



**DORSET SHORT MAT BOWLS ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of Meeting No. 1 Held on 29th March 2018**  
**At East Dorset Bowls Resort at 8pm**

**Present:**

<b>Chairman:</b>	Trevor Ford	<b>Treasurer:</b>	John Hall
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	David Redfern	<b>County Team Manager</b>	Mark White
<b>General Secretary:</b>	Karen Hall	<b>Competition Secretary</b>	Brian Baker
<b>President:</b>		<b>League Fixture Secretary</b>	
		<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Margaret Hall

**Also present were: -**

Michael Hall	Carey	Lynn Dean	Hazelbury Bryan
Robert Martin	Carey	Barry Whitburn	Hazelbury Bryan
Eugene Balbinski	Cerne Abbas	Keith Honeybun	Hazelbury Bryan
June Balbinski	Cerne Abbas	Alex Kley	Hazelbury Bryan
Larry House	Crossways	Emily Thomas	Hazelbury Bryan
Sally Boyle	Ensbury Park	Christina Chant	Hazelbury Bryan
?	Ensbury Park	Martin Chant	Hazelbury Bryan
Alan Banks	Flights	Sam Harvey	Heatherlands
Brenda Banks	Flights	Ken Lever	Heatherlands
D Petherick	Flights	Steve Stanton	Heatherlands
E Petherick	Flights	Tony Carr	Heatherands
Graham Rabbetts	Flights	Hazel Thomas	Lytchett Manor
David Walker	Okeford Fitzpaine	Steve Clayton	Tarrant Keynston
Brian Smith	Okeford Fitzpaine	Pauline Lever	Twynham
Roger Humphry	Shroton	Ken Leonard	Wareham
Joan Collier	Shroton	Christina Leonard	Wareham
Roy Davies	Sturminster Newton	Ann Warneky	Wareham
Anna Davies	Sturminster Newton	Emilia Thompson	Wool
Melanie Thompson	Wool	David Glennerster	Wool
Keith Walton	Bournemouth Electric	Jan Challenger	Bournemouth Electric
		Jeff Bridge	Bournemouth Electric

The meeting duly opened at 8.46pm and the Chairman re-iterated that there was only 'one vote' per club.

**1. Apologies**

There were apologies received from Steve White (President), Andrew Hall (League Fixture Secretary), Mike Brown (Child Okeford), Michelle Preston (Thornford), Val Burton (West Moors), Ian Andrews (Gillingham), Beau & Marilyn Knight (Flights), Malcolm Taylor (Highcliffe), Barry Squires (Southill), Patrick Sims (Yetminster), Pam Crammer (Ensbury Park) and Holt SMBC and Joyce House (Crossways).

## **2. Minutes of Meeting No 5 Held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

With a minor amendment under Competition Secretary's Report where it should say 'youngsters' instead of 'competitive bowlers', the minutes of Meeting No 5 were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting.

## **3. Matters Arising from Meeting No 5**

3.1 No matters arising

## **4. Correspondence**

The Secretary was in receipt of the following: -

4.1 An email from Barry Hedges, Chairman of ESMBA in response to our letter regarding the U18 National Competition and lack of places given (see attached). The Chairman asked if there were any questions from the floor. B Baker advised the committee that of the 30 U18's that sign in at England U21 events, of those, 16 did not enter as their county did not run a competition. Therefore we have counties that have potential winners of the U18's. A Kley said that some U18 players wish to play but the counties are not running the competition.

After a lengthy discussion on this subject, several suggestions were made including: -

- The possibility of the ESMBA running the qualifiers on a regional basis with other counties;
- For those people that drop out to be unable to enter the following year;
- To hold the competition here in Dorset – a change of venue might make people not drop out;
- To send a letter to tell the counties that these juniors are the future of our sport.

The Chairman said there is an enormous amount of apathy out there. D Redfern suggested a general letter for discussion at the ESMBA AGM in July. B Baker advised that the deadline for items to be discussed has lapsed however there is a Forum afterwards so we could raise it as a forum topic and it would be discussed.

M White stated that as an active County with juniors should we put a statement in to the ESMBA AGM to inform them of what Dorset are doing as a County with their juniors. It is important to encourage the younger people because they are the future of this game. It was therefore proposed by M White that we send a statement of our intent of how we run our juniors and recommend if any county wants any advice from us on how they can improve their juniors they are more than willing to put a letter into the committee. This was seconded by D Redfern with everyone in favour.

In addition to our statement, we wish to express that we are disappointed with the apathy of other counties.

4.2 A letter from Stoborough Primary School that she read out to everyone. They are looking to introduce Short Mat Bowls within their PE curriculum. They currently have an offer of 2 mats together with a pair of fenders and a block and were asking the county if they could help financially in any way towards the purchase of equipment.

D Glennerster suggested we used some of the money from the Junior Fund and J Hall stated that the £800 is

ring-fenced for juniors.

A lengthy discussion took place as to whether we should be targeting secondary schools rather than primary schools however it was felt that as the school was looking to introduce Short Mat Bowling off their own back then as a county we should support it. They will need someone to give them coaching and a bit of encouragement and A Kley suggested some of the U18's went along to offer their expertise too. A further discussion took place with regards the need for a qualified coach to go into the school (because of public liability) to advise them on what bowls to use and how to play. B Baker, as Coaching Director of the ESMBA, reported that he will ensure that it is carried out correctly to the level we want to do it to with the agreement of the school. The county is aware that we have to have public liability and have to cover every angle in order to do things in the correct manner.

At this point D Glennerster proposed that we make a donation to the school of £200 from the Junior Fund.

The school is looking to acquire a pair of fenders, some foot mats, a block, some jacks and a set of woods. E Balbinski said they may have a couple of spare fenders, a block and delivery mats from Cerne Abbas but would need to check in the first instance. The Chairman thanked him for his kind offer.

Upon further discussion on how to go about it, M White proposed that the county donate equipment on the condition that should the school stop running the club, the equipment is returned to the various clubs.

Taking the above into account, D Glennerster amended his proposal to donate up to a cost of £150. Upon voting there were 5 in favour and 8 against so the amendment to his original proposal was defeated. A vote was taken on the original proposal by M White with everyone in favour and 2 abstentions.

Therefore it was voted upon and passed that the county will donate equipment to the school and should it fold, all equipment is returned to the relevant clubs.

## **5. Reports**

### **Treasurer:**

**Current Account Balance:       £6,589.36**

**Deposit Account Balance:       £12,424.92**

The Treasurer informed the Committee that we have a new accountant that is costing us £100 cheaper than the previous one. JH is aware that some people are worried about the account balance however he reassured them that for a county this size and the membership we have, the balance is about right.

### **Team Manager:**

The newly appointed Team Manager M White reported that the dates have been set and once he is set up as Dorset Manager, he will email out the county availability team sheets. He needs to ask Andrew Hall if he can use Dorset Manager email address so he can distinguish between what's work, club, county etc. He reported that B Baker has

mentioned practice nights and he stated that Tuesdays are the only nights we can get as weekends are difficult. He has asked Dave Glennerster if he would stand as A Team Manager and he has accepted.

### **League Secretary:**

In the absence of the League Secretary, the Chairman read out his report (see attached League Secretary Report).

In addition to this, the Chairman reported that Maiden Newton did not wish to win the league that way so he has arranged for the match against Heatherlands to be played on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Maiden Newton.

He reiterated that it is not down to the individual club to concede games and that we have a League Fixture Secretary. D Redfern said there is a clause in the rules that if you do not fulfil your fixtures, you may be penalised. The Chairman thinks that certain points are down to the League Secretary and his Committee to decide; you cannot just say we'll give that game away. B Baker said it is not fair. The League Committee is drawn from people as and when required (on an ad hoc basis), one from each division and not from the affected team.

Heatherlands have 6 league matches to fit in however K Lever was unaware of this. The Poole Park game will have to be left to the Committee to decide on its' outcome. With Kingfisher coming out of Division 1, D Glennerster said if it is in the rules it didn't need to come to the Committee, the League Committee deal with it.

J Hall stated that there is no excuse for cancelling matches; they should be able to arrange for people to drive to evening matches. M White said their 2<sup>nd</sup> team have 3 people over 90 and the Committee at Heatherlands were unaware that the game was cancelled. Roger Humphry asked if there was a time limit to when it has to be played by when a match is cancelled. There is a time limit that it has to be arranged within 14 days. A question was then asked as to whether there should be a time limit when results are published.

L House hopes that the Committee will decide one way or another with regards Crossways match with Poole Park. He doesn't think it's right that the Chairman of Poole Park should say 3 points each but there is no more he can do.

M White suggested we instruct Andrew (as League Secretary) to call upon his ad hoc sub-committee to deal with the issues mentioned in this report and should the President be unable to attend, the Chairman would step in. J Balbinski said that most of the clubs may be making excuses but you mustn't assume all of them are, as there has been a lot of illness around and people are getting older.

K Hall suggested that when asking if people wish to play in the Dorset League next season, to have some terms of conditions put up on the club notice board too so that members know what they are committing to.

There is a league rules meeting every two year. D Redfern said in theory the clubs in dispute should have the opportunities to defend themselves. G Rabbetts wanted to know if Kingfisher has been removed.

### **Competition Secretary:**

B Baker wished to make a plea to all clubs to put more players into competitions now that we have reduced the entry fee. The Yeovil match is in June and is of mixed standard so he would like as many players from the Dorset League playing in it.

There is a competition on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May where a touring team are coming called 'Friends of Essex' and we need enough players from Dorset (80 bowlers) to cover them for the 2 days. If we don't he will offer it round to Devon and Cornwall. It is an open invitation, good competitive standard and played in a very friendly manner. The cost is only £3 for the day. The dress code will be your own club colours. B Baker is happy for you to put a team in if you want to play as a club. R Martin assumed that the 'Friends of Essex' are of a certain age so suggested the 'Over 55's' played them.

B Baker reported that we don't have a weekend available to play the Bocce Triples which is a competition we have run for the last 3 years and he is thinking of playing it mid-week in the school holidays as he can get the venue here and see what we can get. It was suggested sending an email out to everyone asking whether they would be interested if we ran a competition mid-week.

S Harvey asked if there is anything we can do about having a League Cup. We did many years ago but it is another fixture to fit in. B Baker said if people want more competitions, he wants to see more people entering what we already have. R Martin spoke about doing a League Cup last year and all you get is negativity. M White said that the Cyril Coakes used to be done on a strict knockout basis (home and away) so that is why it was put on one day. The Chairman thanked S Harvey and said it is something to consider.

D Glennerster asked if we were wearing our new county shirts at the National competitions and B Baker confirmed that we could.

## **6. Any Other Business**

6.1 Dorset Open – D Redfern asked if we are having a meeting – to decide a date after this meeting. M Hall reported that we now have 44 pairs so anyone wishing to put a pair in will go on the reserve list. We have 21 fours.

6.2 Bournemouth Electric stated it was their first time in the league this year and he would like to thank everyone as they met some really nice people and found it ran very smoothly.

6.3 K Lever stated that they are running their Gerry Gough Competition on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and they are looking for more teams. The cost is £18 per triple and that they would be running a plate competition. If anyone wants a form, please let Ken know.

6.4 Lynn Dean made a plea for Dorset Open raffle prizes. She would appreciate any donations. From a Safeguarding point of view she reported that we have 3 newly accredited people in the Association and she asked for Safeguarding to be added as a standing agenda item for future meetings.

6.5 D Redfern asked about Umpire Director now that Colin Mills has left.

6.6 Joan Collier wished to thank Karen Hall for sending out details on the demonstration on an electric roller. This is due to take place at Shroton on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

6.7. B Baker informed the committee that there is a coaching course being held at the Dorset Bowls Resort in May and if anyone from Short Mat wishes to do it, Roger Humphrey is running it. M White reported that he is waiting for the next one as he cannot make the one in April.

Safeguarding issue – It was recommended that clubs take responsibility, irrespective of where they are, to make sure they have their members next of kin details. Due to an incident that happened at the Dorset Bowls Resort it has been brought to our attention the importance of holding ‘Next of Kin’ details especially if you organise a bowling holiday.

**7. Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

Meeting No 2 will take place on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June at 8pm at The East Dorset Bowls Resort.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.24pm.

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....

**T Ford**  
**Chairman**

**K Hall**  
**General Secretary**