



MSBL
Mid-Shropshire Bowling League



Newsletter No. 4 - August/September 2024

Secretary's Report by Malcolm Fletcher



There are some cracking title races and relegation dogfights coming to the boil throughout the League as the season draws rapidly to a conclusion. It's been great to see!

Looking back over the period since the last League meeting in July, there have only been a couple of issues for your officers to deal with so we are all thankful for that.

And one of the highlights in that time was the success of the under-18 team in retaining the Shropshire junior inter-league championship. Wrockwardine Wood and Louise Cotton's team did us proud as hosts that day and the League's thanks also go to junior selectors Brenda Slingo and Derek Killen. In these young bowlers we

have real hope for the future . . .

Another special night was delivered by Nick Wyer and his Hadley USC side as they won the Shropshire Cup for the first time, beating Bridgewater in a fine final at Bicton.

But there has been bad news too, with the well respected John Lovett and Roy Crofts some of the bowlers we have lost in recent weeks. In terms of people passing away, it really has not been a good year . . .

On a more positive note, there is still plenty to look forward to with new League shirts set to be worn by 2 MSBL teams in the Shropshire senior inter-league on Saturday 31st August at Meole Brace. Captained by Michael Cooper and Phil King, the new limits on Premier League bowlers give us high hopes in this new look 6-a-side event.

And in September, 4 League clubs will feature in the final judging for this year's Dennis UK-Sisis Shropshire Best Kept Green accolade. Worfield, Wrockwardine Wood's No. 1 green, Edgmond and last year's winners Trench were all successful in the area judging and now have sights on the 2024 crown.

Edgmond will then host the League's annual ladies v gents challenge match for the Dave Ellis Shield on Wednesday 2nd October starting at 6.30pm. Anyone who wants to play in this game is more than welcome - just let me know! - and they will be paired against someone of a similar ability. But I really need the men to step up this year after the ladies somehow triumphed at Trench in 2023!!!

That match will be played the night after the October meeting at the Bayley, when the Life Members for 2024 will be honoured. The officers will prepare for it by holding their own key meeting in late September. One thing they will be discussing in depth is a review of the registered 6s. A couple of ideas for a change of approach have been put forward by vice-chairman and webmaster Steve Wall and the recent poll that he carried out on the League's Facebook group showed that there is a demand and also good reasons to have another look at this thorny topic.

Looking further ahead, the annual presentation dinner has been booked for Saturday 25th January 2025 at the West Stand @ TUFU. Organiser Margaret Fletcher is starting to work with the hotel and caterers on a menu and costs, which will be published as soon as details

are known. Please make a note of the date in your diaries as we want to try and build back closer to attendances of the 200 mark. But I am pleased to announce that the League's nomination for County President this year, Brenda Slings, will be able to join us that night! She has done us and the county proud and we can pay due tribute that evening. And the other date for the diary, especially for club secretaries and delegates, is the League's 2025 AGM, which will be on Tuesday 28th January, in the function rooms at the Bayley. If changes to the registered 6s rules are proposed, that could be some meeting! As for now, as always, Floreat Mid Shropshire!

Malcolm

Fixture Secretary's Report by John Palmer

Is it me or does this season seem to have flown by? Most of the divisions have only 6 or so matches left to play and the Saturday division has already finished! Congratulations to Wrockwardine Wood on winning all ten of their matches. Two more clubs have been fined for fielding an unregistered player; Bylet in division 1 and Highley in division 4.

John



Competition Secretary's Report by Rob Burroughs



Since the last Newsletter we have held the majority of our competitions over a two week period at the end of June and start of July!

The Junior Day was a huge success thanks to the efforts of Albrighton Bowling Club. Dan Corbett retained the Under 18 Merit after beating Jarratt Cotterill in the final, while Rowan Fuller went one better than last year after beating Jarratt in the final.

However Jarratt put that heartache behind him by teaming up with Ben Cutler and winning the Fletcher Junior Doubles at Wrockwardine Wood, defeating last year's winners Dan Corbett and Luke Morris.

The Mixed Doubles took place at Bridgnorth with 10 entries, one up on last season, and was won by Cheryl Caswell and Rob Burroughs, who defeated Sian Skelton and Scott Harries in the final.

The Senior Merit was retained by John Breeze at Broseley after defeating Paul Beer in the final that finished after 11 p.m. The Monday Merit the week after was won by former County President Mick Jones on another successful finals night. He beat Steve Watkins in the final.

We have one individual competition left this Sunday at Donnington Wood when the Thursday Night Merit takes place at 10 a.m. The night before this sees the Ashton Cup & Shield come to a climax, while two weeks later the Harris Cup & Shield hold their finals.

Thank you to every club who has hosted a qualifier or finals day, and to those who have helped run a qualifier, or supported me to run a finals day or night and marked and measured. I couldn't do it without the support of you and my fellow officers.

I have some new ideas for competitions which I will present at the October meeting, as well as any other changes that I feel we need to make to keep progressing our competitions.

Only the Monday Night Merit has been down on numbers compared to last season, and this is due to the new rules meaning bowlers have to play a certain number of Monday games this season. However, it does still seem to be the same clubs entering, I will present again the number of entries per club.

Rob

Treasurer's Report by Celia Miles

The League's balance at the end of July was £6,886.

Since the last League meeting in July, chairman Sean Round and I have met to produce a proposal for this year's prize money for all the divisions, team knockouts and competitions. This will be discussed and hopefully approved at the October meeting.

I do have good news to report in that the League has now received the annual payment from our main and long term sponsors, Molson Coors. This has been done, like in the past, via the Sir John Bayley Club account and my sincere thanks - and that of the League of course - go to area rep, Katie Trimmer, for all her hard work in securing the continuation of this much valued sponsorship deal.

It will soon be time for me to produce the club accounts for the season which will again include competition entry fees from a list supplied by the comps sec. These accounts will need to be paid by the November executive meeting.

Celia



Dates for your Diary

Saturday 31st August - Ashton Cup & Shield finals using both greens at Wrockwardine Wood and with staggered start times at 6.30pm and 7pm

Sunday 1st September - Thursday Merit, one-day comp at Donnington Wood sponsored by June Lewis (10am start)

Saturday 14th September - Harris Cup final & the first first Harris Shield final at a two green venue

Tuesday 1st October - League executive meeting at the Bayley Club (7.30pm)

Wednesday 2nd October - ladies v gents challenge match for the Dave Ellis Shield at Edmond from 6.30pm.

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

The league is sponsored by:

