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~ Established in 1932 ~

Minutes of the July 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

held on Tuesday 4th July at the Sir John Bayley Club at 7.30pm

1 Chairman's remarks to open the meeting

Good evening. Pleased to see you all. Thanks to the officers for keeping up to date with newsletters. Happy anniversary to Marg & Malcolm Fletcher!

2 Apologies & In Memoria

There were apologies from Worfield, Chelmarsh and Prince of Wales Hotel.

In Memoria: Marlene Seagar (Trench)

3 Minutes of the April Management Committee Meeting

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

4 Matters arising

The Juniors Bowls Discount Scheme was done by Albrighton, Hadley USC and Maddocks. I'm just waiting on Donnington Wood to send me their proof.

5 General Secretary's report

Good evening all! After a 3 month break, they're back . . . Mid Shropshire meetings! I must admit that the discipline of preparing for one has helped me to get back a more normal feel to the year. And I need to stress again I have clarified the new meeting structure with Katy Overton of the Bayley Club

I hope the Newsletters we have launched to help fill the void have been useful and any feedback would be welcome. That way we can try and improve on the next publication in August. My thanks go to John Palmer for his considerable help to get the May issue off the ground and then also producing the June copy.

Keeping in touch with clubs and their bowlers is vital, so regular posts on the website have continued – and webmaster Steve Wall and I are still working on a number of other updates.

Also on my agenda have been assisting with an update of the Shropshire playing pitch strategy at the request of Count Development Officer Pauline Wilson and trying to help Sir John Bayley with a safeguarding issue.

I am embarrassed to report that, prompted by a request by Madeley Cricket Club, we have looked into the matter of green fees for clubs hosting League events and find that it is already covered!

Competition Rule 10 states: *Any Club that hosts a competition final or qualifier, or a cup final, will be paid a green fee of £10. This fee will only be paid if the green has been prepared for play on the day.*

So at the recent officers meeting we agreed that this rule will be applied from this year onwards in the light of the extra costs member clubs are facing.

It was also embarrassing that there was no MSBL delegate in attendance at the county executive meeting held here at the Bayley on 22nd May – but thankfully Rob Burroughs, in his role as an SCGBA official, was there so he will be give us a report later.

Still on county matters, we have the Best Kept Green competition to discuss in Correspondence and I have asked St Georges to host the Shropshire junior inter-league championship on their 2 greens on Sunday 10th September. Their new secretary Melanie Parsons is taking the request to their committee but our under-18 selectors, Brenda Slingo and Derek Killen, are eager to use that venue, after holding the Fletcher Junior Doubles there the day before.

I am delighted that Trench are working on big plans to celebrate their centenary on August Bank Holiday Sunday and I still hope to stage the annual ladies versus gents challenge match for the Dave Ellis Shield there at the end of the season.

That will be played, hopefully, before our next meeting in October, when we will honour our latest life members.

Think that's it from me, except to say on a personal note, Happy Anniversary Marg – not sure how you have put up with me for 26 years!

6 Correspondence

RECEIVED June 17 from BOB LLEWELYN, sec of Maddocks:

Malcolm - On 3 occasions in consecutive matches we've experienced disputes on setting the mark. On each occasion the leader, having decided the jack is short and without sending a bowl, has walked over, picked it up and handed it to the opponent.

According to the rules of the game he/she has interfered with a live jack and the opponent could claim two points for the end. On each occasion the leader had argued that new rule changes allow it to happen but that's not true.

Whatever length the jack is sent, even if only 10 metres, the first bowl must be sent and come to rest before any objection can be made. That's because the leader has the opportunity to strike the jack with the bowl and make it a legal mark. The players are not even allowed to agree among themselves until the first wood has been sent and come to rest.

I think it would be beneficial to remind clubs of the correct rules on setting a mark as so many players are confused by. The sport has to be played according the letter of the written rules or disputes will inevitably occur.

At the same time clubs need to be reminded about wearing open toed sandals and taking phones, pagers and smart watches on the green. I frequently hear phones buzzing in players pockets. Just putting them in so called silent mode is still an infringement.

Mike Potter agreed with what was said. Steve Wall suggested a Q&A on the county website, maybe call it "Ask the Ref".

RECEIVED June 15 from PHIL SCOTT, chairman SCGBA:

We have had 14 entries into this year's Dennis SISIS Shropshire Best Kept Green competition so provisionally I've split them into 3 groups.

If we all agree and if we could arrange local judging in July with the finals in August?

Mid Shropshire area - Albrighton, Cleobury Mortimer (!!!), Trench & Edgmond

Top 2 from each group to go forward to county finals but 3 from Whitchurch due to greater number of 6 entries?

I have asked Arthur Morris & Eric Hall to be judges again along with Sean, who is going to drive one car to Cleobury Mortimer!

RECEIVED May 18 from DAVE EVANS, sec of Trench:

Malcolm - I have managed to arrange some additional parking at the New Inns MOT & Service Centre at Trench, on match nights and Sundays on their forecourt. Post Code: TF2 6PF - which is just 150 metres from the bowling green.

In recent years The Kitchen Depot have allowed us to use their car park, and we can continue to use this facility on match nights only (not Saturday & Sunday).

For many years, due to our location, parking has always been an issue for both our members and visiting teams. Hopefully, this additional parking will help to ease the problem, and we would encourage all visitors to make use of these facilities'.

RECEIVED May 12 from HELEN JONES, Environment Community Liaison Officer of T & W Council, ref flat bowling green in Hartshill Park, Oakengates:

Hello Malcolm - thanks for your email and apologies for the late reply.

We'll most likely look to offer it out more formally from here and hopefully find someone willing to take it on. If not, we'll look at consultation with the public for other uses.

Thank you so much for what you have done so far, it is very much appreciated.

7 Fixture Secretary's report

Discussion of ineligible player in the rearranged Allscott Heath v Sir John Bayley match for Sir John Bayley.

- Tony Roche of Sir John Bayley had asked the Allscott Heath captain to get some new dates for rearranging their game because of Jeff Hutchinson's funeral. We were missing two players so got two second team players in.
- Michael Cooper then couldn't play so asked the Premier League captain Dave Lloyd if he had anyone who could play. He said Gordon Hawkins could play as he hasn't yet played in the Premier League. We didn't realise he was registered. We just wanted to get the game played like the Bowling game we had rearranged.
- Stuart Duncan proposed it should be a walkover and a £5 fine.
- Malcolm Fletcher said that Sir John Bayley should keep their registered players in check.
- Steve Wall asked if they appealed? Jon Palmer replied that Tony Roche rang me.
- Sean Round said it should have not been actioned straight away, we should have waited till this meeting.
- John Lumsden said that 10 points is a big deduction for an admin error.
- Stuart Duncan said that it could have to do with precedence set from St Georges in 2018.
- Bob Llewellyn said there were mitigating circumstances.
- Pete Gaut said that rules shouldn't be changed halfway through the season. I feel for Tony but rules should be changed at the AGM.
- Stuart Duncan withdrew his proposal so the original 10 point deduction and £25 fine stands.

Albrighton had loved the Afternoon Division and how relaxed it was.

8 Competition Secretary's report

- Well done to Jordan Millman for winning the Under 15 Merit defeating Rowan Fuller. Well done to Dan Corbett for beating Akeel Duncan in the Under 18 Merit final 15. Thanks to St Georges for hosting and Brenda Slingo for helping run the competition.
- The Harris and Ashton Cup have completed their first rounds.
- The Dixon and Driscoll Doubles on 26th August at 10. The entry deadline is two weeks before.

9 Launch of new Thursday Division Merit in 2023

New Rule required – Thursday Division Merit: 1. Entry is open to all bowlers registered in the Mid Shropshire League who play in this division, having played at least four games in the current season to be eligible.

Everyone was happy with the rule, no one against.

- It will be held on Sunday 20th August at 10 at the Bayley. I need at least 16 entries. Pete Gaut asked if it clashed with anything. Rob Burroughs replied just the Ladies County Semi Finals, but the only other date available was their Final. I can try change it if it doesn't work.
- John Lumsden asked if we could use a handicap system for the Thursday League. Malcolm Fletcher said this was to allow our Premier League players to enter. Sean Round added that this means everyone can enter a merit this way.
- There will be sponsorship of £125 like the Senior Merit from June Lewis, and a trophy. Thank you for June for her kind sponsorship.

10 Treasurer's report

There is a balance of £10,271.96. There has been nothing out and nothing in. We need to look at Prize Money for the season, we will use Dave Evans' spreadsheet to work it out.

11 Officers meeting feedback

- Formal officers proposal to 2024 AGM - Division 1 to go to 11-a-side and then back 12-a-side, as pre Covid, in 2025
- Aim for higher divisions of 14 teams on Fridays in 2024 (ie top heavy not bottom heavy as this season) and no staggered start dates to fixtures? Pete Gaut asked what top heavy was. This would mean a higher number of teams in the first division. So if no teams enter or withdraw, next season would be 13-12-12 rather than 12-12-13.
- Potential rule changes at next AGM:
- **League**, Rule 21 (c) - Premier League 12s and penalties for infringements
- Rule 6 - Thursday Division games not to count in permitted transfer totals.
- Rule 16 - update what's needed in terms of Results
- **Management**, Rule 3 – delete last sentence that AGM shall settle all honoraria as the issue is covered in rule 9 (g) in that the October meeting will make a proposal based on the CPI for September
- Rules 12 (b) & 12 (c) –change to introduce a 48 hour deadline before the March executive to give the Fixture Secretary a clearer picture and make firm proposals.
- Review Appeals process

- **Competition** – need to ensure bowlers entering in Monday Divisions Merit have played in them the season before
- Look at Harris Cup & Ashton Cup squad registrations
- Formally approve new Thursday Division Merit
- Bob Kendall asked about doing the Harris or Ashton Cup at one venue rather than 5 home or 5 away to save teams opening up just for a couple of hours.

12 County matters

- Andy Jones is the new vice chairman.
- There are still issues with the BCGBA open certificates.
- There is £29,000 in the bank but about £18000 of that has to come out for honorarium, fees etc.
- Marie is getting a laptop to help with Finance Committee meetings.
- The £5 voucher has been taken away from the players qualifying for the Senior Merit.
- DBS checks will be going back to face to face from next season.
- We had a great day at the Senior Merit at Newport won by Rich Lawson beating Jamie King in the final.
- Phil Scott reported that the BCGBA seems to have stopped doing anything now the season had started and it was all rather frustrating.
- There had been 187 new player registrations until the 15th May, up from 147 last year.
- For Roll Up Shropshire we had 27 clubs hold 44 sessions. There were 314 people that came. 65 of these have signed up. This will be done every one or two years.
- There are two new referees.
- Reclaim Tax are sponsoring the Juniors as well as the Seniors.
- We are running the Junior Inter League on 10th September.
- Dawn thanked those leagues who put an advert in the county programme.

13 Any Other Business

- Malcolm Fletcher asked Bob Kendall for an update on Allscott Heath. He replied it doesn't look like we are moving this season. Stuart Duncan added it's on track.
- Bob Mumford asked how many clubs have a risk assessment in place. It is in fine print of some insurances to have one in place.

14 President / chairman to close the meeting

We are looking at Mid Shropshire as one of the best areas for staging events. We've had the Senior County at two Mid Shropshire greens, the Junior Merit last weekend and the Senior Merit the weekend before. Midland Masters have half the entries from this area too. He suggested that those players who weren't Premier League could take all the entries first for the Thursday Night Merit!

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.35 p.m.