



CORNWALL COUNTY SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 150th Management Committee Meeting held at Ladock Village Hall on Monday 16th September 2013.

Present: Henry Kendall, Elise Daniell, Peter Hore, Ken Horrell, Nigel Nicholls, Sheila Hodge, Chris Roberts, Ian Perry, Bob Flower, Neil Gribble, Derek Newton, Nick Truscott, Karen Watson

150.00 Chairman's welcome:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.27pm, welcomed everyone present.

150.01 Apologies for absence:

Lesley Barker

150.02 Approve and sign minutes of the 149th committee meeting:

The minutes were taken as read and approved by those present.

Proposer: Peter Hore

Seconder: Ken Horrell

150.03 Matters arising from previous meeting:

None.

150.04 Correspondence:

Letter from Pam Hamley (Lostwithiel SMBC) requesting clarification on when the audited accounts would be forwarded to clubs. The Chairman explained that the accounts for this season have now been handed over to Karen Watson as Treasurer and that the two previous year's accounts have now been sent to be audited. Once the audited accounts have been returned to the committee, copies will then be sent to club secretaries.

Letters from Keith Hawkins (ESMBA Administration) explaining the new membership scheme resulting from a partnership with Countdown Cards, which will offer discounts and cash back on certain goods purchased within the Countdown range to affiliated members. Club secretaries will shortly receive further information on this scheme to forward onto their members.

Email from Keith Hawkins (ESMBA Administration) providing a copy of the ESMBA Committee Meeting Minutes from June 2013.

150.05 Treasurer's report:

No report given as there have been no payments in or out of the bank since the last committee meeting.

150.06 Membership Secretary's report:

A few more updates have come in since the last meeting and we currently have 58 registered clubs with 1087 registered members (2 of them juniors). Of the 4 clubs who did not initially re-register this year one (Coads Green) has now done so and is hopeful of registering some new members, and one (St Mawes) has become a purely social club and has decided not to re-join the Association. St Buryan has indicated that they will re-register but has not yet done so, and I have not heard back from Mullion. Registration with the ESMBA is due by the end of November and I will shortly be sending off the required information. The ESMBA has apparently entered into partnership with Countdown Cards, which has meant introducing a new 5 digit format for membership numbers, prefixed by the letters ESMBA and with a County suffix. I have converted our membership records to this new format and await more information about the scheme. Updates to the Committee, Clubs, Umpires and Rules sections have been issued to Committee members and Club Secretaries, together with the updated Contents list.

150.07 **Competition Secretary's report**

The draws for the County Competitions took place on Tuesday 3rd September and have now been typed up and forwarded to all clubs (also available on the website). I am pleased to say that individual entries across the competitions have risen for a 4th consecutive year, this time by 13 entries. This comes off the back of the huge rise of 116 last year so just to maintain that level is pleasing, let alone to increase it slightly. There was one less entry in the Rae Francis competition this year making it a nice round number of 8. The entry forms for the National Championship qualifiers have also been sent out with a closing date of 27th October. The ESMBA have recently informed me that the date for the World Championships and National Mixed Fours have changed meaning that there will have to be a change to our county calendar. However, the change doesn't affect any of the competitions already drawn so it should be simple enough to change. The Bebbington Cup and Under 25's will now take place on Sunday 23rd March, with the Inter Area Competition moving to Sunday 30th March, effectively swapping dates with each other. I enclose a notice for all clubs to display on their notice boards regarding this.

150.08 **Team Manager's report:**

The trials for the County squad took place at Carnmoggas yesterday. 50 bowlers were present with 40 being successful in being selected for the first game versus Devon next Sunday. There will be a practice day next Saturday for the squad and any other unsuccessful trialists who wish to attend. Selection proved difficult with the overall standard very high. Peter Hore is the Premier team captain with Chris Cawrse the A team captain. Players were asked about their opinion on new shirts and seemed positive. A couple of the women said they preferred cotton to polyester though. They seemed happy to contribute a portion of the price of the shirts if sponsorship does not cover the full amount. The caterer for the home games has been contacted to confirm the dates. Hopley's coaches have been contacted to confirm the transportation details as there were some discrepancies in their confirmation email.

150.09 **Social Secretary's report:**

There is little to report at the moment, however I will begin running the raffles at the first Inter Area match on the 29th September.

150.10 **Press & Promotion Officer's report:**

The CCSMBA sponsorship package has now been approved by the committee and I have so far sent around 60 emails to different companies asking for them to consider sponsoring the CCSMBA. I have mainly had negative responses by those that have come back to me, however I have been offered items such as 2 standard class rail tickets to raffle. I will continue to send the package out and would welcome any suggestions about who to approach. The Summer League is nearing its completion with the deciding game due to be played tomorrow. I feel it has been a very competitive league this year and have had positive comments from those members playing in the league regarding travelling to different clubs around the County. I would like to thank Derek Newton for finding a way through the problems that Dobwalls had regarding fulfilling their fixtures.

150.11 **Area Representatives' report:**

Central area: No Report.

East area: The first East Area meeting for 2013/14 took place on Tuesday 10th September, 10 clubs were represented with only 3 sending apologies. There will be 8 teams in the Premier League and 9 teams in Division 1 with league games beginning at the start of October. All clubs were issued with their fixtures and a list of club secretaries. We are retaining the same clubs in the East area but no new clubs have joined. My area, as in all areas, would like some new clubs to join. If not clubs, then new members as some clubs are starting to struggle with members leaving because of many different reasons. I think all Area Reps would like an influx of new Short Mat bowlers as I feel it has a great social side to it as I am sure all bowlers would agree.

North area: Unfortunately we have lost St Tudy from the North Area as they are unable to field a team, Stratton have also reduced to one team however Lanteglos have entered a third team so we are down by one team. That leaves us with only 6 teams in each division and we may have to change to only one league next year unless we can find more teams. We are still having trouble obtaining members to compete in County competitions however I believe that I have managed to get a team for Inter Area even though it has been very difficult. Our next meeting will take place on the 19th September.

West area: Since our league programme was distributed one team has withdrawn from Division 2 of the county league and this, following on from the loss of two other teams last season, will probably necessitate the re-sizing of the three divisions at the end of the season. If any more teams withdraw we may be looking at reducing the number of divisions. The area's competitions will be run at two venues this year, relieving

some of the pressure that occurred by introducing the round-robin format 12 months ago. I will continue to pursue Bickford Smith BC to take up league competitions, rather than the social bowling they have been doing for the past couple of years.

150.12 **Items for discussion from correspondence (if necessary):**

None.

150.13 **Any other business:**

Cornwall Bowls Alliance Working Group: Nick Truscott gave a brief overview of what this committee is aiming to achieve with regards to increasing participation in all codes of bowls within the County. Nick explained that he has now managed to persuade the committee to meet in an evening which would make it easier for him to attend and he would therefore be happy to sit on the committee and report back to the CCSMBA. The committee agreed that following hearing the reports from the Area Representatives that it would be a good idea for the CCSMBA to have someone attend these meetings with a view of increasing membership within Short Mat in Cornwall.

AGM Voting Procedures: This item had been deferred to allow a proposal regarding proxy voting to be drafted, however a number of issues relating to the proposal were raised when a draft had been attempted. The committee considered the points raised and it was questioned if there would be increased participation from members at the AGM if proxy voting was allowed. Some members of the committee felt that proxy voting should be considered as an option at the AGM in the future, however it was agreed that the system would need to be tested prior to writing a proposal to see if clubs responded to being able to send votes via this system. It was proposed that proxy voting would be tested by seeking clubs views on matters such as the Summer League to see if the system would work. The committee unanimously agreed that they would like to test the system and asked for software to be researched into for inclusion on the website to cut down the amount of work that could be generated resulting from proxy voting.

Proposer: Nigel Nicholls

Secunder: Ken Horrell

Refund for Saltash SMBC: Saltash had initially entered a third team into the county league, however it had become clear that a third team would not be able to survive and had been pulled out of the league. Due to this, Saltash had asked their Area Representative to request a refund from the committee for the entry fee which they had paid for their third team. The committee agreed that a refund would be given as the league season had not yet started and refunds have been previously given to teams that had been withdrawn at this stage.

County Team Match Fee: A number of members of the committee had been approached by players regarding the County Team's match fee. Some players had requested to be allowed to not pay the match fee as they would like to travel by their own means to some of the away games. The committee would like to reiterate that the fee paid by the players has always been a "match fee" which is to be paid by all players whether they use the transport provided or not. This fee is payable in all circumstances to prevent the CCSMBA having to make up the shortfall on coach hire should a number of players decide to travel by their own means.

150.14 **Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on 18th November 2013 7.30pm at Ladock Village Hall.

149.15 **Close meeting:**

With no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.54pm.

These are a true record and representation of the minutes taken at the above meeting.

Signed..... (Chairman) Dated.....

Hon: Secretary: Elise Daniell

Dated: 23rd September 2013