**Stafford Bowling Club Management Committee Meeting Monday 24th April 2025.**

Present: Frank James (FJ) (President), Nigel Fox (Chair)(NF), Nick Bickley (NB) (Secretary) (Trustee), Ray Bandha (RB) (Treasurer), James Shearer (Safeguarding) (JS),

Vilma Allman (VA), Trevor Laws (TL) (Trustee), Elly Wain (EW) John Cussons (JC), Ken Sproston (KS) (Trustee), Nigel Ireland (NI), Dave Barrett (DB)

1. Apologies: Phil Allman (Club Captain)
2. Approval of Minutes from 6th March 2025

Proposed: KS

Seconded: RB

Passed by the Committee

1. Matters Arising:

* P1 4 - NB contacted Jackie Hawkins

**Action: NB to contact Thursday A+B teams regarding 55 league individual merit cover for VA**

* P2 ii Subcommittee has looked at stock and prices have been raised between 3% and 10%

JC requested that bar charges remove any price involving 5p

**Action: RB to change prices**

* P2 iii CCTV purchased and will be installed 24.4.25. All personnel trained in use of IPad for bar
* P2 vi NB contacted members regarding letters and new system in place
* P3 iii NB emailed members re closing date for membership
* P4 12 FJ informed about letters
* P5 NF discussed snooker with players. No problems with bookings at present will continue to monitor
* P5 vi new extinguishers purchased and need installing

1. Secretary’s Report
2. Maintained the calendar/website/Facebook page
3. Informed members of matters concerning the club
4. Authorised payments
5. Produced minutes of last meeting
6. Ensured that Liz Wright has copy of Health and Safety document
7. Treasurer’s Report
8. RB had previously distributed a financial report
9. The introduction of the card machine has been successful.

FJ was concerned that the club should not go cashless and RB explained that cash can still be used.

DB suggested a minimum payment when using a card

RB felt that as the system was still bedding in this would not be appropriate at this time but it could be considered in the future

NI felt the system was working well and JC confirmed that less cash was being used

The till has been removed.

List prices have been created for different events.

1. CCTV will have an app where the cameras can be viewed live and they will be set up to detect motion and create an alert
2. The accounts are up to the end of March 2025

Income is up (note: any percentage changes are affected by when payments are made)

1. The bulk of the membership fees have been paid

EW asked if someone has not paid will RB contact them?

RB conformed he will contact

1. Expenditure

The surplus is up as expenditure is lower at this time

Main purchases for maintenance have been a large broom, strimmer and the mowers have been serviced.

DB explained maintenance costs are lower as we have sufficient stocks for green maintenance

1. Assets

The bank accounts have been moved to Nat West as Lloyds are charging for all transactions and we can get interest on our accounts.

£1400 has been left in the Lloyds account to cover transactions and we will aim to shut this account later in the year

DB asked if the line for `Stafford League fees covered all the leagues we bowl in. RB confirmed this was the case and it was agreed that the title would be changed to reflect this

EW asked about the figures shown for the 49 Club and KS explained that these figures did not reflect the true situation due to the way people pay their membership

1. Membership
2. Current Membership:

Full: 118

Life: 10

Junior: 0

Associate: 5

Social: 12

Total: 145

1. Terminations

All people who have left the club have been contacted and have left for personal reasons. They were all grateful for being contacted.

Anne Mellor left to join another club but will be returning to the club

The committee agreed that Fred Meacock will rejoin the club when his health improves

1. NI asked if members who leave returned keys?

This is not always the case but if they want their £10 deposit back they would have to return their key

EW was concerned about keys being cut by members

It was agreed that with the upgrade of security, with CCTV, it will be easier to monitor who is using the club

1. EW asked about the distinction between Associate and Social Members.

Associate Members have to be members for 10 years and can have a key and use the green and Social Members have to apply for a place

At this point of the meeting FJ had to leave but wanted to bring to the attention of the committee a letter he had received, late in the afternoon, from Wendy Boult.

NF explained that this letter had been sent to NB, NF, KS, TL and RB. He had replied to Wendy Boult to thank her for her letter and to say if would be considered by the committee but not necessarily at this meeting and that he would keep her informed.

It was agreed that a sub committee would be formed to consider this matter.

7) Social Committee

1. There is £72 in the social committee fund
2. A quiz is being planned for July
3. Plans are being put into place for an Open Day on a Sunday later in the year. The date will be announced once the availability of the music act has been ascertained.
4. First club competition will be on 25th May 2025 and is being run by Bob Wain

8) Bar Report

The main issues had been covered in the treasurer’s report

9) Captain’s Report

PA thanked everyone for their best wishes following his operation

10) Ground Report

1. There had been a problem with the alarm but this has now been fixed. The club needs to purchase a new sounder which will alert neighbours if there is a problem. The owner of the house by the green entrance is maintaining a watch of the club and would respond to the alarm going off. The sounder will cost between £100 and £150

**Action: RB to contact Cress re new sounder**

1. DB reported that the three club clocks are malfunctioning. It was agreed that the internal clock will be replaced and the small outside clock will be removed.

The large clock needs servicing and TL informed the meeting that the manual with name of the company who originally installed the clock is in the store.

**Action: JC to find brochure and company to be contacted**

11) Safe Guarding

No report

12) AOB

1. VA informed the meeting that the Wednesday Vets A Team will not be playing at Fieldhouse next year and will return to Riverway as initially it had been indicated that facilities would be available and this has not happened

NF stated that the decision to move had been done on a vote and if this was to be changed all teams had to be involved.

EW explained that our team had been poorly treated by Filedhouse over catering. She has talked to the league secretary, Derek Tudor, who is looking into the situation

NF is informing the league that they will not be organising refreshments

At this point Derek Tudor joined the meeting and asked that he be allowed to discuss the situation with Fieldhouse and he will them report back.

It was agreed that this course of action would be followed and the issue would be looked at again.

1. VA raised the issue of the green being used for a private ‘hire’.

NB explained that this had been asked for as a friendly match between Stafford and Barleston. If this is not the case then he apologised. He proposed that in future if any member suggests a friendly that they ask the other club’s secretary to contact him to make arrangements. It was requested that should these take place Sundays be avoided as it is the only time some bowlers can bowl.

The new procedure was agreed.

1. VA asked that it was made clear that captains select teams and members will be invited to join them based on ability and commitment.

It was agreed that this is in line with the new selection procedures for 2025/26

1. NF is concerned that rumours circulate the club regarding committee decisions before they have been agreed. Items should not be discussed prior to agreement and when a decision has been made the committee should show a united front based on the outcome of any vote.
2. JC informed the meeting that he ‘cellar’ store is full and needs sorting as there are many items, including old trophies, which needs disposing of.

**Action: NB and JC to sort store**

1. NB proposed that KS was made a life member in recognition of his commitment to the club. Ken joined in 2013 and played for a number of the clubs teams. He became treasurer in 2017 and was involved in projects such as the refurbishment of the clubhouse. He has also been and continues to be a trustee of the club. This was seconded by DB and all members of the committee agreed to the proposal.

**Action: NB to write to KS**

1. JS informed the meeting that at a recent bowls match he heard two players running Stafford Bowling Club down as they knew of someone who had come to the club and when they were walking down the green they were told not to bother applying for membership as the club was full.

**Action: NB to email members stating that if anyone asks about membership they should be referred to EW**

1. RB asked the committee to consider if we should install a television to attract people into the club. It was agreeedt his should be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Action: NB to include this on the agenda**

1. RB asked if we should invite sponsors to the open day? It was agreed to review this in the future

Meeting closed at 8.46pm

Next meeting: AGM 4.06.2025 at 6.30pm