

# Cheltenham Skittles League

Annual General Meeting – Thursday July 13<sup>th</sup> 2023

## MINUTES

**ATTENDEES:** 43

The Chairman introduced Phil Judge as our proposed new President and advised the meeting that he was standing down as Webmaster in the not too distant future. For those members who do not know, Phil was the instigator in starting our website and Facebook sites for which we are extremely grateful. The Chairman gifted Phil with a memento glass and scroll for all his hard work and with all our grateful thanks.

**1. Apologies:**

Eagle Star A; Pink Panthers; Ducklings

**2. Minutes of the A.G.M. 2022,  
PROPOSED  
SECONDED**

previously issued.  
**Simon Smith - Strollers**  
**Terry Ballinger – Staverton Flyers**

**3. Hon. Secretary's Report:**

Charmian Sheppard

Welcome once again to all of you Secretaries who have taken the time to come to our AGM. It is great to know that skittles is still here, still being played, and still welcome in pubs and clubs across Cheltenham.

This, despite the fact that for some reason, it seems to me to have been a very difficult season, where I freely admit I lost the will mid way and could cheerily have thrown the towel in - not the best way of thinking at times, but I plodded on.

It will be the same for you - as Secretaries you have lots to do and be concerned about, and I thank you all for your efforts in enabling the game to keep going.

We have all experienced some sad moments, the loss of players through illness, and passing has been difficult for many teams - and for us as an Executive, Tony Coleman's, sudden death was a shock,

We are still dodging the pandemic which is still around us, and it has proved challenging for some but here we are - on the cusp of a new season, and the league remains steady and still well supported out in the community.

There have been some great games out there - the cup games particularly the semi finals and finals, reinforce the fact that skittles is a great game.

The front pin in particular where you can if you wish come on your own, and you will know you are amongst friends.

Skittles gives us great nights out - and this is why we are all here, keeping the game going - thank you for doing so.

So next season, no more down in the dumps mode from me - I shall be hot on missing results, fines, signature checks and such like but underlying all of that, I shall be happy knowing you are out there, skittling and having a great time. I shall look forward to seeing you along the way.

**4. Hon. Treasurer's Report:**

Tony Meadows : Keith Hawkes

Bank figures were given to the meeting along with a full explanation of accounts.

**5. Adoption of Accounts  
PROPOSED  
SECONDED**

Tony Meadows.  
**Keith Bronger - Temperance12**  
**Robby - Lansdown**

**6. Front Pin Report**

Tony Meadows

Won by Mathew Griffiths of Swan Inn A and Val Lawson of Merrymaids Next year will go ahead but we are down by £750 on the year. We need more of our skittlers to enter this wonderful friendly competition.

**7. WEST MIDLANDS FRONT PIN**

Terry Ballinger confirmed no competition again this year as not enough teams entering.

**8. Election of Officers** – the meeting is asked whether the nominations could be taken overall as follows:

Hon, President	Mr. P. Judge
Vice President:	Mr. A. Fulwell
Chairman:	Mr. A. B. Meadows
Vice Chairman	Mr. T. Ballinger
Hon. Secretary	Mrs. C. Sheppard
Hon. Assistant Secretary	Ms. T. Ashfield
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. K. Hawkes.
Committee:	Mr. G. Gamble, Mrs. W. Harris, Mr. P. Judge, Mr. T. Fulwell, Mrs. D. Blackburn; Mr. G. Harris
Webmaster	Mr. P. Judge
Press Officers	Mr. A. B. Meadows & Mrs. C. Sheppard
IT team:	S. Taylor (Cannonballs Elite) P. Hyland (Hustlers) D. Blackburn (Queen Bees) D. Waring (Stragglers)
Associate Members:	G. Mitchell (Hiccups) A. Ballinger (Suffolk Ladies) D. Ballinger (Staverton Flyers) M. Meredith (Ducklings) A. Collins (Allsports) D. Parsons (Swan A).
<b>PROPOSED:</b>	<b>Hilary Thompson</b>
<b>SECONDED:</b>	<b>Ken Dooley</b>

The Committee are trying to strengthen both the IT Team and the Committee. The danger is there are currently no understudies. There have been several recent instances when this has become more obvious. Anyone with a keen interest in the work of the League, and in the programming aspect of the League are invited to contact the Hon. Secretary for further details.

Members are reminded that they are welcome to contact Hon. Secretary with a view to becoming an Associate Committee Member any time during the Season. This allows insight into the work of the league with a view to joining the Executive Committee.

**9. Teams seeking re-election: None** – there are vacancies within the League.

**10. Teams wishing to change their Name and retain their Divisional Status:**

The Steamers (MDPB) to The Welsh Harp

**PROPOSED: Bryan - Lansdown**

**SECONDED Ann Ballinger – Suffolk Ladies**

**11. Teams withdrawing from the League after Constitution for 2022 – 2023 had been set : Ladies Section : The Bees D1**

**12. TEAMS NOT RE-REGISTERING 2023-2024:**

The Young Ones, MD5

**13. New Teams – None**

**14. The Constitution**

Details of the constitution was given to all persons present

**PROPOSED; Di Blackburn**

**SECONDED: Heather Tibbotts**

## 15. Correspondence – Hon. Secretary – Charmian Sheppard

### AGM Comments:

Cheltenham Allsorts raised three points, which were taken to the Executive and fully discussed as follows:

**1. The 2-player rule brought in post covid should either be taken out or reduced to 1 player.**

*Executive decision is to leave the 2-player rule in, for one more season given this has helped keep teams in the league.*

**2. We have had a number of teams play people twice and not told us at the start of the game.**

*Executive appreciate this is difficult, all teams will be reminded that they should notify opposition at the start of the game in their pre-season paperwork. It will be emphasised on the website and Facebook. Several teams have raised this point.*

**3.. Teams playing with a full team should get 1 point every game they play this will encourage teams to sign on enough players and get a full team out.**

*Executive felt this will not make the difference being looked for, given that teams actively seek new players and do their level best to put a full team out. Adding points in such a manner could cause further confusion.*

Committee were asked to clarify the rule specifically so that the teams know and understand what to do if they have 11 players. Committee agreed to alter the wording.

### Rule E 2a

***Team Captains to declare the number of players they are fielding prior to the start of the game. (The game format is 12 v 12) However, teams unable to field a full side may nominate up to 2 players from the four lowest scoring players, to play again on the last leg.***

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### Springers comments:

**Point 1 a) Team captains do not advise prior to the start of the game they are to be short.**

**Point 1 b) Often players having a second go score more than on their first go.**

Executive discussed both points, one of which is answered earlier (a) the second (b) they felt was just the way it goes sometimes

**Point 1c) Why not just add in the two lowest scores to the score card and dispense with the need to use players twice.** Executive recalled this had been suggested and refused before. They saw no reason to accept the change, which could in fact lead to earlier finishes to games, putting some clubs/pubs at a disadvantage.

**Point 2: When it comes to promotions and demotions, why is it some team champions can jump more than one division. Why not just leave teams where they are and fill in that way.**

Hon. Secretary confirmed that she promotes and demotes the relevant teams, then moves teams up from the bottom to fill divisions in. However, just because this was the system she inherited, she is open to looking at it again. There is no such difficulty this time.

**Point 3: Why is it that the lower divisions appear to be those who are penalised i.e., only 12 teams in their division, whereas the higher divisions have 14 teams. Could there not be 13 teams in every division and this would give a more even spread of matches and less short seasons for division 4 & 5**

Hon. Secretary confirmed that the computer fixture programme works on a sequence of 14 teams in the division. If there are only 13 teams in the division, the 14<sup>th</sup> team is replaced with a bye. These were random byes during the season, and by keeping this current mixture of division sizes, with each half of the season starting later and ending sooner (but having relatively few mid-season byes) in the smaller divisions. She considered the possibility of moving to a 13-team division (except Premier A & B) but as the mechanics show below, it causes more difficulties than advantages.

**Executive therefore recommends no change for this season.**

## The mechanics behind the fixtures.....

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As things stand, the men's alley occupancy is:

MPA to M03 14 teams per div, playing 26 games each (= 910 games in the season)  
M04 12 teams playing 22 games each (= 132 games)  
M05 11 teams playing 20 games each (= 110 games)

**Total men's games = 1152**

To achieve 13 teams in all the lower divisions would entail several forced relegations, e.g.:

Move 2 teams down from M04 to M05  
Move 3 teams down from M03 to M04  
Move 2 teams down from M02 to M03  
Move 1 team down from M01 to M02

The divisions would then be

MPA & MPB 14 teams per div, playing 26 games each (= 364 games)  
M01 to M05 13 teams per div, playing 24 games each (= 780 games)

**Total men's games = 1144**

This would give the lower divisions more games, but it would be at the expense of several forced relegations, fewer games in other divisions,

Divisions M01-M05 would carry random byes (13 + 1 bye = 14 teams, as per the fixture programme) and a small net loss in the overall number of men's games next season.

**PROPOSED: TRACEY EDGINGTON TATTYEADS**  
**SECONDED: TERRY BALLINGER STAVERTON FLYERS**

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### Correspondence continued:

Cheltenham & Gloucester Hospitals Charity Trust : letter of thanks for the donation of £100 which was the chosen charity for our Guest Presenter, Max Wilkinson, at the Presentation Evening.

James Hopkins Trust: letter of thanks for the donation of the Raffle Proceeds from the Front Pin Tournament.  
Letter of Thanks, Staverton Flyers for a great Presentation Evening.

### Season Dates:

Monday September 11<sup>th</sup> Men's Divisions PA, PB, 1,2,3 only  
Monday September 25<sup>th</sup> Men's Divisions 4 & 5, All Ladies Divisions  
First Round Charity Cup: Monday October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Second Round Charity Cup: Monday October 30<sup>th</sup>

### 16} Closing Remarks – Tony Meadows

The chairman expressed thanks for the committee's hard work. Enjoy skittles season and see you all next year.

Meeting closed 8.23 p.m.