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CELIA MILES
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Minutes of November 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

held on Tuesday 7th November at Sir John Bayley Club at 7.30pm

1 Chairman's remarks to open the meeting

Good evening ladies and gentleman. Thank you for attending. Thanks to those who looked at the rules. Nothing major just a bit of tidying up, most will go through en-bloc.

2 Apologies & In Memoria

There were apologies from Louise Cotton, Dave Evans & Richard Green.

In memoria: Ray Bishop (Highley)

3 Minutes of the October Executive Committee Meeting

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

4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5 General Secretary's report

Good evening all! You'll be pleased to hear I don't have too much to report tonight, now that meetings have become more regular again.

Your officers, including our nomination for next year's County President, Brenda Slingo, were well represented at the open competition that marked the end of bowling on Allscott Heath's old green that was laid in 1931. Your President Mike Potter and myself had the honour of making speeches on a day that ended with Peter Farmer, the Mid Shropshire Merit winner of 1990, triumphing. I understand the club hope to move over the road later this month . . .

It may be the closed season but I will be endeavouring to keep the website updated with a new post at least once a week and the Facebook group busy. We have approved Jamie Brookes' new Bandit Bowls to use the group to advertise his winter events, but I would appeal to all club officers and bowlers to think about posting on it to keep people coming back to have a look.

Looking ahead to 2024, I can confirm the date of the AGM as Tuesday 23rd January, using both rooms here at the Bayley and starting for what could be the last time at 7pm.

I give you fair warning that rule change proposals are going to feature a great deal on the agenda for the annual meeting, including two from member clubs that you will hear about later tonight and that will need to be seconded at next month's executive meeting.

Your officers have conducted a thorough review of all the rules, with fixture secretary John Palmer and new competition secretary Rob Burroughs very much to the fore to try and make their roles easier. And what we plan to do, rather than get bogged down at the AGM, is to go through all the proposals fully at next month's meeting so all clubs should be aware of what we are trying to do when it comes to voting time at the AGM. These rule revisions, for which I am most indebted to Rob and Sean for their great help, have taken up most of my League time since the last meeting. But you have my word that I will get round to writing to clubs

regarding potential new teams for the Friday divisions and the Afternoon Division and the possibility of re-launching the Saturday Division with its format of four singles and two doubles.

I've also got the Local Print Pros sponsorship money to chase so there will be no rest for the wicked!

6 Correspondence

RECEIVED October 5 from CELIA MILES, treasurer of the MSBL:

Hi Mal. I wish to thank you and the MSBL for the honour of Life Membership.

It is a great privilege to receive this award alongside many others who have also been recognised for their dedication to bowls, and I will continue to do my best for Mid-Shropshire in my position as treasurer. Celia

RECEIVED October 19 from JEN ROGERS, of Meole Brace BC:

To the Mid Shropshire Bowling League. Please accept this as a formal application for Meole Brace Bowling Club to submit a team in the Dennis Lewis Thursday Division for the 2024 season.

As a club we have a number of players who would be excited and motivated to be part of a team playing in this league, which is now well established and is spoken highly of.

I look forward to hearing back from you in due course. Kind regards, Jen Rogers

RECEIVED October 22 from COLIN RUDRUM (Newport), replying to an email from the general secretary about his position as chairman of the disciplinary committee:

Hi Malcolm. I have indeed taken a backward step from Newport and next year I will be 80. So I am prepared to be chairman of the league's disciplinary panel for the 2024 season, but will retire from that for 2025.

I hope that is OK with the members and give you some time to look for a replacement. Thank you for asking and look forward to seeing you next year. Kind regards, Colin and Gillian.

RECEIVED November 5 from LOUISE COTTON, secretary of Wrockwardine Wd:

Dear Malcolm. I am writing to request that Mid Shropshire League considers the request from Wrockwardine Wood Bowling Club regarding fixtures for the division 1 team for the weeks 15th – 21st June 2024 and 1st – 6th September 2024.

These are weeks when many of our club members take part in the Isle of Man Bowls Festivals, and we do not have enough reserve players to field a team along with the other two teams that play the same night.

We have previously given plenty of notice to attempt to re-arrange the games for an earlier date and that has, in the main, proved to be more difficult than expected.

We would like to request:

A) If there is a BYE in this league to see if the fixture secretary could work this around these games; or

B) Could these games be scheduled for a Wednesday (when cup matches are not scheduled in the week or weeks before or where fits best for the league) before the original date. This would give both teams ample notice to organise teams.

We would appreciate your consideration of this request.

Yours faithfully, Louise Cotton

- The Chairman asked the Fixture Secretary if this was possible. He said it was hard enough fitting in with the Premier League to be able to sort fixtures out. He could potentially give them a bye but depends on the fixtures.
- Martin Codd asked if another team would rather miss these Fridays as the Premier League tends to put teams together who need to move a game. No other team said they would.

- The Chairman said that some teams can't play on a Wednesday, so moving the game might not work.
- Josh Cotton said it was important that games on both dates were moved.
- The Chairman added it was important that the byes are in division 3 next season so no floaters can come down.
- The Chairman said the league would consider their proposal for next season.

7 Treasurer's report

We have a balance of £23,293. All bills were paid on time thank you.

The CPI was 6.7% in September, all agreed that the Honoria was increased by this amount.

8 Competition Secretary's 2023 report

He had a few trophies to be returned but had been in touch with those who need to return them.

He was proposing a new Harris Shield competition as a consolation for the Harris Cup for teams not in the Premier League who lose in the Preliminary or 1st round.

9 Fixture Secretary's report

He said at the last meeting that his next report would be short, and it is!

10 Dave Ellis Shield review & venue for 2024

The women won by 5 shots at Trench, the home ladies making a bit of a difference. The men still lead 3-2 though! The food was excellent there.

It was suggested that Broseley, Maddocks or Edmond could be the host for 2024.

11 Rule Change Proposals for 2024

RECEIVED October 23 from ROB BURROUGHS, secretary of Hadley USC:

Proposed by Hadley United Services Bowling Club:

League Rules – 3 Method of Scoring

Current Rule:

3. (a) One point shall be awarded for each individual win, three points for the team with the highest aggregate total and one point to each team if the aggregate totals are level.

Proposed Rule:

3. (a) One point shall be awarded for each individual win, three points for the team with the highest aggregate total **at home, and four points for the team with the highest aggregate total away. If the aggregate totals are level, one point is awarded to the home team and two to the away team.**

Our thinking behind it is that if you win away from home then you've done well, and should be rewarded for that by gaining an extra point. Away wins are difficult in any division so this would allow those teams that do well away to be rewarded more than if a team does as well at home, as currently the points are equal.

Kind regards, Rob

RECEIVED October 16 from JOHN LUMSDEN, secretary of Charlton:

Proposed by Charlton Bowling Club for the Monday night divisions:

League Rules – 3 Method of Scoring

Current Rule:

3. (a) One point shall be awarded for each individual win, three points for the team with the highest aggregate total and one point to each team if the aggregate totals are level.

Proposed Rule (for Monday night divisions):

3. (a) The points scoring system will be: A bowler who scores 5 charks will earn their team 1 point; scoring 10 will earn 2 points; scoring 15 will earn 3 points; scoring 20 will get a bowler 4 points; and getting to 21 to win the individual game will earn a player 5 points. *(Therefore, the most points a team can win from each fixture is 50 - ie 10 wins worth 5 points each)* The team with the most points at the end of the season will be declared the champions.

The reason for the change:

The proposed scoring system aims to reward the bowlers for their performance and consistency throughout the game, rather than just for winning or losing. By giving a point for each 5 charks scored, the system encourages the bowlers to play with skill and strategy, and to avoid conceding easy points to their opponents. The system also creates more excitement and competition among the teams, as every point counts towards the final standings. The system also reduces the chances of ties. The system is fair and transparent, as it reflects the true quality and effort of the bowlers and the teams.

Also potentially it encourages more bowlers who may feel they have no chance of winning or being beaten to low figures to still have an opportunity to gain points for their team say when a novice bowler plays against a higher standard bowler.

The scoring system has worked well on the Thursday Night with all members feeling that they can make a contribution to the final result. The scoring system helps with making it a team rather than an individual event and encourages all standards of player to participate

It was decided to vote at the AGM on the Hadley USC rule change first, then Charlton's, if they get a seconder at the December meeting.

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

- Thank you for the forms. We have 147 people booked so far, all clubs have given me their numbers or are going to chase for them.
- Payments need to be made by the December meeting by cash or cheque. Cheques are payable to the Mid Shropshire Bowling League.
- Clubs who do want any extra tickets please let me know ASAP.
- The wine needs ordering by the December meeting.

13 County matters

Andy Jones is the new vice-chairman of the SCGBA, succeeding our own Sean Round who resigned earlier this year.

There is about £28,000 in the bank over the two accounts. Honoraria to rise by 6.7 per cent next year and, with such a healthy balance, grants to clubs look set to re-start in 2024 to give something back

DBS checks will be going back to face to face next year, in February / March.

County Registrar had dealt with 278 new registrations so far this year – 265 in total in 2022.

Dennis UK are sponsoring the best kept green competition again next season and will increase their sponsorship again. They are also looking to a pre season and post season greens seminar in the county Pauline Wilson is standing down as County Development Officer.

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 newly qualified referees (*and the AGM of the Shropshire Referees Society is on Friday at Bridgewater BC at 7.30pm*).

Nominations sought for County Deputy President in 2024 . . .

BCGBA are down to just 3 officers as others have resigned, only 1 sponsor left and county chairman said the situation was an “absolute mess”.

There are still issues with the BCGBA open certificates.

Counties can release venues earlier for the BCGBA Senior County Senior matches as some counties are having difficulties booking buses without knowing the venue.

A discussion was taken about respect from players towards officials.

The 2024 BCGBA Competition dates are to be finalised at the November Meeting.

The 2024 SCGBA Competition dates are to be finalised at the January Executive Meeting.

The Dave Card and Centenary Mixed Pairs competitions will be run together again next season.

There will be changes to all three inter league competitions, whether it be in the format or the number of players in each team.

Staffordshire are withdrawing from the Junior County meaning just 3 counties are left. These will arrange to play amongst themselves all being well. The British Parks are allowing all counties to enter teams in their 5 and 10 a side junior competitions.

Reclaim Tax are sponsoring the Juniors as well as the Seniors.

There are several rule changes for the 2024 AGM, but mostly tidying up.

Greens outside the clubs who entered will be used for the County & Shropshire Cups.

14 Any Other Business

There was no any other business.

15 President / chairman to close the meeting

Thank you for your attendance. We will get the rules changes out before the next meeting. Any questions please let us know.

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.16 p.m.