MINUTES

WHIXALL BOWLING CLUB 40TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 15TH JANUARY 2024 AT 7.00 P.M.

WHIXALL SOCIAL CENTRE

AGENDA

1. Chairman’s Welcome
2. Minutes of 39th AGM January 2023

Action Carried forward – Replacement lights quote – to be discussed under AOB

1. Chairman’s Report
2. Treasurer’s Report
3. Reports from League AGMs. (Whitchurch and Market Drayton not until 24th January

However, there have been some developments and rule changes that will be proposed. Sue will update the meeting members.

1. Election of Officers
2. Election of Captains
3. Election of Informal Appointments
4. Sponsorship and Sponsors’ advertising
5. Subscriptions & Green Fee
6. 2023 Awards and Cups
7. Club Open Day
8. Social Events 2024
9. Any other Business
10. Replacement Light
11. Date of next AGM – 13th January 2025?

Committee Present:

Robin Price

Dave Jones

Shirley Matthews

John Fitton

Marion Fitton

Paul Meakin

Bryan Morgan

Jeff Maund

Jackie Knott

Sue Powell

James Dowley

Mark Louch

Total Members present: 29

Apologies

Alwena Evanson

Alison Hine

Ray Rich

Linda Louch

Member Apologies

Robin Fox

Frances Astbury

Jeremy & Dawn Sayce

1. Chairman’s Welcome

1 Minute silence for the sad loss of dear friends and members no longer with us in 2024

1. Minutes of the AGM for 2023 were ratified.
2. Chairman’s report.

The Chairman’s report thanked everybody concerned with the club who helped in any respect to the successful season of 2023 and congratulated John and Jon for winning best green and James and his team for moving up the division.

1. Mark commented on the accounts previously circulated to members with the agenda. The club is currently holding £14,726.94 which was quite good considering Sponsorship was considerably down for 2023 and there were no fund-raising social events.
2. Reports from League AGMs. Sue Gibson read out the proposed rule changes being put forward at the League AGM on 24th January.

One rule was objected to as follows by Shirley Matthews:

*“We would like to see one point awarded for each game won with two points for the overall winning aggregate score. (Whitchurch League)”*

It was agreed that Jeff Maund will attend the meeting with Rob Dowley to put two votes forward against the proposed rule change.

On another note: Shirley Matthews mentioned that Simon Fullard had sent an email requesting clubs to put a team into the Drayton Seniors. Shirley suggested this would be better for Whixall rather than continue with Malpas Seniors because of the distance members had to travel in the Malpas Seniors League. Games will still be played on a Wednesday.

Action:

SG to contact Simon Fullard to request Whixall to join Drayton Seniors and to get confirmation before withdrawing from Malpas Seniors League.

1. Election of Officers – see attached.

In addition, a lengthy discussion arose regarding Market Drayton A and B teams.

Firstly, Bryan Morgan stepped down as team captain and the club thanked him for all of his commitment to Whixall over the years.

The problems discussed are outlined below:

* Both teams play on a Friday night.
* It has been difficult to find 20 players willing to play on a Friday night.
* Some of the other captains have found it frustrating trying to help the A team out at the last minute with suitable players from their own teams.
* The possible offer from the league for our B team to play home games on a Monday and away games on a Friday is not acceptable.
* Lou Parry would only be prepared to become team captain of A team on the proviso of 12 guaranteed players. This is not viable.
* It was suggested that we send an email to all asking who is prepared to play on a Friday night – however even if many people say they would this may not be helpful as the calibre of the player also needs to be considered. Players have in the past been offered to the A team who have not been asked to play.
* We could drop the team from the league, but this would leave a number of players who are prepared to play the occasional Friday without a game.
* We could ask the league to drop us down into a division who play on a Monday night.
* The proposed captain of the B team (Angela) cannot take the position if we do this because she works on a Monday night.

It was agreed that SG will ask the league if we can be dropped to a division that plays on a Monday night and if this is possible then the issue of finding a captain will be addressed.

Angela was asked if she would captain the A team instead of the B team which will continue to play on a Friday night. She agreed but with some reservations as to how this would work and although, for now she will be elected, this whole topic must be further addressed when we have the resolution from the League.

If a team must be dropped this must be notified to the League before March 15th.

Other discussion

John and Jon stated they are prepared to carry with green maintenance on the proviso of no interreference.

Chris Goodwin offered his services to the Social Sub Committee

Sub Committees will require assistance from other members.

The League AGM is 24th January.

The County AGM is 3rd February.

SG to send agendas to delegates.

9. Sponsorship and Sponsors’ advertising

As mentioned in the treasurer’s report sponsorship was down last year. A request was made to members to approach local companies they may know for a sponsorship. This would be in return for a small advertising board like those already on the back fence.

There is no sponsorship fee structure, and we don’t want a situation of dozens of boards on the other hand the club does not approve a free advertising on the back of our club from members’ own organisations.

Robin pledged to speak to the Grocott Foundation and Hilltop Joinery pledged a sponsorship. Also, possibly Williams would be willing.

Although the club’s finances are ok it would be good to have extra money to perhaps buy spare bowls suitable for beginners to borrow. Plus, other things such as lighting (see AOB)

10. Subscriptions and Green Fees

To remain the same. SUBBSCRIPTIONS BY END OF MARCH. THE LEAGUE WILL NOT PERMIT PLAYERS UNLESS THEY HAVE RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIP TO A CLUB

11. 2023 Awards:

Dave Jones reported that it was very disappointing that so few A team players entered the competitions.

Additionally the entrance fee takings only amounted to £130 and the engraving was £115 and so the club very kindly donated £100 as prize money.

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|  | RUNNER UP | WINNER |
| DOUBLES | ROGER BLAKE & JEREMY SAYCE | SUE GIBSON & ANGELA JEBB |
| MENS | DAVE WALKER | STEPHEN BUNN |
| LADIES | SUE POWELL | ANGELA JEBB |
| PRESIDENTS | SARAH CARTER | JAMES DOWLEY |
| SENIORS | DAVE WALKER | JOHN FITTON |
| WATERLOO | ANGELA J, JUNE J, DAVE W | DAWN S, PAUL B, JOHN F |
| WHITCHURCH |  | ANTHONY WILLIAMS |
| M/DRAYTON |  | SHIRLEY WILLIAMS |
| POINTS |  | JOHN FITTON |
| MALPAS |  | ANGELA JEBB |
| BARLOWS |  | ANGELA JEBB |

12. OPEN DAYS

23rd March and 6th April

Can as many members as possible put the word out and come for an hour or more and bring your bowls.

13. Social Events 2024

Hog Roast – 9th March - So far, the Social Club, alcohol licence and the hog roast man have been booked.

Other events that were successful in the past were the Race Night.

14. AOB

 a) New Lights: Quote for £3k plus VAT from Robin Blackhurst. Does not include scaffolding. The purpose of new led lights was not to save money on electricity but to improve bowling at night.

One suggestion was that we should raise money through events like the hog roast to pay for it.

SG provided the quote that Ellesmere had which was £2800 including VAT and including cherry picker. The quote did not state what type of lighting was provided other than “new LED fittings”

JF reported that he had not heard one complaint about the current lighting and that the money should not be spent.

The chairman put the decision to the vote and they Ayes had it.

1. The chairman raised the issue of whether John Fitton was properly reimbursed.

During 2023 no payments have been made to John or Jon for their time which is a subject that was raised at previous committee meetings.

John explained that last year the costs for the green around £4k but this did include two machines which will not need to be purchased again and around £500 for pest control. All of which had been reimbursed. None of the payment was attributed to the time invested.

Rob Dowley raised the issue of £4k being particularly high whereas the investment of £3k plus for lighting was not excessive as it was a one-off payment that would last for many years.

SG reiterated that part of that £4k was machinery also a one-off payment and lasting many years. The chairman stated that the costs were well justified in the results we saw in the green and by winning best kept green competition bearing in mind, the enormous amount of time given for free from both John and Jon that under different circumstances would have been of significant cost to the club.

15. Next AGM 15th January 2025