**ETWALL BOWLS CLUB AGM – 27TH March 2025**

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

**Members Present**

Annette Archer, Dave Archer, Vince Askham, Julian Baker, John Barker, Peter Barnett, Martin Bowker, Dave Bramall, Dave Dolman, Jan Dolman, Jane Dyson, Mark Flavell, Gary French, Stephen Gorman, Dave Gosling, Helen Gosling, Jane Greaves, Chris Hales, Sian Hales, Chris Hesketh, Graham Hesketh Tony Higgott, Peter Hill, Geoff Hunt, Kath Irvine, Pat Key, John McNeilly, Louise McNeilly, Bev North, Martin North, Earl Oakton, Barry Sargent, Ken Sharples, Vicky Simpson, Gary Smith, Elaine Smith, Pauline Stocks, Ivan Stocks, Matthew Such, George Tansley, Paul Taylor, Jonathon Tinkler, Lynn Tinkler, Frank Weir, Steve Wilson, Stuart Woods, Elaine Wright, Kevin Wright

**Apologies**

Ron Cope, Janice Draper, Jackie Fisher, Steve Fisher, Diane Fox, Lynne Fryatt, Ray Irvine, Dorothy Kelman, Gordon Kelman, Liam Kirkland, Martin Kirkland, Alison Mottram, Keith Parker, Sue Tansley, Derek Taylor, Anne Williams

**Minutes of the last meeting**

28th March 2024 - Accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Kath Irvine; Seconded: Bev North

**Matters Arising**

None

**Chairman’s Report**

Welcome to you all.

2025 promises to be a special year for the club. We are now 60 years old and plan to have a celebration bowling event, later in the year, at a date to be announced. For those of you who have old photos or documents about the club could you please let us know, so that we can display some of the history.

We will again have 18 teams, and now with record membership, hope to keep them all going. Last season was a struggle for some teams with player numbers low due to illness and injuries. Please try and help out if a captain rings you up – they really do need you! Also help out your team before, during and after the game. Don’t leave it to the captains. Last year proved that we need more players to step up and be able to run a team if the captain is suddenly unavailable. Players could take turns and help will be given where necessary.

For the first time this year we will officially invite non-members to come and bowl on the green. The details will be advertised on our website. This is part of our commitment to developing interest in the sport, and is a condition of the King George VI playing fields trust managed by the Parish Council, that we have to have the green open regularly.

Also new this year: Paul Taylor will be running a members only event on Sunday mornings at 10.30. If you would like to take part, it is not a competition, it is social bowling, for the novice to the more experienced bowler. Register 10-10.15, cost is £1, includes tea and coffee.

We also now have a mobile start sign, thanks to David Bramall (and also thanks to David for keeping the watering system going). We intend to start games from the right hand side to help with wear and tear of the green. The sign can be stored with the bowls trolley at the end of the game.

Thanks to all the committee, the captains, and all of you who support this club in so many ways.

And finally, a big congratulations to Tony and his team on winning the Burton Vets top league. This was a dream for many years – now it is a reality – fantastic. Good to see that we now have several players receiving recognition and playing for the county.

May I wish you all a very enjoyable bowling year.

**Team Reports - 2024**

South Derbyshire Senior Ladies

At the start of the season we had enough ladies available to play, however, this soon changed when our captain Jackie was badly injured and was out for the rest of the season. I agreed to take over and then another lady was injured and had to pull out. Another 2 players were struggling with back injuries so did not play in the first few games. This changed everything and further problems arose with operations, holidays and other commitments.

It was not easy to have a full 8 players each week and some were called on to play twice in some games. (strangely usually me!!) Had we not had this option we would have had to pull the team which would have been hard decision.

One game was also postponed at the last minute as a player was injured on arrival and we had to pull out as we only had 6 that week. Despite trying our hardest we never did get to play that game.

My phone has never been so busy sending msgs about the many changes we had and trying to organise each week but we carried on with the help of newer players who stepped up and did a great job. So it was a fabulous achievement to finish 3rd in Division 1 and I thank all the girls for rallying round (and putting up with my more “stressful” moments)!!!

The girls were grateful to the Etwall players and partners who turned up to support us and help with marking measuring etc. It made our afternoons a little easier when we were short.

Hopefully our captain will be back next year and we can hope for an easier year.

*Jan Dolman*

South Derbyshire Monday Night Aggregate Singles - Division 2

It was yet another difficult year, not just being in Division 2 but actually getting enough players to make up the team. This format has teams of eight, and we have run for the second year running with just eight committed players. This is great to boost team spirit but when holidays and sickness arrive we are in trouble. Sincere thanks to the seven people who stood in for us, often at extremely short notice it was very much appreciated.

We finished next to bottom so I expect that means relegation. However well done to Martin Kirkland who had the best record, closely followed by Derek Taylor.

This is a good format for new bowlers as there is no pressure to get a win. The aim is to just score as many points as possible.

I will captain the side again next year, and would like to encourage more of our members to come and join us on a Monday, you will be most welcome.

*Beverley North*

South Derbyshire Monday Night Aggregate Singles - Division 4

This year we came 5th position again; however, we comfortably beat Rolleston & Allestree who were above us last year which is an overall Team improvement.

We lost a couple of players this year but managed to field a full squad for each game, we welcome any new players as always and are looking forward to next season.

I would like to give a special mention to thank David Archer (Super Sub) who made himself available to play 7 times during the season and most times given short notice, it was very much appreciated, thank you.

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

*Stephen Wilson*

South Derbyshire Tuesday Night A team

After promotion last season we have reached third position in division 2. A remarkable achievement down chiefly, I feel, to the stability and esprit de corps of the basic squad which has remained almost unchanged throughout the season. I am grateful to the four players who have stepped in on occasion.

I make special mention of Dave Gosling, Steve Wilson (who won 100% of his singles matches), Dave Bramall and Dave Archer, who had a great season.

Out of 16 matches we suffered only 2 defeats.

This is a great team to captain, and I count myself lucky.

*Martin Bowker*

South Derbyshire Tuesday Night B team

Another very enjoyable season finishing 6th in a division which is perfect for bringing in new players. In all I had 19 different players contribute, so a big thanks to all those club members who helped me out. I believe my squad wants me to continue as captain next year, despite NOT presenting me with a crate of beer after our last match (like the Brackens team did for their captain). Some traditions really deserve to be resurrected.

*Graham Hesketh*

Belper Over 55’s A

We played the whole season with only 7 base players, therefore needed at least one extra player every week. Thanks to my core team and all those who helped out during the year, particularly Elaine Smith who ended up playing 10 games, and John McNeilly who played 7.  
We finished the season 3rd – a very good finish in the top division.  
Congratulations to Tony who again topped the Division 1 averages, playing 18 and winning 17 games, and for also providing us with a wonderful green to play on. If anyone is interested in joining the team you would be welcome. I will carry on next year unless someone would like to take over.

*Dave Dolman*

Belper Over 55’s B

What a season, so many injuries, it made things very difficult. But with a total of 19 different players I managed to put a full team out for every game. We finished 4th out of 10 teams in the league, a really good result all things considered. It’s been down to my regular players commitment and also to everyone who has filled in for me. A big thank you to them all and special thanks to Ann for filling in for me as Captain and looking after the team when I was injured.

I am prepared to be Captain next year.

*Kath Irvine*

Belper Doubles

A difficult year as we lost Jackie early on due to injury and another player had to pull out later.

It was a tight team to begin with and I had to call on other players to fill in occasionally which they did and I was grateful for.

Despite this the results did not materialise and we ended up being relegated needing only 3 points to survive.

We have had interest from a few new players for next year so maybe it will be an easier season.

Thank you to those who turned up to support us especially when it was dark cold and rainy!

I usually share the captain’s job with Jackie but we are both stepping down next year.

Dave has offered to take on the role so hopefully we can get back to having better results.

*Jan Dolman*

East Midlands Parks

This year has been a very difficult season due to shortage of players we had enough registered but many of those decided to play for other teams on Wednesday afternoon or Doubles in the evening. This made the Parks team short of numbers on one occasion we turned up with 6 players and other times with 7 when 8 are required for a team this is not good enough for a club like Etwall. I would like to thank all the players who played and were very loyal to me and very helpful. Also thank the players I had to call in at the very last minute to play that night thank you. The team finished 4th in Division 2 which considering our player shortage was very good. I have decided not to be Captain next season and hope Etwall can still keep a team in Wednesday night Parks league and wish the new captain all the best and hope he can recruit more players and move forward in 2025.

*Derek Taylor*

Burton Vets A

The vets A team has steadily been improving over the past few years, coming 2nd and 3rd in the top division recently. However, this last year we have gone one better and won the vets league title, something that no team from Etwall has ever managed before. Giving praise to any one particular player seems unfair in a year such as this when all have worked incredibly hard to achieve this result, but the inclusion of John McNeilly into the side for the first time has undoubtedly been decisive in getting the team over the line.

My thanks also to the captains of the vets B and C teams, Dave and Graham for their willing co-operation when it mattered, and also to Bev, Louise and Elaine for their much valued team support.

*Tony Higgott*

Burton Vets B

An enjoyable season for the vets team. Numbers were very tight for most matches, and that added to the atmosphere and team drive to win. Having said that, we do need more players next year to ease the workload next season.

The team finished 2nd, getting promoted to Division 2, and reached the semi final of the charity shield. A very good season.

Congratulations to Pete Hill, who came top of the Division Doubles averages.

Final thanks to Tony and Graham, the other vets captains. Working together when needed has resulted in a good season for all three teams.

I am happy to continue to be captain next year.

*Dave Dolman*

Burton Vets C

This has been another fun year of competitive bowls with a fantastic group of players. I had 11 players on the books but the maximum number I used was 10 (on 4 occasions) and only played once with the bare 6 (a home victory over the Lamb Inn). The new players (Chris, Paul and Ian) fitted in perfectly, and together we put on our best season yet, finishing a creditable 3rd behind the Lamb Inn and Alrewas. We also managed to get amongst the honours with George deservedly topping the Pairs Averages. This squad would stand a very good chance of promotion next year, which would be a tremendous achievement. I'm delighted to have been Captain this year and I'm more than willing to carry on next year (especially if there's another crate of beer in it for me - thx Chris & Sian).

*Graham Hesketh*

Belper Ladies

The 2024 season for the Belper & Mid Derbyshire Ladies has been very disappointing only winning 3 out of 10 games which may result in us being relegated to Division 2. This was partly due to lack of player availability for various reasons and highlights the need for more female members. A huge thanks to all the girls for their efforts and support, especially to Beverley North and Elaine Smith who stood in at short notice a number of times. Only on one occasion was a player nominated to play twice. Fortunately only one match had to be rearranged due to inclement weather.

*Ann Williams*

South Derbyshire Friday Mens Singles

Finished 7th, just avoiding relegation on wins. Liam played 16 games and won 13.

*Vince Askham*

Saturday Belper Singles A

This year has been mine and Liam’s joint captaincy, all has been ok we didn't struggle much but could do with a few more players, we finished in 5th place which we think was respectable on our first attempt and we look forward to doing the same again in 2025 .

Of course we are not going to reach the dizzy heights of Marehay but second isn't impossible and in a few years who knows, Liam and myself would like to thank all the players for their great efforts this season, see you all in 2025.

*Martin & Liam Kirkland*

Saturday Belper Singles B

Thankfully this was an easier team to manage as there were enough players for most of the season and when it was short or we occasionally had to supply to the first team we were able to fill the spaces.

I thank Liam who always gave me enough notice when the first team required players and we were able to sort it out without too much stress. Hopefully his team will be in a better position next year so won’t need to call on us so often.

Thanks to all who played and to those who played for the first team when asked (not easy as it’s a big step up to Division 1) and to those who filled in at the last minute.

As ever we were grateful to all who turned up to support, measure, mark and make tea!

We came 4th in the league which was a great achievement and I am happy to carry on as captain next year.

*Jan Dolman*

Floodlight League – Etwall, Division 1

I was pleased to report that we managed to get promoted last year.  
Unfortunately this year…….  
……...we have fallen back into Div 2.  
  
I don’t think we have been too far off the pace but we have been poor in the singles and often suffered a few heavy defeats in games; not good where success depends on aggregate points scored. We won just 7 out of 40 singles games (17%) but 24 out of 40 doubles (60%). We would only have needed an average of 6 extra points per game to stay up. A special mention goes to Martin J Kirkland who was our most successful player.

*Martin North*

Floodlight League – Etwall A, Division 4

In its second season the team went into matches with the same enthusiasm as before. Results were very mixed but spirits were never low. By the penultimate game we were second in the division, but unfortunately the final (and potentially decisive) game was called off because of poor weather. Sadly the joint captain, Steve Wilson, was not able to play his role because of illness, but Paul Taylor stepped up and significantly reduced my load, for which I am grateful. I shall not be acting as Captain next year, but hope to play again, and wish the team another enjoyable season.

*Martin Bowker*

**Treasurers Financial Report - 2023**

Good evening everyone. I hope you can all see a copy of the accounts for 2024 which have been audited and verified.

We had a really good year last year. 80 members, including 16 social, made up 18 teams, the most ever, and the Vets A and B teams 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. Easy Fundraising has made £356 so far. We are also in receipt of interest on our bank accounts which made £375.

Income outweighed the expenditure for a change as we did not have any major expenditure apart from an adjustment to the floodlights. We still have the support of Etwall Parish Council they and contributed to half the cost of the greenkeeping materials as usual.

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**

Officers to be elected en-bloc:

Chairman Dave Dolman

Treasurer Janet Dolman

Club Secretary Graham Hesketh

Proposed: David Bramall; Seconded: John McNeilly

**Election of Committee Members**

Committee members to be elected en-bloc:

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

Proposed: David Bramall; Seconded: John McNeilly

**Election of Captains**

Belper Ladies Ann Williams

Belper Singles A Martin & Liam Kirkland

Belper Singles B Jan Dolman

Belper Over 55’s A Dave Dolman

Belper Over 55’s B Kath Irvine

Belper Doubles Dave Dolman

Burton Parks Graham Hesketh

Burton Vets A Tony Higgott

Burton Vets B Dave Dolman

Burton Vets C Dave Archer

Derby Senior Ladies Ann Williams

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 Stephen Wilson

Club Captains to be elected en-bloc:

Proposed: Chris Hales; Seconded: Barry Sargent

**Subscriptions 2024**

The Committee proposed that subscriptions for 2025 would be kept the same as 2024 i.e. League £45, Social £25, Junior £7. Match fees would remain at £1 per game.

Proposed: Jan Dolman; Seconded: Graham Hesketh

**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. We have no safeguarding concerns.

**Green & Opening Date**

The green will be opened on Saturday 29th March 2025, starting at 11am with a “crash bowl” event. A new gate code has been assigned.

**AOB**

The Chairman reminded members of the ongoing need for volunteers for various activities (hosting neutral Cup games, club competitions, Well Dressings target bowls on Sun 18 May, and the 3 new Open Sessions for non-members on Fri 4 Apr 1.30-3.30 & 6pm-8pm and Sat 5 Apr 1.30-3.30.)

Dates for diaries:

Open Competitions

Bank Holiday Monday May 5th

Bank Holiday Monday August 25th

Entries through Dave Dolman.

End of season meal again at Mickleover Golf Club October 8th. Organised through Jan Dolman.

The meeting closed at 7.32pm.