

Bristol Northwest Skittles League Annual General Meeting Minutes

Held at Patchway Labour Club Monday 8th June 2026

Chairperson Welcome

Terry Gregory opened the meeting by reading the names of those members who passed away during the 2025/2026 season. One minute silence was observed.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Chairperson Report -Terry Gregory

Firstly, can I start by once again thanking all the teams who entered the 2025/26 season and by doing so keeping the Northwest skittle league the best league in Bristol.

Congratulations to all the league winners and the teams finishing in the promotion spots. An exciting times ahead specially for the teams going up to front pin first from all -in, I am sure this will challenge some players in your teams.

Congratulations to all the cup winners, good to see some different teams in the final & names on the cups.

I would also like to thank all the committee members for their hard work over the last year, everyone has put a shift in this year-

- Matt for looking over the history of the leagues and all the dates and winners will be posted on our website.
- Carol for taking and typing up all the minutes of our monthly meetings and sending out emails or letters to all teams.
- Ian & Kath who are the backbone behind the league make sure everything runs smoothly.
- Sarah and Pat for your input at our monthly meetings.

Without these people your league would not exist.

This year the presentation night is on sat 4th July starting at 8.00pm with a disco and two singers as entertainment. we have decided to change the allocation of tickets, this year all teams will be allocated 2 free tickets, reason behind this is so that all teams can attend the presentation night and enjoy the night even if you are not collecting a trophy you can still have a good time. As secretaries you can give the two free tickets to any of your team members, it would be nice to have all team represented This may also encourage you to get more of your teams to then come along with you. Sarah has all your free tickets for you to claim at the end of the meeting and if you want to then buy more tickets then Sarah will be happy to take your money. If after tonight you want to buy tickets, you can contact me or any of the

committee members and we will sort it out for you.

The teams picking up high score or average trophies have been given their two tickets to be passed on to the winners. Please make sure you do inform your team winners and encourage them to show up at the presentation to pick up their trophies.

Thank you and here is looking forward to season 2026/27.

Treasurers Report Kath Semple – read by Carol Cross

This report is based on the balance sheet that has been prepared for you and represents figures from 01.05.25 to 30.04.2026.

Income

The total overall income received for the 2025/2026 season increased by £559.86 from previous season.

The gains and losses will now be summarised for this year:

League Fees

The income from league fees increased by £60 from the previous balance sheet after gaining a team. We had fifty-six teams register for the 2025/2026 season.

Benevolent Fund

The benevolent income increased slightly due to one extra team paying into the fund. The surplus income, after expenses was paid back into the benevolent fund to the main balance sheet as the benevolent fund has always been capped at £2,000 as per the separate balance sheet.

Presentation Dance

The annual 2025 presentation night was a special evening in which we celebrated our 80th Anniversary year. It was a fantastic night and well supported by all the teams. As a committee we received quite a lot of positive feedback. This reflected in an income of £1,019 from both ticket and raffle ticket sales, this figure was up by £399 on the previous year. The raffle was understandably a lot higher than the previous year, due to more people supporting the presentation evening and once again I would like to thank Sarah Jacques for her fantastic efforts in selling tickets on the night.

Score Books

Score book sales were only slightly down from previous year, selling £30 worth compared to £35 the previous year. As I have explained in many of my previous reports this figure does fluctuate each year but sells of these scorebooks are in decline. I still have ten unsold books, but more will need to be ordered.

Advertisement

Once again, we currently have no adverts on our website, so no income has been generated this year. However, if anyone would like to advertise or know of anyone that may benefit from advertising on our website then please contact Ian Millard for the up-and-coming season. The cost for this is £50 per annum. We hope teams will continue to embrace the website and help keep our costs down as the website renewal costs has increased slightly again this year.

Bank Interest

Our bank interest did fall slightly this season to £32.07 compared to £39.21 last season. Again, this figure does fluctuate depending on the Bank of England interest rates.

Expenses

The total overall expenses for 2025/2026 season did increase by £403.59 from previous season.

Postage/Printing Costs

Due to the purchase of postage stamps last year, which we are still using, we had no postage costs for this year. Therefore, it was only printing/stationary costs of £29.98 which is mostly down to preparing the packs etc for the AGM. Thankfully, due to electronic technology we do not use as many stamps as we used to in previous years due to not having to post forms etc out to teams so the remaining stamps should hopefully last a couple of years.

Presentation Dance and Prize Money

As last year's presentation evening was a special 80th Anniversary of the league forming, we decided as a committee to re-introduce a 'Live Singer' and the presentation was also moved back up to the larger Ballroom to accommodate more people. In addition to the singer, we also had our usual Disco. The total expenses for the 2025 Presentation were £1,192.89, so an increase of £261.54 on the previous year. As confirmed in my report last year we had anticipated this figure increasing due to more outlay trying to make this evening one to remember for everyone with it being our 80th Anniversary year.

Prize Monies

The prize monies paid out for the presentation dance last year remained unchanged and will do so again this year.

Telephone/Electric

These costs remain unchanged from last year.

Honorariums

The Honorariums remain unchanged this year and will be reviewed by the committee in the coming year.

Benevolent Fund

As always, I have produced a separate balance sheet of the income and the expenses paid out for this season. There were two qualifying death benefits claims paid out for the period 01.05.2025 to 30.04.2026.

Summary

With an increase in income of £559.86 but also an increase on expenditure of £403.59, I am pleased to report that we have still made an overall profit from last year's balance sheet. Our overall balance carried over to next year shows an increase of £103.80. This is down to a well-supported presentation evening.

As a committee, we ask all teams to continue to support our dance this year on Saturday 4th July 2026.

Account Auditing

I am pleased to confirm that after my plea over the last few years, we received a couple of responses for an auditor. Therefore, I am pleased to say that these accounts were audited by Marie Harrison from The Laings Skittles team on Tuesday 12th May 2026 and I would like to thank Marie for her time. Marie has confirmed that she will be happy to audit the accounts next year.

I wanted to confirm that this year we had three unpresented cheques from the prize winnings given out. May I remind teams that the cheques given out at the presentation evening are valid for just six months and I urge team secretaries to ensure that these are presented to the bank as soon as possible following the presentation evening in July. We do not send any reminders for unpresented cheques and any unclaimed prize cheques will be added back into next year's income.

Fees for season 2026/2027

As we are a non-profit making league and trying to help teams where we can financially, I am pleased to report that the league fees for the up-and-coming season will remain at £60.00. We will continue to monitor this on a season-by-season basis. Fees have remained at £60 since 2016/2017 season.

This year's fees will be collected on the open night on Tuesday 25th August 2026 when teams will also be required to submit their player registrations forms for the up-and-coming season.

Finally, as always, I finish off my report by asking teams that are eligible for prize winning monies to see me after this meeting to confirm who they wish their prize-winning cheques to be made payable to. This is particularly important if your team **'does not'** have a Team Bank Account as you will not be able to bank your prize-winning cheque(s). I will make cheques payable to the team's name unless otherwise instructed. Also, teams may not be aware but there is a small prize cheque given out for Losing Semi-Finalist at the presentation night so it will be good if those teams could also support the presentation evening.

I trust that members here are happy with the figures that have been produced but if you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Fixture Secretary Report – Ian Millard.

2025/2026 Season

Welcome, I trust you can hear me. Please can I ask that you keep any questions to the end of my presentation so we can get through this as quickly as possible.

I want to say a big thank you for all your patience and understanding during the 2025/2026 season which makes my role as Fixture Secretary so much easier. Apart from a few minor issues the season ran as smoothly as expected and was duly concluded at the end of April.

2026/2027 Season

Included in your packs there is the new League Structure, Fixture Plan and Divisional Contact information.

League Structure

The structure that is within the pack is provisional as whilst I do not anticipate any changes, sometimes this is out of my control and if changes are made you will be updated accordingly. Where possible I have kept the fixture number the same as last season, however promotion and relegations between the various divisions and changes in other leagues necessitate a change of number so that fixture clashes are avoided.

Fixture Plan

This is as per the pack, and I do not anticipate any changes to this plan.

The league fixture programme officially commences on Monday 21st September 2026 and concludes with the final's week commencing Monday 3rd May 2027. The week of

the 14th of September can be used for the first round of the cup which is in the fixtures as week commencing 12th October. As 95% of games are now played at Little Stoke Club, Filton and District Club and Civil Service Club which means if you are drawn at home in the cup along with other teams that share your alley, availability will be at a premium.

The draw for the first round of both cups will be held immediately after the Open Night on Tuesday 25th August 2026 at Patchway Labour Club.

Bank Holidays

Easter Bank Holidays (Good Friday and Easter Monday) there are at least a dozen fixtures impacted. I recommend that the fixtures are checked and rearrange accordingly if your team is impacted. Cancelling a game/fixture on a Bank Holiday is allowed without penalty but the game must be rearranged.

Christmas and New Year weeks commencing 21st and 28th December most other leagues no fixtures are planned for this period so these weeks can also be used for rearranged games.

Play Offs

Week commencing 10th May 2027 is provisionally marked on your fixture plan, however this will be discussed under any other business.

Please check the league website if you have any doubts about fixtures as this updated regularly and shows all the fixture information you will need for the current month.

Divisional Contact Information

The information is shown at divisional level only due the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) which the league committee is obliged to ensure is observed. The only time contact information will be required from outside your division is when / if you get drawn against a team from another division in the cup.

Venues Closing

The Lawns Cribbs Causeway is no longer hosting skittles, the Fire Brigade (Division 2) have now relocated to the Civil Service Club on a Tuesday Night.

Civil Service Club, there have been rumours that this is closing however I have been reliably informed that this is not the case.

Southmead Community Centre, there have been conflicting reports that it is closing, therefore New Lyons (Division 3) have relocated to Filton & District Club on a Friday. SCA (Premier Division) are currently still located at the community centre.

Skittles Balls

Lignum Vitae is traditionally used in making skittles balls; however, it has now been declared an endangered species and no longer readily available.

Other options for skittles balls do exist, however please check with the league committee for suitability of use within the Northwest league before purchasing them.

Any Other Business

Play Off Proposal

Amend Rule 2a from – The Top Three Teams in Divisions 1,2 and 3 to be promoted.

New Rule – The top two teams in Divisions 1,2 and 3 to be promoted. The next four highest placing teams in Divisions 1, 2 and 3 will enter a promotion play off competition to determine the final promotion spot. In the semi-finals, the team finishing third will play at home verses the team finishing sixth, and the team finishing fourth will play at home verses the team finishing fifth. The home team will provide the sticker up but sticker up costs to be shared 50/50. The winners of each tie will then play at a neutral venue determined by the league committee with the winning team being promoted to the division above. Sticker Up will be provided and paid for by the league.

Rational for the proposal is that as the season reaches its conclusion there are a number of “dead rubbers” e.g. games that have no consequences to promotion or relegation. By introducing play offs, this will increase the number of games that will have something riding on it, increasing the competitiveness of the games as well as the integrity of the competition. As an example with four games to play this past season, nineteen teams had a chance of promotion in the three divisions outside the Premier. If play offs were a feature, twenty-nine of the forty-two teams in those three divisions would still have been in with a chance of promotion.

This has been discussed at length by the committee and carries their recommendation.

This was put to the floor, and a comment was made that this would make the end of the season too pressurised. This went to a vote, and thirteen teams were for the proposal and twenty-five against, therefore proposal rejected.

Teams Playing Short Proposal

This was proposed by Lee Baker Castaways and seconded by Gary Cross Yabadabadoos.

If a team is one player short, the player with the lowest score from previous pairs can play again but cannot score more than already scored. If the lowest scoring

player has left the alley and no longer available to play again, no other substitute can play. Opposition Captain must be made aware of situation as early as possible in the game. This is a rule in severnside league and occasionally proves useful to make a game of things.

Ian confirmed that only three teams had played short during the season. This was put to the vote, and the majority were against accepting the proposal.

Dual Registration

This was proposed at the 2025 AGM where by two players could be signed on for a front first team and an all-in team. This was put to the vote, and the majority were against accepting this proposal.

Reducing the Playing Age

It was suggested that the playing age of players was reduced from 18 to 16, however the current rule is that the minimum age is 16.

Meeting Closed at 9.00pm