

President Secretary
 Alan Swift Sue Swift
 4 The Green
 Moortown
 Leeds LS17 6QL
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Northern Petanque

A Region of the English Petanque Association



Vice President
 John Gaughan
 11 Runswick Avenue
 Beckfield Lane, Acomb
 York YO26 5PP
 01904 792575

Regional website - www.northernpetanque.co.uk

Minutes of the Regional Committee Meeting held at Wetherby Sports Association on Saturday 26/1/2008.

<u>Present</u>	President	- Alan Swift (Wetherby)
	Secretary	- Sue Swift (Wetherby)
	Treasurer/Memb.Sec	- Bill Vicker (Brandesburton)
	Development Officer (W)	- Ted Beetham (Mistral)
	Development Officer (E)	- Don Jackson (York RI)
	Youth Development	- Ruth Borrowdale (Mistral)
	Umpire	- Ray Gatenby (Doncaster)
	Coach	- Luke Howard (Mistral)
	Wetherby	- Angela Fletcher
	The Fox	- Barbara Hardisty (representative), Mick Hardisty (observer)
	Doncaster	- Pat Rowlands
	Leeds	- Mike Walkley
	Bridlington	- Chris O'Rourke
	Brandesburton	- Helen Jarvis (representative), David Wiseman (observer)
	Mistral	- James Hart

The meeting was opened at 10.30 am

1) Apologies were received from Pete & Chris Best, Stewart Ainley, George Burbage-Attar and Tony Costello

2) Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were accepted unanimously, proposer Ted Beetham, seconder Ruth Borrowdale.

3) Playing matters

a) 2008 Playing Calendar

Pete Best had compiled a list of national, regional and club proposed events and dates which had been available on the website. The advance notice of the proposals and a slight reduction in national dates with the demise of the BPF simplified the discussions of the calendar.

There are still some clashes of events due to the number of events.

The regional qualifiers dates and venues were discussed first. The proposed dates were accepted unanimously. By a vote of 9 to 6 it was agreed that the venues would be decided by a ballot rather than a random draw.

The result of the ballot was

Brandesburton	12	The Fox	10	Wetherby	6
York RI	5	Doncaster	5	Wigginton	4
				Bridlington	3

Some amendments to the proposals for other events was necessary but this was relatively straightforward.

The Intra Regional will continue in last years format i.e. 3 squads of 6 triples each. The regional split will be a) North West + East Yorkshire b) South Yorkshire + West Yorkshire c) North Yorkshire.

The agreed calendar is now available on the Northern website

b) Regional Junior Squad

We have only 3 juniors so the junior squad will be Jack, Andy and Ben.

d) Regional Events - Entry fees and prizes

It was unanimously agreed that entry fees and the policy on prizes should remain the same as last year.

4) Presidents Report

Alan reported on several points regarding the EPA that some members may not be aware of.

- The BPF has not yet been dissolved but this is only a matter of going through the required procedures.
- All regions have been requested to review their constitution in light of the national changes. Alan confirmed that no changes were needed to the Northern constitution.
- The EPA congress is now a congress of regions with each region allowed to send 1 representative for every 60 regional members (or part thereof) so Northern could send 2 representatives.
- The rules for EPA competitions are now on the EPA website.
- The Swiss system will be used for all national events except the Inter Regional Championships and the Champion of Champions.
- The new EPA playing director is Martin Eggleton who is also the Kent president.
- The EPA have recommended that students at university should be allowed to play in regional events in the region they are attending university.

After discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Northern regional events would remain closed events i.e. only for Northern members. Any student may join Northern but since the main events are during the summer recess it was felt that this was not a major issue. They will also be welcome at all club tournaments.

Alan also congratulated Mistral on being the only remaining Northern club in the European Clubs Knockout qualifiers. *Since the meeting Mistral have won another game and are through to the last 8*

5) Membership / Finance

Bill reported that the regional membership consists of 13 clubs and 94 members - 90 adults (including 2 life members) and 4 juniors. This is a reduction of 8 adults since this time last year.

Alan commented that recent figures from the EPA show that, with the exception of Cornwall, Northern lost a larger percentage of adults last year than any other region.

Bill has recently received the membership renewal paperwork from the EPA and will be distributing it.

The EPA/BPF changes require new licences for life members and a new stamp for international licences which Bill has ordered.

Bill confirmed the current balance as £1521.43.75p.

The rules approved at the AGM mean that replacement kit is available on the 4th occasion a player plays the qualifiers and there will be a large outlay later this year when regional kit replacements are due for approximately 40 players.

There may also be costs for umpiring and coaching courses if they can be arranged.

Don commented that his kit did not need renewing and this may apply to quite a lot of players. This will be discussed with Chris Best who has been responsible for organising kit.

6) Development

Don, Ted and Ruth all had nothing to report.

Alan suggested that now would be a good time to send a letter to petanque clubs that have previously not shown an interest in joining Northern (Croston league, Rochdale league, Hull YPI). The letter could include the playing calendar and should remind the clubs that their members would be welcome at club tournaments without the need to join Northern / the EPA.

7) Coaching

It is still with Luke to progress the intended coaches course with East Midlands. Luke was reminded that if other commitments mean he is unable to do this then he should ask for help from the other potential coaches.

8) Umpiring

Ray still intends to attend a course and is waiting for details of venues and dates.

9) Regional Communications

Don suggested that the website should not have minutes of meetings or financial information readily available to anyone. He agreed that meeting agendas and playing rules should be available.

Alan expressed the view that none of the information was secret and he did not see a problem with non Northern members having access to the information. He also commented that it was unlikely that any non Northern member would be interested.

After discussion it was agreed by 14 to 1 that notes from meetings will be put on the website but it will be made clear that these will not be approved minutes until after the following meeting.

It was agreed by 13 to 2 that financial information will be made available prior to the AGM but the format and content of the information will be reviewed before the next AGM.

10) Other business

James asked if the regional shooting competition would be held again this year. It was agreed that it would be included on the calendar but that entry would be limited to players who confirm they are prepared to represent the region at the EPA shooting championship which is held in conjunction with the champion of champions weekend.

Caroline Hoy has suggested that the regional singles should be split into separate Mens and Ladies events (held at the same venue on the same day). A decision was deferred to the next meeting.

Mike queried the quorum requirements following the problems with meetings last year. Alan replied that the quorum for a regional meeting is a minimum of 1/3 rd of the eligible members which is currently 13 clubs and 10 officers so the quorum is 8.

11) The next meeting will be held at Wetherby Sports Association at 10.30 am on Saturday 17/5/07.

The meeting was closed at 12.23 pm

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