

## Skittles Event

by Dean Carpenter

19<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

On a slightly chilly and damp afternoon in January, 21 members of the Section, new and old, joined me at the Black Horse, West Tytherley for an afternoon of Skittles in the warmth. Two of our more hardened members, Gail & Erica, arrived on their 2 wheeled steeds, whilst the rest of us chose the 4 wheeled option. Still a bit cold yet.

Once everyone was settled in their seats with a beverage of their choice ready, I briefed them on the running order and rules of the afternoon. It was soon evident, after cross questioning and clarification, that people were taking this seriously and were more than willing to do whatever it took to get their hands on the medals and a bottle of wine of their choice.

Everybody got to throw 3 large pink balls (yes - you read that right) three times and the scores were totted up at the end to work out the winners. After the 3rd ends and a bit of adding up (thanks Lesley Smith), some members were awarded the following:



Highest Scoring Gent –  
**Dean Carpenter**  
(no, not a fix!)



Highest Scoring Lady –  
**Julie Waldron**  
(last year's Strongest Lady)



Strongest Gent –  
**Mike Smith**  
(in other words, lowest score)



Strongest Lady –  
**Gail Hynard**

After the medals and wine were handed out, the majority of the members chose to pay £1 and play "Killer", where you got 1 ball to try and knock a pin down. If you missed, you lost a life and you only had 2 lives. Members threw with their dominant hand on their first turn and their opposite hand on their next turn. If you were still in the game at this point, you then had to turn your back to the pins, bend over and throw through your legs whilst looking through them. This turned out to be a little challenging for some members and those of us returning the balls, at the other end, after each turn, saw a whole new side to our members. Congratulations go to Anne Martin who not only discovered a new throwing position but was the last member standing and won the cash prize.

During the afternoon, we paused for a short period to eat our lunch which came in the form of varied basket meals. These were very tasty and well received.

I would like to thank Andy Hards and Mike Smith for helping to replace the pins after each member had thrown and to Lesley Smith for keeping the score and totting up, and all our members present who raised £38 towards our nominated charity.