

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Gedling IBC
Monday, 4th December 2023**

The acting Chairman, Frank Wallis, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. The retiring Chairman, Peter Slack, had written a report, which was read out by Mick Leafe, as follows:

I am sure you already know, but unfortunately due to personal circumstances, I cannot continue as Bowls Nottinghamshire League Chairman. This month, November, I will have completed 24 years continuous service for Nottinghamshire EBA and Bowls Nottinghamshire. I would have liked to have completed 25 years and qualified for my gold watch (joke) but as I am now in my 90th year, it is best that I am “pensioned off”. During my time, I think I have done eight separate jobs from President to Head Gardener.

I have really enjoyed my bowls with Nottinghamshire. I have had some wonderful times and made many friends over the years; the game has been kind to me. I believe the times I spent at our Headquarters are probably the best, be it playing or working or just watching. What a setting. It was a real privilege to have had the opportunity to play there. Particular memories are when we did maintenance there on a Thursday morning. We used to stop for a break, Gary (Wordsworth) would make us all a coffee and occasionally a bacon or sausage sarnie. We would sit on the seats at the top of the steps putting the world to right, particularly the bowls world. To sit there and look down at the bowling green and its surrounds, with Nottingham Castle in the background, was quite spectacular; it stays in my memory. I shared these memories with Gary Wordsworth, Dave Guthrie, Brian Littleton, Ted Riley and a few other volunteers. Closing Headquarters was the end of an era, but it was our only alternative. Gary passed away not too long afterwards. No-one could have replaced him. He was Mr Headquarters and he kept it going almost single-handedly.

I believe that the Bowls Nottinghamshire League has helped to keep bowls alive in the County and particular thanks go to Frank (Wallis) and his committee for all of their hard work. It is obvious that even more hard work lies ahead. I wish you all the best for the future.

I will miss you all but thank you for all your support over the years. Please continue to bowl and support your Clubs and the County. Most of all, enjoy your bowls and the company of your fellow bowlers. I use the term “fellow” in a non-sexist manner. Bowls is a very friendly game; please keep it that way.

Frank Wallis said that he had been Secretary for almost thirty years. The first half with the late Ron Cupit and the last 15 years with Peter. He added that they had worked well together, always discussing things and Peter was involved in a lot of background work. For the last 5 years, Peter had also acted as the Treasurer for the Bowls League and had done a lot of work in keeping the account open.

Roll call

A roll call showed those present as: Frank Wallis (Secretary), committee member Mick Leafe, Divisional Secretaries Colin Firbank and Keith Williams, with a total of 20 delegates representing 12 clubs. Clubs represented were Attenborough, Beeston Unity, Brierley Park, Bulwell Forest, Hucknall TP, Langwith Junction, Newark Northern, Porchester, Queensway Park, Star, West Bridgford and Wollaton.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cavaliers, Church Warsop, Clipstone, Keyworth and Rolls Royce.

Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 21st November 2022 had been circulated to all clubs. It was proposed by Alan Leonardi (Bulwell Forest) and seconded by Peter Dickens (Hucknall TP) that the minutes be accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's report - Frank Wallis

My report is brief as it mainly concerns the league structure, which will be discussed further down the agenda. The end of the season sees us with 29 clubs. This includes eight clubs – Balderton, Beckingham, Blidworth, East Bridgford, Flowserve, Keyworth, Newark Town and Worksop, who do not play in leagues or competitions but use affiliation to the County to gain access to Bowls England and its benefits. We have lost Arnold Park from the Midweek & Saturday League; both Keyworth clubs from the Midweek Men's League; Notts Constabulary from the Midweek Open League. We have also lost the Men's Midweek League, resulting in Newark Northern moving to the Mansfield Midweek League. Cavaliers, East Leake and West Bridgford are all moving to the Open League, leading to a restructuring of this league.

Treasurers Report – Frank Wallis

For the past four years, since we lost our last elected Treasurer, Peter Slack has maintained the accounts. Our account has very little movement as we have no income (league fee of £10 per team was stopped a few years back) and the only payments are pennants for league winners and honoraria for officers of the league. Because of the lack of activity on the account, HSBC have tried to close the account and are now charging a £5 monthly fee to maintain the account. We are also relying on past signatories to make cheque payments. For the past two years, Peter has been repeatedly visiting the branch and talking online. This type of club account is notoriously difficult to maintain and my thanks to Peter for the time and effort he has put in on our behalf.

As for the account itself, we currently have a bank balance of £1341.34p. Costs in 2023 have been £153.50 for pennants and honoraria of £170 for officers. We have sufficient funds for the next few years but eventually we may have to re-introduce league fees.

Divisional Secretaries Reports –

Mansfield Midweek and Saturday Leagues – Keith Williams

The Mansfield Midweek League this season was played on a version of the Top Club format. We played a rink of pairs, two rinks of triples and a rink of fours. It was to be a trial for one season. This format appeared to go down well with the clubs, so it is likely to continue with it in future seasons. It was an unfortunate season for Polly. They topped the league for 13 of the 15 weeks only to lose their last two games away at Langwith and Church Warsop and they finished in third place. Langwith Junction finished as Champions with Church Warsop in second place.

The Saturday League had two new teams; Arnold Park and Queensway Park had transferred from the collapse of the Nottingham Section. This made a league of nine teams. For most of the season it was keenly fought out at the top between five teams - Brierley Park, Arnold Park, Langwith Junction, Church Warsop and Retford. It was quite a long season covering twenty weeks. Due to various issues, there were 11 matches not played, so all of the average points were worked out and distributed. The final table finished with Brierley Park as Champions and Arnold Park as Runners-up. Sadly, the end of the season saw the end of Arnold Park BC after 94 years in existence, due to Gedling Borough Council closing their green.

That ends my report. As usual, I hope you all winter well and I look forward to hopefully see you around next season.

Midweek 3 x 4 Open League – Colin Firbank

With 11 teams having registered for the Open League it was decided to keep 2 Divisions, one of 6 and one of 5 teams with clubs playing each other 3 times. Unlike last season there were cancellations because of wet weather, although there was at least one of the 5 games played on every Tuesday. There is a problem of deciding at what time a decision regarding cancellation is made. On July 18th 4 of the 5 games were cancelled but the game at Bulwell Forest was played and the Attenborough v West Bridgford game could have been played if an early decision had not been made. There is then the question of re-arranging the fixture which needs to be played by August 31st. The Hucknall TP v Wollaton game was re-arranged for August 31st but could not be played that evening so remained an un-played game.

Results cards are usually sent quickly or the result is emailed and the card sent in the post. I like to check players' names but this year it was much harder to read some of the cards. This is particularly the case when photos are taken which might be out of focus or with a shadow over part of the card.

Division 1 was again dominated by Rolls Royce who lost just 1 game, the first game of the season to Bulwell Forest. Rolls Royce gained 76.3 points with a shot difference of 339. There was a good tussle for second place between Bulwell Forest who finished with 52.5 points and Attenborough with 50 points. This was only decided when Attenborough lost the re-arranged game to a West Bridgford side strengthened by regular members of the Men's team. Greasley MW struggled at the beginning of the season and conceded 2 games due to the lack of available players. Results towards the end of the season improved and they became the first team to win a point at Rolls Royce. Both Porchester and West Bridgford competed well.

Division 2 was dominated by Wollaton who lost only once and gained 52 points with a shot difference of 168. The other 4 teams competed well for second place and final positions were only decided when the Hucknall TP v Wollaton game was cancelled on the last day of the season. Beeston Unity claimed second position with 33 points, Star were 3rd with 30.5 and Hucknall TP 4th with 30. There was just one conceded game - Beeston Unity v Notts Constabulary. We are sorry to learn that Notts Constabulary will not be competing in the Open League next season.

I offer my thanks to everyone who helped to make this an enjoyable season.

Midweek 3 x 4 Men's League – Frank Wallis

As predicted at last year's AGM, Keyworth waited until the week before the season started before withdrawing their B team. The league was dominated by Newark Northern, who lost only one match, and this was the last match of the season against East Leake, the result of which gave East Leake the runners-up position. There wasn't much between the second and fifth placed clubs although Keyworth finished well behind with 11 points.

The loss of Arnold Park (green closed by Gedling Borough Council) and Keyworth A & B has resulted in the collapse of this league.

Mixed League – Frank Wallis

There were three matches cancelled in the 2023 season. Cavaliers conceded their visit to Newark Northern, whilst Newark conceded matches at Cavaliers and Attenborough. Cavaliers won the league with 59.2 points and Hucknall TP finished as runners-up with 51.5 points. There wasn't much between Keyworth (42.5), Newark Northern (37.3), Wollaton (37) and East Leake (36). Attenborough finished with 22.5 points.

Hucknall and Keyworth have both resigned for the forthcoming season.

To consider a proposal from West Bridgford to amend league rule 9(a), which reads –
League matches will start at the following times - Midweek Sections - 6:30pm - No trial ends - Saturday Sections - 2.30pm - Two trial ends. In August, by mutual agreement, midweek matches may start earlier.

The proposal is to amend the last sentence to read – From 1st August, league matches will start at 6.00pm unless otherwise agreed by both clubs.

David Hudson (West Bridgford) outlined the reasons behind this proposal. The main reason was to bring BN League Rules into line with the majority of the other leagues in the County and to avoid unnecessary confusion.

After prolonged discussion, the motion from West Bridgford, seconded by Porchester was approved, with eight votes for and 3 votes against.

To consider a proposal from Bulwell Forest BC that smoking and the use of electronic cigarettes on the green be prohibited during all matches played under the jurisdiction of BN rules. Players wishing to smoke or use electronic cigarettes during matches should leave the green and be a minimum of 1 metre away from the edges of the green.

After much discussion, it was agreed that this matter was covered within Bowls England Rules. The Bowls League would remind all clubs of this prior to the start of the forthcoming season. It was added that league clubs should have this within their club rules/constitution.

Visiting clubs should also advise their members to follow and accept the rules and regulations of the host club.

Election of Officers for 2024

The following Officers were elected for 2024 -

Chairman	
Secretary	Frank Wallis
Divisional Secretaries	
Mansfield Midweek League	Keith Williams
Mansfield Saturday League	Keith Williams
Midweek 3x4 League (Open)	Colin Firbank
Mixed League	

Two committee members elected at the next BN Council Meeting.

County Representatives – Mick Leafe (Arnold Park). Brian Littleton (Notts Constabulary) is not standing for re-election.

POST MEETING NOTE

Mick Leafe has volunteered to take on the role of Chairman. This will be considered and reviewed at the next committee meeting.

A member of Attenborough BC may take on the role of Divisional Secretary for the Mixed League

League Structure for 2024

Midweek 3x4 Open League

The collapse of the Men's Midweek League has led to a restructured Open League. Cavaliers, East Leake and West Bridgford have all joined from the Men's League. West Bridgford already have a team in the Open League so they will have two teams. East Leake have added a second team so they will also have two teams.

Division 1 - 8 teams - Cavaliers, East Leake A, West Bridgford A, Rolls Royce, Bulwell Forest, Attenborough, Wollaton & Beeston Unity. Teams play each other twice.

Division 2 - 6 teams - Greasley MW, Porchester, West Bridgford B, Hucknall TP., East Leake B & Star. Teams play each other 3 times.

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Mixed 4x3 League

The loss of Hucknall TP & Keyworth reduces this section to 5 teams. They are Attenborough, Cavaliers, East Leake, Newark Northern and Wollaton. Teams will play each other three times.

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Mansfield Saturday 3x4 league

The resignation of Arnold Park reduces the league to 8 teams - Brierley Park, Church Warsop, Clipstone, Langwith Junction, Polly, Queensway Park, Retford & Teversal.

Teams will play each other twice, giving each team a total of 14 matches.

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Mansfield Midweek 3x4 league

The addition of Newark Northern increases the league from 6 to 7 members. They are Church Warsop, Clipstone, Langwith Junction, Newark Northern, Polly, Queensway Park & Teversal.

Teams will play each other twice, giving each team 12 matches.

The trial of a Top Club format, adopted in 2023, will continue in 2024.

Note to all clubs in the Mansfield leagues - Secretaries – in 2024, Church Warsop will be playing their matches at Worksop S&SC BC.

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Before the meeting closed, the acting Chairman, Frank Wallis, presented pennants to all the league winners.

The acting Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:04pm.