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Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Mid Shropshire Bowling League
on Tuesday 23rd January, 2023, at the Sir John Bayley Club, Wellington, Telford starting at 7 p.m.

1 Chairman's opening address – followed by Apologies & In Memoria

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, Mr President

Welcome to the Mid-Shropshire 2024 AGM

Yet again last year we saw that this league never stands still and is always looking for ways to develop the game and give people the opportunity to play bowls.

By launching a new division and 2 new merits. And as you can see from the new rules, we hope to start something new for 2024.

This is obviously down to the officers always being proactive listening to what bowlers are saying and looking at how the demographics of bowlers have changed and we have responded to that.

So I never get tired of praising all our officers for their hard work and dedication to this league and we are very lucky to have them.

At this point I would like to thank Marg Fletcher for all the hard work that she has put in to making, in my opinion a very successful presentation night last Saturday, especially, as few will know, Marg has had a very difficult year leading up to the presentation and deserves much praise

Thank you, I know everyone in this room appreciates what you all do.

Apologies: Doug Russell (Worfield)

There was a minute silence held in memory of former League President Jeff Hutchinson and others we had lost last year.

2 Minutes of the 2023 AGM

These had already been passed before this meeting.

3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4 President's Report

I would like to congratulate all players, teams and clubs that have won trophies or promotion in last year's season. Congratulations to the officers for again ensuring yet another successful year of bowls was delivered for us all to enjoy. Last Saturday, we celebrated the successful achievement of the league's members and clubs at the Annual Presentation Dinner at Telford United's football ground. This was organised with precision by Margaret, Malcolm and Rob. Well done to them and I'd like to add that photos are available to be viewed on Facebook. I'd like to thank on behalf of the league, our sponsors for their generous and very much appreciated support of our various competitions and hope the partnership will continue through 2024 and beyond. Last week also saw the opening of the new club facilities of one of our oldest member clubs, Allscott Heath. I would like to wish everyone there success in your new venture that boasts a new club house and two greens, one grass and one artificial. In October, along with Geoff Clarke and Celia Miles we were granted life membership of this league and on behalf of the three of us may I again thank everyone for bestowing on us the most honorary of awards. Thank you. Finally, may I wish all our member clubs and players for the upcoming season the best of luck, on and off the green. Thank you.

5 General Secretary's Report

Ladies and gentlemen,

I know this meeting is a time for reflection on last year, but I can't remember looking forward to a new season as much as I am now.

A really good presentation night on Saturday gave your officers a big lift – and now the aim is to keep trying to improve on delivering a competitive and well organised league for Mid Shropshire bowlers and their member clubs.

Lots of interest from potential new teams is also a welcome boost – and hopefully they will be faced with a completely revamped rule book after tonight, aimed at making it simpler to take part .

Looking back from a personal point of view, the start of the season was overshadowed by the sad loss of League legend Jeff Hutchinson. I still think about him most days and just wished I had told how much he had helped me with my crown green career in its many different aspects.

A top administrator, Jeff approved of the streamlined management, with fewer meetings, that we introduced last year. I did feel it necessary to call an extra meeting in September but, in the interim, I hope the Newsletters we produced kept everyone up to date.

Another move was to standardise all match fees at 50p and to try and help clubs recover properly from Covid by cutting or temporarily doing away with some fees. We still managed to increase the prize money paid out at the presentation by £1,000 and welcomed another sponsor in June Lewis.

On the playing front, I have to congratulate Newport and former Ercall Magna man John Breeze on a fantastic 2023 campaign; Castlefields for marking their first season with us by winning the Dennis Lewis Thursday Division; and pay tribute to a resurgent Donnington Wood for landing three pieces of silverware.

It was a great year too for Trench as they celebrated their centenary and won the Best Kept Green in Shropshire award - and the League was proud too when it inducted three more new Life Members in Geoff Clarke, Celia Miles and Mike Potter.

What I took a lot of pleasure from was Mid Shropshire winning back the Shropshire veterans inter-league championship in Shrewsbury, with first time captain Ian Evans doing a splendid job. I just wish I had been there to see it, but by that time family circumstances dictated otherwise . . .

There were disappointments on the bowling front too. The late cancellation of the junior inter-league that we were due to host was infuriating; a couple of behaviour and safety issues needed to be addressed; and the flat green at Hartshill Park in Oakengates being lost to the sport was a bit of a blow. The men losing to the ladies in the annual Dave Ellis challenge match at Trench was tough for me to take too – but the rumours that the beaten captain is going to resign are nonsense. He may get sacked though!!

More seriously, I still have concerns about a couple issues on the county front and must admit to being very disappointed with the way League chairman Sean Round was dealt with after resigning as chair of the SCGBA finance committee.

But let's not dwell on that - let's look forward as that's the only way to keep trying to improve things.

The year has already started well with Mabel Finnigan's recognition in the King's Honours list with a BEM for services to bowls and I think there are exciting times ahead.

There's the new complex at Allscott Heath to welcome aboard, plenty of new teams poised to compete, Brenda Slingo's rise to County President next month as our nomination and, fingers crossed, a new team competition and the re-launch of the Saturday Division.

My vow is that your officers won't get complacent on the job. In fact, with the utmost regard for those who have gone before, I have to say that this is the best top table I have worked with in my 13 years in this role.

Now let's all of us work together to make 2024 another memorable season that we can reflect on in 12 months time with the kind of huge sense of pride that I have tonight.

Thank you.

6 Treasurer's Report

I wish to thank all clubs in 2023 and Rob for his help in providing me with all competition entries and enabling my job to be easier billing the clubs at the end of the season.

It's also helped that all accounts have been paid on time the first time in many years, meaning I have not had to chase clubs and it's stopped them incurring fines!

I look forward to another successful MSBL season in 2024.

Celia Miles

6 (a) Auditor's Observations

I have just finished auditing the League's accounts for 2023 and am happy to confirm that they represent a true and accurate record of the League's finances for 2023.

Steve Anyon

7 Fixture Secretary's Report

Good evening everybody. I'll swiftly cover the past season and then go on to talk about 2024.

2023 all went pretty well, despite some poor weather at times. Very few fines were imposed for rule transgressions. Congratulations to all the clubs that did well and commiserations to those that didn't.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the following:

- My fellow league officers for continuing to ensure that the league runs smoothly.
- Mike Beckett for his help and support in maintaining his superb Results Service. He had to invest in a new server last year in order to cope with the sheer number of leagues that use the system. This did cause a few issues because we were moved to the new one but they were soon resolved.
- All the club captains and secretaries who I've corresponded with over the last year. That's over 800 emails received and over 400 sent plus a few texts and Whatsapp messages.

Looking ahead then, a lot of what I'm going to discuss regarding the division structures for the forthcoming season is speculation because there are still a number of points to be resolved and bear in mind that I'd written this report before a number of points were settled in the last 24 hours:

- Horsehay confirmed the withdrawal of their Friday A team and asked to join the Dennis Lewis Thursday division,
- Shifnal confirmed their B team withdrawal from the Dennis Lewis.
- Childs Ercall confirmed that they would like to enter a Monday team.

The remaining points are...

- Which new teams are confirmed and accepted into the league. We've had requests from:
 - Chelmarsh, Edgmond, Childs Ercall and Newport to enter new Monday teams.
 - Meole Brace, SJB, Horsehay and possibly a second team from Prince of Wales to enter teams in the Dennis Lewis Thursday division.
 - Second teams from both Edgmond and Albrighton to enter the Afternoon division.
- Whether any teams drop out. I've heard that there are doubts about:
 - Bridgnorth D in division 5.
 - Chelmarsh in the afternoon division.
- Anything else we won't know about until the deadline of the March Executive meeting (or 48 hours before if the rule change is agreed later tonight).

Here are my thoughts on the different divisions...

Fridays

Without Horsehay A, we'll have 36 on a Friday, giving us a straightforward 12/12/12. It was 12/12/13 last year and can be achieved by only relegating the bottom team from divisions 1 & 2 and promoting the top two teams from divisions 2 & 3. Alternatively, we could relegate two and promote three.

The most probable start date would be 12th April (Prem start on the 5th), finishing on 13th September as Rob has reserved 10th May for the Merit qualifiers. We could possibly have the Merit finals on another Friday if Rob preferred and finish on 20th September.

Mondays

Four new teams gives us 37 (or 36 if Bridgnorth lose their D team). 36 is straightforward 12/12/12 (it was 11/11/11 last year) and fits in well with starting on 15th April, finishing on 30th September avoiding the three bank holidays (6th & 27th May and 26th August)

If we have 37, we'll have to rethink - any suggestions welcome.

Afternoon

Two new teams will bring us up to 9 which requires four more fixture dates than last year when we had 7. The extra four fixtures puts more Thursdays in conflict with the Seniors League who use most weeks in July & August for their competitions. Last year we used 12 Thursdays and two Tuesdays and the season ended in mid July. This year, we'd need to use several more Tuesdays, depending on the start date which is negotiable. Earliest start would be 4th April but it could be later although that would involve more Tuesdays. With no missed weeks, the number of Tuesdays required depending on the start date would be as follows:

Start Date	Tuesdays	Finish Date
4th April	6	Tue 30th July
11th April	7	Tue 6th August
18th April	8	Tue 13th August
25th April	8	Thu 22nd August

It would also be possible to miss one or more weeks where Tuesdays would otherwise be required and extend the season into September. I'm open to suggestions from the clubs involved.

However, if Chelmarsh drop out you can ignore most of the above although I'm still open to suggestions as to when clubs would prefer to start.

Dennis Lewis Thursday

If all 4 new teams are accepted, we'll have 16 with Shifnal B dropping out. 16 teams require 30 match dates, and there are only 26 Thursdays available between April and September.

We could accommodate a division of 16 by using 4 other days - Wednesdays? but Rob Burroughs has proposed a solution which involves splitting the division into two and organising supplementary competitions to play after the end of the normal season. I'll explain the outline of this now and perhaps Rob could elaborate if necessary.

Rob Burroughs Proposed Solution

As can be seen from the 2023 league table, there's quite a gulf in the division. Splitting it he believes would increase the quality of the league in the top and give those mid table now something to fight for. So two divisions of 8 would mean 14 games. Followed by a cup competition so teams can play different ones again. Four mini-leagues of 4, two from each division in each group. Possibly using the rankings from the league or a draw before. Play each other home and away so 6 more games. Top two from each group go to a quarter final which can be at a neutral green. Bottom two go into a consolation again at neutral greens. So

that would mean 21 games at least for each team. Then you would have a semi and a final, the final at a club with 2 greens (and possibly the semis!)

So you would use 23 Thursdays. And then use two for the Thursday night merit and have one spare for any postponements. Or maybe a playoff between third top and third bottom.

Saturday

At the end of last season, the resurrection of the Saturday division was mentioned. Is there enough interest from clubs to do so?

So there you have it. You'll appreciate that I'm going to be busy just before, during and after the March Executive meeting and there are decisions that will have to be taken then, Therefore, I'd appreciate any more updates from clubs regarding new teams, teams dropping out, green changes, special requests and potential clashes with leagues other than the Premier, sooner rather than later. As in previous years, if I hear nothing from a club, I'll assume that everything will be the same as last year but confirmation as soon as clubs are aware of their circumstances will help me.

You can help me to help you!

Any questions?

John Palmer

8 Competition Secretary's Report

Good evening ladies and gentleman, a report on the 2023 season is below, but I am already starting to look at the 2024 season and its dates. The 2024 Competition Dates are attached so a discussion can take place at the AGM and dates finalised so players know when the competitions are. Again please let me know if you wish to host a competition if your green is in decent condition. If it isn't then please do let me know so I can use your green when it is back up to a good standard as otherwise it doesn't look good for the club or the league if we use greens that aren't in a good condition. I hope to have provisional venues sorted by the March Meeting, dependent on the green condition once the season starts.

Please also let me know how we can encourage entries from those clubs where we had no or little entries from, I want to try and grow these competitions as much as we can and have competitions entered by all clubs.

2023 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.

There has been changes made to the Ashton and Harris Cup Final Dates below.

Dixon and Driscoll Doubles Sunday 28th April at 10 a.m. at Allscott Heath

Senior Merit Qualifier Friday 10th May at 6.30 p.m.

Finals Saturday 1st June at ?

Monday Merit Qualifier Monday 17th June at 6.30 p.m.

Finals Saturday 6th July at ?

Thursday Night Merit Saturday 31st August or Sunday 1st September at 10 a.m.

Junior Day Saturday 22nd June at 10 a.m.

Mixed Doubles Sunday 23rd June at 10 a.m.

Under 25 Merit – evening?

Over 60s Saturday 18th May at 2 p.m.

Harris Cup (Entries by 17th May)

Prelim 19th June

Last 16 10th July

Last 8 14th August

Last 4 28th August

Final 14th September

Harris Shield (if passed by AGM)

Prelim 31st July

Last 8 14th August

Last 4 28th August

Final 14th September

Ashton Cup (Entries by 17th May)

Prelim 5th June

Last 16 26th June

Last 8 24th July

Last 4 21st August

Final 31st August

Ashton Shield (Entries by 17th May)

Prelim 10th July

Last 8 24th July

Last 4 21st August

Final 31st August

9 Proposals for Rule Changes

Proposed by Hadley United Services Bowling Club:

League Rules – 3 Method of Scoring (Passed, 16 for, 6 against)

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.**

Proposed by Charlton Bowling Club for the Monday night divisions:

League Rules – 3 Method of Scoring (Defeated, 10 for, 13 against)

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.

MANAGEMENT RULES (All passed unanimously)

Annual General Meeting:

Change start time and delete reference of honoraria, to read:

3. The AGM shall be held in January of each year on a date fixed by the Management Committee and shall commence at 7.30pm. The meeting shall elect Officers as per rule 2, appoint representatives to serve on outside bodies, appoint Auditors and receive audited statement of the League's financial accounts. It will also deal with any propositions for rule changes.

Prize Money:

To cater for playing an unregistered bowler in the averages, to read:

10. (d) Winners of individual aggregates shall receive an engraved trophy and a monetary award. Players having played six games in division 1, 2 or 3 shall not be eligible for this award in divisions 4 or

lower. Players receiving a walk over in a League match, or having played an unregistered bowler, shall be credited with a win and the score shall be 21-11, unless their wins was below 21-11, which means their win will stand. Qualification for this award shall be the player with the most wins. If two or more players finish level, the award goes to the player with the better aggregate.

Registration of Teams:

To assist the Fixture Secretary to produce a seasonal structure for the March executive meeting by introducing new 48 hour deadlines, to read:

12. (b) Clubs shall by 48 hours before the League's March meeting advise the Fixture Secretary of the number of teams that they will be entering in the League for the forthcoming season, together with the green that each team will play on, if the Club has more than one green.
- (c) Clubs wishing to withdraw a team from the League must notify the League Secretary not later than 48 hours before the March Executive Committee meeting. Any team that withdraws after that deadline will be fined the full matches fees due for that season.

COMPETITION RULES

(All Passed unanimously en-bloc proposed by St Georges, seconded by Wrockwardine Wood)

1. All Competitions are open to bowlers registered in the Mid Shropshire Bowling League, unless any eligibility rules are specifically stated.
2. Entry fees shall be invoiced by the treasurer in September to the clubs who will pay them with the club invoice sent out in October.
3. Home bowlers are eligible in competitions excluding the Monday, Thursday and Senior Merits. Each home bowler owes 2 and the jack in each round.
4. All games to be 21up.
5. The entry fees and prize money shall be fixed by the Officers of the League. Entry fees are to be determined by the March Executive Meeting, and the prize money by the October Executive Meeting.
6. No substitutes are allowed once any qualifying has taken place.
7. Scratch time will be the start time, any player arriving after this time will not be allowed to take part and liable to pay the entry fee.
8. A designated person will be in charge of any qualifiers and their decision will be final.
9. Trophies must be returned to the Competition Secretary by the December Management Meeting at the latest.
10. Any clubs that host a competition qualifier or final, or a cup final, will be paid a green fee of £10 providing the green has been prepared for play on the day, ie. cut
11. Any referees that are needed for an individual or team competition final will be paid a fee agreed with the referee appointed.

Senior Merit

Players on the named list as per rule 21(c) shall not be permitted to play in the Mid Shropshire Senior Merit at the closing date of entries.

Players must have played either 6 games in the previous season or 2 games in the current season to be eligible to play by the date of the competition qualifier.

Monday Night Merit

Players must have either played 6 Monday Night games the season before or 2 Monday Night games this season. They must have also not played 6 Friday Night games the season before, or 3 Friday Night games this season.

Thursday Night Merit

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.

Dixon & Driscoll Doubles

Players on the named list as per rule 21 (c) shall be permitted to play in the Dixon & Driscoll Doubles, but limited to one per pair on that list at the time of the competition.

Mixed Doubles

Players on the named list as per rule 21 (c) shall be permitted to play in the Mixed Doubles, but limited to one per pair on that list at the time of the competition.

Under 25 Merit

Players who have not reached the age of 25 on the 1st January of that year shall be eligible to play in this competition.

Under 18 Merit

Players who have not reached the age of 18 on the 1st January of that year shall be eligible to play in this competition.

Under 15 Merit

Players who have not reached the age of 15 on the 1st January of that year shall be eligible to play in this competition.

Junior Doubles

Players who have not reached the age of 18 on the 1st January of that year shall be eligible to play in this competition.

Over 60s Merit

Players who have reached the age of 60 before the day of the competition shall be eligible to play in this competition.

Harris Cup / Shield (Passed unanimously)

The competition is open to all members of the Shropshire Crown Green Bowling Association. There is no limit to the number of teams which can be entered from each club. Each team shall play on the green they use in their league.

The entry fee is £15. A closing date for entries will be set by the Competition Secretary at the March Executive Meeting.

The draw will take place within a week of the closing date. This will be drawn straight through. Any teams withdrawing after the draw shall pay a fine of £20.

Any non Premier League team that loses their game in the Preliminary or 1st round, shall be eligible to enter into the **Harris Shield** competition by notifying the Competition Secretary. The entry fee will be £10 and the competition will be drawn straight through. Any team that withdrew in the Harris Cup shall not be eligible to play in the Shield. Any teams withdrawing after the draw will be fined £20.

Clubs are handicapped according to their league position the previous season. Premier League teams will all give 15 shots, plus one shot for their finishing position for the previous season i.e. the team finishing 1st shall give 15+14=29 shots, the team finishing 14th shall be given 15+1=16 shots. Any team relegated the previous season will start on scratch. The team who finish 1st in Division One shall start off scratch, finish 2nd shall start on +1 and so forth. Any non Premier League from outside the Mid Shropshire League shall start off scratch.

Number of players shall be 10, to play 5 home and 5 away until the final.

Games shall be played on Wednesdays as set by the Competition Secretary at the March Executive Meeting. However games can be played before the date if agreed by both clubs and the Competition Secretary is notified. The two finals shall be played on a Saturday at a neutral two green venue.

Games to be decided on aggregate. In the event of a tie on aggregate, the match shall be decided firstly by the most number of wins per team, secondly by the best winner and thirdly by each team's best win in descending order. If the game is still tied after this criteria, a replay will take place with the date set by the Management Committee, except the final, where one player from each team will play up to 11 with the winner of this game winning the match.

Players for each team must have played at least one league game for that club in that season before any Preliminary or 1st round games. Players must then have played four league games before the Quarter Finals, six before the Semi Finals and eight before the Final for that club.

If a player plays for one team, they cannot play for another team in the competition.

Any player who is in a registered 12 or 6 cannot play for a team below the team that they are registered for. Results should be entered in accordance with league rule 16.

Ashton Cup / Shield (Passed unanimously)

The competition is open to all Monday Night teams in the Mid Shropshire League. There is no limit to the number of teams which can be entered from each club. Each team shall play on the green they use in the league.

The entry fee is £10. A closing date for entries will be set by the Competition Secretary at the March Executive Meeting.

The draw will take place within a week of the closing date. This will be drawn straight through. Any teams withdrawing after the draw shall pay a fine of £20.

Any team that loses their first game in the Preliminary or 1st round, shall be entered into the Ashton Shield competition. This will be drawn straight through. Any team that withdrew in the Ashton Cup shall not be eligible to play in this competition. Any teams withdrawing after the draw will be fined £20.

Clubs are handicapped according to their league position the previous season. The team who finish 1st in Division Four shall start off scratch, finish 2nd shall start on +1 and so forth.

Number of players shall be 10, to play 5 home and 5 away until the final.

Games shall be played on Wednesdays as set by the Competition Secretary at the March Executive Meeting. However games can be played before the date if agreed by both clubs and the Competition Secretary is notified. The two finals shall be played on a Saturday at a neutral two green venue.

Games to be decided on aggregate. In the event of a tie on aggregate, the match shall be decided firstly by the most number of wins per team, secondly by the best winner and thirdly by each team's best win in descending order. If the game is still tied after this criteria, a replay will take place with the date set by the Management Committee, except the final, where one player from each team will play up to 11 with the winner of this game winning the match.

Players for each team must have played at least one league game for that club in that season before any Preliminary or 1st round games. Players must then have played four league games before the Quarter Finals, six before the Semi Finals and eight before the Final for that club.

If a player plays for one team, they cannot play for another team in the competition.

Any player who is in a registered 12 or 6 cannot play for a team below the team that they are registered for. Results should be entered in accordance with league rule 16.

LEAGUE RULES

Laws: (Defeated, 7 for, 9 against)

2. (a) Friday division one teams shall consist of 11 bowlers and the other Friday divisions will be 10 bowlers per side. They may be male or female, and shall play home and away matches with all other teams in the same division. Each game shall be 21 up.

Registration of Players: (All rules remaining passed unanimously)

To try and clarify, once and all, and add penalties to actual rules, with a new 4 (b), to read:

4. (a) No player shall be eligible to play in a League match unless he/she had been registered with the Fixture Secretary 24 hours prior to the first match in which he/she plays.

(b) Changes to club registered lists, or new member registration numbers, must be entered on the registration page of the website by clubs before the seasonal cut-off point, set by the Fixture Secretary at the March Executive meeting. Thereafter all changes can only be made via the Fixture Secretary.

5. No further registration of players shall be made by clubs after the July meeting of the Executive Committee. **Clubs may apply for registration by email after this date, but they will only be allowed to register a junior or novice bowler who has not played a fixture before this date, being a registered bowler with the Shropshire Crown Green Bowling Association.**

6. No player shall sign for more than one Club per season, **but a player who has signed for one Club for which he/she has not played more than a total of four Monday or Friday games may apply to the League for approval of a transfer not later than the 30th June. Games played in the Thursday division will not count towards this total.** A £5 administration fee will be charged to the Club the bowler is moving to.

7. Any Club playing an unregistered player shall lose that game 21-0 in which the unregistered player took part and **the Club shall be fined a sum of £10 for each unregistered player. The player who was awarded the 21-0 win shall be awarded a 21-11 in their aggregates, unless their win was below 21-11, which would mean their win stands.**

Practice:

To add penalties to actual rule, to read:

9. No player shall play on an opponent's green within 7 days of a League match unless such match has been previously arranged. **The penalty for this will be the Club is fined £5 and game to be awarded to opponent Club 21-0. The player who was awarded the 21-0 win shall be awarded a 21-11 in their aggregates, unless their win was below 21-11, which would mean their win stands.**

Time of Start:

To add penalty to actual rule, to read:

11. League matches shall commence no later than 7.00pm. **A fine of £5 will be incurred by the late Club.**

Draw:

Delete part of rule regarding result card, to read:

13. The draw in each match shall be made by the Captains exchanging the names of their players in order prior to the 7.00pm start. .

Fixture List:

Changes for clarity and to bring penalties into each rule, to read:

14. If both teams are in agreement, a fixture may be played before the scheduled date published in the Fixture List. Otherwise the fixture must be played on the schedule date, except:

(a) Where a fixture conflicts with an event promoted by the Shropshire County Bowling Association or the League which involves the use of the Club's green or participation of members of the Club.

(b) Where it is not possible because of exceptionally inclement weather to commence or continue the match.

(c) Bereavement within the Club

Games that do not take place because either (a) (b) & (c) applies, then:

Clubs must within seven days of the cancelled fixture, **inform the Fixture Secretary by E-mail**, of the re-arranged date. This date must be within 28 days of the cancelled fixture. Any outstanding fixture **MUST** be played before the last fixture of the season without exception. **Where a game is not played within 28 days of the original fixture, either club may be fined £25, at the discretion of the executive or management committee. The game shall be played at a date, and where appropriate, venue as decided by the Executive or Management Committees.**

Inclement Weather/Unfit Greens:

To add penalty to actual rule, to read:

15. If the start of a match is delayed because of inclement weather a decision to cancel the match shall not be made until 7.45pm, unless mutually agreed by both Captains. A decision by the groundsmen of the home Club that a green is unfit to play before or at any stage of a match shall be final. **Clubs must within seven days of the cancelled fixture, inform the Fixture Secretary by E-mail, of the re-arranged date. This date must be within 28 days of the cancelled fixture. Any outstanding fixture MUST be played before the last fixture of the season without exception. Where a game is not played within 28 days of the original fixture, either club may be fined £25, at the discretion of the executive or management committee. The game shall be played at a date, and where appropriate, venue as decided by the Executive or Management Committees.**

Results:

Introduced in 2013 to accommodate Mike Beckett's on-line results system and updated at 2024 AGM):

16. (a) Home clubs shall ensure the result is entered on the website within 48 hours of the match being completed. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine of £5. **The details should then be checked and any discrepancy notified to the Fixture Secretary by E-mail within 72 hours.**

(b) **Clubs shall retain all the individual score cards for a further 5 days after a fixture.**

(c) **Clubs must present individual score cards for verification within 5 days of being called for by the league or a league officer.**

(d) **Where a dispute arises and individual score cards are not provided for verification, the complainant shall have their complaint upheld, with no right of appeal being given to the other team.**

(e) The principles of these rules are to ensure clubs enter their home fixture results in a timely and accurate manner, which must be fair to both sides playing in the fixture. The league may take action against a club, or a member of a club, who - for whatever reason - fails to meet these principles.

Named Players:

21. (a) A Club with 2 or more teams playing in different divisions shall name their best 6 players and these players shall only play in their first team. A Club with 3 teams shall name their best 12 players, the first 6 may only play in the first team and the second 6 may play in the first or second team. A Club with 4 teams shall name their best 18 players, the first 6 may play in the first team only, the second 6 may play in either the first or second teams and the third 6 may play in the first, second or third teams. **A Club with 5 teams shall name their best 24 players, the first 6 may play in the first team only, the second 6 may play in either the first or second teams, the third 6 may play in the first, second or third teams and the fourth 6 may play in the first, second, third or fourth teams.** These named players must be seen to be playing on a regular basis for that team, or the team above, and may be changed under rule 21(f).

(b) Clubs with two teams in the same division must list 8 players for each team. These 8 players must then play for that listed team unless a transfer is authorised by the fixture secretary in accordance with rule 21 (f), on evidence of previous individual results.

(c) Clubs with teams in the Shropshire Premier League shall name their best 12 players who play in that league and these players will not be eligible to play in the Mid-Shropshire League. These named players

must be seen to be playing on a regular basis for that team, and shall only be changed on proof of loss of form.

(d) The list of named players must be entered on the results system at least 24 hours prior to the first fixture date of the season. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in a £10 fine.

(e) Clubs should be proactive in checking their named players on a regular basis and informing the Fixture Secretary of any changes that may be required.

(f) Clubs wishing to change their named players must E-mail the justification for the change to the Fixture Secretary stating the players concerned, along with their BCGBA number, 24 hours prior to the change taking place.

(g) The Fixture Secretary will monitor Rule 21 and report any breaches of it to the **League's meetings** so that the appropriate action can be taken. **Any club playing an ineligible player (ie a named player in a lower team or Premier named player) shall lose his or her game 21-0 and the Club shall be fined £10 for each unregistered player. The player who was awarded the 21-0 win shall be awarded a 21-11 in their aggregates, unless their win was below 21-11, which would mean their win stands.**

(h) No player shall be permitted to play two matches in the Mid Shropshire League on the same night - except on Thursdays or Saturdays, providing one of the teams involved has a Thursday or Saturday team.

(i) For any club with more than one team playing in the Mid Shropshire League or any other league on the same night, if any of their teams matches in the Mid Shropshire or any of those other leagues are cancelled, postponed or re-arranged – for whatever reason – and a player has already played for a team in his/her club on the original fixture date, they will be permitted to play for their club's other team (s) whose fixture was originally cancelled, postponed or re-arranged on the night when that team's fixture is re-scheduled.

AFTERNOON DIVISION:

Replace existing rule 10 about fees with cover all rule, to read:

1. Fixtures will comprise 6-a-side singles matches for males and females of all ages, to be played predominantly on Thursday afternoons (starting at 1.30pm) - but with the possibility of some Tuesdays to avoid disruption of Senior Citizens League competitions
2. All matches and games are to be played in accordance with the MSBL rules - with the exception of the following, which are specific only to this division:
3. Any member of a club who has signed to play for the Mid Shropshire Bowling League is eligible to play in this division.
4. Any player who has signed for another Mid Shropshire League club (their primary club) may play for one secondary club in this division, as long as they fulfil all the usual obligations to their secondary Mid-Shropshire Afternoon Division side. A player will not be eligible to compete against their primary club, either home, away or on a neutral green in this division.
5. No player may play for two different teams within 6 days.
6. Re-arranged games are to be played within 28 days of the original fixture date.
7. The points scoring system will be: 3 points for an aggregate win (1 point each in the event of a draw on agg), with 1 point for each individual game.
8. The team with the most points at the end of the season will be declared the champions. In the event of a tie then it will be the team with the greatest number of matches won. If this too is the same then the winner will be decided by the highest number of individual games won. Best aggregate will be the final deciding factor to determine the champions. If that is the same there will be joint champions.
9. If a team fails to fulfil a fixture the match shall be awarded to their opponents and the score shall be 3 points with an aggregate of plus 30. An aggregate of 50 will be deducted from the offenders' accrued divisional total.

10. All other rules and fines are the same as the Mid-Shropshire Management and League Match Rules.

SATURDAY DIVISION (suspended after the 2019 season):

Add rule 7 in anticipation of Division being re-launched in 2024, to read:

1. Any member of a club who has signed to play for the Mid Shropshire Bowling League is eligible to play in this division.
2. Any player who has signed for a Mid Shropshire League club may play for a secondary club in the Saturday Division, as long as they fulfil all the usual obligations to their secondary Saturday side.
3. A team will consist of a maximum of 8 bowlers and a minimum of 4 bowlers, playing in four singles matches and two doubles matches, all 21-up, fixtures to start at 2pm.
4. The points scoring system will be: A bowler or pairing that 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 or pairing 4 points; and getting to 21 to win the individual game will earn a player or pairing 5 points. (Therefore the most points a team can win from each fixture is 30 - ie 6 wins worth 5 points each) The team with the most points at the end of the season will be declared the champions.
5. Clubs that enter more than one team in the division must select a squad for each team, to be submitted to the fixture secretary 48 hours before the first league game of a new season. Only players from this squad will be eligible to plays, and any change to squads must be approved by the fixture secretary.
6. If a team fails to fulfil a fixture the match shall be awarded to their opponents and the score shall be:
 If opponents home game, the home team be awarded their average points score in home games up to that date, with an aggregate of +60. An aggregate of 126 will be deducted from the offenders accrued divisional total.
 If opponents away game, the away team be awarded their average points score in away games up to that date, with an aggregate of +60. An aggregate of 126 will be deducted from the offenders accrued divisional total.
 If the fixture in question is before teams have played four home or away fixtures, their average points score will be decided by the officers.

7. All other rules and fines are the same as the Mid-Shropshire Management and League Match Rules.

10 Honoraria

CPI 6.7% in September and delegates agreed Honoria for 2023 should rise by this amount.

11 Election of Officers

Election of League Officers for 2024

<u>Office</u>	<u>Post Holder</u>	<u>2024</u>
President	Mike Potter	Mike Potter
Chairman	Sean Round	Sean Round
Vice-Chairman	Steve Wall	Steve Wall
General Secretary	Malcolm Fletcher	Malcolm Fletcher
Treasurer	Celia Miles	Celia Miles
Fixture Secretary	John Palmer	John Palmer
Competition Secretary	Robert Burroughs	Robert Burroughs
Minutes Secretary	Robert Burroughs	Robert Burroughs
Webmaster	Steve Wall	Steve Wall
League Welfare Officer	Malcolm Fletcher	Malcolm Fletcher

Auditor

Steve Anyon

Steve Anyon

Dinner Organiser

Margaret Fletcher

Margaret Fletcher

The above were all passed en-bloc, proposed by St Georges and seconded by Wrockwardine Wood.

Inter-League selectors

Junior team: Brenda Slingo & Derek Killen

Senior team: Michael Cooper

Veteran team: Ian Evans

COUNTY delegates - Martin Gaut & Malcolm Fletcher

COUNTY youth selectors: Brenda, Slingo

The above were all passed unanimously, proposed by Hadley USC and seconded by Sir John Bayley.

12 Any Other Business

- DBS bookings on line via club pages on SCGBA website for Saturday 17th February at Tesco Extra, Harlescott, Shrewsbury from 8am in the community room
- County AGM – Monday 3rd^h February at Salop Unison Shrewsbury at 11am
- Department of Health & Social Care currently have a new Community Defibrillator scheme – if clubs want details contact me