

President Secretary
Alan Swift Sue Swift
4 The Green
Moortown
Leeds LS17 6QL
0113 2681124

NorthernPetanque

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 on Saturday 17/7/2011.

Members Present

Executive Officers

President	Alan Swift (Wetherby)
Secretary	Sue Swift (Wetherby)
Development (East)	Don Jackson (York RI)
Playing Officer	James Hart (Mistral)
Coach	Matt Blyton (Unattached)

Clubs

Brandesburton	Keith Turner (representative), Cynthia Turner (observer)
Bridlington	Peter Jordan
Doncaster	Ray Gatenby
Mistral	Luke Howard
Saddle	Dag Nygaard (representative), Liz Charters (observer)
Fox	Barbara Hardisty (representative), Mick Hardisty, Angela Fletcher (observer)

Non Northern players allowed to observe - Madge Jordan, Richard Marston

The meeting was opened at 10.35 am

1) Apologies

Ted Beetham and Mike Walkley were absent due to holding a coaching session.

Apologies were also received from Bill Vicker, John & Angie Gaughan, Pete & Chris Best, David Wiseman, Paul Simpkins and Stewart Ainley.

2) Minutes of the last meeting Accepted unanimously, proposer Don Jackson, seconder Ray Gatenby.

3) Playing matters

a) Inter regional championships

No changes to the squad order are planned at the moment.

The squad details have to be notified to the EPA a couple of weeks before the championships.

Chris Best is arranging supply of new kit to any eligible players.

The junior squad was unanimously confirmed as Jamie , Annabelle & David Blyton and Ryan Charlesworth.

The managers were unanimously confirmed as

Championships – Barbara Hardisty , Challenge – Mary Young , Juniors – Richard Marston

Alan will check that Richard's current non EPA status will not cause a problem.

Luke proposed that there should be a monetary contribution from the region towards the cost of the juniors playing at Breaan. The justification being that 2 of the 4 juniors are only playing because the region needs them to make up a team.

This led to considerable debate which ended in a split vote of 5 for , 5 against and 1 abstention.

To resolve the situation Alan then allowed further significant debate and then asked for a specific proposal.

Dag proposed that all juniors (not limited to this year) should receive a £50 contribution. The proposal was carried by 5 for , 4 against and 2 abstentions.

b) Mixed pairs

This event was held for the 1st time this year following the cancellation of 1 of the 3 planned qualifiers. Alan suggested that the event was successful and should be repeated. Don expressed concern about the already full calendar but James felt that the event could be included. The consensus was that the event should be repeated but the decision will be left to the calendar planning meeting.

c) Intra Regional alternative

The size of the region means that a squad event is difficult to organise.

Since the date for this event is already in the calendar (October 9th) it was decided to go ahead with an event but James will confirm the format and the venue when he has had chance to assess interest. The event is most likely to be for teams of 6. These can be players from the same club but they do not have to be.

4) Membership

On Bill's behalf Alan reported that the regional membership is 12 clubs and 91 members - 86 adults (including 2 life members) and 5 juniors. This is a slight reduction on last year.

a) Online membership

Approximately 60% of renewals were done using the new online system.

There were some teething troubles with the new system but no one reported major problems.

The process of issuing licences, adding photographs and getting the license stamped seems convoluted. Liz asked if the members photos could be digitally printed on the license. The same question is being put to the EPA congress by Great Western region.

b) Minimum Club membership

Alan again raised the fact that from 2012 all EPA clubs will have to have a minimum of 6 individual members which is likely to affect 3 or 4 Northern clubs although it has been proposed at the EPA congress that this change is delayed.

There is also a new requirement from the EPA's insurers that all events need an individual risk assessment before the event. Since insurance cover is one of the few benefits to a club in joining the EPA this may also have an adverse effect when clubs decide whether or not to join.

Alan will circulate details of the new requirements when they have been confirmed.

Alan proposed that we 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. This was agreed subject to any possible constitutional problems being resolved.

Alan also suggested that now may be a suitable time to consider having a similar associate status for individuals and limiting entry to club tournaments to full or associate members. There would have to be exemptions such as allowing club members who are not Northern members to play in events at their own club or allowing newcomers to try the game. This suggestion was not supported.

5) Finance

On Bill's behalf Alan confirmed the current balance as £2877.16p

There is also £186 owed to the region by the EPA due to unpaid regional precepts caused by an administrative error.

6) Development

North East

- The funding for a terrain in Heckmondwike is no longer available. Progress is still possible but not imminent.
- The idea of a small terrain at the village hall in Honley (Huddersfield) has funding agreed but they have to resolve a planning problem first.
- No progress known concerning a terrain at the Oulton & Woodlesford Sports club (Leeds).
- A terrain has been built at Copley (Halifax) , No details are known but Ted and Mike are visiting there today.

- Terrains are being considered at Carleton in Craven (Skipton) and North Stainley (Ripon)
- The proposed terrain in Harrogate is still a possibility but is not likely this year
- A terrain has been built at Greenhill Park Bowls club , Low Edges , Sheffield. This was only discovered from a newspaper article. No details are known.

North West

The position of North West development officer is now vacant and there are no known development possibilities.

Juniors

Wetherby , Wigginton and The Fox have all held events for juniors. The difficulty is in getting the juniors to try again even if they enjoyed it the 1st time particularly if there are no local playing areas for them. There is the possibility of a terrain at a school in Driffield.

7) Coaching

Coaching sessions were held at The Fox and Wetherby and then due to high demand a further session was held at the Fox. In all 71 players attended.

Matt asked for comments on what players wanted next and explained his ideas.

After consulting with Mike & Ted, Matt will suggest further dates for coaching sessions. These will have a lower limit on numbers to allow the coaches to focus more on individuals and the intention is to have different sessions aimed at different skill levels i.e. novice , intermediate and experienced. Coaching of tactics as well as basic skills will be brought in as appropriate.

Following a discussion on costs and expenses the following points were agreed

- For coaching at a Northern club the region will pay the coaches travelling expenses.
- At a non Northern club the club will be expected to pay the coaches expenses.
- There will be no charge for Northern players at any coaching sessions
- Non Northern players will be charged £3 which will go to regional funds, this will apply whether the session is at a Northern club or not. There will be no charge for juniors.

8) Umpiring

A sub committee of Alan , James and Don was set up to decide what if any action should be taken following an incident at the recent regional triples.

Matt queried the appeals procedure. Alan explained that an appeal could be made to the full regional committee and ultimately to the EPA management committee. The documentation of this procedure in the constitution could be improved and Alan will recommend a change at the next AGM.

9) Other business

The EPA congress is taking place today in Luton. There are no representatives from Northern.

Alan explained briefly some of the points being discussed at the Congress.

10) The next meeting will be the AGM which will be followed by a committee meeting. These will be held on Saturday 5/11/11.

The venue is expected to be York RI but this and the start time will be confirmed nearer the date.

The meeting was closed at 1.10 pm

Sue Swift