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Minutes of the October 2024 Executive Committee Meeting

held on Tuesday 1st October at Sir John Bayley Club at 7.30pm

1 Chairman's remarks to open the meeting

Congratulations to those clubs who got promoted or won leagues and commiserations to those clubs who got relegated. Congratulations to Edgmond who won the best kept green competition. The last month has been hectic with issues on Facebook. We tend to make new rules to stop things happening again but then people say it's too clunky and stopping people from playing but it's needed.

2 (a) Apologies

There we apologies from Bridgnorth, Dave Evans (Trench), John Palmer and Bob Llewelyn (Maddocks)

(b) In Memoria

In memoria: John Lovett (Horsehay), Roy Crofts (Wrockwardine Wood), Gordon Hatch (Bowring), Alan Morgan (Ercall Magna) and Gill Blakeley.

3 Minutes of the July Executive Committee Meeting

The minutes 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

Evening all and welcome to what I hope will be another special night as we honour 3 more deserving bowlers with Life Membership of the Mid Shropshire League.

We have big decisions to make on prize money and the annual dinner tonight so I won't ramble – but I do want to reiterate that, after one annoying communication since the July meeting, I won't deal with individual bowlers with a beef. Captains maybe, but they too really ought to come through the official channel of their club secretary.

And if clubs have any kind of beef, then the answer is obvious. Come forward with rule change proposition before the October 31st deadline, get it seconded at the December meeting and then all clubs can vote on it at the AGM!

I do want to say big thank you and congratulation to the following though – to Wrockwardine Wood and Bowring for doing the League proud when hosting finals nights of the 4 team knockouts; to Hadley USC on winning the Shropshire Cup for the first time; to Bridgnorth on the success of their Summer School, showing clubs one way of trying to attract youngsters into the sport; to Edgmond and groundsman Peter Leath on winning the 2024 Shropshire Best Kept Green crown; to Shropshire Ladies for their back-to-back British Ladies county championship crowns; and finally to Wrockwardine Wood for a stunning hat-trick of British Ladies Club Championship titles.

I also want to wish Allscott Heath well with their winter league plans and, looking further ahead, here's hoping Martin Bennett can honour his late father's wish and get Stockton back into the Mid Shropshire League in 2025.

I am afraid I am going to end on a personal note. I'm sad to report that, after an association going back more than 3 decades, I have now resigned as the SCGBA's press relations officer and as a delegate to the county executive.

I haven't been happy with a number of things this year. This summer's Shropshire Best Kept Green competition turned into something of a judging farce and the last straw for me was the late cancellation of the senior inter-league due to have been played in Shrewsbury. Helped by Michael Cooper and Phil King, I had entered 2 teams and indeed

nearly had enough bowlers who wanted to represent the MSBL to field a 3rd side! And that was after persuading the League to spend £186 on brand new, modern shirts! I still feel really guilty about that . . .

Anyway, I let my frustration at the cancellation and feelings in general be known, upset a couple of the county's paid officers and felt the only way forward was to cut all ties with the SCGBA.

The long and short of it is that it now leaves just Martin Gaut as our only direct delegate and, as he is unavailable on Mondays during the playing season, we really need to find another volunteer to serve come the AGM on January 28. I'm not going to apologise if people think I have left the League in the lurch as I don't think anyone can point the finger and say I have not done my bit on that score. I'm afraid that the county just doesn't mean that much to me these days . . .

6 Correspondence

RECEIVED July 16 from Kevin Hall of Sinclair:

Hi Malcolm. One of our members at Sinclair has expressed a desire to learn about green keeping. Would you know if there are any local training companies that can possibly run a course for beginners. Regards Kevin. End of season seminar planned by SCGBA?

RECEIVED September 26 from Michael Cooper:

Good afternoon Malcolm. I am going to step down as senior inter-league selector. Thank you for the opportunities over the last few years doing it. I truly believe we would have won it this year!

But I believe it is time someone else had a go at it now – and I wanted to let you know so you had time to get someone for next year.

Kind regards, Michael Cooper

7 Treasurer's report

- There is £7,636 in the bank. The lowest it has been for some time. I had a meeting with Sean to look at the prize money.
- To make sure we do not lower the division 1 prize money we had to increase the prize pot from 40% to 55% and therefore reduce the league income from 60% to 45%.
- This is mainly due to us reducing the match levies in 2023 to 50p across the board BUT paying out the 2022 prize pot when the match fee was different in any division.
- The main division prize winners are receiving the same in 2024 and division 6 winners will win the most.
- Also the league pot has stayed roughly the same but we will need to increase as our costs are increasing year on year.
- Now obviously we are still financially okay BUT me and Sean feel this needs a discussion.
- John Lumsden said we should put £1,000 towards juniors and said people might be expecting the same prize money again next season. The Chairman said this was a one off and we couldn't go lower than the last balance. We will find suggestions between now and March.
- Malcolm Fletcher said Division One is our flagship so we should pay out more for it.

Possible Solution

The increase in fees to 60p in 2024 has raised around an extra £3,000

As Celia wants to start building up the MSBL bank balance, we could explain that to clubs and say that, for that reason, we are keeping £1,000 of that figure

Then we could split the remaining £2,000 across the 7 main divisions (£285 each) and add the following to the 2023 prizes paid:

1st add £150; 2nd add £85; 3rd add £50

THIS SOLUTION WAS ACCEPTED

8 Competition Secretary's report

It has been another successful season of competitions in the Mid Shropshire League.

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.

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.

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.

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 Sarah Glenholmes, Helen Clee, John Clarke and Dave Evans for running the qualifiers, and to the four clubs for hosting.

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.

The Thursday Merit was held at Donnington Wood with Josh Bradburn beating Harry Church in the final after 11 entered.

The Ashton Cup Final was again won by Newport who beat Allscott Heath in the final, while Highley beat Much Wenlock in the Ashton Shield Final.

The Harris Cup and Shield had a successful first finals night at the Bowring. Sir John Bayley beat St Georges in a final that was tied after 7 games, and Shifnal put in a dominant display in the Harris Shield to beat Newport. The Shield has definitely been a welcome addition to the competition scene!

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 as well as my fellow officers, especially Malcolm Fletcher who has been a big help at most of the competitions this season! I have some new ideas for competitions which I will present at the November meeting, as well as any other changes that I feel we need to make to keep progressing our competitions.

Only the Monday and Thursday Night Merits have 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, and the late date given for the Merit. However, it does still seem to be the same clubs entering, I will present again the number of entries per club at the November meeting.

Please return any trophies to be me by the December meeting latest. I will issue a list for the next meeting.

9 Fixture Secretary's report

Good evening everyone, sorry I can't be with you this evening. So the 2024 season is done and dusted - or it ought to be but unfortunately, due to the recent awful weather there are a few honours yet to be decided and league officers have had to extend the season by a week to allow fixtures from last Thursday and yesterday to be rearranged. Congratulations go to the following:

	Winners	Runners-up	Averages
Division 1	Shifnal A	Sinclair A	Nick Wyer HUSC
Division 2	Trench A	Horsehay A	Paul Osborne Trench
Division 3	Newport C	Albrighton A	Alan Gould Newport
Division 4	Newport D	Wrock Wood C	Mick Jones Newport
Division 5	Horsehay B	Sinclair C	Carol Lomas Horsehay
Division 6	<i>TBC</i>	<i>TBC</i>	<i>TBC</i>
Thursday	<i>TBC</i>	<i>TBC</i>	Peter Farmer Allscott Heath
Saturday	Wrock Wood	Shifnal A	Chris Hayward Allscott Heath
Afternoon	St Georges	Donn Wood	Steve Dodd St Georges

- It's almost certain that Castlefields will retain their Thursday league title with St Georges runners-up. The two relevant outstanding matches are scheduled for tomorrow and Thursday. Division 6 has also been badly affected because they had fixtures on Monday & Thursday last week plus yesterday, all of which were affected by bad weather.
- Since the September newsletter was published only one £5 fine has had to be imposed - Wrockwardine Wood had a walkover in their division 1 match at home to Shifnal on 20th September.
- I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the team captains and club secretaries who I've had dealings with this year and also Mike Beckett for help with issues regarding the Results Service
- Finally, I hope you've all had an enjoyable season, even on Monday nights when it rained almost every week. It seems to have gone all too quickly. Let's hope the winter goes quickly too and we're all raring to go next March.
- The Chairman said we should put a rule in about fixtures at the end of the season and when they should be played by. John Lumsden suggested that you could give them longer to arrange, maybe within 14 days.
- There was an issue with teams agreeing a date between Edgmond and Albrighton from last night. Edgmond can play Thursday, Friday and Saturday, they have holidays after. Albrighton are running a floodlight competition on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday so can't play then. Steve Wall said that Edgmond called it off at 2. Allan Gaut said that they can't help calling a game off because of the weather, their groundsman is a well respected man. Rob Burroughs suggested about splitting the game. It was decided that if a new date could not be agreed then the game would be played on Saturday morning.

10 Early ideas for 2025

These were going to be discussed at an officers meeting in October and presented at the next meeting.

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

- The hot fork buffet would also include a bread roll and butter beforehand and a tea or coffee afterwards. Karen Smith asked if this would be at a set table. Marg Fletcher replied yes it would be. Louise Cotton asked what the vegetarian option was. Marg answered Lasagne or Casserole.
- The Chairman reminded people that the £30 isn't just for the meal, it's for what's around the meal too. It wasn't bad last year. It was subsidised last year to see if it improved which it did.
- We have given you options this year to see what people wanted.
- Bob Mumford proposed and Steve Anyon seconded that we go with the three course meal. 16 were for and none against so it was passed.
- The Chairman said we would look for feedback directly after the meal this time in February or March.
- Louise said some people might not want the sauce. Marg said that was fine and just for people to write that down when they order.
- It was agreed to do the Chicken option and charge £30 for everyone.

12 County matters

The next meeting has moved to 21st October.

13 Any Other Business

- Malcolm Fletcher asked if there were any spare women about for the Dave Ellis game tomorrow at Edgmond? We need two more.
- Bob Kendall said they had 15 teams for the Allscott Winter League so far. It's not set in stone yet so we are still open to suggestions. We are planning to launch the league on 4th November. It would be 4 games of singles for each team starting at 7. Both teams can practice from 6.30. The fees would be £5 per player per game. A special evening membership would be available for the players, and hot food available each night. We are still looking for teams so please contact Chris Hayward if you are interested. We are also looking for people from other clubs to join the committee.
- Bob Mumford said the delayed Wenlock Olympic singles and the 2025 singles would be played on 28th and 29th June next year, with the doubles a week later on the 6th July. All start at 10 but can be earlier depending on entries.
- Rob Burroughs said we tend to move the meeting from Bonfire Night in previous years. It would be looked at moving it 24 hours earlier to Monday 4th November.

14 President / chairman to close the meeting

Mike Potter congratulated teams who had won their divisions, especially Shifnal. They have an important match tomorrow in the Play Offs against Woore, good luck to them. Have a good winter!

With no further business the meeting was closed at 8.25 p.m.