

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHORT MAT BOWLS ASSOCIATION

**MINUTES** of the Annual General Meeting of Northamptonshire Short Mat Bowls Association held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 8.00 pm. Meeting held at Lavendon Village Hall.

The Chairman Mr Chris Hopkins welcomed everyone present, thanking them for attending the meeting.

### **PRESENT**

Mr Chris Hopkins (Chairman), Mr Alan Leslie (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Eleanor Winters (General Secretary), Mr Clive Younger (Treasurer), Mr Alan Goodenough (Membership Secretary) Mrs Irene Simpson, Ms. Rachel Pedley, Mr Chris Weston, Mr Edward Sawbridge.

Also present were 28 members representing the following clubs: -Castlethorpe (3), Cosgrove (2), Duston/Cotswold (2) Daventry Town (2), Great Houghton (2), Milton Malsor (2), Old Stratford (1), Rascals (6), Roade (2), Welton (1) Yardley Gobion (1), Deanshanger (1), Harpole (1), Redwell (2).

### **1 APOLOGIES**

St. John's Kettering, Mr & Mrs Brian Leckie, Mr Jim Walker, Mr Tom Bates, Mr Ken Harber.

### **2 MINUTES OF LAST AGM**

Mr Bill Babb proposed and Mrs Dorothy Biggs seconded, that the minutes distributed of the AGM held at Old Stratford on Tuesday 13th May 2008 was a true record. Carried. Mr Chris Hopkins, Chairman, duly signed these.

### **3 MATTERS ARISING**

ESMBA Coaching is going very well.

NSMBA now has one qualified coach – Mr David Robbins. Chris Hopkins and Andy Odell have still to complete the first aid section.

### **4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Mr Chris Hopkins**

*Once again a year has flown by and we all wonder where it has gone, I don't know, I wish I did. We as a committee have done our best to maintain the status quo, but I wonder if maintaining station is enough nowadays. Other sports and attractions seem to be taking more and more players away from short mat bowls. The question I have to ask is are we doing enough? Hand on heart when did your club last hold an open day? Visit a local school? Speak to your local committee in the village? Raise awareness in the locality as to your presence and what you have to offer, or contact your local health centre. These are just some of the options that are open to all of our clubs, if we maintain what we have at the moment through natural wastage we shall wither and die off as an entity. We have a duty not to let this happen, this sport has given countless hours of pleasure and enjoyment to us all and we should now be putting something back.*

*As National Chairman I travel the country watching bowls and hopefully spreading the message about a sport I care so passionately about, however, I do look on in envy when I see counties and clubs attracting all these younger people into our sport. Many would argue that there are too many attractions to bring people into our sport, I disagree, I have seen players of all ages attracted in big cities and small villages. And how are they attracted you may well ask, they are attracted by the effort and enthusiasm displayed by those who love and cherish this sport. Take a while to look around the hall today and see how many people under 60 you can see – who will be running our county in twenty years from now? Frightening isn't it?*

*In June we will be holding a fun day at Caroline Chisholm School with a view to attracting the mums and dads and the children to our game, this should be the objective of all clubs. Let's make the effort; I know we have people to move our association forward. Your committee have made every effort to accommodate your needs and have carried out their duties without fuss or bother. I would like to make mention of two people. Secretaries are not found, they are born to the job and we are very lucky to have Eleanor doing these duties for us. Tom Bates also deserves a mention, Tom works diligently away on all the league and KO cup details, as well as keeping our website up to date, a job he has under taken for many years now. Thanks Eleanor and Tom for all your efforts, and thank you to all those other members of the committee who have not only had to put up with me, but have given of their time to try and make things better for the majority.*

### **5 GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT - Mrs Eleanor Winters**

*Twelve years have now passed since I took on the responsibility of General Secretary, and this year I have seen a lot more positiveness amongst our members. I feel that most people in short mat bowls are concerned about the future of this sport and are trying to encourage new members into the fold. There are still the odd few people who continue to complain, but not willing to tackle their issues by coming on to the committee.*

*We have a very excellent committee who are working behind the scenes continually to enable us to continue enjoying our sport. Tom Bates works long and hard at his computer bringing us up to date listings of all the leagues, and entering data on the NSMBA website. Alan Goodenough is responsible for all our membership issues, Chris Weston for organising the competitions, and our*

Chairman Chris – what can I say – you either love him or hate him, but remember he works continually for the NSMBA and all the members, in fact I think he throws 110% into this. Rachel is the newest member of our team and she has been hard at work organising our presentation evening. The rest of the committee do their fair share of work, helping whenever and wherever they are needed. With all this in mind I'm sure you must appreciate the effort that goes into running this Association.

I have, hopefully, received all your updated Secretary's names and addresses, enabling me to send minutes out to all clubs. It is unfortunate that some clubs fail to let me know any changes; consequently these same clubs do not receive any correspondence from me. If there are any clubs not receiving minutes etc. can you please make sure that you have informed me of changes?

Once again I have had the honour of managing the over 60's County Team and together with my Captain David Robbins we introduced new players to our squad who are enjoying the experience of playing against other over 60's in competitive short mat bowls. This year we were not as fortunate as last year – winning only the Central Counties League and cup, but coming a close second to Cambridgeshire in the Eastern Counties League.

I look forward to another 2 years in office with great anticipation, welcoming new bowlers and clubs to our Association, and hopefully new committee members.

Thank you for all your support over the past twelve years,

## 6 TREASURER'S REPORT – Mr Clive Younger

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHORT MAT BOWLS ASSOCIATION		
Income and Expenditure Account for year ended 31 March 2009		
	31-Mar-09	31-Mar-08
<b>Income</b>		
Bank Interest	£117.37	£181.27
Membership fees	£4,096.00	£4,504.50
Competition fees	£2,878.00	£2,855.00
Matches (County & NSMBA)	£857.20	£1,320.00
Raffles & Teas	£295.75	£340.99
Sale of goods	£42.72	£65.78
	<u>£8,287.04</u>	<u>£9,267.54</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
ESMBA	£1,912.00	£2,015.50
Hire of Halls	£2,819.60	£2,780.44
Committee Travel	£623.60	£610.00
Committee Expenses	£297.60	£395.64
Postage	£260.52	£290.52
Telephone	£162.00	£120.00
Equipment	£130.00	£181.00
Trophies	£1,099.32	£966.46
Presentation Night	£312.20	£233.00
Audit fee	£46.66	£60.00
Sundry Expenses	£85.00	£285.00
	<u>£7,748.50</u>	<u>£7,937.56</u>
Balance of Income & Expenditure Account	£538.54	£1,329.98
Balance brought forward	£9,127.12	£7,797.14
Balance carried forward	<u>£9,665.66</u>	<u>£9,127.12</u>
Closing balance represented by:		
Current account	£981.95	£60.78
Savings account	£8,583.71	£8,966.34
Cash float (Secretary)	£100.00	£100.00
Cash in hand	£0.00	£0.00
	<u>£9,665.66</u>	<u>£9,127.12</u>
Amount owing to NSMBA on mat loans at 31 March 2009 = nil		
I have audited the above account from books and vouchers produced and from explanations received and have found these to be correct.		
Signature: <u>B. Richards</u> Name: <u>B. RICHARDS</u> Date: <u>11th April 2009</u>		

## 7(a) LEAGUE CO-ORDINATORS REPORT 2009 – Mr. Tom Bates

**Evening League**

<b>Premier</b>	<b>Pl</b>	<b>Pts</b>	<b>Division One</b>	<b>Pl</b>	<b>Pts</b>	<b>Division Two</b>	<b>Pl</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Old Stratf'd Magpies	14	56.5	Cosgrove Comets	12	40.5	Old Stratf'd Jays	18	60.0
Deanshanger Demons	14	54.0	Pytchley	12	39.0	Road Runners	18	58.5
Castlethorpe	14	38.0	Manor Hawks	12	33.5	St James	18	55.5
Great Houghton "A"	14	34.0	Irchester Saints	12	33.0	Road Rollers	18	53.5
Corby Falcons	14	31.0	Rascals	12	24.5	Duston Zodiacs	18	45.5
Welton Toads	14	26.5	Corby Ravens	12	24.0	Harpole	18	42.0
Yardley Gobion	14	26.0	Brafield Bangers	12	15.5	Daventry Town	18	41.5
Duston Zephyrs	14	14.0	<del>Cosgrove Cougars</del>	0	0.0	Manor Hunters	18	40.5
			Paulerspury	0	0.0	Great Houghton "C"	18	34.0
						Daventry Dynamos	18	19.0

**Day League**

<b>Day East</b>	<b>Pl</b>	<b>Pts</b>	<b>Day South</b>	<b>Pl</b>	<b>Pts</b>	<b>Day West</b>	<b>Pl</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Rascals	12	44.0	Deansh'ger Moonrakers	10	38.5	Cotswold	12	52.5
Great Houghton	12	40.0	Old Stratf'd Ravens	10	33.5	Welton Toads	12	37.0
Redwell	12	30.0	Cosgrove Chicks	10	30.0	Harpole Wonders	12	35.0
Cosgrove Cygnets	12	29.0	Old Stratf'd Rooks	10	24.5	Road Racers	12	31.0
Abington	12	28.5	Milton Malsor	10	14.5	Long Buckby	12	19.0
Irchester Saints	12	20.5	Denton	10	9.0	Woodford Halse	12	19.0
Road Roosters	12	18.0				Crick	12	16.5

**Day League** winners Cotswold, runners-up Rascals.

**Day Knock Out Cup** winners Castlethorpe, runners-up Cotswold.

**Evening Knock Out Cup** winners Old Stratford Magpies, runners up Deanshanger Demons.

*Please accept my apologies for hopefully, sunning myself on the I.O.W. instead of attending the AGM.*

*Well done, with the usual last minute rush and a few teams going over the deadline, all the games were eventually played. Unfortunately in the Evening League, Paulerspury had to withdraw before the league had started. Cosgrove Cougars withdrew with only 4 games left to play, as illness made it impossible for them to field a team, therefore all points involving the Cougars were removed from the tables.*

*Maybe the fixture confirmation card system can be discussed in the open forum giving me an idea whether to continue this next season.*

*Congratulation to all the winners and runners-up, and well done to everyone for making it another successful season.*

## 7(b) COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT 2009– Mr Chris Weston

*My third year in charge of competitions passed largely without any problems. Overall the numbers were slightly up on last year, with the singles being particularly well supported. Entries for the other disciplines remained pretty static. National entries were slightly up on the previous year, with only the Mixed Fours having to travel in an attempt to qualify. Unfortunately they failed to do so.*

*The results of the County representatives were:*

*Edward Sawbridge reached the last 16 in the singles..*

*Richard Beckett (Under 18's) reached the last 16.*

*Thelma Hopkins and Leigh Hall (Pairs) reached the last 32.*

*Chris Weston Edward Sawbridge and Leigh Hall (Triples) lost in the semi-final for the second year running.*

*Alan Goodenough, Sandy Goodenough, Ken Harber and Neil Wilson (Fours) failed to progress past the group stage.*

*The County Finals day was held this year at Caroline Chisholm School on 19<sup>th</sup> April and for once the day finished on time. A big thank you must go to Mervyn Emerton who stood in as a last minute reserve in 4 finals, 3 for Jim Walker and 1 for Derek Higham. The County Champions for 2009 are:*

*Singles Leigh Hall  
 Pairs Leigh Hall & Thelma Hopkins  
 Triples Leigh Hall, Edward Sawbridge & Chris Weston.  
 Fours Clive Younger, Martin Kitchener, Brian Smith & Mervyn Emerton  
 Mixed Fours Jenny Cross, Kathy Smith, Brian Smith & Mervyn Emerton  
 Under 18's Richard Beckett  
 Over 60's Martin Kitchener, Brian Smith, Clive Younger & Mervyn Emerton*

*The Evening K.O. Winners were Old Stratford Magpies  
 The Day K.O. Cup Winners were Castlethorpe  
 The Day League Champions were Cotswold.*

*A further thank you goes to those people who helped with teas and with selling raffle tickets, and I must not forget to thank the people who helped set the mats out and to put them away afterwards. More assistance would make the task easier but I think most people did lend a hand at some point during the year.*

*Looking forward to seeing even more people at next year's competitions which start with the mixed fours on September 27<sup>th</sup>. The entry forms will be posted towards the end of August.*

## **8 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT – Mr Alan Goodenough**

*I'm sad to say that this year, again, our numbers have diminished. Our bowling community in Northamptonshire seems to be getting ever smaller; and, although each year we do see new clubs and members coming along to join us at the NSMBA, unfortunately the overall trend is still downwards.*

*Statistically, we've finished the year with just 42 Clubs' (45 last year) registering a total of 773 individual players (859 in 2007-8). Another 20 clubs (18 last year) have again gone for the 'affiliation only' option ... so in total that's 62 clubs (63 in 2007-8).*

*The Committee are very aware of the continuing trend and, as always, are looking for ways to encourage 'new blood'. We hope to see some of last year's efforts and initiatives beginning to bear some fruit in the coming year; and we're hopeful –with your help - of encouraging more youngsters to 'have a go' at the clubs ... those that do give it a try, usually find they enjoy it.*

*I'm sure you're all only too well aware how very difficult it is to prise the youngsters away from their computers or games consoles in the first place! So, I'd be pleased to hear suggestions as to how we might collectively work to recruit more youngsters into our game. It's a slow process, of course, so any ideas put forward now will probably take some time to germinate ... but what will happen if we don't start now?!*

*My thanks go to my fellow Committee Members for all their support and assistance this year ... and also to you, the life blood of the game in Northamptonshire, for all your efforts, too.*

## **9 ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The following officers were unopposed and elected.

Chairman (2 years)	Mr Chris Hopkins
General Secretary (2 years)	Mrs Eleanor Winters

## **9 ELECTION OF GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The following members were elected to serve on the general management committee.

Mr Tom Bates  
 Mr Alan Goodenough  
 Mr Chris Weston  
 Mr Ken Harber  
 Mr Edward Sawbridge  
 Mrs Irene Simpson  
 Ms Rachel Pedley

## **11 PROPOSITIONS**

There were no propositions.

**12 ELECTION OF AUDITORS**

Mr Clive Younger said he proposed Barry Richards to Audit the books, seconded by Chris Clayton – carried.

**13. ANNUAL FEES for affiliation and membership**

Mr Clive Younger recommended 50p increase as set by ESMBA. Seconded by David Barker and carried unanimously.

**14. DATE OF NEXT AGM**

Next years AGM was arranged for Wednesday 12th May 2010 at Duston Community Centre, Pendle Road, Duston. Meeting to commence at 8.00 p.m.

**15. CLOSE OF MEETING**

**The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.**

**NOTES OF THE MEMBERS OPEN FORUM HELD AFTER THE AGM**

- 4 new mats have been acquired for NSMBA. Old mats for sale at £150 each.
- Web site – South Northants – club’s information.
- Division 2 Evening league – can number be reduced. Tom is looking into this for start of next season.
- Chris said he was disappointed in competition entries last year. Looking to run an open competition with the draw being done on the day.
- Questionnaire to be sent out to clubs re K.O. Cup format.

**The open forum finished at 10.15 p.m.**