



# Stafford Bowling Club

Established 1902

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 19th February 2025: 2.30pm

### Present:

**Officers:** Mr D. Kelsall (President), Mr F. James (Chair), Mr N. Bickley (Secretary)(Trustee), Mr K. Sproston (Treasurer)(Trustee),

**Committee Members:** Mr D Barrett (Club Captain), Mrs V. Allman (Social Committee Chair), Mr C Robinson, Mr J. Cussons (Bar Manager), Mrs E. Wain (Temporary Membership Secretary), Mrs R. Vance-Cotsford

**Members:**, Mr R Aspinall, Mrs I. Aspinall, Mr D. Boston, Mr C. Morley, Mr P. Randall, Mrs L. Randall, Ms D. Williams, Mr H. Jones, Mr R. Barker, Mrs A. Barker, Mrs D. Kelsall, Mr K. Lancaster, Mr S. Wilson, Mr A. Duke, Mr J. Lynch, Mr N. Fox, Mrs P. Haidarovic, Mr D. Haidarovic, Mrs W. Robinson, Mr J. Shearer, Mrs D. Halley, Mr D. Halley, Mr N. Ireland, Mr P. Elliott, Mr J. Sellwood, Mr K. Lane, Mrs E. Wain, Mr R. Wain, Mr J. Adamson, Mr J. Dunning, Mr T. Fisher, Mr D. Heath, Mr S. Hawkins, Mrs S. Fisher, Mrs F. Francis, Mrs J. Hawkins, Mr F. McCabe, Mrs J. McCabe, Mr C. Morley, Mr P. Skelson, Mr A. Thrilling, Mr D. Tudor, Mrs Wendy Boulton, Mr R. Bandha, Mrs P. Bird, Mr D. Tudor, Mr T. Wright, Mrs L. Wright, Mr J. Gardener, Mr L. Turner, Mr J. Bartlett, Mr S. Davies, Mr P. Dix, Mrs C. Parums, Mrs J. Robinson, Ms C. Bailey, Mr E. Hultquist, Mr S. Meddings, Mr J. Matthews, Mr G. Bradish, Mrs L. Whatmough, Mr I. Macmillan, Mr P. Skelson, Mr J. Adamson, Mrs S. Darby, Mr K. Richards

### **Apologies given:**

Mrs A Ashley, Mr D. Ashley, Mr PJ Atkin (Trustee), Mrs D. Turner, Mr N. Jarvis, Mrs J. Barnes, Mr S. Halley, Mr P. Allman, Ms K. Cork, Mr S. Cork, Mr H. Montgomery

### **Roll Call**

The Secretary reported the following

Members Present 76  
Apologies Received 11  
Members Absent. 50

### **Absent Friends:**

The President led a minutes silence in memory of John Vaughan who passed away on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025. John had contributed to club life in many ways and will be sadly missed.

### President:

Mr D. Kelsall welcomed members to the 123<sup>rd</sup> AGM. He gave thanks to the Management Committee, particularly the Secretary and Treasurer. He stated that we should all be grateful for the work of the work of the Committee and support them in what they do.

Mr Kelsall informed the meeting that he will be followed in post by Mr F. James to whom, like himself, the club means so much and he know that Mr James will wish to see the club prosper, succeed and develop so it is a place to enjoy bowls, have fun and establish deep and lasting friendships. He wished Mr James and the club the very best for the future.

### Minutes:

The Minutes of the AGM of 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 were unanimously approved by the those present as a true record.

Proposed: Mr H. Jones

Seconded: Mr S. Hawkins

### **Matters arising:-**

Mrs L. Randall raised the issue she had highlighted in 2024 that with so many new bowlers joining and competitions being organised to give them experience of playing matches the time for bowling members to play was becoming limited. She asked if there was a cap on numbers of bowlers?

The Club Secretary explained that there is now a cap of 125 bowlers in place.

Mr D. Barrett informed the meeting that he aimed to continue the league for new bowlers but was changing the times for them to play to between 1pm and 3pm on a Monday afternoon which would free the green for other players.

### **Reports:**

#### ***Chairman:***

Mr James apologised to the meeting as he felt that he had not been able to give as much time to the club due to his duties as the Mayor of Stafford during the year.

He thanked Mr Bickley, Mr Sproston and Mr Barrett for the way they had carried out their duties during this time to enable the club to keep running. He also passed on thanks to the green team for their work in producing what is widely regarded as one of the best greens in Stafford.

He further thanked Mrs W. Boulton for the work she had done as Safeguarding Officer and running competitions and the bar staff for running the bar.

He passed on the regards of Mr P. Atkin our past President who was unable to attend this meeting.

Mr James finally thanked the Committee for all the work they had done.

### **Treasurer:**

The Treasurer gave a report on the club accounts up to the end of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024, which had been distributed prior to the meeting, highlighting the following:

#### **CURRENT ASSETS**

Lloyds Bank Treasurer's account £4,081.11

Lloyds Savings Deposit account £10,360.63

Mr Sproston thanked Mr R. Bandha for helping him to prepare the accounts in the new format. He introduced Mr Bandha to the meeting.

Mr Sproston thanked Mr D. Shelley for auditing the accounts.

Mr Sproston explained that income had reduced in 2024 for the following reasons:

- Subscriptions fees were down by about £1000
- Donations were reduced as in 2023 £1500 had been donated by Mr P. Atkin for the purchase of the defibrillator and case

- Bar income had fallen as members were not using it as much
- Snooker income had increased

He stated that the club needs to think about ways to increase income.

Mr P. Randall reminded the meeting that, during the winter, there were Whist Nights which brought income.

Mr Sproston stated that expenditure was broadly the same as 2023 and that the balance sheet was in a strong position. He explained that the club had spent nearly £15,000 on capital investments this year including new floodlights and a new boiler.

Mrs L. Randall enquired why the club had received less interest on the accounts?

Mr Bandha explained this was due to the different types of accounts we had and the changes in the interest rates throughout the year.

Mr H. Jones asked if there was any major expenditure planned for this year?

Mr Sproston stated there was nothing planned.

Mr P. Randall enquired about the benefits we get from the solar panels and asked if it was worth considering replacing them and also purchasing a battery for storage?

The Secretary stated that this is worth considering but we should seek the advise of one of our new members who is an electrician who is qualified to install panels.

Mr Sproston informed the meeting that, at present the panels brought in around £400

Mr P. Dix explained that he had solar panels and had been advised to wait before purchasing a battery due to the rise on costs.

Mr C. Robinson brought to the meetings attention the work done on the water system which had, up to now, led to the pipes not freezing. He felt that this should be monitored as if the problem returned there may need to be further investment.

Mr Randall asked if we needed to change the rules to give Social Members more rights.

Mr Sproston stated that if Mr Randall felt this should be considered then he needed bring it forward as a motion at the 2026 AGM.

The meeting agreed that the accounts for 2023/2024 be approved.

### **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 including changes to the way new members join the club (Rule 3a and 3e)**

**This motion was approved**

**The Management Committee being able to appoint a member onto the management committee with less than two years notice of no other suitable candidate if available with more 2 years or more membership (Rule 7)**

**This motion was approved**

**The club formally adopting the BCGBA complaints procedure (Rule 9)**

**Mr Barry Waltho and Mr Don Boston proposed that on the last line of the complaints procedure the words; ‘whose decision is final’ be removed**

Following a discussion where members including Mr H. Jones and Mr D. Boston questioned why the club had involved a person who was not a member of the club in investigating and internal issue at the club it was agreed that with regards to matters involving internal issues then the Management Committee would take the final decision, however, Mr Jones asked that a reference to rule 11 of the club rules be added after the wording, ‘whose decision is final’, to remind members that they have the right if they are not satisfied with the decision to find 20 members who agree and ask for an EGM.

**The meeting agreed that this should be added to the club rules.**

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 Nicholas A. Bickley and Mr Kenneth B G Sproston**

**Members were informed that due to Mr Atkin stepping down as trustee an appointment process will be completed and Mr Bickley and Mr Raj Bandha will be officially appointed as trustees.**

- 3. A proposal was made that the draft minutes of all committee meetings shall be posted online within 7 days of the meeting. Mr B. Waltho and Mr D. Boston**

Mr Boston asked why members had to wait for up to a month to find out what had happened at a management meeting?

Members asked that the minutes be produced as quickly as possible and that what is published are the final minutes not draft minutes so they had been agreed by the committee as a true reflection of the meeting.

Mrs R. Vance-Cotsford asked that the club returned to the practice of a set of the minutes being displayed on the club noticeboard.

Mr N. Fox stated that the members had elected their management team and they should trust them to make decisions.

A request was made for the agenda of the meetings to be published and it was agreed that, following a suggestion by Mr C. Robinson, as the agenda follows a standard format this would be published once and members would only be informed if there were any changes to the format.

**It was agreed that the agenda be published and that the minutes of committee minutes would be published within 10 working days of the meeting.**

## **Elections of Club Officers & Committee**

### **Chairman**

Mr Nigel Fox, proposed by Mr K. Sproston and Seconded by Mr J. Gardener

Mr Fox was elected Chairman

### **Treasurer**

Mr R. Bandha for Treasurer, proposed by Mrs W. Boulton and seconded by Mr D. Barrett

Mr Bandha was re-elected Treasurer

### **Club Captain**

Mrs W. Boulton for Club Captain, proposed by Mr F. James and seconded by Mr P. Dix

Mr P. Allman for Club Captain, proposed by Mr T. Wright and seconded by Mr N. Ireland

A secret ballot was held and Mr Allman was elected.

### **Safeguarding Officer**

Mr J. Shearer for Safeguarding Officer, proposed by Mr F. James and seconded by Mr P. Dix

Mr Shearer was elected.

### **Club Secretary.**

Mr N. Bickley proposed for Club Secretary by Mr D. Barrett and seconded by Mr N. Ireland

Mr N. Bickley was re-elected.

### **Committee Members: -**

Social Committee Chair - Mrs Vilma Allman proposed by Mr N. Ireland and seconded by Mrs E. Wain

Mrs Allman was elected.

Bar Manager - Mr J. Cussons was proposed by Mr D. Barrett and seconded by Mr N. Ireland

Mr Cussons was elected.

Membership Secretary – Mrs E. Wain was proposed by Mr N. Fox and seconded by Mr D. Barrett

Mrs Wain was elected

Head of Grounds – Mr D. Barrett was proposed by Mr P. Allman and seconded by Mr T. Wright

Mr Barrett was elected.

Post without named responsibility – Mrs R. Vance-Cotsford was proposed by Mr C. Morley and seconded by Mr P. Atkin

Mr N. Ireland was proposed by Mr J. Cussons and seconded by Mr T. Wright

A secret ballot was held and Mr Ireland was appointed to the committee.

**Any other business:**

Mr D. Heath stated that at the last AGM he had suggested removing the snooker table and asked if there had been any progress on this?

It was agreed that this was something that the committee could consider looking at ways in which we could meet the needs of the snooker players and also provide a social space for events.

As the meeting closed the Secretary asked that members thank Mrs Vance-Cotsford for her service over the years. Unfortunately Mrs Vance-Cotsford had left and so members were asked to pass on thanks when they saw her.

**Meeting closed at 16.11**