



MSBL
Mid-Shropshire Bowling League



Monthly Newsletter May 2023

Secretary's Report by Malcolm Fletcher



Well folks, here it is, the first of the Newsletters your League's officers pledged to produce once the democratic decision had been made to do away with the usual monthly meetings in May and June. And rest assured, the Sir John Bayley Club has been made aware of the situation.

I have to thank fixture secretary John Palmer and vice-chairman Steve Wall for help with the design and production of the Newsletter because – as I will explain later – my available time has been at a premium in recent weeks.

However, I am pleased to report that the launch of the new Afternoon Division seems to have gone very smoothly. I hope the clubs involved and their members are enjoying it and that we can at

least get to 8 teams next year.

Even more successful have been the 2 Merits run already this season, with big entries in qualifying sessions and well attended finals nights. In fact the climax of the new Monday Divisions Merit on the Coronation Bank Holiday Monday was a real eye opener, both in terms of the quality of play and the number watching.

In the light of rising costs for clubs, I think we now need to look at introducing a fee for clubs hosting League events and put it in our rules. I thank Madeley Cricket Club BC for bringing this omission to our attention.

But it's clear to me that, in new comps man Rob Burroughs, in addition to recent recruit John Palmer and long-serving treasurer Celia Miles, we have a really strong team now striving to do their best for Mid Shropshire bowls.

Sadly, that team can no longer call on the vast experience of former secretary, president and life member Jeff Hutchinson, but I am happy to say that his funeral went off well. It's just a pity that it had to be so late on a Friday afternoon, meaning a lot of bowlers were not able to attend.

There is a county executive meeting looming on Monday 22nd May when we hope to get the venue for the Shropshire junior inter-league switched to Mid Shropshire on September 10 as it is our turn! On the same subject, we have once again paid £30 to the county for a half page advert in their match programmes this season.

And finally, I think it only fair to inform member clubs that my wife Marg and I are currently dealing with a stressful family issue that is certainly limiting the time I have available right now. My commitment to the League remains as strong as ever and I will try to keep the website and Facebook group fresh with regular posts. But you may have to bear with me for a little while . . .

Malcolm

Fixture Secretary's Report by John Palmer

All the divisions have started and consequently, player registration is locked. Clubs requiring further changes will now need to contact me. Fortunately, despite the recent poor weather, very few matches have had to be postponed. The exception is Chelmarsh who have severe drainage issues and so far have been unable to use their green. They've reversed two fixtures and where this hasn't been possible due to green clashes, have played at 'home' on Bylet's No.2.

One transgression of rule 21c (playing one of their premier 12) by SJB needs to be discussed at the next Executive meeting in July.

Two players have been transferred - Karl Law from Bridgnorth to Bylet and Graham Bleakley from Madeley to Sinclair. Karl had played two matches for Bridgnorth and Graham four games for Madeley. Neither original club objected to the moves.

Good luck to everybody for the rest of the season and let's hope the weather improves.
John



Competition Secretary's Report by Rob Burroughs



We have held our two Merit Finals so far this season.

The Friday Night Merit saw 76 entries which meant we went to a 16 finals day at the Bylet. Thank you to everyone who entered. Well done to Newport's John Breeze for winning the Merit after beating Horsehay's John Roberts Jnr 21-13 in the final. Thank you to all the entrants, the highest number we have had in a long time. Thank you to the Bylet for hosting the finals, providing two excellent greens and for the buffet. Thank you to Louise Cotton and Roger Cotton for refereeing and measuring. Thank you to Marg Fletcher for doing the raffle. Thank you to John Lumsden, Dave Evans, Malcolm Fletcher, Tim Cotton, John Palmer and Denise Tonks for

running the qualifiers for me. Thank you to the Bowring, Horsehay, Newport and Bridgnorth for hosting the qualifiers.



Pictured are Rob with the trophies and the qualifiers before the Senior Merit finals at Bylet.

Pictured are the two Senior Merit finalists with Paul Beer & Mike Humphries from our sponsors Shropshire Vertidrain & Turf Services Ltd. Paul, John Breeze (Winner), John Roberts Jnr (Runner-up) and Mike.

All the Senior Merit scores can be found on [Mike Beckett's Results Service](#).



The Monday Night Merit attracted 45 entries, a great start to a new competition. Thank you to everyone who entered. The final saw Wrockwardine Wood's Ellie Wall produce a superb performance to beat Bowring's Steve Hendy 21-6. Well done to Ellie on her success, and to Steve on reaching the final. Thank you to the Bayley for hosting, to Celia Miles for doing the food and also to Denise Tonks for doing the raffle. Thank you to Steve Wall, Dave Evans and Louise Cotton for running the qualifiers. Thank you to Sinclair, Madeley Cricket Club and Trench for hosting the qualifiers. Thank you to Malcolm Fletcher and Sean Round for helping me run the finals night.



Pictured left are the Monday Night Merit finalists and right winner Ellie Wall and runner-up Steve Hendy. All scores are available on [Mike Beckett's Results Service](#).

Looking forward, we have the Over 60s Merit coming up on Saturday 20th May (2pm start) at Donnington Wood old green and on 3rd June the Mixed Doubles at Edgmond (10am start). Both competitions can be entered on the day.

I will be closing the Ashton and Harris Cup entries on Friday 19th May and publishing the draw on the Saturday as I will need to use the Preliminary rounds on Wednesday 7th June for the Ashton and Wednesday 21st June for the Harris. The first round draws will take place at the over 60s merit and released later that evening.

Rob

Treasurer's Report by Celia Miles

The league's bank balance as at 12th May was £10363.00. Both recent outstanding cheques have now been cashed.

£125 sponsorship by Shropshire Vertidrain & Turf Services Ltd. for the Senior Merit has been received with thanks.

Celia



Dates for your Diary

Friday 19th May - Final call for entries in the Ashton & Harris Cups.

Saturday 20th May - Over 60's Merit at Donnington Wood. 2pm start. Enter on the day.

Saturday 3rd June - Mixed Doubles at Edgmond. 10am start. Enter on the day.

Wednesday 7th June - Preliminary round of the Ashton Cup.

Wednesday 21st June - Preliminary round of the Harris Cup.

Date of next meeting – July executive on Tuesday the 4th at SJBC (7.30pm).

[More details and contact information are on our website midshrop.co.uk](http://midshrop.co.uk)

The league is sponsored by:

