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Northern Petanque

A Region of the English Petanque Association



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Regional website - www.northernpetanque.co.uk

Minutes of the Regional Committee Meeting held at Wetherby Sports Association on Saturday 6/2/2010.

Present

Officers

President	Alan Swift (Wetherby)
Secretary	Sue Swift (Wetherby)
Treasurer/Memb.Sec	Bill Vicker (Brandesburton)
Development (West)	Ruth Borrowdale (Mistral)
Development (East)	Don Jackson (York RI)
Youth Development	Ted Beetham (Bridlington)
Umpire	Ray Gatenby (Doncaster)
Coach	Richard Marston (Mistral)

Clubs

Brandesburton
 Doncaster
 Leeds
 Mistral
 The Fox
 Wetherby
 Wigginton
 York RI
 Unattached

Representative

Helen Jarvis
 Debbie Gatenby
 Mike Walkley
 Ben Pattison
 Barbara Hardisty
 Roger Nunns
 Chris Best
 Angela Fletcher

Observers

David Wiseman , Keith & Cynthia Turner

 Mick Hardisty
 Sue Nunns , Caroline Hoy
 Pete Best

 Matt Blyton

The meeting was opened at 10.30 am

- 1) Apologies received - John & Angie Gaughan, John & Jenny Stockton, Stewart Ainley & Liz Charters.
- 2) Minutes of the last meeting
 Accepted unanimously, proposer Ruth Borrowdale, seconder Ray Gatenby.
- 3) Playing matters
 - a) 2010 Playing Calendar
 Alan had compiled a list of national and proposed regional / club events and dates.
 The number of events again means a very full calendar extending well into October but with all the clubs prepared to be flexible compromises were reached on all of the date clashes except 1 Sunday when 2 clubs are both holding an event.

One regional event clashes with a national event (Juniors / Espoirs Grand Prix final). We have very few juniors or espoirs and it was established in advance that they do not intend to enter the national event.

From the middle of March to the middle of October there are regional or club events in Northern on every Sunday except the 2 that the regional squad are playing away.

There are also 7 events on either Saturdays or Bank Holiday Mondays.

The Period in which events qualify for ranking points is from March 28th to October 10th inclusive.

The full calendar is available on the website (*copy attached for non email clubs*).

The discussion about regional qualifiers venues was very lengthy with varied views on what criteria should be used to make the decision.

Eventually by a vote of 11 to 3 it was decided to do a random draw with the limitation that only 1 East Coast venue would be allowed.

The other regional event venues were also decided by random draw after removing the 3 that had been drawn for a qualifier.

b) Events format

Alan had prepared and circulated a list of event formats with his view of the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Due to the time taken over the playing calendar this topic was not discussed. The usefulness of this will be seen during the year as clubs decide what formats to use.

c) Junior squad

It was unanimously agreed that the junior squad for the Inter regionals would again be Annabelle & Jamie Blyton and Marcus Cowell.

d) Regional kit

It was suggested at the last meeting that the regional kit should be reviewed particularly whether black bottoms would be better than Navy Blue.

After some discussion with mixed opinions Alan asked if the benefits of a change outweighed the hassle involved and no one wanted to take the discussion further.

e) Regional event prizes

Matt suggested that regional events needed to be distinguished from club events and that one way to do this was to improve the quality of the prizes.

The principle was agreed but there was considerable discussion about what constituted good quality prizes.

It was unanimously agreed that prizes for regional events this year would consist of embroidered polo shirts and “decent” trophies for the winners with memento trophies for the runners up.

There will be no prizes below runners up.

4) Membership

Bill reported that at the end of the year the regional membership was 21 clubs and 125 members - 122 adults (including 2 life members) and 3 juniors.

Membership packs for 2010 have been issued to clubs, Bill has been asked by the EPA not to process club individuals paperwork before the clubs paperwork, this will be important to players needing licences for EPA events early in the year and they should liaise with their club secretary.

The EPA are reconsidering tiered membership. No details are yet known but Alan will report back at the next meeting. If any club feels that tiered membership is likely to affect the number of their players joining Northern they should contact Alan.

5) Finance

Bill confirmed the current balance as £2076.78p

6) Development

Paul Simpkins (Leeds PC) is trying to start a club in Heckmondwike. The local council is interested but it would be part of a larger development so progress is not expected to be imminent.

We regularly receive questions (via the website) from players in the North East wanting to know where they can play. The only option for them currently is South Shields.

Matt reported that he has found a terrain at the Ripon Spa hotel , it is currently unplayable (like a small sand pit) but the owners seem interested in developing a better area.

Ted is progressing the CRB paperwork needed in his new position of youth development. Alan confirmed that the region would pay for this. (£20 per person)

7) Coaching

Richard is trying to finalise details of a coaching course to be held in the next couple of months. He has been given a budget of £500 with the aim of getting approximately 6 qualified coaches , preferably spread around the region.

8) Umpiring

Ray has been on a 2 day course in Marlow and is awaiting the result of his exam.

9) Other business

Matt was surprised that as an unattached player he was not allowed to vote at a regional meeting although he was at the AGM. Alan explained that this was part of the constitution which can only be amended at an AGM or EGM.

Ted proposed that clubs doing well in the European Cup for Clubs and thereby representing Northern at national level should receive £50 within a tournament year but this would only apply once in a tournament year.

The argument against this was that many individuals travel around the country playing and we have previously only sponsored players representing England (previously Britain).

By a vote of 9 to 5 the proposal was defeated.

Alan Newland , a well known member of Chiltern region died unexpectedly recently and Chiltern are holding a memorial triples on June 26th in Luton.

The EPA is still looking for venues for national events.

Since the meeting York RI , Wetherby and the Fox have put themselves forward for consideration.

Matt suggested that Northern was a good venue for the Home Nations qualifier since the Home Nations are in Inverness this year and Alan has passed on this suggestion.

10) The next meeting will be held at Wetherby Sports Association at 10.30 am on Saturday 19/6/10.

The meeting was closed at 12.46 pm