



# Coventry & District Bowling League

## **Secretary & Treasurer – Martin Dobson**

459 Walsgrave Road, Coventry CV2 4AH

Tel : 07904589480 or 02476448916

Dobson365@btinternet.com

Minutes of League AGM held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 22 - Newdigate Club at 7.15 pm

### **1. Absent Friends**

- Roger Livesey - Bulkington
- Warren Flatley - Bulkington
- George Rigby - Baddesley
- Mick Parks – BBC
- Barr Wildman – Atherstone Grove.

### **2. Minutes of the 2020 & 2021 AGM**

- Minutes of 2020 & 2021 AGM where approved unanimously by vote.

### **3. Matters Arising**

- None

### **4. Secretary Report (Martin Dobson)**

- Secretary had stated that he had now competed 7 years in the role and whilst at times the job is frustrating it has generally been enjoyable despite two difficult years.
- The Secretary stated that the Coventry & District Committee is now a small group trying to run Bowls – support is requested from all Clubs & Players to ensure that Bowls runs smoothly and protect the game going forward.
- The League Welcome back Windmill on Saturdays
- Coventry Colliery confirm name change to Keresley Colliery.
- Wyken confirm their name change to Walsgrave.
- Weddington advise new Secretary – Pete Bown & Treasurer Matt Gibbon.
- The Secretary reminded Clubs that if they run any open Competitions they need to obtain an Open Certificate from BCGBA – this will be requested through North Midlands Secretary. Clubs should also note that Open Competitions cannot be played on any scheduled League fixture date as per the Coventry & District and North Midlands Rules – if you have any questions PLEASE ASK !
- The Combined Coventry & District and North Midlands end of season Presentation will be held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at Newdigate Club.

- The subject of Clubs providing refreshments after both Mid-Week & Thursday League matches was discussed, whilst the Committee are recommending a return to providing refreshments Clubs need to confirm what approach they would like to take – Secretary will contact all Clubs to ascertain their decision.
- At the Rules revision and formation meeting in December 2021 the Committee made the following statement regarding Rule C1f

*The Committee recognises that the 'last four game' rule results in some teams having the choice of playing short (even though players are available) or breaking the rule. Key terms are not defined and open to interpretation which causes confusion. It is a manual process to check which is very time consuming, especially with one person managing all the leagues. It may also not fulfil the purpose it was created for. The Committee proposes they clarify the existing rule and also investigate alternatives, presenting the options prior to the AGM so that a vote can be held at the AGM for implementation in the 2022 season.*

- **Current Rule Wording :**

*During the course of the season, Players may play for any Team except during the last four games with only Players moved up during this period and Players who have not played more than four games for a senior Team may move down. However, Players relegated before the last four games can continue to play for a lower Team irrespective of how many games played for a senior Team.*

- Following a Management Committee meeting on the 17th January the proposal from the League Management Committee is to scrap the rule, this would however be monitored over the season with an option to re-introduce if required.
- A vote was taken at the AGM to scrap the rule and replace with:  
*'Clubs are usually expected to play their best players in their highest placed teams. The League reserves the right to take any action where it deems this is not the case'*
- The vote was carried to remove the Rule, 21 for and 7 against, the rule book will be updated accordingly

## **5. Match Secretary's Report (Damon Naile)**

- Congratulations to all the winning Clubs last year, and thank you to all those Captains and Secretaries who ensured, against all odds, that the season was completed. The spirit and sportsmanship of the play last year was very good with only a couple of exceptions.
- Now onto 2022. It has been a difficult task to balance everything; we may have some Covid issues to deal with and we are committed to implementing the rule not allowing games to be postponed, apart from exceptional circumstances. There are some fire breaks built into the season in most Leagues to allow games to be brought forward. You don't have to ask me if a game can be brought forward if agreed by both teams; just drop me an email please so I'm in the loop.
- The clashes from overflows on Midweek and Thursday to Tuesday have also been problematic meaning some games have been moved. I've tried to avoid clashes like a Club's Midweek and Thursday B team both playing on the same Tuesday but there will be instances where a Midweek A and Thursday B will be playing the same Thursday. Please look carefully at the fixtures and if that is a problem ask the opposition to bring the game forward.
- I will go through the Leagues, starting with Thursday. This is now back to pre-pandemic levels with four leagues of 10. Due to the extra Bank Holiday on a Thursday the final round of games is on the 8th September. This is not perfect due to light but you can always bring this game forward

- Saturday has recovered a few teams and we discussed a 10-10-8-8 structure but went with a 10-9-9-9. This gives division 2 to 4 an extra two games but introduces byes which will make rearranging fixtures difficult. Sunday has a total of one extra team but has been hit hard by the pandemic as, in 2020, we were due to have 20 teams which would have been the highest since 2016. The only two real possibilities were the 9-8 selected or a 10-6 where teams play each other four times.
- The Saturday and Sunday fixtures on the 28th/29th May can be played the following weekend to accommodate any activities
- Midweek has seen no extra teams overall, giving a total of 52. The two Premier League teams have to have 10 teams each, leaving 32. We discussed 12-10-10 but it would require an extra four game weeks and would mean running from the 6th April to the 14th September non-stop. This presented the following issues/questions:
  - Clashes on a Tuesday (from the Wednesday and Thursday overflow) would need to be played on the 31st March or 21st September.
  - The sunset on the 14th September is 19:23 which is over half an hour earlier than the start of the month
  - There would be no breaks - could lower division teams cope?
  - Can all Clubs get their greens open by 6th April, with time to practice beforehand?
- It is probably why the Midweek League has only run with more than 10 teams four times since records began. The general feedback I get from lower division Clubs is they don't much enjoy playing in early April or September.
- A few final items.
  - I have an update from the BCGBA Head Referee, David Williams, regarding under 18s.
  - "I have spoken to the BCGBA Safeguarding Officer and he agrees with me in so far as a club has the right to appoint whomever they wish as their team captain. However, we both have concerns about allowing a person under the age of 18 acting as the referee, whether they have a referee qualification or not. We suggest that clubs are asked to avoid appointing a young person to that position."
  - If any Clubs/Teams are going to struggle entering all results online please speak to me in advance.

#### 6. **Competition Secretary's Report (Len Peach)**

- Due to the shortened season the spare spaces for competitions were very hard to find.
- After much thought and juggling dates it was decided to concentrate on the midweek and Thursday merits.
- The entries for these were 50 MWK and 55 for Thursday, a good turnout in the circumstances.
- MWK was won by Paul Haylor, beating Liam Bench in the final.
- Thurs won by Michael Warrington defeating Karl Shanks in that final.
- Congratulations to all those qualifying for these finals.
- Thanks to everyone who entered those competitions.

- In the coming season I expect to be able to run all our usual comps, if we get sufficient entries.

## **7. Treasurers Report (Martin Dobson)**

- The current League finances stand at £12,422.76.
- All Clubs have been paid their Prize money for 2021, the following Clubs are yet to bank the cheque – Attleborough, Griff & Coton, Lime Tree & Phoenix.
- Balance Sheets for 2021 had been completed and submitted to Auditor, subsequently these have been approved & a copy sent to all Clubs prior to the meeting.
- Whilst the Auditor approved the Balance sheet a minor issue was found which will be reverted in the 2022 accounts.
- It was identified that a number of small errors had been noted with the Registration charges where some Clubs had been overcharged (8 x £1.75) & others undercharged (23 x £1.75) - the overall impact being an undercharge on the Balance sheet by £26.25, this will be rectified on the 2022 Balance Sheet.
- For 2021 the League only Billed Clubs in October, the intention would be to keep this the same going forward for the time being (i.e. no May Bills)

## **8. Report on the Balance Sheet and Accounts (Dave Hyde)**

- I had full access to the leagues financial paperwork and I am satisfied that these accounts represent a true record of the leagues financial situation for the year ended 31st December 2021. All clubs were correctly charged league entry fees, medal fund and for competition entries. I did find some small errors on registration numbers our treasurer will put right in the next financial year.
- Martin as usual has kept excellent records with his books balancing to the penny. All questions posed were answered to my satisfaction.
- Because of the lack of bowling in 2020 due to the pandemic no honorariums are shown in these accounts thus creating a 4k profit. Sadly the virus has had an effect on the number of teams and registered players compared with 2019 figures. This year we have had 138 teams across the four leagues compared with 156 in 2019 also a big drop in registrations from 2,528 down to 1,867 this year resulting in an income drop of £1,336.75 across the four leagues. Part of this drop relates to a conscious decision to only charge clubs where a player has actually played. Hopefully we can stem this decline in the current year and that these numbers will recover.
- I would like to thank Martin for his assistance during the audit.
- This concludes my report and would recommend acceptance of these accounts by the delegates representing the clubs in the league

## **9. Adoption of Report and Balance**

- The accounts were accepted unanimously by the room.

## **10. League Fees for 2022 Season (as per Rule B2)**

- The Treasurer has suggested that League fees for 2022 should be unchanged.

**11. Honorariums for 2021**

- Secretary Treasure £2,300
- Saturday Match Secretary £350
- Mid-week Match Secretary £500
- Thursday Match Secretary £350
- Sunday Match Secretary £150
- Competition Secretary £200 (2 x £75 comps + £50 for 2020 support)
- Accounts Inspector £190 ( £140 for 2021 + £50 for 2020 support)
- North Midlands Delegate Fee £10 per meeting.

**12. Election of Officers for 2022.**

The meeting proceed to the election of officers for 2022 – the following were elected unopposed.

- President – Bob Moss
- Deputy President – TBA
- Secretary/Treasurer – Martin Dobson
- Midweek/Thursday Match Secretary – Damon Naile
- Saturday Match Secretary – Damon Naile
- Sunday Match Secretary – Damon Naile
- Competition Secretary – Len Peach
- Delegates NMCGBA – Martin Dobson & Dave Hyde
- Trustees – Bob Moss, Bob Young, Martin Dobson
- Auditor – Dave Hyde

**13. Vote of Thanks – Dan Peach (Foleshill Gas)**

**14. Roll Call - Missing**

- Herberts
- Windmill

**Next meeting – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

**Newdigate Club at 7-15 pm**