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Northern Petanque

A Region of the English Petanque Association



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Minutes of the Regional Committee Meeting held at Wetherby Sports Association on Saturday 17/5/2008.

<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)
	Coach	- Luke Howard (Mistral)
	Wetherby	- Jenny Stockton (representative), John Stockton, Angela Fletcher (observers)
	The Fox	- Barbara Hardisty (representative), Mick Hardisty (observer)
	Mistral	- Mary Hayes
	York RI	- Angie Gaughan
	Wigginton	- Chris Best

The meeting was opened at 10.33 am

- 1) Apologies were received from Pete Best, Stewart Ainley, Mike Walkley, Matt Blyton
- 2) Minutes of the last meeting
 The minutes were accepted unanimously, proposer Ted Beetham , seconder Luke Howard.
- 3) Playing matters
 - a) Regional Singles
 The Regional Singles at Wigginton was planned for Sunday 21st September but this now clashes with the EPA Over 50's which is to be held at Doncaster.
 It was proposed to move the Singles to Saturday 20th September - agreed unanimously
 - b) Support for Regional Juniors
 Chris proposed that our juniors should be fully funded when they represent England and also when they attempt to qualify to represent England. This would include funding the costs of a chaperone.
 The proposal led to a lengthy discussion about what funding is required , who qualifies for the funding and can the region afford it.

In the short term Andy and Jack have been invited to represent England in a juniors tournament in Germany and they could also be selected for the European Junior Championships.
 It was unanimously agreed that their travel costs to Stansted would be met by the region. From Stansted their costs are met by the EPA.

Points from the discussion are listed below and further discussions and decisions will be needed at the next AGM.

- What does fully funded mean and what is the estimated cost.
- We don't have many juniors now but this could change and precedents would have to be considered.
- We may not have as much money as some larger regions.
- Travelling and overnight costs are likely to be much higher than for regions further south.
- We need to increase the number of juniors in the region.
- Should Espoirs in full time education receive the same funding.
- Should the region fund travelling costs for juniors within the region.
- Should funding be concentrated towards juniors achieving national standards or to all juniors.
- Should there be specific fund raising to cover juniors costs.

After the discussion Alan asked Chris (proposer) and Ruth (YDO) to attempt to quantify the costs involved. Anyone with points to make on this topic should contact Chris or Ruth.

It is probable that we will need to be more formal in our budgeting than we have had to be previously so that a budgeted amount can be set aside for junior development in whatever form is agreed to be most suitable.

c) Regional Kit

The regional kit rules allow for replacement kit on the 4th occasion a player plays in the qualifiers but the current kit is lasting far better than the navy blue kit it replaced.

Don said that he did not need new kit and suggested that many other players could feel the same.

This could be very important since there are an estimated 36 players due for replacement kit as well as several players playing for the first time who will be provided with kit.

It was suggested that a financial incentive could increase the number of players deciding to defer the replacement but after discussion it was unanimously agreed that no incentive was necessary.

Chris will discuss this with all players who are due for kit.

Anyone deferring the replacement will be entitled to kit next year instead.

Anyone needing for example a new polo shirt now but not a new sweatshirt can defer just the sweatshirt replacement.

The rules on timing of replacement kit will be reconsidered at the next AGM.

d) Regional Singles

It has been suggested that more Ladies would play in the Regional Singles if the event was split into separate Mens and Ladies events (held on the same day and at the same venue).

This proposal was rejected unanimously apart from 1 abstention.

4) Presidents Report

Alan did not wish to present a report but congratulated Andy and Jack on winning the EPA Junior Triples (playing as a 4 with 2 juniors from Kent).

He also congratulated Mistral for their achievement in reaching the semi finals of the European Clubs Knockout qualifiers. They lost in the semi final to the eventual winners.

5) Membership / Finance

Bill reported that the regional membership consists of 13 clubs and 92 members - 88 adults (including 2 life members) and 4 juniors.

The regional committee is pleased to welcome Cleveleys PC as the latest club to join the region.

Cleveleys is just north of Blackpool and so is a new area with a regional club.

They have started with a small terrain at the Dickens Inn in Cleveleys (Jonathan Bamborough is the driving force behind the new club and is the Dickens Inn landlord). They are already planning to expand with a larger terrain in a local park and are looking for other potential clubs in their area.

The renewal paperwork for Woodstock has gone astray but they have been sent replacement paperwork and are expected to rejoin.

There are 12 new adults and 1 new junior in the above figures which means a similar number of players have not renewed. This is a higher turnover rate than usual but it is thought that this is a combination of individual reasons rather than general dissatisfaction. There are also likely to be further renewals with the regional qualifiers imminent.

Don queried the issue of rule books for new members. Bill confirmed that all new members were entitled to a rule book. He sends the rule books to the club secretary but there was a mistake with the York RI new members.

Bill confirmed the current balance as £1938.42p.

6) Development

Ruth had nothing to report.

Don reported that a new terrain at Thorner (outside Leeds) had an opening day on Easter Monday which attracted 24 triples despite the terrain being only large enough for 2 games and despite frequent snow showers. Wetherby and Leeds will maintain contact with the players at Thorner.

This is the year of Inter Cultural Dialogue and Alan has been contacted by someone at the European Parliament to see if we could help with a Petanque demonstration as part of an event at Sheffield Cathedral in September. Further discussions are needed.

Don has been in touch with the potential club near Penistone , South Yorkshire but there has been no progress yet.

Alan has been contacted by the player trying to set up a club in Mirfield , West Yorkshire to say that he is no longer trying to set up the club.

Ted has been in touch with the Rochdale and Croston leagues but they have no interest in playing anything other than locally and socially.

A terrain is being considered at Adel , North Leeds.

A North Leeds primary school has asked Leeds PC for help setting up an inter class petanque tournament. Leeds are unable to help but Ted , Ruth and Alan will follow this up.

7) Coaching

East Midlands run regular junior coaching sessions. Potential Northern coaches may benefit from attending one of these sessions at the Willow. Luke and Chris to follow up.

8) Umpiring

Nothing to report.

9) Other business

a) The October 2007 regional meeting had the following paragraph under other business

It has always been the case that the officers of clubs have to be EPA members with regard to insurance. The current insurance certificates includes the line "where all committee members are individually affiliated". Clubs are advised to consider if this wording would affect them if they need to make an insurance claim.

Culcheth PC have asked for clarification of this since they have some committee members who are not EPA members.

Alan has been in touch with Mike Pegg who has sent the following confirmation

To begin, I should point out that the EPA constitution actually states and I quote:

5.2 Club

To register, a club shall have at least 3 members who are adult members of the association and includes minimum officers of chairman, secretary and treasurer.

This article was included to allow new clubs that are in the process of being formed to register with the EPA.

As most new clubs start with just a few people a “minimum” of 3 adult members of the Association was set as a requirement of registration.

What I think often gets overlooked is Article 6.3 which states, and again I quote:

6.3 Registered Clubs *shall be such Pétanque Clubs as are admitted to the Association having a constitution and rules which do not conflict with those of the Association. The Officers and Members of such clubs shall be and remain members of the Association.*

Here you can see it clearly states “The officers and members of such clubs shall be and remain EPA Members.

However, this is not what is behind our insurance cover and document “Insurance Explained” stating “EPA Registered Clubs (only where all committee members are members of the EPA)”.

Basically to include all registered EPA clubs the insurance company requires the officers of these “pétanque” clubs to be EPA members.

They advise us that it is normal practice for an injured party to sue both the individual and the corporate body, the club is considered to be the “corporate body” just as the EPA and our regions are so it is important to protect everyone concerned.

Despite our efforts we have been unable to change this part of the policy.

As far as we know there have never been any claims on our insurance policy but clubs should consider whether the above concerns them.

b) John Gaughan queried the situation regarding the terrain at the Fox since the 3rd qualifier will be there. As far as we are aware the Fox will not have to move to their new terrain until after the qualifiers.

10) A decision on whether to hold another regional meeting before the AGM was deferred..
If a meeting is thought to be necessary it will be held late July / early August.

The meeting was closed at 12.15 pm