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# Northern Petanque

A Region of the English Petanque Association



Vice President  
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Regional website - [www.northernpetanque.co.uk](http://www.northernpetanque.co.uk)

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Minutes of the Regional Committee Meeting held at York RI on Saturday 5/2/2011.

Members Present

Executive Officers

President	Alan Swift (Wetherby)
Vice President	John Gaughan (York RI)
Secretary	Sue Swift (Wetherby)
Treasurer/Memb.Sec	Bill Vicker (Brandesburton)
Development (East)	Don Jackson (York RI)
Youth Development	Ted Beetham (Bridlington)
Playing Officer	James Hart (Mistral)
Coach	Matt Blyton (Unattached)

Clubs

Brandesburton	Helen Jarvis
Bridlington	Eileen Mortimer (representative) Chris O'Rourke (observer)
Doncaster	Ray Gatenby (representative) Debbie Gatenby (observer)
Fox	Barbara Hardisty
Leeds	Mike Walkley (representative) Paul Simpkins (observer)
Wetherby	Roger Nunns (representative) , Sue Nunns , Caroline Hoy (observers)
Wigginton	Chris Best
York RI	Angela Fletcher

The meeting was opened at 11.05 am

- 1) Apologies received from Pete & Madge Jordan , Ruth Borrowdale.
- 2) Minutes of the last meeting Accepted unanimously, proposer John Gaughan, seconder Ted Beetham.
- 3) Playing matters
  - a) 2011 Playing Calendar

James had compiled a list of national and proposed regional / club events and dates.  
The number of events again means a very full calendar extending to the end of October.  
Some of the points discussed were

The main difficulty was in fitting the qualifiers into May and June without clashing with EPA events.  
Having qualifiers in April or July was discussed but by 13 to 3 it was decided to use James' proposals.

James had proposed the Regional triples on Easter Sunday. Matt suggested July was more appropriate for a prestigious event and this was agreed by 8 to 4 with 4 abstentions.

The Intra Regional is shown as October 9<sup>th</sup>. The format of this event will be decided later.

By 12 to 3 with 1 abstention it was agreed that the playing officer would have the responsibility of deciding the regional event venues. This was agreed before knowing James' proposals for this year.  
The playing officer will be expected to consider rotating venues each year (i.e. not having the same venue for the same event) and to allow for geographical considerations.

Doncaster was not included in James venues proposals for the qualifiers , singles , pairs and triples since their terrain is not yet built but they expect the terrain to be available for the Northern vs West Midlands match (and for earlier club events).

Minor changes to club event dates were agreed , most club event dates are similar to last year.

There was some discussion regarding whether or not it was appropriate to have limited entry tournaments such as over 60's. The region does not hold limited entry tournaments but clubs may run whatever tournaments they wish.

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

*The Period in which events qualify for ranking points is from March 27th to October 30th inclusive.*

b) Inter regional championships

Pontins has been sold to the Britannia Hotels group. We will have to assume that this will not affect the championships in September.

c) Junior squad

Jamie, Annabelle and David Blyton all attended the junior weekend of excellence and were very pleased with the experience.

We are still very limited in the number of juniors in the region but it was agreed to leave a decision on selection for the squad to the next meeting.

d) Regional kit

It was confirmed that the new red tops agreed at the last meeting are a suitable match for the previous style so replacement of all tops will not be necessary .

e) Regional event prizes

James has some ideas and it was agreed to leave it to him. Anyone with suggestions can contact James.

f) International representation

Chris Best and Angie Gaughan have been selected to play for the EPA in a tournament in Germany. As usual they will receive £50 each towards their costs.

4) Membership

Bill reported that at the end of the year the regional membership was 12 clubs and 93 members - 88 adults (including 2 life members) and 5 juniors.

a) Online membership

A new system is being introduced to allow online payment of individual membership fees.

Details of the new system have not been well distributed by the EPA but some of the points we do know are

- As cheques may disappear in a few years , the new system will remove a potential problem
- The EPA , the Regions and the Clubs often have their own databases of member information which frequently do not match.
- Individuals can control their own details (e.g. email address) and can use the system to pay their fees , this will be password protected.
- Club secretaries and regional membership secretaries can check / modify details and enter payments for their members not wanting to use the system.
- Renewal of Club membership will remain as it is now.
- Anyone not wanting to use the new system will be allowed to join / rejoin as now.

A meeting to explain the system to regional membership secretaries is being arranged.

b) Minimum Club membership

From 2012 all EPA clubs will have to have a minimum of 6 individual members. The EPA seem to feel that this will increase membership but in Northern it may have the opposite effect. It is unlikely that we will lose many individual members since they can join as unattached but if this rule had been in force this year then Westow , Wigginton , Woodstock and the Fox would not have been able to join.

Northern cannot afford to lose clubs and their terrains. Also without being part of Northern, clubs will not be able to plan their events as part of our calendar so a way round the problem is needed.

Two possible options are – to allow a club to join as an associate Northern club for a nominal fee which would give them access to the playing calendar planning and the website – to allow 2 clubs to merge from the point of view of the EPA but to use 2 terrains.

The rule does not change this year so we have time to discuss this at later meetings.

5) Finance

Bill confirmed the current balance as £2308.32p

6) Development

Paul is still hopeful of a club in Heckmondwike. The local council has allocated funding but progress is slow. Also in Kirklees there is a possibility of a small terrain at the village hall in Honley.

Leeds council have given permission for a terrain at the Oulton & Woodlesford Sports club but funding has not yet been arranged.

Junior development is as usual dependent on having juniors.

There were discussions on how to attract juniors but the problem is that following up on events organised with schools is difficult if the school does not have playing facilities and is not close to one of our clubs.

Several clubs have tried events in the past but it was suggested that each club should commit to holding at least one event to attract juniors this year and should liaise with Ted about how this should be done.

7) Coaching

We now have a new regional coach and 2 other newly qualified coaches.

It was agreed that Matt would buy equipment (initial limit £100) similar to that used at the junior weekend and that Matt , Ted and Mike would agree how they intend to proceed.

The likely option seems to be to have 3 venues spread around the region with an initial coaching session at each. The sessions would be open to anyone not just members of the host club.

Initially the sessions will not be limited to Northern members since we would like to attract new members and any expenses will be met by the region.

Any club interested in coaching should contact Matt.

8) Umpiring

The EPA website has a new version of the international rules. The changes appear to be clarifications rather than major rule changes.

9) Other business

None raised.

10) The next meeting will be held on Saturday 16/7/11.

The venue and time will be confirmed nearer the date.

The meeting was closed at 1.22 pm