CORNWALL COUNTY SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 200th Management Committee Meeting held via Zoom on Monday 8th November 2021.

Present: Elise Daniell, Peter Hore, Sandra Worton, Nick Truscott, John Worton, Rita Hancock, Steve Fletcher,

200.00 Chairman's welcome:

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Peter Hore was appointed as Chair of the meeting. Peter opened the meeting at 7.00pm and thanked everyone for attending remotely.

200.01 Apologies for absence:

Nigel Nicholls

200.02 Approve and sign minutes of the 199th committee meeting:

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

Proposer: Steve Fletcher Seconder: Nick Truscott

200.03 Matters arising from previous meeting:

The committee reviewed the Action List resulting from the previous meeting –

- The County's application for Safe Bowls Status for Carnmoggas Indoor Bowls Club has been sent into the ESMBA but as yet has not been awarded. A follow up email will be sent to the ESMBA to check the status.
- All 2019-20 league winning teams have been contacted regarding the Bebbington Cup and Truscott Plate finals – all teams have advised that they will be in attendance and the majority have confirmed their players. An email will be sent to the two teams who are yet to confirm their players so that their eligibility can be checked in advance.
- Each Area Representative has arranged the league fixtures for the 2021-22 season and all relevant fees have been paid into the CCSMBA's bank account.

200.04 Correspondence:

Email from Linda White (ESMBA General Secretary) providing copies of the ESMBA's Committee Meeting Minutes from 24th August, 1st September and 2nd October. Copies attached for club records.

Email from Gill Smith (CCSMBA Vice Chair and County Safeguarding Officer) advising the committee that she has made the difficult decision to transfer her affiliation to Devon due to personal reasons. As a result, she will therefore be resigning from the committee as Vice Chair and County Safeguarding Officer. An email has been sent to Gill on behalf of the committee thanking her for the work she has done on behalf of the CCSMBA over the years, especially helping clubs getting back to bowls after the Covid-19 Pandemic, and wishing her well for the future. The committee now faces the difficulty of finding new volunteers for the vacant positions. Unfortunately, there have been multiple vacancies on the committee that have been covered by existing officers for an extended period and this is not sustainable for the Association. It was therefore agreed that a statement would be drafted to the membership appealing for new volunteers otherwise we will be facing the real risk that the Association will collapse.

Email from Christine White (Newlyn Trinity SMBC) asking for advice on how to safely serve refreshments to visiting teams. The committee advised that, initially, the club should approach their venue to confirm if there are any conditions of hire that would prevent refreshments being served. However, as we are not currently bowling under any National Restrictions and, providing teams feel comfortable to do so, it was agreed that refreshments can be offered to visiting teams. Should National Restrictions be return then the Safe Bowls Procedures will be

reintroduced and further advice will be supplied by the ESMBA.

Email from Gerry Tizzard (Dobwalls SMBC) regarding the recent postponements of league games resulting from position cases of Covid-19. The Committee were advised that so far, seven league games had been postponed in the East Area due to the positive cases seen at Callington SMBC and there appears to have been a lack of communication relating to this matter. The committee agreed that it is a learning experience for everyone involved and sought to clarify the procedure going forwards:

- A club should notify their Area Representative **immediately** of any positive Covid-19 cases to ensure there is a clear and consistent response – this matter will then be reported to the County and National Safeguarding Officer.
- Any games that have been postponed up to the 8th November 2021 as a result of a positive case of Covid-19 may be re-arranged, however the fixture must be played in the first half of the season (i.e. before the Christmas break).
- Going forwards, should there be a positive case of Covid-19 in a club this may be reason to postpone a league fixture. The re-arranged fixture must take place within 21 days of the original date of the fixture or by Sunday 27th March 2022 should there not be 21 days remaining in the league. If this is not possible then the usual rules will apply.
- Where a league game is postponed, the Team Captain must contact their Area Representative and the opposing team's captain. Should this communication not take place then the team at fault will concede the fixture.

Proposer: Nick Truscott Seconder: Rita Hancock Unanimously agreed.

200.05 Treasurer's report:

There is not a full Treasurer's report for this meeting as my time has been spent on Competitions recently however I can confirm that the CCSMBA's bank balance currently stands at £26,659. This includes all of the income from affiliation fees and competition entries but does not include the figure that is due to be paid out to the ESMBA for affiliations or any hall hire for competitions. I am still investigating alternative bank accounts for the CCSMBA since we have received notification that there will be charges for receiving and making cheque payments with HSBC.

200.06 Membership Secretary's report:

The membership since our last meeting in September has steadily increased and now stands at 844 – an increase of 106. We still have two clubs who have not affiliated being Liskeard and St Germans. I have 8 cheques still to bank totalling £188.00 with St Ives making 1 direct payment. I have been contacted by the Secretary of St Ives with a query about affiliations as they made a bulk affiliation in May 2021 and affiliated all members of their club – at the time this was 53 members thinking everyone would come back to bowling. As time has gone on, it is obvious that some of those members are not coming back so they have asked if it would be possible to get a refund for those players. I have received a list showing 34 members still wishing to be affiliated therefore they are requesting a refund for 20 members.

The committee agreed that initially we would require confirmation that those 20 members are not taking part in any form of short mat bowls following the ESMBA's recent instruction that all active members of a club must be affiliated. Should none of those players be playing any form of short mat bowls, including club roll-ups, then on this occasion it would be permissible to issue a refund for 20 members considering the situation surrounding the payment received and the fact that the return to the ESMBA has not yet been made.
Proposer: Peter Hore Seconder: Nick Truscott Unanimously agreed.

200.07 Competition Secretary's report:

The competition draws have now been carried out and forwarded onto Club Secretaries to be passed onto those entered. The entries were about 36% down compared to the 2019-21 season which isn't too bad considering the situation as a whole. There were enough entries received for all planned competitions to run however both pairs competitions have gone down to one day only. Due to the current situation, I carried out the draws from home via a remote session on Zoom and I used a random number generator rather than the usual bingo balls! This meant I was able to share my screen and each session is recorded so there is evidence should there be any queries. By carrying the draws out this way it meant that it saved hiring a meeting room and travelling expenses for three

committee members as well as significantly cutting the amount of time it took therefore I will be recommending this to be review at the next Rules Revision Meeting. Unfortunately, the majority of teams that entered the Home and Away Competitions did not provide their contact details on the entry form where requested which has meant there has been a delay in sending this out to Club Secretaries. We have had an enquiry from Somerset regarding arranging a friendly against them and I am just awaiting a response to my email before further arrangements can be made. We have also been approached by Carnmoggas Indoor Bowls club inviting us to arrange another long mat vs. short mat challenge so this may be of interest on one of the days currently reserved in the calendar for inter area.

200.08 Team Manager's report:

No report.

200.09 Social Secretary's report:

No report.

200.10 Press & Promotion Officer's report:

All of the league fixtures have now been published on the website and each Area Representative is inputting the league results as they are received. Naturally this has seen an increase in the number of views on the website. Unfortunately I have recently learnt that the two contacts we have at the Voice Newspapers are moving onto new roles so we will need to rebuild those relationships going forwards with the new editors.

200.11 Area Representatives' report:

Central Area: My last proper report was written in March 2020, pre-Covid, when things were happily moving along and everyone was enjoying weekly matches. At the time, the Central Area had two divisions and 15 teams. Now in 2021, we are down to just one division and only six teams. The league has been worked out up to Christmas and all teams are playing each other twice on a home and away basis. This seems to be working well and it is good to see other clubs again. We still have two outstanding finals to play which involve St Newlyn East and Ladock in both the Knockout Cup and also the Rae Francis. Hopefully these can be sorted in the near future.

East Area: No report.

North Area: The winter league is now running to date quite smoothly. Boscastle have now registered the club and are hoping they will have more players returning. Items raised by Northern Area clubs at our latest meeting - there were complaints about the Manager and staff of Carnmoggas smoking in the immediate areas by open doors that causes the place to reek of smoke. Concerns were expressed about storage of the County Mats, due to the average age of most members it was stated that the current storage is dangerous, is there any reason why the hatch can't be replaced with a door. From conversations of older members it was stated that this was supposed to be addressed with the grant received from Sports England.

The committee advised that the grant received from Sport England was primarily focussed on addressing the lighting, heating and toilets at Carnmoggas and all of these areas have seen improvements. However, it was agreed that the hatch to the storage cupboard wasn't ideal and if there was a way of creating a doorway this would make it much easier to store away the County Mats. The committee agreed to approach Carnmoggas to see if there was in which this could be addressed.

West Area: West Area are running 2 evening leagues and 3 afternoon leagues this season. The Evening leagues consist of 9 teams in each section and the afternoon leagues have 8 in each league. With no AGM at which to do the draw, I did the draw in early September but a video of it being done is available for people to check if they wish. There was some difficulty in working out the Fixtures and I took over doing this on 22 September. The first drafts were sent out on 26 September but these were corrupted in sending them out (I use an Apple Mac and I think the errors were introduced as I translated them for Windows). A new set were sent out on 30th September and a final set (unchanged) sent out on 3 October. Bearing in mind that these were late being sent out, I have not been rigorous in checking on timings for altering fixtures. As everyone is aware, the start of the season was marked sadly by the death of two keen short mat players namely Anne Hovells of St Ives and Malcolm Furneaux of Penlee. This has resulted in a number of Fixtures having to be altered. I believe that these have now virtually all been satisfactorily rearranged. One club had a problem with their very long standing hall booking being let to someone else in the Covid interregnum. I have developed a spreadsheet for keeping track of the results and have gradually worked out the best way of doing these although I am still managing to get some of them wrong on Nick's web site. I will get the fixtures for the second half of the season out as soon as I can. A more hectic start to the new

season than I had hoped.

200.12 Items for discussion from correspondence (if necessary):
None.

200.13 Any other business:
Central Area League: Following on from the conversation at the last meeting, the league fixtures for the Central Area have been scheduled up to the Christmas break. There was an enquiry as to whether teams that have since returned to bowls could be added to the league at the half way stage. The committee advised that this would not be acceptable as the league had begun however those teams could arrange friendly games against those currently playing in the league providing the players are affiliated to the CCSMBA.

The committee also re-iterated that the County League is an "evening" league and all games have a default start time of 7pm to ensure that the league is accessible to all players. The rules state that should both teams agree, then a league game may start at an earlier start time. As a number of teams are now playing with earlier start times, this will be monitored by the committee to ensure that the league remains accessible.

St Austell Bay Radio: John and Sandra Worton advised the committee that they have recently been invited to take part in some live interviews on air to promoting the CCSMBA. The committee thanked them for taking part and agreed that it was a good contact to have to promote the Association in a different form.

200.14 Date of next meeting:
The next meeting will be held on 11th January 2022 7.00pm via Zoom.

200.15 Close meeting:
With no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

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

Signed……. (Chairman) Dated…….

Hon: Secretary: Elise Daniell Dated: 14th November 2021

Action List

- E.D to write to the National Safeguarding Officer to check the status of the County's Safe Bowls application.
- E.D to write to Porthleven and Callington to confirm the players for the Truscott Plate.
- E.D to write statement on behalf of the CCSMBA appealing for new volunteers to sit on the committee.
- E.D to write to the National Safeguarding Officer advising that we are currently without a Safeguarding Officer however the County Secretary will be the point of contact in the interim period until a replacement can be found.
- E.D to reply to email from Christine White (Newlyn Trinity SMBC).
- E.D to write to the National Safeguarding Officer regarding the recent positive Covid-19 cases at Callington and to confirm the correct procedure going forwards.
- N.T to liaise with East Area Clubs regarding the postponed league fixtures and procedure going forwards.
- S.W to speak with St Ives regarding their request for a refund of affiliation fees
- S.W to forward the Annual Membership return to the ESMBA and arrange payment of Fees with P.H.