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# Northern Petanque

## A Region of the English Petanque Association



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

Minutes of the Regional Committee Meeting held at Wetherby Sports Association on Saturday 31/1/2009.

<u>Present</u>	President	- Alan Swift (Wetherby)
	Vice President	- John Gaughan (York RI)
	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)
	The Fox	- Barbara Hardisty (representative), Mick Hardisty (observer)
	Doncaster	- Debbie Gatenby (representative), Pat Rowlands (observer)
	Bridlington	- Peter Jordan (representative), Madge Jordan, Chris O'Rourke (observers)
	Brandesburton	- Helen Jarvis (representative), David Wiseman (observer)
	York RI	- Angie Gaughan (representative), Angela Fletcher (observer)

The meeting was opened at 10.33 am

- 1) Apologies were received from Luke Howard and Mary Hayes
- 2) Minutes of the last meeting - accepted unanimously, proposer Ted Beetham, seconder Peter Jordan.
- 3) Playing matters
  - a) 2008 Playing Calendar  
 Alan had compiled a list of national, regional and club proposed 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 on timing of their events compromises were reached on nearly all of the clashes.

The regional qualifiers dates and venues were discussed first.

To avoid clashing with EPA events (and avoiding Easter) there are only 4 Sundays available for Regional Events in the period April to July. It was unanimously agreed to use the first 3 of these for the qualifiers to avoid the main holiday season.

By 8 to 5 it was agreed that the venues would be decided by a ballot rather than a rotation system.

The result of the ballot was

Doncaster 9	The Fox 9	Brandesburton 7
Bridlington 5	Wetherby 4	York RI 3
		Wigginton 2

The agreed calendar is attached and is also available on the Northern website.

The Period in which events qualify for ranking points is from March 29th to October 11th inclusive.

- b) Regional events control  
 As minuted last time Angie and Caroline will act as playing officer on the day of an event. To assist them Alan has written a user friendly computer program (being tested at winter league events) and the region has purchased a printer. Clubs are welcome to use these but at the moment they will need to provide their own laptop if Alan is not present.

c) EPA Premier and Open leagues

Alan has received an email asking for venues to use for these events.

Most Northern venues are not suitable but any clubs interested have until 5th February to contact Alan.

*Although not strictly a regional matter , Alan commented that the last Yorkshire Winter League event MAY be moved from March 22nd to March 15th because Mistral have reached the last 8 of the Clubs competition and if they win their next match Ted will be playing in the semi finals at Whittlesey on March 22nd. The 3 main challengers to be top of the league are Ted, Alan and Mike Walkley, Alan and Mike have agreed they do not want to win due to Ted having to miss an event.*

4) Membership / Finance

Bill reported that the regional membership has increased to 18 clubs and 117 members - 112 adults (including 2 life members) and 5 juniors. The increase was discussed further under development.

The quorum for a regional meeting is one third of the management committee (made up of regional officers and one member per club). It is unlikely that any of the new clubs will attend meetings in the foreseeable future. If this becomes a problem the officers will call an EGM to consider amending the constitution.

The EPA have prepared a welcome pack for new members. This will be distributed direct to new members by the EPA membership secretary starting in the new membership year from the 1st of March. If clubs have any questions about the packs they should be referred to Bill.

Bill confirmed the current balance as £1407.29p.

5) Development

The significant increase in the number of clubs in the region is mainly due to some clubs / pubs being able to reduce their Sky TV subscription costs by becoming classed as a sports club. This seems to have the potential to increase our membership much further.

We do not know the full requirements but from our point of view they are joining the EPA (via Northern) and installing a terrain.

Although Petanque as a sport may not have been the primary reason for these new clubs there are already signs that some of the new terrains are attracting interest from new players.

There are very few problems for Northern caused by this trend although Bill's paperwork has increased significantly.

There is the possibility that we can spread the sport into new areas and attract new players so we must support the new clubs wherever possible.

This will be the responsibility of the development officers who can advise on such areas as - terrain building , where to obtain equipment , basic rules , setting up local leagues.

All experienced players are asked to keep track of the new clubs (via the website) and to assist Ted or Don if new clubs start in their area.

a) North East

Membership forms have recently been sent to Bentley West End WMC (Doncaster) and West Green WMC (Monk Bretton near Barnsley) and there are thought to be other possibilities in the Barnsley area.

Don has been in contact with Rotherham council who are installing a terrain as part of a large scale redevelopment of Clifton park.

b) North West

Since the last meeting we have been joined by The Oxford Devils PC (Great Marton , Blackpool) and the Ring O Bells PC (Lathom , Ormskirk).

Membership forms have recently been sent to The Waterloo PH (Stockport) and the White Horse (Westhoughton near Bolton).

6) Coaching

Nothing to report.

7) Umpiring

Ray is still waiting for details of venues and dates for training courses.

The international rules have changed slightly following a world congress in November. Alan recommended that everyone should obtain a copy (available from the EPA or the Northern websites).

Some of the modifications are changes in wording that might clarify or change the emphasis of some phrases without changing the overall intent of the rule but Alan highlighted the following significant changes / new rules

- The diameter of a coche must be 30 mm ( + or - 1mm) - previously 25 to 35 mm
- The distance from the circle to a coche is measured from the *internal* edge of the circle.
- The 1 minute rule applies to the throwing of a valid coche i.e. 1 minute covers all 3 allowed throws not 1 minute per attempted coche throw.

8) Other business - None

9) The next meeting will be held at Wetherby Sports Association at 10.30 am on Saturday 25/4/09.

The meeting was closed at 12.05 pm

Sue Swift