CORNWALL COUNTY SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 191st Management Committee Meeting held via Zoom on Monday 13th July 2020.

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

191.00 Chairman's welcome:

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

191.01 Apologies for absence:

None.

191.02 Approve and sign minutes of the 190th committee meeting:

The minutes were taken as read and approved by those present. Due to the remote meeting, the minutes were signed by the County Secretary on behalf of the Chairman.

Proposer: Gill Smith Seconder: Nigel Nicholls

191.03 Matters arising from previous meeting:

As the County AGM has not been able to take place, it was agreed at the previous meeting that each committee member would continue in their current role, if willing, until the AGM could be held. This matter was reviewed again and all committee members agreed that they were happy to continue in their respective roles as discussed at the previous meeting.

191.04 Correspondence:

Email from Linda White (ESMBA Secretary) providing an updated statement regarding the possibility of a phased return for the sport and how the ESMBA are addressing this matter. The ESMBA continue to recommend that all counties and clubs remain closed at this time while they seek to create a plan for the safe resumption of the sport within the Government's guidelines. A copy of this statement will be supplied to all CCSMBA clubs.

Email from Linda White (ESMBA Secretary) confirming the postponement of the ESMBA's AGM which was scheduled to take place at the beginning of July. The ESMBA Management Committee have agreed to carry on in their current positions under the emergency powers set out in the Constitution until the AGM can be held.

Email from David Topliffe (Boscastle SMBC) enquiring whether it was permissible for clubs to re-open after the 25th July following the recent Government update. The committee were advised that the guidance from Action with Communities in Rural England, which is the association that supports village halls, still firmly states that indoor bowls in any setting of that type is not allowed. The Government's social distancing guidance also still clearly states that groups of up to six people may meet outdoors however only the members of two households may meet in an indoor setting. In addition, although the Government has recently announced that some indoor sporting venues may re-open, there are still limitations on what type of setting is acceptable. In view of the age profile and possible clinical vulnerability of players the Management Committee agreed that the re-opening of clubs would not be appropriate and therefore not acceptable at this time.

191.05 Treasurer's report:

There have been seven transactions since our last meeting comprising of some annual affiliation fees, which were then returned to the club in question following the discussion at our last meeting, and the outstanding refunds from the ESMBA which were forwarded onto the members they were owed to. The annual audit is still to be completed however the accounts have been prepared ready for when it is possible to forward them onto the

auditor.

191.06 Membership Secretary's report:

As you would expect, not much has happened since our last meeting. As instructed, I contacted each club that had forwarded their registration/affiliation payments prior to our meeting and asked their preferences or suggestions on what they would like me to do with their cheques. One club requested that I hold onto the cheque for a while to see what happens in the future, three clubs requested that I return the cheques to them and all others were happy for me to destroy their cheques. I understand that all payments made via bank transfer have now also been returned. I look forward to returning to some form of normality soon.

191.07 Competition Secretary's report:

No report.

191.08 Team Manager's report:

No report.

191.09 Social Secretary's report:

No report.

191.10 Press & Promotion Officer's report:

Again there is little to report at the moment but I have been trying to publish some reports to the media just to keep interest but it is difficult when there is nothing to report. I have recently received an email from Bowls Cornwall advising that the development group is surprisingly being disbanded and that there is a share of the money to pay to the CCSMBA.

191.11 Area Representatives' report:

Central Area: Having spoken to a few of the Central Area clubs, many have reported that they have members that are shielding and don't feel that there will be any bowls during the coming season. Many clubs have also advised that, as they are based in community centres or village halls, they are not currently allowed to use their home venues which could cause issues if there was to be a league.

East Area: I have emailed the clubs in the East Area and most have responded with their opinions on the coming season. The majority have advised that do not want to play league bowls this season; they would like to play but only on a social level as this will give them the freedom to choose how often they play and who they play with. Many have also advised that they are not allowed back into their home venues until September at the earliest.

North Area: Due to the current situation regarding Covid 19, I emailed the Northern Area clubs asking for their opinions on bowling this season. The following are the general comments:

1- Age of members – most are over 70 and feel vulnerable
2- Village Halls not open, clubs not allowed use of toilet facilities
3- Travelling arrangements – many members rely on lifts to get to games
4- With no guidelines from the ESMBA as to how clubs can safely play, individuals cannot make decisions as to when and if they wish to play.

West Area: All West Area clubs were recently written to welcoming their views on the forthcoming season. A number of replies were received and forwarded on to the CCSMBA committee for consideration.

191.12 Items for discussion from correspondence (if necessary):

None.

191.13 Any other business:

2020/2021 Season: Further to the statement released in May, the Management Committee reviewed the decisions made at the last meeting. With regards to Annual Affiliations, the committee agreed that the CCSMBA would not be requesting membership fees from members or clubs at this time as the current guidance does not allow for the resumption of short mat bowls. It was agreed to hold another Management Committee meeting in August to

review this matter again in the hope that further guidance will be available from the Government and the ESMBA.

County Winter League – Some concerns were raised regarding the structure of the County League and it was accepted that it would not be possible to facilitate the league as usual for the coming season. Many clubs had already advised that they would not be entering a team should the County League proceed which would cause structural issues but also question the legitimacy of the league. It was also accepted that the best that we could hope for would be half a season but with no guaranteed that the restrictions would be relaxed at that point the committee agreed that this may not be a likely option. In view of the feedback received from clubs, the committee agreed that the majority of players do not feel it is safe enough for league bowls to return and those members that may wish to return to the sport if clubs are allowed to re-open only want to do so on a social basis where they have control over the number of connections they will make with other players. The committee agreed that a County League would not be a viable option even with the safeguarding matters being taken into consideration and reiterated that the duty of care to our members is the highest priority at this time. Therefore the committee unanimously agreed that there would be no County Winter League held in the 2020/21 season. It was agreed to look at possible options to replace this with an alternative competition should the situation allow for play to resume at the next committee meeting in August.
Proposer – Peter Hore Seconder – Gill Smith Unanimously agreed.

County Competitions – The Government guidance relating to the resumption of recreational sport states that it should be led by the National Governing Body and each individual sport must submit an action plan to the Government for approval before the sport may return. The CCSMBA will therefore be led by the English Short Mat Bowls Association on the safe return to the sport and until further guidance is received the Management Committee are not able to provide a revised County Calendar. This matter will be reviewed further at the next committee meeting in August.

Committee Meeting Dates: Rather than schedule Committee Meetings for the whole season in advance as usual the committee agreed to keep the schedule fluid and book meetings as required. The ease of Zoom has also meant that meetings can be arranged with short notice without needing to find an available venue. As discussed earlier, the committee agreed to hold a meeting outside of the usual schedule in August in the hope that there will be further guidance to review from the Government and the ESMBA.

County Squad Travel Arrangements: Deferred to next meeting.

191.14 Date of next meeting:
The next meeting will be held on 10th August 2020 7.00pm via Zoom.

191.15 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: 20th July 2020