**ETWALL BOWLS CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING**

Held on Tuesday 8th October 2024 at 2pm in the Pavilion, Frank Wickham Hall, Etwall.

The meeting was chaired by Dave Dolman.

Members Present

Janet Dolman, Dave Dolman, Graham Hesketh, Tony Higgott, Jackie Fisher, Kath Irvine, Beverley North, Ann Williams

Apologies

Julian Baker

Remembrance

Those present took a moment to reflect on the recent passing of Alan Key. Jan said she would look for a digital photo of Alan to go to the SD Presentation evening.

Minutes of the last meeting

Distributed to all attendees and agreed as being correct.

Matters Arising

The £500 donated by Jane Greaves last year has still not been allocated. Suggestions for what to spend the money on were discussed, but nothing was agreed.

Following the final adjustments to the floodlights, there have been no further complaints or contact about the issue.

Correspondence

A condolence card had been sent on behalf of the Club to Pat Key.

Finance Update - Report by Jan Dolman

This year 80 members (including 16 social), last year 71 (including 14 social), subs up £156.

Extra money made on account interest approx £350, also on Easy fundraising, prize money and donation of £300. No major expenditure apart from the extra cost for adjusting the floodlights (approx £1000) and no other equipment needed.

Final balance should be about £1000 more than last year (approx £16300) but waiting for a couple of bills to come in (e.g. hall rental) and the bank statement for Sept. We are therefore in a very good position to start 2025.

We again owe our thanks to Etwall Parish Council for their continued support in paying 50% towards our green keeping materials.

Dave and Jackie again raised the point that, although the Club is making some money via Easy Fundraising, further promotion of this, especially to people who book holidays or take out insurance via the web, would help bring in even more money to the club without any effort on their part.

Dave thanked Jan for all her help with the accounts.

Green maintenance

Tony reported that all the planned post-season maintenance had gone very well (tapping down the edge boards, cutting, scarifying, aeration, rolling, seeding and top dressing). The mountain of grass/soil removed would be used to help raise the bottom of the gutters to a more comfortable depth. [Now completed post meeting.]

Dave gave a big vote of thanks to Tony for all the amazing work he puts in.

League Meetings

* Martin Bowker has agreed to continue as SD rep – no proposals.
* Bev & Martin North have agreed to continue as Belper reps – no proposals.
* Tony Higgott has agreed to continue as Burton Vets rep – no proposals.
* Jackie Fisher has agreed to continue as SD Ladies rep – no proposals.
* There is currently no rep for the East Mids Parks.

Captains’ reports and suggestions

All the reports submitted were read out.

All the captains were willing to do the job again, except for Wed evening teams (Belper Doubles and Parks). Graham reported that responses from the membership indicate that all current teams have viable numbers for next season (including a Parks team) but we did not have enough to support an increase in teams. Suggestions for Wed night captains were discussed but the positions will not be finalized till nearer the start of next season.

Jackie requested that Captains again be reminded to encourage players to have a more proactive approach to helping at matches, so that the burden of setting up, providing refreshments and tidying away is not left to the same people every week.

It was agreed that in the Belper League all competitions would be entered as normal. In South Derbyshire the Dickie Cup would be entered. In the Burton Vets we would only enter the A team in the Cup and the C team in the Shield. All Dave’s players would therefore be available to support the A team Cup run.

Competitions 2025

The Committee agreed to keep the two Bank Holiday open competitions again in 2025. Dave would organise the entrants for the May Day with Beverley & Graham running the on-day administration. Dave would organise the August knockout comp. The traditional Etwall Mixed Doubles Cup would be replaced with a 60th Anniversary charity event for the Club, the details and date of which to be decided.

Future Projects

* The Chairman of the Frank Wickham Hall committee believes that we would be allowed to put a sign up on the fence next to the gate, advertising the green and club. Dave said he would look into sorting a suitable sign from the supplier that FWH already uses. This is all subject to getting Parish Council permission.
* Given the healthy state of the club finances we can consider options for replacement of the two wooden sheds, although we have no immediate plans to do so. The watering system may need repair/replacement parts in the near future, but we are prepared to wait until it becomes a more urgent problem as the kits are very expensive.
* It was suggested that we might want to run a couple of Open Days at the beginning of the season to attract new members. These could be on a Friday/Sunday afternoon. If we decide on dates early enough we can get the adverts in the local newsletters to be distributed March/April. Graham will look into suitable dates and liaise with Bev for publication deadlines.
* It was suggested that we are probably hosting too many matches on the green, as this gives more opposition players time to practice our green as well as leading to increased wear. We should continue to accept some invitations (especially the high profile ones) but we should look to cut back on some of the others.
* The question was raised about whether we are in favour of allowing players to play twice in Floodlight matches. The idea was not supported.
* Paul Taylor has requested to start running a more organised Sunday morning competition for club members. This would effectively replace our Sunday Social Bowling activity which has declined in popularity this season. We agreed to let Paul try it out and see how it goes.

Preparations for AGM

* Fees - all agreed to keep the fees at the same rate for another year.
* Officers 2025 – All committee members agreed to continue next year, and all Officers agreed to stand again.
* The date for the AGM was agreed – 27 Mar 2025, 7pm in the FWH. [Graham has booked it.]
* The green opening date is scheduled for Sun 30 Mar 2025 at 1pm. All members are invited, and we may start with a traditional CrashBowl event (everyone simultaneously bowling at a solitary jack) followed by tea/coffee and cakes and social bowling.

A.O.B.

1. It was suggested that we should change the start point from the pavilion edge to one of the others (probably right-hand edge looking from the pavilion). If we put the start sign on a movable trestle we can move it on a match-by-match basis giving even more flexibility to captains. Graham agreed to source a suitable portable fixture for the sign.
2. Away players had commented that the light from the floodlights does not reach into the away shelter, so marking cards when it is dark is very difficult. One idea was to install a battery operated light in the shelter, but this was rejected. If away players are finding it difficult to score, they are welcome to sit with us on the veranda, where the lighting from the pavilion will make it easier for them.

The meeting closed at 3.45 pm.