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~ Established in 1932 ~

Minutes of the October 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

held on Tuesday 3rd October at Sir John Bayley Club at 7.30pm – *all to sign in*

1 Chairman's remarks to open the meeting

Good evening ladies and gentleman. Well done to those who got promoted this season.

2 Apologies & In Memoria

There were apologies from Highley.

3 Minutes of the September Management Committee Meeting

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

4 Matters arising

Guy Lewis said there will be no Stockton side entering the Mid Shropshire League next season

5 General Secretary's report

Good evening all! Just 24 hours after the last divisional fixtures were played I suspect many bowlers and greenkeepers are looking forward to getting their feet up for a rest.

But the League has one last bit of action to entice players to keep their bowls out of the cupboard – the Dave Ellis ladies versus gents match on Saturday 14th October at Trench (6pm start), our member club that has just received official recognition for having the best green in Shropshire this year!

There's been quite a bit going on even though it's only 3 weeks since the last League meeting. After that finished, your chairman and I were handed a letter concerning the safety of the green at Madeley Cricket Club. Those concerns have been expressed to the club concern and their rapid response will be heard under correspondence.

And it's under that item on the agenda that an early enquiry from Meole Brace about applying to join the Dennis Lewis Thursday Division will be read out.

There was more good news, this time received from Shropshire association treasurer Marie Scott, informing us that the League were to receive £75 in prize money as winners of the Shropshire veterans inter league crown. So I think we owe captain Ian Evans a drink if he attends the annual dinner!

The Harris Cup final was a cracker at Sinclair, with Highley winning the historic trophy for a second time – it was just a pity there were so few to watch it on what was a decent night weather-wise.

Looking ahead to next year, I have made 2 informal approaches to candidates for vice-chairman to succeed Steve Wall at the AGM, when you can expect a good number of rule change proposals to vote on as your officers get down to work on them. And I remind clubs that they have until October 31 to get any rule proposals they would like to see to me in writing in the exact wording they want them considered.

Finally, the League has been very lucky with sponsors thanks to the likes of Molson Coors, Shropshire Vertidrain & Turf Services, June Lewis and your chairman, but it will be very interesting to see if Local Print Pros extend their 2 year deal next spring now that Steve Reeves no longer works for them . . .

6 Correspondence

RECEIVED September 22 from JEN ROGERS of Meole Brace BC:

Hi Malcolm. I was just wondering if there is any possibility of Meole Brace entering a team in the Mid Shropshire's Thursday Night Division next year? Jen

I replied saying there were currently 13 teams in the MSBL Dennis Lewis Thursday Division so there is a vacancy. Any formal application would need to be with me before the AGM in late January and that the final structures are set at the March executive meeting on the first Tuesday of that month.

RECEIVED September 29 from DAN WILSON

Hi Malcolm. Congratulations on the completion of another successful season - you and the committee have done a great job this year. Making all clubs play their games on or before the scheduled fixture date has been a great success and has been welcomed by a lot of clubs, as you know some teams used to take advantage of re-arranging games to suit them.

Bringing this in across the board has been of huge help to clubs and adds to a real consistency, fairness and equitability of the schedule – and I just wanted to give that real piece of positive feedback.

I've been in teams over the years where we have been done over by re-arranged games but that seems a thing of the past now. Thanks to you and committee for standing strong on this - a lot of leagues in the Wolverhampton area could learn a thing or two from you and your team on the policing of such issues. All the best, Dan Wilson

Following a formal complaint by Allscott Heath about the safety of the green at Madeley Cricket Club, after 3 incidents involving their bowlers, one of which resulted in a man not being able to play for 2 months, the League sent an official letter to Madeley and has had this in response:

RECEIVED September 28 from MALCOLM HOLLIS, chairman of Madeley CC BC:

Hi Malcolm. Regarding the incident with the player from Allscott Heath, obviously we wish him well but to say Madeley were not concerned was not correct. A number of players from both sides attended and if, I recall, he asked for painkillers and one of our lady bowlers asked if he could take the ones she had and I believe gave them to him. I personally spoke to him later to see how he was.

Regarding the condition of the green, as Terry has stated before, we are getting Shropshire Vertidrain out at the end of season to try and help this problem, but surely all greens would be slippery after the rain we had.

As you know the far side of the Madeley green gets no sunlight due to the trees. I have approached the council to ask to get them topped or thinned but they will not entertain the idea, their response being no one has a right to light! So it seems it is a problem we have to live with.

As Mike Potter would probably attest to, we have worked hard to try to improve the standard of our green, with Mike choosing it for a number of competitions.

And as for the mats, I agree some have no grip, but new ones have been ordered for the new season. Kind regards, Malcolm Hollis

7 Fixture Secretary's report

Good evening everyone.

The final fixtures of the 2023 season were played last night, despite the weather and all the results have been posted. Congratulations to everyone who has done well, commiserations to those not so fortunate.

The final league tables are now available on Mike Beckett's results service and a summary is as follows:

- Division 1, winners Newport A, runners-up St Georges A. This was so close that shot aggregate was the decider. Both teams finished with 178 points.
- Division 2, winners Donnington Wood A, runners-up Bylet A.
- Division 3, winners Wrockwardine Wood B, runners-up Sinclair B.
- Division 4, winners Newport D, runners-up St Georges C.
- Division 5, winners Shifnal C, runners-up Highley
- Division 6, winners Horsehay D, runners-up Bowring E.
- Thursday division, winners Castlefields, runners-up St Georges.
- Afternoon division, winners Donnington Wood, runners-up Albrighton.

Averages winners have been confirmed as follows:

- Div 1, John Breeze Newport A.
- Div 2, Dave Taylor Donnington Wood A.
- Div 3, Ollie Wall Wrockwardine Wood B.
- Div 4, Mick Jones Newport D.
- Div 5, Roger Jones Highley.
- Div 6, Chelsea Mills Shifnal B. Chelsea actually finished 3rd but the 2 players above her had played too many games for Horsehay in division 2.
- Thursday, Adrian Rowe Castlefields.
- Afternoon, Barry Norfield Donnington Wood.

Since our September meeting, there have been two further fines, both for walkovers:

1. HUSC in their division 3 match with Sinclair
2. Madeley CC in their division 6 match with Maddocks.

Finally, my thanks go to Mike Beckett for help with issues regarding the Results Service and also to all the team captains and secretaries who I've corresponded with this year and made my job a relatively straightforward one.

Any questions?

8 Competition Secretary's report

Thank you to all the clubs who hosted this season, and to those who did the buffets and raffles, as well as marking, measuring and refereeing. A more detailed report on the season is below.

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.

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.

The Over 60s Merit had 20 entries at Donnington Wood and was won by Ian Gaut who beat Pete Spragg 13 in the final. Well done to Ian. Thank you to Donnington Wood for hosting.

The Mixed Doubles had 11 entries at Edgmond, and was retained by Ange & Martin Gaut, defeating Beth & Steve Reeves 15 in the final. Well done to Ange & Martin and thank you to Edgmond for hosting.

The Under 25 Merit at Sir John Bayley only had 4 entries, Tom Killen coming out on top beating Lucy Hireson 9 in the final. Well done to Tom and thank you to Sir John Bayley for hosting.

The Under 15 Merit had 5 entries and well done to Jordan Millman who beat Rowan Fuller in the final.

The Under 18 Merit had 8 entries and well done to Dan Corbett for beating Akeel Duncan in the final 15.

Thanks to St Georges for hosting both and Brenda Slingo for helping run the competitions.

The Thursday Night Merit had 16 entries and well done to Pete Farmer on winning it beating Joe Killen in the final at the Bayley. Thank you to the Bayley for hosting.

The Dixon and Driscoll Doubles at Edgmond had 16 out of the 18 pairs turn up. Well done to John Potter and Harry Church for winning, beating Jamie & Phil King in the final. Thank you to Edgmond for hosting.

The Fletcher Junior Doubles at the Bayley had 5 entries, including Rory King and Luca Moseley who have a combined age of 11! Well done to Dan Corbett & Luke Morris for winning in a great final against Logan Church & Jordan Millman 20. 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 by beating Horsehay and Donnington Wood for winning the Ashton Shield finals after defeating Much Wenlock.

The Harris Cup Final was a close affair with Highley defeating the Bylet by 9 overall, going down to the last game! Thank you to Sinclair for hosting, Mike Potter for refereeing and to Malcolm & Marg Fletcher for doing the buffet.

I have got some provisional dates for the 2024 competitions, but these depend on the SCGBA Calendar that Mike Potter does. I will share these at the next meeting.

9 Treasurer's report

There is £10,482 in the account. The end of season bills are ready to send out and need to be paid by the 7th November. We need to agree how much each club is charged for a raffle prize. Malcolm Fletcher proposed £10 per club, all agreed.

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

Dave Evans asked how many to cater for? 30 please. We have 7 ladies and 8 men so far and need 12 at least for each. Please let Malcolm Fletcher know if you wish to play.

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

The wine is now pre-ordered with the forms. Don't bring any raffle prizes.

12 Shropshire inter-league reflections

- We need to submit a formal proposal to the county on the Senior Inter League.
- Mike Potter said the second Sunday of each month was for the Juniors so not sure why it didn't work in September.
- Malcolm Fletcher said there are open competitions they can play in now.

- Sean Round said that people can play for so many leagues now it's hard to know who they want to represent. They bowl a lot in the week so don't want to at the weekend.
- Maybe we could try it one season without Premier League bowlers.

13 County matters

Next year any green can be chosen for a County or Shropshire Cup game. This allows more choice and those greens that are in excellent condition and want to host a game to be chosen. There are a few rule changes to come but nothing major.

14 Any Other Business

- Allscott Heath asked about if the Saturday League was going to come back. John Lawrence said Donnington had also asked about it. Stuart Duncan said it was getting hard to field 12 players in the Staffs League on a Saturday.
- Edgmond asked if the Thursday Afternoon League is continuing which it is. All teams who entered will be in it. Malcolm Fletcher said we just need to ensure no clashes with the Senior Citizens League again.

15 President / chairman to close the meeting

Thank you everyone for coming. Not the best of nights but worse to come probably for the next two meetings. We have the Dave Ellis Memorial in two weeks time at Trench. There is also one space in the mixed doubles at Trench this Sunday. Have a good Christmas and New Year!

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.12 p.m.