**MELKSHAM & DISTRICT SKITTLE LEAGUE**

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD AT THE CONSERVATIVE CLUB, MELKSHAM**

**ON MONDAY 17TH JULY, 2023 AT 7.30.PM**

**FOR 2022/2023 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: Forest Fairies: Georgians:**

**Hilperton A: Liberal Castaways: Liberal C: Liberal Ladies: Nomads: SAL Ladies:**

**Semington A: Semington Angels: Semington B: The Royals: Tipsy Skittlers.**

**ALL LADIES TEAMS EITHER ATTENDED THE MEETING OR SENT APOLOGIES**

**MENS:**  **Avon A: Avon D: Cavaliers: Comrades: Cons A: Cons C: Cons D: Good, Bad & Ugly:**

**Legion E: Melksham Casuals: Melksham Rovers: Motley Crew: MUDS: Saracens:**

**Seend A: Seend B: Semington B: Staverton A: Staverton B: Steeple Ashton:**

**The Animals: The Bees: The Pilot.**

**ALL MENS TEAMS EITHER ATTENDED THE MEETING OR SENT APOLOGIES**

**WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SPENCER’S B.**

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

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

**A minute silence was held for the Members and ex-Members who had, unfortunately, died during the year. The Chairman said that all our thoughts are with their family and friends.**

**APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS:-**

**The Chairman appointed Ken Wathen and Marilyn Jay as Scrutineers to count the votes during the meeting.**

**APOLOGIES:-**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:-**

**There were none.**

**LADIES TEAMS:** **Broughton Sports and The Chasers.**

**MEN’S TEAMS:** **Drifters, Allsorts, Semington A and Staverton A.**

**MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 13TH JULY 2022:-**

**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 HELD ON 13TH JULY 2022:-**

**There were none.**

**TREASURER’S REPORT:-**

**Copies of the Financial Report were handed out to all members who attended the meeting for their perusal.**

**Pauline Rankin, Treasurer, thanked everyone who had paid their bills and end of season bill either by cheque or by bank transfer. This had made things much easier to prepare the accounts for this year. It was also easier not having to deal with large amounts of cash.**

**The Treasurer informed the floor that she had managed to email nearly everyone with their end of season bills and League and Competition Entry Forms. The Treasurer asked whether the teams who she posted the bills and forms to, had an email address which they could use which would make it easier for the Treasurer. If so, could they please let the Treasurer know the email address.**

**The Treasurer informed the floor that she allows approximately 3 weeks for the end of season bills to be paid. If the bills have not been paid within that period, then the Treasurer sends out a gentle reminder which hopefully eliminates incurring any fines for late payment.**

**The Treasurer informed the floor that Barclays Bank, who the League deal with, are closing most of their branches and the nearest branch which the League can use is now Bath.**

**The Treasurer thanked the Liberal Club for paying for the wine and sticker ups in the Men’s Front Pin First Competition.**

**Referring to the Financial Report for the 2022-2023 season the Treasurer hoped that everyone had read these which showed the Income and Expenditure for this financial year. This also included the cost of some new trophies and engraving.**

**HONORARIA:-**

**The Treasurer proposed a 5% increase in the Honoraria for the 2023-2024 season. There had not been an increase since 2019.**

**PROPOSED BY MRS T CLARK AND SECONDED BY MRS M JAY.**

**ALL AGREED**

**FIXTURES SECRETARY’S REPORT:-**

**Andy Bainton, Fixtures Secretary reported to the members as follows:-**

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

**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 teams for not just postponing the game.**

**We would also like to say thank you to all of those who took part in the Singles and Pairs Competitions. Again, this year, we had more entries than in previous years.**

**Thanks 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. The sooner I receive the results, the faster I can update the website.**

**When I started out as Fixtures Secretary it would take 2 hours 15 minutes to deliver the Newsletters without stopping. This season, because most teams now receive the Newsletter via email that time has now been reduced down to 35 minutes with the assistance of some-one putting letters through the doors while I drive.**

**It would help me considerably if more teams were able to receive the Newsletters via email. It does not need to be a Captain but someone who is able to print the information off to show the team.**

**A special mention to Mr R Burchell and Mr R Collins for both achieving a spare of 23 this season. I had thought that there was another one but could not find it when going back through the score sheets.**

**A FEW STATS FROM THE SEASON:-**

**Ladies Premier** **Division 1**

**Spares** **82** **Spares** **57**

**Ducks** **75** **Ducks** **103**

**Another** **25** **Another** **17**

**Total Pins** **42119** **Total Pins** **39498**

**Men’s Premier** **Division 1**

**Spares** **408** **Spares** **306**

**Ducks** **2204** **Ducks** **88**

**Another** **12** **Another** **32**

**Total Pins** **77737** **Total Pins** **109469**

**ON TO THE NOT SO GOOD THINGS FROM THIS SEASON:-**

**TEAMS:-**

**We unfortunately lost one Ladies team during the season from the 1st Division.**

**SCORE SHEETS:-**

**When I became Fixtures Secretary, one of the first things I did was to try and clean up the score books and make them clearer and easier for teams to fill out.**

**Filling the score sheets out with ALL required information have always been in the rules, this is not a new thing.**

**I sent out reminders on how to fill score sheets out correctly in nearly every Newsletter this season but, unfortunately, this information was not always passed on to the people who filled in the score sheets. I did ask at last season’s AGM for Captains to help each other to ensure all information is filled in when signing the score sheet.**

**In the 21/22 season when I received 64 score sheets with information missing, I gave up recording it and fines were introduced at the last AGM in the hope that the rule would be followed. However, this season there were 100+ score sheets not filled in correctly from the Men’s Divisions and 3 score sheets not filled in correctly from the Ladies Divisions.**

**New score sheet books have been put together for the Men’s Divisions this season with a 5th leg. The two boxes above v’s are for you to put a star in, to indicate which score sheet is yours. Hopefully the new books are clear enough and easy to understand what is required for a correctly filled out score sheet.**

**POSTPONED GAMES AND END OF THE SEASON:-**

**17 Men’s games and 11 Ladies games were postponed this season. This was better than previous seasons, but still unfortunately too many. Some great work was done by captains this season bringing their games forward, so a big thank you for that.**

**Unfortunately, two games were not played this season. Points were awarded to the non-defaulting team as per the rules but we ended up voiding one game as a team were not happy with our initial decision and provided further information which we did not receive to start with.**

**3 Men’s and 2 Ladies teams received a point’s deduction for 2 game postponements.**

**If you know of dates in advance that, as a team you cannot make, please let your opponents know at the earliest possible time and even bring the game forward if possible.**

**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 for helping me deliver the Newsletters when they could be bothered.**

**The Clubs who provided free drinks for our stickers up on Cup Final Nights and a special mention to Jamie and Kerry from the Liberal Club who provided wine and paid the stickers up wages for the Men’s Front Pin First Competition.**

**Andy Bainton asked the members whether they had any questions on his Report. Tracey Clark from Liberal Ladies asked how to fill in the score sheets correctly. Andy explained that he had tried to make it as simple and easy as possible for everyone to understand. It was suggested that Andy put an example of a completed score sheet in the next Newsletter.**

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

**1.** **UPDATE TO RULE 7 – HOME AND AWAY GAMES SHALL BE PLAYED**

**A)** **Amend bracketed wording from (notice to be given to the Fixture’s Secretary) to** **read “game date must be re-arranged within a 2 week period of the**

**Postponement and notice to be given to the Fixture’s Secretary.”**

**ALL IN FAVOUR** **-** **PROPOSAL AGREED**

**B)** **ADD AN ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPH AT THE END OF ABOVE RULE TO READ:-**

**“Should a Team fail to complete all of its games, they shall be required to seek**

**Re-election to the League at the following AGM.”**

**FOR** **28** **AGAINST** **4**

**PROPOSAL AGREED**

**2.** **UPDATE TO RULE 8 – TRANSFER OF PLAYERS**

**Players requesting a transfer must use the League form. This will require the signature of the two (2) Captains concerned**  **and should be passed to the Fixture’s Secretary when complete. When approved by the Committee the player can then register for their new team. The only reason the player’s departing team can refuse to sign is due to the player owing the team money. This reason must be registered with the Fixture’s Secretary within seven (7) days of the request. Players may transfer at any stage of the season, but should the Committee find the request inappropriate the transfer may be declined.**

**ALL IN FAVOUR** **PROPOSAL AGREED**

**3.** **AMENDMENT TO SCHEDULE OF CHARGES**

**A)** **Increase withdrawal from League charge to £25**

**MAJORITY IN FAVOUR** **PROPOSAL AGREED**

**B)** **Add a charge for teams failing to deal with League Business - £10**

**THIS PROPOSAL WAS DENIED.**

**4.** **UPDATE MEN’S HILLIER SINGLES – NOMINATION CUPS AND MEN’S NOMINATION PAIRS**

**Amend both competitions to be played as Ordinary Skittles and remove all reference to Nomination.**

**FOR 12** **AGAINST 8**

**PROPOSAL AGREED - THE ABOVE COMPETITIONS TO BE PLAYED AS ROUGH SKITTLES**

**RULE CHANGES PROPOSED BY TEAMS – MEN'S DIVISIONS:-**

**1.** **It is proposed that the Premier and 1st Division of the Men’s Skittle League both play rough skittles.**

**Proposer** **Alex Annal** **Saracens**

**Seconded** **John Crew** **Saracens**

**After much discussion Alex Annal was asked by Andy Hillier (Chairman) whether he would amend the new rule so that only the Men’s Premier Division voted on this proposal. Alex agreed.**

**PROPOSAL DENIED – MEN'S PREMIER DIVISION TO STAY FRONT PIN FIRST**

**2.** **An idea to make games more exciting and hopefully closer is the idea of a wildcard leg – each team can use a wildcard leg each match and if they decide to use it then they can decide whether that leg be played as full nomination, rough skittles or remain front pin.**

**Proposer** **Dave Jenkins** **Cons C**

**Seconded** **S Kirk** **Cons C**

**THIS PROPOSAL WAS WITHDRAWN BY DAVE JENKINS**

**TEAM RESIGNATIONS, APPLICATIONS AND PLACINGS FOR SEASON 2023/2024:-**

**Andy Bainton informed the Members that the Signing On Forms need to be returned with their 3rd game of the season. Away teams please give the Form to the home Captain to hand in.**

**Ladies Section:-**

**Broughton Sports and Semington A have been promoted to the Premier Division. SAL Ladies and Cons A have been relegated to the 1st Division.**

**Unfortunately, Broughton Sports have resigned from the League for the forthcoming season. Hopefully, they will be back for the 2024/2025 season.**

**As there are no new teams joining the League this means that there will be 9 teams in the Premier Division with one Open date and 10 teams in the 1st Division. If Broughton Sports do return for the 2024/2025 season, then only one team will be relegated from the Premier Division to equal up the League.**

**The Ladies League will commence the week beginning 18th September and conclude the week beginning 4th March, 2024 with two open dates for the Christmas period.**

**Armstrong Angels have changed their name and will now be known as Semington Angels.**

**Andy Bainton asked the lady members whether they had any questions on the above information and there were none.**

**Men’s Section:-**

**Semington B and the Cavaliers have been promoted to the Premier Division. Legion E and the Allsorts have been relegated to the 1st Division.**

**As there are no new teams joining or any teams resigning, there will be 13 teams in the Premier Division with one open date and 14 teams in the 1st Division.**

**The Men’s Divisions will commence the week beginning 28th August and conclude the week beginning 22nd April with two open dates for the Christmas period.**

**Allsorts have a new Captain and have changed their name back to Forest Rangers.**

**Andy Bainton asked the men members whether they had any questions on the above information and there were none.**

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

**There were no resignations by the Committee**

**PROPOSED BY COMMITTEE AND SECONDED BY MR A HARDING**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

**ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER:-**

**Mrs Karen Gregg has volunteered to join the Committee and the Chairman thanked Karen and welcomed her on the Committee.**

**PEOPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE AND SECONDED BY MR D RAINES**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

**The Chairman asked the floor for more Members to join the Committee but unfortunately there were no volunteers.**

**PRESENTATION NIGHT:-**

**The Chairman asked the floor for their comments as to whether they wanted to continue with a Presentation Night. Andy Bainton, Fixtures Secretary, had asked in several Newsletters sent out during the season, whether any teams wanted a Presentation Night but unfortunately did not receive any response.**

**The chairman asked whether the Members wanted a Presentation Night to include a buffet informing the Members that to arrange a formal sit- down meal was more difficult to arrange with so few Committee Members.**

**There were no comments or suggestions from the Members. It was therefore agreed that the committee would leave things as they were for the moment and this question will be asked again during the course of the skittle season.**

**SPONSORS:-**

**The chairman asked the Members whether any- one would like to sponsor the League.**

**Tina Daysh from Forest Fairies kindly said that she would donate 4 bottles of wine for the ladies Pairs and 2 bottles of wine for the Ladies Singles. The Chairman thanked Tina for this.**

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

**Before the chairman closed the Meeting, he said that there was a serious point which he wished to raise. This was not directed in any way to the Ladies teams but only to the Men’s Teams. There had been several comments that some Men’s teams were not behaving in a Sportman Like Manner and were taking the Mickey and intimidating other teams. Some of whom were only youngters who had just joined a team. This behaviour is not acceptable and will be monitored during the season and if necessary, action will be taken on those offending teams.**

**The Chairman then thanked the Members for attending and closed the Meeting.**

**The Meeting closed at 8.40pm.**