

# **CONSTITUTION and RULES 2017**

**This latest version of the Constitution and Rules was amended and updated on 10.01.17. following the 2016 AGM where changes were agreed upon.**

## **1 NAME**

The League shall be called the Shrewsbury and District Senior Citizens Crown Green Bowling League and be affiliated to the British 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 20 mile driven distance (using Google Maps) of Meole Brace BC.

(b) New clubs and teams 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, will be permitted to 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 Results Secretary. With the exception of the President, the League Officers will be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. 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.

## **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 during the playing season 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 when 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 the 31<sup>st</sup> December of the preceding year.

The meeting is open to all members, voting rights being on the basis of one card 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.

Any amendments to the League Constitution & Rules shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting by a majority card vote.

## **8 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

Upon the request of three or more Constituent Clubs, the League Chairman may order an Extraordinary General Meeting to deal with any matter which necessitates such 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 games shall be played in accordance with League Rules and the laws of the game as laid down by the British Crown Green Bowling Association. All players and supporters must conduct themselves at all times in a courteous and sporting manner.

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

(c) 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 during the season must be notified to the Results Secretary. Each of the registered five players must maintain a minimum 50% play rate, but if during the course of the season any player drops below the 50% play rate, the team captain must nominate another player to replace that player.

(d) All other League 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.

(e) 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. Any match scoring 4-4 (regardless of who wins the aggregate) will be treated as a draw in the online results system. 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 match from the time they are called otherwise they will forfeit their match.

(f) Match results must be entered online within 24 hours of the completion of the match. If this is not possible then the results must be telephoned through to the Results Secretary or sent to him by email within 24 hours of the completion of the match. 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 the Constitution & Rules.

(g) When postponing a match, the postponing 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 final week match within 8 days) and then agree on one of the dates prior to again informing the Results Secretary of the new agreed playing date. 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.

No points deduction will be incurred by the postponing team where a match has to be postponed due to: 1) weather/ground conditions, 2) a funeral affecting the club or 3) two or more team players selected by the County Association to play in a Veteran's Competition.

A three point penalty deduction will be incurred by the postponing team where a match has to be postponed for any other reason (especially shortage of players). 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.

(h) At the end of the season the team gaining the most number of points in each division will be declared champions. In the event of a points tie, by the number of matches won, if still a tie then by aggregate, if still a tie then total game points scored. If still a tie, then the team with the highest combined number of games won followed by the better combined aggregate in matches played between the two tied teams during the season shall prevail.

(i) 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 divisions for the following season will be formulated although the Executive Committee will have the authority to make adjustments in the best interests of the League.

(j) 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.

(k) 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 CUP 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. All players and supporters must conduct themselves at all times in a courteous and sporting manner.

(b) The organisation and format of an Individual Knock-out Competition will be reviewed at each pre-season General Committee meeting.

(c) A Doubles Knock-Out Competition open to all members together with a competition for the President's Cup will be held annually.

(d) Players may only participate in one of the following competitions: "R G Meyrick Cup", "Ron Smout Cup" or "Sponsors Shield" 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.

(e) When cup competitions are played at only one venue, the home team is not allowed to practice on the match green on the day of the match. The away team will receive 12 aggregate points to be added to the final score once the individual games have been completed and the away players will have the jack. When competitions are played at two venues normal match play rules will apply. The semi-finals and finals will be played on neutral greens selected by the Executive Committee.

(f) The results of the "R G Meyrick", "Ron Smout" and "Sponsors Shield" 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 divisions the top two teams will be promoted and the bottom two relegated.

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

With four divisions, the top three teams in each division will receive prize monies. With five divisions, the top two teams 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 cup competitions, the winners and the runners-up will receive prize monies. The value of the prize monies will be set at the pre-season General Management Committee meeting.

The player coming top of the averages in each division will receive a monetary prize, the value of which will be agreed at the pre-season General Management Committee meeting.

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

## **14 AUTHORITY**

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 or Laws of the Game by means of a caution, points penalty and/or fine and their decision shall be final. If the Executive Committee feels that a suspension or expulsion is warranted, the matter will be discussed at a meeting of the General Management Committee who will discuss and vote on what action to take 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 shall be held by each Constituent Club and revokes any rules made previous to the date below

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