

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF KENT COUNTY SHORT MAT BOWLING  
ASSOCIATION HELD AT LANGLEY VILLAGE HALL ON SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2009

OFFICERS/	MR T RYCRAFT	CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE	MR D CARPENTER	VICE CHAIRMAN
PRESENT	MS M FITZGERALD	SECRETARY
	MRS J DAVEY	TREASURER
	MRS S WATSON	COMPETITION SECRETARY
	MR M WIEDEHOLZ	COUNTY TEAM MANAGER
	MR T COLES	COMMITTEE
	MRS I BENTON	COMMITTEE
	MR C ENGLAND	COMMITTEE

Representatives of the following Clubs were present at the Meeting:

Borden	Joydens Wood
Boughton Monchelsea	Langley
Burham	Newington
Chalk	Ryarsh
Culverstone	Shorne
Detling	St Mary's Platt
Eastling	Tunbury
Harrietsham	West Malling
Hempstead Valley	Whiteoaks
Hildenborough	Wye

ANNOUNCEMENT The Chairman opened his address by welcoming all members present to the Meeting. He continued with the following message....."Before we start our 21<sup>st</sup> AGM, I would like your permission to break protocol. Most of you will be aware that our President Ted Messer sadly passed away on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May. He was one of our founder members & we the committee wanted to acknowledge & remember his dedication to Kent & the sport during the 21 years of our association.

As Chris Hopkins the ESMBA Chairman has said on their website, he will be sadly missed & leaves an indelible mark on those who knew him, on a personnel note, I knew him for all of this time & I certainly won't forget him. Following his time as the Kent Manager, he also served as the England Team Manager with many international successes...as such we wanted to ask for your support with one minutes silence before we continue the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES Apologies for absence were received from Kim Spelman, Child Protection Officer, Barry Baker, St Mary's Platt Club & Balfour Club.

2. MINUTES      The Chairman asked the meeting if they agreed that the minutes published for last year's meeting were a true record? Mick Sayer, Langley club proposed that these were a true record & that it was not necessary to read them aloud. This was seconded by Brian Rust, Harrietsham club & agreed unanimously by the members present.
  
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 morning again; welcome to our 21st AGM and my report for my 2nd term as Chairman. It has been a challenging year with a number of interesting issues and opportunities. I will try to keep my report as brief as possible.

I don't want to steal the thunder from the following officer's reports but nevertheless wanted to say something. As Chairman, I have again been proud of our County teams; all three had great seasons. No doubt this is a reflection of the strength of our players and system; it should be said that without Mark's commitment and guidance these teams would certainly have been different and I believe less successful. I am also pleased that we have been able to remain financially fluid and on track under the guidance of our Treasurer Jan...thank you Jan for your hard work and support throughout the year.

Next I want to make a massive thank you on the association's behalf to Sonia our competition secretary; most of you will know that it has been a particularly tough year for her since the passing of her husband Colin; we all miss him. More recently she had an accident breaking her hip. I think it says something about Sonia that she has continued to fulfil her commitment with us and our competitions. I hope you will all continue supporting her as you have done this season. All the competitions ran properly, smoothly and without major issue....what else can you say to compliment the competition organiser? Sonia thank you.

Last year I made the mistake of missing out a big thank you to our secretary and my partner Michelle. What I see first hand is someone who works meticulously and consistently all year for you the members and the association. So it is with much pride and pleasure that I am going to make this thank you now.....I should also say that I like to sleep with two eyes shut which is why I haven't forgotten to thank her this year!

My thanks to the whole of the committee; they are all dedicated to the cause and work tremendously hard for our game and association. Without this committee's dedication we wouldn't have an association to play in or too criticise, please remember without these people we would have nothing.....I will re-emphasize this point by asking you to look at the list of volunteers and nominations for the coming year.

I am sure that as a sport we continue to face very tough times; this committee has recognised this and has tried to make inroads to a continuous growth and development programme for our game. We have been able to sell our surplus bowling equipment thus releasing the funds back to the association and perhaps more interestingly this excess equipment has helped start 3 new clubs. We now have a contact that we hope will allow us to gain entry to the schools across Kent; though we don't expect quick results. We are also working with the Kent County Council in a bowling codes forum; which after a long slow laborious start is beginning to yield results...the first being a joint web site introduction page sponsored by the KCC. We are also hoping for a triangular tournament with the Indoor & Outdoor codes in September that will showcase us to Sport England. This may help release funding in the future which has not been seen anywhere else in the country.

Perhaps one other indicator to our commitment to the development and growth of our game was the appointment of Mrs Kim Spelman as our Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Officer....unfortunately we have had a slow start due to issues with CRB clearance; none of which relate to Kim...the issues have all been with the processing of the paperwork. To the best of my knowledge we are the first short mat county in England to create this post and we are therefore duly proud of it.

I could not do a report without mentioning or thanking all of the helpers at Strood....without them we simply could not operate. There are so many unsung heroes...thanks to all.

Now onto a serious note, it has come to light that previous interpretations of the constitution may have been legally incorrect which as you will see have resulted in the voting changes announced this year.....I am sorry if this break in our 21 year history has confused anyone but this was as a consequence of very serious communications with one of our members. Subsequent visits and meetings followed with individuals from the ESMBA committee in Northampton, which resulted in these recommendations. With the members support we hope in the future to amend our constitution and bring it back in line with the governing body.

I must make a personal apology to the members as it has come to light that previous AGM's included discussions and resolutions that were outside AGM business and therefore should not have been included. For my part I can only say sorry. For this reason this years AGM will only include matters relating to the constitution. Anything else can be discussed outside of this meeting when the AGM is formally closed & the forum opened for general questions & answers.

Finally, I would like to say that this committee will continue to do its best for the association and will continue to work with you the members for the smooth running of our game in our county. I wish every member continued success into the next season and look forward to seeing you all on or around the bowls mats sometime soon

Thank you.....now over to the Treasurer for her report.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT The Treasurer opened her Report by welcoming members present. Well, it is nearly five years since that fateful day on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2004 that I became KCSMBA Treasurer. During this time I have been extremely astonished and amazed but not to the extent of being speechless!

I am once again pleased to report despite the credit crunch our bank balance remains healthy. We started this year with a balance of £12,549.71 and ended with £13,102.49 meaning that we kept to a very tight budget with no surprises.

Our main costs of halls & coaches were as forecasted. The cost of the halls only went up by £65.30 & this was with an extra weekend at Swale for the England match, 50% of which was subsidised by the ESMBA. We have one year left of our contract at Strood & we are looking very carefully at all venues & hours booked. Despite our worries of last year about diesel the cost of coaches actually fell by £335 & this is still cheaper than 2005.

It was also pleasing that entries for our domestic competitions rose slightly this year with increases in the singles & triples. There may be a number of reasons for this but I think we must pay tribute here to Sonia Watson. The KCSMBA has had some very good competition secretaries but in Sonia I believe we have an outstanding competition secretary in the time & effort spent & by the professional way the competitions are run. It is amazing how much time Sonia & many others give to the sport.

On the down side – like everyone else our interest rates have tumbled dramatically. For instance in the qtr from Jan to Mar this year we received under £5 compared to £94.25 last year with comparable amounts in the bank. Next year I estimate our interest will be under £30 – a loss of income of over £150, that is if rates stay the same & who knows about that!

The thing that has really astonished me once again, as it does every year, is the generosity given by the majority to make Kent's short mat bowling so enjoyable so a specially big thank you to Tim, & all the officers & members of this committee for their dedicated support & hard work throughout this last year & finally my last thank you to all our members for their support, help & generosity during the last year.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Davey for her report and asked if there were any questions from the floor.

Ray Anns of Borden club asked how we saw the financial future? Mrs Davey responded by stating that with the continued efforts with fundraising & all our other normal activities the future still seems bright. We will of course have to monitor this situation.

John Rycraft of Wye club wanted it noted that fundraising & sale of excess equipment was making the difference financially for the association. Without this a loss would have been reported.

It was proposed by Marion King of Hempstead Valley that the accounts be accepted.  
Seconded by Sid Brown of Hempstead Valley. Agreed unanimously.

6. **M A N A G E R ' S  
REPORT** The County Team Manager opened his report as follows;

"I would like to open by saying that my third Season as County Team Manager has been a very enjoyable one and following my re-election as county team manager in April I will be looking forward to taking the County forward for another 3 years.

The enthusiasm and commitment last season from all the county players was excellent, I would like to thank them all for this.

Now onto the individual team reports:

**The Premier Team: -**

Went unbeaten on their way through the group phase of the ICC Competition. The Quarter Final saw Kent win impressively 27pts to 9pts against Avon to set up a semi final match against last year's winners Cheshire. The competition through the day was fierce but fair, with Kent winning sessions 1 and 3. The match was level on points and was decided on shots which unfortunately for Kent went Cheshire's way; final score saw Kent lose by 20pts to 16pts.

Special Thanks must go to Tim Rycraft (Captain) for his efforts and support.

**The A-Team:-**

Went into this season as double English ICC champions looking for their third title in a row. Kent had a good run in the group phase of the competition only losing 1 game and that was against West Sussex. Kent finished Runners up in the group which meant a pre-lim match against Norfolk which Kent won convincingly. After that it was plain sailing through to the final beating on the way Somerset and Cornwall. The final again was contested between the two best teams in England – Kent and West Sussex. Unfortunately for Kent the History of winning three in a row was not to be and they lost to West Sussex 25pts to 11pts.

Special thanks must go to Ray Anns (Manager) and Keith Austin (Captain) for their efforts and support.

**The B-Team: -**

Proved that they also could win trophies by beating West Sussex again in the Shield Match which is held between the 2 counties. Kent won 33pts to 15pts, even with West Sussex fielding "A" and Premier team players. Kent has now won the trophy on 10 occasions and this year made it an impressive 6 years in a row. This success continued all thorough the season with Kent notching up an impressive set of results Played 11, Won 10, and Lost 1.

Special thanks must go to Derek Carpenter (Manager) Jan Davey (Assistant Manager) and John Hallett (Captain) for their efforts and support.

**The County Youth Team: -**

Unfortunately the number of juniors playing in competitions has dropped from last season, mainly due to college and work commitments, but those taking part have improved and grown through the year, with some juniors trialling for the England in the under 18's squad.

The youth team this year have played various games both against other counties and Kent clubs (St Mary's Platt, Ryarsh, Boughton, Downswood, and Hollingbourne) and in all these competitive games the Kent juniors have done Kent proud.

The annual Bert Allard trophy was held at Strood this year with 9 juniors taking part, the under 25's results were Gary Best (winner) and Matt Dillon (R-up) the under 18's Winner was Chris Philpott and R-up Carol Smith.

Kent took 1 junior team in May to represent Kent in the under 18's Woodbridge Trophy, the Kent team did well and managed to finish in 5<sup>th</sup> Place.

2 of our juniors Chris Wood (Tunstall) and Chris Philpott (Balfour) took part in the Burwash under 18's open competition; both Chris's did well with Chris Wood reaching the Qtr Final and Chris Philpott reaching the semi final.

Special thanks must go to Chris England and Samantha Philpott for their efforts and support.

**The ICC Summer League: -**

This is the second year Kent have entered a side into this competition. The competition this year is being played against Northampton, Essex, Hampshire and Surrey over a league basis with all teams playing each other. Kent have played their first two games against Surrey and Hampshire and won both games convincingly 32pts to 4pts and 34pts to 2pts respectively. Kent's final two home games will be against Northampton on July 20<sup>th</sup> and Essex on 3<sup>rd</sup> August at Burham village hall if anyone is interested in supporting please feel free to come along.

**Future Plans: -**

There are many good things in the pipework, I will not dwell on them in depth but just to give you all a taster of things to come:

1) I have through the Committee submitted a proposal to the E.S.M.B.A. to create a B- Team ICC Competition.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS Following the initial announcement & therefore the absence of the President, the Chairman asked the floor that because there were proposals for all the current officers with no opposition that these were elected en bloc; this was proposed by Brian Rust of Harrietsham club, seconded by Andrea Rycraft of Wye.

**Chairman:** Mr Tim Rycraft

**Vice-Chairman:** Mr Thomas Coles

**Secretary:** Ms Michelle Fitzgerald

**Treasurer:** Mrs Jan Davey

**Competition Secretary:** Mrs Sonia Watson

**Rules & Regulations Officer:** The Chairman confirmed that in line with the constitution Alfie Spelman had issued a ballot to all the umpires and had received support that he carry on as Rules & Regulations Officer.

8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE As the existing Committee members all had proposals which again were unopposed, the meeting agreed to accept them en bloc. This was agreed unanimously.

**Committee:** Irene Benton  
Chris England  
Derek Carpenter

9. PROPOSALS The Kent County Committee put forward the following proposition:-

**“ Kent County Constitution section 7.6 (Annual & other general meetings) has the following amendment:-**

**“The Chairman of the closing year shall chair over the first section of the general meeting”**

**NB – The amendment being the removal of the word ‘preside’ with replacement ‘chair’**

The meeting unanimously agreed this change.

10. INCREASE OF MEMBERSHIP FEES The Treasurer’s recommended that all of the current fees remain unchanged. Mick Sayer from Langley proposed, John Rycraft seconded, agreed unanimously.

The Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 10.46am.