

Minutes of the 2023AGM of the Chester and District Bowling League held at the Royal British Legion,
Upton on 16/01/24 at 7.30p.m.

There were 53 members present at the meeting.

A Minute's silence was observed in memory of those members who had passed away since the last meeting. Joe Rowe, (Hoole), Trevor Williams, Bet Morris, Nigel Lloyd (Sychdyn), Derek Smith, (Tower), Jack Morris, (Upton) and Derek Boden (Connah's Quay).

Apologies for Absence were received from Liz and Dave Thornelow and Annie Mead

The Chairman opened the meeting. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for their support on a Wintry night.

The Minutes of the Previous Meeting were confirmed and accepted, proposed by Lol Jarvis (Whitby) and seconded by Chris Reid (Connah's Quay).

There were NO Matters Arising.

The Treasurer distributed a balance sheet and gave a very detailed and comprehensive explanation of the events of the past few years, highlighting the difficulties that the previous Treasurer experienced with the bank account. He recommended that the Secretary should write to the previous Treasurer, Alan Vickers, thanking him very sincerely for helping the League in such a time of difficulty. This will be done. The Treasurer also thanked the Auditor for his generous help. A copy of all the accounts are kept on file.

Honoraria This will be reviewed in the Proposals later in the meeting.

The League Secretary/Competition Secretary (briefly) gave her report in which she mentioned the smooth of the league last year. She congratulated the prize-winners 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 Upton and St. Werburgh's. She put forth a suggestion to enable the first round of the Eldridge Cup to run more smoothly and concluded by thanking the Chair and Treasurer for their support. (Full report kept on file).

There was no Correspondence.

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).

County Delegate's Report Ian Smith, now our County President, gave his report, informing the meeting what was happening at County level. Catherine Rogers (Coed Talon) asked a question about the number of handbooks clubs were asked to purchase and Ian promised to get an answer. (His full report is on file)

Safeguarding Officer's Report. Brian gave a detailed report indicating what will and will not be appropriate behaviour on and around the greens. (Full report on file)

Election of Officers. All Officers and members agreed to be re-elected for 2024 and were:- Chairman – Simon Walker, Vice Chair-John Adcock, League and Competition Secretary-Lesley Williams, Treasurer and Safeguarding Officer Brian Turner, Cheshire Delegate -Ian Smith, Webmaster/Fixture Secretary-Simon Walker and Committee members-Chris Allen, John Evans, Peter Griffiths and Lol Jarvis.

Auditor Ken Roberts agreed to do the job for another year.

Proposals There were three proposals from the Committee:- The first was that the League Affiliation fees should increase from £100 to £120. This was seconded by Barry Roberts (Farndon). An amendment was put forward that the increase should be to £110 proposed by Peter Bennett (Penyffordd) and seconded by Chris Reid (Connah's Quay) This was defeated and the original proposal was carried.

The second proposal was to increase Honoraria to be more in line with other local leagues. The Secretary/Competition Secretary, Treasurer and Webmaster/Fixture Secretary were asked to leave the room while these were discussed. The meeting agreed to increase the Honoraria for the three Officers and the Auditor, thus. The Secretary/Competition Secretary to increase from £380 to £450, The Fixture Secretary from £270 to £400, The Treasurer from £190 to £250 and the Auditor from £30 to £50. There has been no increase in Honoraria for several years. These Honoraria will be reviewed again next year.

The third proposal was to adopt the Code of Conduct as recommended by the B.C.B.B.A. This was carried unanimously.

Alterations to the Match Rules and Constitution. CONSTITUTION:- Inserting the role of Safeguarding Officer as an Official of the League and also into the Committee, removal of the grace period for paying fees (affiliation fees are due on 31st March each year, before the start of the season), in Rule 8.52, the insertion of the words "to the League Secretary," in Rule 10.1 insert "written comments or verbal remarks", and

change 11.2 to “there is always an appeal” were all adopted unanimously. (All of these changes can be seen in the revised Constitution which will be put on the website).

RULES:- The removal of the cutoff date in rule 2.3 was carried, the alteration to the wording regarding the start times in April and August in rule 3.6 were to be left as they are, the rule regarding how to do the draw was carried, the change of allowing 21 days rather than 14 to rearrange a match was carried and finally, the rule that a rearranged or part-rearranged game must be finished 45 minutes before a league game is due to begin to allow practice to take place (should this ever arise) was carried.

COMPETITION RULES:- The Competition Secretary’s suggestion that the first round ONLY of the Eldridge Cup should be “luck of the draw” rather than played on a neutral green with the “away team” having the jack and no alteration to the given handicap was also adopted.

Applications to join the League were received from Argoed, Hargrave and Huxley and Mancot Nomads, (Mancot second team) and were unanimously voted in by card.

Formation of League Divisions and Fixture Dates As there will be 30 teams, they will be structured into 3 divisions of 10 teams. The first fixture will be approximately in the middle of April ending in August before the Merit on the first Sunday in September. The three new teams will be placed in Division C

Presentation of Retention Prizes and Prizes. All of the prize monies had already been distributed by the Treasurer, so no presentation was necessary. However, a new Merit Shield, to replace the well-worn Cup was handed to Farndon’s representative to be given to the Merit Winner, Jay Salisbury who was not present.

Cheshire County Inter League. Coed Talon and Ledsham Royal (first and second in Division A) will let the Secretary know if they intend to take part.

The League Merit 2024 and beyond Mancot will be the hosts in 2024. Interest was also expressed by Farndon, 2025, then Tarvin, Upton, Rossett and Connah’s Quay.

Closing remarks by the Chairman The Chairman wished everyone a happy and enjoyable season and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The Meeting closed at 9.25p.m.