

Stafford Bowling Club

124th Annual General Meeting

Held on 25 February 2026

Present

Officers:

Mr N Fox (Chair)

Mr N Bickley (Secretary, Trustee)

Mr R Bandha (Treasurer, Trustee)

Committee:

Mr D Barrett (Head of Greens & Grounds)

Mr J Cussons (Bar Manager)

Mrs E Wain (Membership Secretary)

Mr T. Laws (Trustee)

Mr K Sproston (Trustee)

Mr J Shearer (Safeguarding)

Mrs I. Aspinall, Mr D. Boston, Mr C. Morley, Mr P. Randall, Mrs L. Randall, Mr R. Barker, Mrs A. Barker, Mrs D. Kelsall, Mr K. Lancaster, Mr S. Wilson, Mr A. Duke, Mrs W. Robinson, Mr C. Robinson, Mrs D. Halley, Mr D. Halley, Mr J. Sellwood, Mr K. Lane, Mr R. Wain, Mr D. Heath, Mr S. Hawkins, Mrs J. Hawkins, Mrs W. Boulton, Mrs P. Bird, Mr T. Wright, Mrs L. Wright, Mr J. Gardener, Mr L. Turner, Mr J. Bartlett, Mr P. Dix, Ms C. Bailey, Mr J. Matthews, Mr G. Bradish, Mrs L. Whatmough, Mr J. Adamson, Mr D. Kelsall, Mrs D. Kelsall, Mrs S. Darby, Mr J. Thornley, Mrs C. Lawson, Mr G. Blick, Mrs W. Blick, Mr J. Bartlett, Mr I. Whatmough, Mr A. James, Mrs L. James, Mr A. Thrilling, Mr B. Waltho, Mr S. Wilson, Mr B. Lockyer, Mrs L. McCann, Mr J. McCann,

Apologies

Mr N Ireland, Mr E. Hultquist, Mrs K. Cork, Mr W. Cooke, Mrs Cooke, Mr H. Montgomery, Mrs F. Francis, Mr T. Fisher, Mrs S. Fisher, Mr F. James (President), Mrs R. Vance-Cotsford, Mr J. Lynch, Mrs S. Darby, Mr S. Halley, Mr P. Atkin, Mr S. Davies, Mr D. Howe, Mr H. Jones, Mr R. Aspinall, Mr S. Meddings, Mr M. Shenton,

## Roll Call

The Secretary reported:

Members present: 42

Apologies received: 21

Members absent: 60

The Secretary welcomed members to the 124th AGM as the President was unable to attend.

Members were asked to remember Margaret Mace, who passed away on 17 February 2026. A minute's silence was held.

Members were also asked to remember those with illness in their families and also Ernie Hultquist and Peter Atkin who have been unwell recently.

## Approval of Minutes (21 February 2025)

Proposed: Mr D Barrett

Seconded: Mr C Robinson

Matters arising: None

The minutes were approved.

## Reports

### Chair's Report

Mr Fox addressed the meeting and reflected on his first year as Chair. He stated that committee meetings involved considerable discussion, always focused on what is best for the club. He thanked all volunteers for their

continued hard work and asked that, in future, members think carefully about criticising the work of volunteers who work to help the club prosper for all member's benefit.

He emphasised the aim of involving more members in running the club.

He congratulated all teams on last season's performances.

Mr Fox congratulated D Barrett and K Sproston on being awarded Life Membership.

He highlighted the value of club membership, even with the increase in fees, which would amount to £1.63 a week and stated he is optimistic about the future of the club.

The Chair praised the greens team for the work they had done throughout the winter and felt that we have the best green and clubhouse facilities.

## Treasurer's Report

Mr Bandha presented the accounts for 2024–2025, which had been circulated to members.

The bar surplus was up by 20% on last year, due to the combination of a small price increase and the increased use of the bar with functions supported by members. With the other income changes being lower we have a net 7% reduction in the overall income for the year.

The interest received was £261 in 2025 against £206 (2024) from the higher Bank of England base rate, we have seen this fall in the latter months, this will lower the level we receive in the next trading year.

Expenditure in 2025 was lower by £6280 of which the club admin costs were lower by £4066, there were some one off costs in the previous year. Grounds maintenance costs were also lower. We ended up with a surplus for the year of £2695.

The bank balances increased by £758, we have spent £4598 on a new boiler, CCTV £350, card payment system £419 and the TV £834.

The CCTV has helped us to monitor and address instances of misuse of the club and has helped to lower our insurance premiums. The card payment system has helped bar sales and reduced the number of trips to bank cash, and this was becoming more difficult with the closure of bank branches in Stafford.

The TV is on the standard terrestrial channel system and we will be showing major sporting events to encourage use of the clubhouse.

The meeting agreed that the accounts be approved.

Proposed: Mr S Hawkins

Seconded: Mr S Wilson

Accounts approved.

Approval of Club Rules

Proposed: Mr J Shearer

Seconded: Mr C Robinson

The Club Rules were approved.

Trustees

The AGM was advised that the appointed Trustees are:

Mr R Bandha

Mr T Laws

Mr K Sproston

Mr N Bickley

## Election of Officers

### Chair

Proposed by Mr N Bickley  
Seconded by Mr R Bandha  
Mr N Fox was re-elected.

### Treasurer

Proposed by Mr F James  
Seconded by Mr K Sproston  
Mr R Bandha was re-elected.

### Secretary

Proposed by Mr R Bandha  
Seconded by Mr J Cussons  
Mr N Bickley was re-elected.

### Club Captain

Proposed by Mr N Bickley  
Seconded by Mr J Cussons  
Mr D Barrett was elected.

### Safeguarding Officer

Proposed by Mrs E Wain  
Seconded by Mr K Sproston  
Mr J Shearer was re-elected.

### Clubhouse Manager

Proposed by Mr R Bandha  
Seconded by Mr J Shearer  
Mr J Cussons was elected.

### Head of Grounds

Proposed by Mr N Bickley  
Seconded by Mr D Barrett  
Mr T Wright was elected.

### Membership Secretary

Proposed by Mr T Laws  
Seconded by Mr J Cussons  
Mrs E Wain was elected.

Committee Member (Social Aspects of Club Life)

Proposed by Mr I Whatmough

Seconded by Mr A James

Mr T Fisher was elected.

Social Committee Representative

Mrs W Boulton was proposed by Mr J Shearer and seconded by Mr F James.

Mrs L Wright (née Vaughan) was proposed by Mrs E Wain and seconded by Mr J Cussons.

A secret ballot was held.

Mrs L Wright was elected.

Any Other Business

Mr Barrett wishes to organise the bowls shed and asked members to remove any woods belonging to them. Members may purchase woods if they wish. Wendy Boulton reminded the meeting that some woods had been donated. The committee will consider this at the next meeting.

Governance and Decision-Making

Mrs L Randall questioned how the committee makes decisions if members are not asked for their views.

Mr Fox explained that the committee is empowered to make decisions on behalf of the membership.

Mr Bandha stated that minutes are shared and members are able to comment.

Mr Fox highlighted that decisions are made on a financial basis for the future of the club and that the committee should respond to feedback from members.

Mr B Walther suggested that the committee should publish its aims for the year.

Fieldhouse Move

Mr C Morley asked if the committee could explain the thinking behind the move to Fieldhouse.

Mr Fox stated that there were two votes: first, whether a team should move to Fieldhouse; second, based on the experience of playing there. The A Team chose to move.

Mr Bickley added that although the A Team had decided to move, the committee continued discussions with Fieldhouse regarding 2027 before the C Team disbanded.

Mr B Walther suggested that if the committee takes a decision, all teams should follow.

The committee will look to involve members in long-term proposals.

## Membership & League Matters

Mr D Boston stated that the car park is under threat.

The Secretary explained that he has been in communication with Lord Stafford's agent regarding this matter and has also talked to the planning department indicating how vital the car park was to the club. The planners stated they were willing to work with the club on this matter. As recently as the 22<sup>nd</sup> February the Secretary had written to our local Member of Parliament asking for her support in retaining the car park.

John Selwood asked whether membership had dropped due to members leaving for Fieldhouse.

Mrs Wain explained that 10 members have left for Fieldhouse. She has communicated with all those who left to discuss their reasons.

Current membership stands at 117, with 6 new members due to join.

Don Boston asked whether the club is short of league bowlers.

Mrs Wain confirmed there is no shortage.

Meeting closed at: 15:40