

Chairman:

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Minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on Thursday 23rd January 2025 via Zoom, commencing at 7:30pm.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Melissa Rowley, Richard Wenban, Mark Toulson, David Baxter, Alan Creegen, Sonya Davis.

Present: Duncan Brown (Chair), Carolyn Edwins, Tim Edwins, Peter Shillinglaw, Alex Spillett & Jamie Finley.

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

Carolyn reported that the recent survey was discussed at the Playing Committee meeting. There were the usual expected answers, it may be worth tailoring the questions further and sending out to the wider membership.

3. **Treasurer's report:**

Carried forward in David's absence. David emailed later to say not many transactions this month, apart from web site fees and a late invoice from the trophy shop.

4. **Membership role:**

Duncan & David had spoken to Sonya Davis about the membership secretary role. They discussed the role and what it would entail, welcoming new members, sending out information pack with rules, calendar info etc. Sonya is very keen to take on the role and join the MC. All present agreed to co-opt Sonya on to the committee.

5. **KPA Playing Calendar 2025:**

Carolyn had circulated the draft KPA playing calendar earlier in the day. Carolyn explained she is concerned that PE have no national events coordinator after this year. There are already 17 Sundays from March to July that have been taken with SSE events, big open competitions, or other grand prix series, as well as Mother's Day, Father's Day and Easter Sunday.

The first Kent regional qualifier is 9th March which is earlier than wanted but avoids clashes. Duncan said that this year we have accommodated other events already published but this may not be possible in the future, especially with more and more events popping up. Tim said that PE should be getting their calendar published early, and then regions and opens fit their events in around the PE events, currently the PE calendar is being released far too late in December and lots of other competitions have already announced their dates, which then leaves very little room for Kent events.

Carolyn said the PC have agreed that the 4th regional qualifier is at The Railway, but if there are over 16 entries then it may be switched to GRFC due to number of pistes and space. The IWD Doubles qualifier was also discussed, with the possibility of giving wine prizes to all teams that enter. This may help increase entries which will increase the number of qualifying teams we have. Alex announced that she has got the Kent Big Weekend to be part of the PE calendar which should also increase entries. Alex to contact David regarding the pre-entry and if the website could add the entries to a spreadsheet.

Tim wondered if we could swap the KPA Mixed Doubles & Triples dates, this would mean the Triples being in August, which would give the winners and runners up more time and more of a chance to be able to play in the Champion of Champions event in October.

Jamie & Carolyn are looking into arranging a joint junior coaching day with another region.

6. Kent qualifying series format:

Carolyn said the PC had discussed possible new formats for the regional qualifiers and decided to recommend keeping the Swiss system for 3 rounds and then using the seeding for knockout in the afternoon. Carolyn had spoken with Richard & Melissa yesterday to explain the new format and they were both supportive. Tim said that Richard had messaged him to suggest the knockout could be double knockout, which would give a finer ranking between teams to allow more points spread and would give a minimum 5 matches per day for teams (barring a bye or more than 8 teams in the silver afternoon competition).

Carolyn explained that the PC had suggested that all 4 qualifying days count toward the final totals. The MC discussed the potential positives and negatives of this idea. It was mentioned that if you can't or don't want to play in all four days then you aren't 100% committed to Kent but also argued that people have life and work commitments that mean they are not available some days. Also, some teams have family in them so if unavailable then it could mean 2 or more players couldn't play meaning that team wouldn't have 3 available. The MC voted on this, and it was decided by split decision to keep the current system where 3 out of the 4 days count to the final totals.

7. Date of next meeting:

Confirmed as Thursday 13th March.

8. **Any other business:**

Duncan said that Jamie & Barry visited Leigh RFC about their potential new venue, but we haven't heard anything since. Duncan could visit the site or contact Barry, Jamie said he lives locally so could visit if needed.

Meeting finished 21:00.