

# **Bristol Northwest Skittles League**

Annual General Meeting Minutes held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025

## **Obituaries**

A minute's silence was observed for those members who had passed away in the 24/25 season.

## **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted by the floor.

## **Presidents Welcome**

Thank you, all teams, for entering and supporting season 24/25. As you all know this is the year of celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> year of the Bristol Northwest League.

Congratulations to all league winners and all promoted teams. Also congratulations to all cup winners.

Champion of Champions – Traders

Hedley Varcoe – Ardagh Allsorts

Front First Cup – Denims

All in Cup – Royal Bristols

Thank you to all committee members for the hard work and support on running the league.

This year presentation is on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June in the ballroom at the BAWA club with disco and singer to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. How many remember getting a Christmas card with a voucher to claim two free tickets for the presentation? All teams will get two tickets, please give back if you are unable to attend the presentation. Tickets will be on sale after the meeting.

## **Treasurers Report**

This report is based on the balance sheet that has been prepared for you and represents figures from 0/05/24 to 30/04/25.

## **Income**

The total overall income received for 2024/2025 season reduced by £235.18 from previous season. I will summarise the gains and losses for this year.

## **League Fees**

The income from league fees reduced by £60 from the previous balance sheet after losing another team. We had just 55 teams register for the 2024/2025 season.

## **Benevolent Fund**

It is very rare, and I have never known this since I became treasurer, but we did not pay any bereavement benefits this season, the balance sheet remains as it was last year. We did have notifications of a couple of deaths but unfortunately, these were not registered so did not qualify. The income received into the benevolent fund was therefore returned 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 2024 presentation received income of £620 for ticket and raffle ticket sales which was down by £150 on the previous year. The raffle was slightly lower than the previous year but again, I would like to thank Sarah Jacques for selling tickets on the night.

## **Score Books**

Score books sales were also down, and we only sold half of the books we normally do. Only £35 income from these sales. This figure does always fluctuate each year, but last season was unusually low. I still have 16 unsold books.

## **Advertisement**

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. We hope teams will continue to embrace the website and help keep our costs down as the website renewal costs has increased again this year.

## **Bank Interest**

Our bank interest did fall slightly this season £39.21 compared to £42.39 last season. Again this figure does fluctuate depending on the Bank of England interest rates.

## **Expenses**

The total overall expenses for 204/2025 season did reduce by £254.72 from the previous season.

## **Expenditure**

### **Postage/Printing Costs**

For the last three years we have had no postage expenses as we used up the remaining stamps that we had in stock. However, stamps were bought this year. Quite a few of the stamps purchased were used when sending out the Christmas cards to all teams. As a

committee, we wanted to advertise our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year as early as possible to give all teams early notice of the special presentation night that we are planning in a hope that all teams support this milestone anniversary year. Thankfully, due to electronic technology we do not use as many stamps as we used in previous years due to not having to post forms etc out to teams so the remaining stamps should hopefully last a while.

### **Presentation Dance and Prize Money**

At last year's presentation evening, we only had a disco to keep the costs down. The total expenses for last season's presentation were £931.35, so still an increase of £148.88 on the previous year. However, the Christmas cards sent out in December is included in these costs as these were paid within this financial year. We are anticipating this figure will increase in next year's accounts as we will have more outlay this year with it being our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year.

As a committee, we ask all teams to continue to support our dance this year on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025.

### **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 following the review by the committee last year.

### **Benevolent Fund**

As always, I have produced a separate balance sheet of the income and expenses paid out for this season. As mentioned earlier in the report there were no qualifying death benefits claims paid out for the period 01.05.24 to 30.04.25.

### **Summary**

With a reduction in income of £235.18 and a reduction on expenditure of £234.73 our total loss this year was £19.55. Our overall balance carried over to next year including last year's increase of £7.98 increased by £27.53. Once again, we have just about broken even, again as reported to you at previous AGNs since Alan Milburn retired from auditing these accounts, no one has come forward to volunteer their time to audit accounts, so the accounts presented to you tonight remain unaudited. If anyone wants to take on the auditor role going forward, then please let me or any committee member know as soon as possible.

### **Fees for season 2025/2026**

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 due and collected on the open night on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025 when teams will also be required to submit their player registration forms for the up-and-coming season.

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.

### **Prize Money**

Please let Kath know who make cheques payable to.

### **Fixture Secretary Report**

#### **2024/24 Recap/Report**

The 24/25 season concluded without any major issues. A big thank you for embracing the 48 hours return window which allowed me to update the league website in a timely manner. I must apologise for the occasional mess up in the league table which I rectify post your feedback. I blame that on human error and my granddaughter distracting me.

On a positive note, playing of the cup quarter and semi finals during the two free weeks just after Christmas and the subsequent playing of the finals straight after the league season concluded was well received. This is a format the league will be adopting for the foreseeable future. (Historically the finals were held during the first week of May, however this always presented a certain logistical problem with alley availability, summer skittles and teams struggling for players on the night because of plans for the Bank holiday. We recognise that bring the date forward by a week may not suit some people however the majority of you are more than happy with this decision).

### **New season 2025/26**

I will now explain further the information within your AGM pack.

### **League Structure**

This provisional only as it is based on the team registration returned and assumes no team will be resigning before the new season commences. Should circumstances change you will be advised accordingly and issued with a new league structure.

### **League Structure Changes – New Team and Alley Changes**

We welcome a new team Smugglers into division 3. This means we now have four divisions of 14 teams so no free weeks for anyone.

Filton Wanderers of the premier league have moved from Almondsbury Creative to Hambrook Cricket Club on Hambrook Common same venue as Sinners. They will play on a Thursday night.

Stompers have also moved from Almondsbury Creative to Little Stoke Social Club and will play on a Tuesday night.

The Smuggles will play at Little Stoke on a Monday night.

### **Fixture Plan**

The new season begins week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and the first round of both cups is scheduled for week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> October.

95% of matches in the Northwest are now played at Little Stoke Social Club, Filton & District Clubs and Civil Service Club, meaning that a lot of teams could potentially share their home alley with other teams from the Northwest and / or other leagues.

This may potentially cause a problem when several teams from the same venue are drawn at home in the cup. If you have difficulty securing your alley for the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the cup, please consider week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> September as an alternative date for playing your 1<sup>st</sup> round cup game. This scenario is only applicable for 1<sup>st</sup> round cup game.

### **Cup Matches Reminders**

1. Sticker up fees are equally shared between the two teams.
2. The team drawn at home is responsible for arranging the match and must inform the away team as soon as possible (minimum 10 days' notice)
3. The team drawn at home it does not mean the game will be played on their normal "home night of play". Alley availability will dictate the night of play.
4. The winning team submits the scoresheet within 48 hours.

### **Fixture Dates**

Dates impacted by the Easter period are highlighted in Grey, week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> March and week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> April. Good Friday (3<sup>rd</sup> April) and Easter Monday (6<sup>th</sup> April) will impact any team(s) that usually play on these dates. Please take note in advance and make the appropriate steps to rearrange the game.

### **Cup Information**

A live draw for the 1<sup>st</sup> round of both cups will be immediately after the "Open Night" on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

As with last season, two independent players will be invited to draw the teams from the hat. 28 teams and four byes will contest round 1 of the front pin cup. 28 teams and four byes will contest round 1 of the all in cup.

Further rounds of the cup will be drawn as we progress through the season. Once you are not involved in the cup anymore, please use weeks commencing 12 and 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026 as an opportunity to play any rearranged games, providing your opponents are not in the cup as well.

### **Divisional Information**

Depending on which division your teams play in, you will find the necessary information on your opposition. For GDPR reasons the data shared by the league is somewhat restricted within your specific division.

For cup matches if you are drawn against a team from another division, you will be advised accordingly. Please let me know if your contact information is incorrect.

### **Additional information**

1. Any games cancelled must be re-arranged and played by the end of the season.
2. Skittles balls the rules state must be lignum vitae, this is difficult to come by so applewood and composite are alternatives.
3. Alleys must be wood based not rubber.

### **Election of Officers**

All roles on the committee were up for re-election, this was put to the floor and all members were voted back in as they are currently. This was accepted by all.

### **Any Other Business**

Dual Registration – it was proposed that two players per team may be registered with another affiliated team, one front first and one all in team. This led to a discussion whether the two lowest scores count or the two players with the lowest score play again if the team is short. It was agreed that there would not be a vote tonight and it would be discussed at the 2026 AGM. All teams to provide suggestions to the committee and these would be circulated to all teams prior to the 2026 AGM. Ian Millard to monitor the teams playing short in the 2025/26 season.

Balls – the rules state that you can use your own balls, but you can use the other teams' balls if agreed on the night.

The open night will be held at the BAWA on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025 from 7.30.

**Meeting closed at 9.05pm**