



CORNWALL COUNTY SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 171st Management Committee Meeting held at Ladock Village Hall on Monday 13th March 2017.

Present: Chris Roberts, Dennis Shorthouse, Elise Daniell, Steve Williamson, Nick Truscott, Nigel Nicholls, Peter Hore, Dianne Shorthouse, John Worton, Paul Murphy, David Stokes, Derek Newton

171.00 **Chairman's welcome:**

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

171.01 **Apologies for absence:**

Neil Gribble

171.02 **Approve and sign minutes of the 170th committee meeting:**

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

Proposer: David Stokes

Seconder: John Worton

171.03 **Matters arising from previous meeting:**

The CCSMBA account audit remains outstanding but is nearing completion, a further report can be found below.

171.04 **Correspondence:**

Letter from Bob Smith (Porthleven SMBC) regarding an incident involving comments made by spectators at a recent league game. The committee discussed the contents of the letter and agreed that there was no disciplinary action that could be taken in this case. However, it was agreed that all clubs should be reminded that the game should be played in a sporting manner and spectators should respect the players on the mat.

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

Email from Karen Watson (Saltash SMBC) requesting that the committee writes to the ESMBA for further clarification about the rules surrounding selection of the England Squad. The committee agreed that a letter would be drafted and sent to the ESMBA.

171.05 **Treasurer's report:**

The following report given to the committee by Elise Daniell who is voluntarily preparing the Association's account for audit.

I am almost ready to hand over the account to be audited; I have been waiting to receive the latest bank statement and have confirmed that it is currently with Richard Brown who will scan and email it to me during the week so that the accounts can be worked on at the weekend. I have spent numerous hours working on the accounts but they have not been as difficult to prepare as initially feared (so far!). There are some missing invoices / receipts over the two year period but I have managed to contact most suppliers to get duplicates for our records. One of the main issues I have found is that each Officer is using their own expenses spreadsheet which can prove to be difficult to understand and, with this in mind, I think it would be a good idea to create a standard form for everyone to use to help future Treasurers. It has also come to my attention that none of the cheques that have been sent to the ESMBA have been cashed to date. This includes our cheque for affiliations for over £3000 which was sent in October. I have contacted the ESMBA to query this and understand that their Treasurer has been very ill recently. I have asked them to let me know when these cheques will be cashed so that I can ensure there are sufficient funds in the current account. I have completed mandates to change the address on the account and to apply for Internet Banking as this had been cancelled through non-use. I also have the mandate with me tonight to update the signatories on the account.

171.06 Membership Secretary's report:

With the 2016/17 season coming to an end, we have 57 clubs and a membership of 1081. Some changes have been made to the spreadsheet format but I still have a few things I would like to add to make the control of this easier. I have found the role to be a challenge and by that I mean a challenge to fit this into a now very busy personal life so I hope everyone has been happy with the support I have given and the information I have supplied. Any feedback is appreciated. Thanks to all Club Secretaries for their correspondence on sometime the smallest pieces of paper! I plan to create a new affiliation form which can be emailed to me with new members that want to join after the initial list has been sent back to me. Letters for the new affiliation year will be sent out in the next few weeks in readiness for the Summer League.

171.07 Competition Secretary's report:

The majority of the 2016/17 County Championships are now complete and details of the winners and finalists will be included in the AGM paperwork along with next year's calendar and new points list. It looks likely that the top female points scorer award won't be decided until after the National Championships, with a good chance that the winner won't have secured the most points in County Competitions but will win due to the new rule for awarding points for National Championship success.

171.08 Team Manager's report:

The A team's ICC journey was completed when they lost to a very strong North Yorkshire side in the first knockout round at Solihull. Their opponents went onto comfortably win the competition and will compete as a Premier side next season. Obviously a very early start for the coach did not help.

The Premier team have become the most successful County Team in the Association's history, reaching the final of the ICC. In the Quarter Final we beat Gloucestershire 22-18 at Donyatt in Somerset. Thanks to Gloucestershire for agreeing to a closer venue than originally chosen by the ESMBA. The Semi Final resulted in a 27-13 win over West Sussex at Daventry. In the Final, we pushed West Midlands all the way with the result in the balance right up to the final two ends but just lost 25-15 (179-179 shots). It should be noted that the Premier players funded the final three games entirely out their own pockets including the venue hire for the Quarter Final. This will have saved the Association around £2000. My thanks go to all of the Officers, Captains, players, umpires, partners and supporters who have helped make this season such a success.

171.09 Social Secretary's report:

No Report.

171.10 Press & Promotion Officer's report:

The Summer League forms will go out with the minutes of this meeting. There have been some discussions relating to the geography of the leagues but this will be decided once the entries have been received. Although it is becoming increasingly difficult to publish our reports in the local press I am pleased with the response the County Team have received following the Premier Team's success. We appeared as Headline News on Radio Cornwall's sports news this morning and following this an interview with Nigel Nicholls was also aired.

171.11 Area Representatives' report:

Central Area: In a closely fought competition, which went to the last couple of matches, the Premier Division was won by Withiel Oaks by just 2 points from Lostwithiel. They in turn finished 2 points above Ladock Chiefs. At the death both teams had a chance to win the league – well done and congratulations Withiel.

The first division also was a very close run competition which also went down to the very last games to establish a winner. St. Agnes Gulls topped the table by one point with Truro City Golds in second one point above Luxulyan Maroons. Again, a fiercely contested finish with all three teams having a chance to win the league. The third and final round of the Inter Area competition was played at Carnmoggas on 22nd January. It finished with Central beating West 25 – 15 and North beating East also by 25 – 15 resulting in Central Area winning the competition and retaining the trophy. The Inter Area rinks competition is to be played at Carnmoggas on Sunday 19th March. Good luck to all bowlers. The Central Area K.O. Competition final was played on Friday 10th March at Truro (neutral mat) between St. Agnes Gulls and Ladock Chiefs with Ladock winning 19 – 15. Congratulations to Ladock. I would also like to congratulate Nigel Nichols and the Cornwall County Premier team for reaching the final of the ICC competition for the first time. A big thank you to the CCSMBA committee for all their hard work.

East Area: The East season has now been completed and after the lead positions in both divisions changed almost weekly, the winners of the Premier League were Landrake with Callington Eagles a close second. In Division One,

Lanreath Reds were the eventual winners with Calstock finishing in second place. Both leagues were well competed and were only to be decided by the last two games. Well done to everyone and for those clubs not entering the Summer League, enjoy the break until next season.

In what will be his last meeting, the Committee thanked Derek for all of his hard work in the East Area on behalf of the CCSMBA.

North Area: We held an area meeting on Monday 10th March and it got very heated at times. The main talking point was the number of players available for the Inter Area Rinks Competition as, to date, we are still two short.

Other items arising were:

- 1) Could badges be provided by the County for the members that take part in the Inter Area?
- 2) Is there anything that can be done to prevent club competitions from clashing with County fixtures?
- 3) Our competition secretary has given notice that he is to stand down at the end of the season.
- 4) Is there a regular date for County Committee Meetings?

In answer to the queries, the committee confirmed that should badges be awarded to members that take part in the Inter Area Competitions they would need to be given to each area and not just the North as they would be paid for out of County Funds. In view of this the committee agreed that they did not see that a badge would act as an incentive for players to take part and that it would be an additional expense, therefore it was agreed that badges would not be awarded. With regards to fixtures, it is stated in the County rules that clubs should inform the Competition Secretary of their own events in order to avoid clashes with the County Fixtures and clubs are reminded of this fact. It is in the interest of both the County and individual clubs to avoid clashes where possible as more members are likely to attend each competition. Finally, Committee Meetings are usually held every two months.

West Area: We have recently held our pre-AGM meeting where five proposals have been put forward to amend some of our local rules mainly surrounding our afternoon league. We have two new clubs that are interested in joining the area and it is a possibility that another village may be creating a club therefore the West Area is looking very healthy at the moment.

All Area Representatives were reminded to contact teams in contention to win the league of their requirements to play in the Bebbington Cup and Truscott Plate County Finals.

171.12 Items for discussion from correspondence (if necessary):

None.

171.13 Any other business:

Club Insurance: With no further clarification received from the ESMBA, it was agreed that it was each club's responsibility to ensure that they have the correct insurance policy for the type of bowls played at their venue.

County Survey: Many responses to the County Survey had been received which, in turn, have helped the committee to understand the opinion of the membership further. It was clear to see that the membership felt that the current league format was suitable however the committee agreed that there was some scope to make the league more accessible for players. The results also showed the committee that members felt that there was space to increase fees such as league entry and this would be discussed further. It was agreed to take some key points from the survey for further discussion at the Open Forum following the AGM.

Open Competition: The deadline for this competition had now closed and unfortunately only 10 teams had entered. The committee agreed that the competition had not been supported due to the timing but felt that as a sponsor had been obtained for this event and as the County would be charged for the late cancellation of the hall the competition should still go ahead. It was agreed to contact the sponsor to explain that the competition had not reached capacity and to offer some of the sponsor money back to them. This would keep the relationship with the sponsor amicable for the future and crucially the Association would not lose money on the event.

Area Definitions: Following the confusion at the last meeting it was agreed to formally define the Area Borders in the constitution and therefore a proposal had been drafted to be sent to clubs ahead of the AGM.

Proposer: Nick Truscott

Secunder: Steve Williamson

Unanimously agreed.

Special General Meeting: In order to agree the accounts for the 2015/2016 season a Special General Meeting will be called by the committee for Sunday 30th April 2017 at 3.30pm (approximately) following the Annual

Presentation Lunch at Carnmarth Hotel in Newquay. The AGM will then follow.

ESMBA EGM: The committee have been notified of the ESMBA's intention to hold an EGM on Friday 7th April 2017 in order to discuss increasing membership affiliation fees to include personal accident insurance. The committee have previously discussed this proposal and agreed that it did not see any benefit to the members to include personal accident insurance. Questions were also raised relating to the insurance premiums that the ESMBA will be paying to Sutton Winson should this be successful. The committee therefore unanimously agreed that the delegates at the meeting should vote against this proposal.

Carnmoggas Indoor Bowling Club: A further addendum to our agreement with Carnmoggas Indoor Bowling club had been received for the 2017/18 season at the current rate of hire. This addendum had been passed through the buyers solicitors to ensure that they were aware of the agreement.

Club Mat Standards: The East Area Representative has recently been approached by a member raising concerns relating to a club's mat / floor in his area. The committee agreed that there is no standard for a hall or mat specified in the County or National rules.

DBS Checks: The County have recently been asked by the ESMBA to ensure that the relevant DBS certificates are in place for Officers in contact with Under 18s and vulnerable adults as the County will shortly be joined by a talented U18 player. This player is a current member of the England Squad and therefore the relevant checks need to be in place for the journeys to these fixtures should he not travel with his parents. It was agreed to contact the ESMBA's Safeguarding Officer to confirm what needed to be done and to report back at the next meeting.

Inter Area Competition: Due to the issues faced by Areas to get players for this competition it was agreed to add this to the open forum agenda for further discussion.

Club Competitions: As previously discussed, it is a County Rule that clubs should inform the Competition Secretary of their own events in order to avoid clashes with the County Fixtures. It is also stated that County Competitions take precedence over every other competition except those run by the ESMBA. It is in the interest of both the County and individual clubs to avoid clashes where possible as more members are likely to attend each competition. The County can also help advertise individual competitions and report on results if they are informed.

171.14 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on 15th May 2017 7.30pm at Ladock Village Hall.

171.15 Close meeting:

With no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.22pm.

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

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

Hon: Secretary: Elise Daniell

Dated: 20th March 2017