

Chairman:

Duncan Brown
87 Windmill Road
Herne Bay
Kent
CT6 7DE
email: duncankentpetanque@gmail.com

**Secretary:**

Tim Edwins
57 Cobsdene
Gravesend
Kent
DA12 5JB
email: tim.edwins@icloud.com

Minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on Thursday 14th November 2024 via Zoom, commencing at 7:30pm.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Duncan Brown & Alex Spillett.

Present: Carolyn Edwins (Chair), Jamie Finley, Tim Edwins, David Baxter, Peter Shillinglaw, Richard Wenban, Melissa Rowley & Mark Toulson.

2. **Matters arising from the previous meeting:**

Jamie & Carolyn reported that the PE Junior Coaching Day at GRFC was successful, with around 12 juniors attending.

3. **Treasurer's report:**

David circulated the latest accounts for the year to be presented at the AGM. David had also circulated a draft budget for 2025 with a few things to think about ahead of the new year.

4. **Membership report:**

David reported we have 492 total members, around the same number as last year.

5. **KPA / KPL Joint AGM November 21st:**

Tim said we have received no nominations or resolutions. Tim has prepared the AGM agenda and liaised with Mick Nash from the KPL, both are happy and the agenda can be distributed tonight.

6. **KPA Membership fees (regional precept):**

David proposed no change to the Kent regional precept, all present agreed to put this to the members at the AGM.

7. **Kent Managers Role:**

Carolyn noted that it had been 6 years since we produced the Kent Manager's role document. Fay, Steve & Jamie were asked for any further input, a suggested change was that the manager's meeting now takes place on the Friday night at Inter Regionals. All happy with the proposed document.

8. Kent Squad 2024 Performance:

David noted that the result against Anglia on the Sunday cost us the title and wondered what we could do to prevent it happening again. Could something have been done during the round when most Kent teams were losing to have turned it around. The manager's role is very important, perhaps managers could have consulted players sitting out to rally their teams or suggest changes to order or teams. Fay did suggest changes to order or players in teams. Carolyn had reports from the 3 squad managers, and Fay noted a good spirit and togetherness of Championship teams. There was a reluctance by some teams to take on board advice. Fantastic achievement by Kent 1 and 2 teams to win 11 games each playing so high in the order. The squad confidence took a knock after defeat by Anglia. Steve noted the 4 Challenge teams were optimistic and playing for each other on both days. We can mention and talk about mental resilience next year at the Kent Squad day.

9. KPA Website Review:

Carolyn has met with Barry and received some figures regarding the new KPA website. There have been 7,448 hits on the website, almost 2,000 per month which is very good. Around 3,400 people viewed the website after searching on Google. There is generally a peak when new items posted. Carolyn asked David if we could update the photos on the main page. Tim to source the Kent squad photo from this year and send to David. Also, there is a major update coming in January and it could crash the website. David is aware and will check the auto update settings.

10. KPA Qualifying Series 2025:

Carolyn reported that the playing committee met recently and had some early thoughts on the regional qualifying series for next year. Potentially a change in format to a round robin system, or a Swiss and knockout system. This would increase the number of matches on each day and add some jeopardy for teams playing. They also discussed the potential of qualifying in teams of 3 and then adding a 4th to each team from those that don't qualify. Also, under review is changing the incentive scheme payout to be linked to actual team performance at the Inter Regional tournament rather than qualifying series. The number of total qualifier events was discussed, and keeping 4 qualifiers with best 3 counting would help the income and budget. Venues for qualifiers were also mentioned with the PC thinking that clubs who don't enter teams into the series shouldn't host a qualifier event. The MC thought this may be counter intuitive and lead to even less entries. It would also lead to the events being played at the same venues and little variation in pistes. Mark wondered if getting some of the elite players to come up with some training drills and practice routine videos would encourage players to practice more and maybe enter more regional tournaments and qualifiers.

11. Date of next MC meeting:

Confirmed as Thursday 12th December via Zoom.

12. Any other business:

Peter mentioned the KPL issue of 5-0 walkovers being awarded. David confirmed there is a proposal at the AGM regarding this.

Meeting closed 20:24.