**ETWALL BOWLS CLUB ANNUAL AGM MEETING - 23rd March 2023**

was held in the Frank Wickham Hall, starting at 7pm

**Members Present**

Annette Archer, Dave Archer, Vince Askham, Peter Barnett, Martin Bowker, Dave Bramall, Ron Cope, Dave Dolman, Jan Dolman, Stan Edwards, Stephen Gorman, Dave Gosling, Helen Gosling, Martin Grant, Chris Hesketh, Graham Hesketh Tony Higgott, Peter Hill, Geoff Hunt, Kath Irvine, Gordon Kelman, Alan Key, Pat Key, Beverley Moreton, Beverley North, Martin North, Gary Smith, Barry Sargent, Pauline Stocks, Ivan Stocks, Derek Taylor, Ann Williams, Steve Wilson

**Apologies**

Julian Baker, Jackie Fisher, Steve Fisher, Mark Flavell, Chris Hales, Sian Hales, Alison Mottram, Paul Tattershaw, Elaine Wright, Kevin Wright, Bob Wyllie

**Minutes of the last meeting**

24th March 2022 - Accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Gary Smith Seconded: Martin Bowker

**Matters Arising**

None

**Chairman’s Report**

Welcome to everyone, thanks for coming. I would like to start with a thank you to everyone who has helped make the last year such a successful and busy one. We had an enjoyable end of season meal last year at Mickleover Golf club, and we are hoping to do the same again, thanks to Jan for organising this. To all the committee, and especially Bev/Martin and Jan whose workload has been much higher with everything that has been going on, and to Tony for his dedication to this club, the green and as someone I can discuss things with. All captains deserve a mention and thanks, also to all those who turned up to help with the green renovations, and to the many people who helped on competition days, and hosting cup games.

Last year I hoped that we would get planning permission for floodlights, we did, eventually. We hoped to get some funding from outside sources to help us pay for this project. Including donations from some of you, I am pleased to tell you that the floodlights project has cost the club nothing. The total cost of £14,837 plus VAT was raised from all of our funding partners and yourselves. This means that we can have floodlights teams in September and October playing at Etwall. Also we can start games at the correct time and not worry about light. Thanks to Tony for being here every day of the installation, and to Martin Kirkland for the commemorative plaque.

One of the easiest ways to raise funds for the club is easyfundraising, only three of us are so far doing this but have already raised £146 . So, if you ever want car insurance, book a holiday, or general online shopping and would like to help then ask me for the link and you can be part of this.

On Monday April 3rd we will be holding a floodlights switching on event, with bowling starting at 7 and the floodlights switch on at 8pm. We would like as many members as possible to attend as our funding partners will be there. Light Refreshments will be served.

We start this year with 16 teams, and, I hope 2 additional ones for the floodlight season in September and early October. There are a variety of teams to play in to cover all levels.

It was good to see Etwall hosting a county match, and also now having county players. I hope this continues to happen. It shows how the club is continually moving forward. To those experienced bowlers, keep trying to help and encourage the new ones as crown green bowls needs more players.

Finally, I hope that you all enjoy a good season on our fantastic green.

Club member Gary Smith praised the Chairman for his efforts in obtaining so much funding.

**Team Reports - 2022**

South Derbyshire A - Monday Night Mixed Aggregate Singles - Div 3

Having gained promotion in 2021 into Division 3, we knew it would be a tough ask in 2022. I think the challenge made everyone a little more determined and everyone in the team contributed in a very competitive division. We had a squad of 12 players, and 7 of these players won over 60% of their games and 10 out of the 12 also had a positive aggregate. Early on we rose to the top of the table and stayed there all season. Whilst we can be pleased that we gained promotion for the second year running, it was a little disappointing that it was as runners-up and not as champions. We finished equal on points with Allestree, but they pipped us with a better aggregate. If only we had gained one more point somewhere in the season! Never mind, we now have the new challenge of division 2 to look forward to in 2023.

Bev North

South Derbyshire B Monday Night Mixed Aggregate Singles - Div 4

The games went well this season with a core team of 9 players, we worked on a rota that one player would be rested each game, as it happened only two players were rested in the whole season. The team came 5th out of 8 teams, which puts us in a good position to improve for next year. I am pleased to say there was a good camaraderie within the team and everyone helped me out with the running of the games. I would like to give a special thanks to Martin Bowker for his support and stepping in when I was on holiday. Also, thanks to David Archer for dropping everything when we urgently needed an extra player at Chellaston. I am happy to be Captain next year if nobody else wants to take the role. If the club installs floodlights next year, I would be happy to captain a side as most of my players would like to continue the season for a bit longer.

Stephen Wilson

South Derbyshire Tuesday Night Mixed Aggregate Singles/Doubles - Div 3

Our position of third in the final table is well deserved. We have managed to combine an enjoyable season with some serious bowling. The team is listed as entry level and includes a wide range of bowling experience and expertise. This has not proven a hindrance to unity of purpose: a good evening out and if possible a win. We have worked with a basic squad of eight and one reserve. I expect that there will be interest in the team next season from, as it were, above and below. This is a great club, very well run, with a positive and inclusive ethos. All down to people of course. We are very lucky to have it, and them on our doorstep.

Martin Bowker

South Derbyshire Friday Mens Singles - Div 3

Finished 3rd in division just missing promotion.

South Derbyshire Monday/Tuesday Afternoon Senior Ladies Singles - Div 1

Happy to be Captain again. There was just about enough players but hopefully a few new lady bowlers will be eager to join the team especially as Tina Beal is sadly retiring from bowling and maybe Janet Flint as well. They will be missed. I’m hopeful that Dorothy Kelman will be well enough to rejoin the team next season too. Unfortunately this season, we came second to last, so may be relegated. On a positive note, hopefully our more experienced bowlers will mentor and coach our new players. Thanks to all team members in this team who are reliable and support me.

Jackie Fisher

East Midland Parks - Wednesday Evening Mixed Singles/Doubles - Div 2

Finished 4th. Tony and Vince in the doubles were top of the division averages.

Burton Vets A - Thursday Afternoon Mens Singles/Doubles - Div 1

The Vets A team has had a great year, finishing second out of 11 teams in a highly competitive 1st division, by far our best ever finish. Bringing Mark Flavell and Mick Lister into the side has undoubtedly strengthened our team, but the biggest factor in our success was that as a team we have learned how to play the doubles element of the game much better that we used to, with Vince and myself doing particularly well here. Gary Smith (until his illness) and Mark Flavell have both been outstanding in the singles this year. A vets team needs a minimum of 6 players and we have gone through the season with a squad of 9. I believe that a squad of 8 or 9 dedicated players is the ideal number to have for a vets team. Fewer than 8 is not enough to cover for holidays, illness etc. More than 9 creates problems in team selection and continuity. I have been the captain of this team now for almost 5 years and I am happy to continue in that role if our players so wish. I have a supportive team, so most of the job is straightforward, but I have found some parts of the job quite difficult. Particularly in the early years when a decision had to be made in which direction to take the team. The choice was to either continue with the same team that had automatically played for the vets, year after year. Or to select a team based on merit that I thought would get the best results, but that would require several team changes that I knew would be controversial. However, as this is the senior vets team, I decided to go with the second option, bringing new players in and dropping some of the existing ones, which as expected made life difficult with some people. But the results started to improve, culminating with this years second place finish. These were hard decisions, as no-one likes upsetting people or making themselves unpopular, but I do feel that the emphasis for the most senior teams should be to pick the best team available to get results. Our recent league success has brought other benefits too. It has got our team, its players and our club very much noticed by other clubs. Consequently, Etwall was chosen to host a vets county match in August between East Midlands and Yorkshire. Early in the season Martin North was selected to play in the vets county side, where he has played 5 games, all away, and has won 4 of them, which is an amazing achievement. Two months later 2 more of our players, Gary Smith and myself were also selected. Although Gary has so far only played one game due to illness. We have other players that are just as capable and I feel sure that 1 or 2 of them will be called up before long. If we stayed with our average relegation bound vets team, commonly known as the “whipping boys” by other clubs, I wonder just how many Etwall players would have been noticed and had the opportunity to play for the County if they so desired.

Tony Higgott

Burton Vets B - Tuesday/Thursday Afternoon Mens Singles/Doubles - Div 3

For the first year we have three Vets teams and this worked well. We had a core of 9 players in the B team. This meant that most weeks we had 7 or 8 players which was fine. The team finished 3rd just missing out on promotions, and reached the semi-final of the Charity Shield. I will carry on as Captain unless someone else would like to do it.

Dave Dolman

Burton Vets C - Thursday Afternoon Mens Singles/Doubles - Div 4

I am happy to be captain again. The squad I had was just fine in size and make-up, with Dave Bramall being the stand out player. I’d be very happy with the same players next season.

Graham Hesketh

Belper Ladies - Thursday Evenings Singles - Div 1

My first year as captain of the Belper ladies was memorable and I would be happy to continue as captain next year. Despite having an enjoyable year the team was dropped down a division - here’s to next year. Thanks to the team for their support and encouragement in my first year as captain. I would say for numbers of games currently played team numbers are okay but if this was to increase in future another one or two players would be useful.

Ann Williams

Belper Over 55’s A - Wednesday Afternoon Mixed Singles/Doubles - Div 2

An enjoyable season in division 2 with a very close finish. The top 4 teams all finished within 5 points of each other. By some miracle we actually won the league winning £60 prize money and, best of all beating Co-op to top spot. There was a core of 8 players for the season who all contributed to this achievement, and thanks to all the reserves who had to sometimes help out at short notice. Special mention must go to Tony who was yet again top of the division averages. Now the big challenge to stay in division 1. Finally thanks to Tony for a fantastic green.

Dave Dolman

Belper Over 55’s B - Wednesday Afternoon Mixed Singles/Doubles - Div 3

Team finished 5th with Janet Flint top of the singles averages. Reached the final of the League Cup, losing to Chaddesden in the final, but getting prize money of £40.

Belper Doubles - Wednesday Evening Mixed - Div 2

An enjoyable season and despite looking like we may be relegated, we managed to finish 7th, staying in Division 2 for next year.

Belper Saturday Afternoon Mixed Singles - Div 1

The first team was reinstated into division 1 and finished a creditable 4th, just 5 points off second place.

We welcomed Liam, who finished top of the division averages and Martin Kirkland; both good additions to the team. Managed to run with a tight 12 players. To move forward we need 2 or 3 players to improve the squad; either 2nd team players improving or a couple of newcomers to strengthen the side.

Martin North

Belper Saturday Afternoon Mixed Singles - Div 3

Team finished a mid table 5th. Thanks to those who helped out due to holidays and covid. Well done to all the players who were in the team for the first time.

Jan Dolman

**Treasurers Financial Report - 2022**

Good evening everyone, I hope you can all see a copy of last years accounts which have been audited and verified.

We finally returned to a normal year of bowling and were able to hold and host competitions again. 71 members inc 12 social made up 15 teams and 4 of them earned prize money.

We had a record year for the Bank Holiday competitions partly due to Dave Smith getting sponsorship for the May Day Comp and also good turnouts with record sales for the raffle and refreshments.

Although we expected to spend £8000 on floodlights in the end we didn’t have to as we secured grants to cover the net cost and the Parish Council paid the Vat.

Expenses also came in lower than previous years as we had fewer repairs .

Going forward we are now currently in a strong position and this gives us a good start to the year.

**Election of Captains**

Belper Ladies Ann Williams

Belper Singles A Martin North

Belper Singles B Jan Dolman

Belper Over 55’s A Dave Dolman

Belper Over 55’s B Kath Irvine

Belper Doubles Jackie Fisher/Jan Dolman

Burton Parks Derek Taylor

Burton Vets A Tony Higgott

Burton Vets B Dave Dolman

Burton Vets C Graham Hesketh

Derby Senior Ladies Jackie Fisher

Derby Mondays A Bev North

Derby Mondays B Stephen Wilson

Derby Tuesdays A Martin Bowker

Derby Tuesdays B Graham Hesketh

Derby Fridays Vince Askham

Club Captains to be elected en-bloc.

Proposed: Dave Bramall Seconded: Barry Sargent

**Election of Officers**

Chairman Dave Dolman

Club Secretary Beverley North

Treasurer Janet Dolman

Club Officials to be elected en-bloc.

Proposed: Kath Irvine Seconded: Ron Cope

**Election of Committee Members**

Tina Beal and Dave Smith have resigned and Graham Hesketh was invited to stand.

Julian Baker, Martin Bowker, Jackie Fisher, Tony Higgott, Graham Hesketh, Kath Irvine.

Committee members to be elected en-bloc.

Proposed: Martin North Seconded Gary Smith

**Subscriptions 2023**

The Committee proposed that subscriptions for 2023 would be kept the same as 2022 i.e. League £45, Social £25, Junior £7. Match fees would remain at £1 per game.

Subscriptions unanimously agreed.

**Green & Opening Date**

The green will be opened on Sunday 3rd April 2023.

**Future Proposals**

As the club is now in a financially stable position, the Chairman informed members that a quote would be obtained to replace all the boards around the green and gulleys. This work would need careful attention as there are now electrical cables as well as water pipes around the green. The work would be carried out at the end of the 2023 season.

He also asked if any members had further ideas for improvements to bring them forward for the attention of the Committee.

**AOB**

Beverley read out the following:

Many of you here tonight were friends or knew of Alan Wall. Alan was a dedicated Etwall Bowls member and worked hard for the benefit of this club. He became a member of our Committee and helped out with the running of the annual May Day open competition. Alan was also instrumental in making repairs to the watering system. He became the first Etwall player in recent years to play for the Burton County Vets team, of which he was very proud. His dedication to crown green bowls also saw him become a committee member of the South Derbyshire League. A few years ago Alan was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease and sadly passed away last October. Throughout the season various Leagues raise money for charitable causes. In 2022 the South Derbyshire League raised £300 and at the recent presentation evening Etwall representatives were given a cheque to send to MND in memory of Alan. We forwarded the cheque to MND and a receipt has been passed on to the League. It was a very nice gesture from the League for a very nice gentleman.

The Chairman reminded members of the need for volunteers when hosting neutral Cup games. Dave and Annette Archer said they were willing to host any games when required.

Volunteers will also be required for the two annual open competitions and also the Well Dressings Target Bowls day, which is being held on Sunday 21st May 2023.

Beverley reminded members that there is a lot of bowls competitions held by the County and other clubs, details of which can be found on the Bowls Results websites.

Martin North proposed a vote of thanks to Dave for his efforts regarding the floodlights. All his work in obtaining funds and grants has resulted in the Club having the lights without any impact on the funds of the Club. This took a considerable amount of work as lots of paperwork was involved in all the grant applications. All members present were fully supportive of this proposal.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm