

# **Shrewsbury & District Senior Citizens Bowling League**

## **CONSTITUTION and RULES 2024**

**This latest version of the Constitution and Rules was amended and updated on 08.01.24. following the 2023 Season AGM**

### **1 NAME**

The League shall be called the Shrewsbury and District Senior Citizens Bowling League and be affiliated to the British Crown Green Bowling Association and the Shropshire Crown Green Bowling Association.

### **2 OBJECT**

To promote the game of Crown Green Bowls for Senior Citizens in the Shrewsbury area.

### **3 LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP**

- (a) No new clubs or teams will be eligible to join the League if their green is outside a 21 mile driven distance (using Google Maps) of Meole Brace BC and there will be no exceptions made.
- (b) New clubs will only be admitted into the League by a majority vote in favour.
- (c) Any club not already a member of the League and wanting to enter a team into the League must, if accepted, play all their home matches on a Thursday afternoon.
- (d) Clubs who are already members of the League and wish to enter an additional team(s) which could only play home matches by sharing the green with another of their club teams on a Thursday afternoon, must play their home matches on a Wednesday afternoon subject to restrictions. The main restriction would be the away team playing in another League on a Wednesday afternoon or evening or some other valid objection put to and accepted by the Results Secretary whose decision will be final. Away teams must raise their objections within 7 days of the Fixture Lists being published at the Pre-season Meeting, and the Results Secretary will, if the objection is accepted, liaise with both team captains in order to set an alternative playing date before amending the online Fixture List accordingly.
- (e) All players must have attained the age of sixty five years and be a registered player with the British Crown Green Bowling Association.

### **4 LEAGUE OFFICERS**

The League Officers will be a President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Fixtures/Results Secretary. With the exception of the President, the League Officers will be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting or at an EGM. The President once elected will remain in office indefinitely unless the other League Officers, in the best interest of the League, decide to nominate a new candidate to be voted for at the next AGM.

Additionally, at each AGM a Safeguarding Officer and a Competitions Organiser will be appointed.

Honoraria will be paid to the Secretary (£50), Treasurer (£50), Competitions Organiser (£50) and the Fixtures/Results Secretary (£100) and the amounts payable will be voted on at each AGM.

### **5 LEAGUE MANAGEMENT**

The League General Management Committee will consist of the League Officers and one representative from each Constituent Club. The quorum for a full General Management Committee meeting will be 12 clubs plus 3 League Officers.

The League Executive Committee will consist of a minimum of three from the League Officers (co-option from Club delegates allowed if necessary) and will be responsible for the upholding of all aspects of the Constitution and Rules and dealing with any unforeseen circumstances and any decisions they make will be final.

## **6 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The League Chairman shall call General Management Committee meetings as are deemed necessary for the efficient functioning of the League. Any member of the Management Committee who is unable to attend such meetings may nominate another member of their club to represent them.

The Executive Committee will meet only if required during the playing season for the purpose of implementing the Constitution and Rules.

## **7 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting will be held during the month of January each year, and prior notice of such meeting will be indicated by the League Secretary to each Club at the end of season General Committee meeting.

Notices of Motion for consideration at the Annual General Meeting must be submitted in writing to the League Secretary no later than 14 days prior to the date of the meeting. All such notices must be proposed by a club (not an individual) and be seconded by a club (not an individual).

Amendments by a club from the floor at the AGM will be accepted providing they are seconded by a club.

Nominations for office, which must name two clubs as proposer and seconder, must be received by the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the AGM. Nominations will not be accepted from the floor at the AGM except for unfilled positions.

The meeting is open to all members, but voting rights will be on the basis of one vote per Constituent Club with each League Officer having a vote each with the exception of the President.

In the event of an equal vote, the League President shall have the casting vote, but should the League President be absent, then the Chairman of the meeting shall have the casting vote.

## **8 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

Upon the request of three or more Constituent Clubs or the Executive Committee, the League Chairman or Secretary may order an Extraordinary General Meeting to deal with any matter which necessitates such a meeting.

## **9 FINANCE**

All League Funds shall be held by bankers appointed by the League Management Committee.

League fees shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting and paid to the League Treasurer before the commencement of the playing season.

All income and expenditure must be authorised by the Management Committee and cheques drawn upon League funds signed by any two League Officers from the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

The League Treasurer shall keep a record of income and expenditure and present an audited account at each Annual General Meeting.

## **10 MATCH PLAY**

(a) All matches shall be played in accordance with League Rules and the bye-laws and laws of the game as laid down by the British Crown Green Bowling Association. All players must hold a BCGBA registration number (or be in the process of applying for one). All players and supporters must conduct themselves at all times in a courteous and sporting manner.

(b) All matches must be played with standard jacks as approved by the BCGBA (see: BCGBA Laws of the Game - Appendix A). Any club who normally plays with black jacks must provide a yellow jack(s) if any player(s) requests one due to impaired or poor eyesight or the player(s) can provide their own provided it is within date.

(c) Teams shall consist of six players but clubs must ensure that they have enough players for the number of teams entered. It is strongly recommended that each team has a minimum of 8

players to ensure continuity. Before the start of the match, the home team captain should place the six score cards face down with the away team captain placing their six cards on top. If however, either team is short of a player(s) then this must be disclosed so that the team captain with a full team can choose which of their players will not play.

(d) The home team will be allowed to practise before a match. All matches to be played as a 3 and 3 format wherever possible and no two home teams will be allowed to share a green on the same afternoon. Suitable footwear must be worn - hard or block-heeled footwear or open-toed footwear must not be worn whilst on the green in any League, Cup or K/O match. Where a match is abandoned, only home players not having started their game will be allowed to practise when the match is continued at a later date. If any player is not available to play when the match is restarted at a later date, then a substitute player will be allowed to replace them.

(e) Any club which has more than one team must register five of their "A" team players with the Results Secretary. The five players so registered are only eligible to play for their club's "A" team and any changes required during the season must be notified to the Results Secretary. Each of the registered five players should maintain a minimum 50% play rate, but if during the course of the season any player drops below the 50% play rate, the Results Secretary will nominate another player to replace that player

All other registered players are eligible to play for any team in their club but no player may play in a weekly League match for two different teams within the same calendar week although if one is a postponed match please contact the Fixtures Secretary for clarification. For the purpose of this rule a calendar week runs from Monday to Sunday.

(f) All games shall be 21 up, with one point being awarded for each individual game won plus two points for the team with the best aggregate or one point each for a drawn aggregate. Matches scoring 3-3 on games and a shared aggregate (match result: 4-4) will be treated as a draw. Matches scoring 4-2 on games but where the team scoring 2 games also wins the aggregate (match result: 4-4) will also be treated as a draw rather than a win to the aggregate winner as happens in some Leagues. A walkover will score 21-0 for the match and 21-11 for the player's personal average. Players have 15 minutes to commence their game from the time they are called otherwise they will forfeit their game. In the event of adverse weather conditions when both teams are at the green, the decision to postpone or abandon a match shall be made by the home greenkeeper or the home team captain alone and their decision will be final. However, in the case of lightning, either captain can postpone or abandon the match on the basis of player safety.

(g) On completion of a match the two team captains must check and sign the Match Results Card. Match results must be entered online by 10:00am the following day. If this is not possible then the away team captain can enter them or alternatively results can be telephoned through to the Results Secretary or sent by email ASAP. It will be the away team captain's responsibility to check that the results displayed on the online website are correct and to contact the home team captain in the event of a disagreement. If this results in a dispute, then the matter should be brought to the attention of the Results Secretary so the problem can be resolved in accordance with these Rules.

(h) When rearranging a match, the relevant team Captain must first inform the Results Secretary, then contact their opponents offering a minimum of three alternative dates within a 15 day period (in the case of a penultimate week match within 7 days) and then agree on one of the dates prior to again informing the Results Secretary of the new agreed playing date which will become the default playing date and entered into the online results system (the original playing date becomes null and void). If, however, none of the proposed dates prove acceptable, the Results Secretary will intervene and will consult with both team captains before deciding when the match must be played within the 15 day time period and the Results Secretary's decision will be final. However, if the match is the last match of the season, a postponement will not be allowed except for weather/ground conditions or a death or funeral affecting the team, although in the latter case the match date should be brought forward if at all possible.

No points deduction will be incurred where a match has to be rearranged due to: 1) weather/ground conditions, 2) a death or funeral affecting the entire team, 3) one or more team players selected by the County Association to play in a Veteran's Competition or 4) for health and safety reasons approved by the Results Secretary.

A 3 point penalty deduction will be incurred by the team initiating the rearrangement of the match for any other reason (especially shortage of players) or conceding the match (other team to receive 8 points for the walkover). The deduction will be applied by the Results Secretary from their accumulated points scored to date.

Where a rearranged match has not been played within the 15 (or 8) day time period, the Fixture Secretary will be empowered to impose a penalty deduction of one point per week to one or both teams until the match is played. The deduction will be applied from their accumulated points scored to date.

Non-conformance of any part of this rule will result in the Executive Committee assessing the individual situation and then additionally penalising one or both teams in accordance with Rule 14.

- (i) At the end of the season the team gaining the greatest number of points in each division will be declared Divisional winner. In the event of a points tie, by the number of matches won, if still a tie then by aggregate for, if still a tie then total games won. If still a tie, then the team with the better combined aggregate followed by the highest combined number of games won in the two matches played between the two tied teams during the season shall prevail.
- (j) At the end of the season teams will be promoted and relegated as set out in Rule 12 and this will become the new pecking order from which the fixture list for the coming season will be formulated, although the Executive Committee will have the authority to make adjustments in the best interests of the League but only in respect of accommodating new teams joining the League and/or existing teams withdrawing from the League.
- (k) If the League comprises 56 or less teams there will be four Divisions; if it comprises 57 or more teams there will be five Divisions; if it comprises 71 or more teams there will be 6 Divisions. If the number of teams is such that the Divisions cannot have an equal number of teams, then the extra teams will be placed as decided by the Executive Committee in the best interest of the League.
- (l) Any player wishing to transfer from one club to another during the season must contact the League Secretary. Such a transfer will be subject to there being no monies owing to the original club and that club agreeing to the transfer.

## **11 LEAGUE COMPETITIONS**

- (a) The League Officers will be responsible for the organisation of all competitions, subject to ratification of their decisions by the General Management Committee. The organisation and format of League Competitions will be reviewed and discussed at the pre-season General Committee meeting.
- (b) A Singles K/O competition and a Doubles K/O Competition together with a competition for the President's Cup will be held annually and open to all League registered players.
- (c) Additionally, a team K/O competition playing for the Dick Meyrick, Ron Smout and Sponsors trophies will be organised each season with the draw taking place at the pre-season meeting. Players may only participate in one of these competitions which means that once a player has played for one team, they cannot play for any other team even if their original team gets knocked out of the competition. For the semi-final and the final where a club has two or more teams, a player is not eligible to play unless that player has played in at least two League matches for that team unless a dispensation is applied for and granted by the Executive Committee.

Up to and including the quarter finals, matches will be played at only one venue where the home team is allowed to practice before the match but each away team player will have the jack and the away team will receive 12 aggregate points to be added to the final score once the individual games have been completed. Where two teams both play their weekly League matches on a cup match home green and are down to play each other, the "away" team will not receive 12 points, both teams will be allowed to practice and both teams will lead with 3 jacks each having tossed for odds and evens. The semi-finals and finals will be held at neutral venues selected by the Executive Committee where normal match play rules will apply.

It is the responsibility of the home team captain to contact the away team captain at least 3 weeks before the deadline to arrange a playing date. If the match is not played by the deadline the Fixtures/Results Secretary must be immediately contacted and they will consult both team captains in order to fix a playing date within 7 days of the deadline. If that is not possible then the home team will be eliminated from the competition and the away team awarded a bye for that round.

The results of the "R G Meyrick", "Ron Smout" and "Sponsors" competitions will be decided as follows: The team which has the highest aggregate score will be awarded the match. Should the aggregate scores be equal then the team having the most individual winners will go through. If still equal, then the team with the player(s) with the highest differential score will be the winner. If there is still no clear winner then there will be a one end play off between two players nominated by each team captain and the lead will be tossed for.

## **12 PROMOTIONS & DEMOTIONS**

With four divisions, the top three teams will be promoted and the bottom three relegated. With five or six divisions the top two teams will be promoted and the bottom two relegated. Promotion is mandatory and no team who gains promotion can choose to remain in the lower division.

## **13 PRIZE MONIES & OTHER EXPENDITURE**

The top three teams and the individual winner in each division will receive prize monies. The value of the prize monies will be set at the pre-season General Management Committee meeting.

For one day K/O competitions and President's Day, the winners, the runners-up and losing semi-finalists will receive prize monies. The value of the prize monies will be set at the pre-season General Management Committee meeting.

For the team K/O competitions (Dick Meyrick, Ron Smout and Sponsors) the winners and the runners-up of each will receive prize monies. The value of the prize monies will be set at the pre-season General Management Committee meeting.

The amount paid to clubs for the use of greens will be agreed at the pre-season General Management Committee meeting.

## **14 AUTHORITY**

All clubs, teams and players will adhere to and be bound by the Shropshire Crown Green Bowling Association Code of Conduct which can be viewed at: <https://scgba.co.uk/rules/code-of-conduct/> and the BCGBA Discipline Policy which can be viewed in the green area on the left side of the League homepage.

Any altercation, disagreement or breach of the rules at a match must be dealt with at the time by the two team captains. However, if agreement cannot be reached then either or both team captains should contact the League Secretary at the earliest opportunity clearly stating their case so that the Executive Committee can meet to discuss the matter with a view to taking appropriate action.

The Executive Committee shall be empowered to deal with any breaches of League Rules, Laws of the Game or the SCGBA Code of Conduct by means of a caution, points penalty, fine, suspension or expulsion and their decision shall be final. The maximum level of fine will be set at the pre-season General Management Committee meeting but can be amended at a subsequent General Committee meeting.

## **15 CONSTITUTION AND RULES**

A copy of this Constitution and Rules can be viewed on the League website homepage and revokes any rules made previous to the date at the top of page 1