**Stafford Bowling Club Management Committee Meeting Monday 28th October 2024.**

Present: Frank James (FJ) (Chair), Ken Sproston (KS) Treasurer) (Trustee), Nick Bickley (NB) (Secretary) (Trustee), Vilma Allman (VA), Wendy Boult (WB), Rosie Vance-Cotsford (RVC)), Trevor Laws (TL) (Trustee), Chris Robinson (CR), Elly Wain (EW) (Guest), Peter Atkin (PA)(Trustee), Dave Barrett (DB), John Cussons (JC)

1. Apologies: Dave Kelsall (DK) (President)
2. Approval of Minutes from 28th August 2024

Proposed: KS

Seconded: WB

Passed by the Committee

1. Matters Arising:

Carpet tiles now in place

Asbestos survey has been completed and no issues were raised

CR still waiting for quote from tree surgeon

1. Secretary’s Report
2. Maintained the calendar/website/Facebook page
3. Informed members of matters concerning the club
4. Authorised payments
5. Updated defibrillator website
6. Updated noticeboard at the club entrance to highlight events
7. Worked with DB to organise Post Office workers using car park for 6 months
8. Purchased disclaimer sign for car park
9. Treasurer’s Report
10. KS spoke to the Committee about the September finance report which had previously shared with the committee members.

There were no issues to highlight to the Committee.

1. RVC enquired what plumbing work had been done for £400?

DB informed her it was for repairs to a leaking radiator

1. KS noted that unexpected expenditure during the year, on the Standing Charges, sheet was mainly based around work carried out on the water systems

Membership (this will be a separate item on future agendas)

1. KS and EW have discussed ways to simplify the membership lists so that they show personal information and type of membership.

EW has analysed the two spreadsheets and found that there are 116 full members which gives a total of 140 members. There are still nine applications in process.

KS was concerned that if more join we are in a situation where all the league teams are full (this matter was discussed in full later in the meeting)

EW felt that the membership lists should just be alphabetical and not separate men and women’s lists and mentioned some members had questioned why they are separate.

TL and PA felt that the lists should remain as they are.

KS felt this needs to be looked at at another time as members are asking about it.

1. EW reported that two applications had been accepted Paul Barrett (Full) and Liz Wright (Social)
2. WB felt that it would be useful to know how many of the members are active bowlers

EW informed the meeting that an intitial indication is that there are 73 bowlers who have a BCGBA number and are eligible to bowl in the leagues

Full: 118

Life: 10

Junior: 0

Associate: 6

Social: 6

Total: 140

Replacement of boiler

KS has received three quotations to replace the central heating boiler:

PlumbGas: £4609 including VAT

SEM: £3830 including VAT

Oulton: £2560 including VAT

A discussion took place regarding the different quotations and it was agreed that a meeting would take place at 6pm on the 6/11/24 to look at this issue. KS will provide the Committee with copies of the quotations prior to the meeting

Bank Accounts.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account | £3,184.90 |
| Lloyds Bank Savings Account | £15,334.15 |
| Accounts Total | £18,519.05 |

PA informed the meeting that he had £16 from a Whist Drive to give to KS

6) Social Committee

1. VA informed the meeting that there will be a fish and chip and bingo evening, a quiz night and on the 21/12/24 a Christmas with Kenyon music night
2. £150 is being passed to KS from social events for banking
3. Winter games will take place from 12/11/24 and be split before and after Christmas

7) Bar Report

No report

8) Greens and Grounds/Captain’s Report

1. Captain’s Report

BD was pleased to report that of the 12 teams taking part in league competitions 7 had finished in the top five of their league with the Friday A team finishing as runners up and were promoted to Division 1 and the Saturday A team had won their league. In the Wednesday Vets leagues all three teams finished in the top 5 of their division. He offered congratulations to all the clubs teams on their season.

1. Grounds
2. The Autumn renovation work has been carried out.
3. A new local irrigation company has been employed

FJ congratulated the grounds team and said that Stafford is the best green to play on.

9) Safe Guarding

WB had nothing to report regarding safeguarding.

The new safeguarding leaflet will be distributed at the AGM

10) Correspondence regarding team selection

NB referred to an email received from Fiona and Harvey Francis indicating that they felt that new members were not being given the opportunity to represent the club in league bowling. He noted that Captains were trying to accommodate new players but there is an increasing number who wish to bowl. NB suggested forming a third Thursday team but RVC felt that we needed to know if there were enough players to do this. As previously indicated by EW there are 73 registered players which would not be enough for an extra team.

WB pointed out that no member has ever been told they cannot bowl for a team

RVC said that players playing 3 or 4 times a week restricted the opportunity for others.

DB informed the meeting that three players who took part in the clubs beginners league have gone on to play for club sides.

CR felt that all those who wish to play should have the opportunity and we need a system that allows this.

WB suggested a system where players indicate which day they wish to play and then the club captain with some other members will meet and allocate players. The allocation cannot then be overridden.

EW was concerned how players who cannot commit to weekly selection would be fitted into a fair rotation system in teams.

BB/VA/WB felt that those unable to commit on a regular basis would require players who are committed to play each week have to lose their place to accommodate them.

EW has identified 73 players who are available to play league bowls.

PA felt that all teams should have equal status.

DB stated that players have been offered places in the A team but have turned it down.

A discussion took place regarding players coming into the club from other clubs and being given team places.

VA pointed out that at times some of our Wednesday and Friday teams had been short of players

CR and VA stated that this has been a historic problem at the club and needed to be addressed.

Further discussion took place with members of the committee concerned that there should be a system in place that allows members to have the opportunity to bowls for league teams.

It was agreed that NB will put up the lists for each of the leagues and members will sign up for a day and will be allocated to teams. The closing date for this will be the end of November 2024. Members can also email NB if they are unable to attend the club. NB to pass the lists to the club captain.

**Action: NB to inform members**

**NB to contact Fiona Francis and Harvey Montgomery of the decision**

11) AOB

1. PA raised two concerns regarding the visitor’s book and the directory of members contact details.
2. He felt the visitor’s book was an historic record of the club and should be continued for those who visit the club, especially those who wish to join. He was supported in this by TL.

It was agreed that this should be reinstated and kept behind the bar.

VA pointed out that in line with the Data Protection Act the names of those who have previously signed in should be covered and also that the act stipulates that people are entitled to refuse to sign.

1. PA wished the register to be kept in the main clubhouse and accessible to all. NB/CR/VA/WB/CR all pointed out that this is a breach of the Data Protection Act and that it could not be kept here.

CR read the relevant section of the act to support this.

It was agreed that the register will be kept in a cupboard in the kitchen and would only be accessible to club members.

1. VA asked CR to explain his concerns about disagreements that had been ongoing and were affecting the atmosphere at the club and were leading to a situation where the committee was being asked to judge on issues.

CR stated that he felt that rather than issues dragging on we should ensure that disagreements are settled. He was not referring to any particular incident.

1. KS informed the committee that, for personal reasons, he will not be standing as treasurer at the AGM. He is working on a job specification and informed the committee that anyone taking over this role will require a PC which may mean that the club would have to purchase one.

The committee were in full agreement that KS has done an excellent job over the years and would be hard to replace.

NB recommended that the process be started to award KS life membership in recognition of his role at the club.

TL stated that this should not be done under AOB and should be carried out as an agenda point in the future.

The committee agreed that this should happen.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Next meeting: 6.11.24 at 6pm the next date for the full committee to meet will be decided at this meeting.