

<i>Fixture Secretary</i>	<i>Competition Secretary</i>	<i>General Secretary</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
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~ Established in 1932 ~

Minutes of the March 2024 Executive Committee Meeting

held on Tuesday 5th March at Sir John Bayley Club at 7.30pm

1 Chairman's remarks to open the meeting

Good evening ladies and gentleman. Thank you to the officers for helping formulate the leagues Thank you for the prompt replies.

2 Apologies & In Memoria

There were apologies from Steve Wall.

In Memoria: Celia Ghaut (Wrockwardine Wood) and Maureen Downes.

3 Minutes of the December Management Committee Meeting

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

4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5 General Secretary's report

Good evening everyone. The main event on the agenda is item 7 so I am not going to take too long tonight!

I thank all clubs who returned their 2024 Info Forms in advance of the meeting and want to assure you all that the League guards this data very carefully.

The League has renewed its insurance policies, I'm looking into how we can archive the historical documents that are weighing down my attic; and your officers are aware of the new county deadline of March 31st to provide it with our programme for the season – including competition dates as they try to avoid clashes.

There's been lost of work and communication between officers since the AGM with John and Rob really earning their corn. We are so lucky to have them on board.

And in terms of communication I have written a letter in support of Edgmond's bid for grant support from the Inclusive Communities Fund to improve their facilities – and received a very interesting one from Pauline Wilson just before she stood down as County Development Officer.

She informed me that Telford & Wrekin Council are embarking on a new Playing Pitch Strategy this year to concentrate on data gathering – and for summer sports like ours there will be site visits in July

As usual they'll be looking at membership data, state of the greens, building & infrastructure facilities and maintenance information & requesting info via a questionnaire.

A review of supply & demand will follow the data gathering so our people should always say they want more members. Also they need to mention their social bowling activities as well as teams run

The last stage will be recommendations - Oct-Dec – and sign off by the end of the year.

Pauline said: "You may wish to flag this with clubs as in the pipeline for 2024 & ask them to ensure surveys & questionnaires are returned promptly in due course.

Questionnaires would be best sent out through you & MSBL if that's ok as the de facto lead with the clubs in the area.

So to all clubs in T & W land, you have been warned!

6 Correspondence

RECEIVED March 3 from Louise Cotton, Shropshire Referees Society sec:

REFEREE SEMINAR on Tuesday 26th March at 7pm at Tilstock Bowling Club (SY13 3JL)

David Williams from British Crown Green Referee Society will be coming to Shropshire to give a seminar on the rules of the game. This is a FREE event for those wishing to continue to sit their Referee exams or for club officials/Captains that would like the opportunity to refresh current knowledge.

This will be a great opportunity to ask questions from the expert to understand the correct rules and provide greater confidence when you have rule issues during a league game.

This is likely to be a popular event so to ensure we are aware of numbers expected, please can you let myself or Isobel (on the email addresses above) know the names of those attending and from which Bowling Club they are representing by 21st March 2024.

RECEIVED March 2 from Liam Bennett, editor New Bowlers World (UTM Media):

We have just started a new publication to showcase our great sport and would really appreciate it if you could send this to all clubs in your local area and players. We will be happy to help your league with announcements and advice on sponsorship for your league and clubs within your association.

New Bowlers World - please like and share our new page on facebook to showcase the great game of Crown Green Bowls

RECEIVED January 29 from Dean Barratt of Childs Ercall BC:

Just letting you know that, following a meeting of our B team, we won't be applying for the Mid Shropshire for the 2024 season. It was between two options - (the other being staying in the Market Drayton - and we had to go with the option that gave us the best chance of fielding 10 bowls each week.

Thank you for consideration to date.

RECEIVED January 23 forwarded by Pauline Wilson:

Please be advised that the Department of Health & Social Care currently have a Community Defibrillator scheme running in which they are providing funding for 1,900 community defibrillators throughout England.

By taking advantage of this scheme, you will be able to obtain a new Defibrillator & External Heated Cabinet with keypad lock for just £750!!!

We - Londonhearts - are the chosen suppliers of the equipment. There are certain requirements and the scheme is on a first come, first served basis and funding will only be guaranteed upon receipt of your match funding. You can apply at: www.defibgrant.co.uk

RECEIVED January 17 from Jeanette Bennett of Stockton BC:

Thank you Malcolm for getting in contact with information regarding the AGM. Unfortunately we are still in the position with having low player numbers to commit to a team in the Mid-Shropshire league.

I would hope to think in the future we are in a better position to join the MSBL again.

RECEIVED December 8 from Paul Beer::

Good morning Malcolm. Mike Humphries and I would like to continue our support to local bowls and would be delighted to sponsor the Mid Shropshire Senior Merit for 2024

We would like to offer £100 to boost the prize money and an additional £25.00 to the highest break on Final's day.

Let's hope we have a similar number on entries as last year in this prestigious very well run competition.

Please raise an invoice and send to Mike in February.

Best Regards, Paul - director, Shropshire Vertidrain & Turf Services Ltd

7 Fixture Secretary's report

RECEIVED January 13 from Steve Anyone of Newport:

Malcolm. Following a couple of year's efforts at recruiting and coaching new bowlers, we intend to enter another team into Mid Shropshire League's Division 6 for 2024.

RECEIVED January 13 from Steve Wall of Albrighton:

Malcolm, After last season's successful launch of the Thursday Afternoon division, Albrighton would like to enter a second team.

If possible we would like to choose the name of the teams rather than A or B, but will get back to you once we have thrashed this out with the team captains.

RECEIVED January 29 from Sue Mawditt of Much Wenlock:

Dear John. Much Wenlock would like to enter another team on a Monday night. If you need any other information or I need to do anything else please let me know.

RECEIVED February 4 from Jan Hetherington of Chelmarsh:

Hi John. At our recent AGM, it was decided that Chelmarsh won't be putting forward a team to play in the Thursday Afternoon League; due to lack of interest.

RECEIVED February 7 from Ian Gaut of St Georges:

Hi John. Just confirming that last week's club AGM confirmed that we wish to enter a team in the Thursday Afternoon League. I don't know the captains identity yet, but will update the contacts when we do.

RECEIVED February 26 from Steve Reeves of Horsehay:

Afternoon Malcolm. Unfortunately we are going to withdraw our application for a team on a Thursday Night. Hope this doesn't cause too many problems.

Friday Divisions

36 teams. No issues unless anyone wants to beef about Horsehay's second team staying in division 2. No new teams, one team lost to the premier. One relegated from division 1 (Trench), Two promoted from division 2 (Donn Wood & Bylet). One relegated from division 2 (Charlton), Two promoted from division 3 (Wrock Wood B & Sinclair B).

Mike Beckett tells me that starting the Friday fixtures on 12th April and missing 10th May will cause issues. Starting on 19th and using 10th May would be better. We could even start on 26th April and possibly make use of 27th September as the last Prem fixture is the 20th.

It was decided to start on 19th April and finish on 20th September.

Monday Divisions

37 teams. No teams lost, 4 new teams. Need to decide which division has 13 teams. Also the 4 extra dates for that division. We might get away with Thursdays if division 6 is 13. Also if we start that division on Thursday 4th April, Rob could pick one week to have the merit. Newport D & Bowring C (division 4) and Sinclair & SJB D (division 5) also need to coordinate fixtures with the Wem league which have 12 team divisions and like us, miss the bank holidays.

Preferred - 1 team relegated from division 4 (Madeley C), 2 promoted (Shifnal C & Highley). 1 relegated from division 5 (Bylet), 3 promoted (Horsehay C, Bowring D & Shifnal D) – Agreed.

It was decided to have the 13 teams in Division 6.

- Bob Mumford said it was a struggle on Thursdays for Much Wenlock.
- Steve Anyon said they would have a clash with the Whitchurch League on a Thursday.
- Bob Kendall said they have two teams on a Thursday which could mean a clash.
- John Lumsden said could you put down Thursday but teams could move their game to the Wednesday.
- It was agreed to play the 4th April fixture in late September instead, and use the Thursdays of the three bank holidays except for the Early May one, which would be played on that bank holiday.

Dennis Lewis Thursday division

Lost 3 teams (Wrock Wood B, Shifnal B & Madeley), 4 new teams (Meole Brace, SJB, Prince B & Allscott B). Straightforward with 14. Fixtures already created (Newport need to be away on 2nd May due to the club being used as a polling station).

Fixtures run from 4th April to 26th September.

Meole Brace were accepted into the league, proposed by Sir John Bayley and seconded by Hadley USC.

Afternoon division

Lost 1 team (Chelmarsh), 3 new teams (Edmond B, Albrighton Blue & St Georges). Only issue is setting dates to avoid the Seniors competitions which are mostly in July & August.

Fixtures start 4th April. No matches scheduled in weeks with Thursdays: 9th May, 6th June, 18th July.

Tuesdays scheduled on: 25th June, 2nd, 23rd & 30th July, 6th & 13th August. Last year we used two Tuesdays.

Note: these fixtures have already been created with the above dates so the last date is currently Thursday 22nd August. There would be an option to miss up to 3 of the Tuesdays and extend the season up to 26th September by using Thursdays 5th, 19th & 26th September.

Edmond can't play on Tuesdays as we have 2 Barlows Teams that day. It was agreed to play the extra three Thursdays.

8 Re-launch of the Saturday Division ?

- The chairman said we could leave this till April.
- Malcolm Fletcher said we could ask teams from outside the area to play in it.
- John Lumsden said could two teams from the same club come in. Yes they can.

9 Treasurer's report

- The balance is £8712.
- 2 clubs are yet to pay their cheques in from the Presentation. This will bring the balance down to its lowest for some time.
- My proposal for 2024 is to increase match fees by 10p across the board making it 60p from 50p. All agreed.
- To increase the affiliation fees back to £10 per team as per previous years. All agreed.
- This should bring an increase of £3536 all round.
- Prize money to be determined next year.
- John Lumsden said that we are paying for prize money that we don't win. The Chairman replied that it is the same in every sport.
- We will know next year what percentage we can pay out as prize money.

10 Competition Secretary's report

I have nearly finalised all the dates below but depends on what best fits in with the fixtures.

- Merit Qualifier on Friday 10th May with finals on Friday 7th June (later changed to Friday 17th May and Friday 28th June).
- Monday Merit Qualifier on Monday 24th June with finals on Saturday 6th July at 5.30.

- Thursday Night Merit Finals either on Sunday 18th August or Sunday 1st September or Saturday 28th September or two Wednesdays in September.
- Under 25 Merit on Wednesday 8th May or Saturday 1st June Donnington Wood.
- Mixed Doubles at Bridgnorth on Sunday 23rd June at 10.
- Dixon and Driscoll Doubles on the artificial green at Allscott on Sunday 28th April at 10.
- Harris and Ashton Cup entries by 17th May.
- Over 60s Merit at the Bayley on Saturday 18th May at 2.
- Junior Day at Albrighton on Saturday 22nd June from 10.
- I would like to ask the following clubs to host the Friday Merit Qualifiers – Edmond, Trench, Sinclair and Shifnal.
- The Monday Night Merit Qualifying Greens will be decided once the season starts.

11 Plans for pre-season meeting

Captains are able to come to the April Meeting so we can go through the rule changes. I will book the two rooms.

12 Approval of 2024 AGM minutes

These were accepted as a true record, proposed by Wrockwardine Wood and seconded by Trench.

13 Annual Presentation Dinner review

21st January - Morning Malcolm. We would both like to thank Margaret and yourself for a well organised evening. We both enjoyed it - the meal was good and company good. All best Bob & Liz Mumford.

22nd January - Hi Malcolm. I wish to extend my apologies to you and the league for what happened at the annual presentation dinner. I was unaware of the situation till Sunday.

Castlefields, as a club, feel very embarrassed by the actions of certain individuals, given we are Thursday league champions and how accommodating you have been personally and the league as a whole

Again all I can do is apologise and congratulate you on what sounds like a great evening.

I can fully understand your frustration and disappointment - I can only assure you it is matched by us as a club, and no reflection on your league which is run superbly

Thanks, Graham Wall - Castlefields secretary

24th January - Malcolm, I would like to thank both yourself and Margaret for the great presentation evening at Telford Whitehouse. Once again the planning, organisation and company was excellent.

Also, well done on this year's AGM. The potential of a drawn-out and difficult meeting was avoided by all the excellent preparation done by all the leagues execs.

In the 37 years of attending these meetings, I have never seen so many proposals go forward un-hindered.

The MSBL is now in a great position for 2024 and beyond, so a massive thank you from myself and all at Albrighton BC. Regards Steve Wall Secretary Albrighton Bowling Club

- We had a few issues for the Dinner.
- We were still chasing people for money in January.
- We asked people to let us know up until the dinner if there were any changes and some didn't until they got there. So we had to rearrange late and have an empty table in the middle.
- Dave Evans said the people who went said it was good.
- The Chairman said it was subsidised last year, so we need to think about the prices for next year.
- It was agreed to book it for the two dates around the Telford games.

14 County matters

Next County Exec meeting is on Monday 11th March at Allscott Heath! On the agenda that night are inter-league and Wrekin Cup rule change proposals; sponsors; this year's Best Kept Green competition and sub committee appointments.

Also to be discussed, in the wake of February's AGM, is the need to fill the vacancy created by Pauline Wilson standing down as Development Officer. All other officers were elected en bloc and all rule proposals were passed.

Honorarium was increased by 4.6% . Junior and Senior county selectors remain the same. Veterans County Selectors are Mick Jones, Tony Roche and Andy Smith, plus hopefully one more from the Tanners area. Mike Potter will be running the day as Shropshire hosts this year's regional qualifier

Highlight for the League came at the end when our own Brenda Slingo stepped up as our nomination to be County President, with Simon Fullard as her Deputy.

Clubs can tick now if they wish to host a County or Shropshire Cup game this season.

SENT OUT BY Dawn Gray, county secretary:

March 2 - Please find attached the Club Secretary Information Pack for the 2024 season. League Secretaries may also find this pack useful. This pack contains everything you need to know to keep your club SCGBA compliant.

February 6 - Following on from the success of last year's Secretaries Seminar, Marie Scott has very kindly agreed to hold a Zoom Session again to give detailed navigation help through the SCGBA County login on the bowlsresultstwo.co.uk site.

From how to log in using your Club/League password, to entering the safeguarding officer details, insurance information, entering county cup information etc Everything you need to keep your club/league county compliant.

The seminar will take place on Saturday 23rd March at 2pm via Zoom conferencing.

Feedback from last year's seminar was excellent and secretaries found the session every helpful so I urge you to join if you are unsure of any process. Please register your interest with me before the 17th March and a zoom session link will then be emailed to you 2 days beforehand.

BCGBA:

Received February 5:

Following interviews over the past weekend, British Crown Green Bowling Association have made the following appointments.

BCGBA Chief Executive Officer - Paul Ashmore. He will be initially working with the outgoing Chief Executive Officer Mark Bircumshaw, to ensure there is a smooth transition.

BCGBA National Administrator - Jim McGurk

Received February 20:

To all Members of British Crown Green Bowling Association.

Please can you forward on to all your Members, Associations and Clubs. It is important that this BCGBA Disciplinary Policy is communicated to all members of the Association.

Regards, Jim McGurk

15 Any Other Business

There was no any other business.

16 President / chairman to close the meeting

- It was refreshing to see a meeting room full of people rather than just half a dozen.
- We are discussing how people came back to bowl which is refreshing. The last 4 years the top table have worked hard to get everything sorted and back up and running.
- A reminder to look at your jacks. They can be stamped four times.
- Good luck to every club this season.
- A warm welcome to Meole Brace for joining our league.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.