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NOTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21st JANUARY 2010

The following are the main points covered at the management committee meeting

1. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Secretary:

Due to health reasons John Middleton has resigned as Secretary. The Committee wished him well. The Chairman asked if anyone knew of anyone who might be interested in taking on the role and in the meantime would arrange for all EPA messages to be directed to him until a replacement could be found. Annette Eggleton agreed to handle minute taking and agendas in the interim.

2. Treasurer's Report

Little had changed since the last meeting. The budget presented at the AGM was discussed, as was the cost of attending Brean and the associated income. It was agreed that this seemed to cover the plans for the season but that the purchase of a storage container should be considered a capital spend rather than for this year. However, the saving this represented would be offset by increased kit costs and also incorporating a annual charge for replacing the kit of those who had previously qualified for Brean as required in the future. The container project was left with Lordswood to pursue.

There had only been one grant request – an initial bid from the Meadow. Further details of this would be forthcoming when a more in depth request was received.

The committee concurred with the playing committee's desire to see a return to the issuing of bursaries for foreign competition should funding levels allow but it would look at providing practical support for players wishing to enter events such as Nismes & Dunkerquoise.

3. Membership Report

Membership packs were in the process of being sent to clubs.

4. Playing Matters

The playing committee had met at Star Meadow on 14th Jan to discuss the calendar, rules and other playing matters for the coming season.

(a) Kent Classic

The provisional date for the Kent Classic was extensively discussed and eventually, considering clashes, player availability, duration and facilities, it was decided to move it to a one day event on 12th September.

(b) County Calendar

Clubs would be emailed requesting club competition information and also bids for hosting the County Doubles and Triples; as would contact the clubs selected for the Qualifiers to confirm they were available and happy to host the selected dates.

- (c) Nord Maritime
It was decided to leave the venue as Lordswood this year as plans had already been started and there was a desire to run County events at Star Meadow before holding something of this nature there. Additionally there was less chance of the French getting lost if it was the same place as last time.
- (d) Novice Competition
It was agreed that the organising of a novice competition alongside the County Triples Championship was a good idea in principal and it would be left to the playing committee to work on the details.
- (e) Qualifier Series
The various changes to the rules for the qualifiers were discussed and accepted, with a small change around players joining the day's play. It was agreed that the charge for Brean guests should continue at £35 as per previous years.
- (f) Playing Committee Members
Andy Mills, Annette Eggleton, Corinne Cooter, Charlie Shrimpton, Keith Atkinson, Kevin Spillett, Scott Ashby and Steve Brown.

The Playing Committee were commended on the work of their meeting and looked forward to it continuing. The Playing Committee intended to meet the week before Management meetings.

5. Junior Development and General Coaching

No firm plans have been made as yet around a 2010 version of the junior academy but the Playing Committee were keen to help. The committee was informed that the Club Mark was now required to work with schools. It was suggested that it might be better to work with youth associations such as Scouts & Guides.

A flyer would be put with the club membership packs asking clubs if they were interested in general coaching and information would be included in the Gazette. We have attended the first EPA Coaching Commission meeting who would report back.

6. Clock Project

Following the agreement at the AGM, details of low cost chess clocks would be provided to start stage 1 (test games to determine the feasibility of the proposal) in the early part of this season.

7. Communication with Members

No further specific action was planned but it was requested that the minutes of meetings for publication on the website available more promptly.

8. Any Other Business

- (a) It was suggested that a document of standing orders or byelaws should be created to collate Management Committee positions to eliminate oversights and ambiguity and to facilitate better decision making.
- (b) It was suggested to run a Wednesday night melee for those players not involved in Kent League matches. A number of logistical / organisational issues were raised but the idea met with overall support.
- (c) Information on the process of bidding for a national competition was requested but it is necessary to contact the EPA directly as they are not requesting bids this year. The subject of fundraising raffles was raised but it was felt that raffles were actually hard work. A number of other options were discussed. The Committee would also be provided with details of the contents of the Medway Council sports locker.

Date of Next Meeting

4th March 2010 at Lordswood Sports and Social Club.