



CORNWALL COUNTY SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 168th Management Committee Meeting held at Ladock Village Hall on Monday 12th September 2016.

Present: Chris Roberts, Dennis Shorthouse, Elise Daniell, Richard Brown, Neil Gribble, Peter Hore, Nick Truscott, Dianne Shorthouse, John Worton, Derek Newton, Paul Murphy, David Stokes

168.00 **Chairman's welcome:**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.26pm and welcomed everyone present. David Stokes was introduced to the committee as the newly appointed North Area Representative following the resignation of Ruth Newbury.

168.01 **Apologies for absence:**

Nigel Nicholls

168.02 **Approve and sign minutes of the 167th committee meeting:**

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

Proposer: Dennis Shorthouse

Secunder: John Worton

168.03 **Matters arising from previous meeting:**

The Association's accounts remain unaudited due to missing information. The Chairman agreed to contact the previous Treasurer to obtain the information so that the accounts could be prepared for audit.

168.04 **Correspondence:**

Letter from Colleen Bolton (Newlyn Trinity Wreckers) appealing the 6 point penalty imposed at the last meeting following their non-attendance at the Truscott Plate Final. The basis of the appeal focused on the fact that the rules regarding the disciplinary action for non-attendance were not clarified until the 167th Committee Meeting on 11th July. However it was accepted that disciplinary action has always been stipulated in the rules. It also stated that the team were not approached by the Area Representative to inform them of their requirement to attend the finals day. This was discounted by the committee as the team were aware that they would be required to play in this competition and had transport arranged. The committee discussed the appeal and, although it agreed that the situation was unfortunate, it agreed that the County rules had to be abided by to prevent any issues going forwards. It was pointed out that a precedent had already been set for a team that had not attended the Bebbington Cup under the rules prior to the clarification on the 11th July; that team had been penalised with a 12 point penalty which the committee had felt was too much of a disincentive and therefore clarified the disciplinary action for the Truscott Plate as a 6 point penalty. By a majority vote (9 for, 1 against and 2 abstentions) it was agreed that the revised ruling would remain in place and would be enforced in this instance.

Letters from Pam Hamley (Lostwithiel SMBC) regarding a proposed change to the league format in the Central Area. The initial letter requested clarification over whether the proposed changes could be implemented at an Area meeting or if this would need to go to an AGM. The County Secretary replied advising Lostwithiel SMBC that the Committee could change the format of the league as this was covered in the rules rather than the constitution. However, this matter had already been discussed at a committee meeting and it was agreed that no changes to the format would be implemented for the 2016/17 season. A subsequent letter was received from Pam Hamley raising concerns regarding this matter following another meeting in the Central Area. Although the Area Rep had informed the meeting that there would be no changes to the format for the 2016/17, Lostwithiel SMBC were astounded that the Chairman had continued to advocate a triples format. The letter stated that Lostwithiel SMBC were against the proposed change because they have a disabled member in the club. Should these changes be made then this member would not be able to continue playing league bowls because the additional bowls would be too much. The Club also feels that the other three areas would have to follow the same format.

Letter from Alec Bawden (Lanjeth SMBC) expressing disappointment that the proposed changes to the Central Area league would not be implemented for 2016/17. It was understood that a number of clubs would be contacting the

committee regarding this matter and it was hoped that the proposed format would be considered.

Letter from AR Mitchell-Harris (Goonbarrow SMBC) supporting the proposed changes to the Central Area League. The main driver of the request was due to the falling membership in the area and stated that a format of 8 end triples would be favourable.

Following receipt of the above letters the committee again discussed this matter and it was agreed that any change in league format would have to be County wide due to the centralised finals in the form of the Bebbington Cup and Truscott Plate. Due to this, the committee agreed that it would be too late to implement any change to the league format for the 2016/17 season as entries and fixtures had already been finalised based on teams of four. All clubs would need to be consulted regarding this matter as it is likely that there would be some clubs that would be penalised with a change of format. However, the committee agreed that feedback is required on a number of issues within the County and therefore a survey would be drawn up to help the committee understand the views of the membership within Cornwall. The committee agreed that there was nothing stopping the Central Area setting up a friendly triples league which could be run in conjunction with the County league as in the West Area. All members would still be required to be affiliated and therefore, the County will still benefit from their membership and entry fees. It was also agreed that the falling membership needed to be addressed and the committee will be exploring the possibility of holding a major recruitment drive with the help of the local press and radio.

Email from Mike Lawrence (Boscastle SMBC) advising the committee of his appointment by the North Area as area secretary to assist the newly appointed Area Representative. The role of Area Competition Secretary will be shared between Mike and Max Burden. The Area Committee had requested that all papers from the CCSMBA be channelled through Mike by email and the committee agreed that it would not be a problem to add the email address to the current mailing lists. However, it was agreed that any discussions, draft letters and minutes should be directed towards the Area Representative until the information is issued to the CCSMBA membership. The email also requested that an outstanding expenses payment due to the previous Area Rep be forwarded to Mike Lawrence as he will also be carrying out the small role of area treasurer. The committee discussed this request and it was understood that any money generated by the Northern Area had always been paid into the Association's accounts and therefore, if the money was not owed directly to the previous Area Rep, the cheque would not be paid out. Any expenses incurred by the new Area Rep would be remunerated by the Association as in other roles on the committee.

Letter from Bob Williams (Illogan SMBC) advising the committee that as Illogan SMBC moved to their new venue last season, they have now been integrated into Redruth Bowls Club and will now be known as Redruth Bowls Club – Indoor Bowls Section. The Premier Team will now be known as Illogan Redruth and the Afternoon Triples team would be known as Redruth Woods.

ESMBA Committee Meeting Minutes from May 2016.

Letter from Bonnie Gleeson (Carnmoggas Indoor Bowls Club) informing the committee that an offer has now been made and accepted for the purchase of Carnmoggas Holiday Park. The offer includes the Clubhouse / Bowling Club but it has been confirmed that the new owners intend to keep the park in it's current format as a going concern and manage it from their offices in Bristol.

168.05 Treasurer's report:

For the period 11th July 2016 to 17th August 2016:

Total Income: £6078.00	Total Expenses: £2115.80
Total Profit/Deficit for Period =	£3962.20

Proposer: Nick Truscott

Seconder: Neil Gribble

168.06 Membership Secretary's report:

I have now had replies from 57 clubs, making the total affiliations to date 981, 976 Adult and 5 Juniors. This is a considerable drop from last year's figure, but we have a number of teams who have not affiliated players this year. All data supplied has been inputted to the County Database. I still have recently received updates to sort before sending the details to the ESMBA. I hope to get the information pack updated at some point in the next 2 weeks so it can be rolled out to clubs before the start of the season.

168.07 **Competition Secretary's report:**

There has been an overall decrease of 17% in the number of entries to the County Competitions which is disappointing. However, I think the main reason for this is the congested calendar following the ESMBA's decision to complete the ICC group stage by the end of November. The County Mixed Fours only has 12 entries so I would propose that this competition is run to completion on the day rather than asking the players to return for a finals day. This will leave the Champion of Champions alone on one day so I would also propose that this competition is moved to follow the Bebbington Cup and Truscott plate to save a day on the calendar. A notice to clubs will be sent out and the entrants that have already entered will be informed. The number of entries for the Triples is below 32 therefore only one day will be needed for the group stage (Sunday 30th October). As well as the Mixed Fours, both of the Home and Away competitions have less than 16 entries so points will only be awarded in these competitions from the semi-final stage as per the recent rules revision. The draws were held on the 6th September and were attended by the bare minimum of committee members and no other CCSMBA members. It was disappointing to see that there was an Area Meeting held on the same night as this prevented a number of committee members attending. Should there have been one less person in attendance then the draw would have been void as the required quorum which is set out in the CCSMBA Rules would not have been reached.

The Committee ratified the proposal to run the Mixed Fours to completion, the Triples on one day only and to move the Champion of Champions to Sunday 2nd April 2017 following the Bebbington Cup and Truscott Plate. It was also agreed to explore the idea of a fund raising competition / open day on the 26th March now that this date will be free on the calendar.

Proposer: Peter Hore

Secunder: Nick Truscott

168.08 **Team Manager's report:**

The County Team trials were held at Carnmoggas on 10th September. Numbers were lower than expected after a number of withdrawals for various reasons. We will be holding a practice session on 17th September for the team prior to the first match away to Dorset on Sunday 18th September. Peter Hore and Betty Temple-Smith will assist me as captains of the two teams. Sixteen players travelled to Dorset on 11th September to play in the qualifying round of the Rinks Competition. Qualification was not achieved after narrow defeats to Devon (by 6 shots) and Somerset (by 3 shots). Both matches were close right up to the last end. Thanks to the drivers and players who made the trip. This year's ICC matches are on the following dates:

Sun 18th Sept – Dorset Away

Sun 25th Sept – Devon Home

Sun 9th Oct – Somerset Home

Sun 23rd Oct – Somerset Away

Sun 13th Nov – Devon Away

Sun 27th Nov – Dorset Home

We would welcome any support including volunteers to mark singles matches.

168.09 **Social Secretary's report:**

There is little to report at this meeting other than to confirm that the Carnmarth Hotel has been contacted and our reservation for the County Presentation Luncheon and AGM has been confirmed. I will again be holding raffles at a number of County Fixtures at Carnmoggas and would welcome any donations as prizes to help raise funds for the County. A small raffle was held at the County Trials day and a profit of £32.74 was raised.

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

The Summer League is now in the Finals Stage and it was mutually agreed by those teams in contention to reduce the number of ends to 11. This has meant that two games can be played in one evening to help reduce the amount of travelling in the three way final. The final fixture is due to be played tomorrow night with the Choughs leading and Ladock requiring all 8 points on offer. I am currently in the middle of some major and long overdue updates to the County's website. Once completed, the website will be more responsive on mobile devices and tablets and will focus on the most popular pages of the current website.

168.11 **Area Representatives' report:**

Central Area: Following on from the last committee meeting in July, the Central Area held a meeting in August to witness the draw for the forthcoming 2016/17 Winter League and Knockout Cup. The meeting was well attended with secretaries from all but one club in attendance. I informed the meeting that both St Stephens and Kea had not registered teams for the new season and a discussion was held regarding the dwindling numbers of

members/players and what, if anything, could be done. Three more clubs reported that they were struggling for members and felt that a change in format may help with this situation. One suggestion was a similar format to Summer League with teams of three and this idea was warmly received by most at the meeting. I was requested to contact the committee to see if this suggestion could be implemented but this idea had been turned down as it had already been discussed by the rules committee and could not be changed for the coming season. The final fixture sheets have been compiled and forwarded to all clubs and matches will begin on 2nd October. I have informed the Premier League clubs of the change of venue for Lostwithiel who will play at Lerryn for the foreseeable future. We start the season with 17 teams – 8 in the Premier Division and 9 in Division One with the possibility of losing Truro from the Premier and Treviscoe from Division One. I would like to wish all bowlers good fortune for the new season.

East Area: The East Area held a meeting on 6th September which commenced with a minutes silence in memory of Bill Berry, team captain of the Lanreath Reds. Thirteen clubs attended, with one apology. Fixtures for the forthcoming season were given out and any amendments made. It was noted that the original Saltash Wesley club had changed their name to Saltash Kernow and their venue had also changed. It was also noted that the email address for Neil Gribble, the new Membership Secretary, was incorrect and this was amended. Clubs were informed that any fixtures that needed to be altered had to be replayed within 14 days according to the rules. The Premier League start their season on 2nd October and Division One a week earlier on 26th September. Finally, I informed the meeting that I would be standing down as Area Rep at the end of the season after over 16 years in the position. Thanks were given to everyone for their help over that time and informed the meeting that whoever took over, Chris and I would help them through the initial early times. Dianne Shorthouse, County Social Secretary, reminded everyone that it would be appreciated if those members taking part in County Competitions could donate a raffle prize to the County. Thanks were given to Derek and Chris for all of their hard work over the years by Dennis Shorthouse, Chairman of Landrake Club and Vice Chairman of the CCSMBA

North Area: No Report.

West Area: This season will see the area gaining one new team in the evening league but two teams have been lost in the afternoon league. Some concerns have been raised by those teams based at Outdoor Clubs over the length of the Short Mat season as there is now a crossover of fixtures. There is one fixture scheduled to take place after the Truscott Plate final in division one so I will inform the West Area Committee that this will need to be changed.

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

None.

168.13 **Any other business:**

Job Descriptions: Deferred to next meeting due to the appointment of a new member on the committee.

Club Insurance: The Press and Promotions Office informed the committee that he had recently attended the local Bowls Development group and learnt something of possible concern regarding the insurance held by outdoor clubs that also play Short Mat. In the past where Short Mat is part of an outdoor club's activities, the outdoor club insurance has been considered sufficient. However, it now seems that this is no longer the case. The Bowls England policy only covers outdoor clubs for social activities and not competitive matches. The Bowls England Insurance FAQ's state that Short Mat is not recognised by Bowls England and therefore would not be covered by the insurance policy. Playing Short Mat socially out of season at a clubhouse would be covered provided it is included in the club's constitution that it is part of its out of season activities. Those clubs who play both codes of the game competitively are seemingly required to buy two insurances from Sutton Winson. Any club who can only evidence the Bowls England policy are not insured for competitive Short Mat Bowls matches. It was agreed that a letter would be drafted by the Press and Promotions Office to be sent to those clubs who will be affected by this.

Unpaid National Championship Fees: The Secretary informed the meeting that a number of cheques had been found for last season's National Championship Qualifiers. Unfortunately these cheques had not been paid into the Associations account as they had not been given to the Treasurer due to his resignation. These cheques were now out of date and could not be paid into the account. All entrants had been contacted and replacement cheques had been received so these cheques will now be handed to the new Treasurer to be banked.

ESMBA AGM Report: The ESMBA EGM vote regarding the proposed Registration Fee increase was unsuccessful with the result of the vote being 18 for and 19 against. National Championships will be held at Melton Mowbray Indoor Bowls Club, apart from the Mixed Fours which will be at Tamworth. It was agreed to go back to the old system of issuing blank membership cards to Counties to distribute to their members due to the cost of sending small files to the printers. Membership numbers may now be re-issued as Counties wish because members no

longer have Countdown membership. With regards to safeguarding, the bowls group have now been awarded a conditional pass by the NSPCC for the highest standard they have. The ESMBA will fund all County Welfare officers' bowls specific safeguarding courses. The ESMBA has been approached by the BDA to join the Coach Bowls scheme which is a recognised qualification outside of Short Mat. If the ESMBA were to join, current coaches can transfer their current qualification onto their level 1 but will need to train/pay for level 2. The ESMBA would incur a cost of approximately £2000 so that the relevant coaching manuals can be produced. A proposal to make ICC Home Teams required to provide one hot drink for every travelling player to avoid penalty was declined. However a proposal to reduce the 2 year ban period for a player changing Counties proved to be popular.

County Competitions: As the County is still without an Assistant Competition Secretary, the vacant role will be advertised further. However, in the meantime, volunteers from the current committee will be required to help run some of the competitions while the Competition Secretary is not available. The Area Reps will be required to run the Inter Area League Fixtures and Inter Area Competition with the support of the previous Assistant Competition Secretary should it be needed. The paperwork for the fixtures will be forwarded to John Worton as the initial contact.

168.14 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on 14th November 2016 7.30pm at Ladock Village Hall.

168.15 Close meeting:

With no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.58pm.

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

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

Hon: Secretary: Elise Daniell

Dated: 19th September 2016