

MINUTES of a Committee Meeting held on 3rd December 2008 at Langley Village Hall

1. MEMBERS PRESENT Mr T Rycraft, Ms M Fitzgerald, Mrs S Watson, Mr T Coles, Mrs J Davey, Mr A Spelman, Mrs I Benton & Mr C England.
2. APOLOGIES Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Carpenter, Mr M Wiedeholz & Mr E Messer.
3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING It was proposed that the Minutes of the last Meeting held on 20th October 2008 be accepted. Agreed unanimously.
4. MATTERS ARISING (a) **COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Mrs Watson reported that all the county competitions are proceeding smoothly with no problems. The National Singles/Pairs & Under 18's will be held on Saturday 17th January at Ryarsh Village Hall, Mrs Watson has contacted the National organiser with a view that the Kent teams who are interested in playing the triples & fours might be able to travel to another county to participate in these two competitions as entries here are below the minimum.

She went on to report that to date we have nine entrants for the Bowls & Brains competition being held at Snodland on the 3rd January; hopefully more entries will be forthcoming.

The entry forms for the Club Competitions were passed to the Secretary and will be distributed with these minutes.

- (b) **TEAM MANAGER'S REPORT:** In the absence of Mr Wiedeholz, the Secretary read out his report. County results were reported as follows:-

1/11

Surrey v Premier – 14 points (138 shots) to 26 points (191 shots)

B Team v East Sussex – 38 points (251 shots) to 2 points (116 shots)

9/11

London v Premier – 13 points (139 shots) to 27 points (206 shots)

East Sussex v A Team – 18 points (153 shots) to 22 points (190 shots)

London v B Team – 15 points (149 shots) to 25 points (211 shots)

23/11

Premier v West Sussex - 30 points (212 shots) to 10 points (161 shots)

A Team v West Sussex – 16 points (183 shots) to 24 points (192 shots)

B Team v West Sussex – 24 points (192 shots) to 16 points (161 shots)

30/11

Premier v Surrey – 33 points (219 shots) to 7 points (120 shots)

A Team v Surrey – 18 points (173 shots) to 22 points (165 shots)

B Team v Surrey – 29 points (201 shots) to 11 points (154 shots)

The draw for the knock outs has been made and the winner of group 5 (Kent's Groups) goes straight through to the Qtr finals, the runner up of our groups goes into a preliminary round.

Mr Wiedeholz wanted it noted that the county has a lack of juniors and two junior days at Strood have had to be cancelled; college/work commitments and travelling distance/cost seem to be contributing factors. There is an open day arranged for 14th December; flyers have been put around schools in Maidstone, Medway Towns, Swale & also Strood Leisure Centre.

Mr Wiedeholz requested agreement from the committee if the B Team could have end of season trophies for Managers & Players player as per the Premier & A Team; Committee unanimously agreed.

Mr Wiedeholz has also had discussions regarding the Kent v Country competition; awaiting update but it seems likely we could get a match next year at Swale with potentially Belgium, Sweden & France.

- (c) **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Mrs Davey reported that the Chairman of St. Mary's Island A.R.A had

telephoned to report that the bowling was going well & they wish to put in an offer for the mats that were on loan; the committee decided to accept their offer, the treasurer to contact them to arrange payment.

The number of clubs affiliated is now 1 more than last year; she thanked the secretary for her efforts in chasing clubs. It is hoped that the outstanding clubs would register soon.

The Treasurer was concerned that the mats at Strood needed vacuuming and wondered if this could be achieved at the next two county matches. The Treasurer confirmed the bank balance stood at £16869.76.

- (d) **MATS FOR SALE:** The Chairman confirmed that 2 mats had been sold to Walderslade club; he proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Jim Davey for delivering the equipment.
- (e) **GENERAL FUND RAISING:** Mrs Benton & Mrs Watson confirmed they will look for dates toward the end of the season for a race night & will report in due course.
- (f) **KENT TV:** The Chairman reported that Mr Carpenter had been successful in submitting some video footage from the recent England game & this is now available for viewing at www.kenttv.com (search under short mat bowls).
- (g) **STROOD LEISURE CENTRE:** The Chairman reported that Strood Leisure Centre are being firm with their proposed increases effective from 2010/11, the Committee agreed to consider the ramifications and other alternatives before closing a deal, it was therefore agreed that we would not commit to this new contract yet and would review the options in due course.
- (h) **UPDATED CONSTITUTION:** The Chairman reported that he has not had any feedback from the ESMBA Chairman as yet on our updated constitution; the Chairman will chase & report at the next meeting.
- (i) **CHILD PROTECTION:** Mr Spelman reported that Mrs Spelman is now up to speed on the current legislation following training at the Medway Adult Education Centre; he also confirmed that her CRB application has been applied for from an independent company based in Nottingham as required by the ESMBA.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) **KENT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:** The Chairman reported that he had again recently attended a bowls development meeting with representatives from all the other versions of bowls (i.e. indoor, outdoors, men's and women's). These meetings were chaired by the KCC and were now starting to move positively forwards. It is possible that in the future the KCC might help sponsor and develop a recruiting programme for bowls within Kent (i.e. recruitment leaflets in surgeries & libraries), the team has also been discussing a joint 'Kent' bowls introduction page for all the respective websites.

Discussions have also taken place with regards 'clubmark' which is a government sporting standard for child participation in sport.

The Chairman went on to report that separate discussions with Richard Boorman had also taken place since the last committee meeting, he is closely working with the KCC & the EIBA & now hopefully the KCSMBA with regards initiating a bowls in schools programme; short mat bowls is obviously well suited for this & there is much optimism that with some efforts by this Committee we may be able to develop our sport in secondary schools across the county. If this can be initiated Kent will be leading the way for the rest of the country.

- (b) **EIBA ROADSHOW (ENGLISH INDOOR BOWLING ASSOCIATION):** The Chairman then went on to report that following a recent invitation to the above event; he along with some of the committee members had attended a meeting which had the aim of forging closer links between our two versions of bowls.

It had been an interesting meeting and could potentially yield benefits to our members if we 'piggy backed' onto some of their schemes. They have nearly 240'000 members and offer individual membership benefits (i.e. certain discount schemes). This meeting overlapped with the development discussions previously reported and involved both the KCC & Richard Boorman.

Following the close of the meeting a number of indoor long mat clubs queried whether short mat could be introduced in and alongside their long mat venues. This would seem to be another avenue for short mat to develop; this will be investigated & pursued in due course.

- (c) **COACH DAY TRIPS:** The Chairman reported that as yet there have been no responses from the coach companies; Mrs Watson agreed to contact another company and report in the next meeting.
- (d) **CORRESPONDENCE:** The Chairman read an email from a member requesting a deferred county badge status; this member earned enough points to qualify but due to the need for an operation on their bowling arm were unable to meet the required criteria of representing the county in a competitive game (the rule states that failure to play means players do not receive their county badge). After some discussion this was approved by the Committee and will be ratified at the next AGM.

The Secretary reported that she had received a letter from the ESMBA inviting counties to agree to being linked onto their website. This was agreed unanimously.

- (e) **GENERAL:** The Chairman reported and wanted to congratulate Newington SMBC for their recent recruitment programme; following a village mail shot which offered tuition, they had signed up 15 new members. Any club wishing to use their format is welcome & can either contact the Secretary or Newington direct.

Due to reduced umpire availability Mr Spelman asked that we minute that any members interested in achieving umpire status should contact him as we can always use more umpires.

The Secretary reported that a new club had requested some additional bowling tuition; after some discussion it was agreed that Mr England & Mr Spelman will liase with them.

The Chairman asked if the Committee felt that meeting minutes should be made available on our website; this was agreed and would be investigated but maybe subject to space restrictions.

The Committee wanted to report the sad loss of Mr Colin Watson & Mrs Una Messer; both were heavily involved in short mat bowls within Kent & will be sadly missed by all.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Meeting would be held on Thursday 5th February 2009 at Burham Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 21:45pm.

SIGNED _____

DATED _____

****Please contact the Secretary if you have any donations for the Kent Youth Team****

Please send all stories/club news/club winner's information to Mick Sayer at micksayer@clara.co.uk for inclusion on the Kent Website www.kentshortmatbowls.co.uk

And also to the editor of our new newsletter Tony Mulcuck on tony@tmulcuck.wanadoo.co.uk

We need your support to continue these valuable assets!!