

<i>Fixture Secretary</i>	<i>Competition Secretary</i>	<i>General Secretary</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
JOHN PALMER	ROB BURROUGHS	MALCOLM FLETCHER	MIKE POTTER	SEAN ROUND	CELIA MILES
<i>Tel: 07460-267265</i>	<i>Tel: 07901-229623</i>	<i>Tel: 01952-771134</i>	<i>Tel: 01952-617200</i>	<i>Tel: 07446-907207</i>	<i>Tel: 01952-222468</i>

Minutes of the February 2023 Management Committee Meeting

held on Wednesday 15th February at Bowring BC at 7.30pm

1 Chairman's remarks to open the meeting

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies & In Memoriam

There were apologies from Worfield, Highley, Sinclair and Martin Gaut.

3 Minutes of the December Management Committee Meeting

These were accepted as a true record, proposed by Much Wenlock and seconded by Edgmond.

4 Matters arising

John Palmer stated the following in response to Bob Mumford's request for those who played on Mondays and Fridays.

298 played on a Monday. 225 played on a Monday and would be eligible for the Monday Merit. 129 played on Monday and Friday.

5 General Secretary's report

Good evening everyone! It seems odd that we are actually having a meeting in February when clubs voted at the recent AGM to do away with so many management meeting from now on. But I just felt there was so much going on that we ought to meet face to face.

One of the most important things to happen since the annual meeting was a Zoom meeting with BCGBA chief exec Mark Bircumshaw about how bowls clubs to safeguard the future of their greens or try and fight a proposed closure. Sadly I missed it due to a family illness but, thanks to County Development Officer Pauline Wilson, I do have a report from it.

The key thing and most positive news is that all affiliated clubs locally are part of the Playing Pitch Strategies of both Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire County Councils. This offers a certain level of protection as it must be consulted as part of the planning application process.

But a formal lease or contract gives added security. So if clubs don't have one, they should think about talking to the land owner to try and get one!

Too many clubs in the county had tried to fight the loss of their greens on their own, but Pauline is pushing for the SCGBA and its officers to be the first port of call for advice. And it goes without saying that the willingness to fight the proposed loss with a dedicated and organised campaign is critical to success.

Now let's turn to people. I am delighted to announce that Ian Evans of Madeley CC has agreed to captain the League's veterans team this year, saying it would be a "pleasure". I am hoping that his predecessor Peter Spragg will agree to be his vice captain on June 10 to show him the ropes and help out when Ian is playing.

I have new secretaries to report at Edgmond (Louise Heath) and MuchWenlock (Sue Mawditt) and a new email contact address for Horsehay. They will be updated on the Club Contacts section of the League's website imminently – along with all the rules after the various changes at the AGM.

With regards to sponsorships, the wrong payment issue with Molson Coors from last year has been sorted – it's going to be used as the sponsorship money for 2023! I am also working on a sponsorship proposal to put to Local Print Pros (*and there could be money for our junior comps from the Mel Evans MBE Foundation after an application to Lynn Pritchatt*)

Two last things – any club requiring scorecards this year has until the March executive meeting to get their orders in (cost last year was £13 for 1,000)

And finally, we need to think about a thank you gift for former competition secretary Phil King. Do we get him a bottle like we got Ric last year? **AGREED**

6 Correspondence

RECEIVED JANUARY 22 from BRENDA SLINGO, a guest at the dinner:

Hi Malcolm and Marg. Thank you for your support, friendship and faith in me.

It's a long time since I have been to an evening event (the MSBL presentation dinner) – and I wasn't sure I could. But I got proved wrong last night.

Bowlers are an amazing bunch of people. Thanks again, Brenda

RECEIVED JANUARY 24 from MIKE POTTER, League President:

Dear League Officials, members & friends: I wish to convey my sincere thanks to the officials, clubs and players of the Mid Shropshire Bowling League for the kind invitation afforded to Linda and I to enjoy the hospitality and share the celebrations of the teams and players during the 2022 bowling season, at the League's Presentation night on 21st January.

I must also add my congratulations to all the award winners and everyone associated with the organising of the event that made the evening one to remember for us all in attendance.

On behalf of myself and fellow invited guests, the kind remarks made at the start of evening about us by League Secretary, Malcolm Fletcher were both fondly and humbly appreciated.

Although this year's event thankfully ended a three year "Covid 19" forced break of the League's annual celebrations, with an attendance in excess of 160, the League has much to be proud of as again, Saturday's presentation evening was the biggest of its kind in Shropshire and it should be acknowledged that this is in no small way down to the efforts of Malcolm and his chief organiser, Margaret Fletcher. Well done yet again.

Linda has asked me to pass on her thanks for the beautiful bouquet of flowers and I was "bowled over" (forgive the pun) to receive the gift of a very warm Mid Shropshire "Branded" coat from the League.

My year as Shropshire County President is drawing to a close and I would like to thank all clubs within the county and especially those affiliated to the Mid Shropshire Bowling League for their support that made it such a special time for me.

Finally, may I wish our league continued success and look forward to seeing you all on the bowling greens, this coming season. Yours truly, Mike Potter

RECEIVED JANUARY 23 from JESS MORRIS of London Hearts:

My name is Jess and I am the Community Liaison Officer at London Hearts, the leading heart charity dealing with the funding, procurement and supply of life saving defibrillators throughout the entire of the UK.

I am contacting you to ensure your club has a Heart Defibrillator on site.

The devastating effects of the Covid19 crisis along with recent televised events has highlighted the fact that Cardiac Arrest can happen to anyone, of any age, at any time!

The statistics are alarming - Cardiac Arrest kills over 60,000 people, of all ages, in the UK each year. If a heart defibrillator is used within 3-5mins of a cardiac arrest, the chances of survival increases from 6% to a huge 74%.

We are currently offering sports clubs Charity Grant Funding towards the cost of each Defibrillator we supply. With every Defibrillator, we also provide free online CPR/Defibrillator awareness training. Equipment is available now.

If you have any queries please feel free to contact me either by telephone on 02070432493 or by email reply at: jess@londonhearts.org

To receive further information on the Defibrillators we supply along with a non-obligatory quote, simply complete our short online application at: <https://www.londonhearts.org/apply-for-a-defib>

If you do have the benefit of a Defibrillator please ensure you check that it is still under manufacturer warranty and that the pads & battery have not expired.

Kindest Regards, Jess

RECEIVED JANUARY30 from HELEN SKIDMORE of Brewood BC:

Hi! Thank you very much for your invite for Brewood to join the Mid Shropshire League.

At this point we aren't in a position to put a team in.

But I hope you are successful in looking for new teams.

Regards, Helen Skidmore, secretary of Brewood Bowling Club

NEW TEAM APPLICATIONS

RECEIVED DECEMBER 20 from GRAHAM WALL of Castlefields:

Hi Malcolm. I understand you've spoken to Craig Elson as regards our potential interest in joining the MSBL Thursday night division for 2023.

We believe we have enough interest and would be keen to register our application for Castlefields ahead of your AGM.

Any further details that maybe required don't hesitate to contact me

Many thanks, Graham Wall – *he's going to attend the March executive meeting*

RECEIVED JANUARY 25 from STEVE ROBERTS, chair of Wrockwardine Wood:

Dear Malcolm, Firstly I would like to wish you, the officers and the club delegates a very happy 2023.

Wrockwardine Wood have been working hard over the last year, especially in the closed season on growth within the club. It is our aspiration, if the League allows, to enter a second Friday night team into division 3.

We totally appreciate that our late withdrawal of the same team last year caused some issues for the fixture secretary and Division 3 clubs, and we sincerely apologise.

We are delighted that a large number of our Monday night players now want to commit to playing additionally on a Friday and this will benefit themselves, the club and the League.

We are hoping this will be ratified at our club AGM in February and we can then formally request a place in time for the March Executive meeting.

Yours in sport, Steve Roberts

RECEIVED FEBRUARY 13 from RICHARD GREEN, sec of Highley:

Hi Malcolm. Please accept Highley's apologies for not attending the meeting on 15th February but it is our club AGM.

But on a better note we would like to enter a team in the new league on Thursday afternoons if there is a place.

And we should be able to provide food for the Monday league matches.

Kind Regards, Richard

RECEIVED FEBRUARY 14 from JOHN LAWRENCE, sec of Donnington Wood:

Following our club bowling AGM it has been decided to apply to enter a team from Donnington Wood Bowling Club in the Thursday afternoon league.

We look forward to your acceptance, John Lawrence

7 Treasurer's report

We have £16,724 in the bank. Because of our large profit last year, I am proposing the following:

- Match fees in ALL divisions set at 50p
- 2022 – div 1 = 80p; divs 2 & 3 = 70p; Mon & Thurs divs = 60p (income drops to £8,088 from £10,677 with same number of teams)
- Cut annual fee per team to £5 - from £10 (costs League £400 with same number of teams)
- Drop 25p per player annual registration fee (costs League £200)
- Look at divisional averages prize money for this year

Need to be approved, for one year only, at March executive (or some may want EGM to change some rules?)

8 Fixture Secretary's report

- I can't do much until the March Executive Meeting. It looks like two new teams on a Friday and one on a Monday and Thursday. Promotion and relegation is fine between the divisions. We would need to decide on a structure for Monday nights with a new team, Friday would be 3 divisions of 12.
- The Friday season would be Friday 28th April till Friday 22nd September.
- The Monday season would be Monday 3rd April till Monday 2nd October.
- The Thursday season would be Thursday 6th April till Thursday 28th September.
- Can clubs please let me know what teams they are planning to run and on which greens, and any special request or green clashes.

9 Competition Secretary's report

I have sorted out dates for our competitions this season and hopefully avoided any clashes between team competitions or other leagues and county dates.

Team Competitions

Harris Cup Final – Saturday 23rd September

Ashton Cup Final – Saturday 2nd September

Ashton Shield Final – Saturday 2nd September

Individual Competitions

Mid Shropshire Merit – Qualifiers on Fridays 14th April & Final 8 on Friday 21st April, both at 6.30 p.m.

Monday Night Merit – Qualifiers on Monday 1st May & Finals on Monday 8th May both at 6 p.m.

Over 60s – Saturday 20th May at 2 p.m.

Junior Day – Saturday 24th June at 11 a.m.

Dixon & Discroll – Saturday 26th August at 10 a.m.

Mixed Doubles – Saturday 3rd June at 10 a.m.

Under 25 Merit – Saturday 10th June at 6 p.m.

We are proposing a new way of collecting entrance fees with us invoicing clubs at the end of the season and them paying the fees for their players. John Lumsden asked if we could enter the team competitions online? Steve Wall said there may be a cost involved on the website. The Competitions Secretary would email Mike Beckett regarding this. These dates with entry fees and closing dates will be released on the website over the next week or so.

Can clubs please let me know if they want me to use their green.

10 New Afternoon Division in 2023

Can clubs let us know as soon as they can if they wish to enter. Most teams wanted to play on a Thursday so we have gone with that day, with just a couple of Tuesdays to avoid clashing with the Senior Citizens. We have liaised with the Senior Citizens, Ladies and Highley leagues to make sure they were in the loop. We have 5 teams now entered; Highley, Donnington Wood, Edgmond, Albrighton and Madeley Cricket Club. We will call it the Afternoon Division.

11 Hartshill Park (Oakengates) – future use of the currently flat green

FORWARDED by PHIL SCOTT, county chairman League vice-chairman:

From: [Jones, Helen \(Environment Community Liaison Officer\)](#)

Sent: 19 January 2023 16:37

Subject: Telford and Wrekin District Bowling Club

Good afternoon Phil. You may or may not be aware that Telford & Wrekin District Bowling Club has now ceased to exist.

It was based in Hartshill Park, Oakengates and in addition to the bowls club and pavilion, there is parking on site with one disabled bay, a tennis court, play area and an outdoor gym, football pitches, and a bandstand. The park is also well used by the Town Council for events, to include a carnival.

This is a flat green bowling facility and we are looking at how best to use it in the future. Options are being considered but obviously our ideal preference would either be for another club to take over the green and building, and continue to use it as a flat green bowling facility, or repurposed into a crown green.

I would be grateful if you had any knowledge or contacts of other clubs that may be willing to take it on as either flat or crown bowls. Whilst I understand that there would be a cost implication to repurpose the green, I am happy to help explore options to see if there is any funding available in order to achieve this. I will start to make enquiries regarding this.

If you would like to contact me to discuss the club and its facilities in more detail, my mobile number is below. I'm also happy to arrange a meeting with you to look at the grounds in more detail. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards, Helen Jones

Environment Community Liaison Officer

Telford & Wrekin Council 01952 384656 07890 063149

Please can clubs let us know if they wish to take this on or want any more information. Bob Llewellyn said that the flat green bowlers are looking to take up Crown Green Bowling at Maddocks and other clubs.

MSBL General Secretary has spoken to her and also emailed to say her plea would be discussed in full at tonight's meeting – AND UPDATED BY EMAIL AFTER IT.

12 Annual Dinner review

- Malcolm Fletcher said it was a bit draughty where they sat
- Celia Miles commented that there was a long time between courses and slow service at times, which meant that the dancing could have gone on longer. It was the poorest meal we had eaten there.
- Lucy Evans said they needed more staff there to improve the service.
- Linda Potter said we could have done with more choice for the main meal.
- The DJ was great.
- There were no issues with parking.
- Louise Cotton said thank you to Marg Fletcher for organising.
- Dave Evans warned we need to balance against what we get for what we paid for.

13 Life Members and annual charity for 2023

Below is an extract of a speech that Mike Potter gave regarding Parkinson's UK.

Parkinson's Disease is a long-term degenerative disorder of the central nervous system. Nowadays, the word Disease isn't used as it's thought to sound negative, or like an infectious illness. Unlike flu or measles, Parkinson's can't be caught from someone and people now prefer to call it just Parkinson's or PD for short. PD is now known to be the fastest growing neurological condition in the world and in the UK alone, around 145,000 people currently live with it, that's approximately 1 in 400. Most people that get Parkinson's are aged 50 or over, but younger can also get it and although, often perceived as an older person's condition, of the 10,000 diagnosed each year, 5% are aged under 40, a figure that is on the rise. So with the huge impact on family life many are now experiencing, the development of new treatments and hopefully a cure is becoming all the more vital.

Parkinson's UK is this country's biggest support and research charity providing information through it's UK-wide team of Support Workers, Website, free helpline etc. They bring people with Parkinson's, their carers and families together via local groups and online community.

It is with great pride I ask this meeting of the Mid-Shropshire Bowling League to formally accept the proposal for the League's nominated charity for 2023 to be, Parkinson's UK.

Thankyou.

Life membership will be given to Mike Potter, Celia Miles and Geoff Clarke.

14 County matters

- All rules at the AGM were passed.
- 63 clubs and leagues attended, with 74 clubs and 5 leagues not attending.
- Honorarium has gone up 10%.
- The Fines will be going into a funding account.
- We didn't have much of a profit because if we take the fines and prize money out it would decrease the profit substantially.
- The venue was fine for the AGM.
- Sean Round said the people he spoke to said it was better on a Saturday morning as it was better driving in daylight.

15 Any Other Business

- Celia Miles said the Bayley AGM was on 7th March, the same time as our next meeting. Malcolm Fletcher was to email Kate Overton to check.
- Mike Potter said there is a referees meeting on Friday 3rd March at 7.30 p.m. at Bridgewater, and a seminar the week after at the same time and venue.
- Mike said that if you don't register with the Shropshire Referees Society then you cannot referee as you don't have insurance. After a year you would then need to resit the exam.

16 President / chairman to close the meeting

The President hoped the next meeting wouldn't be as long as this one!

With no further business, the meeting closed at 9.02 p.m.