

KENT COUNTY SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

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

PRESIDENT
A. Rycraft

CHAIRMAN
T. Coles

SECRETARY
R Berry



MINUTES OF THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held on 2nd July 2018 at Langley Village Hall

Representatives from the following clubs attended:

Burham, Chalk, Hollingbourne, Kemsing, Newchurch, St Marys Platt, Tunbury, West Kingsdown, Wye,

A list of names can be provided on request.

Committee members present

R Berry, T Coles, A Ellis, A Rycraft, T Rycraft, N Tresadern, L Wynn,

1) **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

The Secretary informed the meeting he had received apologies from:

The Treasurer Mr Allan Plowman due to last minute sickness, and also Mr Barry Baker and Mrs Ann Lester who could not attend. In addition the following clubs also extended their apologies:

Hamstreet, Headcorn, Tunstall, West Kingsdown & Fawkham, Woodpeckers & Wootton.

2) **PREVIOUS AGM:**

The minutes were agreed as a true account of the previous AGM. Proposed Mr A Ellis, Seconded Mrs S Watson. Agreed Unanimously

3) **MATTERS ARISING:**

No matters arising

4) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Last year I reported that we were hoping to have a contract in place with the NLL Academy. This unfortunately did not happen so we were forced to move the county equipment and venue to the Howard School, which was found by Rob Berry our Secretary and visited by myself, Derek Ford our Vice Chair, along with Nicky Tresadern. This was done with approval from the rest of the committee, hence we moved, which was a good move as this school wanted us, but perhaps was not the best move for our members.

As you know we pride ourselves in listening to our members and the venue may change again in the near future. Thank you to Mike Doorey and Tim Rycraft for their work involved in this so far.

Website

The website is now up and running which is proving to be a great media outlet for us, thanks to our Webmaster Tim Rycraft, he has spent many hours putting content on there. We also have the Facebook page as well, which is now an open group so all can read, comment and ask questions if needed.

Bowling

The county bowling is still on a general downward trend.

We all need to recruit new members to come to our clubs, help them to feel welcome with the aim that they become fully integrated members in Kent.

We are still looking at ways to halt the drop off in members in our clubs and county, if any member has an idea of how to help please let us know. It was great to see some new Members playing this year from the Herne Bay club, and also some of old members that have left to do other things come back, long may this continue.

Competitions

On the Competition front we ran our 4 main events this year

Fours, Triples, Pairs & Singles. congratulations to all the winners and finalists in all of these and for those that chose to participate.

SINGLES

Winner - CHRIS BULL - HAWKINGE

Runner Up - Michael Doorey - LANGLEY

PAIRS

Winners - Michael Doorey & Rob Ferguson - LANGLEY

Runners up - Allan Plowman & Patrick Finnis – RYARSH

TRIPLES

Winners - Linda Wynn Gary Allard, Thomas Coles - TUNBURY & LANGLEY

Runners up - Eddie Allen, Grant Allen, Mike Trotter – HERNE BAY

FOURS

Winners - Dave Mason, Joe Kelly, Eddie Allen, Grant Allen - HERNE BAY

Runners Up - Tim Rycraft, Michael Doorey, Michelle Fitzgerald , Phillip Ramsden - WYE & LANGLEY

Congratulations to all of them, the county presentation day is still to be decided, this is because we had to cancel for the ICC Premier final. This date will be forwarded to the clubs and put on our social media platforms.

Unfortunately, the Club Competition has not run again this year, due to a combination of reasons. However, we are hoping that this will be put back on for 2018-19 season.

Many thanks to Keith Austin for the running of the county competitions this year and also to Nicky Tresadern who has assisted him and took over after Keith announced he was moving to Lincolnshire in December. Good luck to Keith in this new adventure and carry on enjoying your bowls.

I hope that all clubs will support the county in the running of our 4 domestics and 4 nationals completions which are run every year and support Nicky Tresadern in them.

County Teams

Our three County teams have all tried their best in the last 12 months. My thanks goes to Tim Rycraft, Keith Austen & Alan Ellis for running them along with their Captains of Nicky Tresadern , Peter Richards and Gordon Elliot.

Congratulations to all the teams, Tim Rycraft has also been given an extension for another Season as county manager

Secretary

It is a very sad time for Kent that Rob Berry has decided to step down, as he has had some excellent innovative ideas to move the county paperwork into the 21st century, Well Done Rob thank you for trying to move us into a modern era.

Who ever decides to take on this role will have to look at how we as a county and individual clubs handle data due to the law changing recently.

I hope that all the clubs would try and find a new secretary from their ranks to take over this challenging role.

We need and would welcome new people to take on the roles of available positions on the committee these will have to come from the floor, so please make yourself known to if you wish to be considered for the positions. Although trying to please all does not happen, it is rewarding.

Treasurer

Allan Plowman has done a great job in keeping us in the Black this Season. Plus, a big thank you to all the many sponsors however big and small they were.

Thanks goes to the rest of my committee

Linda Wynn, Michael Doorey, Rob Ferguson, Alan Plowman, Tim Rycraft, Nicky Tresadern and Alan Ellis for their unseen dedication and for being a great team.

Final thank you to Barry Baker in making sure there was an umpire at most games this season. Plus Tim Harwood thank you for all your unseen dedication to safeguarding. We do try and listen to our members but cannot act on rumours, if

you have something to say please don't fester and let us know so we can try and solve it before it gets to become an issue.

Good luck to everyone for this coming season enjoy your bowls, Regards, Thomas Coles, K.C.S.M.B.A. Chairman

This report was proposed by Mr R Offord and seconded by Mr F Davis and agreed unanimously.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT:

This year we have reported a profit of £6,123.55 which looks good on paper. However, of this, £5,180 relates to the sponsorship money we have received from various people for the county shirts less the cost of the shirt sample. The main sponsor being Mr Derrick Crouch and special thanks also go to Alan Ellis in getting people and companies he knows to donate to us. Without this the profit for the year is £943.55

The venue hire this year includes some costs for NLL from last year.

Due to storage issues we had to have off site storage whilst at NLL and are now renting a storage container on site at Howard School.

As the presentation is later in the year now there hasn't been as many trophies bought and these will be in next year's accounts.

ESMBA membership fee increased by a £1, which wasn't passed on to the county members.

Balance in the bank account is £20,949.66, excluding the money allocated for the county shirts this leaves £15,769.66, up from last year's balance of £14,826.11.

In the absence of the Treasurer the Chairman confirmed that the accounts had been audited by Mr Derrick Groom.

This report was proposed by Mr J Rycraft and seconded by Mr T Chawner and agreed unanimously.

6) SQUAD MANAGER'S REPORT:

Dear Members,

Once again it is my pleasure to make a report on behalf of the County Squad for the 2017/18 season.

This was my 6th season as Squad Manager. Our points system delivered 9 new players. All 9 played in the squad and performed strongly for Kent.

On behalf of the squad I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the team captains and assistant managers for their support and help during the season, unfortunately, our new 'A' team assistant Manager Keith Austin has stepped down due to a decision to move away from Kent; I know the whole squad wishes him and his family the best of luck in their new home and I know we hope to see him on the mat sometime, perhaps playing for his new county. Equal thanks for their contributions goes to Nicky Tresadern, Peter Richards, Alan Ellis and Gordon Elliott who all helped organise things in their various teams.

Before I move to the team reports I want to also thank the players who commit themselves to our county, those players get up in the early hours during the winter and bowl without payment or thanks, they just do it for the pride, for the honour and for the pleasure and on occasions for the unrewarded pain when things go wrong....all in the name of representing Kent, thank you.

Moving to the team reports, I would like to start with the:-

Premier Team:-

Again, the ESMBA (Governing Body) ran two competitions; the first and primary event which involves 20 players playing 16 games per match continued as normal with the Kent team taking having a very disappointing round robin. Kent were in their toughest group for many years playing against Essex, Norfolk and Surrey. It was a difficult campaign with player availability playing a big part in disappointing results; consistency eluded the team and after some tough matches Kent finished 3rd to Norfolk and Essex. This meant for the first time in 6 years the Kent Premier team failed to qualify into the main event, instead moving forwards into a consolation tournament.

The draw matched Kent against Avon; a team that Kent has played rarely. The players rose to the early start and long drive to Daventry coming out 36 points to 4 victors. This placed Kent against Cheshire in the semi-final, however, after poor weather pushed back the match date Kent progressed into the final as Cheshire withdrew from the game due to a lack of player interest, this was unfortunate as we would have preferred to have played and hopefully won the game that took us to our first Premier final in many years. Kent were now matched against an old foe in the form of Somerset. This was played in Tamworth and was an evenly matched battle; Kent took the early start with a 6pts-2pts first session. Looking to consolidate in the second session Kent had a difficult time when they only secured 2pts losing 6pts. This meant that the lunch time score was 8pts each and everything to play for in the afternoon.

The 3rd series of games was tight going slightly in Somerset's favour when they secured a 5pts to 3pts session. This meant that both sides needed a good 4th session; Somerset to their credit held their nerve securing 4pts and dropping 4pts. When the bonus points were added Kent had lost by 21pts to 19pts and 178 to 184 shots.

In the end the Premier side were left wondering what might have been; it has been a disappointing season with disappointing results, It is my job to get the best from the players, that didn't happen often enough and for that I take the responsibility and apologise.

The second tournament was eagerly awaited as it is a cracking tournament; this event is known as the 'team event' and duplicates an International match. It is a game whereby 16 players are split into 4 sets of fours (rinks); the match is played across 4 games and played at one time with the overall team with the highest shot difference winning. Kent played in a local heat in a mini round robin against Surrey and West Sussex. The first game saw Kent play our neighbouring foe West Sussex where four tight games ensued, however, at the end of the games Kent lost 32 shots to 47 shots. The second game was against Surrey and despite winning two out of 4 games Kent went down by 37 shots to 55 shots. This meant Kent were in 3rd place and out.

Finally, with regards the Premier team I would like to thank my helpers, first Heather Harwood who has supported me during each premier match collecting scorecards and recording results, Linda Wynn who always supports me with little nudges of support and finally Nicky Tresadern who has captained the side offering support and encouragement to all during the day and finally to the players whose support allowed me to run the side...as I am often saying this is their team and I am proud to be part of it.

The A-Team:-

Under the new partnership of Keith Austin and Peter Richards the A team initially struggled for consistency, however, experience and teamwork came through in the end when the players found their form and secured second place to a resurgent Surrey.

This put the Kent A side against a very strong West Midlands team in the quarter final. After an incredibly tight game that saw the game drawn 20 pts all we were asked to nominate 3 individuals who would have to play a bowling penalty shoot out. Huge congratulations to the magnificent three Ray Offord, Keith Austin and Neil Faulkner who stepped up to the plate and held the fate of the Kent A side in their hands. Sadly all three players lost out on their shoot out meaning Kent went out 3-0

The Kent A side also played in the second Fours team event meeting Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey in a local qualifier. Kent lost two out of three games with 38 to 50 shots defeat against Hertfordshire, 40 shots to 46 shots against Surrey and 66 shots to 32 shots win against Essex. Amazingly Kent qualified to the finals day on the basis that we were the national 'best loser', this made the players all the more determined to 'take the chance' that fate had given them as they met Devon, Hertfordshire and West Midlands. Kent won their first match against Hertfordshire with a convincing 51 shots to 31 shots victory. They then met the West Midlands who would go on to knock them out of the main event with a 31 shots to 47 shots defeat. With all to play for they met Devon in the final game losing 39 shots to 43 shots. This was the end of the line for Kent in this years team event. In the end the bowls did not quite run for Kent and with the travelling and early start in the mix the results were probably fair.

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to thank Keith and Peter along with the players who continued to wear their hearts on their sleeves and gave everything, always keeping the faith when all seemed lost and competing in all of their matches which is all any of us can ask....well done the A team.

The B Team:-

Under the management of Alan Ellis and Gordon Elliott the Kent B side started tremendously with a run of 9 wins from their first 9 games, 57 players helped represent the B side and after 12 games were played we won 10.

Kent held onto the annual Shield against West Sussex with a 30 points to 18 points and 270 shots to 207 shots win. No doubt West Sussex will be looking to regain this next season when we will be hosting.

Again my sincere thanks to this set of players who supported the squad and when requested stepped up into the A or Premier side. I very much appreciate their commitment to the county. I would also like to thank Alan and Gordon for their dedication to Kent and to the team.

Other highlights for the squad included two squad days at the start of the season and an end of season squad dinner.

We have a mini team tournament lined up in July when Kent will play Dorset, Essex and Norfolk. Must confess to enjoying a summer away from bowls but also know come September I will be ready to start the new season.

I would like to add a thank you to the county committee who have supported me throughout the season. This is a big job that is relentless in the time it consumes, I am sure that Kent can do better next season and remain determined to get it right on behalf of the players for the players. Yours in bowling, Tim Rycraft, Kent Squad Manager.

This report was proposed by Mr F Davis and seconded by Mrs S Wicks and agreed unanimously.

7) ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

CHAIRMAN:

Mr Coles confirmed that he was withdrawing his previous nomination for the Chair and would not be standing. This was therefore taken to the floor for volunteers which resulted in Mr G Allard from Tunbury volunteering to take this position. This was proposed by Mr R Offord and seconded by Mr A Ellis and agreed unanimously.

VICE CHAIRMAN:

This position was vacant and was therefore subject to volunteers from the floor. Mr R Offord from Tunbury volunteered without opposition. He was therefore proposed by Mrs S Watson and seconded by Mr D Ford and agreed unanimously.

TREASURER:

Mr A Plowman's nomination was accepted and agreed unanimously.

SECRETARY:

Mr Berry confirmed that he was also withdrawing his nomination as Secretary. No volunteers for this post were received from the floor therefore it was agreed that the new committee would seek a replacement urgently and that this volunteer could be co-opted onto the committee.

COMPETITION SECRETARY:

Mr Tresadern informed the meeting that he was withdrawing his nomination due to work commitments. This also meant that a new volunteer would be required. No volunteers for this post were received from the floor therefore it was agreed that the new committee would seek a replacement urgently and that this volunteer could be co-opted onto the committee.

UMPIRES CO-ORDINATOR

As per the constitution Mr Barry Baker had been proposed by the umpires; this was presented to the AGM for ratification and agreed unanimously.

TEAM MANAGER

As per the EGM completed prior to this AGM Mr T Rycraft was confirmed and agreed for this post.

8) ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mr M Doorey's proposal was accepted by the meeting and agreed unanimously.

No other formal nominations were received so volunteers from the floor were requested; Mrs L Wynn was proposed by Mr D Ford and Mr R Offord and agreed unanimously. Mr N Tresadern was proposed by Mr D Ford and seconded by Mr A Ellis and agreed unanimously.

9) PROPOSALS:

- a) Constitutional changes to the annual payment of the Secretary were proposed by Wye SMBC these were agreed unanimously.
- b) Constitutional changes to the annual payment of the Treasurer were proposed by Wye SMBC these were agreed unanimously.
- c) Constitutional changes to the annual payment of the Competition Secretary were proposed by Wye SMBC these were agreed unanimously.
- d) Wye Bowls Club proposed that KCSMBA should adopt an equality and diversity policy and as such put forward a proposal for the AGM this was agreed unanimously.

*** These documents and the new constitution will be available on the KCSMBA website***

10) MEMBERSHIP FEES AND FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

A financial proposal had been put forward to the members by the committee for approval; this was agreed unanimously whilst noting that the payment amounts would be recalculated due to the changes listed in section 9a to 9c shown above.

*** This document will be available on the KCSMBA website***

Meeting closed at 21.20