

## Secretary's Report to Seniors Meeting at Upton R.B.L Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup> 2024

Good afternoon all and thank you for attending this afternoon's AGM.

Firstly, the League Programme. I feel that it ran well this year, even though we had a couple of problems with the weather. There were a couple of matches outstanding at the end of both halves of the season, but all was eventually resolved.

Congratulations to Hoole A on winning the League yet again and to Upton who were runners up, thus breaking Cherry A's stranglehold on the Runner up Trophy.

Thank you to Martin Amesbury for sorting out the league programme every year, not an easy task, and for putting notices on to the web page, mostly obituaries, sadly.

The Hermitage Cup, which was played after the first half of the League programme, mostly ran smoothly. We tried the "luck of the draw" for the first round this year and it seemed to work well. If anyone has any constructive comments perhaps you would like to speak up now?

The Competition was eventually won by Cherry A who defeated Groves in the final at Whitby This win was extra special for me because I have a treasured photograph of my late father and his team from Westminster Park in 1992/3 when they won the same cup just a year or so before he died.

The American Plaque was run along the same lines as the Hermitage at the end of the League Programme and was won by Hoole A who defeated Waverton Institute A at Upton.

The Burrows Cup was held this year on the excellent green at St. Werburgh's and history was made when we were lucky enough to have an "all-Lady Final" between Jan Jones of Cherry and Kim Langridge of Waverton. It was an excellent final, both ladies playing some brilliant bowls, but Jan just edged out to be victorious in the end. Congratulations to both ladies for making it so exciting.

My thanks to all the neutral venues, to the people who came to open up their greens so that other teams could play, the markers and measurers and especially to the members at the venues which held the finals Upton, Whitby and St. Werburgh's for all their help.

Looking ahead to 2025..., there are a few issues which I must mention.

1. Please, every Captain double check that all of the players you select are eligible to play in the Hermitage and the Plaque. You cannot "get away with it" because there is always someone (not necessarily a League Official) checking who has done what!
2. If your match is postponed because of adverse weather or a death in your team, please remember that it must be completed within 21 days and not left until the end of the season.

3. There is no other reason for not completing a game. Unfortunately, if you only have 3 players available, the game must be played on the correct date and result cards must not, under any circumstances be falsified. Please let me know asap if you have any difficulties with the playing of your game. Please don't make a decision if you are not sure.
4. There will be no Municipal greens open to the public during the forthcoming winter this year
5. Most of you will already know that the Pavilion at Cherry Grove has been badly vandalised again and will need either extensive repair or, preferably, pulling down. Hoole Park is suffering similar experiences. Because of this, at present, the two Cherry Grove teams are homeless in that we cannot use the facility (or lack of) when there is neither water nor toilets. CWAC has promised to let me know as soon as any decisions are made but I have made it crystal clear that we will, very reluctantly, NOT return to Stocks Lane until both the green and the pavilion are fit for use. Number two green has been "mothballed" and the main green is hardly playable, even in the height of summer when it is dry.
6. In the latter part of last season Groves SL were suddenly evicted from their green as the Groves club was closed down. They temporarily moved to Whitby Park for the rest of the season. However, geographically speaking, Whitby Park is "out of our area." We need to address this now, if possible. As I see it the alternative is - either Groves move to a green within the designated area OR we extend the area to include the green at Whitby Park. If we do this, we have had a tentative enquiry from Little Sutton who would possibly like to put in a team next year. Any thoughts, please? Sorry to spring this one on you without any warning.
7. Easter is late in 2025, Easter Sunday is April 20<sup>th</sup> so we may have to start and end the season a little later.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to Jim, Lol, Martin and Liz for their continued support and help and to wish Liz a very happy , healthy and long retirement from counting money. The League will miss you and be much poorer without your quiet but efficient services.

That concludes my report for 2024.