Treasurer

Club Captain

Mr Dave Barrett for Club Captain, proposed by Mr Nick Bickley & seconded by Mrs Wendy Boulton.

Mr D. Barrett was re-elected

Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Wendy Boulton for Safeguarding Officer, proposed by Mr Dave Barrett & seconded by Mr Frank James.

Mrs Wendy Boulton was re-elected

Club Secretary.

Mr N. Bickley proposed for Club Secretary by Mr C. Robinson & seconded by Mr K. Sproston.

Mr N. Bickley was re-elected.

Committee Members: -

Mrs R. Vance Cotsford, Mr C. Robinson, Mr J. Stuart were all re-elected to the Committee.

Mrs Vilma Allman was proposed by Mr Ken Sproston and seconded by Mrs Wendy Boulton
Mr Stan Hugill was proposed by Mr Jim Stuart and seconded by Mr Ken Sproston and were elected on to the Committee.

Mr G. Blick asked if people can be appointed on to the Committee at any time.

Mr K. Sproston explained that this would happen if a member of the Committee left.

Auditor:

Mr K. Sproston explained that Mr Jim Stuart has resigned as club auditor and therefore we need to appoint a new auditor before the end of the financial year in September. If anyone knows of someone interested in taking up this role or would like to do it themselves please contact the Treasurer, the Club Secretary or the Chair.

The election of Officers and Members of the Committee was proposed by Mr A Thrilling and seconded by Mr N. Ireland and was passed by all those present.

The Committee and members would like to thank Mr H. Jones, Mr S. Turner and Mr E. Hultquist for the service they have given to the Committee as they step down from their roles.

Club Questionnaire.

Mr K. Sproston reported on the questionnaire and explained that 58 members had completed it. The results has been discussed by the Committee and the following had been considered:

- It was felt that there did not need to be an increase in the number of days the club was open
- The Social Committee had been formed consisting of Mrs V. Allman, Mr John Cussons, Mrs W. Boulton and Mrs D. Turner and events organised by them have been well supported. The formation of this Committee had also led to the creation of Social Membership

Mr J. Cussons talked about the work of the Committee and highlighted the Christmas party which had been rearranged for 19th March 2022. He explained that refunds could be asked for by those who could not now attend and that tickets would be on sale. He asked that members continued to support events as the profits raised help buy equipment to support further events. All events held had been in profit.

Mr P. Atkin highlighted the Whist Drives which are taking place and directed members to a notice which gave the dates.

Mr K. Sproston also reminded members about the Coffee Mornings, run by Mrs I. Aspinall, which take place fortnightly on Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. where you could get a cup of coffee and a piece of homemade cake for a £1.

Any other business:

Mr C. Robinson explained to the meeting that in order to allow greater access for people with mobility issues one of the benches had been removed and the plastic shuttering taken down to enable mobility scooters a wider turning area. He asked that if members know of anyone who had problems with accessing the club that they should let the Committee know about it.

Mr P. Randall asked if the fire door was wider to allow access?

It was agreed that this door was wider and should help access.

Mrs L Randall asked whether the use of the club as a polling station would mean funds could be accessed to improve disability access.

Mr K. Sproston explained that we had had a lot of funding from the Council to help improve facilities.

Mr C. Robinson highlighted the contribution of £1600 towards the rubber matting around the green

Mrs L. Randall enquired about the availability of coaching in the new season following the retirement of Mr and Mrs Morley and asked if there would be a charge to try and attract a new coach?

Mr N. Bickley explained that Ms D. Williams had agreed to take up the coaching position and would be running coaching on Saturdays during the season.

Mr H. Jones stated that Ms Williams would need support to run this coaching and asked members to come forward.

Mrs Randall asked if the club had any plans to recognise the service that Mr and Mrs Morley had given to the club?

Mr K. Sproston replied that the Committee had discussed it and that plans were in place to recognise their work.

Mr P. Atkin reminded members that we need volunteers to work behind the bar and to look after green.

Meeting closed at 20:55.