

Croston and District Boules League

Annual General Meeting

Venue: Croston Sports Club – Monday 29th January 2024 at 7.30pm

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The meeting was opened by our Chairman, Craig Howard. All 11 teams were represented at the meeting and there were NO apologies. A minute's silence was held to remember our friends past and present.

2. Minutes from the last Meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting from 30th January 2023, were circulated to all Team Captains for review and approval. The minutes were proposed by Allan Roe (Warriors) and seconded by Sheila Briggs (Amazons). There were no reported matters arising. APPROVED.

3. Chairman's Report.

This has been my third year as Chairman of The Croston & District Boules League and I have to say last season really did see us back to our best with a proper full programme, lots of competitions and once again a really high standard of boules being played. It was great to see the many new and younger players coming through within our teams and the progress that they made.

I would like to thank the rest of the League Committee and the Team Captains for assisting us in ensuring that the league continued to provide an enjoyable pastime for our members and team participants. Can I also thank the outgoing captains, five of which are stepping down and thank them for their help and support whilst in the roles and I welcome the new captains taking up their positions within their respective teams for the coming season.

The Chairman thanked the committee for their support and their acceptance to continue in their roles for the next 12 months. Peter Briggs was thanked for his continued support over the last year. Peter, as our Honouree President continues to support the committee and we are grateful for his support. There have been no nominations of others wishing to join the Boules Committee so I must accept this as a statement that we have the support of the members.

Recognition and thanks were given to the venues of the League for their continued support and also the Landlord's and Landladies for their generous hospitality over the season.

The Chairman provided an important reminder to everyone at the meeting and for all those who participate in our Boules League, that the pitches belong to the venues and NOT to the league. It is important that everyone understands that and unless participants are willing to fully support the venues and purchase food or refreshments for league games and our competitions, then these facilities may not be here in the future.

Congratulations to The Barbarians on winning the league and Team Trophy. Can I also congratulate all those who won competitions throughout the season. Furthermore can I congratulate Jenni Moore and Janet Williams who won our Player of The Year and Best Newcomer awards. Thank you to everyone who attended our Presentation evening, the evening was very well supported and was a very enjoyable evening.

A referee from the home team should be appointed to referee each game and the referee's decision shall be final. An away team member can referee if no home team member is available. The referee is only there if the players can't agree and should only get involved if requested to by the players. I must acknowledge that using referees can speed up games when they are indicating who is nearest to allow the game to continue without unnecessary delay. I must remind everyone that referees should only be measuring if requested to do so by the players.

Also can I remind everyone that no boules should be removed until at least one of the players from each team have agreed the result of the respective end.

Thanks were offered to all members for continuing to support the Boules League and making it an enjoyable experience and we can now look forward to a full season ahead of us with lots of boules to be played.

4. Proposed New Fixture List for 2024 season.

It was reported that the Fixture List would be prepared and circulated in due course following the AGM. It was confirmed that all 11 teams will be participating in the league this season.

The Proposed season start date would be week commencing Monday 8th April 2024 and the finish date Tuesday 3rd September 2024.

5. Proposed 2024 Season Competition List.

Details received to date: -

- Sunday 14th April. Buzzards. Ian Blythe Trophy (Doubles)
- Monday 6th May. Sports Club Trophy (Pairs of Seniors & Juniors)
- Sunday 9th June. Bretherton - Wanderers Triples
- Sunday 30th June. Black Horse. Billy Howard Trophy (Doubles)
- Sunday 21st July. Red Lion. Chris Lyon Trophy (Doubles)
- Sunday 4th August. The Grapes Shield (Doubles)
- Sunday 8th September. Red Lion Charity. Singles Competition

Sunday 1st September. The Broughton Trophy date (Doubles).

6. Finances – Treasurer’s report.

The Treasurer, Clare Hughes provided details for the 2023 balance sheet.

Details as follows : -

Balance from the Previous Year	£2,575.30
Income. 2023 – 2024	£1,935.54
<u>Expenditure. 2023 - 2024</u>	<u>-£2,117.43</u>
<u>Current Balance</u>	<u>£2,393.41 up to 31/10/2023</u>

This was a variance of -£181.89 from the previous 2023 season. Note: this also included purchase of an annual Public Liability Insurance Policy (cost £224), which is for the benefit of all our players.

7. League Fee’s.

The Committee proposed that the League Fees for the 2024 season would remain unchanged at £120 per team. No other changes were requested from the members. APPROVED.

8. Presentation Night.

Proposed date. Friday 18th October 2024 at Croston Sports Club at 7.30 pm. APPROVED.

9. AGM Proposals and or Rule Changes.

A request was issued by email to the Team Captains on 16/12/2023 for any proposals teams would like discussed at the AGM.

A. Proposal to revert the points for the Triples back to 3 points. (Sheila Briggs text, 17/12/2023).

“I would like to make a proposal to revert the points for the Triples back to 3 points, we have given the new system a full season. When the 2 points plus 1 for aggregate was proposed, it was just before COVID lockdown,. It was agreed it would be reviewed after 12 months. This didn’t happen. Hence the request to change back to be discussed at this AGM.” Proposal seconded by Darren Cadman from the Wanderers. (Last reviewed and rejected at the January 2022 AGM by 9 votes to 3). This was discussed by the committee and It was agreed we need a vote on two questions:-

1. A vote to change the Triples points from 2 points to 3 points. YES/NO?
REJECTED. 4 votes For and 7 votes Against. No change.
2. A vote to change/remove the 1 point for the Aggregate game points score.
YES/NO?
REJECTED. 3 votes For and 8 votes Against. No Change.

Nominations for the Committee.

A request for any nominations for positions on the committee was issued to the Team Captains on 16/12/2023. **NO NOMINATIONS for the Boules League Committee have been received from the Team Captains.** The Committee are committed and pleased to continue in their elected roles on behalf of the of the Croston and District Boules League and for all of our players.

Any Other Business

Team Trophy Competition

Proposed dates as follows:-

- 1st Round date: Monday 9th or Tuesday 10th September 2024
2nd Round date: Monday 16th or Tuesday 17th September 2024
Finals Day: Sunday 22nd September 2024 at Croston Sports Club

Venues

The committee considers that the Grapes venue will NOT be available this season, therefore it assumed that as last season the Twinning will continue to play at the Black Horse and the Grapes will continue to play at the Sports Club. Again, it means that these home games will have to be played on Monday evenings in a similar format to last season in a league format of 11 teams.

Team Name Change

For next season, the Grapes team will be changing their name to **CROSTONIANS.**

Sports Club Competition

In an effort to promote boules to younger players, this year the Sports Club are proposing a new format to play a Pairs competition to include a Senior player and a Junior player in each pair. This would be played on Bank holiday Monday 6th May. (The junior age will be from 8 up to 16? TBA) The junior players could be relatives of existing Senior players. Following some discussions, it was agreed that more details of the proposed format will be provided by the Sports Club prior to promoting the competition.

New Team Captains

We have 5 new Team Captain's commencing this season. The Secretary has updated the Contact Telephone Numbers List and also received email addresses for all other communications. Details for all have also been included on the Team Captain's Watts App Group. The Secretary has distributed by email the League rules to all Team Captains so that everyone can familiarise themselves with the league rules and their responsibilities as Team Captains. The Chairman explained the responsibilities of the Team Captains and the importance of being familiar with the rules.

Public Liability Insurance

As in previous seasons it is the responsibility of the committee to obtain Public Liability Insurance for the protection of the committee and all of our players. The Treasurer will obtain a quotation for insurance policy renewal prior to the league season commencement.

Contribution from competition towards the purchase of trophies/awards.

The committee have agreed that a contribution of £25 from each competition be paid to the Treasurer towards the purchase of trophies and engraving. It should be noted that over the last three seasons, our costs of trophies and awards have increased as the committee have endeavoured to improve recognition for all of our competitions throughout the season and reward success on Presentation Night. We believe this is a reasonable request as we can protect our league funds and also support our charities.

One person strongly disagreed with this decision for a contribution to be taken from the money raised in our competitions as it was considered that "*we would be taking money away from our charities*". The Chairman re-iterated the reason for this contribution, we are not a charity but as a committee we have a responsibility to protect our funds and the interest of our teams and players. We want to ensure that we provide trophies and awards for all our competition winners and runners-up. Also, League Fees have again remained unchanged for this season. It is expected that all competitions need to cover their running costs.

This season we are running 8 competitions, therefore we will still raise a considerable amount of money on behalf of the league for our chosen charities and give our support to local community projects.

It should be noted that there was a lot of positive feedback from the Team Captains for this contribution and support of the committee's decision.

Sports Club Venue

A question was raised by Michael Greenhalgh if it was possible to build another pitch at the Sports Club? The aim being to return to all teams playing on a Tuesday evening. The Chairman explained there were plans for future development of the Sports Club land and there may be a possibility of including a new boules pitch. However; no more details are available at this time.

Other Venues

A question was raised regarding other venues. It was explained that the Secretary was in discussion with the Seven Stars who indicated they wanted to build a pitch with a view to joining the league this season. Despite our efforts this has not happened and will NOT be pursued any further. This now provides the committee with the opportunity to consider any other interest.

The Meeting was closed at 8.17pm

Martyn Littlewood (Secretary)