**ETWALL BOWLS CLUB ANNUAL AGM MEETING**

Thursday 22nd March 2018 at Frank Wickham Hall, Etwall, the meeting chaired by Ken Harrison started at 7.00pm

Members Present (33)

Annette Archer, David Archer, Julian Baker, Peter Barnett, Tina Beal, Janet Dolman, Dave Dolman, Stan Edwards, Janet Flint, Jane Greaves, Ken Harrison, Aiden Haslam, Tony Higgott, Peter Hill, Geoff Hunt, Kath Irvine, Gordon Kelman, Pat Key, Alan Key, Pat Mason, Tracey Mosley, Victoria Mosley, Beverley North, Martin North, Barry Sargent, Ivan Stocks, Pauline Stocks, Derek Taylor, Frank Weir, Alan Wall, Ann Williams, Chris Williamson, Bob Wyllie.

Apologies (11)

Vince Askham, Dave Bramall, Ron Cope, Jane Dyson, Jackie Fisher, Steve Fisher, Lynne Fryatt, Steve Hall, Ray Irvine, Val Lewins, Earl Oakton.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were approved as a true record.

Matters Arising

No matters arising.

Chairman’s Report - Ken Harrison

I wish to start on a sad note with the passing of significant members of the club. I am sure they will be missed but not forgotten.

On a much happier note the club has had a particularly good season with many teams successful in their particular league, probably the best ever performance for the club. Well done to all captains and participants.

A very big thank you must go the Beverley. Her workload increased on a number of fronts and all was undertaken expertly to give an impressive performance throughout the year.

Thanks also to Janet who again kept the finances under strict control with minimum fuss.

Pat and Alan as Ladies and Gents secretaries along with the Committee must also be thanked for their considerable time and hard work. Particularly Janet for organising the Bonus Ball fund raising.

Also thanks to Dave Dolman for organising the well received coaching day.

And finally thanks to all those who helped around the green with Mike.

Treasurers Report - Janet Dolman

Good evening everyone, I hope you can all see a copy of the accounts which have been audited and verified. It has been a good year and I am pleased to say we have had an excess income over expenditure of £477.01. Membership numbers were good with 68 in total made up of 55 full members, 2 children and 11 social. The subscriptions are still not covering essential expenditure, but this was made up again by teas, books, bonus ball, fridge and competitions. Also different to last year was the £504 prize money won by various teams for leagues and cups which made us have a profitable year. Bonus ball at £176 was down again, so we have decided not to run this due to lack of support and difficulty collecting monies. Book sales at £51 was up on last year by £23. Stan’s fridge net profit was £242, again down on last year, but it was not a very good summer and sales have been reducing each year. Refreshment money was £375.67. This was lower than last year as we did not host as many extra competitions this year but it is still a good result. Something which is not shown in the accounts this year, as the money was given directly on the day, is the Target bowls which raised £54 on the day and £50 from raffle ticket sales was donated to Etwall Well Dressings. I wanted to mention this as it is an important way for us to support the village and the Well Dressings: we have have received 2 substantial donations from them in the past. This year it also led to some local people joining as social members. The May and August Bank Holiday competitions raised £568.50, a record amount. A big thank you to everyone involved in all areas of fundraising and helping out. Etwall Parish Council were very supportive and again covered 50% of the green-keeping materials and also helped out on paying the VAT on some purchases. We are very grateful for their continued support. We also received donations from Talbots, Ron Mason and Dave Williamson. I am happy to answer any questions you might have and will be available to collect subscriptions should anyone wish to pay this evening.

Beverley then continued with; If I could just add a comment to Jan’s accounts with regard to the Open Competition Days. Most of you are aware of these, but some of the newer members may not. Each year on May Day and August Bank Holiday Mondays, Etwall run two open competitions. May Day is a round robin format with mixed pairs who are drawn out of the hat. August is again a mixed pairs competition but this is run on a knockout basis, and players enter in pairs. Throughout the day we sell tea, coffee and also cakes, sandwiches and other refreshments, all of which are donated by members. We also hold a raffle on each day. These days are an extremely important source of finance to the Club. In the last 3 years we have made over £500 each year, which is quite a significant sum.

Whilst these days provide a chance for us to show off our superb green in the hope of attracting new players, they do take a lot of hard work. Someone has to spend a lot of time to contact and obtain entrants, the catering has to be co-ordinated, the competition itself has to be organised, raffle prizes need to be obtained. The really hard work is then on the day itself. People are required to greet the players, put out chairs and equipment. Someone has to start the games, we need measurers and markers. Whilst that it happening on the green, drinks and sandwiches, etc have to be served. Raffle tickets need to be sold. Finally everything has to be cleared up at the end of the day. What I am coming round to, is that a lot of manpower is required and most of this falls to the same few members each year. Whilst we always seem to manage it is extremely hard work for so few people to cope. So in 2018 we are asking for as many members as possible to volunteer. Some volunteers do give up the whole day but we understand that can be too much for some. We are asking if you can to spare just a couple of hours to help on the day. This would be help tremendously and spread the work load. We are also asking if you can donate a raffle prize, or two. The more prizes we have, the more money we can make. The donation of a homemade cake or sandwiches would also be most appreciated. We never seem to have much left over at the end of the day. Preparations for May Day have already started so a little nearer the time we will be asking all members if there is anything you can do to help.

Election of Officers

Chairman Ken Harrison agreed to stand again, there were no other nominations.

Proposed Alan Wall, seconded Tina Beal.

Treasurer Janet Dolman agreed to stand again, there were no other nominations.

Proposed Janet Flint, seconded Pat Mason.

Secretary Beverley North agreed to stand again, there were no other nominations

Proposed Janet Flint, seconded Pat Mason.

Election of Committee Members

Tina Beal, Dave Dolman, Stan Edwards, Janet Flint, Pat Mason, and Alan Wall, Tony Higgott en-bloc agreed to stand again. Proposed Pat Key, second Kath Irvine.

Ken mentioned there is still a vacancy on the Committee and asked if there was anyone interested.

Subscriptions - Beverley North

For many years as a way of raising money to subsidise subscriptions, Janet Flint has kindly given her time and effort in running a Bonus Ball scheme. In recent years the level of participation in this has been falling, and it has become harder to persuade members to contribute and also it is difficult to collect money from members who never actually see Janet. It was always the case that members of the bonus ball were actually subsidising other members who do not participate. The Bonus Ball raised £318 in 2015, £275 in 2016 and as you can see in the 2017 accounts the amount raised last year was only £176. Due to the level of effort involved Janet has decided not to continue with this any more so I will take this opportunity to thank Janet for her past efforts, they are very much appreciated. At the last Committee meeting the Bonus Ball was discussed and it was concluded that too much time and effort is required to obtain these funds so it was agreed that we will not be running the bonus ball in 2018. It has been determined that with the current bank balance, the estimated 2018 annual subscriptions and the loss of the bonus ball that we can actually reduce the annual subscription cost down from £45 to £40, remove the 50p home refreshment charge and implement a 50p home and away match fee. Providing our membership numbers remain similar to last year then this would give us the same income level. Hopefully the lower subscription charge will encourage some new members who may start off in just 1 or 2 teams. While some may dislike the thought of a home and away match fee, it has been calculated that even if someone plays the maximum number of games home and away, then under the new proposal of a reduced £40 subscription and paying 50p match fee each time they play, the cost over the whole season will be less than £1 per game. I am sure that there can be no other sport where you can have a couple of hours exercise for such a small cost.

Therefore the Committee recommends this new proposal for 2018

The alternative is have no match fee but the subscriptions would have to be increased to £65. However in consideration to potential new members who we always need, and existing members who only play in one or two teams, they would then be paying a lot more per game and the Committee feels that this would be unfair.

Subscriptions recommended by the Committee were unanimously agreed

Safeguarding Officer - Tony Higgott

Last year all bowling clubs were notified that they had to put forward at least one member for training as a Welfare or Safeguarding Officer. Here I drew the short straw! However it is something that we all need to know about. As I am sure you are aware, in recent years there have been some high profile cases of abuse in the country involving children, and the law is now taking a tough stand on this sort of thing, so being a Club Safeguarding Officer is all about the protection of children and vulnerable adults within the club from abuse, and being first point of contact for any concerns they may have regardless of whether we actually have any at present. One guy on the same course as me complained that his club had no members under the age of 60 but he was soon told that this is compulsory. All clubs have to comply by 2019. So what does this mean for us? In law a child is any person under the age of 18 and abuse can take the form of mental, physical or sexual. This Club welcomes new members of all ages and both sexes. Youngsters are the bowlers of the future. and we all have a duty to help, encourage and protect them from abuse, However there are a few do’s and don’ts that we all need to be aware of with young members.

You cannot take photos of under 18s unless the Club has written permission from the parents, the same applies to administering any sort of medication. No alcohol is to be given to youngsters and no overt banter to be directed at them. Both are considered a form of abuse. We have a right to expect youngsters in visiting teams to behave, but if occasionally one starts shouting and swearing or gets upset perhaps because they are losing make their Captain aware of the situation and don’t try to discipline or comfort them yourself. You also need to take steps to safeguard yourself. When talking to young members do so in an open public place and not alone in a private room. You need to be particularly careful with away matches. If you have a youngster in your team and they live near you it is tempting to offer them a lift to the match as you would with any other member, but this is really not a good idea. Much better to let their family take them or if that is not possible make sure there is at least 2 adults in the car when you pick them up and drop them off. Being alone in a car with a child member is a bad idea. If they complained true or false that you had started touching them, you are in very serious trouble as it would be your word against theirs. The Club then has a duty to investigate any such complaints which usually means contacting the Councils safeguarding hub or bringing in the police. It is not an option, to simply dismiss the complaint and tell the child to forget it, as it will leave the club liable for prosecution for negligence, so be careful with this one. It is likely that you will never have a problem with this but the consequences of getting it wrong can be very serious. As it happens I know someone not connected with bowling who is going through this right now and his life is hell at present. So to summarise make young members welcome, encourage their game and help them but take care not to put yourself in a vulnerable situation with them.

Any questions or queries on this sort of thing have a word with either me.

Ken expressed a big thank you to Tony for taking on the role of Safeguarding Officer.

Website - Ken Harrison

Ken informed members of a new innovation for the club. He thanked Bob Wyllie, Alan Wall and Beverley who over the last few months have been working to create a new and impressive club website.

Bob who created the website, gave members an overview. He explained there are two versions for display on a desktop and on mobile phones. One page is a google map giving the location and in addition the club name is now shown on all google maps. The site name is etwallbowlsclub.org.uk and although we are registered with search engines, as more people visit the website we will slowly move to the top of search engine lists. We have taken the option of purchasing the site name for two years at an annual cost of £16 and there is a hosting fee of £6 per quarter. The home fixtures have been published as a list to enable members to see when the green is being used for league matches. On the page which lists all the club’s teams, there is a link against each one to take you onto the relevant MB Bowling website page for that team, so you can view fixtures and results. Unfortunately, as the site is new photographs are in short supply so Bob asked members to take pictures of the green (on a nice sunny day) to add onto the gallery page.

Green Maintenance and Opening Date - Ken Harrison

A big thank you to Mike for all his efforts on and around the green. Thanks to those who helped with the annual end of season renovation. Mike has continued with his usual enthusiasm; the finer grasses are continuing to replace the more broader leaf grasses, something that green keepers desire but do not always achieve. Throughout the year many substances are applied to the green. These require the conditions to be correct for application: considering timescales, weather and green availability, these often cause concern to Mike. I believe the green is now considered by other bowls club members as one of the best in Derbyshire, if not the best. Finally a complaint from Mike; would all members using the gate lock, please ensure that the lock is orientated the correct way round to display the numbers when locked. It is important to have the numbers side of the lock towards yourself/car park when locked to allow the next person to easily see the numbers to open.

Weather permitting Mike intends to open the green on Thursday 29th March 2018.

Ken concluded by thanking all who attended and wished everyone a good season.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.