**MELKSHAM & DISTRICT SKITTLE LEAGUE**

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD AT THE CONSERVATIVE CLUB, MELKSHAM**

**ON 13TH JULY, 2022**

**FOR 2021/2022 SEASON**

**PRESENT:-**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:-**

**Andy Hillier** **-** **Chairman** **Anita Hall** **-** **Joint Treasurer**

**Andy Bainton** **-** **Fixtures Secretary** **Pauline Hillier**

**Carolann Annal** **-** **Minute secretary** **Ken Wathen**

**Pauline Rankin** **-** **Treasurer** **Alex Annal**

**SKITTLE TEAMS:-**

**LADIES:** **Anova Ladies: Bottoms Up: Breakaways: Cons A: Cons D: Georgians: Hilperton A: Liberal C: Liberal Castaways: Liberal Ladies: Liberal Quackers: Nomads: S A L Ladies: Semington A: The Chasers: The Royals: Tipsy Skittlers**

**MENS:** **Avon A: Avon D: Comrades: Cons A: Cons C: Cons D: Drifters: Good Bad & Ugly: Legion E: M.U.D.S: Melksham Casuals: Melksham Rovers: Saracens: Seend A: Seend B: Semington A: Semington B: Motley Crew: Staverton A; Staverton B: Steeple Ashton: The Animals: The Bees:**

**OPENING OF MEETING BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR ANDY HILLIER:-**

**The Chairman welcomed all those present and thanked them for attending.**

**The Chairman asked the floor whether anyone would be interested in joining the Committee. He explained the duties of the Committee and said that the more Committee Members involved, the less onerous the duties, as these would be shared among the Committee Members. Unfortunately, there were no volunteers.,**

**There was a minute silence for the members and ex-Members who had unfortunately died during the last year. Particular mention being made to Ryland Richards for all his hard work which he carried out during his term in office.**

**APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS:**

**The Chairman appointed Alex Annal and Ken Wathen as Scrutineers to count the votes during the evening.**

**APOLOGIES:-**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:-**

**There were none.**

**LADIES TEAMS:** **Armstrongs Angels: Forest Fairies: Semington B:**

**MEN’S TEAMS:** **Allsorts:**

**MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 31ST AUGUST, 2021:-**

**The Minutes of the last AGM had been circulated to all Captains. These were approved by all and signed by the Chairman, Mr Andy Hillier.**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 31ST AUGUST 2021:**

**There were none.**

**TREASURER’S REPORT:-**

**Pauline Rankin, Treasurer, informed the floor that unfortunately, the accounts had not been signed off by the Accountant/Auditor, as the Accountant/Auditor who had been dealing with the accounts for many years had retired. Although a new Accountant/Auditor had been appointed, he was away on holiday but would sign off the accounts on his return. The new accountant/Auditor had kindly agreed to waive his fees.**

**The Treasurer informed the floor that the financial report would be sent out in the next Newsletter.**

**The Treasurer informed the floor that there was £8664.15 in the Bank account as at today. However, this figure did not include the cheques which had been issued today.**

**Pauline thanked the Captains for paying their invoices quickly and encouraged everyone, where possible, to pay their invoices by the BACS system.**

**Pauline said that the payment for engraving, renewing and repairing the trophies amounted to £414.**

**The Committee had not charged the teams for their league fees last season due to the Covid situation. However, the Committee has decided to increase the fees slightly for the forthcoming Season. These will be as follows:-**

**Men’s Division:-**

**£15 for the League fees**

**£3 for each cup competition.**

**Ladies Division:-**

**£12 for the League fees**

**£3 for each cup competition.**

**The fee for the Sticker Ups for competitions had been increased to £30.**

**ALL AGREED**

**Pauline informed the floor that the Committee were short of Sticker Ups and asked whether anyone might know of a youngster who would be interested.**

**HONORARIA:-**

**The Committee proposed that the Honoraria would remain the same as it had been for several years. This was seconded by Andy Harding of Staverton B.**

**ALL AGREED**

**FIXTURES SECRETARY’S REPORT:-**

**Andy Bainton, Fixtures Secretary issued the following information to all Captains when they arrived for the meeting. This information was as follows:-**

**“After missing the 2020/21 season due to Covid, it was great to see so many teams back on the alley. I hope you all enjoyed it, even though sometimes it wasn’t that easy.**

**Well done to those teams that still played their set games with a player or two short even after using A N Other, a credit to the Captains and their team for not just postponing the game.**

**The Committee would like to give our Congratulations to teams who have won honours this season and our commiserations go to those that were less fortunate.**

**We would also like to say Thank you to all those that took part in the Singles and Pairs competitions. There were a lot more entries than we have had for a long time in some competitions; this did mean we had a tight squeeze for the Ladies Pairs at Forest Community Centre and a venue change for the Men’s Singles.**

**I would like to say Thank You to all the teams for getting their results to me on time. I believe this was helped by results being sent in via Email, Facebook, Messenger and WhatsApp meaning the website was kept up to date as soon as possible.**

**Again, being able to send out some Newsletters via Email has saved me a lot of delivery time but the rest are still taking up to 1 hour to deliver, sometimes with the assistance of someone putting letters through the doors for me whilst I drive. It would help me greatly, if more teams were able to receive them via Email.**

**During the season we unfortunately lost two Men’s teams which added an extra open date to both divisions. I’m happy to say one of those teams have returned, but more on that later in Team Applications and Placings.**

**A FEW STATS FROM THE SEASON**

**LADIES PREMIER** **DIVISION 1**

**Spares** **65** **Spares** **36**

**ducks** **69** **Ducks** **199**

**Another** **21** **Another** **32**

**Total Pins** **41059** **Total Pins** **45591**

**MEN’S PREMIER** **DIVISION 1**

**Spares** **302** **Spares** **204**

**Ducks** **1891** **Ducks** **61**

**Another** **26** **Another** **19**

**Total Pins** **65242** **Total Pins** **80292**

**ON TO THE NOT SO GOOD THINGS FROM THE SEASON.**

**CUP ENTRIES**

**If you or any of your team members enter the Singles or Pairs Cup Competitions and then cannot make the night, please inform a member of the Committee. This season we had to move the venue for the Men’s Singles so that we could fit everyone in. This had to be arranged, extra stickers up arranged and then communications to all Captains. Sadly, on the night quite a few did not turn up meaning the league made a bigger loss on the night for the competition.**

**SCORE SHEETS**

**Sadly again, I have received a lot of score sheets throughout the season that were not filled out correctly. This included missing Team Names or even an incorrect name, Start Time, Date Signatures and Scores/Totals/Points.**

**On at least 64 occasions (54 Men’s) across all leagues, something was missing. I actually got fed up of recording data. Although an improvement on previous years, we do have fewer teams.**

**Some team members have actually said to me that it doesn’t really matter; well, that’s where they are wrong. It does matter! It is a rule you all agree to when playing in the MADS league.**

**OUTSTANDING GAMES AT THE END OF THE SEASON**

**Unfortunately, in the Men’s division, a few games were still outstanding after the end of the season. All but one of these games was played within the two weeks allowed in General Rule 7. The remainder of the Rule was then applied as the game would not affect any Promotion or Relegation awarding the 5 points to the non defaulting team.**

**FINALLY SOME INDIVIDUAL THANK YOU’S**

**Stu Taylor for his help on the Website.**

**Donna my wife, for stuffing envelopes each month for the Newsletters and my sons helping me deliver the Newsletters when they could be bothered.”**

**There were no questions from the floor.**

**RULE CHANGES PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE:-**

**The following Rules were proposed by the Committee:-**

**1.** **That once a match playing rule had been adopted at the AGM, then this rule shall apply for a minimum of 3 seasons.**

**Proposed by Alex Annal – Saracens**

**Seconded by John Self – Comrades**

**38 votes in favour**

**No votes against.**

**PROPOSAL AGREED.**

**2.** **That if an incomplete score sheet is sent to the Fixtures Secretary then a fine of £3 will be issued in accordance with the Schedule of Charges.**

**Proposed by Committee**

**Seconded by Ken Wathen**

**ALL IN FAVOUR – PROPOSAL AGREED**

**3.** **An additional paragraph to the Pairs and Singles Competition rules as follows:-**

**“The number of legs played, etc”. That reads:-**

**“If time permits and depending on number of entries the competition shall be run, initially on a knock out basis, down the board (this could be applied twice dependant on number of entries), then second phase going to knock out rounds (players drawn together) I.e. Quarter Final, Semi Final and Final.**

**Proposed by Committee**

**Seconded by Mark Wiltshire – Seend A**

**ALL IN FAVOUR – PROPOSAL AGREED**

**RULE CHANGES – PROPOSED BY TEAMS:-**

**LADIES DIVISION:-**

**The following rule was proposed by the Ladies Division:-**

**That the Ball Line be changed to the Foot Line.**

**Proposed by Mrs S Crabbe and Pauline Rankin**

**Seconded by Mrs M Slingsby and Pauline Hillier.**

**9 votes in favour**

**8 votes against.**

**PROPOSAL AGREED.**

**MEN’S DIVISION:-**

**The following rule was proposed by the Men’s Division:[-**

**To restructure the point system to ensure that whoever scores the most pins wins the game. I point for a leg and 4 points for the aggregate.**

**Proposed by Mark Wiltshire – Seend A**

**Seconded by David Richards**

**2 votes in favour**

**Majority against**

**PROPOSAL DENIED AND EXISTING RULE TO REMAIN**

**LADIES AND MEN’S DIVISIONS:-**

**A proposal was put forward to change Rule 7 of the General League Rules relating to the 3 and 6 week period for re-arranging cancelled games.**

**Mark Wiltshire of Seend A suggested the following amendment:-**

**1.** **Do away with the 3 – 6 week re-scheduling rule.**

**2.** **All fixtures to be played by the last week of the scheduled season.**

**3.** **Leave an open week in the penultimate week of the season for re-arranged matches.**

**4.** **Any games not played by last week of season then full points awarded to the innocent team.**

**A counter-proposal was put forward by the Committee:-**

**1.** **Teams shall be allowed to postpone one game per season for failing to raise a team without penalty.**

**2.** **Any further games postponed by the same team will be punished by deducting 2 points from the defaulting team and imposing a fine of £10.**

**3.** **The 3 – 6 week re-scheduling rule to remain.**

**After a lengthy discussion the following rule amendment was suggested as a compromise to the two amendments already proposed which was as follows:-**

**If any game is postponed in the first half of the season I.e. up to 31st December then this game must be re-arranged and played before the end of 31st December with the exception that if a game is postponed during the last week of the season, then this game must be played within one week after 31st December.**

**Any game postponed in the second half of the season I.e. up to the last week shown on the fixture card then the game must be played by that date with the exception of any game postponed during the last week of the season then that game must be played within one week of the last date of the season.**

**Failure of the above will result in points being deducted and fines incurred as stated in the schedule of Charges.**

**Proposed by David Jenkins**

**Seconded by Nigel Hodgson.**

**Captains were asked to vote on the 3 proposals :-**

**A.** **Committee** **7 votes in favour**

**B.** **Mark Wiltshire** **11 votes in favour**

**C.** **David Jenkins** **21 votes in favour**

**THEREFORE, PROPOSAL C WAS AGREED AND THIS WOULD BE INCORPARATED IN THE RULES**

**4.** **A proposal was put forward that the winners of the Ladies and Men’s Captain’s Cups play each other to establish an overall winner.**

**ALL VOTED IN FAVOUR AND PROPOSAL AGREED**

**TEAM RESIGNATIONS, APPLICATIONS AND PLACINGS:**

**The Fixtures Secretary, Andy Bainton, thanked those teams who have already sent in their signing On forms for this new Season. For those teams who have not, the forms need to be sent in with your score sheets, no later than your 3rd game of the Season. If any away teams have not sent in their forms before the specified date, please give your forms to the home team Captain.**

**Additional Signing On Forms will be sent out with the fixtures card prior to the start of the Season. Players can be signed on prior to the start of the game on that night but the Signing On Form must accompany the score sheet. Any new player must sign the form personally.**

**Going forward could all teams please put a star next to your teams’ name which will help identify teams and help with the filing in the correct folder.**

**MEN’S DIVISION**

**The fixtures secretary, Andy Bainton informed the floor that two teams withdrew from the League last season. However, three teams are re-joining the league which are The Animals, Spencers’ B and Steeple Ashton.**

**As a result of the above three teams re-joining the League and with the current promotion and relegation there would be 15 teams in the 1st Division and 12 in the Premier Division. As these numbers would not work out on the fixtures, Andy has levelled the divisions up. Therefore, Forest Rangers will stay in the Premier Division.**

**Staverton A and MUDS are promoted to the Premier Division and Staverton B are relegated to the 1st Division.**

**Therefore, there will be 13 teams in the Premier Division and 14 teams in the 1st Division.**

**The Men’s Divisions will commence the week beginning 29th August and conclude the week beginning 24th April with two open dates for the Christmas period.**

**As some of the cup competitions are returning this season, there will be again, a 2nd round fixed date for the cups, thus enabling teams to play their first two rounds without the necessity of finding other dates for those games.**

**The Committee have agreed to bring back 3 cups this season which are The KO Cup, FPF Cup and 8 A side Nomination. Due to the number of players in each team it is not possible to bring back the 12 A Side Nomination.**

**Spencer’s A have changed their name to Motley Crew and Forest Rangers have changed their name to Allsorts.**

**The Fixtures secretary informed the floor that there may be a possible delay in games being played at Spencer’s due to blood donations and the NHS vaccinations. If any teams are aware of any dates which may affect their games could the Captains’ please inform the opposing teams. In these instances, could both score sheets show the reason for the delay.**

**LADIES DIVISION:**

**Unfortunately, West Ashton have resigned from the League. However, I am happy to report that Semington A have returned to the League and they will play in the 1st Division.**

**As a result of the above, there will be 10 teams in the Premier Division with two open dates and 11 teams in the 1st Division with one open date.**

**S A L Ladies and Hilperton A were promoted to the Premier Division and The Chasers and The Royals were relegated to the 1st Division.**

**The Ladies Divisions will commence the week beginning 19th September and conclude the week beginning 27th March with two open dates for the Christmas period.**

**With some of the Cup games returning this Season there will be again, a 2nd round fixed date for the Cups; thus enabling teams to play their first two rounds without the necessity of finding other dates for those games.**

**Awdrys Angels have changed their name to Forest Fairies.**

**Spencer’s will now be open for skittles. At the moment, games will be played on a Monday night and this will be shown on the fixtures card. However, Spencer’s have informed Andy that the Monday night may be changed to a Tuesday night as from Christmas and Andy will confirm this in a Newsletter at that time.**

**RESIGNATIONS/ELECTIONS OF MANAGEMENT AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:-**

**The Chairman informed the floor that Richard George has resigned from the Committee. This now left 8 members on the Committee.**

**The Chairman gave details of the Management and Committee Members which required to be re-elected. These were as follows:-**

**President** **-** **Sandra Banks**

**Vice President** **-** **Julie Webb**

**Chairman** **-** **Andy Hillier – The Chairman is voted in by the Committee**  **Members every 3 years**

**Fixtures Secretary**  **-** **Andy Bainton**

**Treasurer** **-** **Pauline Rankin**

**Joint Treasurer** **-** **-** **Anita Hall**

**Minute Secretary**  **-** **Carolann Annal**

**Committee Member** **-** **Pauline Hillier**

**Committee Member** **-** **Ken Wathen**

**Committee Member** **-** **Alex Annal**

**The Chairman informed the floor that all the above Committee Members were happy to serve another term and asked for their vote in agreement.**

**THE ABOVE WAS AGREED BY ALL**

**The Chairman also informed the floor that as there were only 8 Committee Members not all cup competitions may not be able to be officiated.**

**SPONSORS:-**

**Pauline Rankin asked whether anyone would be prepared to sponsor the Cup Competitions. The Committee would be asking for a donation of £30 per year to cover the wine for the cup Competitions.**

**Paul Walker of Melksham Tile & Bathroom Centre kindly volunteered to sponsor the League.**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:-**

**The Captain of The Liberal Quackers asked whether they could play more than 1 A Another as she struggles getting a full team. Unfortunately, this was not allowed.**

**David Jenkins from Cons C suggested that to encourage new young players that the young players only play rough skittles and not front pin first to enable them to gain more confidence. This was denied.**

**The Captain of Staverton B informed the Committee that Staverton Club may not be available during November/December because of the Football world Cup. The Committee remarked that the club should re-arrange their skittle games around the football to avoid skittle games being cancelled.**

 **CLOSING REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, MR ANDY HILLIER:-**

**The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking everyone again for their support during the last season and for attending the meeting.**

**Andy emphasised the need for more Committee Members to ensure the smooth running of the League. David Jenkins of Cons C said that he might be interested and would let Andy know.**

**The Meeting closed at 8.45pm.**