CORNWALL COUNTY SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 190th Management Committee Meeting held via Video Conferencing on Monday 11th May 2020.

Present: Chris Roberts, Elise Daniell, Peter Hore, Sandra Worton, Gill Smith, Nick Truscott, Nigel Nicholls, Rita Hancock, John Worton, Steve Fletcher, Yolanda Featherstone

190.00 Chairman's welcome:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm and thanked everyone for attending remotely.

190.01 Apologies for absence:

None.

190.02 Approve and sign minutes of the 189th committee meeting:

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

Proposer: Rita Hancock Seconder: Nick Truscott

190.03 Matters arising from previous meeting:

Following the previous meeting, the situation regarding the Coronavirus pandemic escalated very quickly and, in order to keep our members safe, the committee agreed that the only suitable course of action would be to postpone all remaining fixtures on the 2019/20 County Calendar. As this also included the County AGM, it has meant that the usual matter of electing officers has not been able to take place. Therefore, it was unanimously agreed that each committee member, if willing, would continue in their current roles until the AGM could be held. The position of County Team Manager is now vacant following Gill Smith's resignation at this meeting.

Although the committee fully appreciates the current situation that the Country is facing, it was previously decided to send out the annual club and affiliation renewals as usual as stipulated in the Constitution until such time as the committee were able to meet to discuss this further. This matter was added to the agenda for this meeting and was discussed under "Any Other Business".

Since the last meeting, the ESMBA have now paid the outstanding refunds relating to last season's ICC Rinks competition. Contact has been made with everyone that was due a refund and payments will be made out of the CCSMBA's account once bank details have been received from everyone.

190.04 Correspondence:

Email from Barry Hedges (ESMBA Chairman) providing a copy of the updates statement from the ESMBA relating to the coronavirus outbreak and the rearranged fixtures. A copy of this will be supplied to clubs with these minutes.

Email from Don Falck (Marazion SMBC) requesting that the usual affiliation renewals for members are suspended until an appropriate time in the future in view of the current situation relating to the Coronavirus outbreak. The committee deferred the discussion on this matter until later in the meeting where it was already scheduled on the agenda under "Any Other Business".

190.05 Treasurer's report:

Following on from our last meeting, the Annual Accounts for 2019/20 have now been prepared however they are yet to be audited due to the coronavirus situation. The draft accounts show that a small profit of £352.66 was made over the financial year which is positive considering we purchased the 8 new mats for the County. The bank balance is currently at a healthy level but obviously it may be impacted by the current outbreak.

The committee agreed that it was always the intention to return the CCSMBA's reserves to a level that could deal with situations such as the Coronavirus and this should mean that we will not be overly affected by a possible downturn in revenue over the next year.

190.06 Membership Secretary's report:

As you would expect in these very uncertain times, returns of the membership documentation is slow. At this present time I have received 13 renewals and amended lists and information that one club, Torpoint, will not be re-registering for this coming season due to lack of interest within the club with a loss of 13 members. I hope that some of these players may find others clubs within the area. Several clubs have contacted me with comments that they cannot understand why the registration is needed at this time with the uncertainty of play happening in the coming months. With help from Elise, I have explained that the Constitution calls for clubs to be registered by 31st May with only the minimum number of members (8) needed at this time. Only one club, St Keverne, has queried this information but several have asked that if no bowls are played would they be entitled to a refund on the membership fee. I said I would put this to the committee and would appreciate any comments.

190.07 Competition Secretary's report:

Due to the postponement of all competitions since our last meeting there is nothing further to report to this meeting. A discussion on how to proceed with the rearrangements and next season's calendar will be held later in this meeting.

190.08 Team Manager's report:

No report.

190.09 Social Secretary's report:

As the Presentation Lunch and AGM had to be postponed, the Hotel Victoria have confirmed that they would be willing to use the deposit that had been paid for this year's event once we are in a position to rearrange this event in our calendar.

190.10 Press & Promotion Officer's report:

As other officers have reported, there is little to report at the moment due to the inactivity in the County. In the meantime, I have been working on the website to tidy up some of the pages and updating them to the newer framework. In addition to this, I have also updated the County database and the new link will be forwarded on to the Membership Secretary for use going forwards.

190.11 Area Representatives' report:

Central Area: No report.

East Area: I have spoken to most of the clubs in the East Area and everybody seems to be well. Affiliation renewals from the clubs in the area have been slow and some have made observations similar to what has already been said earlier in the meeting. Unfortunately we will be losing Torpoint from our area for the coming season but it is hoped that they may be able to return to the CCSMBA in the future. I have been contacted by Duloe today who have advised that they would like to enter two teams into the league when we are able to return to competition.

North Area: There is little to report as our league finished prior to our last meeting. I emailed North Area Clubs with a reminder that Club Registrations and Affiliations are now due and asked if they had any items that needed to be raised at this meeting and had the following responses:

1 - Geoff Risdon (Lanteglos SMBC) asked that when rescheduling the competitions such as the Truscott Plate, consideration is given to the clubs that play outdoors during the summer and the date is not before early/middle October.

2 - David Topliffe (Boscastle SMBC) commented that the average age of bowlers in the Northern Area is over 60 and, due to this, many may be self-isolating at the beginning of the Winter League season. He suggested that many clubs will find it difficult to find more than 8 players this winter especially having to play 4 home and a different 4 away. He therefore asks if the County could relax the rules just for this winter and let people play both the home and away fixtures.

The committee agreed to defer this matter to later in the meeting as the committee will be discussing the options

available to navigate a return back to competition.

West Area: I issued a cancellation notice for the West Area's AGM just after our last meeting. I have also given some thought to how the draw will be done for the Western Area Afternoon Leagues should they happen. I understand that this matter will be discussed later in this meeting and await further advice.

190.12 Items for discussion from correspondence (if necessary):

None.

190.13 Any other business:

County Calendar (Postponements and Scheduled Fixtures): Due to the time constraints following the last meeting, the committee discussed by email how to proceed with the remaining fixtures on the 2019/20 County Calendar. The committee unanimously agreed that the only responsible action that could be taken in order to protect the health of our membership would be to postpone all of the remaining fixtures on the County Calendar. This involves the following fixtures –

- Inter Area Competition
- County Two Wood Singles and County Four Wood Pairs Finals
- Bebbington Cup, League Plate and Champion of Champions
- Presentation Lunch and AGM
- Friends of Essex Tour

In addition to these postponements, the Committee took the decision to cancel this year's Summer League.

Subsequently, the committee discussed the matter of the 2020/2021 County Calendar and whether play would be possible in the current climate. It was noted by the committee that the Government's shielding guidance for vulnerable groups had not changed and any restrictions that may be lifted will still be subject to social distancing. It has also been well documented that the steps that the Country will take to ease lockdown restrictions are all dependant on certain tests being met over time and restrictions may be imposed again if required. The committee agreed that the sport does not lend itself well to social distancing measures and additional issues would arise due to the age profile of our membership. The committee considered the options available including scheduling the competitions with the fewest number of people at the beginning of the season but ultimately agreed that it would not adequately address the matter of social distancing and concerns were raised about the number of people who would actually enter the competitions. In view of this, the committee agreed that it would be difficult to plan the County Calendar as usual at this time without it resulting in further postponements and possible refunds should the events not take place. Therefore, it was agreed to abandon the usual County Calendar, including the County League, with a commitment to our members that if the situation improves and it is safe to do so, a new County Calendar and League will be put together at that time. This will be reviewed at the next Management Committee meeting in July. **Proposer: Peter Hore Seconder: Gill Smith Unanimously agreed.**

Additionally, the committee considered the options available relating to the annual affiliation renewals as it had been initially agreed to send them to clubs as usual. This was owing to the renewals becoming due for issue to clubs in between committee meetings and the clear deadlines stipulated in the constitution. It was agreed to form an emergency committee under Clause 7 of the constitution at this meeting as a consequence of the cancellation of the Annual General Meeting and in view of the fact that a Special General Meeting cannot be held at this time. It was unanimously agreed by the committee to overrule the usual deadline of 31st May for league entry fees and annual affiliations of clubs and players as set out in the Constitution due to the unforeseen circumstances. This matter will be reviewed at the next Management Committee meeting in July.
Proposer: Nick Truscott Seconder: Steve Fletcher Unanimously agreed.

The Membership Secretary agreed to contact those clubs that have returned their renewals to discuss the matter of the money that is currently being held by the CCSMBA relating to affiliations.

County Squad Travel Arrangements: Deferred to next meeting.

190.14 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on 13th July 2020 7.00pm via video conferencing.

190.15 Close meeting:

With no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55pm.

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

Signed……. (Chairman) Dated…….

Hon: Secretary: Elise Daniell Dated: 21st May 2020