

Minutes of the 2022 AGM of the Chester and District Bowling League held at the RBL Upton on 24/01/23 at 7.30p.m.

There were 50 members present and only Cuddington did not have a representative as Ian Smith had sent his apologies.

1. A Minute's silence was observed in memory of those members who had passed away since the last meeting. John Ellis (Cheshire View), Eric Hollins (Farndon) and Elizabeth (Betty) Rawlinson (Gladstone) were remembered.
2. Apologies for Absence were received from Ian Smith (Cuddington), Liz and Dave Thornelaw and Barry Hipkiss (Tower), Vic Hall (Whitby) and John Evans (Hoole)
3. The Chairman opened the meeting. He welcomed everyone and (briefly), introduced Mr. Jim McGurk our County Secretary, thanked Aston for hosting the final of the Eldridge Cup and Cuddington the Merit. (Full report on file)
4. The Minutes of the Previous Meeting were confirmed and accepted, proposed by Chris Allen and seconded by Chris Reid (Connah's Quay).
5. Matters Arising. Ken Roberts (Mancot) raised the question of whether St. Werburgh's was a suitable venue for the Merit because of the parking difficulties and not much room around the green for spectators. However, this was deferred as it was on the Agenda as a later item
6. The Treasurer distributed a balance sheet. There have been two free years where clubs have not paid any league fees, but it was generally agreed (without a card vote) that the £100 fee per team should be reintroduced this year. There was one mistake on the accounts, spotted by the Auditor which was explained. The accounts were approved, proposed by Claire Bullock and seconded by Chris Nevitt. The Treasurer thanked the Auditor for his help.
7. Honoraria The Secretary/Competition Secretary, Treasurer and Webmaster/Fixture Secretary were asked to leave the room while these were discussed. From separate minutes (on file) the Meeting voted to pay the Secretary/Competition Secretary the full honoraria for the last three years – 2020, 2021 and 2022. The amounts of all honoraria to remain the same for 2023.
8. The League Secretary/Competition Secretary (briefly) gave her report in which she mentioned the formation of the league last year and that the programme was marred by the withdrawal of three teams after the fixtures had been released. She congratulated the prizewinners and consoled the teams relegated and thanked everyone for their support. Both the Eldridge Cup and the League Merit ran smoothly. She congratulated the winners and those clubs who had hosted the competitions, especially Aston and Cuddington. She concluded by thanking the Chair and Treasurer for their support. (Full report kept on file).
The Secretary had given out Contact sheets and asked for anyone wishing to update their contact details to let her know within 14 days. She also mentioned the County Secretary's new email address. The amended contact details will, then be emailed to all Secretaries for distribution to team captains.
9. There was no Correspondence. However, Brian Turner, the League Safeguarding Officer gave a short report at this point and brought information to distribute at the end of the meeting (Full report on file) The Webmaster informed the meeting that ALL the information given to him by Brian was already on the League's website.
10. Fixture Secretary's / Webmaster's Report Simon Walker thanked everyone for being prompt with their match results then announced all the winners, runners-up and third placed teams in each division and the Merit winners for each division (full report on file).
11. County Delegate's Report As Ian Smith had given his apologies to the meeting, the Secretary read out a report prepared by him in which he informed the meeting that he has attended all meetings

both by ZOOM and in person. There were few changes, the restructuring of the BCGBA was delayed and the voting on it will be held sometime around July. The extreme weather issues and the intensity of the development of Safeguarding Officers continues with courses being held as certificates come up for renewal. Anyone needing help or guidance should contact Yvette Gregory. He also discussed the shortage of Referees in Cheshire and urged anyone interested to contact him to make arrangements. Ian will be Cheshire County President for 2023. (Full report on file)

12. Election of Officers. The present Chair, Lol Jarvis announced that he was standing down and so was replaced again by Simon Walker who previously stood down as our Chair while he (Simon) was President of the Welsh CGBA. The rest of the members all agreed to be re-elected and were:- Vice Chair-John Adcock, League/ Competition Secretary-Lesley Williams, Treasurer-Alan Vickers, Cheshire Delegate-Ian Smith, Webmaster/Fixture Secretary-Simon Walker and Committee members-Chris Allen, John Evans, Peter Griffiths and now Lol Jarvis. Brian Turner continued as Safeguarding Officer. **** Brian must be added to the list of Committee Members forthwith as he is an Officer of the League. As this was omitted from the meeting, he will be co-opted onto the Committee until the next AGM when his position will become permanent.**
13. Auditor Ken Roberts agreed to do the job for another year.
14. Applications to join the League were received from Coed Talon, Ledsham Royal and Waverton Institute and were approved unanimously by a card vote.
15. Formation of League Divisions and Fixture Dates As there will be 27 teams, they will be structured into 3 divisions of 9 teams. The first fixture will be Monday 17th April and the final date, Monday August 21st. If Monday bank holidays in May are to be used, clubs may negotiate with their opponents to re-arrange within 14 days.
16. Presentation of Retention Prizes and Prizes. The teams who came 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each Division, the three Merit winners (one for each Division and the Youth Merit Winner) and the Winners, losing finalists and semifinalists of the Eldridge Cup were all presented with their monetary prizes by the President. The Merit winners were presented with their prizes on the day at Cuddington.
17. Cheshire County Inter League. Hoole Victoria and Aston A (first and second in Division A) will let the Secretary know if they intend to take part.
18. The Men's Merit Qualifier was discussed. Over the past few years, the interest in this competition has dwindled to such an extent that no entries were taken last year. The Competition Secretary is to advertise it in 2023 to gauge a response. If there is enough interest it will be played at Gladstone BC on a Tuesday evening in early May.
19. The League Merit 2023 and beyond Continuing from the discussion started in Matters Arising, the representative from St. Werburgh's is to discuss with St. Werburgh's Catholic Centre and report back to the Secretary. If St. Werburgh's cannot take it, Mancot will host it in 2023. Farndon expressed an interest for 2024/25 depending on the venue for 2023.
20. Closing remarks by the Chairman The Outgoing Chairman wished everyone a happy and enjoyable season and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
21. The Meeting closed at 8.39 p.m.