



MSBL
Mid-Shropshire Bowling League



Newsletter No. 7 - May/June 2026

A Message From Our New Chairman



Hello everyone!

I was extremely grateful and felt very proud to become elected as Chairman of our league in January. For many years I have always known that the league has been in safe hands, and I sincerely thank our current and previous officers for working tirelessly over the years, establishing strong foundations, and building our league up to what it is today.

As a way of an introduction, I'm Chris and I've enjoyed bowling in our league for over 34 years! I first started playing our wonderful game at the age of 11 after attending games with my Dad, Tony as he played for Teletecs. I started playing for the club too and what a green they had with some crown on it! My first ever game... away at Old Shrewsbury if my memory serves me correctly. After Teletecs folded, I moved to Bowring where my love for the game became stronger as I watched the development of a second green. After Bowring, I moved to Abbey, another club that has now sadly folded, but I enjoyed a number of seasons there where I first moved into captaincy and then the role of Vice Chairman. When Abbey lost their green after the 2012 season, I moved to Allscott in 2013 where I continued to enjoy playing competitively and within two years, became the captain of the first team. In February 2023, I was elected Chairman of the bowls section at Allscott, a position that I still hold today.

We have a brilliant league, and my intention is to nurture its future growth by supporting my fellow officers and engaging in activities that will add value and make a difference. We have amazing people throughout our league structure that make our league one to be rightfully proud of.

We're already well into our 2026 season and as always, we're extremely busy, competitions are frequent and are being well attended. Our divisions have all started, including a new division 7 on a Monday evening this year and this only speaks positively about the growth of our league.

Let's keep in mind our league's code of conduct as we all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour. Our sport is one that we play for enjoyment, many of us play competitively to win but let's remember how to lose gracefully and respect each other, on and off the green at all times. Let's ensure we're spending more time celebrating successes and promoting positive activity within our league, and significantly less time referring to the code of conduct.

Good luck to all players and teams for the rest of the season, enjoy your bowls, continue to support your club, your team, and the league, and remember to be kind to each other.

Chris

Secretary's Report by Malcolm Fletcher

Firstly an explanation . . I know it is June already but, as work on preparing this Newsletter actually started last month, I think we can justifiably call it the May/June issue!



It's been a busy old start to the 2026 season and there are already some cracking title races developing across the 10 divisions. Shifnal are well placed at the top of 3 of them and the recent Castlefields domination of the Dennis Lewis Thursday Night scene is under severe threat this time around. On the team knockout front I salute Charlton for ousting Premier League side Adderley from the Harris Cup - proving the new handicap system approved at the AGM in January is doing what the officers hoped for - and also Sinclair.

Our reigning League champions from Ketley became the first non-Premier team to win its Mayhew Trophy, beating the record winners of the 12-a-side showpiece, Castlefields, in the final at Wem Sports. A truly remarkable effort!

In terms of League competitions, numbers have been very good again and 115 entries for the Shropshire Vertidrain & Turf Services Ltd backed Senior Merit is exceptional. Title holder Harry Church has qualified for the last 16 and will attempt to retain the honour on finals day at Donnington Wood on Saturday 27th June, from 2pm, when a first prize of £200 will also be up for grabs. It looks like being an afternoon not to be missed . . .

Comps supremo Rob Burroughs will be at the helm that day - and I personally am very happy to report that he has taken on yet another role within the League structure.

It's unofficial at the moment, but Rob is now the lead officer for the disciplinary process. I hope this temporary role will become official under executive powers at the July meeting on Tuesday the 7th. Sadly, there will be 2 protests to report on that night . . .

Rob has experience of dealing with protests with his Premier League hat on and may well look to review our protest and disciplinary rules in the very near future.

Talking of rules, the July executive meeting is set to be preceded by a short EGM to approve an updated set for the League to bring them into line with modern day requirements and the recommendations of the BCGBA's draft constitution.

This is all part of the 5-year development strategy that the sport's governing body announced last year and that our county officer Pauline Wilson is working on so diligently to encourage affiliated clubs and leagues to follow.

Also worthy of praise is Louise Cotton for all she did to deliver the successful Rules Seminar at Bowring with British Referees Society chief David Williams.

Her club, Wrockwardine Wood, and Bowring helped the League deliver a successful 2026 Shropshire veterans interleague championship early in May. We had 3 of the 11 teams involved, but it was just a pity that the A team could not retain the Derek Wright Shield, losing in the semi-finals to the eventual winners, the Premier Blue side.

Now the goal is for selectors Brenda Slingo and new recruit Spencer Clarke to plot the successful defence of the junior inter-league championship in North Shropshire on Sunday 12th June.

The mood in the county under-18 camp is buoyant after the rare victory over champions Yorkshire last month, when using the artificial green at Allscott Heath proved vital in a 1 chalk success.

It's great to see the junior scene booming with so many new open comps and with Rob and Brenda at the forefront of everything that's good. And the new competitive set-up means winning the junior inter-league again is going to be far from easy.

But it gives us something to really look forward to and I say Floreat Mid Shropshire bowls!

Malcolm

Fixture Secretary's Report by John Palmer



All our leagues have started well with decent weather up to Monday 1st June when heavy persistent rain caused the postponement of most matches.

Unfortunately, there have been a few walkovers caused by player unavailability each incurring a £5 fine. The clubs fined so far are:

- Stockton £5
- Bylet £10
- Shifnal £10
- Charlton £5

I'm pleased to say that the number of £10 fines for unlisted/unticked players are well down this year, there have only been two: Meole Brace & Horsehay.

There have been four player transfers (each costs the receiving club a £5 management fee):

- Matt Beech from Horsehay to Sinclair.
- John Richards from Horsehay to Hadley BC.
- Andy Garbett from Horsehay to Sinclair.
- Robert McGibbon from Bowring to Allscott Heath.

Good luck to everyone for the rest of the season.

John

Competition Secretary's Report by Rob Burroughs

We have had a great season of competitions so far with five already taking place and four of them completed.

The first was the Under 18 Merit at Donnington Wood on Saturday 18th April. A disappointing entry of just 8 took part with Jordan Millman beating Jack Peach in the final.

The Dixon & Driscoll Doubles took place on Sunday 26th April at St Georges with 37 pairs taking part, the most since before COVID. Well done to Sian Skelton & Rowan Fuller on winning, Rowan being the youngest ever winner of the competition, and Sian being the first to have the Mixed Doubles and Dixon & Driscoll Trophies in her possession. The Under 25s and Over 60s Merit were held on Saturday 16th May at Wrockwardine Wood. The Under 25 had 10 entries, the most since I took over, and was won by Tom Killen who beat Rowan Fuller in the final. Later that day, Ian Edwards went one better than last year to win the Over 60s Merit beating Steve Bishton in the final, with 24 entries in total, one up on last year.



The Senior Merit Qualifying took place with 114 players in the end taking part, a record for many a year! The 16 finalists will play to a winner on Saturday 27th June at Donnington Wood at 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

A big thank you to Stuart Church and Brenda Slingo for running the Under 18 and Under 25 Merits for me, and to Denise Tonks, John Clarke, Greg Needham, Emma Duncan, Tim Willis-Cotton, Helen Clee and Steve Reeves for running the qualifiers for me, it is much appreciated! Thank you to St Georges and Wrockwardine Wood for hosting those one days, and to Charlton, Stockton, St Georges, Allscott Heath, Shifnal and Newport for hosting the Qualifiers.

There are two more competitions in June. The Ladies Merit on Saturday 6th June at Horsehay at 11 a.m. and the Under 15 Merit on Saturday 13th June at Stockton at 10 a.m.

Rob

Treasurer's Report by Celia Miles



This has been a quiet time of the year for me. However, our bank balance currently stands at £5,241 and we have received with thanks the £175 sponsorship from Shropshire Vertidrain & Turf Services for the Senior Merit.

In addition, I will shortly be emailing the clubs which have had competition entries before the bills are sent out so they can collect the money owed already.

Celia

Dates for your Diary

Ladies Merit on Saturday 6th June at Horsehay at 11am

Under 15 Merit on Saturday 13th June at Stockton at 10am

All competition entries to Rob Burroughs on 07901 229623

30th June - last date for player transfers.

July Executive Meeting - Tuesday 7th July, 7.30 pm at Sir John Bayley (*probably to be preceded by short EGM*). This is the cutoff date for new player registrations (other than new bowlers).

Ashton Cup & Shield finals on Saturday 5th September

Harris Cup and Shield finals on Saturday 12th September

Ladies v Gents annual match for the Dave Ellis Shield on Friday 25th September at Broseley at 6.30pm

Presentation Dinner - Saturday 21st November at The Shropshire from 6pm (*2 course meal served at 6.30, prices and full details to be confirmed at July meeting*).

More details and contact information are on our website midshrop.co.uk

The League is sponsored by:

