**ETWALL BOWLS CLUB AGM – 28TH March 2024**

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

**Members Present**

Annette Archer, Dave Archer, Vince Askham, John Barker, Peter Barnett, Andrew Boddice, Martin Bowker, Dave Bramall, Ron Cope, Dave Dolman, Jan Dolman, Mark Flavell, Stephen Gorman, Dave Gosling, Chris Hales, Sian Hales, Chris Hesketh, Graham Hesketh Tony Higgott, Peter Hill, Geoff Hunt, Kath Irvine, Gordon Kelman, Alan Key, Pat Key, Foster Lewins, Valerie Lewins, John McNeilly, Gary Smith, Elaine Smith, Pauline Stocks, Ivan Stocks, Derek Taylor, Martin Taylor, Paul Taylor, Ann Williams, Elaine Wright, Kevin Wright

**Apologies**

Julian Baker, Diane Fox, Helen Gosling, Jane Greaves, Ray Irvine, Martin Kirkland, Bev Moreton, Bev North, Martin North, Alison Mottram, Earl Oakton, Barry Sargent, George Tansley, Sue Tansley, Steve Wilson, Bob Wyllie

**Minutes of the last meeting**

23rd March 2023 - Accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Ron Cope; Seconded: Dave Bramall

**Matters Arising**

None

**Chairman’s Report**

Welcome to you all, especially the new players here tonight who will be bowling for us this year.

Looking back at last season it was one of many highlights, more teams winning leagues, and collecting prizes than for many years. New bowlers doing very well in their first season, and 18 teams competing for Etwall in leagues for the first time in its history. Our first year of two floodlight league teams from Etwall, one finishing first, and now gets to play in the top league, and one finishing second – an excellent set of results.

The low point of the year was the continued disagreement with our neighbour over floodlights. We have made some alterations, so hopefully that will be the end of the matter. However, please ensure lights are off on time, as he is noting and monitoring every night. [*David later clarified that the absolute cut-off time is 10.15pm, but all captains should aim to switch off as early as possible, and no later than 10.10pm.*]

I must thank several people, who help so much. To all the committee for their help and support. Special thanks to Bev who is stepping down after ten years as club secretary, and to Jan as her workload has increased with our continued improvements. Big thank you to Tony for all the work that he puts into the green, and being the one who has liaised with all the contractors this year – not an easy job. Additional thanks to all the Captains – again not an easy job at times. Also to all other members who have stepped in to help with various tasks during the year. Some of these are very important as it helps get EBC recognised in the village, such as Target Bowls and the Church Christmas Tree. This all helps to keep our strong relationship with the Parish Council, and long may that continue.

Two important pieces of information to tell you. Firstly, the boards around the green have been replaced, but due to weather issues the seed around the boards is still coming through. Please try not to stand on this bare earth for the next few weeks. Secondly, if you play in a team in the Belper league, be aware of the new rules about numbers of players. Any questions, speak to your captain. There will also be a copy on the notice board.

Finally from me, hope you all have another enjoyable season.

Now on to Captains reports from last season. Before I start them, if anyone has thoughts about playing for an additional team please talk to the captains, either as a regular player, or as a reserve in emergency.

**Team Reports - 2023**

South Derbyshire Senior Ladies

As we managed to stay up in Div 1 this year due to a team dropping out, I am pleased to say that overall we only narrowly missed being third by one point, so settled for fourth place which is a great achievement & an improvement in results overall to 2022.

I’d like to thank all the team members who play but also make my job easier by being reliable and helpful. What’s most important is that we all enjoy ourselves, compete to our highest ability & have a laugh along the way.

Many thanks to Dorothy & Gordon, Pauline & Ivan for their support too, it’s all much appreciated.

I will continue to Captain this team unless someone else wants to do it, ha ha !!

*Jackie Fisher*

South Derbyshire Monday Night Aggregate Singles - Division 2

After gaining promotion in 2022, the 2023 season really was a challenge.

For a team of 8, we actually used 16 players. Sincere thanks to the seven members who kindly stepped in to help field a full team, sometimes at very short notice.

There was a noticeable increase in the standard of bowling in division 2 and there were only 5 games out of 14 when we scored more than the opposition.

Somehow we managed to just hold out heads above water and going into the last game we played a relegation battle with Winshill who were 64 points behind us, but for this game they put out a side with all of their best players. Whilst they beat us 159 to 114 we did avoid relegation by 19 points on a very wet soggy night.

At the end of the season there were no standout player results. Everyone played their part and scored when it mattered. In this league points, not wins, make prizes. Overall it made for a great team spirit and something to look forward to next season.

I am happy to continue as Captain, and anyone wishing to join us next year would be very welcome. If you are interested please get in touch with me.

*Beverley North*

South Derbyshire Monday Night Aggregate Singles - Division 4

This year was similar to last year, coming 5th again. However, we improved on our aggregate from -344 to +15, an increase of 369, and we just missed out on 4th place by 4 points; that’s a great team effort and we hope to improve again next season. We have managed to include a variety of experienced players and welcome any newbies wishing to join us for next season.

Special mention: Whilst most members have improved this year, I would like to give a special mention to Annette Archer; she has improved a lot from last year and hope she can continue for next year.

Next year: Everyone who played last year wants to play again. I’m happy to continue as captain if nobody else is interested.

*Stephen Wilson*

South Derbyshire Tuesday Night “Etwall” team

The team has gelled really well, with the core 8 players being fielded whenever possible. We rose early in the season to the head of the division and pretty well stayed there throughout. Our lead toward the end of the season was such that a nail-biting finish was avoided. I have spoken with the team about expanding the squad to 9 or 10 players both to ease issues of non-availability and to increase operational options. This has been a great year for us.

*Martin Bowker*

South Derbyshire Tuesday Night “Etwall A” team

The introduction of a second Tuesday night team has been an unqualified success. With six new players, the team has gelled very quickly, creating an excellent team spirit with the emphasis firmly on having fun. Whilst still being a thoroughly enjoyable social experience, it has also allowed all the players to improve their game in a competitive league. I would also like to thank all the seasoned players who filled in for me when the team was short (even though that did put us perilously close to promotion by mid-season). Everyone is looking forward to doing it all again next year. For myself, the team was a joy to captain and I would have no hesitation in running it again next season.

*Graham Hesketh*

Belper Over 55’s A

Our first season in Division One was an enjoyable one. For most of the season we were near, or at the top of the table. Although our results fell away during the last few games and we finished 7th, that was only 4 points off third place. A strong performance overall with a settled team of eight players. Thanks to all of you who came in to play when we had gaps.

In the cup we managed to get to the semi-final, missing out by just 2 points.

Special mention to Tony – played 16, won 13, second in the division averages.

I will captain again next year.

*Dave Dolman*

Belper Over 55’s B

The Over 55 B team has had a great year finishing 3rd out of 10 teams, just missing promotion into division 3 by 4 points. The doubles, which in this league takes 2 points, did particularly well with 4 of us finishing in the top 9 of the averages.

Thank you to all my regular players for their enthusiasm and effort in every game we play and a big thanks to the people who filled in for me. Much appreciated.

I am prepared to be Captain next year.

*Kath Irvine*

Belper Doubles

An enjoyable year and we got to the semi-final of the league cup.

We could do with a slightly bigger squad as it was tight at times and this would give opportunities for other players to try it out and play with different partners.

Looking forward to next season hopefully with a bit less rain!!

*Jackie Fisher and Jan Dolman*

East Midlands Parks

Finished 4th. No problem with number of players. Tony & Vince only lost one doubles game all season.

*Derek Taylor*

Burton Vets A

A strong performance at the end of the season enabled us to finish a very respectable 3rd out of 11 teams in the first division. Our lack of away wins this season, (only 2), where the 4 bonus points are so important in this league, prevented us from doing even better. We often went with a less than full-strength team, mainly due to holidays.

I have been captain of this team for a number of years now, and I am willing to do it again for another year if wanted, as it is not a particularly difficult job. However, if anyone has any fresh ideas as to how to advance our side and wants to try them out, I will happily stand aside in order to concentrate more on my other duties to the club, which in my case, mostly involves the time-consuming job of greenkeeping.

Many thanks not just to all our team players for their efforts throughout the season, but also to those who came up to support us, especially Bev who frequently took charge of the kitchen for home games. Much appreciated.

*Tony Higgott*

Burton Vets B

For the second season running we finished third, missing out on promotion by 2 points.

With some good results throughout the whole season, and more away wins than previously, there were many enjoyable games.

The core squad was tight, after we lost players at the start and during the season. Despite that the other vets team captains helped me out with players when required. Thanks to Tony and Graham for your support.

Peter Barnett had an excellent season playing 18 and winning 16 games and winning the Division averages.

I am happy to be captain next year.

*Dave Dolman*

Burton Vets C

This was the second season for the Vets C team. We finished a very creditable 3rd behind the two standout teams in the division, and narrowly missed out on topping both the singles and pairs averages. We picked up two new players this year, making a squad size of 11. For most matches we fielded 9 players (a nice number for the Vets format). The most we turned out was 10 (on 3 occasions) and the least was 6 (twice - both against Yoxall). For next season there may be some minor changes in personnel but the squad size should be maintained. Overall the players did really well and thoroughly enjoyed the season. I am very happy to captain the side again next year when we will be adding promotion as a secondary objective (to having fun).

*Graham Hesketh*

Belper Ladies

The 2023 season for the Belper ladies has been very successful. Not only did we come top of Division 2 winning 7 out of 8 games thereby moving to Division 1 (bring it on) next year but we took on all challenges and were triumphant winning the Belper & Mid Derbyshire, Ladies League, Division 2 cup.

A huge thanks to all the girls for their efforts and support and I would be more than happy to continue as their captain next year.

*Ann Williams*

South Derbyshire Friday Mens Singles

Fantastic season; played 14, won 12! Won the league by 30 points. 5 Etwall players appeared in the top 10 of the division averages.

*Vince Askham*

Saturday Belper Singles A

It has been a difficult year. Started off ok but results tailed off and we finished 5th out of 9.

11 players played over 10 games of the possible 16 games. Tony top of the averages with 13 wins out of 16.

Thanks to the players who filled in, especially Ann Williams who provided a ray of sunshine.

We need reinforcements of a good quality to come into the side or we may well be in danger of relegation next year. Even those good enough in the 2nd team seem reluctant to step up. If 1/2 players don’t play next year then new players will be critical. Hoping to attract a couple of players but it is so difficult.

I’m going to step down from captaining the team next year. I’ve done quite a few years, time for someone else to step in so a new voice can encourage the team.

*Martin North*

Saturday Belper Singles B

An enjoyable year (despite the weather)!

We ended up 3rd in Div 3 which was a fantastic achievement. There are some really tough opponents in this league but we all stuck with it and had some good results.

Thanks to the players who stepped up to play for the first team when asked and also to those who filled in for my team. I look forward to next year and hopefully a better summer.

*Jan Dolman*

Floodlight League – Etwall, Division 2

Great season in the floodlit league ended with us top of the table.

Now looking forward to going to Rykneld and A&B !!!!!

Mark Flavell won all his matches.

Special mention to a couple of dream pairings in the doubles; we welcomed Elaine Smith back to the bowls fold and she carried Gary with her to win 6 out of 8. Paul and now Lisa Tattershaw had another good season winning 4 out of 6.

*Martin North*

Floodlight League – Etwall A, Division 5

Apart from a single hammering this brand new team took at Belper Pottery, we acquitted ourselves extraordinarily well, winning six matches convincingly and, in terms of games won, drawing against Belper Pottery at home. Considering that the team was started with the aims of extending the season especially for new players and to have a few pre-winter laughs, this is an amazing result, with the possibility of promotion from division 5.

*Martin Bowker*

**Treasurers Financial Report - 2023**

Good evening everyone. I hope you can all see a copy of the accounts for 2023 which have been audited and verified.

We had a really good year last year. 71 members, including 14 social, made up 18 teams, the most ever, and 7 of them won prize money.

We had another great year for the Bank Holiday competitions and secured sponsorship for the August one, and had record sales for the refreshments and raffle. A lot of people worked really hard before and on the days to make them a success.

Thanks also to members who donated to the club, raised money from Easy Fundraising, and gave up their time to help throughout the year.

Expenses outweighed income due to the floodlights and reboarding the green. We still have the support of Etwall Parish Council; they paid £1200 in VAT for us and contributed to half the cost of the greenkeeping materials.

We start this year in a good position and the Committee proposes to leave all the membership fees as they are.

I will be collecting subs at the end of the evening if anyone wants to pay tonight, otherwise please pay by bank transfer.

That’s all from me, has anyone got any questions?

*Jan Dolman*

**Election of Officers**

Chairman Dave Dolman

Proposed: Gary Smith; Seconded: Ron Cope

Treasurer Janet Dolman

Proposed: Kath Irvine; Seconded: Jackie Fisher

Club Secretary Graham Hesketh

Proposed: Martin Bowker; Seconded: Chris Hales

**Election of Committee Members**

Martin Bowker has resigned and Ann Williams was invited to stand.

Committee members to be elected en-bloc:

Julian Baker, Jackie Fisher, Tony Higgott, Kath Irvine, Bev North, Ann Williams.

Proposed: Steve Fisher; Seconded: Jackie Fisher

**Election of Captains**

Belper Ladies Ann Williams

Belper Singles A Martin Kirkland

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

Floodlight A Martin North

Floodlight B Martin Bowker

Club Captains to be elected en-bloc.

Proposed: Geoff Hunt; Seconded: Ron Cope

**Subscriptions 2024**

The Committee proposed that subscriptions for 2024 would be kept the same as 2023 i.e. League £45, Social £25, Junior £7. Match fees would remain at £1 per game.

Proposed: Kath Irvine; Seconded: Derek Taylor

**Safeguarding Officers**

We are fortunate to have 3 well-qualified Safeguarding Officers (Tony Higgott, Bev North and Martin North) and all are happy to continue in that role for the club.

**Green & Opening Date**

The green will be opened on Saturday 30th March 2024. A new gate code has been assigned. There is also a new key safe installed in the outside toilet for captains to secure the keys for the cabinet and floodlights.

**AOB**

The Chairman reminded members of the ongoing need for volunteers for various activities (hosting neutral Cup games, club competitions, Well Dressings target bowls and repainting the shed).

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.