**Stafford Bowling Club Management Committee Meeting Monday 20th January 2025.**

Present: Dave Kelsall (DK) (President), Ken Sproston (KS) Treasurer) (Trustee), Nick Bickley (NB) (Secretary) (Trustee), Vilma Allman (VA),Rosie Vance-Cotsford (RVC)), Trevor Laws (TL) (Trustee), Chris Robinson (CR), Elly Wain (EW) (Guest), John Cussons (JC), Ray Bandha (RB) (Guest)

1. Apologies: Frank James (FJ) (Chair), Peter Atkin (PA)(Trustee), Dave Barrett (DB)

In the absence of the Chair NB led the meeting.

Raj Bandha attended the meeting as the prospective treasurer

1. NB apologised to the meeting as the minutes for the special meeting on the 6.11.2024 had not been presented for verification and he asked the meeting to consider them.

Approval of Minutes from 6.11.2024

The minutes were deemed as a true reflection of the meeting.

Proposed: KS

Seconded: JC

Approval of Minutes from 2nd December 2024

Proposed: JC

Seconded: KS

Passed by the Committee

1. Matters Arising:

P1 5.1 NB has written to the irrigation company but has not received a reply

P2 5.11 The treasurer and membership secretary have met

P4 8.1 Wendy Boult will now be the Ladies’ Team Captain for 2025

P4 9. Members had been informed and there are two candidates for the position of

Safeguarding Officer

1. Secretary’s Report
2. Maintained the calendar/website/Facebook page
3. Informed members of matters concerning the club
4. Authorised payments and setting up standing order
5. Prepared for 2025 AGM
6. Created team lists for 2025 season
7. Acted as liaison between trades and committee members
8. Created proposed changes to the Club Rules
9. Drawn up proposal for team selection for 2026 season
10. Liaised with team captains
11. Treasurer’s Report
12. KS has sent two emails with reports and attachments
13. He reported that the new membership lists are ready and show all the details concerning members
14. Finance Statement end of December 2024
15. This is the end of year statement which includes the cost of the new boiler
16. Thanks to Raj for his input to the new format of the accounts using his experience as a qualified accountant
17. Expenditure

Gas and Electricity are higher due to increased rates

1. Income
2. Donations are down due to lost sponsorship
3. Main donation was £1500 towards the defibrillator by Peter Atkin
4. Bar income is down
5. Balance Sheet
6. The accounts for 2023/2024 balance
7. There is a slight deficit for the year
8. Fixed Assets

CR asked KS to check if the hand gel dispensers were still in the club?

**Action: KS to check and update fixed assets sheet if necessary**

EW enquired if the 49 Club was full and KS reported there were two spaces.

EW has new members who are interested in joining 49 Club

NB thanked KS for his service to the club over the years.

VA thanked him for being her bowling partner.

RB introduced himself to the committee setting out his experience as a treasurer at Stone Tennis Club and Walton Village Hall.

He proposed that following the AGM the club’s accounts will be moved from Lloyds to Nat West as they offer a better savings rate and their data is better

TL was concerned that the committee should decide if the accounts should move and RB reiterated that this was only a proposal

RB stated that if we do move the accounts then a meeting needs to be held with the Trustees for signatures and personal information to be exchanged.

NB stated that this could be tied together with the process of appointing new trustees as his position had not yet been completed and we also needed to find another trustee as Peter Atkin had resigned his position.

NB suggested RB could become a trustee

RVC informed the meeting that she had been informed by solicitors that the treasurer could not be a trustee.

NB to look into this.

**Action: NB to check with Liz Fielding**

Bank Accounts.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account | £4,081.11 |
| Lloyds Bank Savings Account | £10,360.63 |
| Accounts Total | £14,441.74 |

1. Membership

There have been no new member or terminations since the last meeting.

Full: 115

Life: 10

Junior: 0

Associate: 5

Social: 7

Total: 137

1. RVC felt it was important to agree the number of members that could belong to the club especially as some members are unable to bowl in leagues.

EW pointed out that membership and bowling in leagues are different things. She then explained how prospective members now have a meet and greet where it is explained they are joining the club to use the facilities and if they are interested in playing league bowls they should inform the team captains who will consider them joining a team when a place becomes available.

RVC stated that at the last meeting it was agreed that if you put your name down on a team sheet you would be able to play in the league.

EW informed the meeting that the lists were a statement of intention that a person wished to bowl but it was the team captains who chose the teams and players have to wait for an invitation

RVC suggested that new members are given the BCGBA handbook to help them understand the game and league bowling.

EW pointed out that a lot of members do not wish to league bowl

RVC was concerned that some people playing more than once a week restricts the number of members who can league bowl

EW referred to an analysis of the club which showed that if players did not play more than once a week then the club could not fulfil it’s league obligations

DK felt that over the years the club had managed the situation and not many people had missed out. He hoped that we would get back to the position where new members are aware that the is no right to bowl in the leagues but they have to wait for a space

DK felt that it is important that team members and captains are in agreement over selection procedures and that a sensible number for each team is 14. He thanked EW for her analysis of the situation. He discussed the concept of a ladder system where people progress through the teams but it was agreed that each team develops a team spirit and friendships and that they may not wish to be split up.

CR mentioned this was what happened in the past.

It was agreed that the present team names would be maintained but new members would be made aware that there is no hierarchy in the teams.

EW stated that when considering new members that we are now looking at what people can do for the club and noted that of the nine new applicants one has four sponsors who want to advertise and he also wants to help around the club, another has experience in green keeping and another was a landscape gardener.

CR asked what people attending the Saturday coaching group were told about membership?

EW stated that application forms would be available but they would then have to go through the meet and greet process.

NB proposed that: Prospective members are only given application forms and that they would have to complete the due process before becoming members

This was seconded by CR

The meeting agreed with this proposal.

1. A discussion took place regarding what was the maximum number of members for the club?

KS felt that an overall cap was difficult due to the different categories of membership and suggested that we need to maintain the numbers who wished to bowl in leagues

EW felt the number of Social Members neds to be capped.

JC noted that the newer members were using the club less and less as a social hub

RVC asked of the current numbers were sufficient to sustain the club?

TL noted that the capping of Social Membership was originally proposed due to the development of housing near the club with few social amenities.

RVC reminded that in the past spouses were part of a membership as they may visit the club occasionally.

CR proposed that Social Membership be restricted to 20 members and this should be linked to spouses/partners joining

Proposed: CR

Seconded: JC

This was passed by a majority vote

1. Full Membership

CR proposed that there should be a cap of 125 full members

KS seconded this

This was passed by majority with DK and RVC voting against

1. TL asked that membership lists showed that category of membership

KS explained that the new sheets had this on them

1. NB proposed that for the 2026 season a new system for selection of teams would be brought in where at the end of the 2025 season teams would elect eh captain and they would then be responsible for choosing teams and filling any gaps.

This was seconded by DK

It was passed by majority with RVC and TL voting against

7) Social Committee

VA informed the meeting that there was £254.18 in the Social Committee funds.

The Winter Games finals will be on 31.01.2025

The next event will be at the end of March.

She thanked EW for her help at social functions and catering for league competitions.

7) Bar Report

JC felt that we needed to attract more customers to using the bar and also proposed a price increase.

RVC said we had to be careful as the club is a non profit organisation which gives us lower business rates.

It was agreed to not to raise the prices at this present time.

RVC referred to the fact that in the past 10/12 people as members of the committee were available to help run the bar which meant it was open more regularly

EW felt that if the bar was to open more regularly then we needed more volunteers

NB stated that at the AGM it needs to be emphasised that if people wish the facilities to be more available then we needed to have more volunteers.

VA asked RVC what her role was on the committee and RVC stated that, at present, she does not have a specific one.

In light of the work that the Social Committee do in organising events and bringing funds into the club it was proposed that the Social Committee representative on the Management Committee should be a named role.

Proposed: CR

Seconded: JC

The committee agreed to this proposal.

At this point RVC has to leave the meeting but brought to the attention of the committee that at the national meeting of the BCGBA it had been decided that players playing in leagues would have to pay a fee of £1 for each team they play in.

She also brought to the attention of the committee that plans for a Hilton Hotel next to the club had been agreed which may affect our car parking.

NB and KS stated that the council want to work with the committee to help maintain parking at the club

TL asked for the Secretary to contact Lord Stafford’s representative regarding the club’s car parking

**Action: NB to contact with urgency**

9) Greens and Grounds/Captain’s Report

No report

10) Safe Guarding

Two members have expressed interest in taking up the position

11) Suggested changes to club rules

1. TL informed the meeting that the Chair was not aware of the proposed changes and felt that this needed to be deferred to another meeting.

KS stated that the committee had had these proposals for a good time and that we needed to go ahead with considering them as if they were not passed them RB could not be appointed and the club would not have a treasurer. He was supported in this by EW and CR.

CR stated that we needed to agree these changes, in principle, and then seek the Chairs approval. If the Chair disagreed then they could be brought back.

TL felt there was no need for the current position to change.

1. Complaints Procedure

VA felt that the complaints procedure was mainly aimed at complaints regarding incidents related to bowling and would not cover internal club matters

NB stated that this procedure gave a structure for the club to follow in case of complaints

KS proposed that:

The committee looked at the proposed changes and these would then be sent to the Chair for his approval.

This was seconded by CR

This was approved by majority with TL voting against

The proposed changes were agreed by majority with TL voting against.

**Action: NB to send the proposals to FJ**

12) AOB

1. KS informed the meeting that the club had been invited by Fieldhouse Bowling Club to hire their green for one of our Wednesday Vets teams to play on next season

DK explained the context of the invitation and stated that a hire fee of £210 had been quoted. The captains of our Vets teams are in favour of using their green rather than Riverway.

One of our members, Phil Allman had suggested exploring a deal where we do not charge Fieldhouse for the use of some of our equipment in exchange for using the green

EW enquired as to the cost Riverway as was told it is £195.50

DK was concerned that if we stopped using Riverway for one year and then Fieldhouse withdrew their facilities then we may have a green the next season and suggested we negotiate a longer contract of 3-5 years.

VA pointed out that the league AGM’s take place soon and we would know which clubs are using which greens then.

It was agreed that VA and the Vets captains, and Dave Barrett as head of grounds, need to meet soon and discuss the proposition and explore, with Fieldhouse, the possibility of a 3-5 year contract. They also can discuss the use of our equipment with Fieldhouse.

A concern was raised about the availability of parking at Fieldhouse and the captains need to consider this.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Next meeting: AGM 19.02.2025 at 2.30pm

Proposed date for next Management Committee 12.3.2025 at 6.00pm (Please let NB know if this is okay)