

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Gedling IBC
Monday, 21st November 2022**

The Chairman, Peter Slack, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. He welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for attending. He thanked clubs for their continued support, which encourages us to carry on. He went on to say what a wonderful summer we had weather wise. On a sad note, he informed the members that Tony Walker from Wilford had passed away recently. Tony Walker was the County Secretary in 2001 and the secretary of Wilford BC for many years and it was due to his efforts that Wilford had kept going for so long. The facilities at Wilford had now been demolished to make way for new houses. The chairman then asked everyone for a minute's silence for everyone who had passed away since our last meeting. It was added that Tony's funeral would take place at Wilford Hill at 1.00pm on 19 December.

Roll call

A roll call showed those present as: Peter Slack (Chairman), Frank Wallis (Secretary), with a total of 26 delegates representing 15 clubs. Clubs represented were Arnold Park, Beeston Unity, Brierley Park, Bulwell Forest, Cavaliers, East Leake, Greasley MW, Hucknall TP, Keyworth, Newark Northern, Polly, Porchester, Queensway Park, Teversal and West Bridgford.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Divisional Secretaries Colin Firbank, Brian Littleton and Keith Williams and Attenborough, Clipstone, Langwith Junction & Retford.

Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 1st November 2021 had been circulated to all clubs. It was proposed by Alan Leonardi (Bulwell Forest) and seconded by Mick Leafe (Arnold Park) that the minutes be accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Treasurers Report – Peter Slack

As at the 13 November, we have a balance of £1715.24 in the HSBC bank and £20 in cash. We have had issues with HSBC but, as far as I am aware, they have been resolved. We have recently been hit with charges of £5 per month, £60 per year plus 20p for every cheque. On my reckoning we have probably got enough for 4 years. We have discussed this in committee and decided that we would leave it for this year but put it on the agenda for next year as to what action we should be taking.

Secretary's report - Frank Wallis

Because my report is about the league structure and the leagues and, in the absence of three Divisional Secretaries (Keith Williams – knee operation, Colin Firbank – Attenborough BC AGM & Brian Littleton – mobility issues) I am going to merge my report with the Divisional Secretary reports. Their reports are detailed below.

The end of the season sees us with 30 clubs. We have unfortunately lost Trent Vale from the Midweek 3x4 Open League. Trent Vale (formerly Ericssons, Plessey, GPT, Siemens) were one of the great clubs from the early days of the League. As Trent Vale for the last ten years, their membership has gradually decreased until they finally decided to withdraw. I believe they are continuing in a 3x3 Federation League. Worksop C&SC have returned to the Association after a number of years absence. The total of 30 does include six teams who do not currently participate in league action, these being Beckingham, Blidworth, East Bridgford, Flowserve, Newark Town & Worksop.

Sadly, I have to report the demise of the Nottingham Saturday League. Four of the clubs that played in 2022 have withdrawn, leaving only Arnold Park and Queensway, who have applied to join the Mansfield Section (item 9 on tonight's agenda). Its sad to say that with all the clubs in Nottingham and the South that we cannot put a league out on a Saturday afternoon.

One of the issues we have is that we are competing with other leagues. The Federation has 30+ clubs. In the north of the County, several of the Mansfield clubs participate in Ashfield and other districts, the majority playing in 4x2 and 3x3 leagues. In the south, East Leake, Keyworth, West Bridgford play in the Loughborough area or the League of Country Bowling. I can understand it in the south because they don't have the travel problems of getting across Nottingham at peak times.

Another issue is social bowling. We have plenty of clubs that have a lot of members who prefer social bowling. Clubs with 40, 50, 60 or more bowlers but only play in one league which needs 12 players. A third issue is that there seems to be a lack of competitiveness in the leagues these days. In the old days or years gone by, where there were 2, 3 or 4 divisions, all of the strong teams were in the first division, the weaker teams were in the bottom division and the average teams were in the middle and over a period of time that all balanced out so that each part of the structure was competitive in its own right with all the top teams are playing each other and all the weaker teams were playing each other and you will get a more competitive league. Nowadays if you look at the league tables and apart from the midweek 3 by 4 open league we've only got one league with two divisions in it. Looking at it, for example the Mansfield midweek league we have two dominant teams in Langwith Junction and Church Warsop with the other clubs trailing behind. In the Mansfield Saturday, Church Warsop and Brierley Park streets away from the teams at the middle and bottom. The Nottingham Saturday League which has now fallen through but Arnold Park won 10 out of 10 matches. In the Mixed League, Cavaliers played 12, won 12 and 28 points above the nearest team. One or two teams struggled through a lack of ladies. Newark Northern conceded four games at the start of the season but they sorted it out and then came back stronger. My other league, the Midweek Men's League, was more competitive. I think most of the seven teams on the day could beat anyone else in the league. At the end of the day Newark Northern came out winners after a close battle with Arnold Park. Just a note on Keyworth B, they lost 12 out of 12 matches, scored only 2 rink points but managed to put out a full team most weeks so credit to them.

Divisional Secretaries Reports – circulated to all clubs prior to the meeting

Mansfield Saturday and Midweek Leagues – Keith Williams

Both leagues ran quite smoothly. Results were received fairly quickly, now that most arrive by via e-mail. Just the odd ones needed chasing up, usually when the person who normally sends them, had not played in the game.

The Saturday league was keenly contested at the top by Church Warsop and Brierley Park, with Brierley Park topping the table for most of the season. Church Warsop had three games cancelled and, when they had the average points added, they came out on top by 11 points.

The Midweek League was also keenly contested by Langwith Junction and Church Warsop. Langwith only lost one game all season, whereas Church Warsop lost four matches. Church Warsop scored higher. Langwith Junction finally finished up champions beating Church Warsop by four points. That ends my brief report I hope everyone winters well and hopefully see you around next season.

Saturday 3 x 4 League – Brian Littleton

There were six teams in the league this season, Blidworth having dropped out in 2021. The sun shone and the games were competitive. One disappointing aspect was that three games were conceded.

Congratulations to Arnold Park who won the league impressively with ten wins out of ten matches. You can't get better than that.

I understand four teams are dropping out next season and therefore there will be no Nottingham based 3 x 4 league in 2023. It is so disappointing, but it is a sign of the times we now live in. Just think, only 20 years ago, there were four divisions on a Saturday in this league and of course it was a 4x4 format then.

Midweek 3 x 4 League - Colin Firbank

With 15 games to play we were assured of a full season. Although the planned final date for games was August 9th, it was August 30th before the last game was played. The big surprise was that all games were cancelled on July 19th, not because of rain (in fact none in the season were), but because of the heat. The other unusual event was the abandonment of the game between Beeston Unity and Star when a spectator fell and needed to be taken to hospital. There was one game which had to be re-arranged because of Covid-19.

Division 1 was again dominated by Rolls Royce who lost just 1 game, and that by only 1 shot, to Attenborough. From the 15 games, one of which was conceded, Rolls Royce gained 79.7 points and had a shot difference of 329. Attenborough and Bulwell Forest competed for second place, with Bulwell Forest winning 2 of the 3 games which the clubs played against each other. However, Attenborough managed a total of 10 wins, gaining 57 points, while Bulwell Forest had 8 wins, which included a conceded game, and finished with 48.9 points. Trent Vale was the one club which struggled to have a full team each week and this led to their conceding of 2 games. Three wins meant a total of 19 points. The fourth and fifth positions were only decided with the final game played between Greasley MW and Wollaton. It was a draw but the 3.5 points for Greasley MW meant their total was 33.5 to Wollaton's total of 30.5.

Division 2 was more competitive. Star had the biggest difficulty to find a team of 12 players each week and conceded 4 games, but they won 4 of the 11 played. Porchester proved to be the most consistent team, winning 10 of the 14 games played (one had been conceded) and achieved 62.1 points. The battle for second place was won by West Bridgford when they won their last game of the season. They won 9 games and gained just 2 more points than Hucknall TP. Beeston Unity continued the form which they started at the end of last season, winning 6 of the 13 games played. Notts Constabulary had started the season quite well but won just 4 games of the 14 played.

In both divisions results often arrived the same evening or early the next morning so the league table could be quickly updated.

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

To consider applications to join the Mansfield Saturday League from Arnold Park BC & Queensway Park BC

Arnold Park and Queensway Park were the two remaining clubs following the collapse of the Nottinghamshire Saturday League. It was universally agreed that we couldn't afford to lose any more teams so the proposal was unanimously accepted.

To consider a proposal from Keyworth BC to suspend rule 8e which states : Clubs with more than one team entered in any one of the league sections shall register them as "A" & "B". Any player who has played 4 or more games for the "A" team cannot play for the "B" team for the remainder of the season".

Keyworth put forward their reasons for this proposal. There were occasions in 2022 where the "B" team was unable to put out a team without using "A" team players. The Secretary said this proposal had been put forward in 2018 and 2021 and defeated on both occasions. He added that if Keyworth put one team in the Men's League and the other team in the Open League then players could switch freely between both teams. Kevin added that the Keyworth AGM was coming up on 23 November and he would put this suggestion forward. Other clubs pointed out that the integrity of the league would be compromised if players could freely switch between the A & B teams. After further discussion, the proposal was withdrawn as no one seconded the motion.

Post Meeting Note – Keyworth BC decided at their AGM to keep both sides in the Men's League.

To discuss a change in format of the Mansfield Midweek League –

Teversal BC proposed a change from the 3x4 format to a Top Club Format ie 11 players competing over 2 & 4 wood Singles, Pairs, Triples & Fours to be trialled over the 2023 season and reviewed at the following AGM in November 2023.

Barry Harby (Teversal) said the proposal was put forward to try a different format to see if it encouraged more teams to participate in the league. Only three clubs in this league were present. Teversal proposed the motion, Polly seconded it and Queensway were in favour so the proposal was carried by three votes to zero.

Election of Officers for 2023

It was proposed by Mick Leafe, seconded by Peter Dickens and approved unanimously that all Officers were re-elected.

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

Two committee members elected at the BN Council Meeting in October 2022.
County Representatives – Mick Leafe (Arnold Park) & Brian Littleton (Notts Constabulary)

To discuss and confirm proposed league structure for 2023

Midweek 3x4 league Men only One division 7 teams

Arnold Park, Cavaliers, East Leake, Keyworth A, Keyworth B, Newark Northern & West Bridgford
Teams play each other twice - 12 matches

AGM decision for 2023 - no change

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Midweek 3x4 league Open Two divisions 12 teams

Division 1 - Attenborough, Bulwell Forest, Greasley MW, Porchester, Rolls Royce & West Bridgford

Division 2 - Beeston Unity, Hucknall TP, Notts Constabulary, Star & Wollaton

AGM decision for 2023

Division 1 remains the same, six teams playing each other three times.

Division 2 – following the withdrawal of Trent Vale, this division will only have five teams. Beeston Unity proposed playing each other four times whilst Hucknall TP only wanted to play each other three times. As Beeston and Hucknall were the only clubs present, it was agreed that the Secretary would contact the remaining three clubs to reach a decision.

Post Meeting note – Notts Constabulary, Star & Wollaton were all in favour of playing each other three times so that will be the format in 2023.

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Mixed 4x3 League

Mixed

One division 7 teams

Teams - Attenborough, Cavaliers, East Leake, HTP, Keyworth, Newark Northern & Wollaton
Teams play each other twice - 12 matches

AGM decision for 2023 - no change

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Mansfield Saturday 3x4 league Open

One division 7 teams

Brierley Park, Church Warsop, Clipstone, Langwith Junction, Polly, Retford & Teversal
Teams play each other twice - 12 matches

AGM decision for 2023 – an increase of two clubs so now 9 teams

Following the loss of the Nottingham section, **new applications were accepted from Arnold Park & Queensway Park**. Nine teams playing each other twice.

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Mansfield Midweek 3x4 league Open

One division 6 teams

Church Warsop, Clipstone, Langwith Junction, Polly, Queensway Park & Teversal
Teams play each other three times - 15 matches

AGM decision for 2023 – with the new Top Club format being approved at the meeting, the format will be confirmed over the coming months

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Before the meeting closed, the Chairman, Peter Slack, presented pennants to all the league winners.

The chairman thanked the members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.50pm.