Secretary's Report 2011

Firstly, congratulations to the winners of the cup, plate and leagues this year. Presentations later.

We welcomed into the league two new clubs this year. The Harrow at Stockbury, near Sittingbourne and the Lamb, at Swanley. One of the Lamb teams gained promotion in this their first season. A good start for them. Perhaps they will go on the emulate the Share and Coulter who have gained a second promotion in their second year.

The Old Sheaf Rats found a new home at Meadow and became Meadow Rats; and Redstart moved to the Stilebridge Inn becoming the Stilers.

We developed the electronic score sheet further this year. We now have automatic update of the tables, and also provide automatically a list of results so far and outstanding fixtures. At the end of the season some people still were unaware these facilities existed. Go onto the website and view them for yourselves.
Simplified entry of player names is also implemented with drop down lists. This seems to have been well received and has worked well.

Thanks to Alan Cregeen for the technology to allow this to work.

And thanks also to Andy Mills for providing the website facilities for contact lists, cup draws, and other useful information for captains of teams and club secretaries.

The rules state that games not played are awarded 0-4 (0-52) to the team that has defaulted, and 4-0 (52-24) to the opponents. No awarded games this year would have resulted in a different outcome if the rule was applied to the tables, and I would have had to change the tables manually, so I didn't apply the changes. Because of the auto entry of results I am proposing to simplify this to 4-0 (52-24) both ways. This is the second of the two proposals we will consider later this evening.

On the subject of rearrangements we are guided by the rules. These state that a game may be rearranged by mutual agreement. My view is that a team should not deny rearrangement out of hand, but nevertheless mutual agreement means just that, both sides need to agree. If they do not then the original fixture date applies. Having said that, I repeat, in my view a team should not deny rearrangement out of hand.

Next year, I plan to have no spare weeks for games to be played. I want to arrange the Cup and Plate semi finals and finals to Wednesday nights. I think it makes sense that a Wednesday league has its showpiece events on the very day of the week that players are keeping free for pétanque. Anyone who has games to play can use these dates as spare weeks, if they don't progress to this stage of the competition.

Finally, can I express my thanks to the other members of my committee Colin Senneck and Ken Buchan for their support during the year.