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<b>JOHN PALMER</b>	<b>ROB BURROUGHS</b>	<b>MALCOLM FLETCHER</b>	<b>MIKE POTTER</b>	<b>SEAN ROUND</b>	<b>CELIA MILES</b>
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## Minutes of the July 2024 Executive Committee Meeting

To be held on Tuesday 2nd July at Sir John Bayley Club at 7.30pm

### 1 Chairman's remarks to open the meeting

Summer is now over and we are getting rained on! A few issues to sort tonight. Everything is going well on the green!

### 2 (a) Apologies

There were apologies from Worfield and Highley.

### (b) In Memoria

Life Members Barry Griffiths, John Hughes & Ron Adams. Sid Poole (Bowring), Jim Brown (Chelmarsh) & Graham Gaut (Donnington Wood)

### 3 Minutes of the April Management Committee Meeting

These were accepted as a true record, proposed by Sir John Bayley and seconded by Much Wenlock.

### 4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

### 5 General Secretary's report

Hello everyone – like I always say at this meeting, it's been a long time since the last League gathering meeting and so much has happened since April.

I have to admit though, a bit like the chairman told me last week, I do feel a bit distant from proceedings at times when there is such a long gap between meetings.

And that feeling this year was not helped by the loss of 3 Life Member is a very short space of time. I'm just so pleased that the League managed to honour that trio for their super service while they were alive. I did manage to attend 2 of the funerals to represent Mid Shropshire and Shropshire bowls.

But while there are no meetings, rest assured the officers are in regular contact via email and a WhatsApp group. As for keeping in touch with the clubs and their members, there's been regular posts on the website and Facebook group, plus one Newsletter and another to follow to cover August/September.

Website improvements have continued, prompted by Rob's desire to better publicise all the League's comps. There are some honours winners still missing, but we will get there!

And if you want any proof of the value of Facebook, just ask Bridgnorth's Garry Fuller who tracked down a missing bowl inside 24 hours after putting an appeal on the group.

Since April it is now clear that Telford & Wrekin Council's update of their Playing Pitch Strategy has started and the 2024 survey has gone out to clubs based in the borough. My advice to clubs is to fill in the survey as quickly and as accurately as possible – and stressing the desire to keep improving facilities for their members.

In terms of club venues, the MSBL entries in this year's Shropshire Best Kept Green competition are last year's winners Trench, Edmond Sinclair and Wrockwurdine Wood. Arthur Morris has agreed to continue as one of our judges but there is some confusion as to which judges go to which area – all caused by a suggestion by county chairman Phil Scott that I couldn't make top nor tail of! I await a clear reply to my questions . . .

I'm sure Rob will thank all the clubs that have host our comps so far this season, but I have to say I have been really impressed with the lengths they have go to.

I'll end by asking 2 questions. Firstly, has the League made a donation to SJBC for holding League meetings in the function rooms? *DONATION TO BE MADE*

Secondly, can we have permission to buy some new inter-league shirts? The ones we have got are simply not big enough for adults! *PERMISSION GRANTED*

Thank you

## 6 Correspondence

### RECEIVED June 18 from John Lumsden of Charlton:

Hi Mal - just a thought from one of our players. She recently had to contact the emergency services and was asked the location of the incident from the app 'what 3 words' . <https://what3words.com/products/what3words-app>

It may be useful for each club's location to be included as well as a postcode.

You could ask each club to stand at an appropriate entry point or the middle of the green and send you their what3 words location to be included on their home page on the website.

The app is free to download and pinpoints a location within yards.

Yes unfortunately you do require a smart phone! Regards, John

### RECEIVED June 6 from Sarah Glenholmes of Edgmond:

*Having been awarded a grant of £24,700 from the Inclusive Communities Fund – a £9 million initiative inspired by the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, Edgmond were in touch to thank the League for its letter of support in the bid.*

Said Sarah Glenholmes: "Our project centres around Physical Activity, Sport, Mental Health and well-being, and aims to create a greater perspective of Crown Green Bowling and its benefits on the body and soul.

"We are focused on raising the profile of our sport in an effort to keep its future relevant to as many participants, of all genres, for many more years to come.

"With this fund, we will be able to empower our community, address real issues and create a lasting legacy – an incredible opportunity."

As a club we are over the moon and excited to get on with the improvements. As part of the plan going forward we are keen to grow our junior section and will be working on a plan to develop this side of the club. (any hints and tips gratefully received!).

"We feel very proud and privileged to have such a great, loyal and supportive membership.

The leagues support as well as your own is one of our greatest assets - it's helping to make our 50th anniversary celebrations!

## 7 Fixture Secretary's report

Good evening everyone. So far, as far as I'm concerned, with a couple of exceptions which I'll talk about later, the season has been running reasonably smoothly despite a lot of poor weather.

There have been no fines imposed since the June newsletter was published and no further transfers.

Please be aware that the 'transfer window' is now over, the last date was 30th June and also bear in mind that tonight's meeting is the date after which any new registrations need to be approved by the Management Committee as per League Rule 5 and this only applies to junior or novice bowlers.

These are the two incidents which have been discussed by the officers but need to be resolved by the executive:

## Prince of Wales Hotel B v Shifnal in the Thursday Division 11<sup>th</sup> April.

This match wasn't played and I was only informed on the Friday morning by Ian Payne who told me: *Last night's fixture was cancelled as Shifnal could not raise a team and the match is now arranged for next Wednesday. Not sure if they told you about this so I'm letting you know so at least you are aware.*

Bear in mind that Prince B were a new team in the league and this would have been their first home fixture so they could possibly be excused for not being aware of the league rules.

When Shifnal were asked for an explanation, their secretary Michael Furness replied as follows:

*Monday 8th April 2024.*

- 1. The club were made aware that the team captain was experiencing selection problems with a large number of squad members being unavailable to play.*
- 2. The club were then informed that the team captain had contacted the POW Htl B team captain and requested that the match be re-arranged.*

*Tuesday 9th April 2024.*

- 1. The club were informed that both POW Htl B and Shifnal team captains had agreed to re-arrange the fixture to Wednesday 17th April.*
- 2. I then took this agreement and assumed that POW Htl B (Host team), had ratified this arrangement with the league and fixture secretary. As regards this point, I unreservedly apologise for my error in not notifying the league officers concerned as to Shifnal's Bowling Club request in re-arranging this fixture.*

*I can assure the MSBL and the other teams in the division that this situation will not arise again this season. I once again offer my apologies to all parties concerned for my incorrect assumptions and forward this response on behalf of Shifnal Bowling Club.*

The match was subsequently played on Wednesday 17th April and was won by Shifnal 17-37 (+64) (1-7).

League rule 6 states:

*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 +80. An aggregate of 168 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 +80. An aggregate of 168 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 at the July Executive Committee meeting.*

No fines are mentioned in the Thursday Division rules although rule 7 states:

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

So it could be implied that a fine of 8 X £5 might be applicable.

At present, Mike Beckett's system allows points to be deducted but not aggregate.

It was agreed to implement the rule with no fine.

### **Afternoon League, 30<sup>th</sup> May Edgmond A v Highley**

Highley were short of players and their captain Diane decided that they wouldn't travel without a full team. She informed Edgmond & me and said that she'd be conceding the match. She also considered withdrawing the team from the league altogether but hasn't done so.

Rule 9 for the Afternoon League states the following:

*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.*

Unfortunately, this rule doesn't make sense to me and also doesn't take into account the fact that Edgmond players would lose out on the possibility of winning the league averages.

What I've done so far is:

- Requested a team list from Edgmond
- Recorded the result as 6 walkovers using that list of players
- Imposed no fine.

Afternoon league rule 10 states:

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

It was agreed

### **8 Competition Secretary's report**

- I will send out a report regarding the competitions up to now for Malcolm to email out this month.
- Thank you to all clubs who have hosted, as well as those who have helped me organise.
- Well done to all our winners so far.
- The Monday Night Merit is at 7.15 p.m. at Wrockwardine Wood on Saturday after the England match.
- The Fletcher Junior Doubles are on Saturday morning at Wrockwardine Wood at 10 a.m.
- The Thursday Merit will be on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September if Shropshire don't progress through the groups on Sunday.
- For those non Premier League clubs who have been knocked out of the Harris Cup please let me know if you want to go into the Harris Shield.
- There is one Harris Cup Preliminary Round game left to be played.

### **9 Treasurer's report**

- We have a balance of £6.984.
- We had a meeting with the Molson Coors Rep. It is a battle on how to feed the money in. It needs to go to a club rather than the league as it has to come through a club account. It can come through the Bayley as I am club treasurer.
- They were happy when we said we wanted about £750. She will make a reference to them when she leaves the company.
- She will come to the dinner and represent Molson.

### **10 Shropshire inter-leagues round-up**

- We had two teams in the Veterans Inter League. It was an awful day.
- We had to give the Premier League a player from ours, then discovered a player was ineligible that they could have had.
- Then we had hail on the green.
- The hosts didn't even enter a side.
- The Premier League handicaps need to be more harsh.
- The Senior Inter League is on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Michael Cooper will captain the A side.

### **11 Life Members for 2024**

Hadley USC want to nominate Phil King. I had him down on my list as well as Peter Spragg and Brian Shore. All agreed.

### **12 County matters**

- Meeting started with a minute's silence in memory of county servants John Hughes, Barry Griffiths and Ron Adams.
- Chairman Phil Scott stated Pauline Wilson had declined the offer of the new Coaching Officer role since it has been separated from the County Development post.

- Secretary Dawn Gray asked delegates to urge all bowlers to complete the survey about the BCGBA. She had already dealt with 26 open certificates for county clubs.
- Treasurer Marie Scott said the finance committee had agreed to recommend the re-launch of the grant scheme. A revised form was ready but the fund would be limited to protect the longevity of the SCGBA. As for the proposal to pay for the exams taken by potential referees, as the cost is only £5 it was not progressed.
- 184 new registrations so far in 2024, including 17 juniors
- Long debate surrounding British Parks being put into Shropshire's qualifying group for the British veterans county championship – making it 5 with all the other groups 4. Phil and Marie Scott in a tight spot as British Parks officers – and Tony Roche and Mike Potter were far from happy. Letter of objection to be sent to the BCGBA – *and Parks have now disappeared from group!*
- County Senior Merit finals venue announced as Bowring and draw made. Only 83 entries, down from 95, so the number of qualifiers in All England may be cut!
- Some 15 early entries in Shropshire Best Kept Green comp and dates and venues for the inter-leagues confirmed – except seniors on August 31 in Salop. But there are judging issues . . .
- Trench received huge praise for hosting the Shropshire junior match v Yorkshire in May so well as part of the review of early county matches.
- Continuing positive news from the new-look BCGBA management structure with its new board of regional reps, including Phil Scott. The aim is to cater for the 85,000 grassroots bowlers – not just the 2,000 elite players.
- And to that end, a 2 hour plus meeting ended with a lengthy slide presentation on the survey results to date and how the BCGBA was planning for the future.

### 13 Any Other Business

- Bob Kendall said they are planning on running a Winter League at Allscott Heath.
- Rob Burroughs said about the Under 18 Merit Runner-up trophy. Mike Potter was to look on his photos to see who had it.
- Sean Round said he was asked to bring up about the lack of etiquette on the green this season as a lot of players are walking across the green and on player's land.

### 14 President / chairman to close the meeting

- In the Junior Merit on Saturday Wayd Pawlowski beat Jordan Millman to win that competition, while Dan Corbett defeated Logan Church in the Peter Ashton Youth Trophy.
- The Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship is at Prees tomorrow.
- The 18-23 Merit is at Trench on Saturday at 10 a.m.
- The Senior County is at Wrockwardine Wood on Sunday against the Potteries.
- The Veterans Team Championships is at Newport on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July.
- Congratulations to John Breeze on winning the Mid Shropshire Senior Merit on Friday.
- Congratulations to Josh Bradburn on winning the Shropshire Senior Merit after beating Sam Millward in the final. Those two and Pete Farmer and Martin Lloyd go to the All England.