

KENT COUNTY SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

*****AFFILIATED TO E.S.M.B.A.*****



PRESIDENT
A. Rycraft

CHAIRMAN
T. Coles

SECRETARY
R Berry

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on 10TH July 2017 at Langley Village Hall

Representatives from the following clubs attended:

Burham, Hollingbourne, Woodpeckers, Hawkinge, Kemsing, West Kingsdown, Wye, Joydens Wood, St Marys Platt, Ryarsh, Tunstall, Langley, Tunbury

A list of names can be provided on request.

Committee members present

A Rycraft, T Coles, R Berry, B Baker, T Rycraft, N Bartlett, K Austen, M Matthews

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	The Secretary informed the meeting he had received apologies from Balfour, Boughton Monchelsea, White Oak and LenARA.
2	PREVIOUS MINUTES	The previous minutes were agreed as a true account of the last meeting. Proposed J Vanns, Seconded M Matthews. Agreed Unanimously
3	MATTERS ARISING	No matters arising
4	CHAIRMEN'S REPORT	<p>Well another years gone past and it's been a hard one for myself and the committee as most of you know at the AGM last year we didn't have a secretary and Sue Smith put herself forward for the role, after a few months we had an offer from Rob Berry that he would be prepared to take this role over, so Rob was co-opted on</p> <p>Thanks to Sue for your help in the role.</p> <p>Rob thank you for stepping up to the task ahead.</p> <p>We still have a venue which the committee are hoping we will be able to get a 5 year contract signed, giving us some much needed stability for the future</p> <p>On a sad note we lost Martin Bull who was a much loved bowler in the county squads, I also lost my mother Florrie who was a member of the county for over 25 years and played in many competitions.</p> <p><u>Website</u></p> <p>The county Website is now controlled and operated by us with Tim Rycraft having a hands on roll. I know Tim would welcome some input and is ready to upload to the site, any help that the members are willing to offer would be appreciated by him we also do have our own Facebook Page please search for The Kent County Shortmat Bowls Association – this is a closed group you must ask to join.</p> <p><u>Bowling</u></p> <p>With the county numbers down slightly from last year</p> <p>We have some very radical thoughts that we are going to try for this coming season to see if we can encourage the members to participate in the county competition programme.</p> <p>This year we have put a full diary together which for the 1st time includes the nationals which we would like to see if we can encourage more bowlers to enter.</p> <p><u>Competitions</u></p> <p>On the Competition front we run our 4 main events this year</p> <p>Fours, Triples Pairs & Singles congratulations to all the winners and Finalist in all of these.</p>

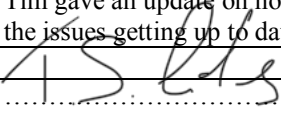
		<p>Singles Winner – Nicky Bartlett Runner up – Gary Allard</p> <p>PAIRS WINNERS ROB BERRY, NICKY BARTLETT Runners up PAM MILLS, MARK MILLS</p> <p>TRIPLES WINNERS VALERIE MATTHEWS, MARTIN MATTHEWS, NEIL FAULKNER</p> <p>Runners up LYNDA WYNN, NICKY BARTLETT GARY ALLARD</p> <p>FOURS WINNERS MICHELLE FITZGERALD, JOSHUA AUSTIN, MICHEAL DORREY, TIM RYCRAFT</p> <p>Runners up ALAN HARWOOD, JASON SMITH, TIM HARWOOD, CLIFF HENRY</p> <p>Congratulations to all of them,</p> <p>Club Competition has now been organised please see the county flyer for this as there are some big changes on this competition this year and we need the clubs support it to make it a success.</p> <p>I would like to congratulate Keith on a good job in his 1st Season running the competition they were run to the normal high standards that we come to expect. Thanks to Keith also Nicky Bartlett who has assisted, I hope that all clubs will support the competitions again this year and support the competition secretary.</p> <p><u>County Teams</u> Our 3 County teams have all been in action of the last 12 months My thanks goes to Tim Rycraft, Keith Austen & Alan Ellis for running them along with their Captains of Nicky Bartlett, Sue Smith and Gordon Elliot (full report from Tim Rycraft) Congratulations to all the teams</p> <p><u>Secretary</u> Even though Rob has only been in the post for the last 4 months he has come up with some great ideas to make the county paperwork flow better to all the members not just the club secretary's watch this space</p> <p><u>Treasurer</u> Derrick Groom has done a great job in keeping us above water, but this was Derrick's last season as Treasurer, so we are hoping that we found his replacement and they willing to take over from him.</p> <p><u>General Committee</u> We are losing a few members from the committee with Martin Matthews stepping down as Vice Chairman & Val Matthews and Sue Smith also stepping down from the county committee. We are seeking new blood to come on-board. Good luck to the members leaving us and thank you for the hard work you have put in over the many years.</p> <p><u>General News</u> We have found a few things that need to be looked at one of them is the county constitution, we are hoping to have one of our members who will go over it and suggest some long overdue changes to bring us more in line with legal legislation. Well done to Nicky Bartlett in keeping his England place for the 2017/18 season good luck to him. And thank you to all the hard work members of each of our clubs and to all their members, please keep supporting us and we will do our best to support you.</p>
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5	TREASURER'S REPORT	<p>In spite of some economies that were introduced, our finances continue to diminish and obviously this is a cause for concern. I recently produced figures for the Committee analysing and separating the accounts under the four major headings with comparisons over the last 10 years.</p> <p><u>County teams</u>, annual loss varies depending on number of home fixtures and success of the teams. Coach hire has increased, e.g. for the Rinks Finals, 2 drivers required, cost £980. The County Team Manager has stated that no coaches will be hired next season, which also means no income from them, and this will save between £1500 and £2000.</p> <p><u>County championships</u> involve 9 hirings of NLL which comes to about £2200 which needs 440 entries @ £5 to pay for itself and the number of entries (900 players 10 years ago, 405 last season) is diminishing. If you add the cost of trophies and Competition Secretaries expenses to this, you can see why it does not break even.</p> <p><u>Nationals</u>. Number of entries does not cover the cost of venues and has not for the past 4 seasons.</p> <p><u>Administration</u>. Membership (400) and affiliation fees, no longer cover the costs of actually running the County, bearing in mind that half the income from registrations has to be paid to ESMBA.</p> <p>From 2004 to 2012 sponsorships and fundraisers (quizzes, fashion shows etc.) brought in an average of £2500 a year and in a way this masked the fact that numbers of registrations and entries were falling away and that we were actually trading at a loss since 2009. There has not been any fundraising for at least 3 years and this is now being reflected in our total funds.</p> <p>Our auditor has given me a list of suggestions for the Committee to consider in order to save money and I shall pass this on.</p> <p>As I shall not be doing this again, I must say how disappointed I have been with the criticisms and sarcastic comments aimed at the committee, mostly from people who never volunteer and seem to expect "somebody else" to do everything for them. If you, yes YOU, want to continue playing for the County, playing in County Championships and getting your badges etc., then it is time to stop complaining, get off your backsides and start being constructive before the money runs out and County can no longer continue.</p>
6	COUNTY TEAM MANAGER'S REPORT	<p>Proposed S Watson Seconded D Ford. Agreed Unanimously</p> <p>Once again it is my pleasure to make a report on behalf of the County Squad for the 2016/17 season.</p> <p>This was my 5th season as Squad Manager. Leading into this season our points system yielded 1 new player to badge. This individual took their place and as expected performed to the 'Kent' standard adding their individual skills to the squad.</p> <p>On behalf of the county and squad I would like to take this opportunity to thank my deputies, who included Alan Ellis and Gordon Elliott for the B side, Sue Smith and Keith Austen for the A side and Nicky Bartlett for the Premier. Unfortunately, we found out that James Villas were withdrawing their sponsorship this season meaning as things stand we are on our own two feet again for next season, this will mean we will have to fund new shirts for the new badges.</p> <p>In addition to the thanks to my deputies I would like to thank the players who commit themselves to our county, they get up in the early hours during those cold winter days and bowl their hearts in the name of Kent. There is no payment or recompense, they just do it for the love of Kent and the game. I would like to thank them all.</p> <p>Before moving to the team reports, I would like to say that unusually this year seemed to be rather unsettled with player commitment being an ongoing issue. I understand that we all have lives to lead outside of bowls but this season was a particularly difficult one for all three teams, however lets start and move to the:-</p> <p>Premier Team:-</p> <p>The Premier side fielded 28 bowlers through the season playing 12 matches across the two Inter County Competitions. Like last year the</p>

		<p>Premier side won its way through to the final stages of the 16 man rinks tournament playing in the finals day in January. Unfortunately, in a difficult group a very strong Devon and West Midlands side scored more highly and defeated Kent. On the day our only victory came against Surrey. The end result was that Kent finished 3rd and did not qualify for the final.</p> <p>As far as the traditional Inter County 20 man competition goes Kent had a rather strange group in terms of results. Kent played West Sussex, East Sussex and Hampshire in a hard fought group. I am not sure if it was fortunate or unfortunate but Hampshire seemed to be suffering with some internal problems that resulted in team turmoil and some rather strange score lines against them. This culminated in them not fulfilling our last game of the season. The result of this was that Kent finished runner up to West Sussex qualifying for my 5th time in a row, again we were drawn in to a preliminary first round knock out where we met Oxford.</p> <p>It has been many years since Kent played Oxford; this occasion was being held in Surrey meaning a super fast floor and probably advantage to Kent. After a spirited game Kent won 34 points to 6. This result matched Kent against West Midlands in a quarter final in Melton Mowbray.</p> <p>Anyone who has had the 'pleasure' of playing against the West Midlands will know that it is a unique experience; and this year was no exception. The only way to describe playing them is to compare playing the most talented and loud football hooligans you can imagine. I suspect that the intimidation of their play was too much for most of the Kent side and despite the best comradely effort the team was beaten heavily losing by 32 points to 8. Interestingly, the West Midlands who were in bowling terms magnificent went on to win the whole event beating last years holders Norfolk in the semi-final and beating first time finalist Cornwall in the last game.</p> <p>As with 4 out of 5 of my previous years as Manager we have managed to lose to a side that is flying and who goes on to win the Cup.....I dream about being on the easier side of the draw as I know that our players are better than the losing knock out results we have received in recent years.</p> <p>The A-Team: -</p> <p>Under the new management team of Keith Austen and Sue Smith the A team were clearly unsettled initially losing heavily to our strong neighbours in West Sussex. This shock seemed to inspire and motivate the team into some action and despite this initial set back the team qualified in runners up spot through to the knock out stages of the Inter County Championships.</p> <p>This situation projected the team into a quarter final against North Yorkshire with the game being played in Daventry. In the end I am very sorry for our players who made the supreme effort of getting up and looking to compete as it was a totally one sided affair in favour of North Yorkshire who ran out 34 - 6 winners. This is not a derogatory comment in any way to our players but a slight on the set up of this years competition as North Yorkshire should not have been allowed to play A team bowls; they have a number of England players and are clearly a Premier team in terms of their ability and quality. In the end no A team opponent was strong enough to stand against them as they ran out easy winners lifting the A team Inter County Cup for the first time.</p> <p>The Kent A side also played in the Fours team event having qualified from the local heats which were played in September when they played alongside the Premier team. The aspirations to duplicate the previous years success were crushed after 3 straight defeats in a row against West Sussex, Suffolk and Dorset.</p> <p>I am not sure if there was something in the air this season but the team never quite got it together and managed a consistent run. I know that Kent will bounce back and that the sour taste of defeat will no doubt spur everyone on again to greater things.</p>
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7	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	<p>The following Officers were elected unopposed for 2017/18 season.</p> <p>Chairman/Thomas Coles Proposed J Vanns Seconded A Stroud Comp Sec/ K Austen Proposed S Francis Seconded B Robinson Secretary/R Berry Proposed A Rycraft Seconded J Rycraft</p> <p>No treasurer proposal was received so nominations were opened to the floor.</p> <p>Treasurer/A Plowman Proposed J Davey Seconded D Ford</p>

		No proposal was received for Vice Chairman so nominations were once again opened to the floor. After no volunteer came forward it was agreed the Committee shall co-opt one on during the season should someone volunteer.																																																						
	ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS	<p>The following Committee members were elected unopposed for the 2017/18 season.</p> <p>D Ford Proposed A Rycraft Seconded J Rycraft L Wynn Proposed A Rycraft Seconded J Rycraft</p> <p>There was one spot still to be filled. Nominations were opened to the floor N Bartlett Proposed J Davey Seconded S Watson Agreed unanimously</p> <p>It was asked if the President was going to stand for again as three years had passed and it was required to be voted on. A Rycraft was proposed by J Davey, seconded by C Groom. Agreed unanimously</p>																																																						
9	PROPOSALS	<p>Proposal: To alter the method of selection for new County Manager.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to withdraw and resubmit the proposal at a later date. An EGM shall be called during the next season.</p>																																																						
10	MEMBERSHIP FEES	<p>Key PMPS (Per member per season) PS (Per Season) PMAPS (Per Manager per season)</p> <p>Proposed B Deane Seconded J Vanns The following fees were voted on and agreed unanimously.</p> <table> <tr> <td>1) Secretary's allowance</td><td>-</td><td>£1 PMPS</td></tr> <tr> <td>2) Competition Secretary's allowance</td><td>-</td><td>£440 PS</td></tr> <tr> <td>3) Treasurer's allowance</td><td>-</td><td>£220 PS</td></tr> <tr> <td>4) County Team Managers basic Allowance (Prem, A & B)</td><td>-</td><td>£30 PMAPS</td></tr> <tr> <td>5) Rules & Regulations Officer Basic allowance</td><td>-</td><td>£30 PS</td></tr> <tr> <td>6) Club Affiliation Fee</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td> • 5 or more registered players</td><td>-</td><td>£20 PS</td></tr> <tr> <td> • 4 or less registered players</td><td>-</td><td>£30 PS</td></tr> <tr> <td>7) Adult Member (Individual)</td><td>-</td><td>£6 PS</td></tr> <tr> <td>8) Under 18 Member (Individual)</td><td>-</td><td>Free</td></tr> <tr> <td>9) County Team Match Fee</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td> • Non Coach</td><td>-</td><td>£7.50 per game</td></tr> <tr> <td> • Coach</td><td>-</td><td>£10 per game</td></tr> <tr> <td>10) County Match Coach Visitor</td><td>-</td><td>£2.50 per game</td></tr> <tr> <td>11) Under 18 County Match Fee (Including practice matches)</td><td>-</td><td>£3.50 per game/event</td></tr> <tr> <td>12) Domestic Games and Practice Matches (Adult)</td><td>-</td><td>£5 per event</td></tr> <tr> <td>13) Domestic Games (Under 18)</td><td>-</td><td>Free</td></tr> <tr> <td>14) Hot Drinks (Unlimited)</td><td>-</td><td>£1 per event per day</td></tr> </table>	1) Secretary's allowance	-	£1 PMPS	2) Competition Secretary's allowance	-	£440 PS	3) Treasurer's allowance	-	£220 PS	4) County Team Managers basic Allowance (Prem, A & B)	-	£30 PMAPS	5) Rules & Regulations Officer Basic allowance	-	£30 PS	6) Club Affiliation Fee			• 5 or more registered players	-	£20 PS	• 4 or less registered players	-	£30 PS	7) Adult Member (Individual)	-	£6 PS	8) Under 18 Member (Individual)	-	Free	9) County Team Match Fee			• Non Coach	-	£7.50 per game	• Coach	-	£10 per game	10) County Match Coach Visitor	-	£2.50 per game	11) Under 18 County Match Fee (Including practice matches)	-	£3.50 per game/event	12) Domestic Games and Practice Matches (Adult)	-	£5 per event	13) Domestic Games (Under 18)	-	Free	14) Hot Drinks (Unlimited)	-	£1 per event per day
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11	MEETING CLOSED	CHAIRMAN CLOSED MEETING AT 20:50																																																						
12	SUMMARY OF OTHER BUSINESS	<p><u>Club Championship</u> Tim explained an idea he had hoped to introduce for the Club Championship. D Ford and J Rycraft offered alternate ideas.</p> <p><u>New email system</u> The new email system was briefly explained to the meeting, with the potential benefits we hoped to gain as a County. It was mentioned the Committee could seem distant to some members, the Committee hope to overcome this somewhat with the new system.</p> <p><u>Website</u></p>																																																						

			Tim gave an update on how the website was progressing and informed the meeting of the issues getting up to date data.
			
	SIGNED BY	
	DATED		2nd July 2018