



# CORNWALL COUNTY SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

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## Minutes of the 169<sup>th</sup> Management Committee Meeting held at Ladock Village Hall on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

**Present:** Chris Roberts, Dennis Shorthouse, Elise Daniell, Richard Brown, Peter Hore, Dianne Shorthouse, John Worton, Paul Murphy,

### **169.00**      **Chairman's welcome:**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed everyone present.

### **169.01**      **Apologies for absence:**

Nigel Nicholls, David Stokes, Neil Gribble, Derek Newton, Nick Truscott

### **169.02**      **Approve and sign minutes of the 168<sup>th</sup> committee meeting:**

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

Proposer: Dianne Shorthouse

Seconder: John Worton

### **169.03**      **Matters arising from previous meeting:**

The Association's accounts remain unaudited due to missing information from the previous Treasurer due to illness. The committee agreed to prepare the accounts to the best of its ability for approval at the next AGM. Dianne Shorthouse thanked Peter Hore and Elise Daniell for all of their work.

### **169.04**      **Correspondence:**

Email from Mike Lawrence (North Area Secretary) advising the committee of an appeal made by St Minver SMBC regarding a penalty they have received after missed league game. The appeal stated that the club officers had not received the final fixture list from the named club contact due to a dispute and the existence of the final fixture list was not known by the club until the day after their league match with Poughill. The committee received correspondence to prove that the final confirmed fixture list had been sent to St Minver's named contact by the North Area Representative on the 31<sup>st</sup> July and this was subsequently forwarded by him onto the club's officials by email on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. In view of this, and the fact that all fixtures are confirmed on the County Website, the committee agreed that the penalty applied would stand and the North Area Secretary would be advised. The committee also asked Area Reps to ask clubs in their areas to confirm receipt of the final fixture lists in the future.

Letter from David Topliffe (Boscastle SMBC) informing the committee of a recent dispute they had with some members at St Minver SMBC. In view of the content of the letter, the committee would like to remind all clubs of their responsibility to abide by the CCSMBA's Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy which can be found on the County Website.

Email from the ESMBA attaching the latest newsletter which can be found on the ESMBA website.

Letter from Gerald Fisher and Linda Martin (Redruth SMBC) regarding an incident at the County 2 Wood Pairs Competition. The letter describes what they feel was match fixing which in turn prevented their qualification to the final stages of the competition. The committee discussed the contents of the letter and a reply will be sent to Gerald and Linda.

Letter from Gerry Tizard (Dobwalls SMBC) informing the committee of the Club's view regarding the recent proposal to change the format of the winter league in Cornwall. This proposal was unanimously seen to be a highly retrograde step which would be admitting that the sport was in terminal decline. It was also felt that clubs with a membership in the region of 12 members would find that their bowlers would be playing less matches than they currently are and, in turn, face resignations and even less participants. The committee agreed that it was responses such as this which has meant that no change can be made without further consultation with clubs to understand



**169.09**            **Social Secretary's report:**

Since the last meeting, I have held raffles on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2<sup>nd</sup> October and the 9<sup>th</sup> October with a total profit of £181.55 raised.

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

No report.

**169.11**            **Area Representatives' report:**

**Central Area:** The 2016 winter league season is now well underway, having started on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Unfortunately Truro could not get enough players to field a team so had to pull out leaving 7 teams in the Premier Division and 9 teams in the First Division. After 4 games, Truro City Golds lead the First Division from Luxulyan Maroons and Withiel Oaks lead the Premier Division which at present doesn't look like being a two horse race this year. The first round of the Inter Area was held on October 2<sup>nd</sup> with Central beating North 28-12 and West defeating East 25-15. The second round being played on the 20<sup>th</sup> November. One piece of sad news we received recently was the death of John Ashby from Luxulyan Golds who collapsed and died on the way to a match against Truro City Blacks on 17<sup>th</sup> October. As a mark of respect the match was cancelled and will be played at a later date. John will be greatly missed and our best wishes go to his family, friends and fellow players. The first round of the knockout cup has now been played and with the quarter final draw, the First Division is guaranteed two teams in the Semi Final. Here's to the rest of the season – good luck to everyone.

**East Area:** At the time of writing my report, Landrake are leading the Premier League with Callington Eagles a close second. In Division One, Calstock are top of the league with Saltash lying second. After contacting several clubs in the East Area with reference to the possibility of a change to the league format, I can say that the majority of those that have come back to me are against the change. I think more details need to be explained to clubs before it can come about. I have also received a request for the committee to consider extending the time for re-arranging matches from 14 days to 21 days. I have had more trouble regarding this rule in the East Area this year than I have in any other year. Finally, at present, no one has come forward to take over as Area Rep for 2017/18.

**North Area:** Sorry I am not with you tonight, I have just come out of hospital following a small operation on my heart which did not go quite to plan but I am now on the mend. The league is now under way and entries for the Northern Area Competitions have been encouraging with 13 singles, 14 pairs and 7 triples. The interest in the triples is particularly welcome considering it has been reintroduced this year. The Area Secretary has been asked to give some thought to the possibility of introducing an afternoon league, possibly for play between the winter and summer league seasons. The aim will be to encourage those who are reluctant or unable to travel during the winter to engage in competitive play with other clubs and to find a way of encouraging inexperienced players to play competitively on different mats. The Area Committee is also considering the on-going problem of reducing numbers of players at club level and the lack of success at recruiting, particularly amongst smaller clubs.

**West Area:** I have recently been approached by a club in the West Area regarding the use of the rubber coated jacks and I have explained the committee's stance on the subject. I have also been asked if the committee would consider delaying the deadline for County Competitions as many clubs in the West Area had not returned from the summer break before the deadline this year. This may help to increase the number of entries in future years.

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

None.

**169.13**            **Any other business:**

**Job Descriptions:** Deferred to next meeting due to the number of committee members in attendance.

**Club Insurance:** Deferred to next meeting due to absence.

**County Survey:** It was agreed that it should be the committee's aim to send the County Survey to clubs with the minutes from January's meeting to enable the responses to be discussed at March's meeting and in the Open Forum following the AGM. The committee asked the County Secretary to liaise with the Press and Promotions Officer to draw up a draft survey for approval before it is sent to Club Secretaries.

**Vacant Committee Positions:** The role of Assistant Competition Secretary remains vacant on the committee. Please find enclosed poster for display on club notice boards to advertise this position. The committee are also aware that the role of East Area Representative will become vacant at the AGM and encourages any willing volunteers to contact Derek Newton for further information regarding the role of Area Rep. Should it become clear that any other positions on the committee will become vacant at the AGM, these roles will also be advertised.

