

KENT COUNTY SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Website: www.kentshortmatbowls.co.uk

*****AFFILIATED TO E.S.M.B.A.*****



PRESIDENT
A Rycraft

CHAIRMAN
T. Coles

SECRETARY
Ms M Fitzgerald

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF KENT COUNTY SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION HELD AT LANGLEY VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 6th JULY 2015

OFFICERS/	MR T COLES	CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE	MR M MATTHEWS	VICE CHAIRMAN
PRESENT	MS M FITZGERALD	SECRETARY
	MR D GROOM	TREASURER
	MRS S WATSON	COMPETITION SECRETARY
	MR T RYCRAFT	COUNTY TEAM MANAGER
	MR BARRY BAKER	RULES & REGULATIONS OFFICER
	Ms S SMITH	COMMITTEE
	MRS P ELLIS	COMMITTEE
	MRS V MATTHEWS	COMMITTEE

Representatives of the following Clubs were present at the Meeting:

Burham	Wye
Boughton Monchelsea	West Malling
Langley	Woodpeckers
Ryarsh	Joydens Wood
Shorne	
St Mary's Platt	
Tunbury	
Tunstall	

1. APOLOGIES Apologies for absence were received from Boughton Monchelsea, Culverstone, Hollingbourne, Smarden and Snodland.
2. MINUTES The Chairman asked the meeting if they agreed that the minutes published for last year's meeting were a true record. Proposed by Ray Ryder from Tunbury Club & seconded by Christine Groom of Ryarsh Club.
3. M A T T E R S There were no matters arising.
ARISING

4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT The Chairman read his report as follows;

“Good evening everyone;

As this is my third Chairmans report, I would like to start off saying it is my privilege to be Chairman of Kent with such a great committee.

This year has seen a variety of challenges including our Treasurer resigning at the AGM last year and our President sadly passing away, also with the problems we encountered with NLL.

All of the above challenges have now been met. Thanks to Derrick Groom for stepping in as Treasurer for this season and agreeing to extend it for a further year & Andrea Rycraft for taking on the role of President.

I am pleased to confirm that the NLL listened to the Committee on behalf of our members complaints and acting upon them.

On the competition front we ran our four main events this year, fours, triples, pairs & singles and I would like to extend my congratulations to all the winners & finalists.

On a sad note we failed to run the club competition due to lack of entries. As a committee, we have looked at this issue and are hoping that with a few changes this event will be returning in the 2015/2016 season. Many thanks to Sonia Watson for the running of the county competitors and also Nicky Bartlett who assisted her. We need our competitions to be supported by all of your club members old and new, so please spread the word that the heating has been sorted and we have been promised that it will not be hat & gloves weather while playing again.

Our three county teams have all been in action during the last 12 months. My thanks go to Tim Rycraft, Derrick Groom & John Rider for running them along with their captains, Jeff Vanns, Martin Matthews & Alan Ellis.

Thanks also goes to our Secretary Michelle Fitzgerald, making sure all the paperwork goes to the clubs, please make sure that she has all the correct details otherwise you will not get the information that is needed.

Also thank you to Martin Matthews, Valerie Matthews, Sue Smith & Pat Ellis for giving the rest of the Committee their views on matters surrounding bowling & our county. Also Barry Baker for guiding the county Umpires, making fair & just calls when it comes to the rules. We need more qualified Umpires so if anyone would like to become one, please contact us and we will forward this to Barry.

The county & bowling in general has taken a downward trend and without all our clubs doing their bit for th sport it will continue to happen, we as a Committee will be looking at some new initiatives to try & combat this trend & could be looking for volunteers from our clubs to aid us with this.

The county website will be replaced by a new site over the next few months following the retirement of Mick Sayer. We would like to thank Mick for all he has done for us on the website & bowling in general.

Moving forwards, the county will try to give its members the best competitions and the best venues to play them along with strong Committee that will always try to do its best for you the member. Good luck to everyone for the 2015/16 season, enjoy your bowls & above keep healthy.

I now pass over to Derrick for the treasurer's report.

5. TREASURER'S **Explanation** - Following a desperate plea from our Chairman, I took the accounts over in August last year, knowing that no proper accounting records had been kept since April, although registrations Secretary/Team Manager/Comps Secretary had continued to pay in funds & that the Chairman had written cheques to pay the bills, i.e the account had run itself. The bank then took over 3 weeks to acknowledge that I was not an international money launderer & accept me as an authorised signatory & to finally let me have up to date balances.

Using a variety of figures pencilled into the account book, paying in receipts, bills, involves & sundry paperwork, I constructed a set of accounts which amazingly came within £4 of the bank accounts. After 5 months of no agreements I decided that was close enough and continued from there.

I WOULD EMPHASISE THAT THERE IS NO SUGGESTION OR EVIDENCE OF MIS-APPROPRIATION OR MALPRACTICE, IT WAS SIMPLY DISARRAY.

I have felt in the past that our account have always been over-elaborate, complicated and unnecessary. We are not a commercial enterprise or trading organisation, our turnover is less than 35k, we are not registered for VAT we have no employees. We are simply an association of members and have no need or legal requirement for business type profit & loss accounts, depreciation methods or full balance sheets etc., and in agreement with the Committee I have simplified our accounts and hopefully made them more understandable & easier for continuity. The accounting records are on a spreadsheet and the totals carried onto the balance summary that you have before you.

Working down the summary, the first part is income, which gives our source of funds, the next part is expenditure, which shows where our money goes. This is followed by our equivalent of a profit & loss account and shows what funds we have & the amount being carried forward & should agree with the bottomline figure which shows where our funds are.

Comments - The figures for the previous year are my approximations, for comparison only and will only become manful in the future. I have lumped non repeat items under Sundry Other. his year the shortfall in income is due mainly to the fact that other than competitions, no fund raising events were held & this is offset to a large extent by the lack of expenditure on these events. We purchased 1 new mat otherwise there is little change.

I have scrapped the Assets Register as pointless. We have a few county badges, some out of date rule books, 17 mats and their associated playing equipment. The only value we could place on these would be meaningless, purely notional guesswork as 2nd hand and what somebody might be prepared to pay (we might possibly have to pay somebody to take them away). To us, their value is solely in the fact that without them, we would not be able to play.

If you have any questions or problems with he accounts, please put them to me at the AGM where i shall have all the paperwork available for inspection.

6. T E A M
M A N A G E R ' S
R E P O R T

Dear Members,

Once again it is my pleasure to make a report on behalf of the County Squad for the 2014/15 season....already it seems a long time ago!

This was my 3rd season as Squad Manager. Our points system yielded 8 new players to badge. All 8 played in the squad and as expected they all excelled themselves and slotted into the team beautifully.

On behalf of the county and squad I would like to take this opportunity to thank the new B team management of John Rider and Alan Ellis, and of course make the same thanks to Derrick Groom, Martin Matthews and Jeff Vanns for their continued support to the teams. Again, the county benefited from our shirt sponsor James Villa's Holidays it would be remiss not to thank them too.

Before I move to the team reports I want to thank the players who, as always committed themselves to the 'cause'; they bowled their hearts out and I know on many occasions had their bowling hearts on their sleeves. The county thanks them all. Moving to the team reports, starting with the:

The Premier Team: The team qualified in second place running in behind a very strong Hampshire side, as a result the team progressed to the knock out stages where Kent was asked to play Hereford. I believe this was the first time that the Premier side had played Hereford so was unchartered ground for the team.

Despite a very difficult venue that included mats that were in ridiculously poor condition the team proved too strong and destroyed Hereford by 38 points to 2. This allowed the team to progress to the quarter final where our nemesis of recent years Cheshire waited, I was confident that despite losing to Cheshire during the past two seasons Kent would compete and possibly cause an upset by beating the 7 years in a row champions. After the 1st session the results were 2 games a piece, after the second session the results were again split with 4 games a piece. Unfortunately in the third session Cheshire came out strong and won 3 of the 4 games. With the shots bonus being very tight it meant that Kent needed all 4 final games; as the final series games progressed the pressure built on both sides, big shots were made and big shots were missed by both teams. As the last few ends drew to a close Cheshire held their nerve and scored the points they needed to nudge Kent out. The final result read 25 points to Cheshire and 15 points to Kent, 174 shots to 166 shots. In the end the difference was only 2 1/2 games! I am sure that the team has continued to develop and will be an even greater force next season. Interestingly, Hampshire went on to win the ICC Premier Championship de-throning Cheshire from their long run.....Kent can take heart from this result as over the last 2 seasons Kent has beaten Hampshire over the two games.

Finally, and certainly not least Heather Harwood who supported me during each match by collecting the scorecards and recording the results, for the bowlers who did the extra mile, helping with the raffle, helping preparing the equipment and getting everything ready.....without this help my day would be that much more difficult. Without this support I am not sure that I could not cope.

The A-Team: Under the guidance of Derrick Groom and Martin Matthews the team faced what might be their toughest test in many years; the reason I say this is that Kent A was the two times incumbent champions and were looking to defend the title for an unprecedented three times in a row.

After a very tight group where Hampshire pushed Kent to the very limits Kent topped the group and kept their status by heading into the knock out stage as a group winner.

The draw pushed our team onto a very strong Devon A side in the quarter final stage. I do not know if the long drive to Bristol or the fact the game was played mat on mat when our players prefer hard floors and fast mats was to blame or whether the pressure of being the double champions was too much for us but when push came to shove we were left lacking and fell short to a very good Devon side. They dominated from the first bowl to the last. After a hard defeat the team lost 29 points to 11 points and 200 shots to 132, we have to acknowledge the determination and skill of Devon who worked hard for their victory. This may have catapulted them onto great things as they completed the competition as A team champions.

As in my previous two seasons I followed the A side to every game and for me having watched them through the year something was missing. I am not quite sure what that 'something' was but I know despite a tough year where our pride was 'pricked' we will pick ourselves up again and reach for the stars again.

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to thank this group of players who like the rest of the squad wore their hearts on their sleeves and gave everything.

The B Team: Under the new management of John Rider and Alan Ellis the Kent B- Team again had an impressive season, the team fielded 45 players through the season and success came in 9 wins out of a possible 11 matches.

Unfortunately the main event game against West Sussex for the annual Shield finished with defeat and a 33 points to 17 points defeat and 241 shots to 215. We are confident that we will win this trophy back next season when we host this event in Kent.

Thank you this set of players who supported the squad and when requested stepped up into the A or Premier side, they committed to the county, team, John and Alan and without their dedication, help and support we could not have achieved what we did.

Other highlights for the squad included two squad days at the start of the season and a mid season match between the Premier & 'A' teams. Despite the team 'losing' money I am proud of the teams contributions to the county; this group of players collected £956 in raffle money alone during the season.

I am looking forward to a summer away from bowls but also know come September I will be chomping at the bit to start the new season and to continue our development and campaign to build Kent again and put us back at the top of the bowling map.

Finally a thanks to the county committee who have supported me throughout the season.

As you can see from this report the teams did not win any silverware but perhaps will be starting another transition as a number of established and experienced bowlers have decided to step down, we will miss them and on behalf of the county wish them all the very best. This job has given me a great deal of pride and pleasure and I could not have asked for more. Thank you to everyone involved.

7 ELECTION OF OFFICERS The Chairman took over the duty for the Election of Officers.

Mr Coles confirmed with the members present that nominations for the current officers had been received and were unopposed, with this mind The Chairman asked that these were voted on en-bloc which was unanimously agreed by the members present. all of the applicants were accepted as shown below;

Chairman:	Mr Thomas Coles
Vice-Chairman:	Mr Martin Matthews
Secretary:	Ms Michelle Fitzgerald
Treasurer:	Mr Derrick Groom
Competition Secretary:	Mrs Sonia Watson
Rules & Regulations Officer:	Mr Barry Baker

8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE Nominations for the required three Committee members had been received as listed below which were also agreed unanimously & voted en-bloc as they were unopposed.

Committee:	Val Matthews Nicky Bartlett Sue Smith
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The Chairman welcomed the members to the Committee.

P R E S I D E N T The Chairman confirmed that the Presidents had completed one year of her three year term of office and that she was willing to continue, this was agreed by the members present.

9. PROPOSALS Burham SMBC proposed Mrs Julie Bradshaw be appointed for the forthcoming 2013/14 season as the Independent Reviewer to audit the accounts of the Kent County Short Mat Bowls Association. This was unanimously agreed by the members present.

10 . FEES On behalf of the Committee, and as requested by the previous AGM the Treasurer reviewed the following proposed fees which had been sent to the members with this years nominations and proposals:-

- 1) Secretary's allowance - £1,155.00 per season paid bi annually
- 2) Competition Secretary's allowance - £440.00 per season paid bi annually
- 3) Treasurer's allowance - £220.00 per season paid bi annually
- 4) County team managers basic allowance - £30.00 per manager per season (Premier, A & B)
- 5) Rules & Regulations Officer basic allowance - £30.00 per season
- 6) Club Affiliation Fees - £20.00 per season
- 7) Adult member (individual) - £6.00 per season
- 8) Junior member (individual under 18) - Free
- 9) County team match fee (adult) - £7.50 per game
- 10) County team coach visitor - £2.50 per trip
- 11) County team & practice matches (junior) - £3.50 per game
- 12) Domestic games & county team practice events (adult) - £5.00 per event
- 13) Domestic games (juniors) - Free

All of the above were proposed by Nicky Bartlett from Tunbury Short Mat Bowls Club and seconded by Rita Manfield of Tunbury Short Mat Bowls Club.

Meeting closed 20:17