**Stafford Bowling Club Management Committee Meeting Wednesday 4th October 2023.**

Present: Frank James (FJ) (Chair), Peter Atkins (PA) (President) (Trustee), Ken Sproston (KS) (Treasurer) (Trustee), Nick Bickley (NB) (Secretary) (Trustee), Vilma Allman (VA), Roy Aspinall (RA), Rosie Vance-Cotsford (RVC), Trevor Laws (TL) (Trustee)

1. Apologies: Dave Barrett (DB), Wendy Boult (WB), Isobel Aspinall (IA), Chris Robinson (CR)
2. Approval of Minutes from 9th August 2023

Proposed: KS

Seconded: RA

Passed by the Committee

1. Matters Arising:
2. RA advised the meeting that the ladies averages trophy had been found
3. KS informed the meeting that an engineer had looked at the radiator and it was no longer leaking and the engineer was coming to look at the boiler 6/10/23 (matters arising 3)
4. No response from Westside Taxis re sponsorship (5 X)

**Action: FJ to talk to Westside Taxis**

1. The snooker table is being maintained by club members and a new iron has been purchased

PA objected to a social member carrying out these duties (7) (see also AOB)

1. FJ informed the meeting that the Morleys have removed all their coaching equipment as a lot has gone missing.

NB passed on a message from WB stating that she and James Shearer will carry out an inventory of the bowls equipment and put labels on it to identify items as belonging to the club. She also stated that she is willing to take a coaching qualification and will help Diane Williams with the coaching. She proposed that once the audit is complete then the club should buy its own coaching equipment (9)

At this point TL raised the issue of meeting etiquette as members of the committee were talking over others and holding conversations which made it difficult to follow items. He asked members to follow etiquette.

The meeting then resumed.

1. CR has established who has admin right for the Facebook page and this is now under two peoples control (9)
2. Secretary’s Report
3. Maintained the calendar
4. Booked events at the club
5. Informed members of matters concerning the club
6. Authorised payments
7. Provided a piece on the club for Allets to be included in a blog about the clubs increase in membership
8. Hosted Rising Brook Church Men’s Club
9. Treasurer’s Report

KS reported on the August accounts which had been circulated amongst the committee. The September report will be shared at the next meeting which ties in with the end of the financial year.

There was nothing to highlight on the accounts.

1. Membership

Full: 123

Life: 10

Junior: 0

Associate: 10

Social: 10

Total: 151

TL reminded KS that Alan Lycetts name still needs to be removed from membership list two.

1. Terminations

Eddie Belcher who has passed away – PA asked members to note that if they wished to go to the wake then they should let the family know

1. Bar Inspection

The licensing officer visited the club on 28.9.2023. No issues were raised and there were no changes to the licence displayed behind the bar. The officer informed KS that the club was entitled to play music as long as there were no more than 499 present.

PA enquired whether there had been a complaint resulting in the visit?

KS explained there was no complaint and that this was just a routine visit.

NB asked if the fire door by the cellar store was routinely unlocked when the club was in use?

PA said it was and that the key is in the door

**Action: NB to produce a notice stating that the door should be unlocked when the club is in use and relocked at when the club closes**

1. KS confirmed that the landline is being removed. He also stated that broadband be looked at in the future along with whether we needed to purchase a card reader.
2. KS is to move the club’s gas suppliers from EDF as they have not provided a satisfactory service. He is moving it to SSE from 1/11/2023

The solar panel management has changed from SSE to OVAT – he also informed the meeting that the meter for this was faulty and that an electrician had looked at the panels and found that half of them do not appear to be working

TL suggested contacting the company who installed the panels and said he would try to find their name for KS

1. KS requested that PA passes on the names of all internal trophy winners and the runners up so he can organise the prizes to be presented at the AGM in February 2024

**Action: PA to give names to KS**

1. Greens and Grounds

FJ would like to pass on the Committees thanks to Phil Allman and the team for all their work throughout the year.

1. VA asked, on behalf of Phil Allman, if a new tap could be fitted on the standpipe?

**Action: KS to discuss with plumber on 6/10/2023**

1. NB informed the committee that Phil Allman and Roger Barker had been in contact with him regarding the green not being used during the week starting 2/10/2023 following work done on the green and significant rainfall. It was also suggested that the green be closed at this time to preserve it for next season.

KS proposed the green was closed with immediate effect and this was seconded by NB. The committee agreed to this proposal and the green was closed from 4.10.2023

1. NB passed on a request from CR that the club should purchase new floodlights. The present ones do not fully cover the green and the lamps cannot be replaced.

TL stated that we need companies to quote with the aim of the new lights being installed by the new bowling season

RVC mentioned that grants may be available to help with the purchase

KS asked for a specification to be drawn up and three quotes to be obtained. Once this is done we can look into funding

**Action: NB/CR to get specification and look into obtaining quotes**

1. Social Committee

VA reported that she had handed over £104 from external competitions held at the club during summer 2032. The latest music night had been a success.

Future events:

Quiz night 18/11/2023

Music night 15/12/2023

Winter League – this will be split into two parts with 2 events before Christmas and 3 after Christmas

1. Safe Guarding

WB reported that she is drawing up a new leaflet and that she will share it with the committee

1. Membership of teams

NB had shared a document with the committee prior to the meeting. Following a discussion it was agreed that the following needed to take place prior to the 2024 season:

1. Captains need to be contacted to see if they are willing to continue next season

Present Captains are:

Monday ladies – Wendy Boult

Wednesday – A Team – Frank James

B Team - Nigel Fox

C Team – John Dunning (to play at Riverway 2024)

Thursday - A Team – Vilma Allman

B Team – Dave Kelsall

Friday - A Team – Dave Barrett

B Team – Sue Darby

Saturday - A Team – Dave Halley

B Team – Wendy Boult

Members will be asked to put their names up for the days they wish to play and which team they would like to represent. Some players may be invited to play for other teams but no one will be made to move if they do not wish to do so.

**Action: DB to contact captains. NB to put up lists for squads. Captains to meet prior to new season to discuss squads**

NB also asked about recruitment of experienced league bowlers who could strengthen our teams, should they be given priority when they applied?

RVC felt that if there is a waiting list this would not be fair to those on the list

KS noted that around the renewal of membership there is usually 12-15 members who do not rejoin and this would mean spaces would be available for these players

It was agreed that anyone wishing to join should get their application in asap and then they would be in place for next year

1. Extra item submitted for consideration regarding i) Facebook posting, ii) behaviour on and around the green and iii) whether league competitions should go ahead?
2. VA raised the issue of a Facebook posting concerning the John Dunning Cup. She and DB wanted to know what this trophy was?

PA explained that it was a trophy played for by John Dunning’s team and not an official club tournament

RA expanded on this by explaining that since 2008 John Dunning and Dave Kelsall had run their own competition for their teams and at the same time handed out trophies for the best averages in the teams

VA also asked about a photo that had taken place on the green, using chairs, which gave the impression that the teams in the picture were the club’s Wednesday and Thursday teams and that the teams were wearing shirts which were not the official club shirts.

PA stated that there has never been a club shirt

RA explained that an enquiry had been made about the club shirt and badge and that they had been told there wasn’t one. The ladies involved wished to have a breathable shirt and had been given permission to go ahead and purchase one, as agreed by the Chair.

VA and WB, along with members of the club, are concerned that there is a culture of a club within a club and that some members felt alienated within teams in the club.

1. VA went on to report that she and WB had received complaints, from club members and players from other clubs, regarding unsporting behaviour during games. There is a concern that members of our club are not being supported in matches and that other teams have complained about green behaviour. Club members have requested that this behaviour is stopped as it has caused splits within the club and created a toxic atmosphere.

RVC informed the meeting that a number of players had been talked out of joining the Wednesday A team.

The committee were also reminded that the league website has a reminder about behaviour on it.

RA felt that we should be celebrating the ladies achievements this year and said that the reaction of the opposition teams was that the facilities have been excellent this year and they have been made welcome.

VA also stated that members had asked to purchase drinks to take home and had been refused.

RA stated that this can happen and that the only thing needed was that a note should be made to help with stock control

KS felt that the new bar arrangements were the best for years and that they gave a clear picture of bar stocks.

It was agreed that these matters were most concerning and that behaviour should be in line with league expectations.

FJ felt that if members were not happy in sides this would be reflected in their choices next season.

**Actions: NB to remind all players, at the start of next season, of green etiquette and team captains should also remind their teams of their expectations.**

1. VA has been asked whether the committee were happy for league competitions to take place on our green as it has resulted in members not being able to play. She has checked and there were no more competitions than in previous years.

It was agreed that this would continue as it reflected well on the club ad also brought in revenue.

FJ reminded the meeting that all players, from both sides, in the recent county match had praised the facilities and organisation of the day.

1. AOB
2. Club competitions – WB is drawing up a calendar of the competitions and will share it with the committee

FJ congratulated PA and his team on the organisation of the competitions this year.

1. PA informed the meeting about recent competitions:

Stone Challenge – a team representing the club were runners up

Lane Trophy – 21 took part and John Cussons won the final against Dawn Halley

Presidents Cup – 30 took part and the final was won by Simon Davies who beat Ken Lancaster. Mention was made of Jackie Hawkins who reached the quarter final

1. PA raised the issue of who would replace him as club president when he stepped down. He reminded the meeting that this position is at the discretion of the committee and suggested that Chris Robinson be offered the post in recognition of the work he has done for the club. He had asked Chris if he would be willing to take this post up but Chris was concerned that he would be absent for a number of meetings and would not be able to act as vice chair which was part of the role. PA suggested that NB could be deputy vice chair and would stand in in the absence of CR and FJ.

It was agreed that PA should offer CR the position of President and NB agreed that he was willing to take the role of deputy vice chair.

**Action: PA to offer the position to CR**

1. PA raised an objection that a social member of the club was using the snooker table for up to nine hours a week. He felt that if they were doing this they should pay full membership

KS and NB felt that it was not right to isolate one member in this way and that the category of social membership allowed this.

TL felt that this would be changing club rules

RVC mentioned that snooker players would be happy to pay more as it is much cheaper thatn other venues.

FJ felt we should look at numbers involved and we could consider an increase in social membership fees. He felt that we should monitor the situation

KS requested that our next meeting should be in November to look at estimates and accounts. It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on:

29th November 2023 at 6.30pm.