

## Rationale for the Revised Somerset SMBA Membership – AGM 2019

The committee had a full discussion on the proposal being submitted to the AGM and this rationale sets out the principal of the proposal and answers the questions posed by some of our clubs when it was sent out in advance for local discussion.

### **Intention of the proposal**

There are many clubs within Somerset that do not affiliate to either the county or to the ESMBA and if these clubs were persuaded to join then that would swell our numbers substantially and increase our annual income. It is evident that clubs will not join if the ESMBA membership is compulsory and we already have a new club willing to join the SSMBA if this proposal is adopted.

The cost of living continues to go up, as every household knows, and that is no different for the SSMBA, especially as we were forced to move away from Donyatt indoor bowls centre when Joe announced the imminent sale of his business.

### **Benefit to existing members**

An increase in our membership, with the increased revenue that would bring, would benefit existing members in the long run because the additional income could offset the increasing costs that we will inevitably be incurring and postpone the need for any increase in membership/competition fees indefinitely.

Members who currently register with the ESMBA to play in their competitions or associated leagues or who want to play in the SSMBA county teams will continue to do so and would not be affected by the proposed dual membership.

Current SSMBA members who do not want to play in leagues under the auspices of the ESMBA or county matches would be given a choice under the proposal to only register with Somerset. They do not benefit from ESMBA membership so would have the option not to pay the additional fee.

### **Benefit to the SSMBA**

With a substantial increase in membership and the associated income, the future of the SSMBA is assured and we would be in a position of strength to invest in development and youth projects.

Once the new clubs have joined the SSMBA there is the potential for them to extend their membership to allow them to play more competitively in ESMBA competitions and in the county teams, subject to selection. This can only strengthen the pool of players that our county manager has to pick from which should improve our success rate even further.

### **ESMBA**

The SSMBA is affiliated to the ESMBA and will continue to play in the ICC Premier and 'A' Team competitions. Members who continue to pay the ESMBA fee, as they do now, will still have access to the National Qualifiers, Top Club etc.

Clubs will still be able to take advantage of the favourable rates of the ESMBA insurance, to insure their equipment, and public liability. **Somerset members only will not be covered under the ESMBA Personal Accident Scheme.**

Initially there might be a small decrease in those members who currently register with the ESMBA but in the long term there is the potential for a substantial increase.

### **Summary**

The proposal is therefore submitted primarily to encourage new clubs to join and to give current social bowlers the option to forego the ESMBA membership from which they reap no benefit other than the personal accident cover.

On behalf of the SSMBA Committee