

**MINUTES OF THE 32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE STAFFORD 55 BOWLING LEAGUE
HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2024 2 pm at LITTLEWORTH COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Members Present

Mike Bosson
Colin Dempsey
Brian Belfield
Ken Hunt

Chairman
Treasurer
Secretary
Vice-chairman

40 Members

The meeting began with a minutes silence in memory of absent friends and then the issuing of league and competition prize money and shields.

1 – The chairman opened the meeting

2 – Apologies

The following apologies were received: Peter/Lynne Randall, Del Milgate, Helen Thompson, Sue/David Marsden, David Kelsall, Jenny Bloor, Jean/Maurice Coppins, Sue Haynes, John/Janice West, David Bayliss, Clive/Julie Alderman, John Andrews.

3 – Approval of 2023 AGM Minutes

The minutes were approved.

4 – Matters Arising

The application from Lea Hall was approved and a team was entered into the league.

The change to the constitution relating to a forecast of high temperatures was approved and the constitution changed.

5 – Correspondence

A request from Penkridge to introduce a new team, proposed and seconded by Peggy Haidarovic and Helen Williams was approved. The team will be Penkridge B and last year's B will be Penkridge A. County Officers are now Silkmore and Alstom are now Fieldhouse.

6 – Chairman's Report

Despite it being a fairly poor summer on the weather front, there were very few postponements, and all seemed to run very smoothly, making for a successful season. There was much competitive bowling and generally high standards of sportsmanship. Let's make sure both those features are maintained in 2024.

Well done to all the league winners and competition winners. Special congratulations go to champions Rowley Park who went undefeated in Division 1; likewise to Colin Dempsey in singles and to Terry Wood in doubles. It was also good to see Lea Hall win Division 2 on their debut. This year we welcome a new team from Penkridge who we hope will do well and enjoy their participation.

I would like to record special thanks to Brian for all the excellent, untiring work he does for the league, even for a while last season when rather unwell. This latter issue points out the need for someone to step up and offer him support particularly on the admin/computer front. He also put in a lot of time running competitions and deputising for unavailable colleagues.

The competitions generally ran well with good turnouts; sincere thanks go to the organisers and their background helpers. Please do your part by turning up to play if you have entered and by letting the organiser know as early as possible if you cannot attend due to illness etc.

Just a reminder too in asking that playing twice in the same match is again kept to a minimum and should not exceed 3 times as per our gentleman's agreement.

In closing may I wish you all an enjoyable and sporting 2024 season.

Mike Bosson

7 – Treasurer's Report

As expected, county website and insurance fees all rose in 2023. But as team subscriptions were increased last year in anticipation of this rise, I am pleased to report that with income of £1420.00 and expenditure of £1242.62, this has resulted in a surplus of £177.38.

This leaves us with a bank balance of £1,197.17. As such, I recommend that the team subscriptions remain at £40 and the competition entry fee at £1 for the 2024 season.

Colin Dempsey 8/2/2024

The report was approved.

8 – Secretary's Report

This is now my 9th year as league secretary. I shall definitely not continue after 10.

I welcome a new captains Lynne Outhwaite(Penkridge B), Alan Hancock(Burton Manor B) and Sue and David Marsden(Littleworth).

League

Congratulations to Rowley Park for winning the league and Amasal Uni as runner up.

Congratulations to Lea Hall and Phoenix D for winning Division Two and thus for promotion to Division One.

Commiserations to Penkridge B(A) and County Officers(Silkmore) A who are relegated to Division 2.

With the extra Penkridge team in Division 2, to balance the two divisions, Phoenix B are also promoted to Division 1.

This season

We now have 11 teams in each division. And so, both divisions will have a full season with each team having two byes.

No fixture cards will be printed for issuing. Instead the division fixtures will be emailed to the captains along with the individual team schedule with dates and greens and post codes.

The competition details along with previous winners will be published in a document on the web.

Following the general web principle of not publishing telephone numbers unless behind passwords, the captain's numbers will be emailed only to the captains.

They are still also visible after logging in. Also, the competition details sent to the captains will have the organisers phone numbers.

I will also issue to the captains one printed copy of the above so that in the event that the captain or team member has no printing capability, the sheets can be photocopied.

The 2024 website will go live in a few days but I need chance to correct the phoenix teams that the website tends to miss align in copying from 2023 to 2024.

Refreshments

Not all teams will provide refreshments. If captains let me know, I will publish a list on the web of those not doing so.

Captains

I will email current registrations and team lists in the next day or two – but you can make your own changes until 1st April although preferably advise me of changes by email, text or phone.

You can add new members during the season, but by the Monday of playing week, but check on web!

Competitions

The non-winners is a drawn doubles with 1st/2nd division pairing and anyone who has never won a 55 League competition is eligible. The entry form lists those in your team who are not eligible.

Until after the end of the season when Thursdays become available, the first four competitions will be on Mondays and Tuesdays, the rest then on Thursday and Fridays. You have until 26th July to register for competitions on your captain's entry forms, when your captains then submits the forms at Fieldhouse. The details are on the web under competition details.

Sponsorship

Thanks to encouragement by Ken Hunt our sponsor from last year

Energy Saving Windows at Astonfields has agreed to sponsor again for this year. Please mention 55 league and at least one of our members used them last year!

9 - Constitution Changes

The Treasurer requests that the number of checkers be reduced to one. This removes the difficulty of having two checkers available at the same time. This was seconded by Graham Needs and approved.

10 – Election of Officers

The following officers are agreed to stand :-

Chairman – Mike Bosson

Vice Chairman – Ken Hunt

Treasurer – Colin Dempsey

Secretary – Brian Belfield

Competition Secretary – vacant

These bodies were proposed and seconded by Nev Ward and Rod Ewing and universally approved.

11 – Appointment of Account Checkers

Mick Hill agreed to be the checker for this next year and after proposed and seconded by Graham Needs and John Wells, was approved.

12 – Dates

Collection of paperwork - Fri 8th March 10.30 at Fieldhouse

Start of season - Thu 4th April

Competitions closing date – Fri 26th July 10.30am at Fieldhouse

Last League match - Thu 29th August

The meeting was closed at 2.55pm.

STAFFORD 55 BOWLING LEAGUE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR
ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023.

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Membership fees	840.00	Prizes	550.00
Sponsorship	300.00	Printing	204.00
Competition fees	265.00	Honoraria	165.00
Donations	15.00	Insurance	51.12
		Engraving	123.50
		Secretarial Expenses	60.90
		Room Hire	22.00
		County Fee	43.00
		Website Fee	23.10
		Surplus for 2023	177.38
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1420.00</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1420.00</u>

ACCUMULATION FUND AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Accumulated surplus	£1,019.79	Bank Balance	£1,197.79
Surplus for 2023	£ 177.38		
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£1,197.17</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£1,197.17</u>

Checkers

Mick Evans

Mick Hill

M S Evans
M Hill
31.1.24.

Treasurer

Colin Dempsey

C. Dempsey
31.1.24