

<i>Fixture Secretary</i>	<i>Competition Secretary</i>	<i>General Secretary</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<b>JOHN PALMER</b>	<b>ROB BURROUGHS</b>	<b>MALCOLM FLETCHER</b>	<b>MIKE POTTER</b>	<b>SEAN ROUND</b>	<b>CELIA MILES</b>
<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>

*~ Established in 1932 ~*

## **Minutes of the April 2023 Management Committee Meeting**

held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April at the Sir John Bayley Club at 7.30pm

### **1 Chairman's remarks to open the meeting**

Good evening everyone. We have had the sad loss of our former President, Secretary and friend Jeff Hutchinson. When I first met Jeff as an 18 year old I felt quite intimidated of his knowledge and know how. I was happy to have his help when I took over to guide me and tell me well done or have a word in my ear if I needed it. He was a true gentleman and offered me invaluable support. You could class him as a friend and could go to him as one. He even stepped forward recently to be our delegate. He will be truly missed.

### **2 Apologies & In Memoria**

There were apologies from Kevin Hall (Sinclair), Doug Russell (Worfield) and Richard Green (Highley).

We've lost of one of the legendary figures of the League and Shropshire bowling in Jeff Hutchinson. His Life Membership words in 2017 sum it up in a nutshell: "Awarded in recognition of the long term commitment and outstanding work on behalf of the League and SCGBA. A past league secretary and president who represented Mid Shropshire as County President in 2005."

A minute's silence before matches and tonight is the very least we can do as a mark of respect to a man who served Mid Shropshire in so many ways in half a century of outstanding service to the sport.

As soon as I have funeral details I will announce them, but it is likely to be the first week of May at Wellington Parish Church, followed by cremation and then the wake here at the Bayley. I was thinking the league officials could give a guard of honour. I've been asked to say a few words.

He was my mentor and I learned so much – and I hope his dedication and skills have rubbed off on me in this role – one that Jeff did with such aplomb alongside John Hughes in the last century. I'll never forget him . . .

### **3 Minutes of the March Executive Committee Meeting & 2023 AGM**

The minutes of the March Executive Meeting were accepted as a true record, proposed by Much Wenlock and seconded by Trench.

The minutes of the AGM were accepted as a true record, proposed by Charlton and seconded by Sir John Bayley.

### **4 Matters arising**

Bob Mumford said Much Wenlock were doing sandwiches on a Friday but not on a Monday.

### **5 General Secretary's report**

Apologies if I'm not quite on the ball tonight – I'm sure you'll understand why

It's the time of year when your League officers deal with lots of enquiries and the inbox on email just keeps filling up.

One of them was from Guy Lewis of Horsehay who reported that the secretaries seminar on Zoom by county official Marie Scott was most useful – and I did forward details of it to all the new secs I knew of at that time.

Still on county initiatives, I'm pleased that 11 League clubs signed up to 'Roll Up Shropshire' – the Pauline Wilson promotion before the Big Bowls Weekend. It can only help to try and attract new members. Hadley USC are one of them and that should ensure they get the Junior Bowls Discount from the League – the deadline to hold an open session to get the discount being 1<sup>st</sup> July.

The Club Contacts section of website has been updated, including all the information received about post match food and the location of nearest defibrillator. Thanks to webmaster Steve Wall you can now download minutes of meetings from the site – once they have been approved as a true record – and there is a new useful links section to the SCGBA and BCGBA websites.

On the subject of defibs, I'm please to hear Madeley Cricket Club are now trying to get their own def at the green rather than across the field at the cricket club pavilion.

Sadly I've had no luck recruiting an 8<sup>th</sup> team to launch the Afternoon Division on Thursday – but it's not too late if anyone wants to take the bye!

There was no joy either in asking Local Print Pros to consider sponsoring and printing this year's scorecards. The price of pulp paper has risen too high for them to oblige – and that's why NW Printers are charging £15 per 1,000 this time – up from £13 last year.

That's it from me – so here's wishing you all a happy and stress-free season. And don't forget the next League meeting isn't until July!!

## 6 Correspondence

RECEIVED MARCH 30 from MARIE SCOTT, county treasurer:

I have just sent an email to 24 affiliated clubs as a reminder that I need to see evidence of their club insurance if not purchased via Endsleigh. Anything you can do your end would be greatly appreciated. Some I know have insurance as they have updated their page, but I haven't seen a copy so can't tick them off as compliant.

MSBL clubs contacted are: Allscott Heath, Broseley, Bowring, Broseley, Donnington Wood, Horsehay, Shifnal, Wrockwardine Wood

## 7 Fixture Secretary's report

Good evening everybody.

As you're aware, the fixtures were published 3 weeks ago. There were a couple of issues coordinating the Friday divisions with the Premier league and thanks go to Rob for agreeing to reverse one of their fixtures in order to sort things out.

All clubs have now organised their named player lists, some much earlier than others and the majority without needing reminding. Remember that the results system will remain open for registrations until divisions 1 & 2 start at the end of the month. This does mean that named lists could be changed but this shouldn't happen without clubs contacting me first to comply with league rule 21f.

The Monday divisions played last night, pretty much without incident and both the Thursday afternoon and evening divisions start this week.

Good luck for the rest of the season!

## 8 Afternoon Division

This is set to start with 7 teams on Thursday as we have not been able to find an 8<sup>th</sup> team.

## 9 Treasurer's report

There is £14,853 in the account. There are two cheques from Horsehay and the White House that have not been cashed out.

## 10 Competition Secretary's report

- We have nearly 64 in the Friday Night Merit. If we go over 64 I would rather do a 16 at a two green venue otherwise the qualifiers will take too long. I am using Newport, Bridgnorth, Bowring and Horsehay for the qualifiers.
- The Over 60s are at Allscott.
- The Mixed Doubles on the 3rd June are at Edgmond.
- The Junior Day is at St Georges.
- I will decide a venue for the Under 25 once I've enquired about a couple of them.
- The Dixon and Driscoll I will decide on once I know the entries. The Harris Cup had about 12 entries last week and the Ashton about 8. Have only got a few entries for the Monday Night Merit so far so will push that over the next couple of weeks.

## 11 County matters

Meeting started with official handover of chains and badges to new President Mick Jones and his deputy, MSBL nomination Brenda Slingo.

Clashes with British Ladies competitions on the draft county calendar for 2023 were discussed after a letter from Helen Clee and organiser Mike Potter is to try and avoid them.

Treasurer Marie Scott said clubs and leagues would receive just 1 invoice this year, in May. Her seminar for new secretaries on Zoom is proving popular. Delegates were warned that new BCGBA registrations would cost £15 from May 1<sup>st</sup> – and Marie, as registrar, has dealt with 45 new regs this year compared to 18 at same stage of 2022, saying it was “encouraging”

Secretary Dawn Gray reported a nightmare getting open comp certificates this year due to bad administration and that the Malpas League, with matches played on Saturday afternoons, has now folded.

Comps sec Mike Potter listed county trophies not returned or were missing.

Chairman Phil Scott said he had roasted BCGBA officials on Zoom for not getting things done. Interim governing board is in place and next step is to get nominations for regional reps. Major improvements being planned at Heaton Park.

BCGBA comps lost £33,000 last year! So entry fees are going up, with a new £1 footer fee, and prize money is coming down. Honoraria to officers up 9.6% but £300 to all County Development Officers due in January had not been paid.

As CDO Pauline Wilson outlined the plan for Roll Up Shropshire, her version of BBW aimed at attracting newcomers of all ages to the sport but earlier and more effectively in the season. She already had 8 clubs signed up (23 in the end). With regards to clubs updating their entries to Playing Pitch Strategies, she stressed they must say they need / want to make improvements to clubhouses, toilets, floodlights, paths etc etc as any section 106 compensation money can be given to the local area if there is a need

Three people who had been to the Shropshire Referees Society seminar were taking the refs exam.

Specsavers to be approached as potential new county sponsor.

Dennis UK to up their backing of Shropshire Best Kept Green to £200. The new Greenkeepers Day at Prees on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April looks set to be a full house with the maximum of 50 attending (subsequently increased to 8- with some spaces available).

Wrekin Cup rules were discussed under AOB as SCGBA look to relaunch the Shropshire Senior Citizens Cup this year (3 home-3 away KO).

MSBL delegates asked county to subsidise potential referees, like the coaches, to try and help ease shortage and also approach the Mel Evans MBE Foundation with a view to getting a slice of the money they are offering to organisers of junior comps.

Mike Potter added that there is a footer fee for the Senior Merit now and the Centenary Mixed Pairs. This means I've had to separate out the Dave Card and the qualifier for the Centenary Mixed Pairs. Mark Taylor asked have they explained what would happen if they didn't pay? They hadn't done so as far as we are aware. Sean Round has tendered his resignation to all county matters due to work commitments.

### **12 Any Other Business**

Edgmond was broken into twice last week so please can clubs be aware.

### **13 President / chairman to close the meeting**

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.23 p.m.