

STAFFORD VETERANS BOWLING LEAGUE

Honorary President
George Tweddle B.E.M.

Chairman:
Ian Spedding
07773 702249

Treasurer:
Phil Hood
01785 211701

Secretary:
Ken Lancaster
20 Mayock Crescent
Stafford
ST16 1BX

Tel: 01785 229237
MOB: 07916 094327
Email: Vets.Sec@gmx.co.uk

Minutes of the 2020 AGM of the Stafford Veterans Bowling League held in the Stan Robinson Suite at Stafford Rangers Football Club on Wednesday 12th February

Members Present: - Ian Spedding (Chairman), Phil Hood (Treasurer), Ken Lancaster (Secretary), Anne Mace (Competitions Secretary).
91 Members

1. Welcome:

The Chairman opened the meeting with a short safety briefing and welcomed those present.

The Annual Awards Ceremony then took place with the Chairman handing out the various League and Competition Prizes for 2019.

A minutes silence was observed in remembrance of passed bowlers

2. Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from the following members: Derek Hodgkiss, Trevor Ottoway, Ned Elcock, Dave Haidarovic, Barry Dunn, Mick Evans, Derek Skinner, Richard Palmer, Cliff Jenkinson, Mike Bosson.

3. Approval of 2019 AGM Minutes:

Proposer: John Andrews, Seconder: Nev Ward.
Approved unanimously.

4. Matters Arising:

The Secretary indicated that this would be covered in his report.

5. Correspondence:

The Secretary reported on a comprehensive letter received from Richard Palmer proposing changes to the league structure with 3 divisions rather than 2 and rescheduling competitions during the course of the season. This had been discussed at the end of season Captains Meeting and had not gained the support of Captains. Richard Palmer had been informed of the situation.

STAFFORD VETERANS BOWLING LEAGUE



6. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman reported on his first year in office and thanked all Captains and players for contributing to another successful season. He was particularly appreciative of the goodwill that had been shown to the new officers by all concerned. Noting the fact that 3 senior posts i.e. Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary were held by Stafford U3A players he commented that, for the future, it would be helpful to spread these posts more widely amongst the membership.

7. Treasurer's Annual Statement

The Treasurer presented his report on the current state of the Leagues Finances, noting that, although expenditure had exceeded income by £99 in 2019 there was still a healthy balance of approximately £1,400 in the account. The checked accounts are on the website.

He further reported that, following discussions with a representative of the Stan Robinson Company it had been agreed that the Company would sponsor the League with a donation of £300 for the 2020 Season.

Based upon that sponsorship, the hope that some savings might be made on stationery and that there might be a small increase in revenue from more members entering competitions, the Treasurer recommended that league fees remain the same for the forthcoming season.

This was accepted by members and the Treasurer was thanked for his report.

8. Competitions Secretary Report

Anne reported on the success of the 2019 competitions. She was particularly grateful for the support she had received from clubs which had been willing to make their greens and facilities available and for all the work done by various club members to provide refreshments etc. Members were encouraged to enter the competitions this year and also to come along and support and enjoy the refreshments.

She also thanked John Kerwin who had agreed to run the Individual Merit competition at Little Stoke in the 2020 season

9. Secretary's Annual Report:

The Secretary reported on his first year in the role emphasising that it had involved a steep learning curve in terms of mastering the IT requirements in relation to the web site, Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word etc. Work was ongoing.

He noted the support and help he had received from, amongst others, John Andrews, Brian Belfield, Anne and Stuart Mace and the Chair and Treasurer in relation to the running of the League in 2019.

The first half on the season had passed largely uneventfully with the changes to the Constitution introduced at the last AGM relating to "doubling up" being taken on board successfully by captains. Where issues had arisen he had occasionally had to make reference to the terms of the Constitution and Rules.

STAFFORD VETERANS BOWLING LEAGUE

In the second half of the season, however, a number of events had taken place. He remarked particularly upon the fact that Hatherton had lost the use of their green through no fault of their own as a result of legal and financial disputes around the leisure complex. He thanked all those at Hatherton and Littleton for having arranged for the Littleton green to be used by Hatherton thus enabling them to complete their fixtures. This arrangement would continue for the 2020 season.

Work had also begun on the refurbishment of Victoria Park which presented problems with regard to access to the green etc. and this, too, was likely to continue for the new season but hopefully without too much disruption.

Unfortunately a situation had arisen whereby Amasal Uni. had called off a match in circumstances not permitted within the Constitution. A Management Committee Meeting had been convened at which Amasal Uni were represented and where it had been decided to award the match to the opposition team. Amasal Uni. had subsequently withdrawn from the League. The Secretary thanked committee members for their time and effort in what had been a difficult situation and expressed his hope that Amasal Uni bowlers would find new teams.

Appalling weather conditions on 14th August had led to four matches being called off and having to be rearranged. Despite the best efforts of all the captains involved who had acted sensibly and properly, technically the existing Constitution had been contravened in all cases. This suggested that there was something wrong with the Constitution rather than with the actions of the captains and would be addressed later in the meeting.

The Secretary ended his report by recalling the earlier presentation to award winners and highlighting the fact that, in the summer of 2019, the success of the League had been that, for 6 months, several hundred of us had enjoyed weekly fresh air, exercise, companionship and healthy competitive bowling.

10. Proposal to Changes to the Constitution and rules:

The Secretary picked up from his report the proposed rule changes which largely related to bringing it into line with current practice, clarifying the situation with regard to the postponement of matches for weather related reasons and for introducing a sanction in the case of unauthorised postponements. These had been thoroughly discussed by Club Representatives, displayed on the web-site for more than two weeks before this meeting and recommended for approval by Club Representatives. (Details attached with deletions from the Constitution shown in *red* and additions in *blue*).

The proposed changes were approved by members.

11. Election of Officers 2020

The Chairman reported that all officers, with the exception of Ned Elcock, were prepared to stand again. John Kerwin (Little Stoke) had been nominated and seconded for the vacant post of Vice-Chairman.

Members voted to confirm current officers and John Kerwin in post:

Ian Spedding	Chairman
John Kerwin	Vice Chairman
Phil Hood	Treasurer

STAFFORD VETERANS BOWLING LEAGUE

Ken Lancaster Secretary
Ann Mace Competitions Secretary
John Andrews Safeguarding Officer

The Chairman paid tribute to Ned Elcock for his work over many years on behalf of the League and reminded members of the desirability of not having the Committee dominated by any one team. (Currently, the Chairman, treasurer and Secretary are all from Stafford U3A)

12. Appointment of Account Checkers 2020.

It was agreed that Nev and Sylvia Ward be appointed as Account Checkers for the Season.

13. Consideration of Applications to Join the League

The Secretary prefaced this item by reporting that, in addition to Amasal Uni. Alstom C had also withdrawn from the League.

Applications had been received from Brewood and Rugeley Progressive to join Division 2 and their applications are recommended by Club Representatives.

It was agreed that Brewood and Rugeley Progressive be admitted to Division 2.

14. League Divisional Structure and Arrangements for 2020 Season

At the pre-AGM Meeting Club Representatives had decided that, if the Brewood and Rugeley Progressive applications were accepted, the League would be split in to two Divisions of equal size i.e. 13 teams in each by promoting to Division 1 the team that finished third in Division 2 in 2019. Rowley Park will, therefore, be promoted to Division 1.

15. Any Other Business

The Secretary reported on information he had received from the Staffordshire Federation and the Referees Meeting relating to; (a) footwear on the green; (b) moving bowls before an end is completed and (c) code of conduct around the green. (Details on website).

He then reminded captains that paperwork relating to the new season would be distributed from Alstom Bowling Club at 10.30 am on Friday 6th March.

The season will start on Wednesday 1st April.

The meeting closed at 3.05 pm.