

MELKSHAM & DISTRICT SKITTLE LEAGUE
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE CONSERVATIVE CLUB, MELKSHAM
ON WEDNESDAY 9TH JULY 2025 AT 7.30PM
FOR 2024/2025 SEASON

PRESENT:-

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:-

Andy Hillier	-	Chairman	Pauline Hillier
Andy Bainton	-	Fixture's Secretary	Karen Gregg
Pauline Rankin	-	Treasurer	Ken Wathen
Anita Hall	-	Joint Treasurer	Alex Annal
Carolann Annal	-	Minute Secretary	Dan Raines

LADIES: Anova Ladies: Bottoms Up: Breakaways: Cons D: Forest Fairies: Georgians: Hilperton: Liberal Castaways: Liberal C: Liberal Ladies: Nomads: SAL Ladies: Semington A: Staverton Stars: The Chasers.

MEN'S: Avon A: Avon D: Comrades: Cons A: Cons C: Cons D: Drifters: Forest Rangers: Good, Bad & Ugly: Legion E: Melksham Casuals: Melksham Rovers: Saracens: Seend A: Seend B: Semington A: Semington B: Staverton A: Staverton B: Steeple Ashton: The Bees: The Pilot:

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.

Andy Hillier expressed his disappointment of the lack of players for the Men's Singles and Pairs Competitions and hoped that the numbers would increase next season.

APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS:-

The Chairman appointed Ken Wathen and Dan Raines as scrutineers to count the votes during the meeting.

APOLOGIES:-

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:-

There were none.

LADIES TEAMS:-

Cons A: Semington Angels and Topsy Skittlers.

MEN'S TEAMS:-

Cavaliers: Cons B: Motley Crew: MUDS: and Spencer's B.

MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DATED 24TH JULY 2024:-

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 AGM MINUTES DATED 24TH JUNE 2024:-

There were none.

TREASURER'S REPORT:-

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

The Treasurer, Pauline Rankin, thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She also thanked everyone for paying their last year's League and Cup entry and season end bills this year.

Pauline Rankin also thanked those teams who paid their bills by email or text. She informed the Members that she tries to give everyone approximately 3 weeks to get their bills paid. For those who have not paid by the due date she sends reminder texts or emails around 5/6 days before the cut-off date, so hopefully no fines.

When she sends out the bills and entry forms, she also puts a general post on the Skittles Facebook site. Pauline asked if anyone would like a text message to inform them that an email was being sent. If this was the case, then could they please contact her, and she will arrange for this to be done.

Pauline also informed the Members that if anyone was away or needed extra time to pay their bills then to contact her and she will deal with this.

The Committee would like to thank Josh Mullett of MUDS for sponsoring the Mixed Pairs this year. Also, a thank you to Tina Daysh of Forest Fairies for donating the wine for the Ladies Singles and Pairs Competitions.

Referring to the Accounts which had been handed to the Members the following comments were made:-

The season's accounts for 2024/2025 Income and Expenditure is straight forward but Pauline Rankin wanted to point out that there is a shortfall in income of just under £430. The Barclays Bank balance as at 30th June 2025 when the account closed, shows a balance of £8739.55 but this is not the true balance as the Prize money of £4405 and Honoraria of £2302.50 had yet to be deducted. Therefore, the true balance in the account is £2032.05. With the income a little lower and the increase in Prize money, the balance is lower than last season.

The Auditor has confirmed and verified the accounts for this season.

Pauline Rankin informed the Members that there was an increase in the cost of the score books. The cost of these will stay at £6.00 until 30th June 2026. The cost will increase in the following season, 2026/2027 to £7.00. This will be from 1st July 2026 when the accounts reopen.

Pauline informed the Members that a new Schedule of Charges were being sent out.

HONORARIA:-

There would be no increase in the Honoraria this year and this was unanimously agreed by all Members.

Pauline Rankin asked the Members whether they had any questions on the Financial Report. There were none.

Andy Hillier, Chairman informed the Members that the League were proposing to purchase a Computer for the use of the Fixture's Secretary or any other Committee Member for league business. The Computer would be on loan and there would be a formal Loan Agreement (copies available if requested), which

would be signed by both Andy Bainton (or any other Committee Member needing to use the Computer) and the Committee.

Andy asked whether the Members had any objection to the purchase of the computer and all were in agreement.

FIXTURE'S SECRETARY'S REPORT:-

Andy Bainton, Fixture's Secretary, thanked those teams that still played their set game dates with a player or even two players short, even after using A N Other. A credit to the Captain's and their teams for not just postponing the games.

Thank you also for all the teams for getting their results in on time, although there are still some which I have to chase. As always, this is helped by results being sent in via Email, Facebook, Messenger and WhatsApp.

Andy informed the Members that he was very pleased that he had more contact emails for Newsletters and Entry Forms for next season. He was thankful for this as it really helped. However, there are still 4 Ladies teams and 3 Men's teams that Newsletters have to be delivered to. The Newsletters, etc do not need to be sent to a Captain, it can be anyone in their team who is able to print off the information to show their team.

However, this is a massive improvement from when Andy first started as it used to take him two and a half hours to deliver them.

A FEW STATS FROM THE SEASON:-

Ladies Premier

Spares 75
Ducks 49
A N Other 10
Total Pins 34006

Division 1

Spares 45
Ducks 83
A N Other 22
Total Pins 32346

Men's Premier

Spares 343
Ducks 2126
A N Other 18
Total Pins 77482

Division 1

Spares 375
Ducks 87
A N Other 43
Total Pins 111973

SCORE SHEETS:-

Andy Bainton informed the Members that for the past two seasons he has sent out an example score sheet. It is great to see a vast improvement on the number of fines teams receive. He hopes that next season this will improve again and get to where we should be in that no team receives a fine for a score sheet error. Andy will send out another example once again before the start of the season, so asked that this is placed in the score books immediately they are received.

POSTPONED GAMES AND END OF THE SEASON:-

Despite some teams bringing games forward it is still disappointing that there were 18 Men's games postponed this season, which is one more than last season. 12 postponed games were in the Premier Division and 6 postponed games were in the 1st Division.

2 Ladies games were postponed this season. This was 9 better than the previous season – so well done to the Ladies.

Andy asked that when Captains receive their fixture card they speak to their team and find out whether there are any dates where they may struggle to get a team. If so, please attempt to bring the game forward even if this is in the first few games of the season.

If a Captain sees a fixture that he/she knows that their team would be unable to make, then please contact the opposition at the earliest time. Please do not wait until the week of the fixture.

Unfortunately, two games were not played this season. One in the first half of the season and one near the end of the season. Points were awarded to the non-defaulting team as per the rules.

3 Men's teams received a point's deduction for 2 game postponements.

Individual Thank You's:-

1. Stuart Taylor for his help on the Website.
2. Andy Bainton's family for their help in stuffing the Newsletters in envelopes and delivering them.
3. The Clubs who provided free drinks for the Stickers Up on Cup Final Nights.

RULE CHANGES – PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE:-

1. Amendment to the General Cup Competition Rules – New Clause 2:-

If any skittle member is overly abusive or violent to a Committee Member who is officiating at a Cup Competition, a fellow player or sticker up, then that skittle member will be immediately disqualified from the Cup Game and no A N Other will be allowed to play in his/her place.

MEMBERS WERE UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOUR OF THIS ALTHOUGH NO VOTE WAS NECESSARY.

2. Amendment to Schedule of Charges:-

Apology not received for non-attendance at the AGM - £5 fine.

NO VOTE REQUIRED.

3. Amendment to Clause 17(a) of the General League Rules and Schedule of Charges:-

Late Cup Return/Cup returned in poor condition - £10 fine.

NO VOTE REQUIRED.

PROPOSALS ON BEHALF OF TEAMS:-

1. Digital copies of score sheets to be suffice providing image contains both teams signed sheets. So, no need to post at all.

Proposed by - Mark Wiltshire – Seend A

Seconded by - Luke Rudman - Seend A

The above Proposal was withdrawn by Mark Wiltshire of Seend A

2. Committee to only have a presence on semi-final/final nights. One team mark the board, the other team score a book. Disputes to be settled by Committee Members present.

Proposed by - Mark Wiltshire – Seend A

Seconded By - Luke Rudman - Seend A

The above Proposal was not voted on – see Counter Proposal below:-

COUNTER PROPOSAL ON BEHALF OF COMMITTEE:-

In the event of insufficient Committee Members being available to officiate at a Cup Match then the Competition can be run by the Captain's of the relevant teams playing the Competition. However, there must always be 2 Committee Members present to deal with any disputes which may arise.

Proposed by - Andy Hillier - Chairman

Seconded by - Carolann Annal – Minute Secretary

The above Counter Proposal was agreed by all Members and therefore the MOTION WAS CARRIED FORWARD.

3. Men's Pairs and Singles Competitions to be held in different halves of the season. Hopefully to gain more interest, and also not to be committed to two consecutive Saturdays during the sunnier/family months. (would be nice to see at least 1 representative from each team.

Proposed By - Mark Wiltshire – Seend A

Seconded By - Luke Rudman - Seend A

The above Proposal was only a suggestion for Andy Bainton, the Fixture's Secretary who would try to fit these competitions as requested above in the Cup Schedule.

ALL THE MEN MEMBERS WERE HAPPY WITH THE ABOVE PROPOSAL THEREFORE THE MOTION WAS CARRIED FORWARD.

RULE CHANGES PROPOSED BY TEAMS:-

1. **Amendment to Rule 11 of the General League Rules – regarding cancellation of matches:-**

That if a match has to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions i.e. Snow, Ice, Floods, Police closing roads, etc., that a reduction of 2 points plus fine will NOT apply but the cancelled match has to be re-arranged within 2 weeks of the cancellation.

Proposed By - Alan Raines – The Motley Crew

Seconded By - A. Davies - The Motley Crew

ALL MEMBERS WERE HAPPY WITH THE ABOVE PROPOSAL AND THEREFORE THE

MOTION WAS CARRIED FORWARD.

2. Amendment to Rule 11 of the General League Rules – regarding points for non-played matches.

No games can be postponed in the last 2 weeks of the season. If games are not played during this period the full 7 points will be awarded to the Non-Defaulting team and the Offending team shall be fined accordingly.

Committee agreed £25 fine as a deterrent

Proposed By - Dave Richards – Cons D

Seconded By - Mark Wiltshire - Seend A

FOR.....25..... AGAINST.....2.....

MOTION CARRIED FORWARD.

TEAM RESIGNATIONS, APPLICATIONS AND PLACINGS FOR SEASON 2025/2026

Ladies Section

Staverton Stars and Hilperton have been promoted to the Premier Division and Cons A and Liberal C being relegated to the 1st Division.

With no new teams joining or resigning there will be 9 teams in the Premier Division and 1st Division with one open date.

The Ladies Divisions will commence the week beginning 22nd September and conclude the week beginning 9th March with three open dates over the Christmas period.

A change of team name in the Premier Division with Hilperton now being known as Hilperton Ladies. They have also changed their playing venue to Staverton and playing day to a Wednesday.

Men's Section

Semington A and Spencer's B have been promoted to the Premier Division and Staverton B and Saracens relegated to Division 1. Saracens and Cavaliers both ended the season on the same points, so Rule 19 had to be applied to separate the teams.

With 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 25th August and conclude the week beginning 20th April with two open dates for the Christmas period and one open date for Good Friday.

A change of team name in the 1st Division with Cons A changing to A Cons.

Signing on forms will need to be returned by the 3rd game of the season. If you are the away team then please give them to the home Captain to hand in.

Andy asked the Members whether they had any questions on the above or his Report. However, there were none.

RESIGNATIONS/ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:-

Unfortunately, after over 20 years as a Committee Member Ken Wathen was retiring. Andy Hillier thanked Ken for his commitment and hard work over his time as a Committee Member and wished him well. Ken was presented with a gift from the League for his services over the years.

There were no other resignations from the Committee.

All Members were happy for the Committee to continue in their roles.

CLOSING REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRMAN – MR ANDY HILLIER:-

Andy Hillier, Chairman, asked the Members whether any of them would join the Committee. He informed them that the Committee usually met once a month on a Monday and that the duties were not too onerous. There were no volunteers.

Andy also informed the Members that as from next season the Committee would be inviting either the Captain, Vice Captain or a team representative to attend a Committee meeting during the season to see how the Committee is run. The details of this still have to be sorted out but it may mean that about 5 Captains, etc., at a time would be invited to a meeting. This would be a good time to raise any grievances which any team may have.

Andy wished all teams luck for the following season and thanked everyone again for attending the meeting.

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

