



**MSBL**  
Mid-Shropshire Bowling League



## Newsletter No. 3 - May / June 2024

### Secretary's Report by Malcolm Fletcher



It already seems a long time since the League's April meeting - and there's been so much going on it is hard to know where to start! Unfortunately, before the playing season really got into full swing, we were rocked by the passing of 3 Mid Shropshire Life Members who all served the League, Shropshire, the BCGBA and the game we all love with such dedication.

Barry Griffiths, John Hughes and Ron Adams really deserve their own separate articles in this Newsletter for all they did in their various roles, but I hope I did them justice with posts on the League website.

It and the Facebook group remain the main ways for us to keep in touch with the League's bowlers - and also for them to communicate with each other. Just ask a relieved Bridgnorth's Garry Fuller about its value - he managed to track down a missing bowl via an appeal on it!

On the playing front there are some cracking divisional title races already developing - and Hadley USC's signing of North Midlands star Darren Plenderleith, the winner of the British Senior Merit in 2017, has caused quite a stir.

The Saturday Division is about to be reborn after 5 years in cold storage, sadly with only 6 teams. But there is clearly a demand for Saturday action with Donnington Wood and Sinclair announcing new open competitions on that day, so that number will surely grow. Competition numbers continue to rise with nearly as many in our Senior Merit as in the County Merit! Team knockout entries are up too.

And there's lots of interest in the 3 Shropshire inter-league championships this year, the first being the veterans on Saturday 15th June when the MSBL will be fielding 2 teams at Chester Road in Whitchurch with Ian Evans's A team looking to retain the trophy and John Palmer & Rob Renke agreeing to run a B side.

Wrockwardine Wood will kindly host the junior inter-league for us on Sunday 14th July when selectors Brenda Slingo and Derek Killen have 2, possibly 3, teams lined up. And I am hopeful of having at least 2 teams in the senior inter-league in August with Michael Cooper in charge of the A side.

While on the subject of competitions, I have to say that the quality of many of our finals continues to amaze me. Those who witnessed the Over-60s Merit climax between winner Paul Beer and defending champion Ian Gaut were treated to a real cracker that was a credit to both of them.

I'll close by returning to the subject of Life Members. The people to be honoured in 2024 in October will be finalised at the July executive meeting. The officers have a shortlist but if anyone would like to nominate people for their services to their clubs, the League and the game then it would be great to hear from you - via you club secretary please.

All we need now is a prolonged spell of decent weather - it used to be called summer!

Malcolm

## Fixture Secretary's Report by John Palmer

All the leagues have started with the exception of the newly resurrected Saturday league which is scheduled to start on 1<sup>st</sup> June with 6 teams competing. Consequently, player registration is now locked and clubs requiring further changes to their squads now need to contact me.

My sympathies go to players in the Monday divisions who have played at least 5 games and haven't had a dry night yet! Sympathies also to Chelmarsh who have been unable to use their green - like the beginning of last season - due to drainage issues. Hopefully, this has now been resolved.



The issue of a Dennis Lewis Thursday Division match between Prince Hotel and Shifnal being played after the scheduled date will be discussed at the July Executive meeting.

A number of £10 fines have been imposed:

- Sir John Bayley played an A starred player in a B team match against Shifnal.
- Broseley fielded an unregistered player in a division 4 match against Wrockwardine Wood.
- Meole Brace fielded an unregistered player in a Thursday league match at Charlton.
- Bowring fielded an unregistered player in a division 5 match against Hadley USC.
- Worfield fielded an unregistered player in a division 2 match against Bridgnorth.

As per league rule 7, all these have been recorded as 21-0 walkovers.

There have been five transfers which have cost the receiving club the £5 fee:

- Isaac Clark from Hadley USC to Sir John Bayley.
- Paul Powell from Hadley USC to Horsehay.
- Jamie Millman from Sinclair to Madeley Cricket Club.
- Harry Ryder from Shifnal to Bowring.
- James O'Hara from Sinclair to Maddocks.

Good luck to everybody for the rest of the season and I hope the weather improves, especially on Mondays!

John

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## Competition Secretary's Report by Rob Burroughs



It has been a busy start to the season with 3 competitions held and our finals day field for the Senior Merit completed.

The Dixon & Driscoll Doubles were played at Allscott Heath with 24 entries taking part. It was won by Sally King & Nat Moseley who defeated Jamie & Phil King 13 in the Final. Thank you to all who entered and to Allscott Heath for hosting!

The Under 25 Merit was played at Donnington Wood with 8 players taking part, the highest for a while. The final was won by last year's

Under 15 Merit winner Jordan Millman who beat Ed Proudlove in the final 16. Thank you to Donnington Wood for hosting and to all 8 who entered!

The Over 60s Merit was an unprecedented success with 31 entries overall at Sir John Bayley, the highest ever in this competition. It also potentially was the best final the competition has seen, with Paul Beer defeating Ian Gaut in an excellent final 21-20 to win the competition for the first time having turned 60 last year. Thank you to those who entered, and to the Bayley for hosting.

The Senior Merit had 81 entries at the closing date, with 75 taking part across the 4 qualifying venues at Edgmond, Shifnal, Sinclair and Trench. Thank you to everyone who entered, and to Sarah Glenholmes, Helen Clee, John Clarke and Dave Evans for running the qualifiers, and to the four clubs for hosting.

Good luck to all 16 entries who play in the finals on Friday 28th June at 6.30 p.m.

### **Dates coming up:**

**Junior Day** (Under 15 & 18 Merits) - Saturday 22nd June at 10 a.m. at Albrighton  
*Free Entry. Enter on the Day. Free food and drink for all the juniors competing!*

**Mixed Doubles** - Sunday 23rd June at 10 a.m. at Bridgnorth  
*£10 Entry Fee. Enter on the Day.*

**Monday Merit** - Qualifier Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30 p.m. Final 16 – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 5.30 p.m. *£3 Entry Fee, Enter by end of Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June*

**Entries to be made to Rob Burroughs on 07901 229623.**

Rob

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### **Treasurer's Report by Celia Miles**

The league's bank balance as at 27th May was £7,015.

That figure includes £125 sponsorship of the Senior Merit gratefully received from Shropshire Verti Drain & Turf Services. So the League's thanks go to Mike Humphries and recent Over-60s Merit winner Paul Beer.

Myself and Malcolm are now in communication with main League sponsors Molson Coors about a deal for the 2024 season. Another change in contact is always the issue we face when trying to negotiate the continuation of a relationship that stretches back well over 30 years now!

Celia

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## Dates for your Diary

**Ashton Cup** first round on Wednesday 5th June

**Shropshire veterans inter-league** on Saturday 15th June - 2 MSBL teams heading for Chester Road in Whitchurch

**Harris Cup** prelim round on Wednesday 17th June

**Junior Day** (Under 15 & 18 Merits) - Saturday 22nd June at 10 a.m. at Albrighton - free food and drink for all the juniors competing

**Mixed Doubles** - Sunday 23rd June at 10 a.m. at Bridgnorth

**Monday Merit** - Qualifier Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30 p.m (finals for the last 16 on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 5.30 p.m).

**Next MSBL meeting** – July executive on Tuesday the 2nd at SJBC (7.30pm).

**Fletcher Junior Doubles** - Saturday 6th July at Wrockwardine Wood at 10 a.m.

**Shropshire junior inter-league** on Sunday 14th July from 10 a.m. at Wrockwardine Wood.

[More details and contact information are on our website midshrop.co.uk](http://midshrop.co.uk)

The league is sponsored by:

