President	Chairman	Secretary	Fixture Secretary	Treasurer	Competition Secretary
John Ford	Ian Evans	John Palmer	Nigel&Stephen Booth	John Satterthwaite	Rob Renke
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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Sinclair BC on Thursday 15th February 2024

Chairman Ian Evans opened the meeting at 1.30pm and welcomed the 62 members present. He called for a minute's silence for those members who sadly passed away in the last 12 months: Len Hand, Ron Haddock, Roy Pritchard, John Cowan & Mike Shared.

1. **Apologies** were received from Pat Minton, Steve Wall & Roy Edwards.

2. **Minutes of the 2023 AGM** had been circulated prior to the meeting. All agreed they were a true record.

3. **Matters Arising** None.

4. **Chairman's Report** Ian Evans thanked his fellow committee members for their assistance during his first year of office, particularly with respect to the difficulties experienced getting access to the league's bank account. He congratulated all league and competition winners and particularly highlighted finals day played at Wrockwardine Wood and confirmed that the Charity Shield had raised £530 to be donated to the Severn Hospice.
   Finally he paid tribute to Ken Tonkiss, retiring president and John Ford, retiring after 14 years as league secretary.

5. **President's Report** Ken Tonkiss reiterated Ian's welcome to the members and also his thanks to fellow committee members, especially John Ford. All agreed. He confirmed that he was standing down as president having enjoyed his tenure and the opportunity that it had given him for meeting so many fellow bowlers. In closing he wished his successor all the very best in their new role and good bowling for all in the coming season.

6. **Secretary's Report** John Ford expressed his thanks to the rest of the committee:
   - Ian in his first year as chairman.
   - Chris Yates for his support as vice chairman.
   - Rob Renke for the smooth running of all the league competitions.
   - Nigel & Stephen Booth for organising the league fixtures.
   - John Palmer for his help with the web site.
   - Tony Roche for attending the county meetings on behalf of the league.
   - John Satterthwaite for successfully resolving the issues with the bank account.
   - Ken Tonkiss for his support as league president.

   He confirmed that he was standing down as secretary after 14 years as he would be 90 this

year and felt it was time to hand it on. He explained that he had taken on the role after the death of league founder Jack Jones who had left very little information. He paid tribute to Ron Adams for helping to sort things out and put the league on a sound footing and also to those, some of whom are no longer with us, who had served as chairman during his time as secretary.
Finally, he expressed his thanks to Sinclair BC for allowing the league to use their club for the league's meetings, wished his successor all the best and also all league bowlers the best of luck in the new season.

7. **Treasurer's Report** John Satterthwaite explained the issues that had been encountered when he tried to take control of the league's bank account in February last year and which wasn't resolved until June. This meant that the honoraria payments were not made at the start of last season. He also informed the meeting that the £530 donation to Severn Hospice would be made in the next few days. This meant that the league effectively made a profit of £554 over the season to add to the £3060 that was in the bank account when he took over as treasurer.
There were no questions for the treasurer.

8. **Fixture Secretary's Report** Nigel Booth hoped that everyone had wintered well and were getting ready for the new season which would likely start on 3rd April and finish on 25th September. Currently with 3 new teams having applied, the division structure looked to be a full complement of 14 teams in each of the 4 divisions.
He thanked the rest of the committee for their support and also Mike Beckett for his results service, the cost of which had increased to £150 this year.
He warned clubs that the leniency he had allowed to clubs playing short and postponing fixtures would not continue this year and appealed for anyone in this position to let him or Stephen know as soon as possible.
He confirmed that league matches would commence at 1.30pm with the exception of those at Bridgnorth and Madeley B & C where two matches shared the same green. These would start at 1pm.
Finally, he wished everybody all the best for the 2024 season.

9. **Competition Secretary's Report** Rob Renke thanked all the clubs that had hosted league competitions during the 2023 season, particularly Wrockwardine Wood for providing two excellent greens for finals day on 4th October.
He congratulated all teams and individuals who had success last season.
Rob appealed to clubs to be realistic when entering teams for the Charity Shield and Consolation due to teams failing to fulfil fixtures at short notice. He highlighted the way that Highley had progressed to the consolation final with two byes as a case in point.
With regard to finals day, he explained that two years ago it was his intention to hold it at Allscott Heath as the last event on their old green but it didn't happen due to issues with the green. Consequently he hopes to hold this year's event at their new two green facility, providing they're not involved in the finals.
Finally he thanked John Palmer for his assistance with the web site and all the other officers for their support.

10. **County Report** Tony Roche described events at the various county meetings he'd attended on behalf of the league:

a. Brenda Slingo representing Mid-Shropshire is the new county president. Simon Fullard representing Whitchurch is the new deputy president.
b. With the exception of Pauline Wilson, retiring development officer, all county officers were reelected at the recent county AGM.
c. There will be a secretary's seminar on 23rd March via Zoom.
d. Bridgnorth, Stockton and Donnington Wood were warned at the recent AGM that their safeguarding officer's DBS accreditation had expired.
e. Lack of respect to the referee was displayed at a couple of events last year. This practice must be discouraged in future.
f. The Wrekin Cup (seniors county cup) was resurrected last year and played on a 3 home, 3 away basis with the finals played at Newport.
g. The Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship will be played at Prees again this year.
h. Marie Scott reported that 230 new bowler registrations were made last year with the average age reducing to 50+ from 60+ previously.

11. **Proposals for Rule Changes** The following proposals were discussed and voted on:

Proposed by the League Officers

Rule 15(b), the fine for not turning up for a league or cup fixture be increased from £10 to £20. **Carried**.

T*he League Chairman should receive an honorarium to the same value as the Treasurer.* **Carried.**

New competition rule for the Charity Shield to read: *20: To be eligible to play in the competition after the first round, players must have played at least three league games in the current season.* **Carried.**

Proposed by Newport BC, new league rules:

9(d): No player may practise on an opponents green on the day of a match. **Carried**.
9(e): Any player breaching rule 9(d) will lose their match 21-0. **Carried**.
Reason: At present, there is no rule to stop a player practising on an opponent's green before the match starts. Nor is there any penalty for doing so. The no practise rule is common in other leagues.

Charity Shield new rules:

4(b): No practice will be permitted on the match green by either team on the day of the match. **Defeated**.

4(c): Any player breaching rule 4(b) will see 5 chalks added to their opponents score. **Defeated**.
Reason: If the teams are handicapped, why is one team allowed to practise and not the other? Surely this defeats the point of a handicap.

Proposed by Bridgnorth BC

Change the Charity Shield and Consolation Competitions such that all rounds are played on neutral greens. This requires rewording of Charity Shield rule 6 and deletion of rule 9. **Defeated**.
If this change is not approved, add a the following new Charity Shield rule:

9(a): Away team players will be allowed 10 minutes practice before the start of the match. **Defeated**.

Proposed by Bylet BC
Remove the word male from league rule 9(a). New rule to read: *Teams shall consist of six bowlers who have reached the age of 60, are registered with the BCGBA and registered with the Fixture Secretary 48 hours prior to their first game.* **Carried 27-26.**

12. **2024 League Structure** Nigel offered clubs two weeks to confirm their team entries for the 2024 season bearing in mind that there is a limit of 56 teams i.e four divisions each of fourteen teams.

13. **Election of Officers**
John Ford was proposed as the new league president. All agreed.
John Palmer was proposed as the new league secretary. All agreed.
All other officers agreed to stand and were reelected en-bloc:

Chairman	Ian Evans
Vice Chairman	Chris Yates
Treasurer	John Satterthwaite
Competition Secretary	Rob Renke
Fixture Secretaries	Nigel & Stephen Booth
Safeguarding Officer	Graham Davies
SCGBA Representative	Tony Roche

14. **Officers Honorariums** were discussed with the officers absent. All were agreed.

15. **Any Other Business**
Chris Yates appealed for all clubs to ensure that their contact details were correct on the Result Service and also on the league's website.
Rob Renke reminded everyone that provisional dates for the league's competitions had already been posted on the web site.
In his final duty, retiring league president Ken Tonkiss presented the chain of office to new president John Ford.

There being no further business, Ian Evans wished everybody all the best for the 2024 season and called the meeting to a close at 2.48pm.