

Fixture Secretary
JOHN PALMER
Tel: 07460-267265

Competition Secretary
ROB BURROUGHS
Tel: 07901-229623

General Secretary
**MALCOLM
FLETCHER**
Tel: 01952-771134

President
MIKE POTTER
Tel: 01952-617200

Chairman
SEAN ROUND
Tel: 07446-907207

Treasurer
CELIA MILES
Tel: 01952-222468

Minutes of the November 2024 Executive Committee Meeting

held on Monday 4th November at Sir John Bayley Club at 7.30pm

1 Chairman's remarks to open the meeting

Welcome to the November Executive Meeting. I don't want to go through the agenda as there is a lot to go through and some rule changes need seconders. Just let me know if you have any questions when we go through them.

2 (a) Apologies

There were apologies from Steve Anyon and Martin Gaut.

(b) In Memoria

In memoria: Viv Lomas (Horsehay) and Ernie Hedgecock (Wrockwardine Wood)

3 Minutes of the October Executive Committee Meeting

The minutes were passed as a true record, proposed by Wrockwardine Wood and seconded by Much Wenlock.

4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5 General Secretary's report

Evening all. There's very little to report from me tonight, suffice to say that the early signs regarding attendance numbers at January's presentation dinner are encouraging. Sadly though, it looks like we need to deliver a new Saturday Division winners trophy as the original, which was last presented in 2019, can't be found.

We'd like to see as many trophy and prize money winners at the dinner as possible because we really don't want to go down the road of withholding prizes if people don't attend the presentation.

That would mean even more time spent on rule change proposals – something the League's officers would really not welcome after a couple of recent lengthy meetings.

Rules have been the focus of my attention since the October meeting, but I want to stress that the officer proposals we are going to discuss later are not aimed at any member club or bowler specifically – they are our responses to issues that are frequently raised with us.

So, due to limited time, I admit I have yet to deal with the Newport short mark issue raised last month or invited the 2 guests we agreed for the dinner – but rest assured I will get on to it!

I'll end on a positive note by saying how good it is to see all the communications from the BCGBA these days. The latest, National Development Strategy for 2025 to '30, was launched at the weekend and is well worth a read. There are 75,000 active crown green bowlers in Britain and the national body now really needs to deliver on its promise to reach the grassroots players and clubs – and not just the elite.

The cost to implement the strategy means a proposal of £1 per player to go before the BCGBA AGM in January. The aim is deliver the strategy through each County Development Officer – and the real concern is that, since the resignation of Pauline Wilson, Shropshire hasn't had one since February . . .

Finally, if we do decide to split to Dennis Lewis Thursday Division if the number of teams goes above 14, I would appeal to all member clubs to consider entering to compete in what would be the lower division, especially those who have already had experience of it.

6 Correspondence

RECEIVED October 22 from Steve Reeves:

It is of great sadness that I have been told that Viv Lomas, a long and valued member of Horsehay BC, passed away this morning. He was such a good friend and supporter of the club and will be sadly missed by many. Rest in peace Viv.

RECEIVED October 3 from Peter Yates of Much Wenlock:

Hi Malcolm. Just a brief note to let you know that, thanks to your help, we have now sold our old floodlights to Telepost BC in Shrewsbury.

A really big thank you for making two clubs happy and for all the hard work you put in. All the best, Peter Yates (club treasurer).

RECEIVED ahead of October 31 deadline from Syd Jones of Chelmarsh:

I am aware that our club secretary Jan Hetherington raised this issue with you recently. However the proposal our committee discussed was much more detailed and not such a black and white option or should I say yellow.

I have detailed the wording of the proposal below and the context in which the proposal is being made. Not sure that the wording is right sorry.

Our proposal was for the League to ask all clubs to make a reasonable adjustment for any bowler who has a visual impairment by offering the use of a yellow Jack

The context to this is that those with visual impairments are often unable to see a black jack or discriminate this from the black bowls.

Visual impairment is recognised as a disability by the BCGBA. In fact there is a whole bowling section for the visually impaired VICGBA. This group are allowed to use white jacks.

Within our League there are numerous bowlers who experience visual impairments be it cataracts or declining vision. Our club has an experienced bowler who has encountered a sudden and severe decline in his vision this season, which has caused him significant distress.

Also The BOWLS DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE EQUALITY POLICY V2 Oct 22 also discusses in section 3.7 REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Here they state that reasonable adjustments are those made to avoid as far as possible by reasonable means the disadvantage which a disabled person experiences because of their disability.

Therefore, shouldn't all clubs ensure their compliance with the Disability and Equality Act 2010 and make this reasonable adjustment to ensure equality of access to the game of bowls for all regardless of their disability.

Syd Jones – chairman, Chelmarsh Bowling Club

- Louise Cotton said it can be worked out as it counts as a reasonable adjustment. But clubs can't be forced to buy a yellow jack.
- Malcolm Fletcher suggested they talk to clubs and if clubs have any old yellow jacks that need to be restamped then the league can do that.
- Sean Round said that clubs need to bear this in mind going forward. Malcolm said for them to come to the March or April meeting and tell clubs.
- Sean said as long as they tell clubs before the match started they have a bowler who is visually impaired and needs to use a yellow jack then they should be ok. Chelmarsh though said this had been refused before.
- John Lumsden said more clubs are buying yellow jacks.
- Sean added we can't force clubs to move to yellow jacks.
- He said to Chelmarsh to take this to the county.

7 Treasurer's report

There is £19,218 in the bank. All bills have been paid thank you. Donnington Wood were one of the first to pay! The CPI is 2.6% if we are happy to increase by that amount? All in agreement.

8 Competition Secretary's report

- He will check what trophies he still needs but think he has most of them now.
- As you can see by the list of clubs and entries it is still the same clubs that are entering but hoping the new competitions will help with those clubs who aren't entering anyone as they are aimed at the bowlers in the lower divisions.
- Karen Smith said there was a ladies merit already which Louise Cotton said any lady could enter. He replied that he thinks there would be interest but if there wasn't then we can park the idea.
- He has done dates provisionally but of course depends on the County dates.

9 Fixture Secretary's report

- He hasn't got much to report at this time of year.
- He can now set up the 2025 season if clubs wish to start changing their players? John Lumsden replied that it would give time for clubs to remove players. Sooner for me the better. Sean Round said he couldn't see why not.
- John added that you can remove players in the Shropshire database but don't do it there do it in the Mid Shropshire League database. He is not changing passwords unless a club wants to.
- The Division 6 winners were Donnington Wood with Edgmond 2nd, and the League Average winner is Brian Jacques of Allscott Heath.

10 Rule change proposals for 2025

- Dave Evans said that he had looked at their rule again and it would wipe off £200 in match fees and £200 in bar takings so as a club we need to think about that.
- Malcolm Fletcher said he had one club interested so we need to either split it or cap it at 14.
- John Lumsden said that Trench could put two teams in to offset the lost of match fees and bar takings.
- Rich Jones asked when do the league need to know what teams are entering. John replied 48 hours before the March Meeting. He said that the awful September weather had caused problems having 26 games in the Thursday Division.

- John Lumsden said it would be more enjoyable playing the Thursday League scoring system on a Monday night. He said for clubs to talk to players about the scoring system as it was only narrowly defeated last time.
- He said one of their juniors had to be registered because of his good form so couldn't play a Monday night and his form on a Friday suffered as a result. He looked at the list of juniors and found 35. Registering juniors limits their opportunities to play bowls, and it's not possible to play in other league as parents have to take them.
- Sean Round said that rule 21 has been to many AGMs over the years. This rule should mean a cascade affect and stop players over jumping.

11 County matters

- Malcolm Fletcher said to let him know about any nominations for Deputy County President.
- There will be an officers meeting to discuss the Senior Interleague and Merit.
- The Chairman said the incident with the lack of scoreboards at the County Cup Final won't happen again.
- There were positive comments about Malcolm's work for the county and that they are sad to see him go.
- There will be about £4000 profit overall but less fines this season.
- There has been about £4000 worth of grants given out to clubs.
- Clubs need to have a constitution in place for them to have a chance of funding for Sport England. Bob Llewellyn asked was this for the club or the bowls club. Rob Burroughs would find out.
- There will be a new BCGBA website costing £60000 in total.
- There is still no County Development Officer in place.

12 Presentation Dinner – Saturday 25th January 2025 at the West Stand & TUC (5.30pm)

- There are 89 confirmed places with 5 clubs to let me know. Please can they let us know as soon as possible.
- Malcolm Fletcher said we need a cut off date to decide if we go for it, it would look strange if we had less than 140 there.
- The only guests are from Molson Coors.

13 Any Other Business

John Lumsden said we need to look at youth development coaching with only 35 juniors registered in the league. We have it as part of the PE Curriculum at HLC at Charlton. We need to improve publicity and contact schools. Sean Round said we need to think about child protection. Only the level two coaches can coach outside their club, and we only have two in Pauline Wilson and Brenda Slingo. We could invite Pauline along to a meeting.

14 President / chairman to close the meeting

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.41 p.m.