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~ Established in 1932 ~

Minutes of special September 2023 Management Committee Meeting

held on Wednesday 13th September at Bowring BC at 7.30pm

1 Chairman's remarks to open the meeting

Good evening ladies and gentleman. We have lots to discuss, as well as having had lots of competitions and finals. They have been a great success.

2 Apologies & In Memoria

There were apologies from Steve Wall, Chelmarsh, Dave Evans and Prince Hotel.

In Memoria:

Alan Millward (Maddocks) – collapsed on the green

Peter Collins (Horsehay) – one club man for 60 years, taking on many roles

Len Hand (Bridgnorth) – 98yo life member, greenkeeper and captain of teams

John Cowan (Shifnal)

3 Minutes of the July Executive Committee Meeting

Subject to the change under Item 8 from “Akeel Khan” to “Akeel Duncan”, the minutes were accepted as a true record, proposed by Charlton and seconded by Donnington Wood.

4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5 General Secretary's report

Good evening all! Firstly, thank you for attending tonight, it's good to see some new faces! I hope that, by the end of the meeting, you will agree with your officers that it was needed.

I'll start with the disappointing news. Firstly, the fact that we had little choice but to cancel the Shropshire junior inter-league championship at the weekend was a bitter blow. A lot of work had gone into being hosts, the Sir John Bayley were on board and our junior selector and nomination as County Deputy President, Brenda Slingo, went above and beyond to organise 2 teams to represent the League. All I can do is offer her and everyone who tried to help my sincere apologies.

Secondly, I was very sad to receive the email that will be read out under correspondence in a moment regarding the standing down on an officer who I have enjoyed working with – despite him continually calling me an IT luddite!

Another item of correspondence concerns a suspension from all league bowls of a member club that was thankfully rescinded within 24 hours. I think Highley Welfare owe their club secretary Richard Green a huge vote of thanks for his quickfire action.

Turning to happier issues, the League's congratulations go to Trench and greenkeeper Dave Evans for being awarded the Best Kept Green in Shropshire crown this year. They celebrated with a very enjoyable Centenary

Day over the August Bank Holiday, when I am pleased to report that the MSBL Select team won the 16-a-side challenge match with ease . . . by 1 chalk!!

I'm sure Rob will report more fully on it, but finals night of the Ashton Trophies on the 2 greens at Wrockwardine Wood was a big success with big crowds watching both contests. I hope the Harris Cup final will get a big turnout too on Saturday 23rd September 23 at Sinclair.

Looking further ahead, I have received a tentative enquiry about an application to join the Dennis Lewis Thursday Division next year and I know Stockton are working hard to build up their membership with a view to rejoining the League. I will also be writing to a number of clubs with Monday division teams who have the potential play in the Friday divisions to see if they are interested in stepping up in 2024 to try and give us 3 top flight divisions of 14 teams.

6 Correspondence

The issue of player behaviour and conduct was raised after the receipt of a letter from Trench secretary David Evans following a couple of incidents at that club in a first division match this season.

And delegates at the meeting decided that the matter should be brought to the attention of all clubs and their members, starting with a post on the website.

Expressing "great dismay" that he had been asked by his club committee to write to the League, David said: "Unfortunately, in recent times, it has been disappointing to witness a steady decline of participant behaviour by small minority in our game.

"Thankfully, these are mostly isolated incidents, with the majority of players playing the game as it should be, in a competitive but sportsmanlike manner."

He outlined incidents of kicking bowls off the green and swearing, for which the player involved had apologised to his opponent and did so again afterwards.

"Thankfully, on this occasion, no personal injury or damage to property occurred." said David.

"However, at a time when we are trying to promote our game to generate more participant of all ages, any unsavoury behaviour by those participating is not a good advert for our League and crown green bowls.

"Following these incidents we suggest that a reminder is sent out to all MSBL club secretaries and a post put on the website.

Trench and the League's officers want to stress to everyone:

1 – Bowlers are reminded of their responsibilities and expected standards of behaviour, both on and around the green.

2 – All players should ensure they abide by and follow the League's Code on Conduct – which can be read under Admin in this site

RECEIVED September 3 from DAWN GRAY, secretary of the SCGBA:

Dear League Secretary

It has been confirmed that payment has now been received from Highley Miners Welfare BC.

Therefore, as explained in my initial email yesterday, the suspension (*for non payment of an invoice*) has now been lifted and Highley Miners Welfare BC are reinstated to FULL league bowling activity immediately.

We do try where possible to assist clubs in every way possible. It is very hard to find people willing enough to take on these roles at club level, let alone county level. At present the chairman, treasurer and myself work full time as well as trying to conduct our voluntary roles to the best of our ability.

We have a duty to all clubs in the county to uphold the byelaws of the association and the processes set out and voted on at the AGM every year.

The decision to suspend any club will always be a last resort and will only be issued having made every attempt to resolve the issue directly with the club first.

Thank you for your help and co-operation in this matter.

Kind Regards, Dawn Gray

RECEIVED September 6 from MIKE POTTER, president of the MSBL:

Dear Malcolm,

May I firstly thank you for the letter dated 20th August, in which yourself, the fellow officers and member clubs of the Mid Shropshire Bowling League have generously agreed to offer and bestow on myself, the honour of becoming a Life Member of our League.

I want to also say thanks for the very kind and thoughtful words conveyed and, without any hesitation, I am very happy to accept your generous offer and indeed will consider it to be an honour for me.

I am looking forward to sharing that special occasion with Celia and Geoff and seeing you and others at the League Meeting scheduled to take place at SJB on Tuesday 3rd October.

Kind Regards, Mike Potter

GEOFF CLARKE has phoned to accept the invitation, but nothing official from Celia!

RECEIVED September 9 from STEVE WALL, MSBL vice-chair and Albrighton:

Malcolm,

As I am racing towards my retirement in 2024 I have decided to press the reset on my commitment button. Therefore it is with regret that I have to inform you that I will not be standing as the MSBL Vice Chair nor Webmaster next year.

It has been a massive honour and privilege to represent the league, which in my view is the best run bowls league in the Shropshire and Staffordshire.

Since being involved I hope I have played a small part as the league has evolved over the years with the implementation of modern technology along with the promotion of the game at all levels - this through the inclusion of the Thursday night division, which has seen a much welcomed return of Premier bowlers, and the implementation of the Tuesday/Thursday Afternoon division where novice and experienced bowlers can enjoy a competitive game without bias towards gender or age.

I know that the league under its current management will continue to develop and promote bowls in the Telford and surrounding areas and I hope you can respect my decision to step down, although I will continue when available to represent Albrighton at league meetings.

Regards, Steve Wall

7 Fixture Secretary's report

- Good evening everyone. First of all I'd like to congratulate Donnington Wood on winning the newly created Afternoon Division with Albrighton runners-up. Also to Barry Norfield of Donnington who won the division averages winning all 12 matches.
- With very few exceptions, the rest of the league has continued to run smoothly. There's only one postponement to be sorted out, Monday's division 4 match between Allscott Heath and Bowring which had to be abandoned due to floodlight failure.
- There have been only three fines since we last met, all walkovers, one by Madeley Cricket in division 6 and the other two by HUSC in division 3.
- Mike Beckett seems to have resolved the performance issues with the results system following the split onto a second server and as far as I know, we've had no further issues.

- There look to be several close finishes in prospect for the various promotion and relegation places in the last few couple of weeks of the season so good luck to all.
- That's all from me, are there any questions?

8 Competition Secretary's report

- Well done to Pete Farmer on winning the Thursday Merit at the Bayley. We had 16 entries which was a good start to the competition, although only 5 out of the 12 clubs were represented. Thank you to the Bayley for hosting.
- Well done to John Potter and Harry Church on winning the Dixon and Driscoll Doubles at Edgmond. We had 16 out of the 18 pairs turn up, which was one down on last year's entries. Thank you to Edgmond for hosting.
- Well done to Dan Corbett and Luke Morris for winning the Fletcher Junior Doubles at the Bayley. It was a great final against Logan Church and Jordan Millman. We had 5 entries and it was great to see Rory King and Luca Moseley playing at such a young age. Two to watch for the future! Thank you to the Bayley for hosting once again.
- The Ashton finals were a huge success at Wrockwardine Wood. Thank you very much to them for hosting, and to Louise Cotton for doing an excellent buffet. Well done to Newport for winning the Ashton Cup and Donnington Wood for winning the Ashton Shield finals.
- The Harris Cup is on Saturday 23rd September between Bylet and Highley Premier League teams at Sinclair at 6.30 p.m. Mike Potter has kindly agreed to referee and Marg Fletcher to do the food.

9 Treasurer's report

We have a balance of £10,482. The prize money will be the same as last season. We will need to look at next year's prize money if we remain at 50p match fees.

10 Shropshire inter-league update

Unfortunately the Junior Inter League had to be cancelled because we only had 3 teams left after the Tanners withdrew three days before the event as all their 14 bowlers couldn't play because of football, work and a triples competition.

The Senior Inter League is on Saturday, and thank you to the two captain Tom Killen and Michael Cooper for running the teams.

11 Dave Ellis Shield - ladies v gents match at Trench on Saturday 14th October at 6pm

Please let Malcolm Fletcher know if you wish to play.

12 Annual Presentation Dinner – on Saturday 20th January at West Stand @ TUFC

- Each option was looked at.
- It was decided not to do a buffet as this would not match the usual formality of the night.
- Louise Cotton said if we did two courses which course would go. Marg Fletcher replied the starter.
- Bob Mumford said the first option of the Beef was good value.
- The Chairman asked could the league subsidise the menu this time, which the treasurer replied yes. Malcolm Fletcher proposed that people pay £26 with the league subsidising the other £2, and a raffle to be done to be put towards the cost of the dinner and disco. All agreed.

- The treasurer asked about how much would we charge each club for a raffle prize? The Chairman replied the officers can make the decision.
- Marg Fletcher asked how much would we charge for Juniors? It was agreed to charge them £15.
- There will be no guests to keep the cost down.

13 County matters –*next executive meeting on October 9*

There was nothing to discuss

14 Any Other Business

There was no Any Other Business.

15 President to close the meeting

The President wished those chasing promotion and battling relegation the best of luck. He was looking forward to the Harris Cup Final on Saturday 23rd September at Sinclair. The Dave Ellis Shield should be a good night. If teams do win promotion, take care when celebrating, don't do any inappropriate kisses!

With no further business, the meeting closed at 8.29 p.m.