

# **CREWE & NANTWICH VETERANS LEAGUE CONSTITUTION and RULES 2025**

(In conjunction with BCGBA rules)

## **CONSTITUTION**

1. The League is to be known as Crewe and Nantwich Veterans Bowling League.
  - a) All Clubs taking part in the league will be known as Member Clubs
2. The League promotes, encourages, and supports Crown Green Bowling in the Crewe and Nantwich area. All member clubs and players will be enabled to play in an organised, competitive league in a safe and friendly manner. The league will abide by the rules of the British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA).
3. The Annual General Meeting (AGM), to be held each year in January. All Member Clubs are expected to have a representative in attendance.
4. Any alterations to the Rules must be with the Administration Secretary at least twenty-eight days prior to the next AGM. All requests for alterations must go through Members Club Secretary.
5. At the AGM, each Member Club will be allowed one vote on all disputes and alterations to the Constitution and Rules.
6. The League is a non-profit making organisation but will maintain a prudent reserve. Income will be distributed to member clubs in the form of League and Competition prizes. The structure of these prizes will be proposed by the Committee and ratified each year by the member clubs at the AGM.
7. **League Fees:** Clubs will be invoiced within 10 days of the end of the season. Invoices must be paid by 15<sup>th</sup> October, or the club may need to seek re-election, as determined by the Committee.
8. **League Prize Money:** Clubs will be notified of their league prize money on, or before, 15<sup>th</sup> December. League Prize money will be paid via BACS (unless otherwise agreed with the Treasurer) on, or before, 15<sup>th</sup> December.
9. Member clubs benefiting from the organisation of the league will support its long-term maintenance by providing members to the committee. The Committee will provide dates of all committee meetings, in the next year, in order for the member clubs to arrange for attendance. All clubs must be willing to be represented in this period at least once. Attendance to the committee is considered an essential element for the perpetuity of the League in the Crewe and Nantwich area. (See Appendix A).
10. A committee, consisting of representatives of the member clubs, will have the responsibility for the guardianship of the league so that future generations of players will have the opportunity to play locally to their club. This should entail ensuring that all players, clubs, and spectators are treated fairly, provided with accurate information and reasonable systems and guidelines in order to play within the league. The committee's role is to do this by organising, managing, communicating, and consulting member clubs and players in a timely and efficient manner. They shall manage the tools, e.g., MB website and manage the financial arrangements of the League in a fair and transparent manner.
11. The League to be managed by a Committee of 4 Officials: Chairman, Treasurer, Fixtures/Competition Secretary and Admin Secretary, plus a minimum of 8 members, to a maximum of 12, who represent the member clubs. The Committee shall be able to fill any vacancies which may arise during their term of office. See Appendix B for roles and responsibilities.
12. The Committee will formally communicate to Member Clubs through the Member Club Secretaries.
13. The Committee can create further official roles, as required, but this should be ratified and then made official by the member clubs at the next AGM.

14. Official roles will be provided with a stipend to support the role; this to be agreed by member clubs at the AGM. Individuals in these roles will be expected to stand for a minimum of 2 years and a maximum of 4 years.
15. The Committee will meet at least 5 times in each calendar year, which will include the AGM. These meetings will be documented, and member clubs informed of any updates to the operation of the League. All decisions must be in accordance with the general rules for the league.
16. The Committee will be responsible for agreeing the league and competition schedules prepared by the Fixtures/Competitions Secretary.
17. Officers standing down must ensure a timely handover of information, documents and understanding of processes.
18. The Committee will prepare a set of 'Rules' for the players to adhere to, which will be updated and ratified by member clubs at the AGM. The 'Rules' to be made available to all member clubs.
19. **Dissolution Clause.**
  - a) Should the Committee, by a majority, decide on the grounds of expediency to dissolve the Crewe & Nantwich Veterans Bowling League, it shall call an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting (EO GM). The Committee will provide 21 days' notice to all Member Clubs.
  - b) At least 80% of clubs must be present for the meeting to proceed.
  - c) At this EO GM, a vote will be taken and, if a two thirds majority of those present agree, the League Committee shall have the power to dispose of the Assets of the League. After all liabilities and debts have been cleared, the beneficiaries of such assets shall be the Member Clubs, or such charities as decided by the Member Clubs at the EO GM.

## **RULES**

1. Teams must be registered (with Team Names) by 31<sup>st</sup> January each year.
2. Closing date for player registrations is 30<sup>th</sup> June.
3. All registrations to be made on the MB Crewe & Nantwich website. Once the season starts all new players being registered by Member Clubs must be done prior to the start their first fixture. The Fixtures Secretary must be notified by email of any changes as soon as possible. Note: The MB website access to clubs will cease on 30<sup>th</sup> June and resume following the AGM.
4. Players may be registered who are eligible to play (i.e., 60 years of age), within the year, however they will not be allowed to play until the day after their birthday date.
5. Teams can register any number of players, providing each individual possesses both a British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA) and a Cheshire County Bowling Association (CCBA) life membership cards and numbers.
6. Unregistered players will forfeit their score and the result recorded as 21-0 to the registered player. If both players are unregistered the game will be voided, and the score recorded as 0-0.
7. Teams will be organised into 3 leagues. Division one matches will be played on a Thursday, Division 2 and Division 3 matches will be played on a Wednesday or Thursday.
8. A Match will require eight (8) players from each Team. There will be four (4) singles and two (2) doubles match for each fixture.

- The match should start with two singles games and one double game. Once the first game is completed the next double should go on, and then the two singles can be completed. All games must be played in accordance with our rules and those of the BCGBA.
9. All team cards need to be completed by start of match time: 2.00pm. Any player not present when called upon to play, a reserve will take his/her place. If no reserve is present, then the Game will be awarded to their opponent 21-0 and the score card marked Walk Over.
  10. No game can be rescheduled due to a shortage of players.
  11. Clubs with more than one Team in the League will be allowed to borrow a maximum of two registered players per Match from another of their club teams. With more than one team in the league four (4) players will be 'starred' in each team, by the Committee based on ability and past record.
    - Starred players are not allowed to play for a lower team.
    - Borrowed players may only drop to one team below them.

Teams found in breach of this ruling will have games awarded to the opponents 21-0.

12. Any Player wishing to Transfer from one Team to another must apply in writing to his/her Club secretary and to the Fixtures Secretary to be approved by the Committee. Closing date for transfers is 30<sup>th</sup> June each Season.
13. All League and League Knock-out Shield Matches (KO) to be played on the Fixture date indicated, with a 2pm start, exceptions to this Rule will only be:
  - a. **Inclement weather (defined as wet, extreme heat or extreme cold)**  
Both teams to turn up, and the two Captains, with the consent of the Greens man (if available), shall decide if the green or the conditions are deemed fit to play. If they decide not to play or the game has not commenced within one hour of agreed starting time, the Match is to be postponed.  
  
The date of the postponed match must be agreed within 14 days and played within 28 days - which must be before the end of the season. The Fixtures Secretary must be notified of the change of date within 14 days of the postponement. Games not played within 28 days will be deemed void, and no score will be awarded to either team. Match fees remain due.
  - b. **A bereavement affecting a Team.** A future date to be played within 28 days of the assigned date.
  - c. **Member Club outings or special events.** Providing the Fixtures Secretary is informed in writing at the start of the bowling season.

Any Matches re-arranged due to Rules 13 a, b or c may start at a time mutually agreed by both Captains, the Fixtures Secretary must be informed in advance.

14. In the event of a match being abandoned all endeavours must be made to note the position of the Jack(s) on the green for unfinished games. From this position the game(s), will be commenced. Score cards must be signed by Captains and/or players and then be used for the continued game.
  - The date of the continuation match must be agreed within 14 days and played within 28 days, which must be before the end of the season. The Fixtures Secretary must be notified of the change of date within 14 days of the postponement. Games not played within 28 days will be deemed void, and no score will be awarded to either team. Match fees remain due.
  - In the event this occurs for a KO match the same neutral green must be used for the commencement of the match. The match must be played before the next scheduled round of the competition. Should a rescheduled date not be found all the scores at the time of abandonment will stand.

15. All postponed/abandoned matches: In the event the participating clubs cannot agree a date, the Committee will propose 3 alternative dates. If only one club can attend, the match will be deemed a 'Walk over'. If neither club can attend, the match will be void, or Rule 21 (KO match) will apply.
16. On the day of a Match (League or KO), no visiting team player to be allowed to play on the opponent's green, or the assigned neutral green, even if he/she is a member of this club's green. The only exception to this rule will be if a player is involved in any fixture (Individual, Pairs or Team), that has been pre-arranged and approved by BCGBA, CCBA or any Affiliated League. Any player found to be in default of this Rule will be fined a sum decided by the League Committee. Their game will be forfeited, with 21-0 win awarded to their opponent and the game recorded as a Walk Over.
17. For all Leagues matches a match fee of 50p per player, £4.00 per Team, must be collected and forwarded to the Treasurer before the end of the Season. No exception is given for Walk-over games as described in Rule 9.
18. For all disputes affecting the Crewe & Nantwich Veterans Bowling League, the decision of the Committee will be final. However, Member Club has the right to Appeal through writing to the CCBA, the outcome of which the League Committee will fully respect.
19. Should any team be found guilty of falsifying a Score Sheet, a deduction of a maximum of 50 points and a minimum of £5 fine shall be imposed, subject to a decision by Committee.
20. Entry to the League KO - which is compulsory, will be £3.00 per Team, (and then 50p per Player, £4.00 per team, per round played.
  - a. A registered team player must have played at least two league games for the team, to play in the KO semi-final and final.
  - b. Any player that has played for another team in any round of the KO will be considered 'cup-tied' for a second team.
  - c. If a player is found to have played a match for which they were ineligible their score will be reduced to zero (0) and twenty-one (21) awarded to their opponent.
  - d. A Referee shall officiate the Knock-out Final.
21. In the event of a tie in the League Knockout Shield, the following process will be used to decide on the winning team:
  - a. The number of games won by each team, e.g., 5-3 will result in the tie being awarded the team with 5 game wins. In the event of a 4-4 tie:
  - b. The team with the best individual game win will be awarded the win, e.g., Team A best score 21-3, Team B best score 21-4, Team A would be awarded the win.
  - c. In the event that there is still a tie the game is to be replayed.

The replay must be played on a neutral green, agreed by the Fixtures Secretary and each Team Captain, and be before the next scheduled round and within fourteen 28 days of the original match. The Fixtures Secretary must be informed of the rescheduled date. Games not played will result in both teams being eliminated and their opponents in the following round given a BYE. Match fees remain due.
22. Handicaps: All Knock Out competitions – League/Individual/Pairs, will be subject to a handicap system. All handicaps to be decided by the Committee.
23. **No Smoking or Vaping.** Smoking, vaping and the use of electronic cigarettes is not allowed on the green whilst actively participating in League or KO games. The offender(s) to receive no further score from the point of interruption and their opponent(s) to receive the maximum score.
24. **Electronic devices** e.g., mobile phones, pagers, smart watches etc, in active mode are not allowed on the green. Should a player fail to comply with this Rule, that player will forfeit the game. The offender(s) to receive no further score from the point of interruption and their opponent(s) to receive the maximum score.

- **Please note** that for App controlled medical devices that need to be on permanently, players must declare their use to their captain prior to season starting or as soon as they begin use the device. Captains must advise the Fixture secretary who will ensure that allowances are appropriately made for this individual. A Player not ensuring the league is aware may incur the above penalty

25. **Dress Code.** In all matches, players are expected to dress in a manner which neither harms the image of the Sport nor gives offence to other Players or spectators. Players are not permitted to play bare chested or wear singlet's. If shorts are worn, they should be tailored type and players must wear flat soled shoes, (Hard block-heeled or open-toed footwear are not permitted). When players are found to contravene this Rule in League matches, their Club shall be fined 21 points for each player offending. Any individual player not conforming to this Rule in Singles or Pairs Competitions will not be allowed to play in the Competition.

## APPENDIX A

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Committee member roles will be held for a minimum of 2 years, by representatives of the member clubs. However in order to ensure sufficient representation on the committee, clubs will be expected, in accordance with Constitution item 9 to provide adhoc committee members throughout the year.
2. The Committee will prepare a schedule of league committee meetings for each year. Member Clubs submitting names for meeting dates will be told if attendance is required based on numbers of nominations received. The ideal number at each meeting is 12.
3. It is essential that member clubs take responsibility for supporting the running of the Committee and all member clubs will be expected to provide at least one nomination in a calendar year, however not all nominated persons may be required. The Committee will review the member club situation and provide feedback or actions to the club at the end of each season.

## APPENDIX B

### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES – 2025

1. **Chair:** Responsibility to prepare the meeting agenda, open the meeting, facilitate discussion, and keep the conversation focused, balanced and to time. Set meeting dates/times/venue.
2. **Treasurer:** Manage League finances. Collect and disperse funds, record all financial transaction, keep accurate accounts, provide regular reports, produce annual audited accounts.
3. **Fixtures/Competition Secretary:** Set up league fixtures, agree starring of players with committee, deal with all related issues during the season – referring to league officers when disputes not covered by the Rules/Constitution. Verify results on the website. Provide Administration Secretary with the information to be communicated to clubs. Agree handicaps, arrange (verified) draws, and arrange neutral grounds. Set competition dates. Update the website with match dates/venues and results.
4. **Administration secretary:** Issue meeting agendas, take minutes and distribute. Inform clubs by email and website of relevant information. Ensure all club contacts correct. Prepare club committee member schedule.
5. **Committee member:** The member will support the work of the Officers and vote on behalf of their club on motions discussed at the meeting. Members will raise any matters relevant to the running of the League.