

MINUTES OF THE AGM MEETING– THURSDAY 22 JUNE 2017

1. OPEN MEETING

NB welcomed everyone and gave a brief summary of what will happen during the meeting as shown on the agenda.

- Each Officer will give their report on the 2016/17 season and any changes they may make for next season and beyond.
- A vote on the final balance sheet will take place once reviewed.
- A vote on proposed fee increases for the 2018/19 season once AR has briefed on the 5 year forecast.
- A discussion and vote on proposed rule changes.
- A vote for Committee Members and Officers.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

There had been no correspondence received.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

3.1 Finances of the League

Over the past 12–18 months, we have highlighted the financial position of the League, so I will go through what has been done to try to improve the situation.

- Christmas Raffle – The Committee saw this as a way to bring funds in to the League. Particular mention to Kevin and Margaret for their involvement in running the Raffle. There was disappointment that some teams sold very few tickets, some teams sold none. This was a minority though. Good effort from a lot of teams and people to raise just over £1,300 for the League (this takes in to account prizes paid out and costs of tickets etc). Thanks to all those who donated prizes. Particular mention to the Brandon Club team who donated £100 for 3rd prize and the Malt Shovel £50 for 4th. These were extremely generous.
- There was a donation of £1,500 from a lady who wishes to remain anonymous. This is incredibly generous and shows what the past time of skittles means to some people. This is why we on the Committee keep giving our time to ensure that skittles continues for those who do enjoy skittles competitions and appreciate what we do.
- The Committee looked at all League costs throughout the season and how to reduce them. Progress has been made, such as:
 - Karen and Ashley produced the Presentation Night Tickets (Saving £60).
 - Lottery Licence not renewed (Saving £20).
 - Reduction in 2015/16 Honorariums (Saving £250).
 - Reduction in 2016/17 Honorariums (Saving £150).
- The Committee will continue to look at costs next season.
- Balance at the end of the season is £3,241, as shown on the Balance Sheet. This is a satisfactory balance, but we need to be conscious that over £2,800 has come in to the League this season, that we would normally not expect. Without this, we would have just £400, which would not be an acceptable position.
- The Treasurer has produced a 5 year financial forecast to understand the position will be in. From this, there are recommended Fee increases to vote on.
- The Treasurer will give a more detailed report on the finances.

3.2 Competitions

- Competitions were generally well supported and were enjoyable.
- The Committee will review Pairs next season and whether further changes are required to try to increase entries and to try to avoid no shows and therefore byes. Kay will give more detail in her Pairs report.
- Other competitions also to be reviewed, whether to continue with them or have a break.

3.3 Presentation Night

- Presentation Night was well organised and run by the Committee. Thanks to all Committee members for the role they played in staging the event.
- It's not perhaps appreciated the amount of effort required to put on Presentation Night.
- The Committee started to plan for this in January... that's 4 months before.
- Joyce and Sue gave up the Friday afternoon to sort through the trophies and set them up for that night.
- Sue spent 2 – 3 hours on the door.
- Kevin, Margaret, Karen and her daughter sold the raffle tickets and ripped them.

3.4 Thank Yous

- Thanks to all players and teams who continue to play and support the League. The Committee do realise that without you, we don't have a League.
- Thanks to the Workers for providing a home for the Committee and also for their support to us. It is also a great skittles venue.
- Mainly thanks has to go to all the Committee members (Ashley, Joan, Joyce, Karen, Kay, Kevin, Margaret, Martin, Paul, Sue and Val) who put in their time to attend monthly meetings and to referee competitions, to keep the League going. And then there is the arranging of various events through the season that they get involved in. There are only 12 of us, so demands on our spare time is high at certain stages of the season.

NB concluded that he thought it has been a good season, good progress has been made by the Committee to improve the League, and he was honoured to have been Chairman of a good, hard working Committee.

4. FIXTURES SECRETARY'S REPORT

KP reported that it had been a good season.

In the upcoming 2017/18 season there had been a few pubs/clubs that had withdrawn but these had been replaced with new teams.

Competitions had been very successful and very well attended by players. A special thanks was given to Brandon Club for supporting the over 65 mens.

A suggestion was put forward that the age limit for the over 65/60s be lowered. KP to consider.

KP reported that the League had not given any donations to charities for the past 3 years. Currently there was around £3,500 in the bank, with donations being given from the Lawford Arms, Malt Shovel and Fighting Cocks.

KP had selected 6 charities and was intending on inviting them to the Secretaries Meeting in August to hand out the cheques.

Myton Hospice , MacMillan, Zoes Place , Air Ambulance, Brooke School and Warwickshire Search & Rescue

5. PAIRS SECRETARY'S REPORT

KB reported that the pairs had gone well this season.

For the 2017/18 there would be one change to the current rules. Players would only be able to make one change in the preliminary or first round. The closing date for pairs competitions was September 2017.

6. TREASURERS REPORT

AR reported that he had only taken over as Treasurer in November and that the information provided in the finance report begins from then – **a copy of the report circulated at the meeting is attached as appendix 1.**

The majority of the income for the 2016/17 season, along with the team/player registrations was included in the starting balance and has not been included as income.

The summary shows that the league expenditure was higher than league income. This is as a result of the inclusion of some of the income in the starting balance. The data for next season will be more accurate as there will have a whole seasons worth of data. Income since November 2016 was a £6600. This includes the income from the Christmas raffle and a very generous donation of £1500. These are both income that cannot be expected in future years.

The expenditure for the season 2016/17 was better documented and is more accurate. This sits at a figure of just under £8300.17, with the trophies accounting for the single biggest expense.

The data distributed was only a brief overview of the finances for the 2016/17 season and AR advised that if anyone would like to receive a copy of the full report, they must write to the Committee.

To better understand the financial situation of the league, AR had produced a forecast of the bank balance over the next 5 years – a copy of the report circulated at the meeting is attached as appendix 2.

- The forecast is based on several assumptions as follows:
- We will not have the income from the Christmas raffle as it is not planned to run this again
- We cannot rely on donations
- The current trend of the league losing one team and ten players per annum will continue, leading to an erosion of income from team and player registrations
- Honorarium payments will not rise for the duration of the model
- All other expenditure will likely rise by a modest amount

Where we are uncertain in the above assumptions we have tried to use worst case scenarios for modelling purposes. This should hopefully mean that if there are any surprises they will likely be positive ones.

We have modelled the bank balance per annum to show how the balance will behave over the next five years if our assumptions are correct and we don't make any changes. This is shown by the blue line on the graph.

The model shows that if we leave the finances to run as they currently do then the League balance could be negative by as early as the 2018/19 season. Something obviously needs to be done to ensure the financial future of the skittles league. Since the single biggest income item of the league finances is player and team registrations, this is a logical starting point.

A small increase here can make a big difference to the balance over 5 years. The model was re-run with several scenarios and discussed at a Committee meeting. The proposal that the Committee chose to put forward at the AGM is to increase the team registrations from £20 to £30 and increase player registrations from £3.00 to £3.50 per player. The Committee proposes that the changes will take effect from 2018/19 and that the fees will be fixed for 5 years.

This change is shown on the graph as the orange line, using the same assumptions as before and shows the current account balance increasing in the short term, but over 5 years, this increase slows and begins to level out.

The chairman asked for all those in favour of proposing the increase to registration and players to raise their hands. The proposal was passed.

7. PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

Following a suggestion to the Committee, a new rule was being proposed at the AGM.

One player per team is allowed to be between 14 and 17 years old, the rest must be 18+. The parent/guardian of a player under the age of 18, takes full responsibility for allowing them to play within the League.

There were some concerns raised regarding allowing a 14 year old to sign on. The Committee took on board the concerns. Although the Committee supported the suggestion, they were however not encouraging teams to keep children out late at night. It was felt that many 14 year olds were usually not in bed at the time when matches finished and that as long as they were with a responsible adult this would be suitable. It was also acknowledged that the pub/club where matches would be played would also have to consent to having a child of that age in the venue. It was felt by the Committee that we needed to encourage new players to join the leagues and that the younger generation were the future.

The chairman asked for all those in favour of the new rule to raise their hands. The rule was passed.

There were no further new rules, only changes to the wording to ensure they were clear.

There was an amendment to Rule 8. It was felt that ways of communication needed to be clearer to ensure there was no confusion with players. This was agreed and an amendment will be made to the final copy.

The chairman asked for all those in favour of the new wording of the rules to raise their hands. The changes to the rules were passed.

The new rules will be included in the packs at the Secretaries Meeting in August and available on the website.

8. VOTE FOR COMMITTEE OFFICERS

The following Offices were all re-elected:

Chairman – Neil Bubb
Vice Chairman – Kevin Pearcey
League Secretary – Karen O’Callaghan
Pairs Secretary – Kay Beers
Treasurer – Ashley Richley

9. VOTE FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following Committee Members were all re-elected:

Joan Beers - President
Margaret Muzyka - Vice President
Val Bedford
Joy Skitt
Martyn Collier
Paul Ashwell
Sue Graham

10. AOB

Pubs/Clubs – a suggestion was made that the Committee should consider ways of helping village pubs/club. It was felt that due to financial issues, venues were closing and the Committee may be able to help in some way with advertising events or holding matches at them. It was agreed that the Committee would discuss this at their next meeting.

Presentation Night – it was raised that the trophies appeared to be the largest financial cost to the league and suggested that maybe the Committee should look into whether these are still right for Presentation Night. Is Presentation Night still what skittle players want? The Committee advised that they had looked at various alternatives for presentation night and would continue to discuss this in more detail.

The AGM ended at 8.45 p.m.

